



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
Field Trips	4
Calendar	6

The e-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.

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



The 2019 Awards Dinner is fast approaching. Our program will be given this year by Dr. Dennis Miller with Gila Wildlife Rescue in Silver City, New Mexico. He will be discussing their work to save and rehabilitate injured raptors and mammals and how they are connected with wildlife rehabilitation efforts here in El Paso.

This year, we will be honoring EP/TPAS board member Kevin Floyd with our Meritorious Service Award. Our Conservation Award recipient will be Dr. Diana Natalicio for her unflagging support of the development of Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, one of our region's premier birding areas and example of how lands can be rehabilitated to productive wildscapes.



We will once again be holding the dinner at the Hyatt Place Hotel. Below are the details.

Date: Saturday, February 16, 2019

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 pm, with the program beginning at 7 pm

Location: Hyatt Place Hotel, 6030 Gateway Blvd. East (across from Bassett Place Mall)

Menu items to choose from (all include iced tea, punch or lemonade):

- **Marinated Brisket** with pasta, ranchero beans, warm bread with spicy cheese dip, and bbq sauce
- **Chicken Cordon Bleu** with wild rice pilaf or scalloped potatoes, green beans almandine, fresh tossed salad with ranch or Italian dressing and a dinner roll
- **Vegetarian Lasagna** with green beans almandine, fresh tossed salad with ranch or Italian dressing, and French bread

Costs:
Marinated Brisket - \$18/person
Chicken Cordon Bleu - \$28/person
Vegetarian Lasagna - \$18/person

Reservations are required and can be made by contacting Scott Cutler at 915-494-2193 or scottmcutler@sbcglobal.net by Feb.11. Please send your check (payable to El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon) to cover the cost of the meals to:

Scott Cutler
112 Colina Alta Drive
El Paso, Texas 79912

If you have any questions, you can call Scott at 915-494-2193. We look forward to seeing you on the 16th of February.

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: Kevin Floyd, 613-6354
Education: Kathleen Whelen, 820-1895
Field Trips: Mark Perkins 637-3521
Hospitality: vacant
Membership: Elizabeth Chase, 539-1191
Newsletter Editor: Kathleen Whelen, 820-1895
Programs: Susie Schneider, 542-3041
Publications: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Publicity: vacant
Sanctuary: John Sproul, 545-5157
Website: vacant
Facebook: Kevin Floyd, 613-6354

The Audubon
Foundation of
Texas



represents Texas
Audubon chapters in the Earth Share of Texas
payroll deduction plan for charitable giving.

General Meeting Centennial Museum at UTEP 500 W. University Ave

**March 18, 2019 7:00 pm
Program TBA**

Join us for a wonderful presentation that is sure to capture everyone's attention. The speaker is still unconfirmed at the time of The Roadrunner's publication. Be sure to watch your email for notification once the details have been secured and please plan to attend.

Our meetings are a great opportunity to meet and make friends with other bird-watching enthusiasts as well as learn something new about our natural world.

There are usually a few snacks at the back table. If you haven't noticed, we do have a vacancy for the position of Hospitality Chairperson (as well as Publicity and Website chairpersons). Feel free to bring a few snacks or drinks to share with the group.

If you would like to become more involved with our organization, please consider volunteering for a position. We welcome community participation and you do not need to be a bird expert to contribute.



Conservation Organizations

Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition
<https://chihuahuandesert237957817.wordpress.com/>

Second Chance Wildlife Rescue
www.secondchancewildliferescue.org
Josie Karam (915) 920-7867

El Paso Zoo 521-1850
www.elpasozoo.org

Stick House Sanctuary
<https://www.facebook.com/epwildliferescue>
(915) 219-2365

Keystone Heritage Park 581-7920
www.keystoneheritagepark.com

Asombro Institute
(Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park)
(575) 524-3334 www.asombro.org

Friends of the Rio Bosque 747-8663
www.riobosque.org

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

Franklin Mts. Wilderness Coalition
www.franklinmountains.org/

AT FEATHER LAKE

Feather Lake, not surprisingly, is dry. In 5 of the 8 previous Januaries, it was completely dry throughout the month. The other 3 years, it was completely dry for more than half the month. Prospects for water in February are even less likely: The lake has been completely dry throughout the last 8 Februaries.

Our next workday at Feather Lake will be **Sat., February 9**, starting at **9 a.m.** We will be transplanting some sand prickly-pear (*Opuntia arenaria*) that has grown into the trail that encircles the lake.



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

Audubon at

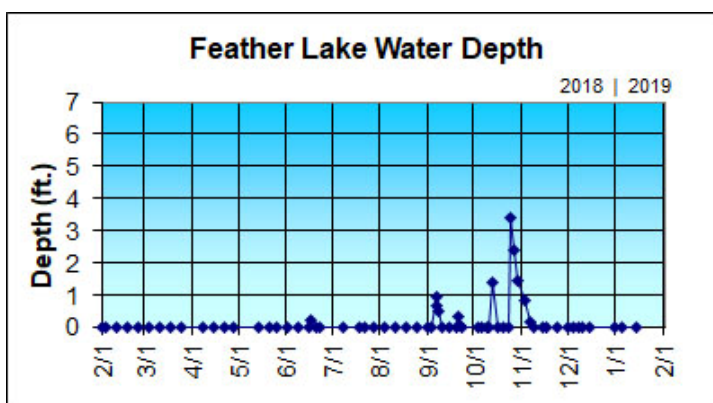
Rio Bosque Wetlands Park



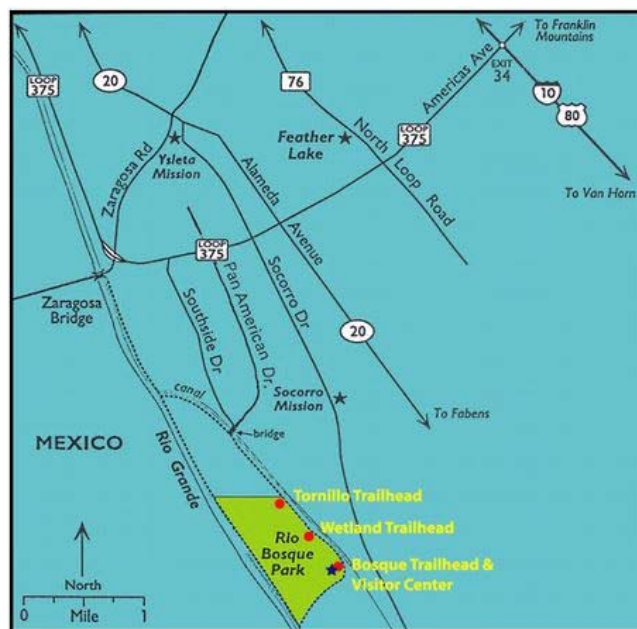
For the first time in 9 years, a beaver is present at Rio Bosque. When beavers visited in the past, they left when water deliveries were cut off and the park began to go dry. With some water more consistently available now, will this individual hang around? For up-to-date information on Rio Bosque's birds, its water conditions and its beaver, check www.riobosque.org.
Upcoming free walking tours:

- 8 a.m., Sun., February 3 (Bird tour)**
- 3 p.m., Sat., February 9 (Introductory tour)**
- 3 p.m., Sun., March 3 (Bird tour)**
- 9 a.m., Sat., March 23 (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.



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



Field Trips

Saturday, February 9, 2019 Ascarate Lake

Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot near the front entrance of Office Depot at Bassett Center, Geronimo and Gateway West.

We'll be looking for winter birds, water birds and raptors. There is a nominal fee of \$2.00 per car. Beginners and nonmembers are welcome. For more information, contact Mark Perkins at (915) 637-3521.

Saturday, March 2, 2019 Northeast El Paso

Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Lowe's Parking Lot at 4301 Transmountain Rd. behind Taco Bell. We will make several stops looking for raptors and wintering birds.

Beginners and nonmembers are welcome. For more information contact Mark Perkins at (915) 637-3521.



Join us on Facebook!

There is now an El Paso Audubon Society group on Facebook. Our aim is to provide a space for people around El Paso to share pictures, sightings, and other information about birds and conservation.

All levels of pictures are welcome. If you are looking for help with identification, please include the location and date of the picture, as both are important with narrowing the possibilities.

Costa Rica Birding Tour

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon is planning a Costa Rica Tour for March 2019. The places we will be going offer some great bird watching. The estimated price will be \$1,817.51 with the field trip guide paying his own way. The optional boat trip offered on Saturday, Mar. 17, will be an additional \$30.00. The trip cost quoted is for land-based tour. Roundtrip airfare to San Jose, Costa Rica, is the responsibility of each participant.

Some of the possible birds to be added to your life list include the following; Spotted Wood-Quail, Costa Rican Pygmy-Owl, Resplendent Quetzal, Collared Trogon, Buffy Tuftedcheek, Ruddy Treerunner, Ochraceous Pewee, Barred Becard, Zeledonia, Golden-browed Chlorophonia, Volcano Junco, Talamanca Hummingbird, Green Violetear, Gray-tailed Mountain-gem, Volcano Hummingbird, Scintillant Hummingbird. Fiery-throated Hummingbird, Violet Sabrewing, Flame-colored and Slaty Flowerpiercer, Lattice-tailed Trogon, Yellow-eared Toucanet, Streak-crowned Antvireo, Tawny-faced Gnatwren, White-throated Shrike-Tanager, Ashy-throated Bush-Tanager, Tawny-crested Tanager, Emerald, and Blue-and-gold tanagers, Keel-billed Toucan, Great Green Macaw, White-winged Becard, Sunbittern, Acadian Flycatcher, and Wood Thrush. Rarities seen here on occasion include Rufous-fronted Wood-Quail, Red-fronted Parrotlet, Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo, Black-crowned Antpitta, Gray-headed Piprites, and Sharpbill.

Additionally, \$200 of each person's trip price will be donated to the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society to help us fund important local bird conservation activities.

Please contact Scott for details regarding the itinerary and schedule. There are only 10 spaces. We need to get a sense of who would be interested in going on this trip. If you have any questions, please give Scott Cutler a call at 915-494-2193.



44th Annual WFO Conference

Albuquerque, New Mexico · August 21–25, 2019

WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS 44TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

In 2019, the Western Field Ornithologists (WFO) will hold their annual conference in New Mexico. It takes place August 21-25 in Albuquerque.

Workshops, science sessions, and field trips (lots of field trips) will be on the schedule. At this writing, details for the conference have not yet been announced. Check the WFO website periodically to learn when they are available:

<https://www.westernfieldornithologists.org>

Want to get better acquainted with the Chihuahuan Desert?



The Asombro Institute for Science Education (www.asombro.org) will be posting a scientist on duty at our Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park (56501 N. Jornada Rd., Las Cruces) on the first Saturday of each month starting February 2nd. We invite you to come out to explore and learn at the Nature Park! An Asombro Institute Scientist will be on duty from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM to answer questions and help orient visitors to the property.

There will be free drinking water, hot coffee, hot chocolate and cookies (while supplies last), free souvenirs, as well as souvenirs available for purchase. Scavenger hunts and trail guides will be available to help you explore the park. The Asombro Scientist will bring along the Institute's natural history collections to help visitors learn about the fascinating plants and animals of our region by examining skulls, pelts and plant samples.

The Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park encompasses 935 acres of pristine desert just outside of Las Cruces. The site features diverse native plants, wildlife viewing opportunities, and breathtaking views of the Organ and San Andres Mountains. Visitors can explore the park on the paved Desert Experience Mini Trail, or on the unpaved 1.2-mile Desert Discovery Trail.

The park is free to enter and open to the public year-round from Tuesday through Sunday, 7 AM-5 PM. There are restroom facilities and drinking water available near the parking area on Scientist Saturday Mornings. To get to the Nature Park from I-25 in Las Cruces, head east on Highway 70. Take the Mesa Grande Road exit (at Oñate High School). Make a U-turn under the highway to head west and stay in the right lane. Turn right (north) on Jornada Road. Follow Jornada Road for 6.4 miles and turn left at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park sign. Follow the entrance road to the parking area and trailhead.

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

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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 97194
Washington, DC 20090-7194**

Local Chapter Code C1ZW100Z

Dates to Remember Call Mark Perkins for details 637-3521

February

3 & 9: **Rio Bosque**
Sat 9: **Feather Lake**
Sat 9: **Ascarate Lake**
Mon 11: **Board Meeting**
Mon 11: **Awards Dinner, rsvp with payment deadline**
Sat 16: **Awards Dinner**

March

Sat 2: **Northeast El Paso**
Mon 11: **Board Meeting**
3 & 23: **Rio Bosque**
Mon 18: **General Meeting**

April

Mon 8: **Board Meeting**
Mon 15: **General Meeting**



www.trans-pecos-audubon.com

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