



The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

Inside the Roadrunner

Chapter Info & Field Trips	2
Sanctuary	3
Birdathon	4
Calendar	5

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.



General Meeting

Centennial Museum at UTEP
500 W. University Ave El Paso, Texas

Monday, September 15, 2025 7:00pm

Hybrid meeting – you can join us in person at The Centennial Museum at UTEP or online via Zoom with this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91234567890>

Birds and Other Wildlife of South Africa

Scott Cutler

South Africa is well known for its amazing wildlife. Scott Cutler had the opportunity to visit important birding and wildlife areas on a recent trip to this southern-most country of the African continent. His program will discuss the different areas visited and the birds and other wildlife seen on this amazing adventure.



Two El Paso teams participated in the 2025 Great Texas Birding Classic in the Far West Texas Division



In the Teen Gliders Category, **TOS City Flickers** (Sponsored by Texas Ornithological Society) Kenya Ditlevson, Ariadna Kiehl-Battistini, and Angelina Rodriguez. The team was chaperoned by Kathleen Whelen. TOS City Flickers were awarded 1st place with 33 species.

In the All Ages: Sunrise to Noon Tournament - Far West **Texas Desert Dwelling Owls**; Star Posada, Lois Balin, Annette Carter, and Abigail Minor. The Desert Dwelling Owls were awarded 1st place with 53 species.



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

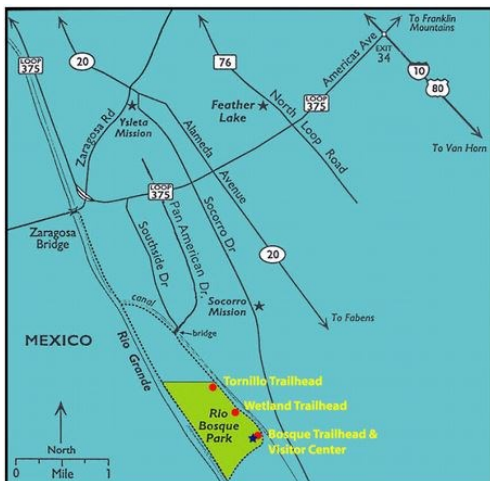
The Audubon Foundation of Texas



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

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

Directions to **Rio Bosque Wetlands Park** 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.



Conservation Organizations

Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition
<http://www.chihuahuadesert.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)
(505) 552-2501
www.wildmesquite.org

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

Want to get involved in the organization?
We are looking for new board members, field trip leaders, and help with outreach events.
This is a great opportunity to share your love of birds with the rest of El Paso! Please email us at elpasoaudubon@gmail.com for more information.
We are looking for ideas for more presentations.
If you have someone in mind, please email us at elpasoaudubon@gmail.com.

AT FEATHER LAKE

On May 21, Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary experienced a significant fire. There have been other small fires at Feather Lake in the past, but nothing approaching the size of this one. The El Paso Fire Department estimated it affected 32 of the 43.5 acres at our sanctuary.

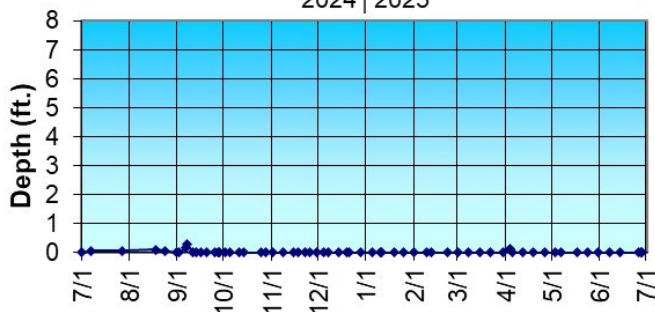
The fire started at the back of the basin, at the outlet, where construction has been in progress since late January to install 2 water-control gates. The apparent cause was welding activity at the construction site. The fire advanced across the entire basin but – thanks to combined efforts of the El Paso, Horizon and Tigua fire departments; the El Paso and Socorro police departments; and Emergency Services Districts #1 and #2 – no structures at the sanctuary (except one trail bench) and no surrounding properties were affected.

The vegetation at the sanctuary was hit hard. The fire cleared extensive stands of trees, brush and cattails. We will lose a number of trees, but already we are seeing signs of recovery. Cattails are re-emerging. Wolfberry and spiny aster shoots are poking through the charred soil along the trail encircling the basin. Honey mesquites and tornillo are crown-sprouting from their burnt bases, as are some cottonwoods.

Want to see how recovery from the fire is proceeding? Our next workday at Feather Lake will be **Sat., Aug 9**, 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.

Feather Lake Water Depth

2024 | 2025



Audubon at

Rio Bosque Wetlands Park



Total rainfall at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park was 4.01 inches in 2023 and 2.69 inches in 2024. So far in 2025, the total has been 1.44 inches. For many nesting bird species, the prolonged drought has not been kind. We were excited in late April when both a **White-tailed Kite** pair and a **Cooper's Hawk** pair began constructing and then occupying nests. The females were consistently on the nests throughout May and early June. Then, as the weather warmed in June, both nests were abandoned.

From 2018 to 2023, **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** were consistently present at the park during summer. Last year, they were detected only briefly in May. This year, they have not been detected at all. **Burrowing Owl** nesting success at the park is again down, as are **Painted Bunting** numbers. In the northern Chihuahuan Desert, periodic drought plays a significant role in shaping native ecosystems. But watching this process play out can be difficult.

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

- 7 a.m. Sat., July 12 (Birding tour)
- 8 a.m. Sun., July 20 (Introductory tour)
- 8 a.m. Sun., Aug 10 (Introductory tour)
- 8 a.m. Sat., Aug 23 (Birding tour)
- 8 a.m. Sat., Sep 13 (Birding tour)
- 8 a.m. Sun., Sep 21 (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: 915-861-4361.

**2025 Fall Birdathon
El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon
October 4-5, 2025**

The fall will be here before you know it, and that means our October 2025 Birdathon will be taking place. To increase the chances of seeing many fall migrants we are holding this year's Birdathon on October 4th and 5th.

Birdathon is this chapter's single fundraising event and is essential to our organization's funding of local education and conservation programs. Over 95% of Birdathon income goes to these projects. All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. This year's donations will benefit the following:

- **Rio Bosque Wetland Park – each year this site along the Rio Grande becomes more valuable as a site for birds and wildlife and conservation education**
- **Audubon Texas – a highly effective voice for birds, wildlife and habitat conservation.**
- **El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society chapter operations.**
- **El Paso Zoo Raptor Rehabilitation – this program is solely funded by donations and is the only facility in our area caring for injured raptors.**
- **Second Chance Wildlife - our local wildlife rehabilitation facility caring for injured birds and other wildlife for release to the wild.**

How Birdathon Works: counters go out for a 24-hour period and find as many species of birds as possible. Donors choose to support one or more counters by pledging to either pay a dollar amount for each species seen by their counter(s) or pay a fixed amount. Each counter typically sees from 50 to 100 birds.

This year, our counters will be Jim Paton, John Kiseda, John Groves, Eddie Chew, Lucretia Chew, Susie Schneider, Kevin Floyd, Joe Cancellare, Star Posada, Richard Hermosillo, John Sproul, Elizabeth Wakefield and Scott Cutler.

This is a great opportunity to make a substantive impact on the wellbeing of our local environment and the birds and other wildlife that inhabit it with us. Thank you for your support.

.....
El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society Birdathon 2025
Sponsorship/Pledge Form

YES! I'll sponsor _____

For \$_____ per species for each species seen

My Name _____

YES! I'll sponsor _____

Address _____

For the fixed amount of \$_____

I will add a bonus of \$_____ if my Birdathon

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Counter sees a _____

My gift of \$_____ is enclosed
(Make checks payable to **El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon**)

Mail completed form to:
Eddie Chew
390 Flemish Circle
El Paso, TX 79912

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

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
El Paso, Texas
Permit #2440

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

July

No Board Meeting
No General Meeting
12 & 20: Rio Bosque

August

Sat 9: Feather Lake Work Day
Mon 11: Board Meeting
No General Meeting
10 & 23 : Rio Bosque

September

Mon 8: Board Meeting
Mon 15: General Meeting
13 & 21: 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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mail to: EPTP Audubon P.O. Box 972441 El Paso, Texas 79997