



# The Roadrunner

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

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*General Meeting September 17, 2007 at 7:00pm  
at UTEP Centennial Museum, corner of Wiggins & University*

Christina Kleberg, wildlife biologist with The Peregrine Fund, will speak on the Northern Aplomado Falcon re-introduction program in the southwestern United States at the El Paso / Trans-Pecos Audubon Society Chapter general meeting on Monday, September 17 at 7:00 PM in the UTEP Centennial Museum at University Drive and Wiggins Road.

Mrs. Kleberg will update us about her organization's drive to establish a self-sustaining population of the endangered falcons through captive reproduction, release and management. She will also share her personal experiences and her photos of work with these amazing birds.

The public is welcome. Refreshments will be served.


## TEXAS BIRD CONSERVATION ALLIANCE TAKES SHAPE

In May, news broke that the Department of Homeland Security had made extensive preparations for a border fence in the Lower Rio Grande Valley without seeking input from affected communities, as it had promised it would. Given the potential for the fence to set back years of work to protect and restore a corridor of irreplaceable wildlife habitat in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, the proposed fence generated a lot of discussion in the Texas birding community. That discussion led to a broader discussion of the multiple threats to wildlife habitat in Texas now looming on the horizon.

And from that discussion came a recognition of the need for a new level of coordination and sophistication in our approach to bird conservation in Texas. The Texas Bird Conservation Alliance (TBCA) is an effort to fill that need.

A statewide meeting to discuss formation of the TBCA took place in College Station on June 27. Approximately 50 people attended. To read a summary of the meeting, visit: <http://tbca.texasbirds.org/>. The consensus from the meeting was that the TBCA, rather than becoming a new formal organization, would be most effective as a loose affiliation that acts through existing organizations in the state. Its focus areas include: Science and Resource Management, Advocacy, Education and Outreach, and Recreation.

The TBCA's mantra: "All birds...All habitats...All conserved." We'll keep you posted as planning for this new alliance continues.



**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: Kathy Kiseda, 533-4615
Programs: Ursula Sherrill, 526-7725	Education: Kathleen Whelen, 751-2408
Conservation: vacant	Publications: Jane Fowler, 598-2448
Field Trips: vacant	Ways & Means: vacant
Hospitality: Janet Perkins,	Sanctuary: John Sproul, 545-5157

### Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park Butterfly Flutterby

The Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park is hosting the Butterfly Flutterby **on Saturday, August 18, 2007 from 9 am to noon**. These delicate critters grace our world and delight people of all ages. Come to the park to learn about them and how to attract them with a butterfly garden. For the kids there will be arts and crafts, butterfly sponge toss, and face painting. **Admission is \$1.**

The Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park is located northeast of Las Cruces. For more information, call the Nature Park at 524-3334 or check the Nature Park's web site at [www.cdn.org](http://www.cdn.org).

### Feather Lake Work Day Saturday, September 29, 2007 at 2:00pm



### 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/)

<http://www.gbarnett.com/eptpas/eptpashome.html>

El Paso Audubon Online supplements the Roadrunner and includes information about upcoming field trips, a calendar of upcoming events, recent bird sightings and an updated list of birding links to the Internet.

Make bird sighting reports at:  
**EIPasoBirdAlert @gbarnett.com**

## AT FEATHER LAKE

Thanks to intermittent storms and inputs of irrigation water, Feather Lake has remained consistently flooded this summer. It's a great thing to see after the basin was dry most of the summer the previous 4 years. The only drawback? The wealth of trash that storm flows washed in from upstream.

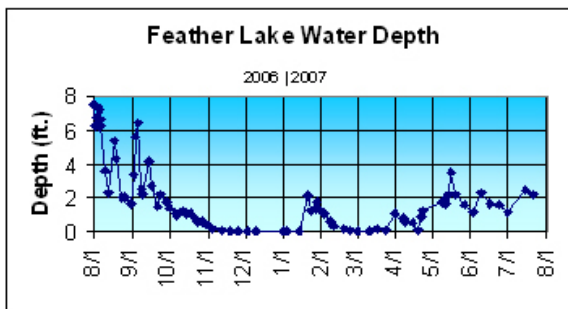
As happens periodically, this spring we found several freshly cut gaps in the chain-link fence surrounding the basin. As always, the City of El Paso Street Department was highly responsive to our request for repairs, and the fence, for the moment, is whole again. Thank you, Street Department!

Once again this year, we plan to re-open Feather Lake to the public in September to take advantage of the presence of water in early fall. That, of course, means 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 morning or afternoon at Feather Lake this fall. The work is easy, the setting beautiful.

We also welcome help at our next workday. It takes place **Sat., September 29**, an afternoon session starting at **2 p.m.** If the water level permits, we may go after some of the current flotsam. Bring your hip waders. If work in the basin isn't feasible, there is more than enough Kochia and tumbleweed to deal with in the upland areas.

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

Hours, starting in September, 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



Southbound migrant land birds began appearing at Rio Bosque in late July. For the latest on what is being seen, check the recent-bird-sightings page on the Park's website, [www.riobosque.org](http://www.riobosque.org). Upcoming free walking tours at the Park:

8 a.m. Sun., August 5 (Bird tour)  
8 a.m. Sat., August 11 (Introductory tour)

8 a.m. Sat., September 1 (Bird tour)  
8 a.m. Sat., September 8 (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.



# BIRD WATCHING

## Shore Birds



**Least Sandpiper**

One of the best places to find good birds in El Paso is the water and muddy areas of Northeast El Paso. In August the shore bird migration is at its peak. A plus for this date will be the high probability that passerine migration will be starting. We will also take a ride along Hawk Alley to check if the Red-tailed Hawks have started to arrive, and if any young Swainson's are still near their nests.

**Date:** Sun. Aug 12  
**Time:** 7:15 AM  
**Place:** South end of Lowe's Parking lot,  
4531 Trans Mt. Rd. (behind Taco Bell)  
**Coordinator:** **Bob Johnson 751-0125**

## Fort Davis

A great state park with many campsites and motels nearby in Fort Davis. Besides looking for Montezuma Quail and Black Hawks, we will also visit the restored Old Fort Davis. If Saturday evening isn't cloudy, a look at the night sky from the McDonald Observatory might be fun. We need at least six people, so call Bob, 751-0125, or email: [wildbirderbob@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wildbirderbob@sbcglobal.net) about meeting places and times.

**Date:** Sat. & Sun., Aug 18 & 19  
**Coordinator:** **Bob Johnson 751-0125**

## Down the Valley

McNary, Fort Hancock and Tornillo Reservoirs are usually good for Clark's and western Grebes, Gulls, Ducks, Egrets, Cormorants, also White Pelicans could be present. We might catch a few passerines and most likely some birds of prey, probably a Harris' Hawk and sometimes a Peregrine Falcon has been around. Bring something to eat as we will lunch at the Tornillo Rest Area.

**Date:** Sun., Sept. 9th  
**Time:** 7:45 AM  
**Place:** Feather Lake  
**Coordinator:** **Bob 751-0125**



**White Pelican**

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

**Bob's new phone number is**  
**(915) 751-0125**  
**E-mail** [wildbirderbob@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wildbirderbob@sbcglobal.net)

Bob is no longer doing the observation column, but will take reports until a volunteer is recruited to accept reports.

## HAWK WATCH

An overnight trip to the Monzano Mountains to observe part of the annual migration of **RAPTORS**. This is one of a number of sites in the west that Hawk Watch International uses as a counting and banding site for the study of raptor migration. The raptor count is conducted from about the middle of August until the first part of November. The observation point is located on Capilla Peak in the Cibola National Forest.

A few motels in Mountainair about 15 miles south from a campground below the peak and motels in Albuquerque about 50 miles north. This is a trip where you **Do Not** have to get out at sunrise as the birds are flying by all day. The latter part of September usually has some of the highest counts. A few years ago when we went they had the biggest count day with over 300 birds seen.

You will see various species up close, including hand held raptors that have been mist netted for banding. They will show the wings and body size and explain about the bird. You might be one of the persons that will be allowed to hold and release a bird.

This trip will occur on **September 29th & 30th**. For itinerary and maps contact **Bob "Wildbirder" Johnson 751-0125**.

## HUECO TANKS

**A Bird Identification Tour is conducted by the park on the 3rd Sunday of each month.**

**Admission: Hueco Tanks Historical Park - \$4.  
\$2 for Seniors 65, Children under 12 - FREE.  
Reservations not needed.**

### Bird Identification Tours

**Sunday August 19 7:07 AM**

**Sunday September 16 7:07 AM**

**Please check in at the Headquarters.**

**Information 857-1135.**

## Birdwatchers Welcome at Keystone

The gates at Keystone Heritage Park will be open the last weekend of each month. Just come and enjoy the birds. There will be **NO** guided tours, you will be on your own.

**August 25 7:30-9:45am**

**August 26 5:00-7:30pm**

**September 29 7:30-9:45am**

**September 30 4:30-7:00pm**

## Coming Soon New Albertson's Cards

**New Albertson's Community Partner Cards and an information packet will be mailed to you soon.**

iGive.com

### HOW IT WORKS

Join to Support El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society It's FREE, private, & easy. <http://www.iGive.com/html/refer.cfm?memberid=480225&causeid=38480>

Shop the online mall at iGive.com. You'll see familiar stores like Lands' End, Office Depot, JCPenney, Neiman Marcus, Expedia, Barnes & Noble, and eBay to mention just a few!

Referrals join through your personalized Tell-a-Friend link:

<http://www.iGive.com/html/refer.cfm?memberid=480225&causeid=38480>

(give this link to friends)

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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 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

August

5 & 11: **Rio Bosque**

Mon 13: **Board Meeting**

18 & 19: **Ft. Davis, TX**

Sun 19: **Hueco Tanks**

**No General Meeting**

Sat 18: **Butterfly Flutterfly**

(Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park) Sat 29: **Feather Lake**

25 & 26: **Keystone**

September

1 & 8: **Rio Bosque**

Sun 9: **Ft. Hancock/Valley**

Mon 10: **Board Meeting**

Sun 16: **Hueco Tanks**

Mon 17: **General Meeting**

Sat 29: **Feather Lake**

29 & 30: **Hawk Watch**

October

Mon 8: **Board Meeting**

Mon 15: **General Meeting**

**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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