

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, a calendar of upcoming events, recent bird sightings.



www.trans-pecos-audubon.com

General Meetings

**Monday, October 19, 2015 7:00pm
Centennial Museum, at UTEP**

“Birding Alaska’s North Slope and Alaska Range”
Lois Balin,
Texas Parks & Wildlife Urban Biologist



Bundle up and join us as we share in the adventures of Lois Balin and her birding trip to Alaska. Always entertaining and lively, Lois will present a slideshow of her experiences in the Yukon.

Everyone is welcome. Usually there are snack and drinks to share. Great friendships always present.

**Monday, November 16, 2015 7:00pm
Centennial Museum, at UTEP**

Program is To Be Announced

The General Meetings are always an excellent opportunity to connect with bird watcher friends and to learn.

Celebration of Our Mountains Saturday, October 24, 2015

Archaic Wetlands, Botanical Gardens, Native Habitat, History, Birds

Spend the morning at Keystone Heritage Park and enjoy easy hiking, garden tours and a history lesson with Bernie Sargent. At 9:15 AM Mike Gaglio and Josh Villalobos will lead a walk through Keystone’s 50 acres with information on the geology of the area, the mitigation of the wetlands, identifying native plants, spotting the hundreds of birds and more. At 9:45 to 11:45 AM (on-going) join Cindy Harrington as she talks about the Desert Botanical Garden. Meet at Keystone Park. Take Doniphan and make right or left onto Kappa Rd. Turn left into parking lot. For more information, contact: jburt@advertisingink.com or pasonorte@sbcglobal.net.

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

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President: Scott Cutler, 581- 6071
Vice President: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
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The Audubon Foundation of Texas

represents Texas Audubon chapters in the Earth Share of Texas payroll deduction plan for charitable giving.



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

WEST TEXAS HUMMINGBIRD CAM

Fans of West Texas hummingbirds and bird cams will want to check out the new [West Texas Hummingbird Cam](#). Located at a feeder in the Davis Mountains, the camera went live September 24, 2015.

Kelly Bryan's [West Texas Avian Research, Inc.](#) is the camera host. The video feed appears on The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's website (All About Birds > Bird Cams).



Viewers are thoroughly enjoying the diversity of hummingbirds that visit the feeder and are describing the new bird cam as "addictive."

Albertsons ...

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?

Conservation Organizations

Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition
www.chihuahuandesert.org

Second Chance Wildlife Rescue
wildliferescueelpaso.org
Josie Karam (915) 920-7867

El Paso Zoo 521-1850
www.elpasozoo.org

Keystone Heritage Park 581-7920
www.keystoneheritagepark.com

Asombro Institute
(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

In late September 2010, our Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary received enough runoff from a storm to keep the basin flooded for over a month. But by November 2010, the lake was again dry, and it stayed that way for 9.5 months. Our string of 5 very dry years at Feather Lake had begun.

By some measures, 2015 has been the driest year yet. We've had no storm events that have flooded the entire basin. Just 2 have flooded more than half the basin, one in July, one in August. With both, peak water depth at the inlet was only about 15 inches, and the basin was dry again less than a week later.

In both 2013 and 2014, September brought a storm that flooded the basin to a depth of 5 feet 9 inches. So far in 2015, we've had nothing even remotely similar.

We have, however, experienced several small storm events that washed new trash into the basin. Join us for our next workday and help clear this debris. It takes place **Sat., October 10** 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.

Audubon at

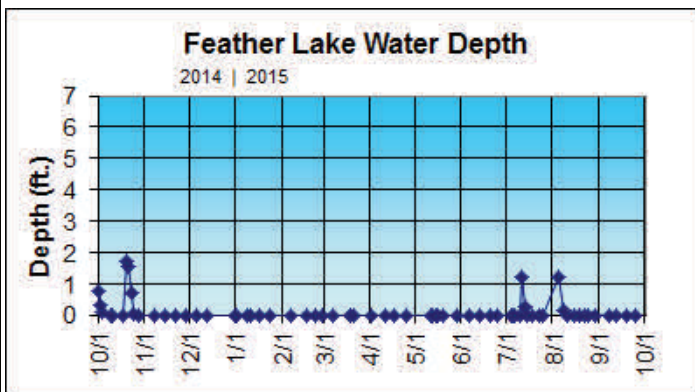
Rio Bosque
Wetlands Park



After 5 months of steady deliveries, water deliveries to the park's wetland cells are set to end September 30. The dry spell should be brief, though. Deliveries are expected to resume in mid-October. We're looking forward to a banner season for wintering waterfowl. 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 3 (Bird tour)**
- 4 p.m. Sun., Oct 18 (Introductory tour)**
- 9 a.m. Sat., Nov 14 (Introductory tour)**
- 3 p.m. Sun., Nov 22 (Bird 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.



From the Field

Northern New Mexico and Jemez Mountains September 4-7, 2015

17 people made the trip and enjoyed the cooler weather of the mountains. Friday afternoon we birded the Los Alamos area where we were able to see some **Band-tailed Pigeons**, **Acorn Woodpeckers**, and lots of **Pine Siskins** at feeders at Deer Trap Canyon.



Savannah Sparrow
Photo by Janet Perkins

Saturday morning we got an early start and headed towards Taos and stopped at Fred Baca Park which has a very nice boardwalk trail through wetlands. We saw quite a few species of birds including **Cooper's Hawk**, **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, **Wilson's Warblers**, **Black Phoebes**, **Blue Grosbeak**, and a real close look at an **Evening Grosbeak** eating olives in an olive tree. In the Taos area we saw lots of **Black-billed Magpies**, almost on every corner. From there we went up to the Taos ski area which was besieged by attendees of a music festival and, therefore, there were not too many birds in that area. We ate our lunch along a creek and did manage to see a **Belted Kingfisher** in flight (or was it fright from all the people?). On the way back through Taos we stopped at Wal Mart and spotted a **Prairie Dog** town, so we watched the Prairie Dogs for a few minutes. We returned to Los Alamos for a very nice group dinner on the veranda of Cottonwood on the Greens, the golf course in Los Alamos.

Sunday morning up early and stopped at White Rock Lookout with great vistas of the Rio Grande Valley and the Rio Grande Gorge. While there, we saw **White-throated Swifts**. We then went on to Bandelier National Monument. We had **Hairy Woodpeckers**, **Rock Wren**, **Townsend's Warbler**, **Wilson's Warbler**, **Grasshopper Sparrow**, **Canyon Wren** and a great look at a **Brown Creeper**, amongst others. We also enjoyed the Pueblo ruins. We had a picnic lunch at Bandelier. We then headed up to the Jemez Mountains and birded a meadow where we had **Yellow-rumped Warblers** and a pair of **Red-tailed Hawks**. Later that evening, we went out to Valles Caldera where we saw lots of beautiful **Mountain Bluebirds**, lots of **Savannah Sparrows**, **Brewer's Blackbird**, **Northern Harrier** and a **Peregrine Falcon**. We ended up the day Elk watching and we could hear the bulls bugling in the distance before they were actually seen.



Eastern Kingbird
Photo by Mark Perkins

Monday morning we were off to Santa Fe and the Randall Davey Audubon Center where we saw **Black-billed Magpies**, **Ladder-backed Woodpecker**, which was unusual for that area, **Black-capped Chickadee**, **Western Tanager**, **Spotted Towhee** and, the bird of the day, **Eastern Kingbird**, which is unusual there. That concluded the trip and we departed for El Paso. Great trip!

Field Trips

Saturday, October 24, 2015

Birding of the Franklin Mountains. Enjoy birdwatching at bird blinds and trails. Bring water, binoculars and comfortable walking shoes.

Meet at 7:15 a.m. at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology, 4301 Transmountain Rd in Northeast El Paso. The Park fee is \$5. Open to the public. Contact Mark Perkins at 915-637-3521.

Sage Grouse Protection Moves Ahead

Some good news for sage grouse! New federal management plans to conserve 35 million acres of federal lands inhabited by the Greater Sage-Grouse will be going into effect. Some members of Congress had sought to halt grouse conservation by including an amendment (or rider) to the National Defense Authorization Act that would have prevented these crucially important plans from being implemented. It would also have prevented Endangered Species Act protection for the next 10 years no matter how grouse populations are faring.

Saturday, November 14, 2015

Dripping Springs Natural Area and possibly Soledad Canyon. 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 a picnic at La Cueva, which is Spanish for "the cave", after which we will return to El Paso. Time permitting, we'll stop at Soledad Canyon. There is a nominal fee per car at Dripping Springs.



Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the southwest corner of the Outlet Mall, the entrance off of Talbot Road. Bring water and wear comfortable shoes. Open to the public.

Contact Mark Perkins at 915-637-3521.

Saturday-Sunday, December 12 and 13, 2015

Albuquerque and Rosy Finches

We'll have a trip to Albuquerque to visit the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park on Saturday afternoon. We'll check in to hotels in Albuquerque and Sunday morning we'll depart to the Sandia Crest to look for Rosy Finches and return to El Paso. A detailed itinerary will be available soon. We need a minimum of 5 people signed up for this trip. Let Mark Perkins know (915-637-3521) if you are interested in going.

www.trans-pecos-audubon.com

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**National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Application.**

Dates to Remember Call Mark Perkins for details 637-3521

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

October

Sat 10: **Feather Lake**
Mon.12: **Board Meeting**
3 & 18: **Rio Bosque**
Mon 19: **General Meeting**
Sat 24: **Franklin Mts.**

November

Sat 14: **Dripping Springs**
14 & 22: **Rio Bosque**
Mon. 9 : **Board Meeting**
Mon 16: **General Meeting**

December

Mon 7: **Board Meeting**
12 & 13: **Albuquerque**
Mon 14: **Holiday Meeting**

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.
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