



The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

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The e-Roadrunner

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.

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Website!

Updated information about upcoming field trips, calendar of upcoming events, and recent bird sightings.

www.trans-pecos-audubon.com



No General Meeting in August
Monday, September 19, 2022 7:00pm
To Be Announced

¡BIENVENIDOS, CHIHUAHUAN MEADOWLARK!

On August 3, the 63rd supplement to the American Ornithological Society's (AOS's) Check-list of North and Middle American Birds was published in the journal *Ornithology*. The supplement, prepared by the AOS's North American Classification Committee, summarizes changes the committee made in the check-list between April 25, 2021 and April 25, 2022. As has often been the case in recent years, a bird found in Trans-Pecos Texas figures prominently among the changes.

Based on whole-genome data and song analysis, the Eastern Meadowlark has been split into two species: Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) and Chihuahuan Meadowlark (*Sturnella lilianae*). The Chihuahuan Meadowlark consists of two former Eastern Meadowlark subspecies, *lilianae* and *auropectoralis*. The *lilianae* subspecies breeds from northern Arizona, northern New Mexico and western Texas south to northern Sonora and northern Chihuahua. In *The TOS Handbook of Texas Birds*, Lockwood and Freeman describe it as "an uncommon resident in the mid- and upper elevation grasslands of the central Trans-Pecos west to northeastern El Paso County."

The *auropectoralis* subspecies breeds in Mexico from southern Sinaloa and Durango south along the coast to Nayarit and in the interior to Michoacán.

With this split, the status of Eastern Meadowlark in the El Paso checklist area changes dramatically. We have just one record of Eastern Meadowlark as currently delimited: a bird found at McNary reservoir in Hudspeth County on October 14, 2020. The Eastern Meadowlarks that we considered rare localized breeding birds, casual in fall and winter, were of the *lilianae* subspecies. Now, they are Chihuahuan Meadowlarks.

Field Trips

Please check the EPTPA website for the current list of upcoming field trips at <http://www.trans-pecos-audubon.com/>

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

Officers

President: Scott Cutler, 494-2193
Vice President: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Secretary/Treasurer: Eddie Chew, 587-9589

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Education: Kathleen Whelen, 820-1895
Field Trips: Star Posada, 407-6442
Hospitality: vacant
Membership: vacant
Newsletter Editor: Kathleen Whelen, 820-1895
Programs: vacant
Publications: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Publicity: Heather Rivera, 212-2825
Sanctuary: John Sproul, 545-5157
Website: vacant
Facebook: Kevin Floyd, 613-6354

The Audubon Foundation of Texas

represents Texas

Audubon chapters in the Earth Share of Texas payroll deduction plan for charitable giving.



Birdathon 2022

Our annual fundraiser, Birdathon, is coming October 8th and 9th. Our skilled counters see as many species as they can in a 24-hour period. Advance pledges may sponsor one of our counters for an amount per species seen, or for a set amount. Previous counts by individual counters in the fall have ranged from about 50 to 133. Please consider supporting the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society's Birdathon. More information will be sent later.

Lights Out Texas is a campaign of education, awareness, and action that focuses on turning out lights at night during the spring and fall migrations to help protect the billions of migratory birds that fly over Texas annually.



We encourage everyone to turn off non-essential lights at night from 11 pm - 6 am during the fall migration period, and where conflicts apply, prioritize lights out during the critical peak migration periods.

Conservation Organizations

Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition
<http://www.chihuahuadesert.org>

Second Chance Wildlife Rescue
<https://www.secondchancewildliferescue.org>
Josie Karam (915) 920-7867

El Paso Zoo (915) 212-0966
www.elpasozoo.org

Stick House Sanctuary
<https://www.facebook.com/epwildliferescue>
(915) 219-2365

Keystone Heritage Park 581-7920
www.keystoneheritagepark.com

Asombro Institute
(Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park)
(575) 524-3334 www.asombro.org

Friends of Rio Bosque 747-8663
www.riobosque.org

Wildlife for All
(formerly SW Environmental Center)
(575) 522-5552
www.wildmesquite.org

Franklin Mt. Wilderness Coalition
www.franklinmountains.org/

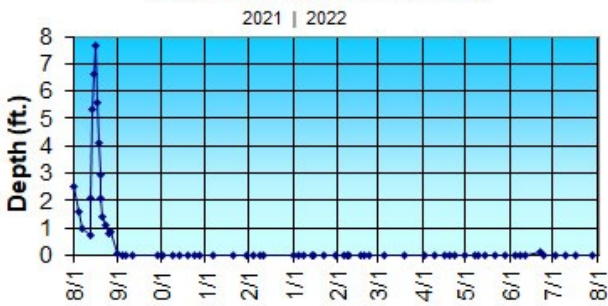
Celebration of Our Mountains
www.celebmtns.org

AT FEATHER LAKE

With the start of the irrigation season in early June, Feather Lake began receiving modest intermittent deliveries of excess irrigation water. During June and July, the basin was partly flooded, but not to great depth and not for very long. With the irrigation season about to end, this source will also end. So far this summer, there have been no storms of sufficient size to send runoff to the basin. That could, of course, change in an instant.

Our next workday will be **Sat., August 13**, starting at **8 a.m.** Water conditions will dictate whether we work in the basin or the surrounding uplands. Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave.

Feather Lake Water Depth



Audubon at

Rio Bosque Wetlands Park



Late June brought quite a surprise at Rio Bosque. After being around for 3.5 years, the park's resident beaver decided the time had come to build a dam. It is located along the old river channel, ~0.5 mile upstream of the Wetland Trailhead. We appreciate the beaver's good intentions, but the dam does present some water-management concerns: high water levels upstream of the dam and reduced flows downstream. In an effort to coexist with our industrious friend, we've installed flow-control pipes designed to pass water through the dam without the beaver realizing it – a beaver deceiver.

For up-to-date information on tours, birds and water conditions at the park, check www.riobosque.org. Upcoming tours:

- 8 a.m., Sun., Aug 14 (Introductory tour)**
- 8 a.m., Sat., Aug 27 (Bird tour)**
- 8 a.m., Sat., Sep 10 (Bird tour)**
- 8 a.m., Sun., Sep 18 (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.



www.trans-pecos-audubon.com

El Paso/Trans-Pecos
Audubon Society
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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 the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Chapter.

Send AUDUBON magazine and my membership card to address below.

Check for \$20.00 enclosed payable to National Audubon Society

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State ____ Zip _____

**National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Data Center
PO Box 97194
Washington, DC 20090-7194**

Local Chapter Code **C1ZW100Z**

Dates to Remember

August

Mon 8: **Board Meeting**
No General Meeting
14 & 27: **Rio Bosque**
Sat 13: **Feather Lake**
Workday

September

Mon 12: **Board Meeting**
Mon 19: **General Meeting**
10 & 18: **Rio Bosque**

October

8 & 9: **Birdathon**
Mon 10: **Board Meeting**
Mon 17: **General Meeting**

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society
<http://www.trans-pecos-audubon.com>

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: _____
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