



The Roadrunner

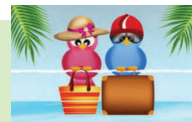
Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

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No General Meeting
in August



General Meeting

September 19, 2016 7:00pm
Centennial Museum, at UTEP
corner of Wiggins and University

Alaska

Mark & Janet Perkins



Mark and Janet Perkins present
"Alaska-Three Diverse Areas:
Nome, Denali National Park and
Kodiak Island."

Mark and Janet spent two weeks in Alaska in June, 2016 and will be sharing their experiences and photographs of birds, animals and sights from the tundra to the mountains to the Emerald Island (Kodiak Island).

The program is free and open to the public and begins at 7:00 p.m. at the Centennial Museum at UTEP, corner of Wiggins and University.

Contact Janet Perkins at (915) 637-5269 for more information.



Franklin Mountains State Park
Saturday, September 17, 2016
9:00am 4:00pm

The **Desert Fiesta** is a FREE event for the whole family to discover the wonders of the Chihuahuan Desert.

The theme for this year's celebration is "It's Y(our) Desert". Visit educational exhibits, guided walks, demonstrations and fun outdoor activities.

You will learn more about our desert environment, wildlife and El Paso history.

The Fiesta is held at the [Tom Mays Unit of the Franklin Mountains State Park](http://www.chihuahuandesert.org). For more information, visit www.chihuahuandesert.org.

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

Officers

President: Scott Cutler, 581- 6071
Vice President: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Secretary/Treasurer: Eddie Chew, 587-9589

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Hospitality: Janet Perkins, 637-5269
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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
Way & Means: vacant

The Audubon Foundation of Texas

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



Around the Community



Enjoy the Zoo after hours with extended hours on August 20th. Zoo hours will be extended from 9:30am - 8:30pm



Membership office & ticket booth close at 7pm Staff will begin to take animals off exhibit at 7:45pm
 Zoo grounds will close at 8:30pm

14th Annual Butterfly Flutterby
at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park
56501 N. Jornada Rd, Las Cruces
August 20th, 9am-Noon

New stations this year include:
 Life Cycle maze, Build a Butterfly game, Butterfly Identification Relay, and making a butterfly necklace
Family favorites return:
 face painting, butterfly experts, butterfly gardening with Doña Ana County Master Gardeners, & bucket auction.



For more information (575) 524-3334 rink@asombro.org

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

Though we are now in El Paso's rainy season, we've yet to experience a storm capable of putting water in Feather Lake. At this writing in late July, the long dry spell continues. Even the tornillos are starting to wither.

Work continues on the Eagle Scout service projects at the lake. In June, Boy Scouts from Troop 4, under the direction of Eagle candidate Daven Cheu, completed clearing a trail along the eastern segment of the inner berm within the basin. Isaac Trussell's Eagle project – clearing a trail on the western segment of the berm – is currently in progress.

Our next workday at Feather Lake will be **Sat., August 13**, starting at **7 a.m.** Once again, we'll help with the work taking place on the inner berm and remove trash from within the basin.

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



If you want to check out the **Painted Buntings** at Rio Bosque, visit soon. After mid-August, they are very hard to find. For up-to-date information on the park's birds and water conditions, visit www.riobosque.org.

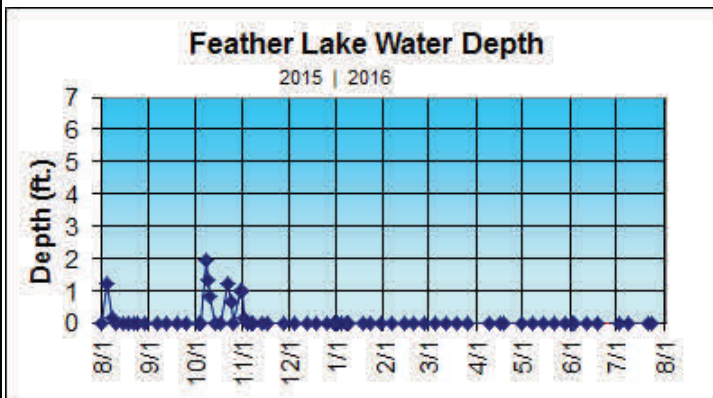
Upcoming free walking tours:

8 a.m., Sun., Aug 14 (Introductory tour)
8 a.m., Sun., Aug 28 (Birding tour)

8 a.m., Sat., Sep 3 (Birding tour)
8 a.m., Sun., Sep 25 (Introductory tour)

The meeting place for these tours 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.



El Paso/Trans-Pecos
Audubon Society

<http://www.trans-pecos-audubon.com>

THE RETURN OF WOODHOUSE'S JAY

Peruse the [1st \(1939\)](#) and [2nd \(1944\)](#) editions of the checklist of birds of the El Paso region and you'll find many unfamiliar names. One of them – listed as a common (1939) and fairly common (1944) winter resident – was Woodhouse's Jay.

The American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) has revised the taxonomy of birds in the Scrub Jay complex many times over the years. In the 3rd edition (1910) of the AOU's Check-list of North American Birds, Woodhouse's Jay (*Aphelocoma woodhouseii*) had full species status, as did a number of other birds in the Scrub Jay complex: Florida Jay (*A. cyanea*), Blue-eared Jay (*A. cyanotis*), Texas Jay (*A. texana*), California Jay (*A. californica*) and Santa Cruz Jay (*A. insularis*).



By the 4th (1931) edition of the AOU Check-list, all but the Florida Jay and Santa Cruz Jay were merged into a single species, the Scrub Jay (*A. californica*). And by the 5th (1957) edition, all three were merged together as Scrub Jay (*A. coerulescens*). In 1995, the Scrub Jay was re-split into three species, the Florida (*A. coerulescens*), Island (*A. insularis*) and Western (*A. californica*) scrub-jays. The Western Scrub-Jay included the birds in the *woodhouseii* group.

Now, the AOU, in its recently published [57th supplement to the AOU Check-list](#), has split Western Scrub-Jay into two species: **California Scrub-Jay** (*A. californica*) and our old friend **Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay** (*A. woodhouseii*). The California is the scrub-jay found in the Pacific Coast states; Woodhouse's is found in the interior West, from Nevada east to Texas.



The 57th supplement presents many other changes. Two name changes involve West Texas birds. The scientific name for **Sandhill Crane** is now ***Antigone canadensis***, changed from *Grus canadensis*.

The **Green Violetear**, a hummingbird that has appeared twice in the Davis Mountains, is now **Mexican Violetear**.

And once again, based on DNA evidence, there has been a major shuffling of the linear sequence of orders, families and species on the check-list. As creatures of habit, it will take us a while to get used to these changes.

For a nice, clear summary of the 57th AOU check-list supplement, check out Kenn Kaufman's report on the Audubon website:

<http://www.audubon.org/news/here-are-biggest-changes-aou-checklist-north-american-birds>

The Electronic 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.

Field Trips

White Mountains of Arizona August 5th - 8th, 2016

Join us for this new trip to the White Mountains of Arizona, 285 miles from El Paso. Mark and Janet will arrive on Friday, August 5 and they will bird the afternoon.



Depart on Monday, August 8, to El Paso. Possible areas for birding are in the Greer and Round Valley area, Apache National Forest, White Mountains Apache Reservation, which will require a permit, and the Luna area.

We look forward to seeing you! Contact Mark Perkins for more details at (915) 637-3521 or jntperk@elp.rr.com.

Saturday, September 17, 2016 Reservoirs Down the Valley

We'll be traveling down I-10 East to visit the reservoirs of McNary, Ft. Hancock and Tornillo, looking for migrants.

Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the parking lot at Burlington Coat Factory at 1144 N. Yarbrough, Exit at Yarbrough; at the light, turn left under I-10. Burlington is on the right.

Bring a lunch. Nonmembers and beginners are welcome.

Contact Mark Perkins at (915) 637-3521.



Saturday, August 20, 2016 Rio Bosque Wetlands

Meet at 6:30 a.m. at a bridge crossing the Riverside Canal. From I-10 take Americas Ave (Loop 375) to Pan American Drive, turn left onto Pan American and travel 1.5 miles.

We'll be looking for **Burrowing Owls, Harris's Hawk** and **waterfowl**. Nonmembers and beginners are welcome.

Contact Mark Perkins at 915-637-3521.



Saturday, October 8, 2016 El Paso Archaeology Museum and Franklin Mountains State Park

Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the El Paso Archaeology Museum, 4301 Transmountain Rd. in Northeast El Paso.

We'll be looking for desert birds, **Pyrrhuloxia, Black-throated Sparrow, Curve-billed Thrasher** and **soaring raptors**. We'll then drive to the State Park to the bird blinds.

There is a \$5 per car fee. Hopefully we will see **Cactus Wren, Canyon Towhee, Scaled Quail** and **Gambel's Quail**.

Beginners and nonmembers are welcome.

Contact Mark Perkins at 915-637-3521.



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**

Dates to Remember Call Mark Perkins for details 637-3521

August

5th - 8th: **White Mountains, AZ**
Sat. 13: **Feather Lake Work-day**
14, 20 & 28: **Rio Bosque**
Mon 15: **Board Meeting**

September

3 & 25: **Rio Bosque**
Mon 12: **Board Meeting**
Sat. 17: **Down the Valley**
Mon 19: General Meeting

October

Sat 8: **Franklin Mountains**
Mon 10: **Board Meeting**
5 & 16: **Hueco Tanks Fair**
Mon. 17: 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
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