

The Roadrunner



Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

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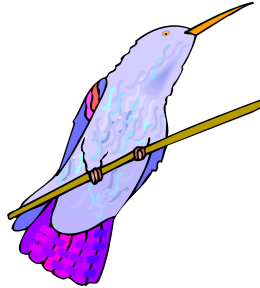
THE ELECTRONIC ROADRUNNER

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.

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Monday, October 15, 2012, 7:00 p.m.,
Centennial Museum, at UTEP



THE HUMMINGBIRDS OF WEST TEXAS

If you are captivated by hummingbirds – and who isn't? – you'll want to join us October 15 for this special presentation by Kelly Bryan. With 16 of the 18 species found in our state, West Texas has the highest diversity of hummingbirds of any region in Texas. When

they are present in our yards and other habitats, hummingbirds command our attention. Yet there is still much we don't know about their status and distribution in West Texas. Since 2007, Kelly Bryan of Fort Davis has been spearheading a long-term banding project at multiple West Texas sites aimed at revealing some of the secrets of these tiny jewels. What Kelly and his many cooperators have learned so far has been fascinating, as you'll find out when you join us October 15!

For more on Kelly Bryan's work with West Texas hummingbirds, visit <http://westtexashummingbirds.com>.

Monday, November 19, 2012, 7:00 p.m.,
Centennial Museum, at UTEP
T.B.A.



Join us for an interesting program that is yet to be finalized. Although the specific speaker has not yet been confirmed, you can be assured that the presentation and topic will be awesome. Join the Audubon Society for some shared bird watching, nature loving friendship.

The Audubon website!

Updated information about upcoming field trips, a calendar of upcoming events, recent bird sightings.
El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon <http://www.trans-pecos-audubon.org>



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

Big News!

The CBC is now FREE!

Important and Exciting news for the Christmas Bird Count program



After nearly two years of internal discussions, budget modeling, head-scratching, and intense decision-making, two major changes will come to the Christmas Bird Count program effective with the upcoming 113th Count in December, 2012.

First, the CBC is now a free program. Audubon will no longer charge the \$5.00 fee of field participants.

Second, to minimize the effects of the loss of fee income, *American Birds* will no longer be printed on paper and mailed to participants, and Audubon will move to an online delivery of the summary results of the CBC.

Welcome Home, Lois!



After an extended stay in Houston for medical reasons, we are happy to have Lois Balin, Texas Parks & Wildlife Urban Biologist, back in El Paso. We missed you!

Conservation Organizations

Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue
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

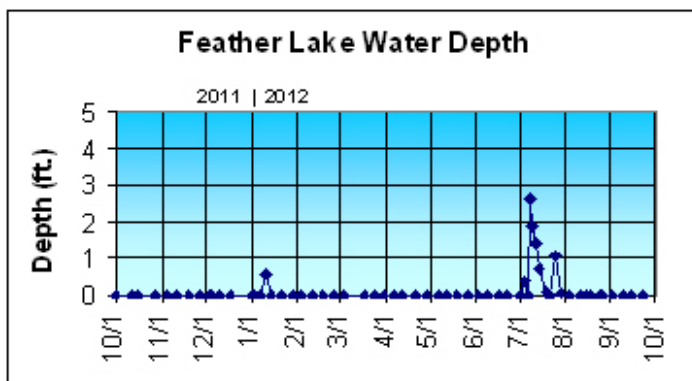
Southwest Environmental Center
(575) 522-5552
www.wildmesquite.org

Franklin Mt. Wilderness Coalition
www.franklinmountains.org/

AT FEATHER LAKE

After holding water for much of July, Feather Lake returned to its now customary dry state in August and September. As the 2012 “rainy season” winds down, another dry fall and winter appear to be in the offing at our sanctuary. Feather Lake continues to be closed to the public, as it has been since December 2010. The adjacent Feather Lake II basin is also dry.

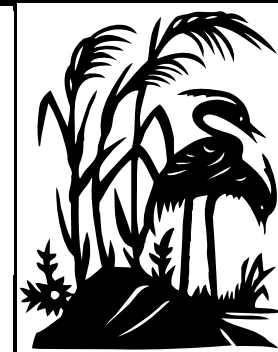
The dry conditions do not mean no maintenance is needed. We cleared many bags of trash from Feather Lake this summer but still have work to do. Join us for our next workday to help out. It takes place **Sat., October 20** starting at **2 p.m.** Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in 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. Thanks for your cooperation and understanding.

Audubon at RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK



Rio Bosque has been dry for over 8 months, and we're anxious for water to return. Although numbers have not been high, there has been a nice variety of migrating birds at the park this fall. For up-to-date information on water conditions and the park's birds, check www.riobosque.org.

Upcoming free walking tours:

- 8 a.m. Sat., Oct 13 (Introductory tour)
- 4 p.m. Sat., Oct 13 (Introductory tour)
- 8 a.m., Sun., Oct 21 (Bird tour)
- 9 a.m. Sun., Nov 11 (Introductory tour)
- 8 a.m. Sat., Nov 24 (Bird tour)



Notes From the Field

Rattlesnake Springs

Our September field trips were great for migrating birds. At Rattlesnake Springs we had several species of warblers, including a Black-and-white Warbler, Summer and Western tanagers, lots of Vermilion Flycatchers and Western Wood-Pewees, Wild Turkeys, Turkey Vultures, and Yellow-throated Vireo.



We also had a trip to the Sod Farm and Pancho Villa State Park. Again, lots of migrating warblers. At the Sod Farm we had a Red-necked Phalarope, White-faced Ibis, Blue-winged Teal, and Gambel's Quail.



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Pancho Villa State Park

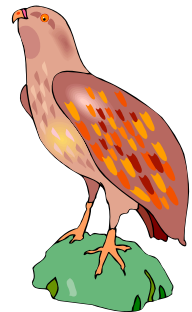
At Pancho Villa State Park we once again had migrants and five species of warblers. We had a Scott's Oriole, a Cactus Wren, Crissal and Curved-bill thrashers, a Whip-poor-will, Western Wood-Pewee, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and a roadrunner.



We had a good lunch of green chili hamburgers at the Patio Cafe in Columbus.

Saturday, October 13, 2012 Hawk Alley

We will travel by car along a stretch of Northeast El Paso roads called "Hawk Alley", a magnet for large diurnal birds of prey. We'll look for **Red-tailed Hawks** and **Golden Eagles**.



Stops may include Painted Dunes Golf Course and Ft. Bliss Ponds. Open to the public.

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Lowe's Parking Lot, 4531 Transmountain Road behind Taco Bell. Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521.

Many of our readers opt to receive **THE ROAD-RUNNER** electronically as a PDF file. By going paperless in this way, you can help us reduce costs associated with printing and mailing our newsletter. If you would like to discontinue receiving the print version of THE ROADRUNNER and only receive it via e-mail, just send a note to John Sproul at jsproul@utep.edu.

Field Trips

Dripping Springs

Saturday, November 10, 2012, Dripping Springs Natural Area. We will take an easy hike of approximately 1-1/2 miles birding up the Dripping Springs Trail to the old Sanatorium and the famous "Weeping Walls" in which a natural spring seeps out of the rock. Birds we might see, other than migrants, are Black-throated and Black-chinned sparrows, Red-tailed Hawk, Cactus and Canyon wrens, and Scaled and Gambel's quail. Bring a lunch and we'll have lunch at La Cueva, which is Spanish for "the cave", after which we will leave for El Paso.



There is a nominal fee per car at Dripping Springs. We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the southwest corner of the Outlet Mall, the entrance off of Talbot Road. Bring lunch, water and hiking shoes. Beginners and non-members are always welcome. Contact Mark at 637-3521.



Bosque del Apache

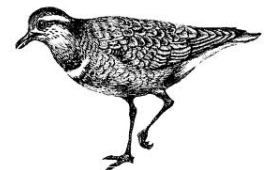
Friday, Saturday and Sunday, December 14, 15 and 16, 2012, Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge and Rosy Finch Field Trip. Get ready for Sandhill Cranes, Snow Geese and ducks by the thousands at Bosque del Apache NWR, which is one of the more popular national wildlife refuges in the country. Bald Eagles are commonly seen there as well. Mark and Janet will be in the area on Friday, December 14 for birding and viewing the fly-in. All are welcome to join them.

On Saturday, December 15, the group will view the fly-out and bird the area that day. In past years we have had bobcats and herds of elk. After birding we will head to Albuquerque and have a group dinner Saturday night. On Sunday morning we will go up to Sandia Peak early to see the Rosy Finches (weather permitting).

On past trips, we literally had hundreds of Rosy Finches to view. We will need at least 5 people signed up in order to make the trip. Please let us know by December 7 so we can finalize plans for the trip. For those wishing to make the trip, contact Mark at 637-3521 for a detailed itinerary.

Phoenix Area

Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Monday, January 18-21, 2013, we're planning a new trip to the Phoenix area. This will be field trip over the Martin Luther King weekend. Feel free to join us for any part of the weekend. Mark and Janet will be in Phoenix Friday. Some areas we plan to bird are Boyce Thompson Arboretum and Water Ranch. We will be viewing wintering waterfowl, shorebirds and passerines. We will need at least 5 people signed up for this trip. Please let us know by January 10 if you plan to go. Contact Mark at 637-3521 for a detailed itinerary.



El Paso/Trans-Pecos
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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

October

13 & 21: **Rio Bosque**
Sat 13: **Hawk Alley**
Mon 8: **Board Meeting**
Mon 15: **General Meeting**
Sat 20: **Feather Lake**

November

Sat 10: **Dripping Springs**
11 & 24: **Rio Bosque**
Mon 12: **Board Meeting**
Mon 19: **General Meeting**

December

Mon 3: **Board Meeting**
Mon 10: **Holiday Meeting**
14-16: **Bosque del Apache**

January

18-21: **Phoenix Area**

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Local **Chapter Only Membership** Your \$15.00 will help support chapter activities & you'll receive

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