

## RIO BOSQUE NEWS

A newsletter reporting on eventsRato BosqueWetlandsPark

Center for Environmental ResourceManagement The University of Texas at El Paso



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## BIG BOSQUE BIRD BASH, NOV 23

Please join us at Rio Bosque on Saturday, Novo23 this year's Big Bosque Bird Bash Cooler temperatures, widespread water, arriving migratory birds and the first signs of fall color make November a great timefor a walk in the park. This free communityevent, sponsored by the Friends of the Rio Bosque with support from the City of El Paso's Parks and Recreation Departmetakes place from 10 a.m to 2 p.m. Event headquarters will be the park's visitor center. Parking will be at the near street the significant parking available at the

Wetland and Tornillo trailheadsJoin us for a free event with fun activities for the whole family. Learn about our rivervalley environment through tours, presentations, exhibits and interactive fun for kids. You won't want to miss it!

## ON THE WILD SIDE

After mid-March, we saw no sign of the beaver that visited the park last winter. But in early/yly, one returned, our first ever in summer. Maybe it was the same one. Maybe it never left. In any event, it zeroed in osome willow

| Trailhead with additional parking available at the |  |
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| Friends of the Rio                                 | Bosque Membership Application Life Member\$1,000 Wetlands Society\$500-\$999 |
|  | FRIENDS C. T.  |

saplingswe had protected with plastic tubes to keep muskrats from girdling the young tree\$\mathbb{T}\$he tubes proved no match for the beaver. Nor did they deter gophers from striking from below to dine on recently transplanted cottonwood seedlings we discovered in August We lament the losses but understand them. They are among the myriad intertions among organismsthat are shaping the park's ecosystems over time. The willows, it should be noted, bounced right back with new growth. The cottonwood seedlings, though, were completely consumed.

Recent months brought several new bird species to the park, most notably a juvenile Comm@dack Hawk that Ad Konings photographed Sep 14. New mammals are a little harder to come byt on Sep 12 we added one when Western Spotted Skunk

strolled into the field of view of one of the trail cameras Lois Balin is using in her Burrowing Owl studies at the park.

## WATER NOTES

Since midJuly, the well near the park\sisitor center has beenweb\(\mathbb{m}\)\(\mathbb{B}\)\(\mathb