

PIPELINE UPDATE

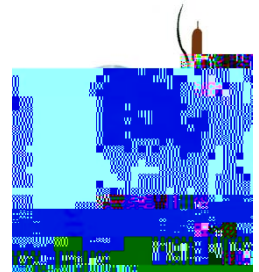
At this writing in early January, work on the new pipeline from the Roberto Bustante Wastewater Treatment Plant to Rio Bosque Wetlands Park is complete except for a 600-foot gap where the pipeline would cross the right-of-way for the old Rio Intercepting Drain, north of the park. El Paso County Water Improvement District #1 (El Paso #1) has

contracted with the City of El Paso to construct the pipeline through the right-of-way.

It has been noted that the pipeline will be installed in a trench that is 4 feet deep and 2 feet wide.

Even with limited water, there has been some notable wildlife activity in recent months.

In mid-to-late September, a juvenile Sabine's Gull, an Arctic nesting bird rarely found in El Paso, frequented the Riverside Canal for several days and could be seen at times from



October 6, it represented not only a 1st documented record of this dragonfly for El Paso County but just the 3rd for Trans-Pecos Texas.

” White-tailed Kites have not nested successfully at Rio Bosque since 2011. In mid-November, a 2nd kite joined the single bird that had been present all summer and fall. With serious courtship behavior already evident, we have high hopes for 2015.

” On a sad note, the collared peccary javelina that first appeared at the park in early June was killed in a collision with a truck along the Riverside Canal levee road in early November.

” With water limited in summer, the 3 Wood Duck nest boxes at Rio Bosque have never had nesting ducks, but Western Screech Owls roost in them occasionally. This fall and winter, screech owls have occupied all 3 boxes at one time or another.

NEW BURROWING OWL DISPLAY

Burrowing Owls are common, charismatic and conspicuous birds at Rio Bosque. Thanks to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) the