



The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

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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

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.



General Meetings

Monday, October 20, 2025 7:00pm only online via Zoom
RaptorQuest, Chasing America's Raptors

RaptorQuest, Chasing America's Raptors is about Scott Harris's journey to find all 53 of the raptors that call the Lower 48 states home. He did find all 53, along with a Bat Falcon, a Steller's Sea Eagle and an Eurasian Eagle Owl. The book is filled with stories about each bird and dozens of color photographs.

Scott took 17 months and traveled more than 100,000 miles across 34 states. He will share his adventures, misadventures, successes and failures. From -36 degree days, to ones over 100 degrees, to getting stuck in the mud, to barely missing a bird, to just arriving in time. It's about the raptors, of course, but it's also about the people he met, the things he learned and why he is already in the middle of his next big birding adventure.

This meeting will be online only! We will start the Zoom meeting at 6:50 pm, and the presentation will begin at 7 pm. To join via Zoom, please register here to receive the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/99QuFqwRQCCMTmK802ILcQ>

Monday, November 17, 2025 7:00pm
Centennial Museum at UTEP and online via Zoom
500 W. University Ave El Paso, Texas
Walk the Weminuche Wilderness

Named for the native tribe that first roamed this half-million acre preserve, the Weminuche is a relatively unspoiled area between Durango and Pagosa Springs, Colorado. Its 470 miles of trail include segments of two long trails, the Continental Divide Trail and the Colorado Trail. Finally added to our wilderness system by President Gerald Ford in 1974, it was a popular destination for El Paso Group Sierrans seeking the solitude of alpine lakes and 14'ers. This August we returned for a 5-day, 40 mile backpack up the Rio Los Pinos, one of five drainages there. Enjoy some unspoiled greenery as we recap our trip. Laurence Gibson is the Chair of the El Paso Sierra Club.

To join via Zoom, please register here to receive the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7844444444>

Tuesday, December 9, 2025 7:00pm
Centennial Museum at UTEP and online via Zoom
500 W. University Ave El Paso, Texas
Holiday Meeting & Photo Share
(Continued on page 2)

Field Trips: 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

Committees

Conservation: Kevin Floyd, 613-6354
Education: Kathleen Whelen, 820-1895
Field Trips: Star Posada, 407-6442
Hospitality: vacant
Membership: vacant
Newsletter Editor: Kathleen Whelen, 820-1895
Programs: Kevin Floyd, 613-6354
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.



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Each year, Audubon moves the December meeting up a week to avoid conflicts with the holiday season.

Note the day change! Due to schedule conflicts, this meeting will be on Tuesday December 9th, not our usual Monday.

Our December meeting is the always-popular photo share. If you want to share some of your own photos, select up to 10 of your favorites and send them to elpasoaudubon@gmail.com by December 1st at midnight. If you want them in a particular order, please include the order with the email or rename your files with the number first (i.e., 1-burrowingowl, 2-redwinged blackbird, etc.). Email us with any questions or to arrange an alternative method for getting your pictures to us.

The pictures do not need to be from this year, and we welcome non-bird pictures. Whatever you want to share will be great! If you do choose to share photos, please be available during the meeting to talk about them, either in person or via Zoom.

At the meeting on Tuesday December 9th, starting at 7 pm, the people who sent in photos will present them to the attendees. Presenters can either be in person or on Zoom.

The in-person meeting will be at the UTEP Centennial Museum. Doors open at 6:45 and there is parking in the lot behind the museum. **Everyone is encouraged to bring a treat to share with the group.**

To join via Zoom, please register here to receive the link: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/1rIXnwJ1QWOxPUc_h8LksQ

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
 (575) 524-3334 www.asombro.org

Friends of Rio Bosque 747-5766
www.riobosque.org

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

Frontera Land Alliance (915) 351-8352
www.fronteralandalliance.org

www.trans-pecos-audubon.com

AT FEATHER LAKE

Work on El Paso Water's project to install two water-control gates at the Feather Lake outlet appears to be complete. Now we just need some water to put them to the test. Despite a modest monsoon season, very little water has found its way to the basin in 2025.

Although signs of the late-May fire at Feather Lake are still painfully evident, signs of recovery continue to be encouraging. Thickets of young cottonwoods are appearing in some areas near the outlet. Also encouraging: the multiple gaps cut in the chain-link perimeter fence to provide access for fire-fighting personnel and equipment have all been repaired.

Want to see how recovery from the fire is proceeding? Our next workdays at Feather Lake will be **Sat., Oct 11**, starting at **8 a.m.** and **Sat., Dec 13**, starting at **2 p.m.** Join us. 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



Although Rio Bosque's **White-tailed Kites** were unsuccessful in their nesting efforts this year, the pair is still present. They have now been in residence since late May 2024. Maybe next year will be the year for successful nesting.

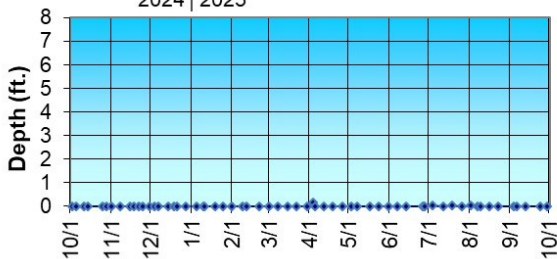
In March 2024, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) unveiled three conceptual alternative routes for a proposed project to extend the Border Highway in El Paso east for 20 miles to the new Guadalupe-Tornillo port of entry. All would impact Rio Bosque Wetlands Park.

In the vicinity of Rio Bosque, two of the alternatives were immediately east of the park, across the Riverside Canal in an area of undeveloped open space that is a valuable buffer for the park. El Paso Water administers this land. It has committed to keeping the corridor natural as part of a carbon sequestration project focused on promoting growth of native vegetation.

Both of these alternatives involved crossing the Riverside Canal – and a portion of the park – near the park's visitor center. The third alternative was on the west edge of the park; if selected it would pass through the park's wetlands.

Recently, TxDOT revealed a preliminary version of its "technically preferred concept" for this project. It is a modified version of one of the two alternative alignments in the open-space corridor east of the park. TxDOT plans a public meeting to present the proposed concept and receive comment, but it is not yet scheduled. Stay tuned.

Feather Lake Water Depth
2024 | 2025



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

8 a.m.	Sun., Oct 12 (Birding tour)
4:30 p.m.	Sun., Oct 26 (Introductory tour)
3:30 p.m.	Sun., Nov 16 (Introductory tour)
8 a.m.	Sat., Nov 22 (Birding tour)
3:30 p.m.	Sat., Dec 6 (Introductory tour)
8 a.m.	Sun., Dec 14 (Birding 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: 915-861-4361.

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**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

October

Sat 11: **Feather Lake Work Day**
Mon 13: **Board Meeting**
Mon 20: **General Meeting**
12 & 26: **Rio Bosque**

November

Mon 10: **Board Meeting**
Mon 17: **General Meeting**
16 & 22: **Rio Bosque**

December

Sat 13: **Feather Lake Work Day**
Mon 1: **Board Meeting**
Tue 9: **Holiday Meeting**
6 & 14: **Rio Bosque**

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: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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