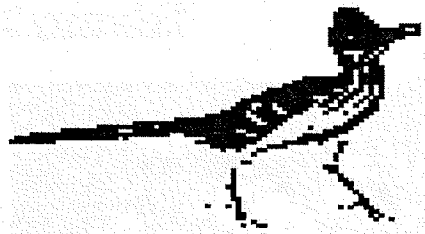


The Roadrunner

Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society
Volume 31 No. 9 April & May, 2002



General Meetings

Monday, April 15, 2002 7:30pm

Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary 9500 North Loop
William Torgerson, DVM

The El Paso Zoo as a Venue for Local Conservation and
Education Endeavors

Make special plans to attend our April meeting to be held at Feather Lake celebrating the official opening of our new Visitor's Center. Come at 6:30pm to walk around the lake and bird watch. A brief ceremony will be held at 7:30pm followed by our program speaker, Dr Bill Torgerson.

Prior to Dr. Torgerson's arrival in El Paso, he was the founder and CEO of Zoo Montana, for seven years and was also associated with the Hornacker Wildlife Institute (an organization that conducts a lot of "in the field" work with large, wild carnivores, such as tigers). Dr. Torgerson holds a PhD in Epidemiology and has previously been the staff veterinarian at a number of zoos, most recently including the North Carolina Zoo.

Monday, May 20, 2002
Memorial Park Garden Center
3105 Grant Street 7:30pm
Paul W. Hyder, Ph.D.

Rattlesnakes: Everything You Wanted to Know -
but Didn't Get from the Discovery Channel

This presentation will cover rattlesnake diversity, biology and ecology with special emphasis on local species and interactions with people.

Dr. Hyder has published in both the scientific and general literature. His primary passion is desert ecology, which he shares through his work with the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park. Dr. Hyder is also an accomplished musician, prize-winning photographer and artist.

Chapter Web Site

<http://www.gbarnett.com/eptpas/eptpashome.html>.

El Paso Audubon Online, features updated graphics and more information for chapter members and visitors to El Paso.

El Paso Audubon Online supplements The Roadrunner and includes information about upcoming field trips, a calendar of events, recent bird sightings and an updated list of birding links to the Internet. make bird sighting reports at

ElPasoBirdAlert@gbarnett.com

Thank you

Bob Johnson
and

Scott Cutler

for giving presentations in
the February and March
General Meetings

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February 2002 Awards Dinner



Audrey Corona & Mose Corona

Mary Lou Alcorn

Lynn Mosley

Estella Rodarte

**From the President's Aerie
by, Betty Fisbeck**

Over fifty people attended the annual dinner on February 16 at the historic La Hacienda restaurant. After dining on a Mexican buffet, the annual awards were presented to Kevin Bixby and Mary Lou Alcorn. Kevin won the Conservation Award for his work in river restoration with the Southwest Environmental Center. Mary Lou was awarded the Meritorious Service Award for many years of service to the Chapter in many capacities. The program was a delightful slide show given by Bob Johnson of pictures taken on the Upper Texas Coast. Even non birders in the group were enthusiastic about the excellent pictures and clever commentary.



Kevin Bixby

Inga Groff & Joe Groff

Berttye Barnhart

El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society

Officers:

President	Betty Fisbeck	581-0174
V-President	John Kiseda	533-4615
Secretary	Roxanne Schroeder	534-7019
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Cliff Eidson	
Jane Fowler	598-2448
Vince Giordano	
Mike Ross	585-6407
Kathy Whelen	751-2408

Roadrunner is your newsletter. We welcome your contributions.
Contact Kathy Whelen 751-2408 email: whelenk@aol.com

Who is not interested in money? We all are! Birdathon, our major fund raising project of the year, is about a month away. Last year we raised \$7,000 and we are hoping to equal or better that amount this year. A portion of the funds we raise will go to support the Texas Audubon Society but a larger portion of the funds we raise go to support local projects – projects that protect the habitat of birds and other wildlife that we enjoy right here in El Paso. We will be supporting Rio Bosque in the continuing effort to make Rio Bosque one of the best birding spots in the area. Another community project worthy of our support is the Keystone Dam site which many of us have enjoyed for many years. Of course, we will continue to support our own Feather Lake and our education programs.

The best way to support Birdathon is to become a counter and join in the fun, while raising funds at the same time. If you are unable to be a counter, please support Birdathon with a generous contribution to one of the counters. The money will be appreciated and every cent will be put to good use!
El Paso/Trans Pecos Audubon Society.

FEATHER LAKE VISITOR CENTER A REALITY

The finishing touches are being applied to our new visitor center at Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary. Plan to join us Monday, April 15, when we dedicate the new building and honor the people who made it possible. It's all part of our special April general meeting at Feather Lake (see p. 1). Come early for a walk around the lake at 6:30 p.m. The meeting begins at 7:30.

The 2001-2002 visitor season at Feather Lake is winding down. The last day our sanctuary will be open before closing for the summer is Sunday, April 28. Until then, hours are every Saturday morning, 8:00 a.m. to noon, and every Sunday afternoon, 2 p.m. to dusk.

You will have several opportunities to visit the lake this summer. The first is Sat., June 1. Join us at 8:30 a.m. for our annual Breakfast at Feather Lake. Once again, chef Bob Johnson will create a culinary masterpiece on his trusty camp stove. Suitably energized, we'll then work a few hours on sanctuary projects. Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso's Mission Valley. Admission is free.

WETLAND WORKSHOP

WHEN: April 27, 2002
WHERE: El Paso Zoo
TIME: 8am-2pm

The El Paso Trans Pecos Audubon Society is offering a wetland workshop for teachers in 5th and 6th grade. This workshop offers materials, training, and field trips to educators to assist them in teaching children about wetlands and wildlife conservation.

We will visit Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary and Rio Bosque Wetland. Participants will receive the following for FREE:

1. Wetland Resource Guide
2. Audubon Adventures; a curriculum enhancement program in science with teacher manual, (\$35 value)

For further information, please call Elizabeth W. Chase at 539-1191 / 849-2900 or you may email ewchase1@msn.com

RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK

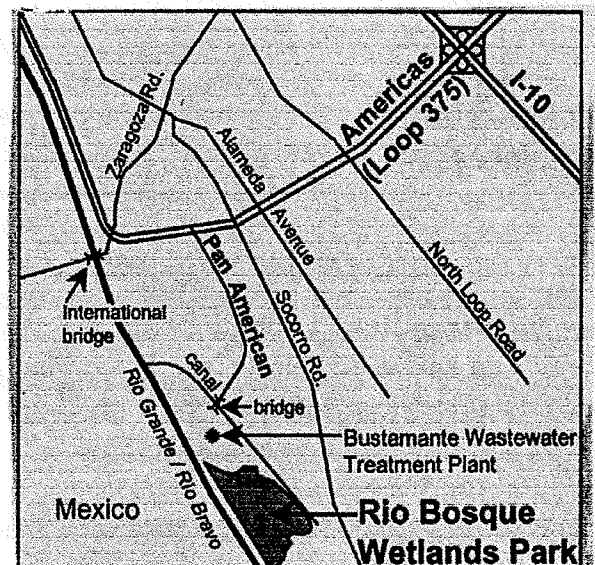
UTEP's Center for Environmental Resource Management offers free walking tours twice each month and also holds monthly community workdays at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park in El Paso's Mission Valley.

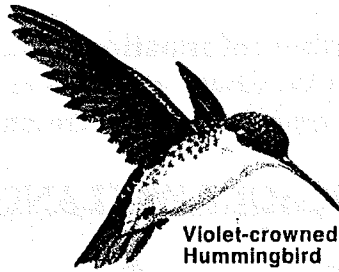
Coming up:

- * 4 p.m. Sun., Apr. 7 (Intro to Rio Bosque)
- * 9 a.m. Sat., Apr. 13 (Rio Bosque Birds)
- * 9 a.m. Sat., Apr. 20 (Workday)
- * 9 a.m. Sat., May 11 (Introduction)
- * 9 a.m. Sat., May 18 (Workday)
- * 8 a.m. Sun., May 19 (Birds)

For all of these activities, the meeting place is a bridge crossing Riverside Canal. To get there from I-10, take Americas Ave. (Loop 375) to Pan American Dr., turn left onto Pan American and travel 1.5 miles to the bridge. Please be prompt.
Information: (915) 747-8663.

For a downloadable bird checklist for the Park in MS Word format, go to:
<http://www.cerm.utep.edu/projects.html>





**Desert Winds:
El Paso Audubon & Local Conservation
Keystone Heritage Park**

John Kiseda recently participated in an all day Keystone Master Plan planning meeting that took place at the Junior League of El Pasos offices. This meeting was the first official planning meeting with the Master Plan design group, Sites Southwest. The interested parties broke up into working groups such as "the wetlands & natural resources", "the archaeology", etc. At the end of the day, each working groups recommendations or ideas were brought before the whole group of participants for information dissemination and discussion. Future meetings are scheduled to take place and the Master Plan process is due to be completed by this coming Summer.

If you are able and willing to help out with birding during Heritage week activities at Keystone, Saturday, April 27, or Sunday, April 28 (~ 10 am -3 pm), contact John Kiseda by April 15, at 533-4615.

This is usually well attended & fun to do!

You can now purchase small to large pieces of property at the Keystone site! You can give someone a very unique gift (they receive a personalized certificate) and help Keystone purchase more of the 40 acres needed to complete their acquisition of the rest of the available land at the site. Help prevent commercial development of these valuable community assets (biological, archaeological & recreational). One square yard costs \$25 and one acre costs \$50,000.

Contact Bernie or Melissa Sargent at 584-0503.

Wyler Tramway Hawkwatch Project

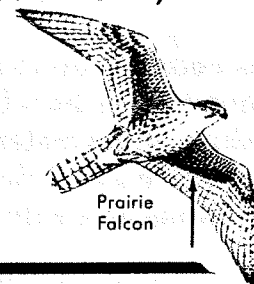
John Kiseda is about to begin his Spring migration observations, at the top of the tramway. If you are interested in participating in this fun and educational birding opportunity, contact John at 521-1850, during the day, Monday through Friday.

**International Migratory Bird
Day Plant Conservation Day
at the El Paso Zoo**

PLEASE volunteer to help out at this years International Migratory Bird Day at the zoo; it has been scheduled for Saturday, April 20th. This education/conservation event is the largest of the year for our Audubon chapter and is chock full of special events and fun! Come on down and "get down" with conservation!

Please volunteer to help (especially because John Kiseda will be out of town)!

Contact Cheryl Garing, the Zoo's Horticulturist, at 521-1861 during the day, Monday - Friday. Contact Betty Fisbeck from Audubon at 581-0174, in the evening.



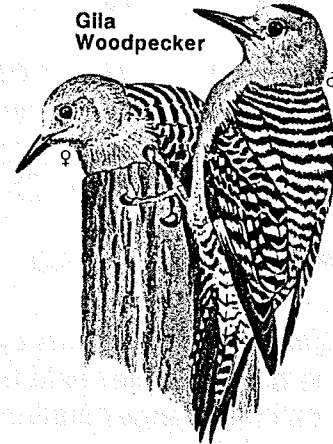
Visit the UTEP Centennial
Museum now through April
15th to enjoy their Insect
Exhibit!

ON THE TRAIL

MEXICAN JAYS & PAINTED REDSTARTS

Southeast Arizona is one of the best birding locations in the country. Its deserts and mountains create a birding wonderland and combined with the closeness of subtropical Mexico allow for a diversity of birds found nowhere else in the USA.

We will concentrate on trying to find **Broad-billed, Violet-crowned, Magnificent, and White-eared HUMMING-BIRDS**. Also **Spotted Owl, Sulpher-bellied and Buff-breasted Flycatchers, Tropical, Thick-billed and Couch's Kingbird**. Most of these species are found only in this Sky Island area of Southeastern Arizona. In addition we could see **Gray Hawk, Elegant Trogon, Bridled Titmouse, Bell's Vireo, and Abert's Towhee**. We will find the **Mexican Jay, Acorn and Gila Woodpecker, Cassin's Kingbird and Painted Redstart**.



This trip is going to take place on **Memorial Day weekend, May 25, 26, and 27**. Camping in the area is difficult (although some private RV parks are nearby) so most of us will stay at one of the many Motels in Sierra Vista. If you think you might like to take this trip contact, **Bob "Wildbirder" Johnson** (915) 757-1876, Email <bobwildbirderj@cs.com> for itinerary, map and other details.

Thursday AM

PERCHA DAM

A trip up I-25 (about 1 1/2 hours) to Percha and Caballo Dams State Parks. A **Herring Gulls** and **Common Loons** are frequently spotted at Caballo and a **Golden-crowned kinglets** and both **Eastern and Western Bluebirds** at Percha. **Mergansers** and **Cormorants** fish in the Lake just above the dam and many gulls are continuously flying by.

Date: Saturday, April 6.
Time: 7:27 AM.
Place: I-10 & Transmountain Road.
(across from the Texaco Sta)
Who: Bob Johnson.

We are going to try something new. O K ? Each Thursday we will meet and have a short field trip someplace local. This is for those of you who for some reason or other cannot make the weekend trip or would just like to get out. April and May are our strong spring migratory months and we could get some good birds. Most trips will be about 1.5 to 2 hours

DATE: Each Thursday April 11 thru June 6.
TIME: 7:30 AM
PLACE: Memorial Park, Garden Center
3500 Grant Street.
WHO: Usually Bob "Wildbirder", but sometimes others. For info call (915) 757-1876.

FRIENDS of HUECO TANKS

Admission: Hueco Tanks Historical Park - \$4.
\$2 for Seniors 65, Children under 12 - FREE.
Bird Identification Tours

Sunday April 21 7:07 AM

Sunday May 19 7:07 AM

Sunday June 21 7:07 AM

Please check in at the Headquarters.

Reservations and Information [857-1135](tel:857-1135).

Leader Bob "Wildbirder" Johnson [757-1876](tel:757-1876).

PLANNING AHEAD

Cave Creek - *Elegant Trogon Survey* - June 20 & 21. This is not a chapter field trip, if you are interested call the Ranger station (520) 364-3468.

A trip to Santa Fe is being considered for the 4th of July weekend. Please let Bob know if you might go, so planning can begin. We have not done this since 1995. Birds that probably will be seen, *American Dipper*, *Golden-crowned Kinglet*, *Gray Jay*, *Black-billed Magpie*, *Evening Grosbeak*, and many more

Davis Mountains Hummingbird Roundup
August 15- 16-17, 2002. info 1-800-458-6232.
www.prude-ranch.com, E-mail <prude@overland.net>
Also not an organized field trip.

T O S

How about joining the Texas Ornithological Society (TOS). See Bob "Wildbirder" Johnson. (915) 757-1876, E-mail bobwildbirderj@cs.com
The Spring conference will be in Del Rio, Texas a great chance to see the Black-capped Vireo. Bob has the data and registration forms for the conference.

A B A

The American Birding Association (ABA) will be having its 18th convention in Duluth, Minnesota from June 10-16. Loons, Grouse and Black-backed Woodpeckers. Bob is going.

El Paso Heritage Week

A Synerbration of Regional Art, Culture, and History

El Paso's Heritage Week Festival is a community wide event involving volunteers, civic groups and public institutions. The week includes events showcasing El Paso's unique character and history. It is a celebration of much that is good in our community and an example of how diversity weaves itself to create beautiful tapestry.

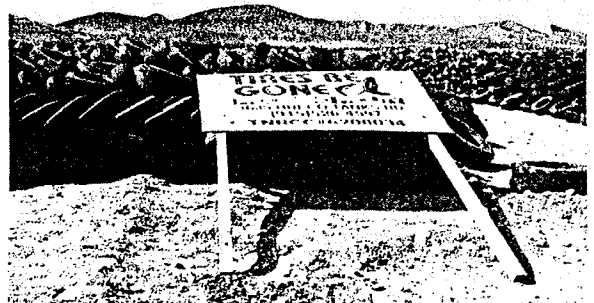
Our chapter will be manng a bird observation booth at Keystone Marsh.

Date: April 27 & 28

Time: 10:00 AM

Place: Keystone Marsh

IT'S A DUMP



If you have been along the Hueco Tanks SHS access road (FM2775) lately, you may have seen the huge tire dump, that is growing on the west side of the road.

This TNRCC permitted site gives the impression that El Pasoan's don't care. What can you do? Go look at the mess and then write a letter to your State Senator and State Representative. Mention TNRCC and the permit #6200034.

OBSERVATIONS

January 16, 2002 to March 15, 2002

Listing of birds is determined using the checklist "Birds of El Paso County, Texas and Adjacent Areas" 7th Edition October 1987. Leave sightings at Bob "Wildbirder" Johnson (757-1876), or E-mail bobwildbirderj@cs.com.

Observers: Mary Lou Alcorn; Dan Allen; Lois Balin; Helen Bigalow; Doris Gurss; John Kiseda; Kathy Kiseda; J.P. Lake; Jackie Fushille; Jim Paton; John Sproul; Bernie Sargent; Barry Zimmer.
All - means throughout the period

<i>Species</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Obsy.</i>	<i>Loc.</i>
White-faced Ibis	1/17	JS	RBq
Cinnamon Teal	1/17	JS	RBq
Turkey Vulture	3/2	JP	X-Rds
Osprey	1/22	DA	Key
Bald Eagle	1/22	JS	RBq
	2/24	LB	RBq
Harris' Hawk	2/3	JS	RBq
Peregrine Falcon	1/18	BS	Sun
	1/22	JS	RBq
Black-necked Stilt	1/22	JS	RBq
American Avocet	1/17	JS	RBq
Broad-billed Hummer	All	KK	KnJ
Violet-crown Hummer	Thru 2/25	BZ	Ton
		HB	Ant
Broad-tailed Hummer	3/14	KK	KnJ
Rufous Hummingbird	1/19	JK	KnJ
Blue Jay	All	JK	Zoo
Cave Swallow	2/3	JS	RBq
Sage Thrasher	1/25	JF	Brd
Brown Thrasher	1/25	JF	Brd
Pine Warbler	1/25	JF	Brd
Yellow-headed Blackbird	2/26	JPL	Peb
Hooded Oriole	3/14	DG	BBn
Lesser Goldfinch	3/7	MLA	Emy

Locations: Ant-Anthony; BBn-Big Bend; Brd-Broadmoor; Emy-Emory; Key-Keystone Marsh; KnJ-Kenyon Joyce; Peb-Pebble Hills; RBq-Rio Bosque Park; Sun-Sunset; Ton-Tonto; X-Rds-Doniphan & Mesa; Zoo-El Paso Zoo

Help Keep Our Raptors Alive

Are you looking for opportunities to make a difference? Please join us on Thursday, April 11, 10:00 - 11:00 A.M. at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Building, 200 N. Clark Drive for an informative meeting on how you can help save our raptors from being electrocuted.

Elda Rodriguez from El Paso Electric Company (EPEC) will be presenting on the new EPEC "Aviary Program". She will discuss the modification and retrofitting for the existing power poles in El Paso County, the new construction standards and Elda will instruct us on how to identify the potentially dangerous power lines.

The EPEC has 1,000 retrofitting safety devices to install in El Paso County. This is an opportunity to assist the EPEC in locating power lines that can be retrofitted in *hawk habitats*. Help us make sure that they will install the safety features in the best possible locations for raptor protection. I will provide detailed maps and volunteer groups will divide El Paso County, locate and mark the appropriate sites for safety features. I will compile the information for the electric company.

For further information, contact Lois Balin, Urban Biologist, at Texas Parks and Wildlife, 774-9803.

CHAPTER LIBRARY

Our library is now located in the Garden Center. Come early to the meetings and browse, you can also look after the meeting, and sign a book out.

We have various guide books, some technical books, and some novels. All are associated with birds in some way.

Also we have a number of bird related videos.

SUPPORT LOCAL WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION
ORGANIZATIONS

Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue

Meets: 4th Tuesday of; Jan., Feb.,
Apr., June, Aug. & Oct.
El Paso Community College
Northwest Campus, Room 45,
6701 South Desert Blvd.
www.whc.net/cdwr

El Paso Zoo

www.elpasozoo.org

Keystone Heritage Park

Meets 3rd Wednesday of each
month at El Paso Police Dept.
Westside Regional Command
Center, 4801 Osborne
keystonepark.com or
keystonepark.org

Dates to Remember

Call Bob Johnson for details 757-1876

April

Sat. 6 Percha/Caballo
Mon. 8 Board Meeting
Thurs. 11 Early Morning
Mon. 15 Gen. Meet. Feather Lake
Thurs. 18 Early Morning
Sun. 21 BIT Hueco Tanks
Thurs. 25 Early Morning
Sat. & Sun. 27-28 Keystone
Sat. 27 Wetlands Workshop

May

Thurs 2 Early Morning
Sat. & Sun. 4-5. Birdathon
Thurs. 9 Early Morning
Sun. 11 Ft. Bliss Ponds
Mon. 13 Board Meeting
Thurs. 16 Early Morning
Sun. 19 BIT Hueco Tanks
Mon. 20 General Meeting
Thurs. 23 Early Morning
24-27 Sierra Vista, AZ
Thurs. 30 Early Morning

June

Sat. 1 Breakfast with the Birds
Sun. 2 Upper Valley
Thursday 6 Early Morning

Rock Art Tours

Every Sat & Sun 9:00am & 11:00am

Birding Activities at Hueco Tanks

Bird Identification Tours & Slide Show Presentations

National Audubon Society

Chapter Membership Application

Yes, I'd like to join.

Please enroll me as a member of
the National Audubon Society
and of my local chapter. Please
send AUDUBON magazine and
my membership card to the
address below.

My check for \$20 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
SOCIETY

W10

Local Chapter Code

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