

The Roadrunner



Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

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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.

7th Annual Poppies Fest March 23, 2013

The Franklin Mountains are one of our area's greatest assets. We are frequently blessed with a stunning wildflower display over particular parts of the Franklin Mountains when the Mexican Gold Poppies bloom on Castner Range. The Festival is an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful outdoors and all our mountains have to offer.

Annual Awards Dinner Saturday, February 16, 2013 6:00pm Opus World Bistro 7128 Mesa Street, Colony Cove II

Join us for our annual awards dinner and program. The **Conservation Award** will be presented to **Rick Lo-Bello, Education Curator of the El Paso Zoo**. For over 37 years Rick has dedicated his life to conservation education. He is President of the Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition and founder of the I Love Parks website.

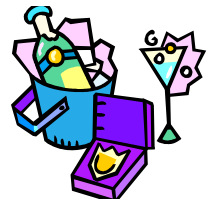


A **Conservation Certificate** will also be presented posthumously to **Kevin Von Finger**, who was a well known conservation activist in El Paso for many years.

The program will be presented by **Jim Paton**, who will share his experiences and pictures from his recent trip to Australia.

The cost of the meal is \$20, which includes salad, entree, dessert, iced tea or soft drink, tip and tax. Beer and wine are available for an additional cost. The menu choices are:

1. Chicken breast stuffed with spinach and artichokes served with a starch and a vegetable; or
2. Sliced sirloin of beef served with a starch and a vegetable; or
3. Vegetarian paella with artichokes and garbanzo beans.



Dessert choices are:

1. Cheese cake with berries; or
2. Chocolate cake

Reservations are necessary. **Deadline is February 11, 2013**. Contact Janet Perkins at 581-2849 or 637-5269. Advance payment is requested. Make checks payable to El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society and mail to Janet Perkins, 813 Montclair Dr., El Paso, TX 79932.



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

Membership: Roxanne Schroeder, 533-0061
Programs: vacant
Conservation: Luis Sanchez, 422-5530
Field Trips: Mark Perkins 637-3521
Hospitality: Janet Perkins, 581-2849

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

Officers

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

Committees

Publicity: Janet Perkins, 581-2849
Education: Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408
Publications: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Ways & Means: vacant
Sanctuary: John Sproul, 545-5157

Monday, March 18, 2013, 7:00 p.m.,
Centennial Museum, at UTEP
General Meeting

Kick off Spring Break with the Audubon Society. The General Meeting program is yet to be determined but as always, it is sure to be a winner!



The meetings always include great friends and tempting snacks so we hope you will join us. As always, programs are free and we welcome everyone. You need not be an experienced birder.

Albertson's ...

Every time you swipe your Community Partners Card, you earn cash for the Audubon Society.



Now isn't that a good reason to shop at Albertsons?

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

Conservation Organizations

Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue
<http://www.cdwr.org>

El Paso Zoo 521-1850
www.elpasozoo.org

Keystone Heritage Park 581-7920
www.keystoneheritagepark.org

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

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

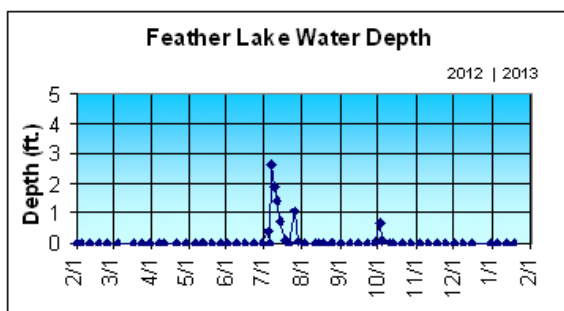
Southwest Environmental Center
(575) 522-5552
www.wildmesquite.org

Franklin Mt. Wilderness Coalition
www.franklinmountains.org/

AT FEATHER LAKE

Feather Lake remains dry and closed to public use. It last saw water in early October. The last time it held water for a full month was August 2010. The adjacent Feather Lake II basin is also dry, due to extensive groundwater pumping last year, followed by only partial recovery of the water table from the resulting drawdown. With little river water available for irrigation, we can expect extensive groundwater pumping again in 2013...and another tough year for cottonwoods and willows at Feather Lake.

Our next workday at Feather Lake takes place **Sat., February 9** starting at **9 a.m.** We'll continue the endless process of removing trash from the basin and clear downed tree limbs now blocking the trail on the inner berm within the basin. Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave.

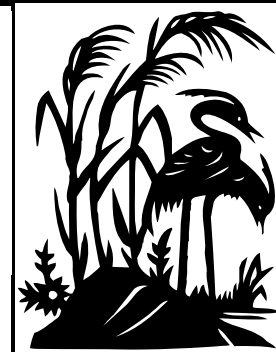


Overnight Field Trips.

Because of the expense of gas, and the time and preparation involved for the overnight field trips, it's important that you let Mark Perkins know in advance if you are planning to go on one of the overnight trips.

If there aren't at least 5 people going on a trip, it will be a no-go. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Audubon at RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK



For the past 10 years, water deliveries to Rio Bosque have ended in mid-to-late winter (last year, January 29) and, for the most part, not resumed until fall, after the irrigation season ends. This year, deliveries are expected to be reduced but not totally eliminated. For up-to-date information on water conditions and the park's birds, check www.riobosque.org. Upcoming free walking tours:

8 a.m., Sun., Feb 3 (Bird tour)
3 p.m., Sat., Feb 9 (Introductory tour)

3 p.m. Sat., Mar 2 (Bird tour)
4 p.m. Sun., Mar 10 (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.



Notes From the Field

**Riparian Restoration Workshop
February 26, 2013**

Please join Greg Fenchel and Keith White from the Los Lunas Plant Materials Center as they present restoration techniques for areas recently affected by woody plant invasives removal and/or treatments.



The classroom portion of the workshop will be held at the Bureau of Land Management Office, Las Cruces District Office and the field portion will be at a recent Partners project near Las Cruces, NM.

There are no registration fees, however participants will be required to cover their own travel expenses. If you are interested in attending please contact Santiago Misquez at 1- 575-835-1710 ext 109 or Angel Montoya at 1-575-525-4350 as soon as possible to reserve your spot.

**Bosque Del Apache
Saturday and Sunday, December 15 &16, 2012**

We birded the Bosque on Saturday, where we saw lots of raptors, including **Bald Eagles, Ferruginous Hawk, Red-tailed Hawks** and an **Aplomado Falcon**, plus lots of **Sandhill Cranes** and **Snow and Ross's geese**, as well as a wide variety of ducks. We also had **Northern Shrike, Horned Larks** and **American Pipits**.



Saturday evening we had a nice group dinner at Socorro Springs. On the way to the fly-out on Sunday morning, we saw a **Great Horned Owl**. We then went up to Water Canyon, which had a light dusting of snow. There we had **Canyon**



Towhees, White-breasted Nuthatch, Acorn Woodpecker and lots of **meadowlarks**.

On the way back to El Paso, we stopped at the El Camino Real International Heritage Center State Monument, which is in the middle of nowhere, but well worth a visit.



The City of El Paso Environmental Services Department is sponsoring a fun-filled family day and educational event on April 20, 2013, to kick-off Earth Day celebrations in El Paso.

El Paso's Earth Day, which is in its third year sponsored by our department, will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Union Plaza District, 511 Western Court, along Anthony Street and San Francisco Avenue. The outdoor event is free and open to the general public.

This year the event will be held in conjunction with the Downtown Artist Market. The collaboration will allow us to combine our Earth Day event staples; music, games, food, entertainment and educational booths promoting recycling, waste reduction and the preservation of the environment and of our natural resources, alongside artists and artisans.

Field Trips

Saturday, February 23, 2013 Hollomon Lakes and Dog Canyon

We'll drive north on US54 about 1-1/2 hours to Alamo-gordo, then US70 to the Holloman Lakes. Holloman Lakes is an Important Bird Area where we will look for **shore birds, waterfowl, gulls and raptors.**



Afterward, we will picnic and bird at Oliver Lee State Park. There is a fee of \$5 per vehicle. After lunch we'll take a short hike up Dog Canyon.

Meet at the Lowe's Parking Lot, 4531 Transmountain Road behind Taco Bell at 7:00 a.m. Bring lunch, binoculars, water and a scope if you have one. Beginners and non-members are always welcome. Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521.

Saturday, March 9, 2013 Reservoirs Down the Valley



We'll be traveling down I-10 East to visit the reservoirs of McNary, Ft. Hancock and Tornillo. We will also make a stop at the Ft. Hancock water treatment ponds. Possible sightings will be **Western & Clark's grebes, Eared Grebes, pelicans, gulls, egrets, sandpipers, cormorants, herons and ducks** of many species.

Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the parking lot at Burlington Coat Factory, at 1144 N. Yarbrough. Exit at Yarbrough. At the light, turn left under I-10. Burlington is on the right. Bring a lunch, water, binoculars and a scope if you have one. Open to the public. Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521.

Saturday, March 23, 2013 Mesilla Valley Bosque and Leasburg Dam State Parks

There is a fee of \$5 per vehicle which covers both parks. We should see wintering passerines and waterfowl.

Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the southwest corner of the parking lot at the El Paso Outlet Mall at I-10 and Transmountain (Talbot Road entrance). Open to the public.



Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521.

Prairie Chickens Anyone??

We are tentatively planning a trip to Roswell area on April 13 & 14, 2013

Last year we had great looks at the **Prairie Chickens** and some people have expressed an interest in another trip this year. This trip takes a good bit of planning, so we need to hear from those interested as soon as possible.



We need to have 5 people signed up to make this trip. Contact Mark at 637-3521.

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

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

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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 422250
Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250**

Local Chapter Code C1ZW100Z

Dates to Remember Call Mark Perkins for details 637-3521

February

3 & 9: **Rio Bosque**
Sat 9: **Feather Lake**
Mon 11: **Board Meeting**
Sat 16: **Awards Dinner**
Sat 23: **Holloman Lakes**

March

2 & 10: **Rio Bosque**
Sat 9: **Down the Valley**
Mon 10 : **Board Meeting**
Mon 18 : **General Meeting**
Sat 23: **Mesilla Valley**
Sat 23: **Poppies Fest**

April

Mon 8: **Board Meeting**
13-14: **Prairie Chickens?**
Mon 15: **General Meeting**
Sat 20: **El Paso Earth Day**

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

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