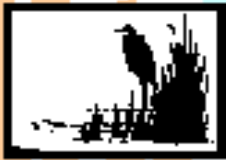


RIO BOSQUE NEWS

A newsletter reporting on events at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park

Center for Environmental Research and Management
University of Texas at El Paso



No. 36

July 2010

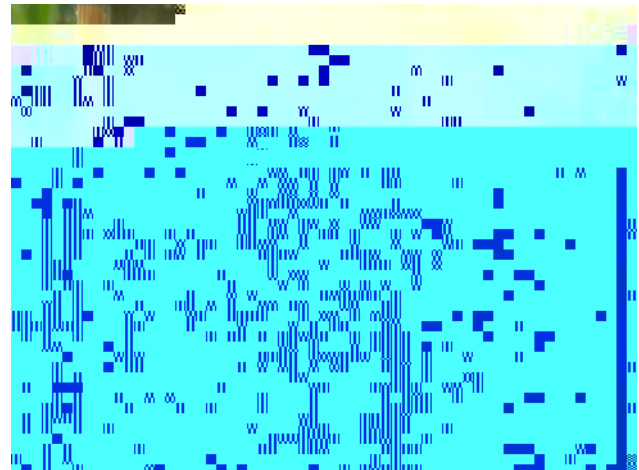
SECURITY MATTERS

Last year, vandalism and theft were unduly frequent occurrences at Rio Bosque's visitor center. With the help of many supportive donors, we are gradually recovering from those setbacks.

One big challenge has been to ensure our tools won't be stolen again in the future. Now, thanks to El Paso Water Utilities (EPWU), we have a solution.

Right from the start of the Rio Bosque project, the staff at the Roberto Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant has been fantastic, helping us in any way they could. Early on, we stored our tools at the plant. As our inventory grew, though, and our space needs increased, we moved many of those tools to the visitor center when it was built in 2004.

Now, EPWU is graciously allowing us to place a portable building on the plant grounds – the fenced



A Western Screech-Owl peers out from a Wood Duck nest box at Rio Bosque, 8 May 2010.

Since last fall, we've been finding Western Screech-Owls roosting intermittently in Wood Duck nest boxes at the park. No signs of nesting yet, but the day will likely come.

After last year's successful nesting, we weren't surprised to see a nesting pair of White-tailed Kites again this year. What did surprise us:



Friends of the Rio Bosque Membership Application

Name:

Address:

E-mail:

- Bosque Buddy (12 and under)\$6
- Student or Senior (62+)..... \$10
- Individual \$15
- Family \$20
- Bosque Booster \$50
- Cottonwood Commando \$75-\$249
- Restoration Patron \$250-\$499
- Wetlands Society \$500-\$999
- Life Member \$1,000

Please make checks payable to *Friends of the Rio Bosque* and mail to: Friends of the Rio Bosque, CERM-UTEP, 500 W. University Ave., El Paso, TX 79968-0684.

Next Meetings

Thurs., July 22
Thurs., Aug 26
Thurs., Sep 23
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
209-A Burges Hall

In mid-May, a second pair also began nesting! In addition, three groups of Harris's Hawks began nesting this spring. So far, we've seen no young in any of the kite or hawk nests. This may be related to low prey numbers. To date, as part of our faunal monitoring program, we've live-trapped just 22 small mammals in 2010, compared to 65 at this time in 2009. ✂

WATER WAGON UPGRADED

In spring-summer, when Rio Bosque is typically dry, we haul water to the park to help maintain plantings still getting established. This year, with many new plantings demanding attention, we've gone from watering one morning a week to watering three full days a week. Our water trailer is getting a workout!

Early on, we had a series of setbacks. The trailer's pump experienced repeated problems and spent more hours in the shop than pumping water at the park. The time had come for a new pump. As always, the Friends of the Rio Bosque stepped up. They provided funds for a new pump, installed it, and reconfigured the piping on the trailer to work with the new pump. Thanks, Friends! ✂

BOSQUE TRAILHEAD ACCESS

Along the east boundary of the park are 3 parking areas – the Tornillo, Wetland and Bosque trailheads. At the Tornillo and Wetland trailheads, access is direct from the Riverside Canal levee road. At the Bosque Trailhead, however, access now requires leaving the levee road and taking a short spur road to the trailhead. During this past dry spring, the spur