

The Roadrunner



Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

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El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society General Meetings

Monday, April 20, 2014 7:00pm
Centennial Museum, at UTEP
The Red-tailed Hawks of New York (DVD)

A DVD presentation on the Red-tailed Hawks of New York City promises to inspire young and old. Expect to learn of the hawks' determined struggle to co-exist with people in the high-rise structures surrounding Central Park.



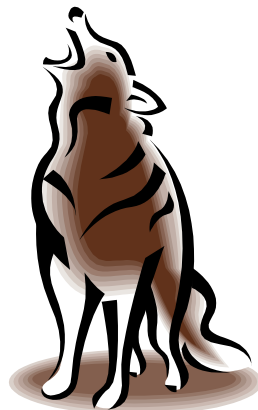
THE ELECTRONIC ROADRUNNER

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.

Monday, May 19, 2014 7:00pm
Centennial Museum, at UTEP
The Mexican Wolf

Rick LoBello will present a talk regarding the Mexican Wolf and provide valuable information about the recovery program. This beautiful and very much endangered animal faces many special challenges and will require concerted conservation efforts if it is to survive as a species.

The Mexican Wolf is a distinct subspecies of the gray wolf which was historically native to the desert southwest.



Albertsons ...

Every time you swipe your



Community Partners Card, you earn cash for the Audubon Society.

Now isn't that a good reason to shop at Albertsons?



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: Elizabeth Chase 539-1191
Conservation: Luis Sanchez, 599-7381
Field Trips: Mark Perkins 637-3521
Hospitality: Janet Perkins, 637-5269
Way & Means: vacant

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

Officers

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

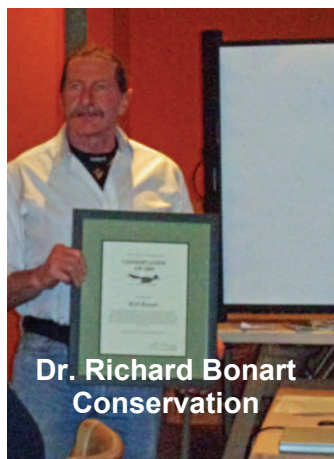
Committees

Publicity: Janet Perkins, 637- 5269
Education: Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408
Publications: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Newsletter Editor: Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408
Sanctuary: John Sproul, 545-5157

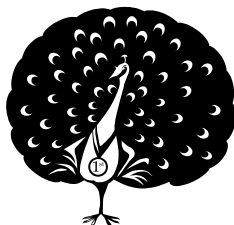
Congratulations Award Recipients



Dr. Fay Millett
Meritorious Service



Dr. Richard Bonart
Conservation



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>

Conservation Organizations

Second Chance Wildlife Rescue
Josie Karam (915) 920-7867

Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue
<http://www.cdwr.org>

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

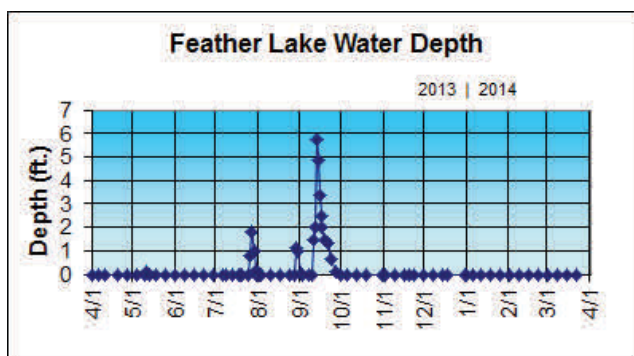
Franklin Mt. Wilderness Coalition
www.franklinmountains.org/

AT FEATHER LAKE

Our latest dry streak at Feather Lake is now approaching 6 months. In addition to the lack of surface water, ground water is also in bad shape. On 22 Feb, the water table was approximately 18.5 feet below the ground surface in the area and 10 feet below the dry lake bottom. It will likely drop lower this spring and summer. The unfavorable conditions for cottonwoods and willows at the lake continue.

Our next workday at Feather Lake takes place **Sat., April 12** starting at **8 a.m.** Removal of trash that washed into the basin last September will continue.

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



Earth Day

The City of El Paso Environmental Services Department is sponsoring a fun-filled family day and educational event on **April 5, 2014**, to kick-off Earth Day celebrations in El Paso. El Paso's Earth Day, which is in its fourth year sponsored by the department, will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Municipal Service Center, along 7968 San Paulo Drive. The outdoor event is free and open to the general public.



Audubon at RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK



Once again, May's bird tour is scheduled to coincide with the annual return of **Painted Buntings**.

For up-to-date information on the park's birds, check www.riobosque.org.

Upcoming free walking tours:

- 4 p.m., Sat., Apr 19 (Introductory tour)
- 8 a.m., Sun., Apr 27 (Bird tour)
- 7 a.m. Sat., May 10 (Bird tour)
- 8 a.m. Sun., May 18 (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.



Notes from the Field

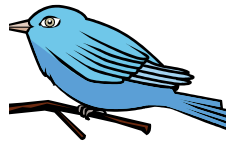
Rattlesnake Springs March 8, 2014.

The day was cold and windy. We joined up with the UFOs (the United Field Ornithologists) from Roswell for the day.



We had 21 birders. Some of the birds we saw include a **Great Horned Owl**, lots of **Vermilion Flycatchers** and **Black Phoebe**s. We also had **Cinnamon Teal**, **Northern Pintails**, **Ring-necked Duck** and **American Wigeon** for waterfowl.

Western Scrub-Jays, **Steller's Jays**, both **Eastern** and **Western bluebirds** were seen. We also had a **Fox Sparrow**.



On the unusual side, we had a **Pacific Wren** and a **Streak-backed Oriole**.

Despite the weather, it was a good birding day.

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

Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park and Leasburg Dam State Park Saturday, March 22, 2014

It was a beautiful day and we had 14 people on the trip. Crossing the Rio Grande at Mesilla Valley Bosque, we had a **Belted Kingfisher**, several **Great Blue Herons** and a **Northern Harrier** sitting on an island in the river. Also seen were **Northern Shovelers** and **American Wigeons**.

Upon entering the park, we immediately were greeted by a **Curve-billed Thrasher**. We were joined on our walk by one of the park rangers, Ken. Our highlights were lots of beautiful, singing **meadow-larks** and **American Pipits**. Another great highlight was a **Cooper's Hawk** bathing in the river.

Then we went to Leasburg Dam State Park where we saw lots of **sparrows** — **Brewer's**, **Lincoln's**, and **White-crowned**. We also had a **Cinnamon Teal** and a **Blue-winged Teal**. Also seen was a **Phainopepla**. We then picnicked at one of the shelter's where we were visited by **Black-throated Sparrows**, **Gambel's Quail** and **Pyrrhuloxia**. We also saw quite a few **Turkey Vultures**.

We headed back to El Paso. Great day!



"Cooper's Hawk Bathing"
(Photo by D. Peveto).

Field Trips

Saturday, April 12, 2014
Aguirre Springs and other stops in the Las Cruces Area.

This will be a moderate hike, birding grasslands for sparrows and also birding the parking areas, looking for montane birds.

There is a fee of \$5 per car. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the southwest corner of the parking lot at the El Paso Outlet Mall at I-10 and Transmountain (Talbot Rd. entrance to the Mall) Bring a lunch and water. Beginners and nonmembers are welcome.

Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521.

Saturday, April 26, 2014
Memorial Park & Arroyo Park

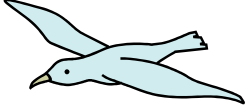
We should be able to see quite a few migrating birds, such as **orioles**, **vireos** and **tanagers**.



Meet at the Garden Center at 7:00 a.m. After birding Memorial Park we will go to Arroyo Park looking for **flycatchers** and **Gambel's Quail**.

Nonmembers and beginners are welcome.
Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521.

Saturday, May 17, 2014
Percha Dam & Caballo Dam



Percha Dam should have **Vermilion Flycatchers** and **Summer Tanagers**. Caballo Dam should have **gulls** and other water birds. Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the southwest corner of the El Paso Outlet Mall at I-10 and Transmountain (Talbot Rd. entrance to the Mall). Bring a lunch and water. Nonmembers and beginners are always welcome. **There is a nominal fee of \$5 per car which is good for both areas.**


Contact Mark at 637-3521.

May 23-26, 2014
Sierra Vista, Arizona

Join us in beautiful Sierra Vista, AZ for **hummingbirds**, **owls**, **trogons** and many other specialties of Southeast Arizona. This trip is over the Memorial Day Weekend.



Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521 for a detailed itinerary.



Saturday, June 14, 2014
Cloudcroft, New Mexico

Join us for a day trip in the tall, cool pines of Cloudcroft, NM. Some of the spots we'll bird include Karr Canyon, where the **Red-faced Warblers** nest, the town of Cloudcroft, the Lodge at Cloudcroft, Bluff Springs, and Rio Peñasco Valley.

Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Lowe's Parking Lot at 4531 Transmountain Rd., behind Taco Bell in Northeast El Paso. Bring a lunch and water. Beginners and nonmembers are welcome.

Contact Mark at 637-3521.

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

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Return service request

**National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Application.**

Dates to Remember Call Mark Perkins for details 637-3521

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 422250
Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250**

Local Chapter Code C1ZW100Z

April

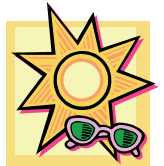
Sat 12: **Aguirre Springs
Feather Lake Work Day**
Mon 14: **Board Meeting**
19 & 27: **Rio Bosque**
Mon 21: **General Meeting**
Sat. 26: **Memorial Park**

May

3 & 4: **Birdathon**
10 & 18: **Rio Bosque**
Mon 12: **Board Meeting**
Sat. 17: **Percha/Caballo**
Mon 19: **General Meeting**
23-26: **Cave Creek, AZ**

June

No General Meeting
Sat 14: **Cloudcroft**



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

Let's "Fly" into Action! Audubon's Birdathon 2014!

Birdathon counters are already "in training" in preparation for Birdathon 2014.
It all takes place May 3-4.

What is Birdathon, you might ask?

One thing is for sure, it's not your average bird count or fund raiser! Birdathon is unusual and different: a wild weekend of birding and our organization's most important source of income for conservation and education programs.

We hope you can join us for a full, rewarding weekend of birding by being a **sponsor** and possibly even a counter (if you want to become part of the "Birdathon Flock" as a counter, please contact Jane Fowler at 598-2448 or Eddie Chew at 587-9589).

Birdathon 2014 will benefit the following programs and projects:

CHAPTER OPERATIONS & FEATHER LAKE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Scouts, students and adults can enjoy seeing birds up close in a natural habitat. When the lake has water, we have docents on duty to answer questions, provide printed trail guides & lend binoculars.

RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK

Each year, this site along the Rio Grande becomes more valuable as habitat for birds and other wildlife.

AUDUBON TEXAS

Our support helps keep National Audubon's state office an effective voice for birds, other wildlife and their habitats in Texas.

SECOND CHANCE WILDLIFE RESCUE, JOSIE KARAM

Our support helps injured or young birds to be rehabilitated and released back into the wild..

How Birdathon Works

On the weekend of **May 3-4**, our dedicated Birdathon counters will be busy scouring the countryside, trying to find as many bird species as possible, in a single 24-hour blitz. These hardy, energized and intrepid individuals will start early, stay out late, visit varied wildlife habitats and give their eyes, ears and bird knowledge a full workout. Why do they push themselves so hard? For the pleasure of a day in the field, for a test of their birding skills and **most importantly, for a better West Texas environment.**

Each counter will be backed by sponsors who pledge either a given amount for each species seen or a fixed total amount. Most counters will identify 50 to 100 species. A pledge of, say \$0.50 per species for 60 species would result in a contribution of \$30. 95% of Birdathon income goes to the programs and projects; 5% to fundraising (printing, paper and postage).

Looking for someone to sponsor for Birdathon? This year's outstanding counters are a dedicated bunch, most of whom are experienced Birdathoners. If you supported one of these people last year, please give them a call and sponsor them again. If you don't know any of the counters personally and don't know whom to choose, please give Jane (598-2448) or Eddie (587-9589) a call.

At press time, our confirmed counters for this year's Birdathon include:

Eddie Chew	John Kiseda	Mark Perkins	Laura Ditlevson
Scott Cutler	Jim Paton	Susan Schneider	Kathy Whelen
John Groves	John Sproul	Richard Hermosillo	

Please pick one or more individuals and give them your support!

Birdathon 2014 POT LUCK Sunday, May 4 at 6:00 p.m.

Join us for the POST-BIRDATHON pot-luck picnic on May 4. While enjoying good food, we will be totaling all the counters' sightings, unusual birds and other events of the weekend. Those who saw the most species and raised the most money will be recognized at the May 19 general meeting, so plan to join us then also.

Bring something to share: salad, dessert or a favorite casserole. The chapter will furnish tableware, coffee, tea, sodas, fruit juice. Everyone is invited, **sponsors, counters** and **chapter members**. The potluck/picnic is May 4 at 6:00pm at the home of Janet and Mark Perkins, 813 Montclair Drive.

Whether it's \$0.25 per species or \$1.00 per species or any given amount, we hope you will consider a pledge to Birdathon 2014. Please pick one or more counters to sponsor and return the enclosed coupon today. **Your generosity and support help make Audubon Birdathon a success.**



El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

BIRDATHON 2014

YES! I'll sponsor _____
for \$ _____ per species for each species she/he finds
on Birdathon 2014.

YES! I'll sponsor _____
for a flat \$ amount of _____.
I will add a bonus of \$ _____ if my
Birdathon counter sees a _____.

My tax deductible gift of \$ _____
sponsoring _____ is enclosed.
Payable to El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society.

From: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Please return this form by May 1 to:
Birdathon 2014
c/o Eddie Chew
390 Flemish Cir.
El Paso, TX 79912

Thank you for your generous Birdathon pledge! Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law