

The Roadrunner



Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

December Holiday Party!

At the Rio Grande Campus of El Paso Community College, 100 W. Rio Grande Ave., Building 4010, Room 119, corner of Rio Grande and Oregon Street

Monday, December 13, 2010, 7:00 pm

The El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society holiday merry-making is set for Monday, December 13, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. at the Rio Grande Campus of El Paso Community College, Bldg 4010, Room 119, corner of West Rio Grande and Oregon Street. Join in the traditional photo contest and taste irresistible holiday refreshments. There may even be a surprise or two in store. Bringing a snack is optional, but if you wish to bring something, we predict you will see happy smiles. If you dream of winning the photo contest, here's what to do: Our guideline is:



Each person is allowed one photo in each of four (4) categories:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Birds | Mammals |
| Other Wildlife | Plant Life |
| Scenic Shots | Kids |
| Pets | Humorous Photos |

Email JPEG-formatted photos to scutler@utep.edu. If you had previously submitted photos to Bob Johnson, please re-submit them to Scott Cutler by **Dec 9**. Please include a caption for your photo.

(See note regarding Bob Johnson on page 5).

This will be a great opportunity to get together and have fun.

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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.

December will be the LAST General Meeting held at the Rio Grande Campus of El Paso Community College, Please watch the next Roadrunner issue for new meeting location.

Directions: From I-10-heading west, take the Mesa DOWNTOWN route

1. Head west toward N Kansas St - 0.1 km
2. Slight left at E Yandell Dr - 0.4 km
3. Turn right at N El Paso St - 0.3 km
4. Take the 1st right onto W Rio Grande Ave - 35 m

Directions: From I-10 heading east, take DOWNTOWN EXIT

1. Continue straight until Oregon Street
2. Turn left on Oregon
3. Continue about 4 blocks
4. Turn left into parking lot behind building, or go to W. Rio Grande
5. Turn left on W. Rio Grande; enter 100 W. Rio Grande



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

Earth Share OF TEXAS

Membership: Roxanne Schroeder, 533-0061
Programs: vacant
Conservation: vacant
Field Trips: Mark Perkins 637-3521
Hospitality: Janet Perkins, 581-2849

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

Officers

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

Committees

Publicity: Janet Perkins, 581-2849
Education: Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408
Publications: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Ways & Means: vacant
Sanctuary: John Sproul, 545-5157

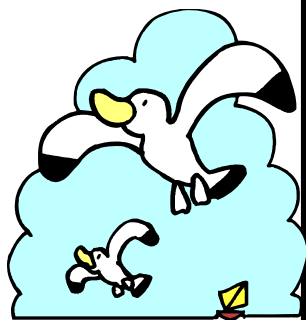
Due to circumstances beyond our control, there will NOT be a January, 2011 General Meeting.

Please plan to attend the Awards Dinner and Program on February 19, 2011.

How does a San Diego Pelagic Field Trip sound?

This trip is in the planning stages for 2011. We have been in contact with Ursula Sherrill, who now lives in San Diego, and she would be willing to help us get it organized. We need feedback from those interested.

Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521 or mperkins4@elp.rr.com.



Conservation Organizations

Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue
www.whc.net/cdwr

El Paso Zoo 521-1850
www.elpasozoo.org

Keystone Heritage Park 581-7920
www.keystoneheritagepark.org

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/

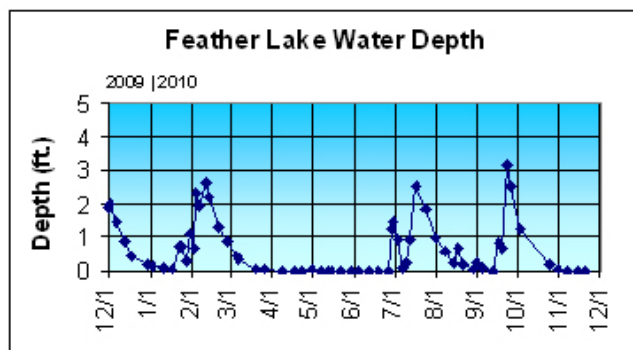
AT FEATHER LAKE

Although Feather Lake was over 3 feet deep in late September, the water level dropped quickly and the lake went dry at the end of October. Still, our sanctuary is open for now. The fall colors are at their peak and are well worth seeing.

In spite of the 4-month dry period during late spring and early summer, and in spite of the current lack of water, the beaver that appeared last winter has not abandoned us. In fact, it has been quite industrious lately. If you visit, look for beaver sign as you walk around the lake, especially near the outlet on the back side of the basin.

In addition to fall colors and beaver sign, we also offer healthy exercise opportunities at Feather Lake. We have two workdays coming up, on **Sat., December 4** and **Sat., January 29**, both starting at **2 p.m.** Join us to help with sanctuary maintenance.

Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave. Hours are 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays and 2 p.m. to dusk on Sundays. Admission is free.



Audubon at RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK



Water deliveries to the park resumed November 14. Within 4 days, over 1,000 ducks were present. For the latest on birds being seen, check the recent-bird-sightings page on the Park's website, www.riobosque.org. Upcoming free walking tours at the Park:

3 p.m. Sat., December 11 (Bird tour)
9 a.m. Sun., December 19 (Introductory tour)

3 p.m. Sat., January 8 (Bird tour)
9 a.m. Sun., January 23 (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.



The Audubon website!

Updated information about upcoming field trips, a calendar of upcoming events, recent bird sightings.
El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon <http://www.trans-pecos-audubon.org>

Field Trips

Saturday, December 18, 2010 Reservoirs Down in the Valley.

McNary Reservoir has been called the best birding location in the valley east of El Paso, and is a notable haven for northern waterbirds, such as resident Western and Clark's grebes, Eared Grebes, pelicans, gulls, egrets, cormorants, and many species of ducks. Fort Hancock often has more open mud flats than McNary, and these attract herons and White-faced Ibis. Tornillo is also known for its winter waterbird population. Raptors that have been sighted at one or more of these three reservoirs are Harris's Hawk, Northern Harrier, Ferruginous Hawk and Prairie Falcon.



We will stop for a lunch break near Tornillo Reservoir, where we may see Phainopeplas. Meet at 7:00 a.m. Feather Lake, 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave. Beginners and nonmembers always welcome. Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521 or mperkins4@elp.rr.com.

Saturday and Sunday, January 8 and 9 2011, Bosque Del Apache NWR.

This is one of the more popular National Wildlife Refuges in the country. It's located about 180 miles north of El Paso off Interstate 25. Thousands of Snow Geese, Sandhill Cranes and ducks visit this area at this time of year. Bald Eagles have also been seen there.

On Saturday, January 8, we hope to arrange a bus tour of the Refuge, based on the number of people who sign up for the trip, so let us know as soon as possible if you would like to go. On Sunday, January 9, we'll go up to Sandia Peak in the Sandia Mountains (weather permitting) to see the rosy finch banding.

We also want to visit the Valley Nature Center in Albuquerque. This will be a great weekend of birding. The Trip Coordinator is Lois Balin. A detailed itinerary will be available soon. Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521 or mperkins4@elp.rr.com.



The **Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute** located in the **Davis Mountains** is looking for volunteers for the **Davis Mountains and Balmorhea Christmas Counts** on **Saturday, December 18 & Sunday, December 19**

If you would like to help, please email birdsinfight@mac.com or call 432-426-3033.



El Paso Christmas Bird Count January 1, 2011

Contact Jim Paton
585-2628
jnpaton@att.net



**Christmas Bird Count
for Hueco Tanks
Sunday, Jan 2, 2011**

**Starts at 6:30 am.
Anyone can join at any time.
Richard Hermosillo
806-470-5989**

**Sunday, February 13, 2011
Sod Farms, Sunland Park Area
and Upper Valley.**



The sod farm is known for great winter birds, from Sandhill Cranes to many small birds, such as the uncommon

Grasshopper Sparrow and Baird's Sparrow.

We will be looking for birds that spend the cold months in grassland habitat. In the Sunland Park and Upper Valley area we will be looking for overwintering water birds and land birds.

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Keystone Heritage Park, 4200 Doniphan Drive. Beginners and non-members always welcome.

Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521 or mperkins4@elp.rr.com.

Bob Johnson had a stroke on the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

He is residing at **Highland Regional Rehabilitation Center**
1395 George Dieter Dr.

He is in room **B103** and can receive visitors from 8am to 8pm.



Please keep him in your heart and prayers during this difficult time.

iGive.com

Join to Support
El Paso/Trans-Pecos
Audubon Society

<http://www.iGive.com/>
Shop the online mall at iGive.com.

The annual **Awards Dinner** will be held **Saturday, February 19, 2011.**

Judy Ackerman
will receive the
Conservation Award
and
Lucretia Chew



will receive the
Meritorious Service Award.

The event will be held at **Jaxon's on Airway.**

Details will be available soon.



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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 my local chapter. Please send AUDUBON magazine and my membership card to the address below.

My check for \$20.00 is enclosed

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

*Please make all checks payable to the
National Audubon Society*

National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Data Center
P.O. Box 51001
Boulder, Colorado 80322-1001
El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon

Local Chapter code:

COZW100Z

Dates to Remember Call Mark Perkins for details 637-3521

December

Sat 4: **Feather Lake**
Mon 6: **Board Meeting**
11 & 19: **Rio Bosque**
Mon 13: **Holiday Party**
Sat 18: **Reservoirs**
18: Davis Mt. **X-mas Count**
19: **Balmorhea X-mas Count**

January

Sat 1: **El Paso X-mas Count**
Sun. 2: **Hueco Tanks Count**
8 & 9: **Bosque del Apache**
Mon 10: **Board Meeting**
8 & 23: **Rio Bosque**
No General Meeting
Sat 29: **Feather Lake**

February

Sun 13: **Sod Farms**
Mon 14: **Board Meeting**
Sat 19: **Awards Dinner**

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

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