



# The Roadrunner

## Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

*Monday, April 21, 2008 at 7:00pm*  
*at UTEP Centennial Museum, corner of Wiggins & University*

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### FINDING BEAUTY ON THE WING

#### General Meeting of the El Paso / Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

John Groves is an El Paso birder with exceptional eyes and ears to locate birds. So, we asked him to speak at the April 21 general meeting, 7:00 p.m., at UTEP's Centennial Museum about his strategies for spotting difficult-to-find warblers and other spring migrants. He will also reveal his favorite places for birding in El Paso and beyond, and show some field photos.



The public is invited, and refreshments will be available.

*Monday, May 19, 2008 at 7:00pm*  
*at UTEP Centennial Museum, corner of Wiggins & University*

### State of the Birds

Andy Kasner, Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon Texas, will speak at the UTEP Centennial Museum, on Monday, May 19 at 7:00pm, on "State of the Birds," a scientific analysis of 40 years of Audubon Texas Christmas Bird Counts. Dr. Kasner will also discuss the results of conservation partnership programs launched by Texas Audubon in response to declines of common birds.



The work of individual landowners and conservation groups partnered with Audubon across the state is central to sustaining bird diversity, according to Dr. Kasner. One initiative on which he will focus is the Important Bird Areas Program (IBA), which restores and protects historically critical habitats. For more information, call 526-7725, or email:

[usherrill@miners.utep.edu](mailto:usherrill@miners.utep.edu)



**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**

**El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society**

Officers

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

Committees

Membership: Roxanne Schroeder, 533-0061	Publicity: Ursula Sherrill, 526-7725
Programs: Ursula Sherrill, 526-7725	Education: Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408
Conservation: vacant	Publications: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Field Trips: Ursula Sherrill, 526-7725	Ways & Means: vacant
Hospitality: Janet Perkins	Sanctuary: John Sproul, 545-5157



**YES YOU CAN (Find a parking place)**

The old UTEP visitor's parking lot has been closed for construction. But, there are still 150 parking spaces **inside the parking garage.**

From I-10, take the Shuster Exit Turn LEFT at first light, SUN BOWL DRIVE CONTINUE straight after the four-way stop Turn RIGHT at first driveway Turn LEFT at the Visitor's Parking sign (overhead)

**THE ELECTRONIC ROAD-RUNNER**

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](mailto:jsproul@utep.edu).

**Conservation Organizations**

Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue  
[www.whc.net/cdwr](http://www.whc.net/cdwr)

El Paso Zoo 521-1850  
[www.elpasozoo.org](http://www.elpasozoo.org)

Keystone Heritage Park 581-7920  
[keystonepark.com](http://keystonepark.com) [keystonepark.org](http://keystonepark.org)

Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park  
 (505) 524-3334 [www.cdn.org](http://www.cdn.org)

Friends of Rio Bosque 747-8663  
[www.riobosque.org](http://www.riobosque.org)

Southwest Environmental Center  
 (505) 522-5552  
[www.wildmesquite.com](http://www.wildmesquite.com)  
[swec@zianet.com](mailto:swec@zianet.com)

Franklin Mt. Wilderness Coalition  
[www.iloveparks.com/fmwc/](http://www.iloveparks.com/fmwc/)

**FeatherFest  
 at Keystone Heritage Park**

FeatherFest celebration will be held April 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Keystone Heritage Park located at 4200 Doniphan in the El Paso Desert Botanical Garden. EPTP Audubon Society will have a table there with pictures of the birds of Keystone, chapter literature, and spotting scopes set up so festival goers can view water birds, waders, and shorebirds at the wetland. We will probably see Pied-billed Grebes, Mexican Mallards, Cinnamon Teals and Bufflehead ducks. Also expected are Black-necked Stilts, American Avocets, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, and Long-billed Dowitchers. A large group of Ring-billed Gulls will probably drop in, possibly accompanied by a rare one. Coordinator: Ursula Sherrill 526-7725, or [usherrill@miners.utep.edu](mailto:usherrill@miners.utep.edu).

# Lets “Fly” into Action! Audubon’s Birdathon! 2008

Birdathon counters are already “in training” in preparation for Birdathon 2008!

## 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 & education programs.*

**Birdathon! 2008 will occur on May 3rd–4th.**

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” by becoming a Birdathoner yourself, contact Jane Fowler at 598-2448 or Betty Fisbeck at 581-0174).

## **Birdathon! 2008 will benefit the following programs and projects:**

### **RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK**

Our ongoing support has been critical to habitat restoration at this site. We want to continue that support to help UTEP get water to the park during the growing season.

### **FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS COALITION**

Works with the Franklin Mountains State Park in preserving the Ecological System of the mountains and surrounding areas. It encourages recreational, scientific, and educational uses of the mountains consistent with preserving their scenic beauty and wilderness character.

### **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.

### **AUDUBON TEXAS**

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

## **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 & 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 out in the field, for the chance to collect meaningful data for a nationwide census project, 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, postage and prizes). All Birdathon sponsors are entered in our ever-popular drawings for a number of great prizes such as gift cards, binoculars, books and the like. Counters will also be eligible for some cool prizes.

Looking for someone to sponsor for Birdathon? This year's roster of 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 & 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 Betty (581-0174) a call. All or most of these hardworking people will be back at it this year and ready to do their part for the Birdathon 2008! **HOW ABOUT YOU? WILL YOU DO YOUR PART?**

**Last year's Birdathon counters**

Joe Cancellare	John Groves	Jim Paton
Elizabeth Chase	Richard Hermsillo	Susie Schneider
Scott Cutler	Carlos Humphreys	Ursula Sherrill
Josh, Ben, & Laura Ditlevson	Hugh Jameson	John Sproul
Cliff Eidson	Bob Johnson	Kathy Whelen
Betty Fisbeck	John Kiseda	
Jane Fowler	Marty Morrow	

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

**Birdathon 2008 POT LUCK Sunday, May 4th at 6:00pm**

As usual, the prize drawings will take place at our annual POST-BIRDATHON pot luck picnic. This year we will gather on Sunday, May 4th, the last day of the Birdathon. While enjoying good food, we will be totaling all the counter's sightings to tally the total species count, the highest number by a individual counter, and the highest by a Junior counter (12 and under). The counter that raises the most money, the one with the most sponsors and the most unusual sighting will be determined.

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, & all chapter members.** The Potluck/Picnic May 4th at 6:00pm at the Whelen/Humphrey's Home located at 6120 Quail, 1/4 mile east of Parkland High School.

Whether it's .25 per species or \$1.00 per species or any given amount, we hope you will consider a pledge to Birdathon 2008. Please pick one or more counters to sponsor and return the enclosed coupon today. **Your generosity and support helps make Audubon Birdathon a Success.**

**El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society**

**BIRDATHON! 2008**

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

From \_\_\_\_\_

YES! I'll sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ for  
a flat \$ amount of \_\_\_\_\_.

Address \_\_\_\_\_

I will add a bonus of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ if my  
Birdathon counter sees a \_\_\_\_\_.

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form by May 1 to:**

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

**Birdathon! 2008  
c/o Betty Fisbeck  
613 W. Sunset  
El Paso, TX 79922**

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

## AT FEATHER LAKE

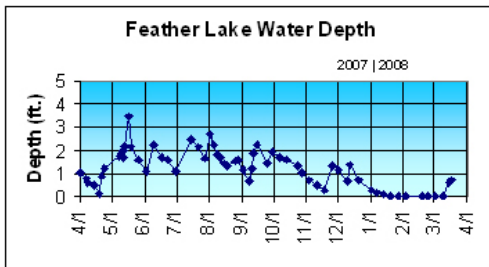
### AT FEATHER LAKE

We're back in business! After 2 dry months, Feather Lake began receiving water again in mid-March. We hope to have the lake open to the public now through the end of May.

Once again, we need volunteers to staff our sanctuary during visitor hours. Can you help? Please contact John Sproul (747-8663, [jsproul@utep.edu](mailto:jsproul@utep.edu)) if you can put in a Saturday morning or Sunday afternoon at Feather Lake in April or May. The cottonwoods and willows are leafing out, and it's a great time to be at the lake.

Be sure to join us also for our next workday. It takes place **Sat., June 7**, starting at **8 a.m.** Stop by any time for a little healthy exercise in a beautiful setting.

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



Come to the Centennial Museum at UTEP on **April 23, 2008** for the Opening Reception for a special new exhibit, **Building a Bosque: 10 Years of Habitat Restoration at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park.**



The reception is from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and includes music by Effie Munro. The exhibit will be at the museum through August 16, so you'll also be able to enjoy it the night of our general meeting in May.

In addition to the exhibit, visit the park itself. Take in the spectacular annual display of flowering bitterweed in late April-early May.

### Upcoming tours:

- 8 a.m. Sun., April 13 (Bird tour)
- 4 p.m. Sun., April 27 (Wildflower tour)
- 4 p.m. Sun., May 4 (Wildflower tour)
- 8 a.m. Sat., May 10 (Bird 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, [www.riobosque.org](http://www.riobosque.org).

# BIRD WATCHING

## MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND IN ARIZONA

Friday May 23rd—Monday May 26th

This year we are going to **TUCSON** and have 4 great Field Trips planned, where you will get to see some birds that you would not see at Sierra Vista. You still will have a chance to see the **TROGON**. The trip to the **NORTH** will include the Lower San Pedro River where you could see the Gray Hawk and Vermilion Flycatcher. The trip to the **SOUTH** includes Madera Canyon where there are Elegant Trogons and Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers. The trip to the **WEST** takes in the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and a chance to see a Western Screech-Owl and Gila Woodpecker. The trips around **URBAN Tucson** could be good for Abert's Towhee and Harris's Hawk.



Gray Hawk



Vermilion Flycatcher



Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher



Elegant Trogon

The Red Roof Inn #225 (1-800-333-0991) at I-10 Exit 264 is where you will find Bob. For detailed Itinerary and maps contact Wildbirder Bob (915)751-0125 or [wildbirder-bob@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wildbirder-bob@sbcglobal.net) the Trip Coordinator.



Western Screech-Owl



Gila Woodpecker



Harris's Hawk



Abert's Towhee

### BIRD WATCHERS WELCOME

The gate at Keystone will be open the last weekend of each month for birders to come in and birdwatch on their own. No tour guides,

- Sat. April 26 Featherfest 10 AM – 4 PM
- Sun. April 27 5 PM – 7:30 PM
- Sat. May 24 7 AM - 9:30 AM
- Sun. May 25 5 PM – 7:30 PM
- Sat. June 28 7 AM - 9:30 AM
- Sun. June 29 5 PM - 7:30 PM

### HUECO TANKS

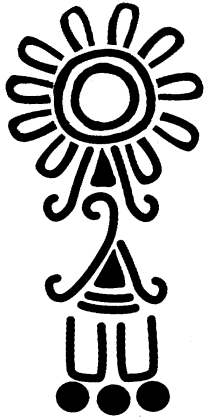
**Admission:** Hueco Tanks Historical Site  
\$4

Seniors 65 **\$2**. Children under 12 **FREE**.

#### Bird Identification Tours

- Sunday April 20 8:00 AM
- Sunday May 18 7:00 AM
- Sunday June 15 7:00 AM

Please check in at the Headquarters.  
Reservations and information 857-1135



**FLORAFEST  
2008**  
April 26 and 27  
9:00 to 4:00 each day

**Centennial Museum**

Wiggins Road and University Avenue  
on the UTEP Campus

**GO Wild! GROW Native!**  
Landscaping with Native Southwestern  
Plants

**FloraFEST Lecture**  
**Guest Speaker: Jill Nokes**  
**“Yard Art and Handmade Places:  
Extraordinary Expressions of Home”**

**Friday, April 25, 7 pm, Room 116**  
Undergraduate Learning Center  
Next to museum on Wiggins Road

Wild Flower and Gardening Books on Sale  
Plant Experts to help you with your selections

**Proceeds benefit the  
Chihuahuan Desert Gardens  
at the Centennial Museum**

Other educational opportunities

Chihuahuan **Desert Gardens**, West side of the  
Centennial Museum, open daily, dawn to dusk  
**Centennial Museum Website at**  
<http://www.museum.utep.edu>

**BIRDWATCHERS WELCOME**

The gate at Keystone will be open the last weekend of each month for birders to come in and bird on their own.

No tour guides.

Sat. Apr. 26 7:00 to 9:30 AM  
Sun. Apr. 27 5:00 to 7:30 PM

For further information on all **BIRD WATCHING** trips contact

**Bob Johnson.**

751-0125

[wildbirderbob@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wildbirderbob@sbcglobal.net)

**Party for the Planet**

Sat., April 19th  
10:00am - 3:00pm



Sponsored by  
the El Paso Zoo  
& the

El Paso Solar Energy Association.

On this day our Zoo joins the rest of the 141 AZA zoos, nationwide, to show people how to save energy and preserve our planet. Sponsored by the El Paso Zoo & El Paso Solar Energy Association. We're inviting all families to come learn about conservation and what they can do to save resources. See hybrid vehicles. Watch cookies bake by solar power. Find out what to do to stay Earth Friendly.



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

**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

W10  
Local Chapter Code

**7XCHA**

### Dates to Remember Call Bob Johnson for details 751-0125

#### April

13 & 27: **Rio Bosque**

Mon 14: **Board Meeting**

Sun 20: **Hueco Tanks**

Mon 21: **General Meeting**

Wed 23: **Building a Bosque**

25-27: **Flora Fest**

26 & 27: **Keystone**

#### May

3 & 4: **Birdathon**

4 & 10: **Rio Bosque**

Mon 12: **Board Meeting**

Sun 18: **Hueco Tanks**

Mon 19: **General Meeting**

24 & 25: **Keystone**

23-26: **Tucson, AZ**

#### June

Mon 9: **Board Meeting**

Sat 7: **Feather Lake**

Sun 15: **Hueco Tanks**

28 & 29: **Keystone**

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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