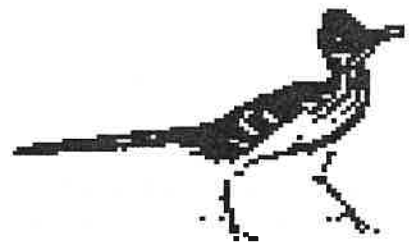


# The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society

Volume 31 No. 2 April & May, 2001



## General Meetings

Monday, April 17, 2001  
Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary  
9500 North Loop 7:30pm  
Michael Pacheco

Michael Pacheco will cover, in a general sense, what his agency does in an urban setting. He will discuss some of the issues, as an urban biologist, face on a day to day basis. Learn about some of the work Wildlife Damage Management Service has done to assist Audubon in other parts of the state and/or country. Hopefully this can spur a cooperation between our two entities for now and in the future.

He will then entertain any discussion or questions thereafter. He has been employed with Texas Wildlife Damage Management Service for a little over a year now. In the past, he was involved in the Wildlife Services' co-op program while attending Texas A & M University - Kingsville in 1994-1995. Mr. Pacheco achieved a B.S in agriculture with a wildlife emphasis and achieved minor in biology, May of 1996 at TAMUK. In addition, he worked for the San Antonio Zoos' bird department from 1996 to 1999 where he gained invaluable bird experience.

Monday, May 21, 2001  
Memorial Park Garden Center  
3105 Grant Street 7:30pm  
**What is the Future of Castner Range?**  
Stan Stack

The Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition has prepared a slide show called "What is the Future of Castner Range?" Stan Stack will present this informative and distinct look at our beautiful mountain, focusing on the past, present and future of that area known as Castner Range. How did such a fine piece of mountain property come to be preserved in a near natural state for this long?

## Chapter Web Site

Our chapter has a new web site located at:

<http://www.gbarnett.com/eptp/as/eptpashome.html>.

El Paso Audubon Online, features updated graphics and more information for chapter members and visitors to El Paso.

El Paso Audubon Online supplements The Roadrunner and includes information about upcoming field trips, a calendar of events, recent bird sightings and an updated list of birding links to the Internet. make bird sighting reports at  
[ElPasoBirdAlert@gbarnett.com](mailto:ElPasoBirdAlert@gbarnett.com)

**Thank you;**  
**Dr. Washington**  
and  
**Lois Balin**

for your presentations  
in February and March

## Inside The Roadrunner

Chapter Info.....	p. 2
Environment.....	p. 3
Conservation .....	p. 4
Sanctuary News.....	p. 5
On the Trail.....	p. 6
Calendar.....	p. 8

## RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK

UTEP's Center for Environmental Resource Management offers free walking tours twice each month and also holds monthly community workdays at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park in El Paso's Mission Valley.

- \* 9 a.m. Sat., Apr. 14 (Rio Bosque Birds)
- \* 4 p.m. Sat., Apr. 21 (Introduction to Rio Bosque)
- \* 2 p.m. Sun., Apr. 22 (Workday) Earth Day
- \* 9 a.m. Sat., May 12 (Workday) Intl. Migratory Bird Day
- \* 4 p.m. Sat., May 19 (Introduction)
- \* 8 a.m. Sat., May 20 (Birds)

For all of these activities, the meeting place is a bridge crossing Riverside Canal. To get there from I-10, take Americas Ave. (Loop 375) to Pan American Dr., turn left onto Pan American and travel 1.5 miles to the bridge. Please be prompt. Info: (915) 747-8663.

## COS MEETS IN ALBUQUERQUE, APRIL 18-21

The Cooper Ornithological Society will hold its 2001 annual meeting in Albuquerque April 18-21. Two items of special interest will take place Sat., April 21:

- \* a workshop on Techniques for Preserving Avian Specimens, led by Scott Cutler of the UTEP Centennial Museum; and
- \* a symposium on Conservation of Borderland Birds, chaired by Carol Beardmore, Western Regional Coordinator for Partners in Flight.

For more information and online registration:  
<http://www.cooper.org/2001mtg/cos.html>

## El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society

### Board of Directors:

President	Betty Fisbeck	581-0174
V-President	John Kiseda	533-4615
Secretary	Roxanne Schroeder	534-7019
Treasurer	Hugh Jameson	751-7952

### Committee Chairs:

Conservation	John Kiseda	533-4615
Education	Elizabeth Chase	591-5119
Field Trips	Bob Johnson	757-1876
Hospitality		
Membership	Jane Fowler	598-2448
Programs	Nancy Wilson	877-4600
Publications	Kathleen Whelen	751-2408
Publicity	Barbara Buck	
Sanctuary	John Sproul	545-5157

### About the Roadrunner:

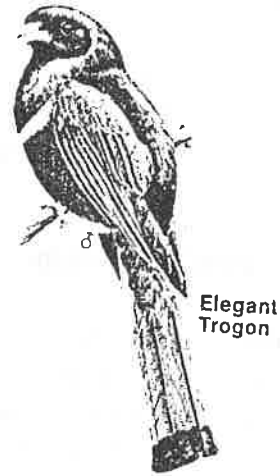
Roadrunner is your newsletter. We welcome your contributions. Contact Bob Johnson 757-1876 or Kathy Whelen 751-2408 email: [whelenk@aol.com](mailto:whelenk@aol.com)

**Feather Lake Workday**  
**Saturday, June 2**  
**8:30am**  
**Please Join Us!**  
**Breakfast included**

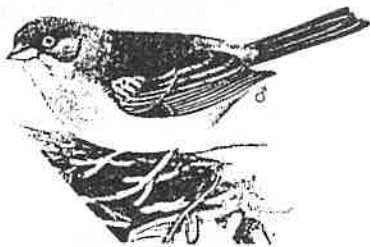
# ON THE TRAIL

## CHIRACAHUA MOUNTAINS

Sat. - Mon. May 26-28. Cave Creek is located in the **Coronado National Forest**, next to **Portal Az.** **Portal** is 7 miles west of **Rodeo NM** on route **US 80** reached from **Exit 5 (Road Forks)** on **I-10** or through **Columbus NM** on the highway from **Santa Teresa**. This is one of the best places in the United States to see the *Elegant Trogon*, *Sulpher-bellied Flycatcher*, *Painted Redstart*, *Gray-breasted Jay*, the *Gila*, *Strickland's* and *Acorn Woodpeckers*, *Cassin's Kingbird*, *Bridled Titmouse* and *Blue-throated Hummingbird*. On Sunday a trip up high to Rustler Park could find *Mexican and Mountain Ckickadee*, *Yellow-eyed Junco*, *Broad-tailed Hummingbird*, *Red-faced Warbler* and maybe *Olive Warbler*. We will be having our famous campground picnic on **Sat. evening** (no singing required). Great camping among the Arizona Sycamores, which line Cave Creek as it flows through Idlewild and Stewart Campgrounds. For those of you who like more comforts the following places are within a few miles of the Campground. Call Bob "Wildbird" Johnson (757-1876) for map and details.



Elegant Trogon



Yellow-eyed Junco

Cave Creek Ranch	(520) 558-2334
Geo. Walker House	(520) 558-2287
Kraft Cottage	(520) 558-2443
Portal lodge	(520) 558-2223
Southwestern Research Station	(520) 558-2396
Cathedral Rock Lodge	(520) 558-2254
Ranger Station	(520) 364-3468
Chirachua Cottages	(1-800-726-7231)

The zip code for **Portal AZ.** is 85632.

There is also a couple of places in **Rodeo, NM.**

# ON THE TRAIL

## DESERT BIRDS/BIRDS OF PREY

A good chance to see some of the birds that inhabit the desert scrub while enjoying the plant life around the Wilderness Park Museum. Then out along Hawk Alley observing the hawks on the poles. A final stop at the Fort Bliss Ponds so you can catch a sight of some migrating shorebirds.

**DATE:** Sunday April 8th.  
**TIME:** 7:45 AM  
**PLACE:** Wilderness Park Museum

## MEMORIAL PARK

*Warbler* migration should be near its peak and **Memorial Park** is always one of the better places to see them. Also a stop at **Arroyo Park** could produce a few rare ones. In addition to *Warblers*, *Orioles* and *Vireos*, possibly a *Tanager* could be spotted. The meeting time will be 7:14 AM, Sat. Apr. 21, the place is **The Garden Center in Memorial Park, 3500 Grant Street**, call for details.

## REMINDER

**Monday, April 16**  
**General Meeting**  
**at Feather Lake**  
**6:00pm**

## BIRDATHON

Don't forget our annual **BIRDATHON**, May 5 and 6 see special page in this issue.

continued

## FRIENDS OF HUECO TANKS

**Admission:** Hueco Tanks State Historical Park - \$4.  
\$2 for Seniors 65 and older. Children under 12 FREE.

### Bird Identification Tours

Sunday April 15	8 AM
Sunday May 20	7 AM
Sunday June 17	7 AM

**Check in at the Headquarters.** Leader - Bob "Wildbirder" Johnson. Details call 857-1135.

## HERON ROOKERY

We will head west on Country Club Road to Mcnutt, then north to NM Route 28, all the while enjoying the birds along the way, ending up at the Heron Rookery. If you have not taken this trip before, you will be amazed at over 200 nests of Cattle and Snowy Egrets, and some Black-crowned Night Herons.

**DATE:** Saturday, June 9th  
**TIME:** 7:02 AM  
**PLACE:** **Crossroads Ponding Area**  
(Doniphan and Mesa)

## SUMMER WEEKENDS

This summer we could have a weekend getaway each month. Let a Chapter Officer know how you feel about the locations and possible dates.

June 23 - 24	Gila Cliff Dwellings.
July 21 - 22	Water Canyon (includes a stop at Bosque Del Apache NWR).
Aug 11 - 12	Ruidoso or Cloudcroft.
Sep 7 - 9	Fort Davis (TOS, fall conference).
Oct 6 - 7	Hawk Watch.

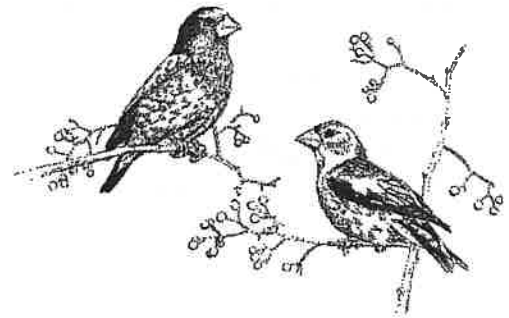
## Busy Times at Feather Lake!

On February 13, El Paso's city council renewed our lease agreement for Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary for an additional 5-year term. Many thanks to the City for continuing this great partnership.

Pardon our dust. Under the able direction of Charles Simpson, a new visitor-contact station is under construction in front of the ramada at Feather Lake, where the old education shed once stood. The new structure will be an enclosed walkway. As you pass through it, you'll enjoy displays on Feather Lake and its wildlife, pick up brochures of interest, sign our guest log, and generally get introduced to the Feather Lake experience. Our good neighbors at Rio Grande Materials graciously donated the concrete for this project.

Want to see how the work is progressing? Come to our special April 16 general meeting at the lake (see page 1). Want to see the work near its completion? Join us Sat., June 2 at 8:30 a.m. for our annual Breakfast at Feather Lake. The menu will feature pancakes a la Bob Johnson. Exercise opportunities (helping with sanctuary projects) will be available after breakfast.

The 2000-2001 visitor season at Feather Lake is winding down. The last day our sanctuary will be open before closing for the summer is Sunday, April 29. Until then, hours are every Saturday morning, 8:00 a.m. to noon, and every Sunday afternoon, 2p.m. to dusk. Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso's Mission Valley. Admission is free.



## Support Local Wildlife Conservation Organizations

### Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue, Inc.:

Board Meetings are all "open" meetings and held at the El Paso Environmental Center at 800 S. Piedras.

Visit the CDWR website at:  
[www.whc.net/cdwr](http://www.whc.net/cdwr)

### Visit the El Paso Zoo website at:

[www.whc.net/epzoo](http://www.whc.net/epzoo)

### KEYSTONE MARSH

Contact: Carol Miller at 584-7088

Visit the KAPPA website at:  
[www.keystonepark.org](http://www.keystonepark.org)

**El Paso/Trans-Pecos  
AUDUBON WEB SITE**

**Dates to Remember**

Call Bob Johnson for details 757-1876

[http://www.gbarnett.com/ep\\_tpas/eptpashome.html](http://www.gbarnett.com/ep_tpas/eptpashome.html)

Find out information, make reservations at Feather Lake, bird reports, submit articles to the Roadrunner; e-mail us through the web site.

**April**

Sat. 7-IMBD El Paso Zoo  
Sun. 8-Wilderness Park  
Mon. 9-Board Meeting (zoo)  
Sun. 15-Bird ID Tour  
Mon. 16-General Meeting  
(at Feather Lake)  
Sat 21-Memorial Park

**May**

Sat.5 & Sun.6-Birdathon  
Sun. 20-Bird ID Tour  
May 26,27 & 28- Cave Creek, AZ

**June**

Sat. 9-Upper Valley

**Rock Art Tours**

**Every Sat & Sun 9:00am & 11:00am**

**Birding Activities at Hueco Tanks**

***Bird Identification Tours & Slide Show Presentations***

**National Audubon  
Society**

**Chapter Membership Application**

**Yes, I'd like to join.**

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of my local chapter. Please send AUDUBON magazine and my membership card to the address below.

My check for \$20 is enclosed.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make all checks payable to the  
National Audubon Society*

**National Audubon Society**

Chapter Membership Data Center

P.O. Box 51001

Boulder, Colorado 80322-1001

**EL PASO/TRANS-PECOS AUDUBON  
SOCIETY**

**W10**

Local Chapter Code

**7XCHA**

The Roadrunner is published six times a year. Contributions are welcome. Please e-mail to [whelenk@aol.com](mailto:whelenk@aol.com) or mail to 6120 Quail Ave. El Paso, Texas 79924.

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## **It's Time to BIRDATHON! Audubon's Birdathon! 2001**

**Birdathon counters are already "in training & pumping-up ", preparing for Birdathon 2001! What is Birdathon? One thing is sure, it's not your average bird count or fund-raiser!**

**Birdathon is unusual and different: a wild weekend of birding and our organization's most important source of income for conservation & education programs.**

**Birdathon! 2001 will occur on May 5th - 6th & we hope you can join us for a full, rewarding weekend of birding throughout the El Paso area by being a sponsor and possibly even a counter (if you want to become part of the "Birdathon Flock" by becoming a birdathoner yourself, contact John Kiseda at 533-4615 for details).**

**Birdathon! 2001 will benefit the following programs and projects:**

**EDUCATION, CONSERVATION & "our own" FEATHER LAKE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY.**

**Birdathon is the main source of funding used in support of our Audubon Adventures youth program and our other conservation and education endeavors such as those at Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary.**

**RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PROJECT. UTEP has continued to make progress with this project and an ~ 300 acre seasonal wetlands now exists in this previously neglected city "park". We need to demonstrate our continued support for this exciting and unique El Paso venture by providing UTEP with "local" funds to establish education and public information programs about this project.**

**TEXAS AUDUBON SOCIETY. Our support helps to ensure that this NAS office based in Texas can be an effective, respected voice for the Texas (& especially our West Texas) environment.**

### **How Birdathon Works**

**On the weekend of May 5-6, our dedicated Birdathon counters will be busy scouring the countryside, trying to find as many bird species as possible, in a single 24-hour blitz. These hardy (some might say foolhardy) & intrepid individuals will start early, stay out late, visit varied wildlife habitats and give their eyes, ears and bird knowledge a full workout. Why do they push themselves so hard? For the pleasure of a day afield, for the chance to collect meaningful data for a nationwide census project, for a test of their birding skills and most importantly, for a better West Texas environment. Each counter will be backed by sponsors who pledge either a given amount for each species seen or a fixed total amount. Most counters will see 50 to 100 species. A pledge of, say \$0.50 per species for 60 species would result in a contribution of \$30.**

**Fully 95% of Birdathon income goes to projects; 5% pays for fundraising costs (printing, paper, postage, etc.).**

**As usual, all Birdathon sponsors are automatically entered in our ever-popular drawings for a number of wonderful prizes such as binoculars, books and the like. Counters will also be eligible for some cool prizes.**

**So, whom can you sponsor for Birdathon? Last year's roster of outstanding counters were a hardy and dedicated bunch, most of whom have been involved in a number of Birdathons. If you supported one of these people last year, give them a call if you are not yet sure if they will be a counter this year. If you don't want to pick your own counter to sponsor, call Jane Fowler at 598-2448, and she will help you to do that!**

We anticipate that most of these hardworking people will surely be back at it "fighting the good fight" this year and ready to do their all for the Birdathon! 2001!  
HOW ABOUT YOU? WILL YOU DO YOUR PART?

**Birdathon Stalwarts: The Counters**

Mary Lou Alcorn	Elizabeth Chase	Sally & Hugh Jamison	John Sproul
Bertye Barnhart	Cliff Eidson	Bob Johnson	Kathy Whelen
Paul Bingham	Betty Fisbeck	John Kiseda	Nancy Wilson
Mary Bradley	Jane Fowler	Susie Schneider	James Zabriskie
Craig Braginton	Richard Hermosilla	Marcy Scott	
Joe Cancellare	Sallie Homan	Charles Simpson	

and Special Student Counters from Eastwood Middle School, Clark Middle School & Bowie High School!!!!!!!!!!!!

[in 2001, we will also have student counters from Parkland Elementary joining the fray!!!]

Please pick one or more individuals or groups and give them your support!

**Pot-luck Dinner.**

The prize drawings will take place at our annual post-Birdathon pot-luck. It will start at 6 PM on Sunday May 6th, at the Garden Center, 3105 Grant, in Memorial Park in El Paso. Reports of the weekend's best birds, great food and the results of our prize drawings await you! How about joining us? ALL ARE INVITED!!!

Whether it's \$.25 per species, \$1.00 per species or any given amount, we hope you will consider a Birdathon pledge. Have you already made your Birdathon 2001 pledge? Excellent! If not, please pick one or more counters to sponsor and return the enclosed card today. Your support makes the work Audubon does, possible.

Thank you very much, for your generosity and support!

Sincerely,

John Kiseda & Jane Fowler  
Birdathon Coordinators

-----  
El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

BIRDATHON! 2001

YES! I'll sponsor \_\_\_\_\_  
for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per species for each species  
s/he finds on the Birdathon.

From \_\_\_\_\_

I'll sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ for a flat  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Address \_\_\_\_\_

I will add a bonus of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ if my  
counter sees a \_\_\_\_\_.

City State Zip

My tax deductible gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
sponsoring \_\_\_\_\_  
is enclosed, payable to El Paso/Trans-Pecos  
Audubon Society

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Please clip & return this form by May 1st to:  
Birdathon! 2001  
c/o Jane Fowler  
3212 Kilkenney El Paso, TX 79925

Thank you for your Generous Birdathon pledge!

Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law.