



# The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

## Inside the Roadrunner

Chapter Info	2
Sanctuary News	3
Calendar	4

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.trans-pecos-audubon.com)



## Black Birders Week

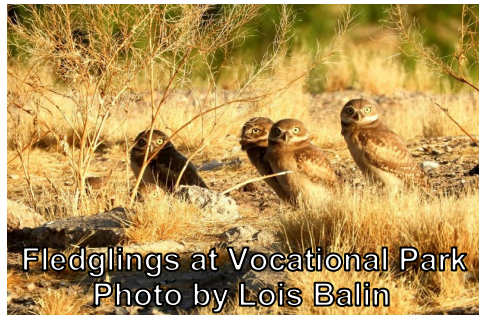
Black Birders Week, June 1-5, was organized by a group of Black scientists, naturalists, nature lovers, and birders, including Audubon's Government Affairs Coordinator, Tykee James.

[click here to learn more.](#)



Audubon chapters want the outdoors and the joy of birds to be open to everyone. However, the legacy of racism and injustice in this country still exclude and endanger Black people in ways large and small every day. That means we need to listen carefully to our Black colleagues' experiences and work hard to build a more just and inclusive world in everything we do.

## Burrowing Owls of El Paso Parks



Fledglings at Vocational Park  
Photo by Lois Balin

Texas Parks & Wildlife's Urban Wildlife Biologist, Lois Balin, partnered with El Paso City Parks to provide habitat for burrowing owls at E.L. Williams and Thomas Manor Parks and then collaborated with [Creosote Collaborative](#) and [High Desert Native Plants](#) to provide burrowing owl habitat at Vocational Park Pond and the Playa Drain by Ascarate Park.

We had success at E. L. Williams Park with four fledgling owls and Vocational Park pond with one fledgling. There wasn't much opportunity to check on Thomas Manor owls but a pair was seen there in April. No adult owls and a dead owlet in one of the entrances was discovered in early June. Not sure what happened. Owls by Ascarate Park nested in a drainage hole and have two fledglings. The habitats there were installed late in the season and have no nesting owls. We are hoping next year for nesting owls in the two habitats installed there.

Many thanks to El Paso City Parks, Creosote Collaborative, High Desert Native Plants, and the Master Naturalists for your support.



Adult at Vocational Park  
Photo by Lois Balin

## El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

### Officers

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

### Committees

**Conservation:** Kevin Floyd, 613-6354  
**Education:** Kathleen Whelen, 820-1895  
**Field Trips:** Star Posada, 407-6442  
**Hospitality:** vacant  
**Membership:** Elizabeth Chase, 539-1191  
**Newsletter Editor:** Kathleen Whelen, 820-1895  
**Programs:** Susie Schneider, 542-3041  
**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.

### BIRDS AND HABITAT OF THE RIO GRANDE WEBINAR, JUNE 17

Meetings, conferences, presentations – they’ve all shifted online these days. Among upcoming National Audubon webinars is one of particular interest for our region: *Birds and Habitat of the Rio Grande*.

Billed as part 2 of a three-part webinar series on the Rio Grande, it takes place **Wednesday, June 17**, starting at **3:00 p.m.** The presenter is Amy Erickson, avian biologist with Audubon New Mexico. She will introduce you to birds found along the Rio Grande and Audubon New Mexico’s efforts to protect those birds and their habitats. Also included: tips on local Rio Grande birding hotspots in central New Mexico.

To register: [Birds and Habitat of the Rio Grande](#)

### Join us on Facebook!



There is now an El Paso Audubon Society group on Facebook. Our aim is to provide a space for people around El Paso to share pictures, sightings, and other information about birds and conservation.

All levels of pictures are welcome. If you are looking for help with identification, please include the location and date of the picture, as both are important with narrowing the possibilities.

### Conservation Organizations

**Greater Big Bend Coalition**  
<https://greaterbigbend.wordpress.com/>

**Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition**  
[www.chihuahuadesert.org](http://www.chihuahuadesert.org)

**Second Chance Wildlife Rescue**  
[www.secondchancewildliferescue.org](http://www.secondchancewildliferescue.org)  
 Josie Karam (915) 920-7867

**El Paso Zoo (915) 212-0966**  
[www.elpasozoo.org](http://www.elpasozoo.org)

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

**Keystone Heritage Park 581-7920**  
[www.keystoneheritagepark.com](http://www.keystoneheritagepark.com)

**Asombro Institute**  
 (Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park)  
 (575) 524-3334 [www.asombro.org](http://www.asombro.org)

**Friends of Rio Bosque 747-8663**  
[www.riobosque.org](http://www.riobosque.org)

**Southwest Environmental Center**  
 (575) 522-5552  
[www.wildmesquite.org](http://www.wildmesquite.org)

**Franklin Mt. Wilderness Coalition**  
[www.franklinmountains.org/](http://www.franklinmountains.org/)

**Celebration of Our Mountains**  
[www.celebmtns.org](http://www.celebmtns.org)

## AT FEATHER LAKE

The irrigation season began this year March 17, and, during April and May, limited areas near Feather Lake’s inlet and outlet were flooded intermittently with irrigation water discharged into the Mesa Drain and the Mesa Drain Interceptor. Most of the time, though, the basin has been dry.

As was the case last year, a Mississippi Kite is again frequenting our sanctuary. Will there be more? Keep your fingers crossed.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our organization is currently not holding group activities, including the ever-popular workdays at Feather Lake. The workday tentatively scheduled for June 6 has been canceled. The next opportunity tentatively on the calendar comes **Sat., August 8**, starting at **8 a.m.**

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

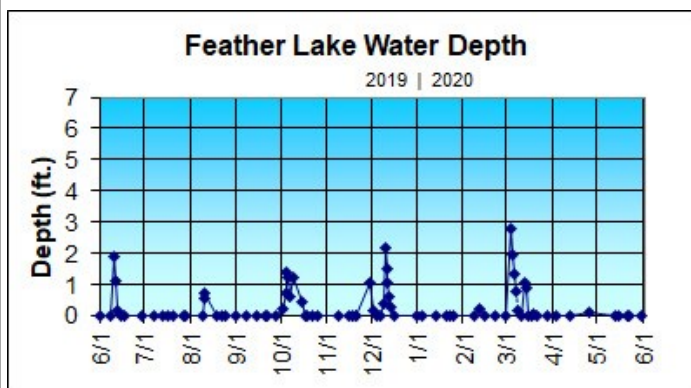


Under the emergency orders issued by the City and County of El Paso to address the COVID-19 pandemic, Rio Bosque Wetlands Park was closed to public use April 2. The park’s trails re-opened May 23. If you visit, keep your group size small, maintain appropriate social distancing and wear appropriate facial covering.

Summer-resident birds are back in force, with good numbers of Yellow-breasted Chats, Blue Grosbeaks and Painted Buntings present, along with a very vocal Northern Cardinal. We’re looking forward to the return of Yellow-billed Cuckoos in June.



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, group events like tours and workdays are still not taking place at the park. For up-to-date information on tours, birds and water conditions at Rio Bosque, check [www.riobosque.org](http://www.riobosque.org).



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





El Paso/Trans-Pecos  
Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 972441  
El Paso, Texas 79997

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
El Paso, Texas  
Permit #2440

**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**

June

Mon 8: **Board Meeting**  
**No General Meeting**



July

**No Board Meeting**  
**No General Meeting**

August

Sat 8: **Feather Lake Workday**  
**tentatively scheduled**  
  
Mon 10: **Board Meeting**  
**No General Meeting**

[www.trans-pecos-audubon.com](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: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: EPTP Audubon P.O. Box 972441 El Paso, Texas 79997