

RIO BOSQUE NEWS

A newsletter reporting on events at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park

Center for Environmental Resource Management
University of Texas at El Paso



No. 38

January 2011

WINTER WILDLIFE AT RIO BOSQUE



Ducks – and a few White-faced Ibis – over Wetland Cell 2 at Rio Bosque, January 12, 2011.

Water deliveries to Rio Bosque began November 14. As always, we thank El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 and El Paso Water Utilities for cooperating to make this water available.

It didn't take migratory waterfowl long to respond. Within 4 days, over 1000 ducks were present. By mid-December, the numbers had climbed to over 4,000. Some 16 different duck species appeared at Rio Bosque this winter. For the first time in 6 years, though, Eurasian Wigeon was not among them.

Birds of prey have also been prominent. This year's highlight was an immature **Bald Eagle** present January 3-4, the park's first since December 2003. Another nice surprise was an immature **Ferruginous**

Hawk on January 10. The last time one was reported from Rio Bosque was in January 1984.

It was an exciting period, but a short one. After a 56-day run, water deliveries ended January 9. The water was cut off to ensure favorable conditions for construction work in the Riverside Canal just downstream of the park. For a week, we enjoyed impressive concentrations of waterbirds at the drying wetland cells (see above). Then they were gone.

We are hopeful some water can again be made available to the park before the start of the irrigation season in March. ✈

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., Jan 27

Thurs., Feb 24

Thurs., Mar 24

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

209-A Burges Hall
UTEP

Info: 915-747-8663

AUDUBON CONTINUES SUPPORT

The El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society is one of Rio Bosque's most dedicated and loyal partners. Once again in 2010, Audubon provided vital support through its annual Birdathon fundraising event. Since 1998, Audubon has contributed \$14,781 to the park through Birdathon. It has also secured \$16,907 for Rio Bosque through the Supplemental Environmental Project program of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Rio Bosque operates on a shoestring budget, and support like this makes a huge difference in our efforts to restore native ecosystems at the site.

El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon's mission is to promote conservation and appreciation of birds, other wildlife and their habitats in Far West Texas. At Rio Bosque, it is doing just that. Thanks, Audubon! ✂

BOSQUE BANTER

January is when annual dues are due for the Friends of the Rio Bosque. If you are a member and haven't already renewed, you'll receive a renewal notice with the hard copy of this newsletter. If you are not a member, now is a great time to join (see front)!

El Paso County Water Improvement District No.1 continues to work on concrete lining the Riverside Canal next to the park. The work this winter is taking place along the park's south boundary and will continue until the 2011 irrigation season begins in March. You can [track construction progress](#) on the Rio Bosque website.

Speaking of the website, it has experienced some quirky formatting changes in recent weeks. Some

pages have even become invisible. Please be patient as we address these matters. ✂

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.riobosque.org

John Sproul 915-747-8663 jsproul@utep.edu

Want to help us save postage and paper by receiving this newsletter only via e-mail? Let John know.

Printing courtesy of Epson El Paso.

RIO BOSQUE CALENDAR

Join us at the park for a free walking tour or to help with habitat management, park maintenance or faunal monitoring. Coming up:

JANUARY

Sat., Jan 8	Bird Tour	3 p.m.
Sat., Jan 15	Community Workday	9 a.m.
Sun., Jan 23	Introductory Tour	9 a.m.

FEBRUARY

Sun., Feb 6	Bird Tour	8 a.m.
Sat., Feb 12	Introductory Tour	3 p.m.
Sat., Feb 19	Community Workday	9 a.m.

MARCH

Sat., Mar 5	Bird Tour	3 p.m.
Sun., Mar 13	Introductory Tour	4 p.m.
Sat., Mar 19	Community Workday	9 a.m.
Sat., Mar 26	Faunal Monitoring	8 a.m.

Meeting place for all activities is a bridge crossing the Riverside Canal. From I-10, take Americas Ave. (Loop 375) to Pan American Dr., turn left onto Pan American and travel 1.5 miles to the bridge. Please be prompt.

Return Service Requested

Center for Environmental
Resource Management
University of Texas at El Paso
500 West University Ave.
El Paso, TX 79968-0684

