



The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

**EL PASO AUDUBON SOCIETY'S
ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET**
Saturday, February 16th at 6:00 p.m.
Jaxon's Restaurant
1135 Airway Blvd.



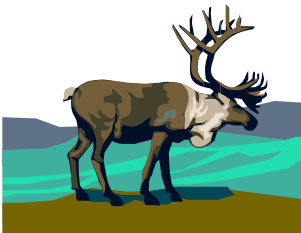
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The Society's Conservation Award will be bestowed upon **Maria Trunk of The Frontera Land Alliance** and to **Chuck Kooshian, El Paso City Planner**.

The Meritorious Service Award will be given to **Kathy Kiseda** in recognition of her years of service benefiting the society and nature.

The event will feature a program by
Dr. Craig Tweedie, Director of UTEP's Systems Ecology Laboratory,
 Assistant Professor of the Biology Department, and a polar science expert,
 entitled "International Antarctic Expedition Connects
 UTEP Students with Polar Research".

Advance reservations required. Cost \$18 per person. Call Janet Perkins,
 581-2849 by February 8 for more information or reservations.



Monday, March 17, 2008 at 7:00pm
at UTEP Centennial Museum, corner of Wiggins & University
ALASKA BIRDING!

Come see some of the birds, wildlife, and scenery of Alaska with Eddie and Lucretia Chew on Monday, March 17, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., at the UTEP Centennial Museum. The Chews, with son Steve and his family (Sally, Laura, and Katie) traveled for three weeks in Alaska in August 2007. They went by airplanes, boats, cars, trains, buses, kayaks, cable car, and on foot to see glaciers, mountains, wildlife, and especially the birds of Alaska. They visited Anchorage, Juneau, Sitka, Homer, Seward, and Denali National Park. Lucretia saw eleven life birds and Eddie saw three more that Lucretia had already seen. The eleven included the Red-faced Cormorant, Kittlitz's Murrelet, and Willow Ptarmigan. They promise not to show all 2000 photographs taken!





The Audubon Foundation of Texas represents Texas Audubon chapters in the Earth Share of Texas payroll-deduction plan for charitable giving.

Earth Share OF TEXAS

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

Officers

President: Scott Cutler, 581-6071
Vice President: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Secretary: Lucretia Chew, 587-9589
Treasurer: Eddie Chew, 587-9589

Committees

Membership: Roxanne Schroeder, 533-0061
Programs: Ursula Sherrill, 526-7725
Conservation: vacant
Field Trips: vacant
Hospitality: Janet Perkins
Publicity: Kathy Kiseda, 533-4615
Education: Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408
Publications: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Ways & Means: vacant
Sanctuary: John Sproul, 545-5157

YES YOU CAN (Find a parking place)



The old UTEP visitor's parking lot has been closed for construction. But, there are still 150 parking spaces inside the parking garage. From I-10, take the Shuster Exit Turn LEFT at first light, SUN BOWL DRIVE CONTINUE straight after the four-way stop Turn RIGHT at first driveway Turn LEFT at the Visitor's Parking sign (overhead)

THE ELECTRONIC ROAD-RUNNER

THE ROADRUNNER is now also available electronically as a PDF file. If you would like to receive our newsletter in this way via e-mail, just send a note to John Sproul at jsproul@utep.edu.

Annual Photo Contest

At the December meeting, the program was our annual photo contest. Fourteen members submitted 41 photos in the designated categories; Birds, Wildlife other than Birds, Kids & Pets, Scenic, and Humorous. Some members entered all five categories, some entered fewer, some only one.



The First Place and Runner-up Winners are as follows:

- Birds: John Kiseda - Great Egret
Wildlife: Lois Balin - Oryx
Kids/Pets: German Shorthair Pointer, Loki
Scenic: Roger Poel - Sunset Over Keystone
Humorous: Bob Johnson - Stupid Dog Sign
Lucretia Chew - Willow Ptarmigan
Eddie Chew -Caribou
Roxanne Schroeder - Her cat, Bobo
Bob Johnson - Reflection of the Iowa Capital on a Nearby Glass Office Building
Kathy Kiseda - Carpenter Ant Garden Art

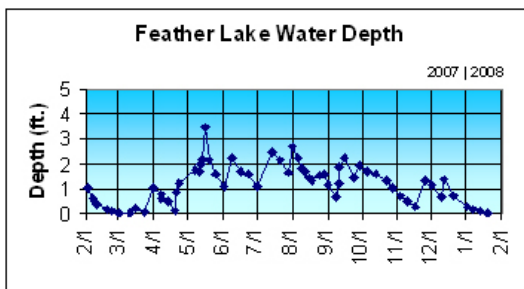
This year's contest was presented in a different manner than was in the past. All pictures, even slides and prints, were converted to a digital format and projected onto a screen. Congratulations to all the winners and participants. Let's start thinking about next year's entries.

AT FEATHER LAKE

Natural processes continue to shape the landscape at Feather Lake. In late December/early January, high winds toppled 3 cottonwoods that had been killed in June 2006 by the fire that burned along the west shoreline.

We had an excellent run, 9.5 months with Feather Lake consistently flooded, but it ended in mid-January. At this writing, the lake is dry and our sanctuary is closed due to lack of water.

We're hopeful we'll be able to re-open soon. In the meantime, sincere thanks go to everyone who helped staff Feather Lake during visitor hours since September: Lucretia and Eddie Chew, Clarence Cooper, Scott Cutler, Jane Fowler, Mike, Ruby Ann and Sydney Gaglio, Bob Garcia, Inga and Joe Groff, Julianne Hammink, Bob Johnson, Carol Moreno, Carlisle Navidomskis, Janet and Mark Perkins, Flora Pittard, Roxanne Schroeder, Ursula Sherrill, John Sproul, and John, June and Claire Walton.



Whether we have water or not, we'll still be open on **Sat., March 29**, for our bi-monthly workday. It starts at **2 p.m.** Join us for some spring cleaning at the lake!

Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave.

Audubon at RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK



Water deliveries to Rio Bosque Wetlands Park were cut off January 6, the earliest date since construction of the wetlands project in 1997. For recent bird sightings at the Park and to learn the latest on water conditions, visit www.riobosque.org.

Upcoming free walking tours:

- 9 a.m. Sat., February 2 (Bird tour)
- 3 p.m. Sun., February 10 (Introductory tour)

- 3 p.m. Sun., March 2 (Bird tour)
- 3 p.m. Sat., March 8 (Introductory tour)

The meeting place is a bridge crossing the Riverside Canal. To get there from I-10, take Americas Ave. (Loop 375) to Pan American Drive, turn left onto Pan American and travel 1.5 miles. Information: 747-8663.



BIRD WATCHING

The following field trips will be held jointly with the class from the UTEP Center for Lifelong Learning, that the chapter is presenting. Call Ursula 526-7725 (usherrill@miners.utep.edu) or Bob 751-0125 (wildbirderbob@sbcglobal.net) If you would like to learn more about this or other classes call 747-6280.

ZOO / KEYSTONE

The first stop will be at the America's Aviary, located in the El Paso Zoo. This will allow close up looks that will help in understanding identification features. Then on to the Keystone Wetlands for closeup views of the birds located there. Pied-billed Grebes, Mallard and Ruddy Ducks, Common Moorhens, American Coot, Killdeer Black-necked Stilt, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher.



DATE: Sunday, February 24
 TIME: 8:00 AM (Please be on time, as we are going in as a group before regular opening time.)
 MEET: El Paso Zoo, 4001 E. Paisano

BACKYARD BIRDS

A stop in members backyards to learn something about birds, feeders and feeding. House Finch, Northern Mockingbird, Doves, Great-tailed Grackle, Curve-billed Thrasher, Robin, Lesser Goldfinch, Cactus Wren, Anna's Hummingbird.



DATE: Saturday, March 1st; TIME: 8:00 AM;
 MEET at: 404 Kenyon Joyce, off No. Stanton

FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS

A trip into The TOM MAYS section of the Franklin Mountain State Park. The first part of the walk will be fairly level. The second half will be a moderately steep trail up to West Cottonwood Springs. For those that think its too tough we will have an excellent birder stay at the lower level. Birds that could be seen will include Black-chinned, Rufus-crowned, Black-throated, Sparrows Rock Wrens, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and



White-crowned Sparrow

DATE: Saturday, March 8th. TIME: 7:45 AM
 MEET at: Entrance to Tom Mays Area on Trans Mt. Road. West side.

BIRDS OF HUECO TANKS

The class will tour the rocks and desert scrub of HTSHS for the birds that inhabit the area. No climbing, the tour is all level walking, takes about three hours. Scaled Quail, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Say's Phoebe, Loggerhead Shrike, Verdin, Canyon Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Green-tailed Towhee, Canyon Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Black-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco.

Pyrrhuloxia



DATE: Sunday, March 16th. TIME: 8:00 AM
 MEET at: Hueco Tanks SHS, 20 miles east of the Airport on US 62/180, take FM 2775 north.

DOWN THE VALLEY

McNary, Fort Hancock, and Tornillo Reservoirs are usually good for Western and Clark's Grebe's, Eared Grebes's Pelican's, Gulls, Egrets, Cormorants, Ducks Quite a few species of passerines could also be present along with some birds of prey to include Harris' Hawk. A lunch break will occur at the Tornillo Rest Area.



Great Egret

DATE: Saturday, March 29th; TIME: 7:30 AM
MEET at: Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary
9500 North Loop

BIRDS of PREY

We will travel out along Hawk Alley to look for Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, American Kestrel and Turkey Vulture. It's possible that other birds of prey could be present, Coopers' Hawk, Prairie Falcon, and/or **Golden Eagle**.



DATE: Saturday, April 5th. Time: 8:00 am
MEET at: Lowe's parking lot, 4531 Trans Mountain Road. Behind Taco Bell.

HUECO TANKS
Bird Identification Tour
Admin: Hueco Tanks Historical Site \$4.

\$2 for Seniors 65. Children under 12 – FREE.

Sun. Feb. 17 8:00 AM
 Sun. Mar. 16 8:00 Am
 Sun. Apr. 20 8:00 AM

Please check in at the Headquarters.
 Reservations and information 915-857-1135.

BIRDWATCHERS WELCOME

The gate at Keystone will be open the last weekend of each month for birders to come in and bird on their own. No tour guides.

Sat. Feb. 23 7:30 to 10:00 AM
Sun. Feb. 24 3:00 to 5:30 PM
Sat. Mar. 29 7:30 to 10:00 AM
Sun. Mar. 30 4:30 to 7:00 PM
Sat. Apr. 26 7:00 to 9:30 AM
Sun. Apr. 27 5:00 to 7:30 PM

Bosque Del Apache
National Wildlife Refuge

The trip on Friday, Jan. 17th—Sun. 19th to the Wildlife refuge near Socorro, New Mexico was very successful. The weather was clear and still. The only drawback was the temperature which was below 20 degrees each early morning. These colder temperatures had resulted in the freezing of all the ponds and duck activity was reduced.

The weekly count of bald eagles showed only five but, from the bus tour, one adult was seen sitting on a large dead tree snag.

A total of 21 people were on the bus tour and different groups of these toured on their own Friday afternoon, Saturday morning and Sunday morning. The total bird count was 78 species. The highlight was an **American Bittern** seen clearly in a ditch about 75-100 feet from the tour bus.

Only a short time was spent at Percha State Park on Sunday afternoon. Although a small number of birds were present, a small flock of Eastern Blue Birds were



El Paso/Trans-Pecos
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National Audubon Society

Chapter Membership Application

Yes, I'd like to join.

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

My check for \$20.00 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

W10
Local Chapter Code
7XCHA

Dates to Remember Call Bob Johnson for details 751-0125

February

Mon 11: **Board Meeting**
Sat 16: **Awards Dinner**
17: **Hueco Tanks**
24: **Zoo & Keystone**
23 & 24: **Keystone**

March

1: **Backyard Birds**
2 & 8: **Rio Bosque**
Mon 10: **Board Meeting**
Sun 16: **Hueco Tanks**
Mon 17: **General Meeting**
Sat 29: **Feather Lake**
29 & 30: **Keystone**

April

Sat 5: **Hawk Alley**
Mon 14: **Board Meeting**
Mon 21: **General Meeting**
26 & 27: **Keystone**

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Local **Chapter Only Membership** Your \$15.00 will help support chapter activities & you'll receive

The Roadrunner delivered to your mailbox.

Make checks payable to the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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