

# The Roadrunner



Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

## Inside the Roadrunner

Chapter Info	2
Sanctuary News	3
Bird Notes & Field Trips	4 & 5
Calendar	6

**El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Website!**

Updated information about upcoming field trips, calendar of upcoming events, and recent bird sightings.

[www.trans-pecos-audubon.com](http://www.trans-pecos-audubon.com)

## Audubon has lost two dear friends

**Sid Shepperd** passed away as he was approaching his 96th birthday.

**Inga Groff**, champion of the environment & hummingbird rehabilitator, will be deeply missed by her friends, feathered and otherwise.



## General Meeting

**Monday, December 14, 2015  
Centennial Museum, at UTEP  
corner of Wiggins and University**

## Holiday Get-Together & Photo Sharing Event

This is always an awesome fun time! Share up to 10 of your favorite photos in these categories: Birds, Other Animals, Landscapes, Children, & Humorous.

It's not a contest, just sharing. Get the images (either prints, slides or digital) to Scott Cutler ([scutler@utep.edu](mailto:scutler@utep.edu), or 747-6668) by December 7, 2015.



Bring a snack to share and join in the fun. Contact Scott Cutler at 747-6668.

## General Meeting

**Monday, January 18, 2016  
Centennial Museum, at UTEP  
corner of Wiggins and University**



## Vikki Milne, DVM, El Paso Zoo Vet Raptor Rehabilitation

Learn about the El Paso Zoo's efforts to help injured raptors recover. This program promises to give us an inside look at techniques, successes and challenges of saving the big birds.

### 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

**Conservation:** Luis Sanchez, 599-7381  
**Education:** Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408  
**Field Trips:** Mark Perkins 637-3521  
**Hospitality:** Janet Perkins, 637-5269  
**Membership:** Roxanne Schroeder, 533-0061  
**Newsletter Editor:** Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408  
**Programs:** Elizabeth Chase 539-1191  
**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.

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society  
<http://www.trans-pecos-audubon.com>

## Franklin Mountains State Park

### December 2015 Hiking and Event Schedule

Must have reservation to participate  
For more information: (915) 566-6441  
Weather permitting

- Sun., Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 a.m. Guided Beginner's Mountain Bike Ride
- Sat., Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 a.m. Howl-iday Hounds Hike 🐾
- Sun., Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 a.m. Christmas Mine Tour
- Fri., Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 a.m. 'T'was the Hike Before Christmas
- Sat., Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> – 1:00 p.m. Birding 101 Workshop with Wayne Pope!



**BRING:**  
**For Hikes:** Water, snacks, sturdy hiking shoes/boots, hiking stick, camera, and binoculars!

**For Bike rides:** functional mountain bike, cycling helmet, drinking water and eye protection (sunglasses). We highly recommend that each participant also bring flat repair materials (extra inner tube, plastic tire levers, handheld bicycle pump, etc.), snacks, cycling gloves, cycling shorts, sunscreen, and a backpack or hydration pack (i.e. Camelbak).

### Conservation Organizations

Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition  
[www.chihuahuandesert.org](http://www.chihuahuandesert.org)

Second Chance Wildlife Rescue  
[wildliferescueelpaso.org](http://wildliferescueelpaso.org)  
Josie Karam (915) 920-7867

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

Keystone Heritage Park 581-7920  
[www.keystoneheritagepark.com](http://www.keystoneheritagepark.com)

Asombro Institute  
(Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park)  
(575) 524-3334 [www.asombro.org](http://www.asombro.org)

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

Southwest Environmental Center  
(575) 522-5552  
[www.wildmesquite.org](http://www.wildmesquite.org)

Franklin Mt. Wilderness Coalition  
[www.franklinmountains.org/](http://www.franklinmountains.org/)

## AT FEATHER LAKE

Three times in October, storms resulted in runoff that partially flooded Feather Lake. Each time, the water in the basin lasted less than a week before it all soaked in.

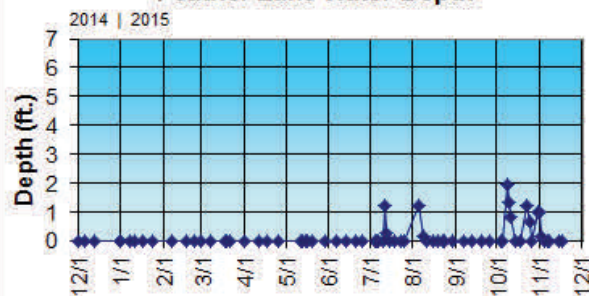


At this writing in mid-November, Feather Lake is again dry. It has now been almost 5 years since our sanctuary was last open to the public. With El Niño conditions continuing to strengthen in the Pacific Ocean, maybe this will be the year our prolonged dry spell breaks.

Our next workday at Feather Lake will be **Sat., December 12**, starting at **2 p.m.** Once again, we'll be removing trash washed in with this year's storms.

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

**Feather Lake Water Depth**



### 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?

### Audubon at

Rio Bosque Wetlands Park



With recent cooler weather, water-bird numbers have been climbing. Five owl species – Barn, Western Screech, Great Horned, Burrowing and Long-eared – have been using the park this fall.

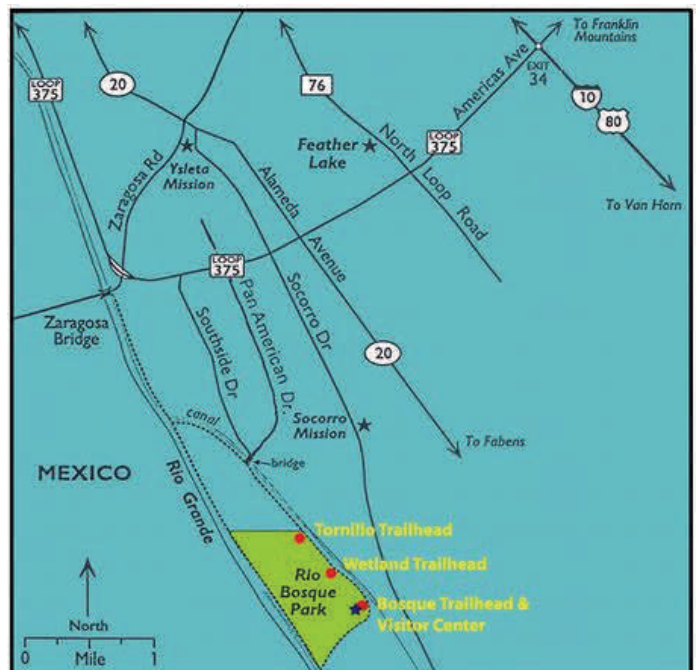
For up-to-date information on Rio Bosque's birds and water conditions, check [www.riobosque.org](http://www.riobosque.org).

Upcoming free walking tours:

**3 p.m., Sun., December 6 (Bird tour)**  
**9 a.m., Sat., December 12 (Introductory tour)**

**8 a.m., Sat., January 9 (Bird tour)**  
**3 p.m., Sun., January 17 (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.



## Some El Paso bird site lists: updated lists now available

John Kiseda

A few years back, I began a new project of establishing bird lists for a number of our most popular & productive local birding sites and neighborhoods. In addition to some earlier in the year updates, I've recently updated those lists that had new sightings (as of 11/7/15) and I thought that others might find some of these most recent updates of the past year's 'first documented observations' information interesting. In addition to my own observations, also included are observations that have been made by other local & visiting birders, observation notes from 'old' issues of the Roadrunner newsletter (particularly in the initial process of building the lists), eBird records, etc. These lists can all be found on the [EP/TP Audubon website in the checklist section](#), and can be downloaded if desired.

### ASCARATE PARK:

**4 native species & 3 exotics were added to the list, bringing the total to 194 native species seen there.**

Two, somewhat 'common to the area species in the right time of year' hadn't been noted as having been seen here before; Western tanager and Lark bunting; a bit surprising.

### CEMENT LAKE:

**4 native species were added to the list, bringing the total to 172 native species seen there.**

Two, pretty 'common to the area species/types in the right time of year' that hadn't been noted as having been seen here before; Least sandpiper and a tern species [too early & dark to reliably call it the Black tern that I think it was].

### KEYSTONE HERITAGE PARK:

**The first new, native species sighting in a number of years brought the total to 210 native species/types seen there.** During the recent Celebration of the Mountains birding tour, five Sandhill cranes were seen flying past, high up in the clouds....another fairly common El Paso winter migrant, but one not noticed before now.

### MEMORIAL PARK:

**3 native species were added to the list, bringing the total to 162 native species seen there.**

A small, fly-by flock of egrets, was a bit of an unusual sighting for this 'no water nearby' site, but the sighting of a Prairie falcon and a Rufous-crowned sparrow certainly seemed to be 'past due'.

### SOUTH MESA HILLS MARSH:

**8 native species were added to the list, bringing the total to 76 native species seen there.**

As many of the birder's that visit this site primarily do so to hear Virginia rails & Soras, oftentimes visits are made at 'off' times of the day and of very short duration. Some of the pretty 'common to the area species/types in the right time of year' that hadn't been noted as having been seen here before, included sharp-shinned hawk, Green heron and Brewer's sparrow.

### EL PASO ZOO:

**5 native species were added to the list, bringing the total to 128 native species seen there.**

None of the 'additions' were of what might be thought of as common species to be seen in El Paso [such as Merlin, Violet-green swallow], but only one might be thought of as surprising, a Black and white warbler.

### CROSSROADS POND:

**5 native species were added to the list, bringing the total to 196 native species seen there.**

Surprising to have not been documented for the site were Lesser & American goldfinches, and Painted bunting.

### KERN PLACE – ARROYO PARK:

**3 native species were added to the list, bringing the total to 131 native species seen there.**

All three of the species added to the this site's list were a bit on the unusual side...White-throated sparrow, Mallards, and a Belted kingfisher.

### MISSION HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD:

**Only 1 recent native species was added, bringing the total to 163 native species seen there.**

The most recent addition to this area, was a November sighting of a Bewick's wren.

### WYLER AERIAL TRAMWAY:

**No additional species were added to the list for this site, not usually visited by birders. The list is still at 111 native species.**

# Field Trips

## Saturday and Sunday December 12 and 13, 2015 Albuquerque and Rosy Finches

The group will visit the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park on Saturday in Albuquerque.

On Sunday morning the group will head to the Sandia Crest to look for Rosy Finches.



A minimum of 5 people need to be signed up for the trip. Contact Mark Perkins at (915) 637-3521 for a detailed itinerary.

## 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](mailto:jsproul@utep.edu).

## Phoenix Birding Martin Luther King Weekend



**January 15, 16, 17 & 18, 2015**  
If you are interested in signing up for this trip, contact Mark Perkins at (915) 637-3521 for an itinerary.

## Annual Awards Dinner and Program Saturday February 20, 2016.

Details regarding the dinner, the Conservation and the Meritorious Service award recipients, as well as the speaker and the menu to follow.



[www.trans-pecos-audubon.com](http://www.trans-pecos-audubon.com)

The El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society has several left-over t-shirts for bargain prices.

This might just be what to get that special someone who has everything (everything except a genuine El Paso TP T-shirt of course).



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

Return service request

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
El Paso, Texas  
Permit #2440

**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 422250  
Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250**

Local Chapter Code **C1ZW100Z**

**Dates to Remember Call Mark Perkins for details 637-3521**

December

6 & 12: **Rio Bosque**  
Mon. 7: **Board Meeting**  
Sat 12: **Feather Lake Work-  
day**  
12 & 13: **Albuquerque**

January

9 & 17: **Rio Bosque**  
Mon. 11: **Board Meeting**  
15-18: **Phoenix, AZ Field Trip**  
Mon. 18: **General Meeting**

February

Mon 8: **Board Meeting**  
Sat 20: **Annual Meeting  
& 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