



The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society
General Meetings

Monday, October 20, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.
at UTEP Centennial Museum, corner of Wiggins and University

Franklin Mountains State Park: Land of Wildlife & Geologic Wonder
 At the fall general meeting, Monday, October 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the UTEP Centennial Museum, Franklin Mountains State Park superintendent, Cesar Mendez, will speak about the natural geologic features and some common and rare wildlife for which the park is beloved. Mr. Mendez recalls the park's colorful past and looks ahead at critical issues and visions for the 21st century. The majestic Franklin Mountains are saluted at the annual Celebration of Our Mountains special festivities from September 20 through November 9, 2008 in El Paso and the surrounding area.

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Monday, November 17, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.
 At UTEP Centennial Museum,
 corner of Wiggins and University

For Quality of Life: El Paso Open-Space Initiative

On Monday, November 17, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., Shamori Whitt, the City of El Paso Open-Space Coordinator, will speak at the El Paso/ Trans-Pecos Audubon general meeting on her new position that she says arises from a visionary perspective in city management. Poised to grow exponentially, including 300 percent at Fort Bliss, El Paso faces potential loss of some beautiful portions of the surrounding Northern Chihuahuan Desert to widening urbanization. Ms. Whitt will discuss how El Paso aims to preserve its treasured natural landscapes for the benefit of both humans and the diversity of wildlife that call El Paso home.

December Holiday Party!

At UTEP Centennial Museum,
 corner of Wiggins and University
Monday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m.

The El Paso/ Trans-Pecos Audubon holiday celebration is set for Monday, December 8, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the UTEP Centennial Museum. Our traditional PHOTO CONTEST is part of the shindig, and holiday refreshments will tempt your taste buds. If you'd like to bring your favorite holiday snack, that would be doubly delicious! If you dream of winning the photo contest, here's what to do: Our guideline is

Each person is allowed one photo for each category:

- **Bird Photos**
- **Wildlife other than birds**
- **Scenic shots**
- **Kids and pets**
- **Humorous photos**



1) Copy your photos onto a FLASH Drive or CD, labeled with your name, and take to the UTEP Centennial Museum front desk (corner of University Dr. and Wiggins Rd.) for Bob Johnson to pick up.

2) Email your photos in JPEG format to wildbirder-bob@sbcglobal.net or call Bob at 751-0125 for assistance and answers to your photo questions.

SEE YOU AT THE PARTY!!!



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	Publicity: Janet Perkins, 581-2849
Programs: Ursula Sherrill, 526-7725	Education: Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408
Conservation: vacant	Publications: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Field Trips: Ursula Sherrill, 526-7725	Ways & Means: vacant
Hospitality: Janet Perkins, 581-2849	Sanctuary: John Sproul, 545-5157

THE ELECTRONIC 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 Society
<http://www.trans-pecos-audubon.org>

Conservation Organizations

Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue
www.whc.net/cdwr

El Paso Zoo 521-1850
www.elpasozoo.org

Keystone Heritage Park 581-7920
www.keystoneheritagepark.org

Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park
(505) 524-3334 www.cdnpr.org

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

Southwest Environmental Center
(505) 522-5552
www.wildmesquite.com swec@zianet.com

Franklin Mt. Wilderness Coalition
www.franklinmountains.org/

Our Albertson's Community Partnership Update



Thanks to your generous support of our outdoor education projects by presenting your Albertson's Community Partnership card when you buy food at any Albertson's store, we were able to purchase educational supplies for a fun two-day wetland program for 60 Ysleta del Sur Pueblo children in July, 2008.

We are very grateful for your support and investment in our future environmental leaders!



AT FEATHER LAKE

Timely rains in August and early September kept the water level at Feather Lake high and riparian and upland plant growth at our sanctuary lush and green. So lush and green, in fact, it has been difficult to negotiate the trail that encircles the lake.

The lake has been open to the public on weekends since September 6. We still have a few coveted dates available this fall for which we need volunteers to staff the site during visitor hours. If you can help, please contact John Sproul (747-8663, jsproul@utep.edu).

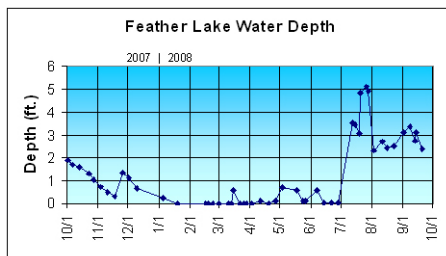


We hope you'll join us for our annual pot-luck picnic on **Sat., November 1** (see page 7). Once again, it coincides with the final day of Daylight Saving Time.

And don't forget our final workday for the year. It's **Sat., December 6**, starting at **2 p.m.** In our efforts to deal with the dense stands of Palmer amaranth and kochia that sprang up everywhere this summer, we are enlisting the help of a secret weapon. Come on down to learn its identity.

Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave. Hours are 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays and 2 p.m. to dusk on Sundays.

Admission is free.



Audubon at RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK



Since early August, access to Rio Bosque by vehicle has been limited to the Tornillo Trailhead at the north end of the Park. For the latest on access, water conditions, recent bird sightings and more, check the Park's website, www.riobosque.org.

Upcoming free walking tours:

- 8 a.m. Sat., October 4 (Bird tour)
- 9 a.m. Sun., October 12 (Introductory tour)
- 8 a.m. Sat., November 8 (Bird tour)
- 3 p.m. Sun., November 16 (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.



UTEP Parking Choices for You

Yes, you *can* park your car and come to the Centennial Museum for the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon programs. Here are two choices.

- There are parking spaces behind the Centennial Museum for museum visitors – turn right at the first driveway after the guardhouse on University & Sunbowl Dr.
- UTEP Parking Garage on Sun Bowl Dr. has 150 visitor parking spaces reserved on the street level. Enter & drive to the back right side, or enter on right side at the overhead Visitors' Parking sign.
- Street parking is not available to visitors till after 8 pm.

We'll see you at our fall 2008 meetings!

The new website is here!

Board members and volunteers will attend training to provide updated information about upcoming field trips, a calendar of upcoming events, recent bird sightings.

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

Audubon Chapter T-Shirt Sales Continue

The beautiful chapter t-shirts are still available for purchase. The shirt displays local birds.



These are great t-shirts which would make a wonderful gift. Wearing this original art work advertises the chapter and your concerns for wildlife.

Proceeds from the sales of the shirts will help to offset the costs of various chapter initiatives, such as our education and conservation projects, and is thus, a gift to wildlife as well as to yourself or a loved one. For more information, call Flora Pittard at 852-2353

KEYSTONE HERITAGE PARK

The wetlands are open the last weekend of each month for people to come and birdwatch on their own. No Tour Guides—binoculars are recommended.



- Sat. Oct. 25, C.O.M. 9 – 12 See notice elsewhere.**
- Sun. Oct. 26, 3:30 - 6:00 PM**
- Sat. Nov. 29, 7:30 - 10:00 AM**
- Sun. Nov. 30, 2:30 - 5:00 PM**
- Sat. Dec. 27, 7:30 - 10:00 AM**
- Sun. Dec. 28, 2:00 - 4:30 PM**



Any questions, call Bob (915) 751-0125, wildbirderbob@sbcglobal.net

HARRIS' HAWKS

We had a pair of Harris' Hawks in a nest near Painted Dunes Golf Course, which is off of McCombs St. in the Northeast. The nest was in a mesquite bush about 10 feet above the ground and within 50 feet of a pathway that was being used by people With ATV's.

The chapter decided to erect a temporary fence to keep the ATV's away. THE EPWU aided us in the project. It consisted of steel fence posts, barbed wire and wrapped with yellow caution tape. These pictures tell a short story of the project.



This is of the mesquite and fence on construction day , it is made in a semi-circle around the front. The nest is in the very middle.



Photo courtesy Joe Grossinger

This is of the nest shortly after with three nestlings.



This picture was taken a few days before they fledged.



This a few days after on a pole about 200 feet away. The adult is on the left and the 3rd fledging is laying on top of the pole.

HUECO TANKS

Admission

Adults-\$2, Seniors-\$2, Children-free

Bird Identification Tours

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

Bird-watching

Celebration of Our Mountains

Saturday, October 18, 2008

Sunday, October 19, 2008

2008 Hueco Tanks Interpretive Fair

Ancient stories and cultures of native people come alive at Hueco Tanks Fair. Some highlights are Native American dancing and drumming, a Buffalo Soldier encampment, and folkloric dancers, as well as pictograph and bird tours, climbing demos, campfire storytelling, food, music, art, gifts and books for sale. Free admission, but volunteerism and donations in support of the site are welcomed.

When: 8am-9pm Saturday, 8am-6pm Sunday

For more information: (915) 857-1135.

A Little Bird Told

Us.....

The Weekend Lincoln National Forest Trip

(August 22, 23 and 24) was a great success! The weather was beautiful, the birds were plentiful and the company was lively. 50 species were recorded and some of the favorites include the Acorn Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, Wild Turkey, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Western Bluebird, Blue Grosbeak, Mountain Bluebird, and a field full of young Western Bluebirds!



Celebration of Our Mountains

Saturday, October 25, 2008

Keystone Heritage Park Birds



What: Identification of and information about the Birds of Keystone

When: 8:00am– 12:00 noon on Sat., Oct. 25

Where: Keystone Heritage Park
(off Doniphan near Frontera)

Coordinated by: El Paso Audubon Society & Bob Johnson, 751-0125,
wildbirderbob@sbcglobal.net

Bring: Binoculars – we will also have some pairs on hand. More than 200 land birds, waterfowl, shorebirds, and rare species have been recorded at the park. Young and beginner birders are welcome. Keystone is also an archaeological site estimated to be 4,500 years old, and has a botanical garden.

<http://www.celebrationofourmountains.org/>

The 15th annual Celebration of Our Mountains is a six-week-long festival of events to encourage appreciation of the El Paso region's environment. Dozens of hikes, field trips, driving tours, nature walks and other activities will be offered to the public Sept. 20-Nov. 9. Most events are free; some have costs listed for park entry fees, transportation or other nominal expenses.



This year's festival has a special "Celebrate Our Franklins" theme. You will find nearly every major trail in the Franklin Mountains available for learning and enjoyment.

Birds and People

Saturday, Nov 1, at 4:30 p.m. 17th Annual Pot-Luck Family Picnic, at Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary,

9500 North Loop at Bordeaux, 0.3 miles west of Americas Avenue.

Enjoy our delicious annual family picnic at beautiful Feather Lake on Saturday, November 1, beginning at 4:30 p.m. at the newly vinyl-sided Visitor's Center. Your contributions from Birdathon made possible this much-needed renovation. Stroll around the lake, and watch the ducks and other birds flying in for the night.

This is a "cook-your-own" picnic, and we'll have plenty of hamburgers and hotdogs (regular & vegetarian) for you to grill on our barbeque grill. Buns and condiments, along with coffee, plates, and napkins, will be provided. We ask you to bring your own utensils, and something to share, such as your favorite salad, pasta, dessert, or other dish, and your choice of beverages.

Usually spotted at the lake in the fall are American Wigeon, Cinnamon Teal, Northern Pintail, Sora, Black-necked stilt, Eurasian Collared Dove, Burrowing Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow Warbler, Western Tanager, and Lark Sparrow.

We hope you can join in the fun!!!

Please call John Sproul, 545-515. jsproul@utep.edu, or Bob Johnson 751-0125, wildbirder-

Saturday, November 15, 2008 Reservoirs Down in the Valley

McNary Reservoir has been called the best birding location in the valley east of El Paso (Lockwood *et al.* 1999), and is a notable haven for northern waterbirds, such as resident Western and Clark's Grebes, Eared Grebes, Pelicans, Gulls, Egrets, Cormorants, and many species of ducks. Fort Hancock often has more open mud flats than McNary, and these attract herons and White-faced Ibis. Tornillo is also known for its winter waterbird population. Land birds that have been sighted at one or more of these three reservoirs are Harris's Hawk, Northern Harrier, Ferruginous Hawk, Say's Phoebe, Loggerhead Shrike, Pyrruloxia, and Lark Bunting.

We will have lunch at a rest stop near Tornillo Reservoir, under some towering cottonwoods where we may see Western Bluebirds.

Date: Saturday, November 15

Time: 7:15 a.m.

Meeting place: Feather Lake

Coordinator: Ursula Sherrill

(526-7725, usherrill@miners.utep.edu)

BRING A LUNCH

Saturday, December 6, 2008

Do the Upper Valley Pond Hop!

Join us in checking for over-wintering birds at some excellent aquatic habitats in the El Paso Upper Valley area, such as Crossroads Pond, Sunland Park Racetrack, and the wetland behind the Polly Harris Senior Center.

Date: Saturday, December 6

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Meeting place: Keystone Heritage Park, 4200 Doniphan Drive, near Frontera intersection.

Coordinator: Ursula Sherrill (526-7725, usherrill@miners.utep.edu)



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

Return service request

Celebration of Our Mountains
Saturday, October 4, 2008
Birding Hike

Enjoy our mountain birds on a hike in the majestic Tom Mays area of Franklin Mountains State Park. Wear hiking shoes & bring a light jacket and water.

Time: 7:45 a.m.

Meet at: Tom Mays Area entrance, Franklin Mountain State Park, Trans-Mountain Rd

Trip Coordinator: Ursula Sherrill, 526-7725, usherrill@miners.utep.edu

Celebration of Our Mountains highlights the Franklin Mountains' unique geological, biological, and archeological features. Festivities begin with Chihuahuan Desert Festival, Sept 20. Enjoy 30-plus hikes, field trips, nature walks, bicycle rides and other free events. Details: Sept & Oct *El Paso Scene*, www.epscene.com/oct.html, and the *El Paso Times* newspaper.

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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 Ursula Sherrill for details 526-7725

<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
Sat 4: Franklin Mts.	Sat 1: Feather Lake	Sat 6: Upper Valley Ponds
4 & 12: Rio Bosque	Picnic	Feather Lake Work
Mon 13: Board Meeting	8 & 16: Rio Bosque	Mon 1: Board Meeting
18 & 19: Hueco Tanks	Mon 10: Board Meeting	Sat 15: Down the Valley
Mon 20: General Meeting	Mon 17: General Meet	Mon 8: Holiday Meeting
Sat 25: Keystone Birds	29 & 30: Keystone	27 & 28: Keystone
25 & 26: 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: _____