



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.



April 21, 2025, 7:00pm
Sponsored by EP/TP Audubon
Centennial Museum at UTEP
500 W. University Ave El Paso, Texas
in person and online via Zoom

Join us for a special talk with **Star Posada** on her adventures through the Ecuadorian Amazon Jungle to scout for future bird tour destinations for her bird tour company, Siempre Birds. Since she will have just returned from co-guiding her first international Siempre Birds tour in Bogota, Colombia, she will also talk about the locations and birds that were seen there.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/L2J1-i14SFWZqwaHpJGbZA>

May 19, 2025, 7:00 pm
Programmed by Sierra Club
Centennial Museum at UTEP
In person and online via Zoom

The Chihuahuan Desert Climate Collaborative

Elizabeth Biney, UTEP PhD student and a Fellow of the Chihuahuan Desert Climate Collaborative, will share about the region's first Climate Action Plan.

Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ZvmWU_aLRG-y9y6kS13XoQ

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: vacant
Publications: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Publicity: Heather Rivera
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 2025

On March 13, the North American Bird Conservation Initiative released the [2025 State of the Birds Report for the U.S.](#) A coalition of 19 bird-focused partnerships and non-profit organizations, including the National Audubon Society, produced this latest iteration of the report. Once again, the report is a sobering reminder that many North American bird species are in trouble.

As with the 2022 report, “Tipping Point” species—birds that have lost 50% or more of their populations in the last 50 years—are highlighted. A new refinement in the discussion of these species is their placement in 3 groups based on threat levels: Red alert, the highest threat level (42 species); Orange alert (37); and Yellow alert (33).

Among the Red-alert species: Mottled Duck, Lesser Prairie-Chicken, Mountain Plover and Chestnut-collared Longspur. Among the Orange-alert species: Rufous Hummingbird, Stilt Sandpiper, Lesser and Greater yellow-legs, and Pyrrhuloxia. Among the Yellow-alert species: Northern Pintail, Snowy Plover, Sagebrush Sparrow, Chihuahuan Meadowlark, and Grace’s Warbler.

The report looks at trends for shorebirds, grassland birds, aridland birds, western forest birds, eastern forest birds, waterfowl and waterbirds, seabirds, and Hawaiian birds. The largest declines have been with grassland birds (down 43%) and aridland birds (down 41%).

The 2022 report highlighted the long-term recovery of waterfowl and waterbird populations due to successful conservation efforts, but the 2025 report offers a note of caution: “Loss of wetlands and grasslands is accelerating in key regions for waterfowl, and wetland protections are being weakened. Environmental and land-use changes are driving recent duck and marsh bird declines in many areas.”

Conservation Organizations

Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition
<http://www.chihuahuandesert.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

Wildlife for All
 (formerly SW Environmental Center)
 (575) 522-5552
www.wildmesquite.org

Celebration of Our Mountains
www.celebmtns.org

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

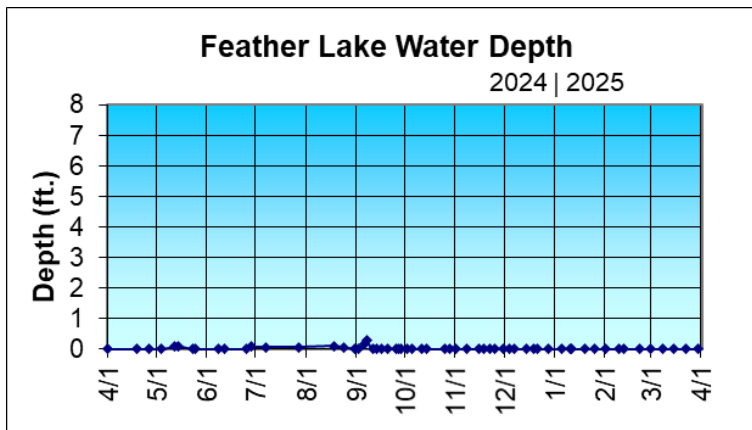
AT FEATHER LAKE

In summer 2021, storm runoff flooded Feather Lake to a record depth—approximately 7'8". Sediment and debris at the lake outlet had slowed the water discharge from the basin. In response, El Paso Water decided to install two water-control gates at the outlet to provide better flow between Feather Lake and its downstream companion basin, Feather Lake II. Work on that project started in late January 2025 and continues at this writing.

Want to see the new work at the outlet? Our next workdays at Feather Lake will be **Sat., April 5** and **Sat., June 7**, both starting at **8 a.m.** Join us. Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave.

STATE OF THE BUTTERFLIES 2025

Coincidentally, a week before the release of the 2025 State of the Birds report, a coalition of researchers published a paper in the journal *Science* entitled "[Rapid butterfly declines across the United States during the 21st century.](#)" Using data from over 76,000 surveys across 35 monitoring programs, the researchers concluded: "Between 2000 and 2020, total butterfly abundance fell by 22% across the 554 recorded species. Species-level declines were widespread, with 13 times as many species declining as increasing. The prevalence of declines throughout all regions of the United States highlights an urgent need to protect butterflies from further losses." The region of the country where declines were most severe? The Southwest.



Audubon at

Rio Bosque
Wetlands Park



A challenging water year at Rio Bosque continues. The park has received no water from the Roberto Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant since February 2.

Rio Bosque's two wells are delivering some water to the old river channel within the park, but the majority of the channel is dry, as are both wetland cells. On a positive note, the park's two White-tailed Kites have now been present for over 10 months.

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

5:30 p.m.	Sun., Apr 6 (Introductory tour)
8 a.m.	Sat., Apr 26 (Birding tour)
7 a.m.	Sun., May 11 (Birding tour)
8 a.m.	Sat., May 24 (Introductory tour)
8 a.m.	Sun., Jun 8 (Introductory tour)
6:30 a.m.	Sat., Jun 28 (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
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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

April

Sat 5: **Feather Lake Work Day**
Mon 14: **Board Meeting**
Mon 21: **General Meeting**
6 & 26: **Rio Bosque**

May

Mon 12: **Board Meeting**
Mon 19: **General Meeting**
11 & 24: **Rio Bosque**

June

Sat 7: **Feather Lake Work Day**
Mon 9: **Board Meeting**
8 & 28: **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

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