



# The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

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## 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](mailto:jsproul@utep.edu).

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](http://www.trans-pecos-audubon.com)



## General Meetings

Centennial Museum at UTEP  
500 W. University Ave El Paso, Texas  
December 12, 2022 7:00pm

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 [elpsosaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:elpsosaudubon@gmail.com). 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 picture to us.

The pictures can be from anywhere, not just El Paso, and can include scenery, people (with their permission of course!), or non-bird animals.

**Please send them by Monday December 5th.**

This will be a hybrid meeting. The in-person meeting will be at the Centennial Museum at UTEP. Doors will open at 6:45, and parking is available in the lot behind the museum. The online part will open about 10 minutes early for people to get logged in and chat with each other.

Pre-registration for the Zoom meeting is required and can be done at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtd-6hqT4iH9HFrGACW6zUTnjjqcpfhnmfM>

**If you are attending in person,  
please consider bringing some holiday treats to share!**

## Birds of the Neotropics January 16, 2023 7:00pm

For our January meeting, Julio Sanchez De Alba will be presenting on his travels through Costa Rica and Colombia. Come learn about the diversity of birds Julio captured through his lens while on his adventures. This will be a hybrid meeting. The in-person meeting will be at the Centennial Museum at UTEP. Doors will open at 6:45, and parking is available in the lot behind the museum. The online part will open about 10 minutes early for people to get logged in and chat with each other. Pre-registration is required.

Please register at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtD-2rrDIsH9WH-eNzP5X8ebCt-ZoeZ6E>

The meeting is open to everyone, whether you are an Audubon member or not.

### 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:** vacant  
**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.



#### STATE OF THE BIRDS 2022

On October 12, the North American Bird Conservation Initiative released the [2022 State of the Birds Report for the U.S.](#) A coalition of 33 federal and state agencies, bird-focused partnerships and nonprofit organizations, including the National Audubon Society, produced the report. It provides a stark reminder that many North American bird species are in trouble.

The report includes a list of 90 North American species that, between 1970 and 2019, lost 50% or more of their populations. Of those 90 species, the report singles out 70 as "Tipping Point" species. They include:

- 39 species for which current monitoring indicates they are on a trajectory to lose another 50% percent or more of their remnant populations in the next 50 years; and**
- 31 species that already have perilously small populations and continue to face high threats, but lack sufficient monitoring data.**

In the discussion below, Tipping Point species appear in **red type**.

Urgent action is needed to help Tipping Point species before they become endangered. In fact, one – the **Lesser Prairie-Chicken** – is already in the process of being added to the federal list of endangered and threatened species. On November 25, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a [final rule](#) listing one distinct population segment of this species (eastern New Mexico and southwest Texas Panhandle) as endangered and another (southeastern Colorado, southcentral to western Kansas, western Oklahoma and the northeast Texas Panhandle) as threatened. The rule becomes effective January 24, 2023.

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#### BIRDATHON 2022 UPDATE

Congratulations to all on a good Birdathon again this year. We especially thank our sponsors and counters without whom the Birdathon would not be possible. We appreciate your participation and support for our conservation and education endeavors. Thanks, too, for our hard-working members who handle the details, especially Jane Fowler who handles the mailings.

This year presented some challenges. We had to dodge rainstorms and poor lighting because of the cloud cover. Still, some of the counters did well. The fall migration seemed to be light, but we had some early winter migrants.

Our net receipts totaled \$5,300. The money will go to chapter operations, Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, Audubon Texas, and Second Chance Wildlife Rescue.

Species seen by at least one counter were tallied. A total of 145 species were seen, compared to 122 last year.

The highest number of species seen by an individual or party were again John Kiseda, John Groves, Joe Cancellare, and Richard Hermosillo with 114. The most money was raised by Joe Cancellare. The unusual birds seen this year were the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Common Raven, Blue-headed Vireo, Juniper Titmouse, Northern Parula, Bronzed Cowbird, White-throated Sparrow, and Lewis's Woodpecker.

A big THANK YOU to all of our participants and sponsors!

## AT FEATHER LAKE

After some modest partial flooding in September and October, the next long dry spell at Feather Lake has begun.

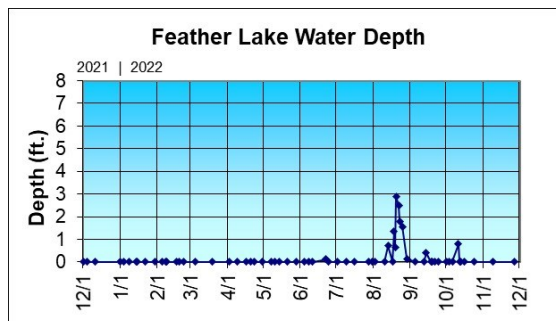
You can check out the dry basin at our next workday on **Sat., December 10**, starting at **2 p.m.**

The dry basin, of course, provides favorable conditions for trash removal, but, in the interests of variety, we'll stay in the uplands this time and

prune along the trail that encircles the lake.

Feather Lake is located at 9500 North

Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave.



### CONTINUED From Page 2

Several birds found in Trans-Pecos Texas are among the 90 declining species. Nesting birds fall into three groups: waterbirds (Western Grebe, Clark's Grebe), birds that nest in Trans-Pecos mountain ranges (Olive-sided Flycatcher, **Black-chinned Sparrow** and Grace's Warbler) and one grassland species (**Mountain Plover**).

Regular migrants or winter residents in the Trans-Pecos include **Rufous Hummingbird**, **Stilt Sandpiper**, **Pectoral Sandpiper**, **Semipalmated Sandpiper** (rare), **Short-billed Dowitcher** (rare), Long-billed Dowitcher, **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Chestnut-collared Longspur**, Thick-billed Longspur and Baird's Sparrow (rare). Irruptive fall/winter visitors include **Pinyon Jay** and **Evening Grosbeak**.

The report looks at trends for grassland birds, aridland birds, western forest birds, eastern forest birds, waterfowl and waterbirds, Hawaiian birds, and seabirds. All are in decline except waterfowl and waterbirds. There-in lies a ray of hope. As the report points out, "The long-term recovery of waterfowl and waterbird populations is largely due to successful policy (such as the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and U.S. Farm Bill conservation programs), along with coordinated efforts by public-private partnerships under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan." We need to extend and apply that model more effectively to other habitats and bird groups.

## Audubon at

Rio Bosque Wetlands Park



Wetland Cell 2 at Rio Bosque is largely flooded and seeing some waterfowl use.

Cell 1 is just starting the flood.

The upstream half of the rebuilt former river bend within the park has plenty of water backed up behind multiple beaver dams. The downstream half of the old river bend has only limited water. For up-to-date information on tours, birds and water conditions at the park, check [www.riobosque.org](http://www.riobosque.org).

Upcoming tours:

- 3 p.m., Sat., December 3 (Intro tour)**
- 8 a.m., Sun., December 11 (Birding tour)**

- 8 a.m., Sat., January 14 (Birding tour)**
- 3 p.m., Sun., January 22 (Intro 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.



**Field Trips**  
 Current list of upcoming field trips at <http://www.trans-pecos-audubon.com/>

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

Nonprofit Organization  
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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**

December

Mon 5: **Board Meeting**  
Mon 12: **Holiday Meeting  
& Photo Share**  
3 & 11: **Rio Bosque**  
Sat 10: **Feather Lake  
Workday**

January

Mon 9: **Board Meeting**  
Mon 16: **General Mtg.**  
14 & 22: **Rio Bosque**

February

Mon 13: **Board Meeting**  
Mon 20: **General Mtg.**



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