



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.

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

Awards Dinner and Program

Saturday, February 17, 2018, 6:30 p.m.
at the Hyatt Place Hotel,
6030 Gateway Blvd. East

Reservations are required and can be made by contacting Janet Perkins at 915-637-5269 or jntperk@elp.rr.com by Feb. 14, 2018.

The choices of entrees are:

1. Chicken Cordon Bleu with Light Béarnaise Sauce, served with scalloped potatoes, green beans almandine, fresh garden salad, dinner rolls and dessert - \$23.00/person
2. Marinated Brisket, served with tri-color pasta, ranchero beans, warm bread and dessert - \$18.00/person
3. Meatless Lasagna, served with green garden tossed salad, green beans almandine, French bread and dessert - \$18.00/person

Make checks payable to El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society and mail to Janet Perkins, 813 Montclair Dr., El Paso, TX 79932

Speaker

Scott Cutler will talk about his recent trip to Costa Rica in November 2017. Having visited a number of different areas in the northern half of the country, he will talk about the logistics of the trip but he will mainly show and discuss the wide variety of tropical birds and other animals he encountered during his sixteen day adventure.

Conservation Award

The **El Paso Zoo Raptor Rehabilitation Program** will receive the Conservation Award. The Zoo has been the primary location in the El Paso region for injured and orphaned raptor care since 2015. The veterinary staff provides needed medical and surgical care for the birds prior to release or transfer to a long-term raptor rehabilitation facility in Silver City. The Zoo treats 150-200 raptors per year, with injuries ranging from fractured bones to electrocutions, and illnesses including West Nile Virus and lead poisoning. The species most frequently helped include burrowing owls, Swainson's hawks, kestrels, and barn owls. Less common patients have included Mississippi kites, ferruginous hawks, and golden eagles.

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

Officers

President: Scott Cutler, 581- 6071
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: Mark Perkins 637-3521
Hospitality: Janet Perkins, 637-5269
Membership: vacant
Newsletter Editor: Kathleen Whelen, 820-1895
Programs: Susie Schneider, 542-3041
Publications: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Publicity: Janet Perkins, 637- 5269
Sanctuary: John Sproul, 545-5157
Website: Janet Perkins, 637-5269

The Audubon Foundation of Texas

represents Texas

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



Join us on Facebook!



There is now an El Paso Audubon Society group on Facebook. Our aim is to provide a space for people around El Paso to share pictures, sightings, and other information about birds and conservation.

All levels of pictures are welcome, from those taken with cell-phones to those that would belong in an Audubon magazine!

If you are looking for help with identification, please include the location and date of the picture, as both are important with narrowing the possibilities. Overall, we want people to feel welcomed and to have fun.

Join us at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/EIPasoAudubonGroup/>

Open House at The Stick House Sanctuary
Saturday March 31, 2018 1:00pm
3927 Emory Rd. El Paso TX 79922



open house & a tour of the facility

Conservation Organizations

Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition
www.chihuahuandesert.org

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

El Paso Zoo 521-1850
www.elpasozoo.org

Stick House Sanctuary
<https://www.facebook.com/epwildliferescue>
(915) 219-2365

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

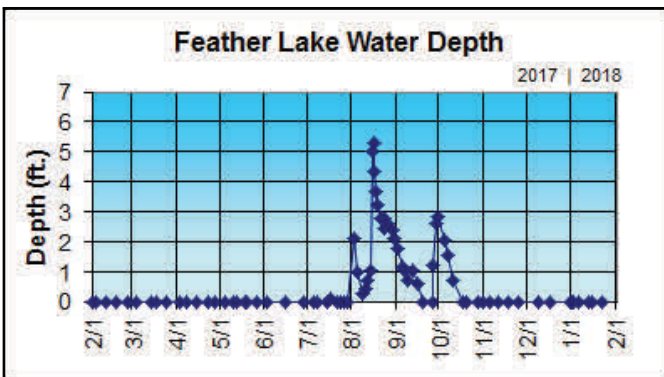
Feather Lake's current dry spell has now reached 3 months. We still have a ways to go to threaten the record of 9.5 months in 2010-2011.

On January 3, a small fire started within the basin, cause unknown. Thanks to the prompt work of the El Paso Fire Department, only ~1 acre burned before the fire was put out. Being next door to a fire station has its benefits.



Our next workday at Feather Lake will be **Sat., February 10**, starting at **9 a.m.** Most likely, we'll venture into the dry basin, hunting for trash.

Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave.



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

Audubon at

Rio Bosque Wetlands Park



Water deliveries to the park will end February 4.

The park will then rely on its wells until the irrigation season begins in mid-March.

For up-to-date information on Rio Bosque's birds and water conditions, check www.riobosque.org.

Upcoming free walking tours:

8 a.m., Sun., February 4 (Bird tour)
3 p.m., Sat., February 10 (Introductory tour)

3 p.m., Sun., March 4 (Bird tour)
9 a.m., Sat., March 24 (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.



**General Meeting
Centennial Museum at UTEP
500 W. University Ave**

**March 19, 2018 7:00pm
STICK HOUSE SANCTUARY
Wildlife Rehabilitation & Feathered Farm
Julie Ito Morales & Jaime Morales,
Wildlife Rehabilitators**



Julie and Jaime will take us inside the life of a wildlife rehabilitator...the passion, heartbreaks, successes and gratitude.

**Embattled Southwestern Willow Flycatcher to remain on Endangered Species List
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service rejects petition from developers in a victory for sound science.**

by Garrison Frost, Audubon California

Reprinted from the [Audubon California website](#)

In yet another victory of science over special interest, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has [rejected](#) a petition from developers and landowners to remove the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher from the Endangered Species List. The Southwestern Willow Flycatcher was targeted in 2016 not because its numbers are recovering, but because it stands in the way of development.



Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. Photo: Scarlett Howell/USGS

Southwestern Willow Flycatchers are small grayish-green songbirds once found commonly along rivers and streams in California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. Today, the last 500 to 1000 breeding pairs of this subspecies struggle to survive in regions where 90-95% of their historic habit has been lost and where they are beset with challenges from predation, nest parasitism, disturbance, and further habitat loss. In California, in particular, we've seen important populations of this bird decline.

Many thousands of Audubon advocates who raised their voices in opposition to the delisting petition can claim a victory today.

For over two decades, the developers and landowners that opposed the original listing in 1995 have sought to undermine it. Their latest argument was novel: they claimed the species doesn't even exist.

The recent delisting petition relied heavily on a single recent study that asserts that the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher is not a genetically unique subspecies. But most avian experts argued that the study isn't nearly enough to overturn decades of research to the contrary. Moreover, they point out that the new study – which has yet to be independently verified – downplays differences in physical attributes and geographical range. Moreover, the lead author of this research has admitted to taking money from developers for similar research in the past.

Not only is the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher a magnificent bird worthy of protection, it is also inextricably linked to the natural legacy of the American Southwest.

Field Trips

Saturday, February 10, 2018 Rio Bosque Wetlands



We will meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot of Office Depot at Bassett Center and will carpool from there. Lots of wintering waterfowl and raptors should be seen.

Contact Mark Perkins at (915) 637-3521 for more information.

Saturday, February 24, 2018 Hot Spots on El Paso's Westside



We will meet at 7:00 a.m. at Keystone Heritage Park, 4200 Doniphan. We'll bird Keystone and then go over to Crossroads Pond and other spots on the Westside, including El Paso Country Club area and possibly Coronado Country Club.

For more information, contact Mark Perkins at (915) 637-3521.

Saturday, March 10, 2018 Leasburg Dam State Park and Mesilla Valley Bosque



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

We'll be looking to see winter passerines, waterfowl, and raptors. There is a \$5 fee per car that covers both parks. Bring a lunch.

Contact Mark Perkins at (915) 637-3521

Saturday, March 24, 2018 Sod Farms and Pancho Villa State Park

Meet at 7:00 a.m. behind Sam's Carwash in Sam's Parking Lot at 7970 N. Mesa. Bring a lunch; we'll picnic at Pancho Villa State Park where there is \$5 per car fee.

At the Sod Farms we'll be looking for wintering sparrows and raptors. We will travel to Columbus, NM, making stops along the way looking for winter birds.

Contact Mark Perkins at (915) 637-3521 for more information.

Saturday, April 7, 2018 Archaeology Museum and Hawk Alley

Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Museum, 4301 N. Transmountain Road. We'll be looking for desert birds and raptors. We'll drive Hawk Alley and stop at Painted Dunes Golf Course.

Call Mark Perkins at 915-637-3521 for more information.

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 97194
Washington, DC 20090-7194**

Local Chapter Code **C1ZW100Z**

Dates to Remember Call Mark Perkins for details 637-3521

February

4 & 10: **Rio Bosque**
Sat 10: **Rio Bosque**
Sat 10: **Feather L. Workday**
Mon 12: **Board Meeting**
Sat 17: **Awards Dinner**
Sat 24: **Hot Spots of El Paso**

March

4 & 24: **Rio Bosque**
Sat 10: **Leasburg Dam**
Mon 12: **Board Meeting**
Mon 19: **General Meeting**
Sat 24: **Pancho Villa State Park**
Sat 31: **Open House Stick House Sanctuary**

April

Sat 7: **Archaeology Museum**
Mon 9: **Board Meeting**
Mon 16: **General Meeting**

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: _____
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