

The Roadrunner



Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

No General Meetings until September

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BIRDATHON 2013 UPDATE



Congratulations to all on a successful Birdathon again this year. We especially thank our sponsors and counters without whom the Birdathon would not be possible. **We appreciate your participation and support for our conservation and education endeavors.** Thanks, too, for our hard-working members who handle the details --

Jane Fowler and Berttye Barnhart who handled the mailings and Janet Perkins who kept track of pledges and receipts.

As of May 23, our total receipts and pledges were \$5,154. There may still be a few checks yet to come in this year. The money will go to chapter operations, Feather Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, Rio Bosque Wetlands Park and Audubon Texas.

Our annual potluck for Birdathon was graciously hosted by Janet and Mark Perkins. A good group was present as species seen by at least one counter were tallied. A total of 167 species were seen, compared to 145 last year.

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.

Overnight Field Trips

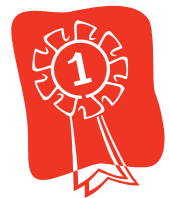
Because of the expense of gas, and the time and preparation involved for the



overnight field trips, it's important that you let Mark Perkins know in advance if you are planning to go on one of the overnight trips.

At least five people must be signed up for a field trip in order for that trip launch.

The winners for the highest number of species seen by an individual or party were John Kiseda and Richard Hermosillo with 123. Very good! The prize for the most money raised went to John Sproul.



The most unusual bird this year was the **Golden-crowned Sparrow** at the Tom Mays Unit of Franklin Mountains State Park, found earlier by a Houston birder. **Red Crossbills** were also seen. Other unusual species were **Black Tern** and **Lilac-crowned Parrot**. Three groups of **Acorn Woodpeckers** are now in El Paso, and John Kiseda documented nesting last year.

A big THANK YOU to all of our participants and sponsors!



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, 581-2849
Way & Means: vacant

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

Officers

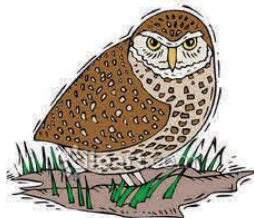
President: Scott Cutler, 581- 6071
Vice President: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Secretary/Treasurer: Eddie Chew, 587-9589

Committees

Publicity: Janet Perkins, 581-2849
Education: Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408
Publications: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Newsletter Editor: Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408
Sanctuary: John Sproul, 545-5157

Rio Bosque Wetlands Saturday, June 8, 2013.

We hope to see Burrowing Owls, Harris's Hawk, White-tailed Kite, Painted Bunting and Gambel's Quail. John Sproul, Project Coordinator/Manager, will conduct the tour.



BURROWING OWL

Meet at 6:30 a.m. For map and directions to the meeting place, see page 3. Nonmembers are always welcome. Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521.

Conservation Organizations

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/

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AT FEATHER LAKE

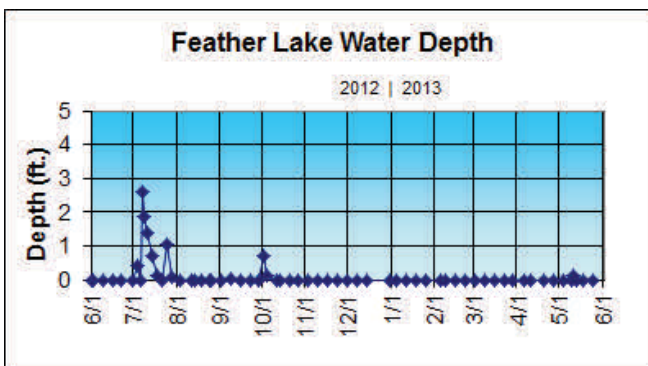
After a rainstorm the night of May 10, Feather Lake held water for the first time in over 7 months. It didn't last long. On the afternoon of May 11, the central part of the basin was 75% flooded. By May 13, it was dry again. Still, the parched vegetation benefited.

Along with lack of water, Feather Lake had been mired in a long dry spell for birds new to the sanctuary. That drought finally ended April 6, when a **Common Poorwill** flushed from along the inner berm within the dry basin.

It was bird species #220 for Feather Lake, and it came over 3 years after species #219 – a **Rufous-crowned Sparrow** – on March 7, 2010.

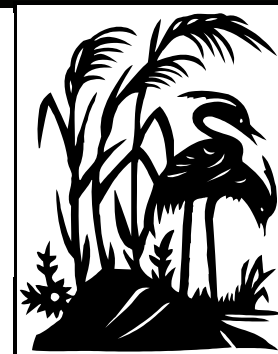
Chances are the basin will still be dry for our next Feather Lake workday on **Sat., June 1** starting at **8 a.m.** We'll take advantage of the dry conditions to remove accumulated trash from within the basin.

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



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>

Audubon at RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK

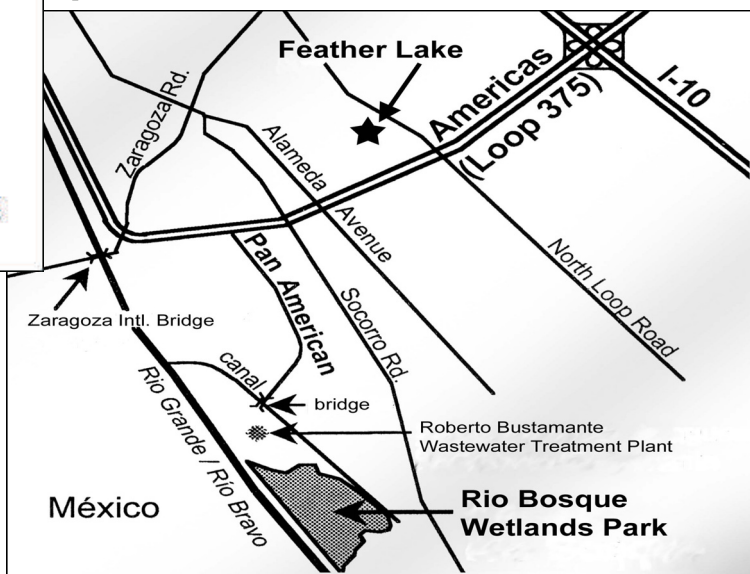


Numbers of summer-resident breeding birds are down at Rio Bosque this year due to the dry conditions. The most active area for birds is the stand of tornillos along the east edge of the park that benefits from proximity to the Riverside Canal. For up-to-date information on the park's birds, check www.riobosque.org. Upcoming free walking tours:

8 a.m., Sun., June 2 (Introductory tour)
6:30 a.m., Sat., June 8 (Bird tour)

7 a.m. Sat., July 6 (Bird tour)
8 a.m. Sun., July 21 (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

Sierra Vista, AZ, May 24-27, 2013



Male Northern Pygmy-Owl

We had 17 people for the trip. On Friday, we went to Beatty's in Miller Canyon where we saw the elusive **White-eared Hummingbird** plus 5 other species of hummingbirds. For those that wanted to take the ½ mile hike up the canyon, we had a great view of the **Spotted Owl**. On Friday evening we went to Tony Battiste's Bed & Breakfast where we saw a pair of nesting **Elf Owls**. We were able observe the male Elf Owl fighting with an **Acorn Woodpecker** over the hole in the pole where the female Elf Owl had already set up a nest. It was quite entertaining and Tony said this behavior occurred every night!

On Saturday morning everyone went to Ramsey Canyon where we hiked up the canyon to the frog pond. We had **Painted Redstarts**, nesting **Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers**, **Mexican Jays**, **Wild Turkeys**, nesting **Plumbeous Vireos** and a surprise visit by a **Coatimundi**! We also saw **Coues Deer**. Saturday afternoon we went to the San Pedro House where hummingbird banding was taking place. That area was very birdy with lots of **grosbeaks**, **tanagers**, **ground-doves**, and we had a **Curve-billed Thrasher** on a nest with 2 babies. We also had a **kestrel** on a nest in a tree cavity as well as **Gila Woodpeckers**.

Sunday morning we went to the Patagonia area and our first stop was the Patagonia-Sonoita Nature Preserve where we saw lots of **Vermilion Flycatchers**, **Hepatic Tanagers**, **Canyon Towhees** and **Thick-billed Kingbird**. Another surprise was a 500 pound **Cinnamon Black Bear** in a tree! We also saw a **bobcat** rolling around in the dirt on the side of the road. We then went to Paton's Backyard where we had **cardinals**, **Yellow-breasted Chat**, **Abert's Towhees**, **Pine Siskins**, **Black-headed Grosbeak** and **Gambel's Quail**. We stopped at the famous Patagonia Road Rest Stop for lunch where we again saw the **Thick-billed Kingbird** and **Summer Tanager**. Our next stop was an unusual place called the Raven's Nest consisting of 48 acres which the owner has transformed into a nature preserve and outdoor survival training facility. There we saw baby **ravens** in the nest and a **Gray Hawk**. We ended the day at Kino Springs, a birder-friendly golf course where we had a great look at a **Varied Bunting**, **Cassin's Kingbird**, **Bronzed Cowbirds**, **Western** and **Summer tanagers**.

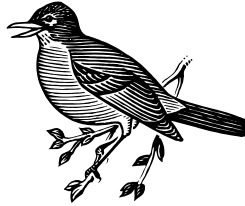


Cinnamon Black Bear

Monday morning we were up early to bird the Huachuca Canyon where we got the **Elegant Trogon** and a male **Northern Pygmy-Owl** waiting patiently on a limb with a lizard to present to the female on the nest. We want to thank everyone who joined us on the trip. We had good food, good company and a good time!

Field Trips

June 21-23, 2013 Gila National Forest



We'll be spending a refreshing weekend, Friday, Saturday and Sunday in the Gila National Forest in New Mexico. We will camp at Pueblo Park Campground. For those who don't want to camp, there are motels in nearby Glenwood and Reserve. Mark will be in the campground Friday afternoon for those who want to bird then.

Saturday morning we will bird the area and return to the campground to meet Saturday arrivals at 11:00 a.m. We plan to visit the Luna/Reserve area, Luna Lake, Glenwood Fish Hatchery, the Catwalk Trail and Mangas Springs.

Nonmembers and beginners are always welcome. We need to have 5 people signed up for this trip in advance. **Please let me know by June 15 if you plan to go. Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521.**

NEW TRIP! Northern New Mexico's Jemez Mountains and the Los Alamos area, July 26, 27 and 28, 2013

Join us in the high, cool mountains. Those that wish to camp, there are campgrounds, and those that don't want to camp, there are motels in Los Alamos. Places we will bird are Apache Springs, Graduation Flats, Jemez Falls, Fenton Lake State Park (fee area) and Bandelier National Monument (fee area). The fees are nominal.

We will be looking for **Three-toed Woodpecker, Red Crossbills, Black Swift, American Dipper, Clark's Nutcracker, Gray Jays and Zone-tailed Hawks.**

We need at least 5 people signed up for the trip. Campers might need to make reservations, so contact Mark for the campground information. A detailed itinerary will be available the first part of July. Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521.

July 13, 2013 Double Sunset Birding in El Paso's Upper Valley

Hopefully we will see **Mississippi Kites** with young, **Acorn Woodpeckers**, water birds at Keystone Heritage Park and **parrots**.

Meet at 6:00 p.m. at Keystone Heritage Park at 4200 Doniphan Drive.

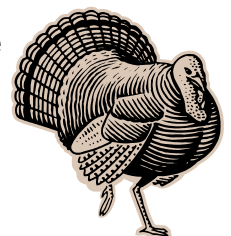
Beginners and nonmembers are always welcome. Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521.

August 10, 2013 Rattlesnake Springs

Rattlesnake Springs, part of Carlsbad Caverns National Park, is an Important Bird Area (IBA) and outstanding stopover site for land birds. The historic 80-acre New Mexico wetland features upwelling groundwater that draws Mexican vagrants as well as eastern and western birds such as **Painted Buntings, Vermilion Flycatchers, Summer Tanagers** and **Yellow-billed Cuckoos**.

We will then bird nearby Washington Ranch known for **Wild Turkeys** and other great birds.

Meet at 6:00 a.m. in front of Evergreen Cemetery, 12400 E. Montana, 1/4 mile east of Loop 375. Bring a lunch, water and sun block. We will carpool for the 127 mile trip. Nonmembers and beginners are welcome. Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521.



El Paso/Trans-Pecos
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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 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

<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>
2 & 8: Rio Bosque	Sat 13: Double Sunset	Sat 10: Rattlesnake Springs
Mon 10: Board Meeting	6 & 21 : Rio Bosque	Mon 12: Board Meeting
No General Meeting	Mon 8: Board Meeting	No General Meeting
21-23: Gila N. Forest	No General Meeting	
	26-28: Jemez Mountains	

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
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