

The Roadrunner



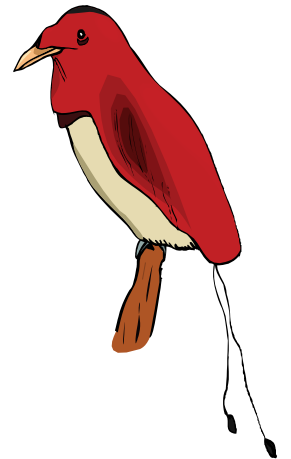
Newsletter of the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society

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No General Meeting in August

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society General Meeting

**Monday, September 16, 2013
Centennial Museum, at UTEP
Birds in Palawan, Philippines
Elizabeth Chase**



Elizabeth Chase went bird-watching in the Philippines last May and took some pictures of the birds in the wild.

Some of the birds she saw: Stork-billed Kingfisher, Palawan Peacock-Pheasant, Blue Paradise-Flycatcher, Olive-backed Sunbird and many more.

As always, members and non-members are encouraged to attend. Come to the presentation and enjoy some yummy snacks and good friendships with your fellow birders.

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.

August 12, 2013 Board Meeting

Brian Trusty, Executive Director of Audubon Texas and Vice President of NAS will be attending the meeting.

He will be discussing Chapter Community Outreach and Program.

Hope to see you there.



Looking for some computer/armchair Holiday Birding? You may be interested in Birding Adventures TV
website: www.birdingadventures.com

The program has a strong conservation emphasis and highlights the importance and urgency of preserving the planet's incredible birdlife. National Audubon Society is a sponsor of Birding Adventures TV. You can even sign up for an electronic Life List on this website.



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

**Hueco Tanks Interpretive Fair
October 19 & 20, 2013
8:00am-6:00pm**



The fair is a free, family-oriented event focused on natural education and cultural understanding. Tours begin at 8 a.m. both days of the fair; mildly to moderately strenuous; suitable for all age groups. After 10 a.m. both days, visitors can browse informational booths on the environment, local history, desert wildlife, area parks, and native plants.

Performances and presentations begin after 11 a.m. both days of the fair. Families will enjoy local dancers, Native American dancing and drumming, and more. An evening program will start after 6 p.m.

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

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

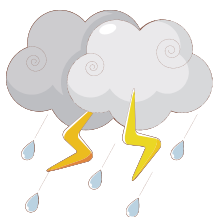
Southwest Environmental Center
(575) 522-5552
www.wildmesquite.org

Franklin Mt. Wilderness Coalition
www.franklinmountains.org/

AT FEATHER LAKE

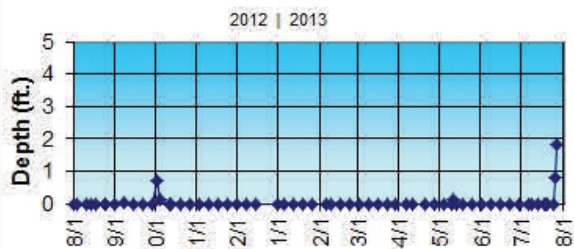
Storms in late July put water in Feather Lake, finally ending the driest 12-month period at the lake since we began measuring water depth in 2000. From Aug 1, 2012 to July 25, 2013, the lake was almost constantly dry (see graph).

On July 27, the water depth at the inlet hit 1.80 feet. Now, will the rains continue? If not, we can expect this welcome accumulation of water to soak quickly into the ground and the dry conditions to return. If the rains do continue, there may be hope for re-opening Feather Lake to the public in September for the first time in almost 3 years.



Our next workday at Feather Lake will be **Sat., August 10**, starting at **8 a.m.** We'll work in the uplands if the basin stays flooded or within the basin if it is again dry (plenty of new water-borne trash). Feather Lake is located at 9500 North Loop at Bordeaux in El Paso, 0.3 miles west of Americas Ave.

Feather Lake Water Depth



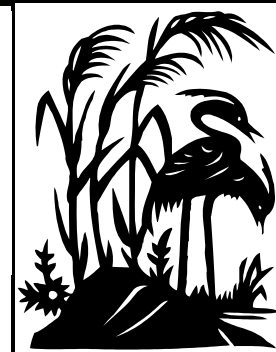
The Audubon Website!

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



The Painted Buntings won't be around much longer. They're typically gone by mid-August. The most active area for birds continues to be 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., Sat., August 3 (Introductory tour)

8 a.m., Sun., August 11 (Bird tour)

8 a.m., Sat., September 7 (Bird tour)

8 a.m., Sun., September 15 (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

Gila/Glenwood Area
June 21-23, 2013

This was a camping trip. The nights were actually very cold, but the days were warm. One of the highlights of this trip was having a bear come very close to our camp! We think it was thirsty. It didn't bother us. We also saw lots of elk. As many as 100 came down out of the mountains to drink out of Luna Lake.

We also stopped at a prairie dog town near Luna, NM and saw lots of Gunnison's Prairie Dogs running back and forth to their holes.



We visited unusual places like Mogollon, Apache Springs, Reserve, Luna Lake and the Glenwood Fish Hatchery. We had great looks at several pair of nesting Black Hawks, we saw many Lewis's Woodpeckers. We had an

Osprey at Luna Lake and we had lots of Vermilion Flycatchers at the Fish Hatchery.

Upper Valley Sunset & Evening Birding
Saturday, July 13, 2013.

We met at Keystone at 6:00 p.m. It was still hot, but it cooled off quickly to just warm. We had great looks at a Mississippi Kite and a Swainson's Hawk near its nest with a juvenile.

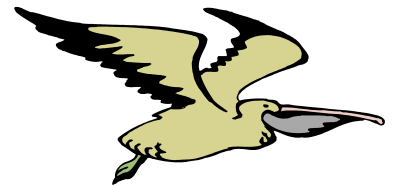
At sunset, we watched 20+ Lilac-crowned Parrots come to roost. Very noisy! Our final birds of the day were lots of Lesser Night-hawks flying above catching insects. This trip was well attended with 21 people.

Field Trips

Saturday, August 24, 2013
Down the Valley Reservoirs.

We'll be traveling down I-10 east to visit the reservoirs of McNary, Ft. Hancock and Tornillo. Possible sightings could be Western and Clark's grebes, Eared Grebe, White Pelicans, gulls, egrets, sandpipers, cormorants, herons and ducks of many species.

Recent sightings have been Tri-colored Heron, Black Vultures, and Caspian Tern.



We will meet at 6:30 a.m. at the parking lot at Burlington Coat Factory at 1144 N. Yarbrough. Exit at Yarbrough, at the light turn left under I-10. Burlington is on the right. Bring lunch, drinks, snacks, sun block. We'll be back in El Paso around 2-3 p.m. Non-members and beginners are welcome.

Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521.



Saturday, September 14, 2013
Sod Farms & Pancho Villa State Park
in Columbus, New Mexico

Pancho Villa State Park is an oasis for migrating birds as are the sod farms. Some birds we could see are the Black-throated Sparrow, Pyrrhuloxia, Crissal Thrasher, Greater Road-runner, and in past trips, we have seen Common Nighthawks and Whip-poor-will.

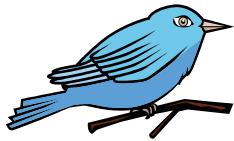
We will meet at 6:30 a.m. behind the Sam's Carwash in Sam's Parking Lot at 7970 N. Mesa. Bring lunch, drinks, snacks, sun block. There is a nominal fee at Pancho Villa State Park. Non-members and beginners are welcome.

Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521.

More Field Trips

Saturday, September 28, 2013 Cloudcroft in the High Pines

Join us for a trip high in the cool mountains. Some of the spots we might bird are Karr Canyon, the town of Cloudcroft, the Lodge at Cloudcroft, Bluff Springs and Rio Penasco Valley.



We will be looking for montane birds. We'll have a nice picnic lunch.

We will meet at the Lowe's Parking Lot at 4531 Trans-Mountain Rd., behind Taco Bell in Northeast El Paso at 6:30 a.m. Bring lunch, drinks, snacks. Non-members and beginners are welcome.

Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521.



Saturday, October 19, 2013 Percha, Caballo and Elephant Butte State Parks.

We'll travel north on I-25. We'll be looking for **gulls** and other water birds on the lakes and **grebes**. Percha is one of the top birding spots of New Mexico and we'll check it out to see what's there.



Meet at the Southwest corner of the Outlet Mall at Transmountain and Talbot (Talbot entrance to the Mall) at 7:00 a.m.

Bring lunch, drinks, snacks. Nonmembers and beginners are welcome. **Contact Mark Perkins at 637-3521.**

Friday Monday, November 8-11, 2013 Ft. Davis BIRDS AND STARS!

We will be heading east to the Davis Mountains. There are many places to bird in this area: Davis Mountains State Park, Balmorhea State Park, Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute and Davis Mountains Preserve. Most of these are fee areas.

Some of the birds we may see are the **Red-naped Sapsucker, Montezuma Quail, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Lark Buntings, Sage Sparrows** and **Osprey**. If conditions are good for night viewing, we will go to the McDonald Observatory atop Mt. Locke for a Star Party. Several large telescopes will be available for viewing and it will be quite entertaining. Reservations for the Star Party are required and there is a fee of \$10 for Seniors and \$12 for non seniors. There is limited space, so, no later than October 20, we will need your reservation if you want to go to the Star Party. Mark and Janet will leave on Friday, November 8. If you want to caravan or carpool with them, let them know.

Join us for any or all days of birding. More information will follow. We won't make the trip unless we have at least 6 people signed up. Mark your calendars!

January, 2014 Back to the Desert Phoenix Redo!

New places, old places. Martin Luther King 3-day weekend. Start planning now to join us.



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

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**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

August

Sat 10: **Rattlesnake Springs**
Feather Lake
3 & 11: **Rio Bosque**
Mon 12: **Board Meeting**
No General Meeting
Sat 24: **Down the Valley**

September

7 & 15: **Rio Bosque**
Mon 9: **Board Meeting**
Sat 14: **Sod Farms**
Mon 16: **General Meeting**
Sat 28: **Cloudcroft**

October

Mon 14: **Board Meeting**
Sat 19: **Percha Dam area**
Mon 21: **General Meeting**

November

8-11: **Ft. Davis, Birds&Stars**

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Local **Chapter Only Membership** Your \$15.00 will help support chapter activities & you'll receive

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