

A newsletter reporting on events at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park

Center for Environmental Resource Management
University of Texas at El Paso

No. 1

October 2001

*Rio Bosque Wetlands Park represents a remarkable partnership. It is a **City of El Paso** park. **Ducks Unlimited** conceived and brought to fruition the wetlands project at the site. The **International Boundary and Water Commission** did the construction work. **El Paso Water Utilities (EPWU)** and **El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 (El Paso #1)** provide the water. **UTEP** manages the site, with guidance and support from throughout the El Paso community and beyond. Rio*

WILDLIFE

The bird list for the Park now stands at 182 species. One recent addition was truly remarkable. On May 28, 3 **Fulvous Whistling-Ducks** appeared on the flooded area in Wetland Cell 2. This species had been observed in the El Paso area only once before...near Ysleta on May 22, 1940! The whistling-ducks stayed at the Park through July 25.

Among the nesting birds at Rio Bosque this summer: Mexican Mallard, Cinnamon Teal, Common Moorhen, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Cassin's Sparrow, and Painted Bunting.

If you've visited the Park recently, you've no doubt noticed the wire cages surrounding most of our cottonwoods and willows. Last November, a **beaver** began frequenting the Park and started harvesting trees we had planted. So far, the cages have been an effective countermeasure.

The mammal list for the Park is growing and now stands at 15, thanks to UTEP biology student Ed

Espinosa. Ed live-trapped small mammals at the Park this summer. In 1200 trap-nights of effort, he caught 44 rodents, which included: white-footed mouse, deer mouse, Sonoran pocket mouse, and Western harvest mouse.