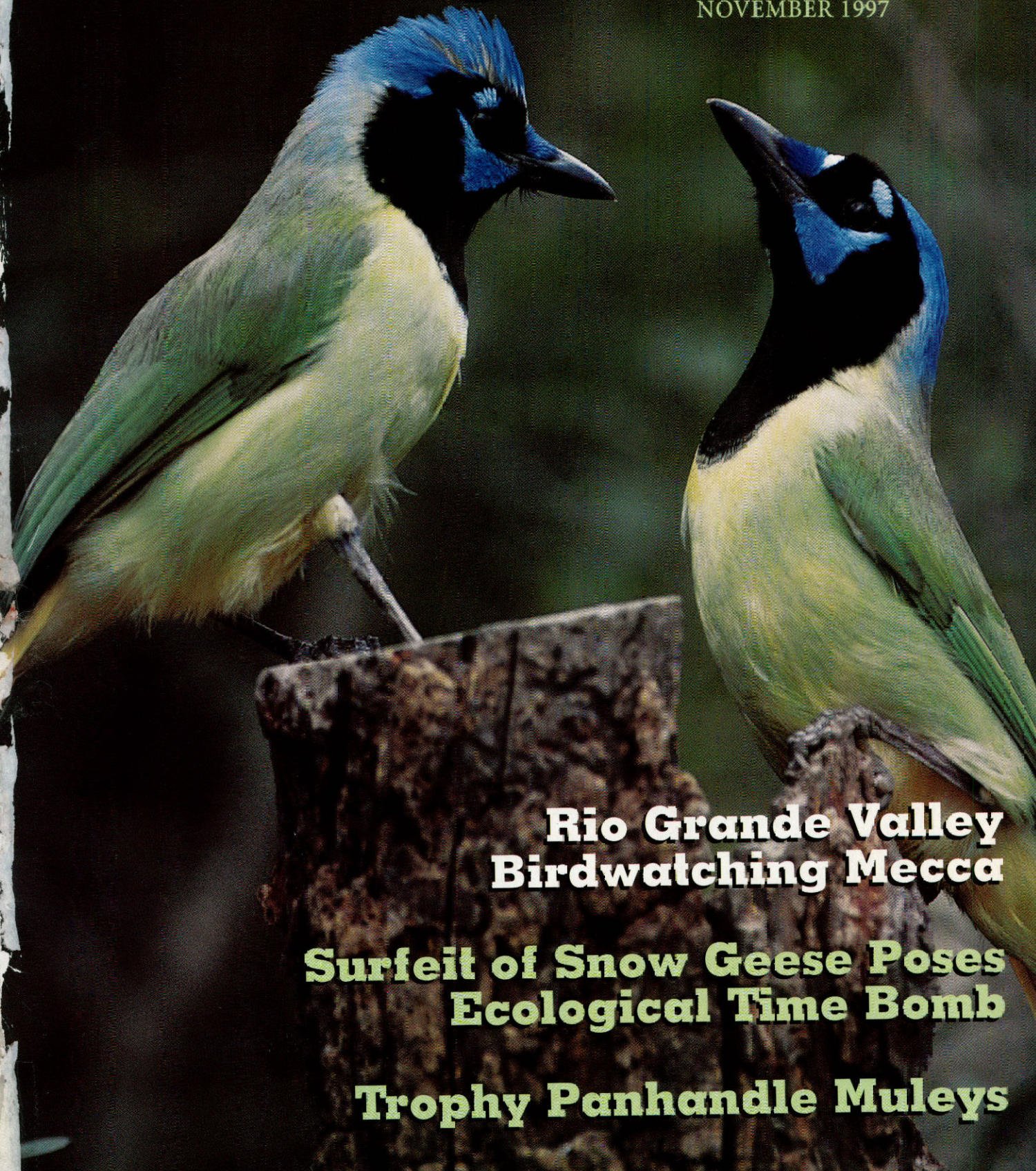


HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE FOR OUTDOOR LOVERS

P400.0  
P235  
55:11

# TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

NOVEMBER 1997



**Rio Grande Valley  
Birdwatching Mecca**

**Surfeit of Snow Geese Poses  
Ecological Time Bomb**

**Trophy Panhandle Muleys**



# Cab Fourward.



Ram  The New Dodge



The truck that changed the rules was already foremost in available payload and towing. And now Dodge Ram is fourmost in accessibility. Introducing the new Ram Quad Cab™... the industry's first and only four-door, extended-cab pickup.†

ment Publications  
State Documents

JAN 07 1998

Ram Quad Cab's four doors open to the roomiest interior of any extended cab,† a newly redesigned instrument panel and a new, standard passenger-side airbag.††



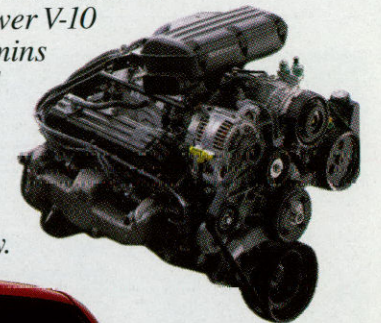
Dodge Ram has won Strategic Vision's Total Quality Award™ for "Best Ownership Experience" in a Full-Size Pickup, three years in a row.\* For more info, call 1-800-4-A-DODGE or visit our Web site at [www.4adodge.com](http://www.4adodge.com)

Building better bodies through computers—our new four-door Quad has the same structural soundness as our two-door Club.



ostory  
Public Library

Nothing matches the powerful line of Magnum® engines, with a V-6, a choice of two V-8s, the largest, most powerful gas engine on the market—a 300-horsepower V-10—and a Cummins Turbo Diesel that delivers more torque than any other diesel you can buy.



All comparisons based on data available at time of printing.

†Excludes Crew Cabs. ††Always use seat belts. Remember a backseat is the safest place for children. Rearward-facing child seats can be used in the front seat only with the passenger airbag turned off. \*Based on Strategic Vision's 1995, 1996 and 1997 Vehicle Experience Studies™ of 31,440 ('95), 45,652 ('96) and 31,521 ('97) Oct.-Nov. new vehicle buyers of 170+ ('95) and 200+ ('96 and '97) models after the first 90 days of ownership.





In October, more than 40,000 people streamed onto the grounds of Texas Parks and Wildlife in Austin to experience the Sixth Annual Texas Wildlife Expo. Most of them came as families, and their presence, along with the dazzling array of exhibits and activities, confirms the exploding interest in the Texas outdoors.

Expo also punctuated some key insights in the outdoor recreation and conservation arena. First, the outdoors is rapidly diversifying—every day someone discovers a new way to have fun outside, and participation in nontraditional outdoor pursuits is increasing exponentially. At the same time, nontraditional groups, including women and minorities, are becoming more involved.

The outdoor industry is booming, and its economic impact on Texas continues to grow. Texas is the number-one hunting state in the nation and the top destination for bird watchers in the world.

Finally, the clear commitment of Texans to conservation is evident. Expo tells us that while more and more families seek recreation in the outdoors, there also is steady support for our state's heritage. Survey after survey confirms that support for conservation is high. That support certainly is welcome, because in spite of the euphoria, there are some clouds on the horizon. For the long term, our greatest social challenge is that those segments of our Texas population that are growing the fastest are least likely to be involved in the out-

doors. Further, our population is expected to double in the next generation, which means the demands on our natural resources, particularly water, will be immense.

On the landscape, as Texas is overwhelming privately owned, the greatest threat to our wildlife habitat is the continued breakup of family lands into smaller and smaller parcels. In addition, again due to the pattern of land ownership, public access to the outdoors is reaching crisis proportions.

Finally, Texas ranks 48th among the states in the amount of funding we provide for outdoor recreation and conservation. On one hand that makes us very proud of all we are able to provide on so little. On the other hand, we cannot continue to meet all the demands being placed on us now, much less when the Texas population doubles.

Toward that end, the legislature has directed us to take a hard look at the system of state parks, wildlife management areas and hatcheries that we manage for you. We must determine first if it is the right mixture of conservation assets and outdoor recreation opportunities for the next century. And we must examine whether we are managing those lands and facilities as efficiently as possible and whether they meet both the mandate for protection of our natural and cultural heritage and the changing needs of outdoor recreation.

We look forward to involving you in that process.

ANDREW SANSOM, *Executive Director*

I N D E C E M B E R



© WYMAN MEINZER

*A purple haze veils the Chinati Mountains of far West Texas. This newest and yet-unopened state natural area was acquired at no cost to any Texas taxpayer. We'll visit next month.*

NEST BOXES JUST DUCKY

The once-endangered wood duck has readily adapted to man-made wooden dwellings.

WHEN WOOD BOATS RULED EAST TEXAS

Plank paddleboats once were the utilitarian workhorses of backwater sportsmen on East Texas waters.

HOLIDAYS IN THE PARKS

A listing of this year's events, scheduled for state parks across the state.

HUNTING JAVELINAS IN WEST TEXAS

Patience can pay off for black powder hunters at Elephant Mountain Wildlife Management Area.



**18 When It 'Snows' It's Poor** An exploding population of lesser snow geese—four times as many as biologists think desirable—is wreaking havoc on its Canadian nesting grounds. The birds are destroying their habitat, and unless something is done soon, millions of snow geese are going to die slowly from starvation and disease.  
*by Larry D. Hodge*

**26 Texas's Best-Kept Deer Secret** Texans who travel to the Rocky Mountains to hunt mule deer drive right through excellent mule deer country in the Texas Panhandle. While the Trans-Pecos region of West Texas has most of the state's muleys, Panhandle mule deer have two factors in their favor: the Panhandle receives more rainfall than West Texas and, unlike West Texas, the Panhandle has thousands of acres of farmland and muleys grow fat on the scattered crops of corn, winter wheat and grain sorghum.  
*by Brandon Ray*

**32 Nature in Motion** Nature is constantly moving, from the waves of the sea to clouds scudding across the sky and leaves blowing in the wind to the fluid motion of animals. See how some of our contributing photographers have captured the sights of nature in motion.

**40 The Bird is the Word** Among the nation's birding intelligentsia, Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park boasts a stellar reputation, ranking among the top 10 birdwatching locales in the United States. In addition to birding, the park offers diverse habitats for unique plants and animals, hiking trails to explore the park's many attractions and a wealth of outdoor activities.  
*by Rob McCorkle*

## DEPARTMENTS

- 2 At Issue**      **4 Letters**      **8 Trail Mix**  
**48 The Folks at Three Corners**    **50 Outdoor Datebook**  
**52 TV and Radio Schedules**      **60 Parting Shot**

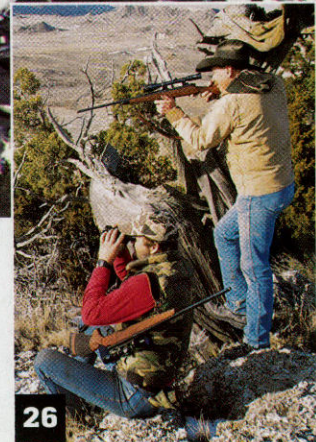
## COVERS

**Front** A pair of colorful green jays rests on a fence post in the South Texas brush country. More than 290 bird species have been documented at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. See story on page 40. Photo © Larry Ditto. Canon T90 camera, 500 mm 4.5 camera lens plus 1 extension tube, 1/250 sec. @ f4.5, Kodak 64 film.

**Back** Photographer Doug Miller used three exposures on one sheet of film for this shot of Enchanted Rock. The first exposure was f/16 @ 1 second. As the moon moved higher, he made two more exposures, both f/16 @ 1/15 second without moving the camera. The sky was dark by the time he made the second and third exposures. He used a Sinar F-1 4x5 view camera, Schneider 150mm f5.6 lens and Fuji Velvia film. Photo © Doug Miller



18



26

© GRADY AL

© ROBERT ILES



40

© LAURENCE PA





WHO PAYS?

How is the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department funded? What percentage is budgeted by the legislature, what percentage comes from fees at parks and what percentage comes from hunting and fishing licenses?

The reason I ask is because the majority of hunting in Texas is on private land, albeit fishing is on public waters, and I for one resent my fees for licenses which, in my opinion, go to fix conservation areas for campers, birdwatchers and environmentalists. Let them pay just as we do if they want to use or look at something. The problem with liberals—and I consider your magazine to have a very liberal slant—is that they want other people to foot the bill for their pet projects. Let them pay a \$60 to \$100 fee each year to hike, watch birds and sigh over sweet little fish and salamanders.

Ray Miller  
Rio Frio

➤ I would like to address several issues regarding state parks in Texas. First, I would like to see more articles regarding state parks and campgrounds in your magazine. I would also like to know how these parks are funded. I have been told most are self-sufficient and are at risk of being closed because of lack of funds. If this is true, I would like to know where the money for hunting and fishing licenses is spent. Why don't the parks get funding from tax money, cigarette and alcohol taxes, lottery, etc?

Camping is one of the last family-oriented activities left today and the Texas State Parks make it affordable to most families. It would be a shame for something fun and educational for the whole family to end because someone in Austin can't balance the budget.

In closing, I would like to compliment Wayne Haley and his staff at South Llano River State Park in Junction for their care and maintenance. I recommend a visit to this park for anyone who likes camping and playing in the water, as well as fishing

and birding. It has something for everyone.

Shirley Laurence  
Corpus Christi

■ Jayna Burgdorf, chief financial officer: *More than 60 percent of the agency's revenue comes directly from user fees. Other sources include the sporting goods sales tax, which is the portion of sales tax attributable to sporting goods. Per statute, these funds go to support state parks and local park grants. Unclaimed motor boat fuel tax refunds are statutorily dedicated to all authorized agency purposes.*

*By FY94, almost all the revenue supporting the department was related to the functions of the agency. By linking every dollar of revenue to the consumers of its products and services, Texas Parks and Wildlife has created a more businesslike approach to financing and operations. Texas Parks and Wildlife also tries to ensure that one group, e.g. anglers, is not paying a disproportionate share of the funding for the agency versus the benefit they are receiving. Anglers want to know that their fees support stocking efforts and boater education. Texas Parks and Wildlife is statutorily prohibited from using funding sources for purposes other than those authorized by law.*

*All monies must be appropriated by the legislature in order for the department to spend them. The legislature approves appropriations to each state agency. Appropriations are simply authority to spend money. Appropriation does NOT equal cash. We must collect the revenue in order to spend it.*

*For FY97, anglers will contribute an estimated 23.4% of all agency revenue while hunters will equally contribute an estimated 23.4% of all agency revenue and park visitors will contribute an estimated 17.4% of total agency revenue.*

[www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us)

➤ Just a note to let you know that Texas Parks and Wildlife has done an excellent job with its web page. Not only do you provide information about Texas, you provide links to other states. In visiting some of these links, I realized just how user friendly your web site is. It makes me feel the money my family spends on my hunting and fishing licenses and our Texas Conservation Passport has been well-spent in making Texas more accessible to its citizens.

Bryan Stewart  
Lake Jackson

WRONG BIRD

I believe if you check you will find that the "western sandpiper" pictured on page 45 of the August issue actually is a sanderling. This entitles you to join the untold zillions of Americans who have made the same mistake.

Jim Stevenson  
Galveston

SEPTEMBER ISSUE

➤ Your September issue is a real winner! I especially appreciated the articles on research at Chaparral Wildlife Management Area and the Pease River country. Over the years, I've enjoyed several javelina hunts at Chaparral, and have applied but not been selected for deer hunts. The WMA is a real treasure, and David Synatzske and his staff have been unfailingly helpful and cordial.

At the end of the Pease River article, you characterize Russell Graves as a freelance writer and agricultural science instructor. I'd call him a Photographer (with a capital "P")! His photos show exceptional artistry and, together with his prose, make me want to pack up and head for the Panhandle with my camera. Whenever I've passed through that area, it's been a stopover on the way to or from Colorado. Next time it will be a destination.

Robert S. Mathews  
Houston

BOBCATS

➤ On July 7, 1997, around 3:30 p.m. I was driving from Austin to Houston on U.S. 290 between Elgin and Giddings when a large cat ran across the highway in front of my car. I got a very good look at it, and it had tufted ears and rings on its tail. I think it was a bobcat. Can you tell

*Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine welcomes letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Our address is 3000 South IH 35, Suite 120, Austin, Texas 78704. Our fax number is 512-707-1913.

➤ Letters preceded by this symbol came to us via e-mail. Our e-mail address is: [magazine@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:magazine@tpwd.state.tx.us).

We reserve the right to edit letters for length and clarity.



**T E X A S  
P A R K S & W I L D L I F E**

NOVEMBER 1997, Vol. 55, No. 11

*To manage and conserve the  
natural and cultural resources of Texas  
for the use and enjoyment of  
future generations.*

**G O V E R N O R of T E X A S**

GEORGE W. BUSH

**C O M M I S S I O N**

- LEE BASS, *Chairman, Fort Worth*  
 RICHARD (DICK) HEATH,  
*Vice Chairman, Dallas*  
 ERNEST ANGELO, *Midland*  
 JOHN AVILA, *Fort Worth*  
 MICKEY BURLESON, *Temple*  
 RAY CLYMER, *Wichita Falls*  
 CAROL DINKINS, *Houston*  
 SUSAN HOWARD-CHRANE, *Boerne*  
 NOLAN RYAN, *Alvin*  
 PERRY R. BASS, *Chairman Emeritus,  
 Fort Worth*

**E X E C U T I V E  
D I R E C T O R**

ANDREW SANSON

**M A G A Z I N E S T A F F**

- LYDIA SALDAÑA, *Communications Director*  
 DAVID BAXTER, *Editor*  
 MARY-LOVE BIGONY, *Managing Editor*  
 ROB MCCORKLE, *Associate Editor*  
 SUZI SANDS, *Art Director*  
 BILL REAVES, *Photography Editor*  
 MARY W. BEVILL, *Office Manager*

**E D I T O R I A L O F F I C E**

3000 SOUTH IH-35, SUITE 120  
 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78704  
 PHONE: 512-912-7000  
 FAX: 512-707-1913  
 E-mail: [magazine@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:magazine@tpwd.state.tx.us)

**C U S T O M E R S E R V I C E**

P.O. Box 17668  
 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78760  
 PHONE: 800-937-9393  
 7 a.m.-11 p.m. Monday-Friday  
 8 a.m.-6 p.m. weekends

me if bobcats are prevalent around this area?

I very much enjoyed the article about mountain lions in the August issue. Thanks for all the hard work you all put into the magazine. I've learned so much from you and have had wonderful vacations in many of the state parks that you have featured.

Brigid Lattner  
Houston

■ Biologist Peggy Horner: *Bobcats are known from every county in Texas and are considered common. Their densities are higher when there is plenty of dense foliage for hiding, and where other predators, such as coyotes, foxes and mountain lions, are scarce. Although bobcats are very shy and secretive, they are very adaptable and have been known to coexist around human settlements without being detected. They hunt at night, usually targeting small mammals and birds.*

**DINOSAUR VALLEY**

Thank you for the great article on Dinosaur Valley State Park (July). I have many memories of the area, as I spent one summer some 30 years ago teaching arts and crafts at Tres Rios YWCA camp near Glen Rose. We saw many dinosaur tracks when we went swimming in the river. We also took overnight camping trips by horseback. The horses, sensing my inexperience, would give me a wild ride!

I would be interested in knowing if the Tres Rios YWCA camp is part of Dinosaur Valley State Park.

Shirley Martin  
San Antonio

■ *The camp is not part of the park.*

**GRATEFUL TEXANS**

I read Andrew Sansom's editorial in the August issue, and just wanted to remind you of how grateful many of us Texans are for the fine steps your department has taken in recent years to provide us with fine state parks and to encourage us to use them. I have seen major improvements in our state park system in my nearly 30 years of residence here. The Gold Passport and now the Discovery Passport and other bargains are excellent ways to market our fine state parks.

Don't let anyone convince you to stop trying to create new revenues in order to

provide the services we citizens want and deserve. Your joint efforts at programs with private groups, such as horse camping weekends and guided fishing trips, are wonderfully creative and exactly the path we need for you to continue to pursue. I'm not sure how your department, your fine magazine and the *Texas Conservation Passport Journal*, (both of which I read upon arrival) were impacted by the recent legislative session, but don't you dare "pull back" on any of these fine new services without giving us, your park users, magazine readers and Texas taxpayers, the right to have a voice. Keep up your good work.

Kay C. Taebel  
Arlington

**ANOTHER TUNNEL**

We have been subscribers to *Texas Parks & Wildlife* for some time and enjoy the magazine and its stories most of the time.

"Down the River of Time" in the September issue has prompted this letter. Mr. Graves, in speaking of the department's Caprock Canyons Trailway, indicates that the rail line that ran from Estelline to South Plains was converted into a hiking and biking trail and the old track bed goes through *the only rail tunnel left in the state.*

I am surprised that the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department staff did not catch this, since the department also manages the old railroad tunnel (now inhabited by bats) that is located several miles east of Comfort. It was on the rail line between there and Fredericksburg and was blasted through the hill range for that line many years ago.

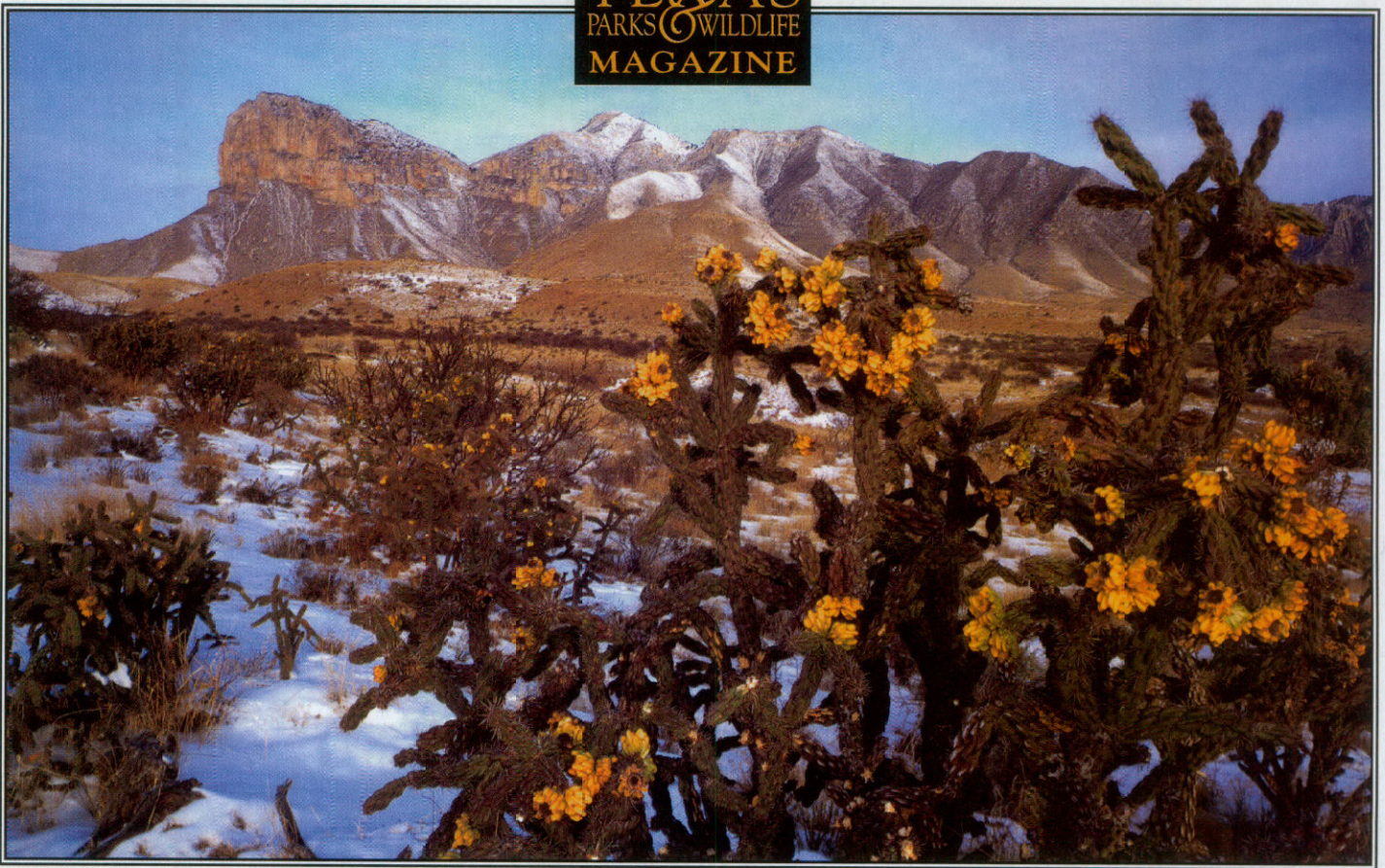
We hate the thought of "our tunnel" being unknown and ignored by writers of articles for publications such as this one.

Thanks for letting me set the record straight.

Betty Johnson  
Comfort

■ *The tunnel to which Mrs. Johnson is referring is now managed by Texas Parks and Wildlife as the Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area. From 1913 until 1942, the Fredericksburg and Northern Railway operated a key trade route to San Antonio through there. Today the tunnel is the summer home to an estimated 1.2 million Mexican free-tailed bats.*





© EARL NOTTINGHAM

## Give 12 Mini-Vacations to Those Who Love Texas. It's a Natural.

WHEN YOU GIVE FRIENDS AND FAMILY TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE  
HOLIDAY GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS, YOU'RE GIVING THE MOST NATURAL GIFT OF ALL — TEXAS.  
AND FOR AROUND A DOLLAR A MONTH!

With a copy of *Texas Parks & Wildlife* in hand, your friends and family finally will know their Big Thicket from their Big Berd, and where to go and what to do all over the state. Plus in 1998, *Texas Parks & Wildlife* will celebrate the 75th birthday of Texas's first state park with special articles, guest notables and photo essays throughout the year as an additional treat to readers. All with first-class photography and super writing.

It's just the ticket for super holiday gifts to all who love the Texas outdoors.

It doesn't get much better than this: a big gift for small change. All you have to do is fill out the order form in this issue and send it in. We'll do the rest. We'll even send handsome cards for you to announce your gift.

**In a hurry? Call Toll Free  
1-800-937-9393**



**ADVERTISING**

**OFFICE**

JIM STONE

Advertising Director

512-912-7007

JENNIFER WALLACE

Classified Ad Manager

512-912-7003

3000 South IH-35, Suite 120

Austin, Texas 78704

**ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES**

**TEXAS / SOUTHWEST**

AJR & ASSOCIATES

1937 West Gray, Suite 216

Houston, Texas 77019

713-942-7676

**MICHIGAN / OHIO**

THE NOYD GROUP

2145 Crooks Ave., Suite 200

Troy, Michigan 48084

810-643-7240

**MIDWEST**

RICKERT & ASSOCIATES

7520 Edinborough Way, Suite 2203

Minneapolis, MN 55435

612-835-0506

The inclusion of advertising is considered a service to subscribers and is not an endorsement of products nor concurrence with advertising claims.

Copyright © 1997 by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. No part of the contents of this magazine may be reproduced by any means without the permission of Texas Parks & Wildlife. The magazine is not responsible for unsolicited materials provided for editorial consideration.

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE magazine (ISSN 0040-4586) is published monthly by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$14.95 per year.  
Foreign subscription rate: \$22 per year.

POSTMASTER: If undeliverable, please send notices by form 3579 to Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine, P. O. Box 17668, Austin, Texas 78760. Periodicals postage paid at Austin, Texas, with additional mailing offices.



Member International Regional Magazine Association

# DISCOVER THE WORLD'S TREASURES With A RadioShack® Pro Metal Detector

Two Models:  
83-3007 \$199.99  
63-3012 \$299.99

Model 63-3012 Shown

Outstanding Features  
Include:

- Target Identification
- Trash Reject
- 3-Tone Audio
- Easy Operation



Discover the hobby of **Treasure Hunting**. It can be fun, easy and rewarding. Find Gold... Silver, Rings, Coins, and Valuable Relics.

Come in for a **Free Demonstration** Or Order By Phone **1-800-THE SHACK®**

**RadioShack**

You've got questions. We've got answers.®

Prices apply at participating RadioShack stores and dealers.



Attractive enough to supplement the wildlife in your backyard.  
Durable and dependable enough to go on any ranch.

## ALL SEASONS FEEDERS

(210) 648-0979 or (800) 841-1720

8424 Hwy 87 East, San Antonio Texas 78263

detail listing of all our products @ [www.allseasonsfeeders.com](http://www.allseasonsfeeders.com)



# Trail Mix

News & Notes  
from Texas & Elsewhere

## Hunters for the Hungry Making a Difference

As hunting season gets underway, deer hunters might want to keep Hunters for the Hungry in mind.

Since 1991, more than 340,000 pounds of venison have been distributed to hungry Texans through Hunters for the Hungry. Sponsored by the End Hunger Network, Hunters for the Hungry gives hunters the opportunity to donate their legally harvested deer. Hunters can take their deer to any of the 115 participating processing plants in Texas. A tax-deductible donation of \$15 is required for processing. The venison is ground, packaged and then distributed through the Texas Second Harvest Food Banks.

For more information call the End Hunger Network at 713-963-0099.



© LONE STAR PHOTOGRAPHS

## Off-season Camping Opportunities Abound In Texas

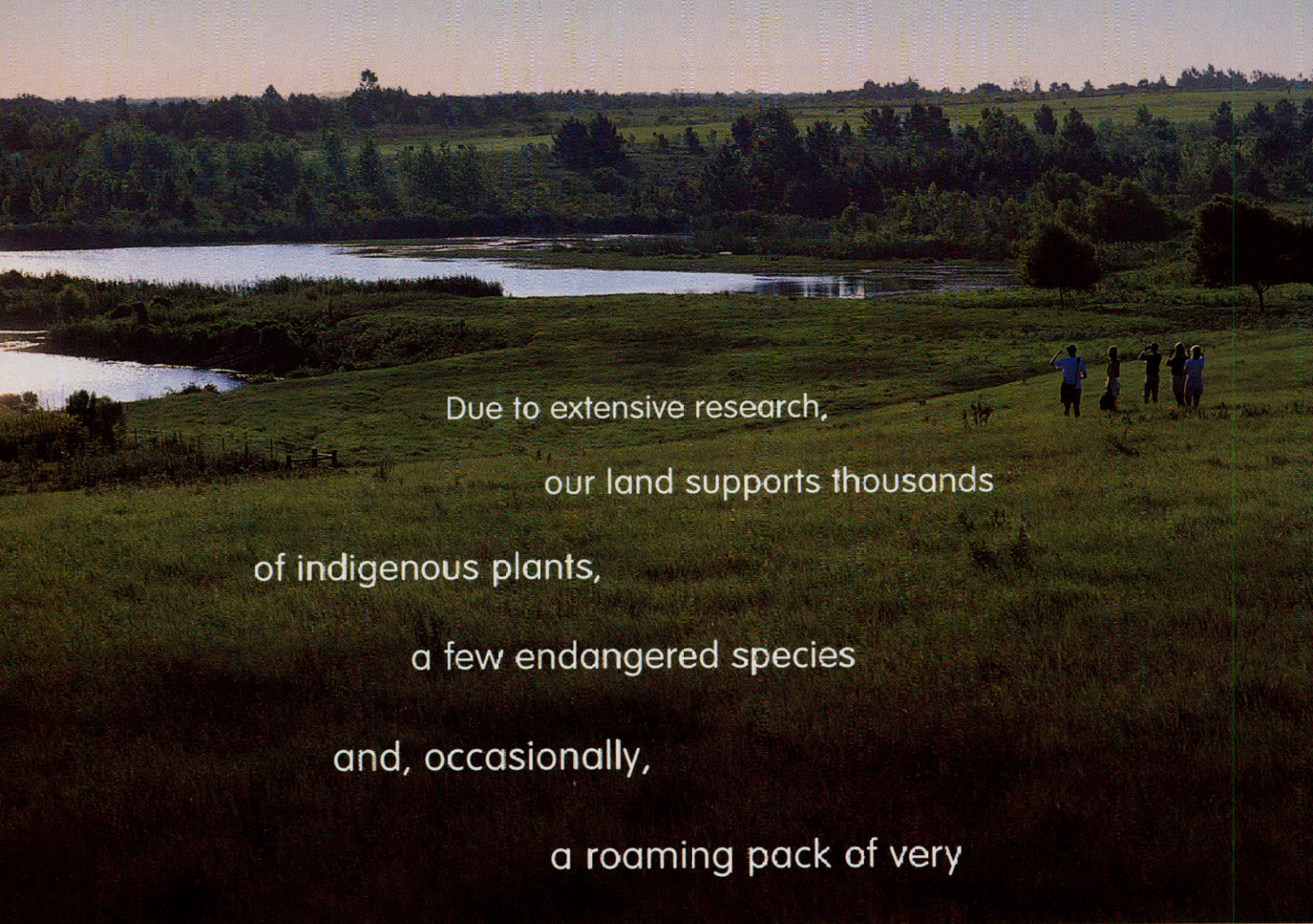
More and more Texans are discovering that camping isn't just for summer anymore and that off-season trips to enjoy the outdoors offer a number of advantages.

Campers this fall and winter can choose from more than 50 Texas state parks from the scenic mountains of West Texas to the lush forests of the Pineywoods to sun-soaked Gulf beaches. Fall and winter campers will enjoy cooler weather, less crowding and special seasonal incentives.

A new promotion by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department offers holders of a Discovery Passport a chance to earn a free night of camping in a state park from November through February. A passport holder can earn a free night of camping for every five overnight stays at a state park campsite or screened shelter. In addition, a number of state parks offer special seasonal pricing during the camping off-season.

Camping ranks among the leading outdoor recreation activities in the United States, according to the 1994-95 National Survey on Recreation and the Environment. An estimated 42 million Americans camp, up 24.5 percent from 1982-83. It outranks such popular outdoor recreational activities as cross-country skiing, boating and jogging.





Due to extensive research,  
our land supports thousands  
of indigenous plants,  
a few endangered species  
and, occasionally,  
a roaming pack of very  
curious schoolteachers.

This is our Environmental Research Center in Fairfield. Out here, we're perfecting new ways to preserve and protect the world around us. Professors then use this land to instruct schoolteachers about how they can institute environmental education programs in classrooms all over the state. You see, these professors believe, as we do, that the best place to learn about the environment is the environment. And the best way to pass this knowledge along is to put it in the hands of the men and women who teach our children.





### Poachers Beware!

Billboards promoting the Operation Game Thief (OGT) program will debut in November in 22 locations across Texas.

Operation Game Thief is a privately funded program organized in 1981 to assist Texas Parks and Wildlife law enforcement efforts by offering rewards for information on flagrant game and fish law violations.

Eye-catching billboards are part of a pilot program being launched during the peak hunting season urging Texans to call a toll-free number and report game law violators. The goal is to raise public awareness of the program, which offers rewards of up to \$1,000 for information leading to a conviction.

Since its inception, OGT has logged more than 20,000 calls resulting in 6,581 convictions and nearly \$1 million dollars in fines assessed against game law violators.

### Leaf Hotline Opens

The Lost Maples leaf color change report is up and running. A recorded message will be updated each Thursday through Thanksgiving at 512-389-4449 or 1-800-792-1112; select options "3" and "1."

The Lost Maples State Natural Area color display usually begins in late October and sometimes lasts through Thanksgiving, depending on the weather. Cool, dry weather produces the best color. Campsites for weekends go quickly; to reserve a campsite, call the Central Reservation Center at 512-389-8900. Parking space allows only 250 vehicles, so plan your visit during the week if possible.

Lost Maples State Natural Area is located 86 miles northwest of San Antonio and five miles north of Vanderpool off Ranch Road 187. For further information, call the park at 830-966-3413.

Also, the USDA Forest Service has a toll-free number with information about fall foliage viewing in national forests. It is 1-800-354-4595.



### Quail Tales

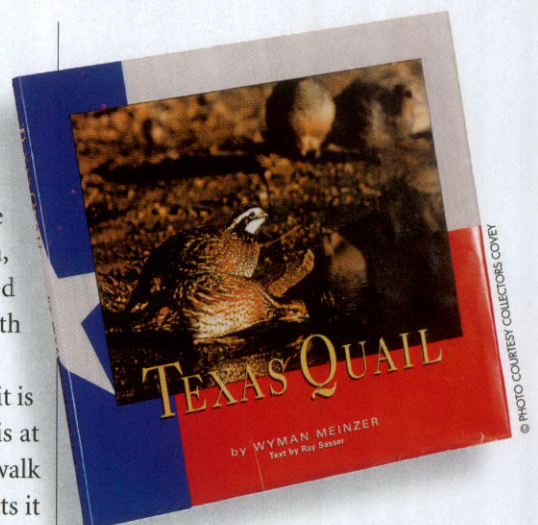


If you've been nice, not naughty this year and you're a quail hunter, Santa might just bring you *Texas Quail*, a beautifully photographed and lively written ode to genteel "Mr. Bob" and his rascally scaled cousin "Mr. Blue." The 158-page hardback, published, appropriately enough, by Dallas-based Collectors Covey, features eye-catching color photographs by Texas State Photographer Wyman Meinzer and compelling text by *Dallas Morning News* outdoor editor Ray Sasser.

*Texas Quail* promises to be to a quail hunting junkie what chocolate chunk ice cream is to a food-a-holic. The award-winning Meinzer-Sasser tandem explains in words and images what it is to be smitten by the quail hunting bug when

November rolls around each year. Chapters cover everything from Texas's quail hunting culture and heritage of bird dogs, shotguns and pre-dawn country cafe breakfasts to the subtle differences of hunting the diminutive upland game bird in open, rolling West Texas plains, rugged Panhandle habitat or the thorny South Texas brush country.

But perhaps, as Sasser points out, it is the civility of quail hunting, which is at its worst a "pleasant, thoughtful walk through rolling countryside" that sets it apart from other types of hunting that require standing waist deep in freezing water or sitting motionless for hours in a deer stand. Only the 200,000



Texas quail hunters know for sure.

The book sells for \$60. To order call 1-800-521-2403



## Big City Forest Saving Trees

Ten percent of the virgin lumber cut in the United States is used to make wooden pallets—those flat wooden platforms used for stacking and moving shipped goods around with forklifts. And these pallets can present a disposal problem for the companies that use them. Companies pay up to \$12 per pallet for someone to haul them away, often to a garbage dump.

A Bronx, New York company called Big City Forest is recycling discarded pallets to make furniture. Companies needing to dispose of used pallets pay Big City Forest just 75 cents each to take them away. Big City Forest employees then sort them by wood type: about one-quarter of the pallets are soft wood such as pine and fir; three-fourths are hardwood such

as oak, maple, cherry and even mahogany, which is common in pallets from tropical countries.

The hardwood pallets become items such as coffee tables, benches, computer stands, dining tables and bookcases that sell for five to 10 percent less than comparable furniture items made from virgin timber. Most of the buyers are schools, libraries and similar institutions that need solid, but not fancy, well-made furniture.

Since 1994, Big City Forest has saved its customers well over \$2 million in pallet disposal costs. Recycling those pallets has kept more than 9,000 tons of wood out of landfills and has conserved more than 1,200 acres of virgin timberland, including 900 acres of hardwoods.

## Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center Announces New Hours

The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC) in Athens, Texas, has announced a change in visitor center hours. Effective September 1, the TFFC's visitor center hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. The visitor center will be closed on Mondays as well as the following holidays: Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Day and Easter.

For more information on the TFFC, call 903-676-2277.

### Did You Know?

About half of the nearly 330 known species of crayfish are endangered or imperiled.

There are five Texas streams named Salado:  
Salado Creek in Bexar County, Maverick County, Webb County,  
Williamson County, Zapata County

A toad absorbs water through the soft skin of its belly and groin.

Ninety-nine percent of all forms of life that have existed on earth now are extinct.

A shrimp has more than 100 pairs of chromosomes in each cell nucleus. Man has only 23.

With only a few exceptions, birds do not sing while on the ground.

## The Finest Wildlife Experience In Texas.



Just north of San Antonio is a wildlife oasis tucked away in the beautiful Texas Hill Country. The Diamond K Ranch is a working ranch, devoted to wildlife hunting, fishing and photography. We offer a large population of Axis deer, non-native animals and trophy Whitetail deer. Experience for yourself one of the most exclusive hunting adventures in Texas.



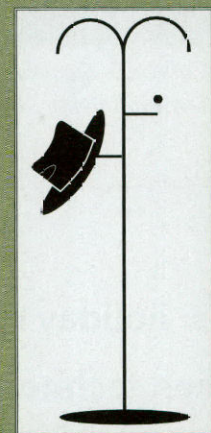
**DIAMOND K RANCH**

Sisterdale, Texas

SAN ANTONIO: 210.527.2701  
RANCH OFFICE: 210.524.6727

P.O. BOX 65103 • SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78265

## Looking for a place to hang your HAT?



Historic Accommodations of Texas (HAT) is one of the many goods & services you'll find in the Outdoor Marketplace. Just turn to page 56 and take a look.

**OUTDOOR MARKETPLACE**  
GOODS & SERVICES for the OUTDOOR ENTHUSIAST



# Twelve Hints FOR THE HOLIDAYS

by G. Elaine Acker



*San Antonio, above, is the site of one of Texas's largest celebrations of La Posada, a reenactment of Joseph's and Mary's search for lodging that is a tradition in Mexican communities.*

© LONE STAR PHOTOGRAPHS

---

Texas's holiday celebrations reflect our state's diverse heritage, and in an age when technology and commercialism sometimes dominate the season, it's possible to revive age-old rituals, make them our own, and create a sense of magic. What is your cultural heritage? What are your family's traditions? We made a list of 12 things to do this year and we hope you'll discover some that help you create a memorable holiday season.



**1. Steal a kiss under the mistletoe.**

The use of mistletoe combines the Celtic belief in the plant's magical powers with the Roman custom of kissing to seal a betrothal. Mistletoe has long been associated with love and the practice of kissing underneath the mistletoe. Texas has nine species, which you'll find clinging to mesquite, hackberry, oaks and cottonwoods. Ninety-five percent of the world's supply is harvested in 12 Texas counties.

**2. Gather family groups and friends to read from holiday favorites.**

Sit by the fireplace or settle around the Christmas tree and spend an evening without the television. "The Night Before Christmas" was written by Clement C. Moore in 1822 for his six children, and Larry Chittenden wrote "The Cowboys' Christmas Ball," his account of a festive frontier ball held in 1885. Both capture the mood of a 19th-century Christmas.

**3. Keep in touch with old friends with holiday greetings.**

In England, in the early 1800s, decorative sheets of writing paper became popular. Schoolboys demonstrated their penmanship with elaborate Christmas pieces, and established the Christmas card tradition. Try creating homemade cards using blank cards and pasting bits of evergreen, fall leaves or photographs to the front. Or, laminate the card with dried, pressed flowers.

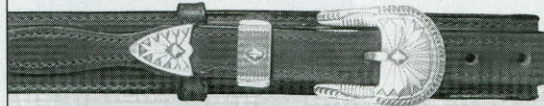
**4. Light candles around the home, and plan a quiet, candlelight dinner.**

The holidays can be hectic, and candles can

# SCOTT-WYNNE OUTFITTERS



BUFFALO NICKEL BELT



RANGER BELT



Shotgun Shell Stud Set

LEATHER TRIMMED  
"COOL-It"  
WITH MONOGRAM



713 942 8121



800 528 8121

THE VILLAGE ARCADE, 2516 UNIVERSITY, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77005

## A Proud Texas Tradition!



Buckle Style SC 101

Allow 2 weeks  
for delivery

Shown smaller than  
actual buckle size of  
3 1/2" W X 2 3/4" H.

All buckles  
gift boxed

### Presenting the State Seal Commemorative Buckle

Fine Texas craftsmanship makes this buckle a lasting tribute to the Lone Star State's year of independence. Cast in solid German nickel silver, this unique buckle honors the proud history of the Texas State Seal.

\_\_\_\_ Check or money order enclosed.

Please send me \_\_\_\_ SC 101 buckles @ \$59.95 ea.

Include postage & handling @ \$6.50 ea. \_\_\_\_\_

Texas residents add 7.25% sales tax \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Orders Call

Toll Free: 1-800-934-2358



Mail orders to:

**BELT BUCKLES UNLIMITED**

P.O. BOX 680885

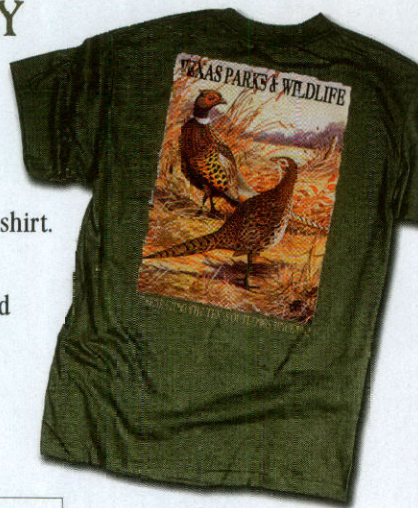
HOUSTON, TX 77268-0885



## BEGIN THE LEGACY

Texas has always been about its land, from the richness of the Gulf Coast to the vastness of the High Plains. Celebrate this spirit and the legacy it creates with the first collectable Texas Parks & Wildlife classic Wildlife T-shirt.

Pulled from our great vintage magazine covers of yesteryear, our generously sized 100% cotton shirt features two splendid pheasant on a rustic cedar green background. Front features Texas Parks & Wildlife logo.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate quantity of each size:

\_\_\_ M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ XL @ \$16.95 each

\_\_\_ 2XL @ \$18.95 each

Add \$4.95 (S&H, includes sales tax) per shirt

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Available in sizes M to 2XL.

Allow 4 weeks for delivery.

Make check or money order payable to:

Wildlife T-Shirt

3000 S IH35

Suite 120

AUSTIN TX 78704

soothe the nerves. Make time to share dinner with your "significant other," and keep the holiday activities in perspective. In Ireland, during a time of English Protestant persecution, farmers and commoners placed candles in their windows to guide priests to their homes for mass. Many Irish still place candles in a holly wreath to burn throughout the holy night.

### 5. Give gifts that speak to your heart, not your wallet.

The legendary wise men traveled to Bethlehem bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, establishing the gift tradition. Today, we have a multitude of choices and sometimes a sense of obligation when finding gifts for holiday giving. We also may discover we're in a financial bind when January's credit card bills arrive. Make a list, and think about each person on it. What is important to them? Do you need to brave the shopping malls and specialty stores, or can you shop from home through a mail order catalog, or the internet? Can you make something by hand? Early Germans believed that a gift made by hand was a gift of oneself.

### 6. Host a gift wrapping party.

Once the gifts are selected, the next daunting task may be wrapping them. Turn a chore into a party by having one or several friends bring wrapping paper, bows and colorful bags. You can share the trappings, the friendship and a memorable evening. In Holland, gifts were hidden in heads of cabbage or hidden inside potatoes dressed as dolls.

## Merry Texas, Again!

Second in a series of collectible ornaments, this 1997 edition commemorates the official seal of The State of Texas.

Presented in exquisite detail and color, it is enhanced by a 24k gold finish. The 1996

First Edition, the

Texas State Capitol, is also offered.

Available by

phone (512) 305-8408 or from the Capitol Gift Shop, P.O. Box 13286, Austin, Texas 78711. Individually gift packaged.

Proceeds support Capitol Preservation Projects. \$18.40 per collectible (includes tax and S&H).



Actual Size 3 1/4". Made in USA



1996 Texas State Capitol





MARIO GONZALEZ, TPWD

*A hand-made wreath makes a nice gift for the hard to please.*

**7. Select and cut a Christmas tree.**

The Christmas tree is a longstanding German tradition, which became permanent part of Texas Christmases in the late 1880s. The trees combined pagan and Christian beliefs and symbolized the promise of spring. In Texas, families gathered to search for the perfect tree, and made a family ritual of selecting and cutting the tree. Today's Christmas tree farms allow Texans to continue this tradition. For an old-fashioned look, decorate the tree with cookies, apples, oranges and handmade ornaments.

**8. Organize a group of carolers.**

It doesn't matter whether you can carry a tune in a bucket; just surround yourself with friends who can. Music brings a smile both to those who sing, and those who listen. Caroling can spread holiday cheer in neighborhoods, nursing homes or on

downtown street corners. You may want to sing these and other carols from around the world: "O Tannenbaum" and "Silent Night" (Germany); "Adeste Fideles" and "The First Noel" (England); "O Holy Night" (France); "Auld Lang Syne" (Scotland); and American tunes such as "Jingle Bells," "White Christmas" and "Santa Claus is Coming to Town."

**9. Visit one of Texas's many light displays**

(and maybe take someone who might not otherwise be able to get out and enjoy them). From Marshall's courthouse square and Kilgore's oil derricks to Corpus Christi Bay to Johnson City, Texas tree lighting ceremonies and massive light displays fuel the holiday spirit.

**10. Hang a stocking with care.**

Children and adults alike gaze at bulging stockings with excitement and curiosity. Fill stock-

**Brenham Sausage Co.**  
Authentic German Recipes

★ **TEXAS STAR** ★  
Pecan Wood Smoked and Dried Meats

Beef Jerky      Ring or Pencil Sausages  
Hand Cut/Bulk packed      Regular or Hot

Brenham, Texas      USDA Inspected  
**1-800-460-5030**      Mastercard Visa  
Products shipped priority mail

MEMBER

**THE STORE AT PECAN VALLEY**

Locally Grown Pecans  
• 14 Varieties of Specialty Pecans • Soda Fountain  
• Holiday Desserts • Custom Gift Baskets  
• Corporate Gifts • Mail Order

**HUNTERS STOP BY IN YOUR CAMO FOR A FREE CUP OF COFFEE AND ONE OF OUR SPECIAL PECAN COOKIES.**  
Pick up hunter snacks for the trip or great goodies to take home!

Retailer of Premium Papershell Pecans  
HWY 377 West of Stephenville  
P.O. Box 854  
Stephenville, Texas 76401  
1-800-4-PECANS (473-2267)  
TEL 254-965-5792 FAX 254-965-4460  
<http://www.pecans.com>

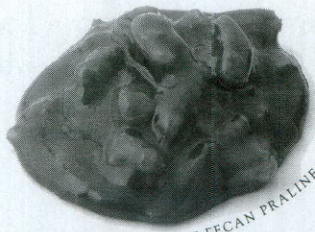
Open Monday-Saturday 10:00 am-6:00 pm  
Sunday hours are seasonal.  
Call for a FREE Catalog

Historic Accommodations of Texas (HAT) presents  
**The Great Stays of Texas**  
The Official Guidebook to Texas' finest Historic B&Bs, Country Inns, Hotels and Guest Houses

• Inn-surance for the discriminating Texas traveler  
• Inn-spected and approved by Historic Accommodations of Texas  
• Inn-dulgent recipes  
• Inn-credible history  
• Inn-valuable travel tips  
• Only \$9.95!

Call 1-800-HAT-0368





"TEXAS CHEWIE" PECAN PRALINES

THERE'S A  
REASON  
WE'VE BEEN  
HERE  
SINCE  
1885.



To order call: 800/252-1885  
Austin: 512/310-2223 • Fax: 512/310-2280  
Visit one of our nine retail stores  
www.lammes.com



MARIO GONZALEZ, TPWD

ings with balloons, balls, bandanas, batteries, beads, belt-buckles, books, bracelets, bubblebath, bullets, candles, candy canes, CDs, chocolate, cocoa mix, coffee beans, cologne, compasses, crayolas, diaries, disposable cameras, earplugs, film, fishing lures, fishing line, flashlights, gems, gift certificates, incense, jellies, jewelry, kaleidoscopes, keychains, lace, lollipops, lanyards, magnets, magnifying glasses, marbles, notepaper, nuts, ornaments, pens, pocketknives, potpourri, puzzles, ribbons, shoelaces, soap, socks, software, spices, stamps, stuffed animals, tools, tulip bulbs, watercolors, whistles, yo-yos.

popcorn, nuts and stale bread. If birds and animals come to the feast, there will be good fortune in the year ahead. You can create a holiday sanctuary for birds by hanging feeders and providing a constant



FOR OVER 40 YEARS, PRATERS MEATS HAVE BEEN HICKORY-SMOKED IN THE LARGEST SMOKEHOUSES IN WEST TEXAS. THIS ALLOWS EACH MEAT TO HAVE ITS OWN UNIQUE FLAVOR. WHATEVER THE SEASON OR OCCASION, PRATERS HAS THE PRODUCT TO MAKE IT SPECIAL.

- TURKEY
- BACON
- BRISKET
- HAM
- CHICKEN
- GIFT BASKETS

GIFTS FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND EMPLOYEES!

PRATERS FOODS, INC.

1-800-580-9693  
FAX (806) 748-1373  
WWW.PRATERS.COM  
CALL FOR A FREE BROCHURE!

**ii. Create a winter oasis for birds.** Many Scandinavian countries offer Christmas treats to birds and small animals. In Norway, horses and cattle share generous helpings of grain, and even a portion of Yule ale. Birds enjoy "Christmas trees" made from sheaves of unthreshed grain tied to poles or door posts. Germans decorate outdoor trees with apples,





water supply (especially when the temperatures dip below freezing!) Make a New Year's resolution to maintain your avian oasis, and you'll share a sense of Christmas all year round.

**12. Experience the holiday from another point of view.**

Jewish communities celebrate Hanukkah, or the Festival of Lights, which commemorates the rededication of the Temple of Jerusalem after it was defiled by Syrians. Mexican communities celebrate Christmas with Las Posadas, a re-enactment of Joseph and Mary's search for lodging. One of the largest celebrations is held on San Antonio's Riverwalk. Other events across the state include a glimpse of a frontier Christmas at the Cowboy's Christmas Ball in Anson, and

Christmas at Old Fort Concho. A British influence is found at Galveston's Dickens on the Strand.



*Individually, we bring a backpack filled with family and cultural traditions to the holiday season. By combining and sharing these traditions, we learn to appreciate Texas's diversity and create meaningful symbols for a joyful season.*

*Happy holidays from Elaine and the staff of Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine.*



**Opposite Page:** *Selecting the perfect tree is a tradition for many families. Here, a docent at Starr Family State Historical Park hangs a hand-made ornament. Above:* *In Marshall's town square, the courthouse and other buildings blaze with lights.*

The Authorized  
**Texas Ranger Cookbook**  
 Great recipes, vintage photos, and Ranger tales straight from a Texas trail ride.

Share a (delicious) piece of Texas history with friends and family this season—makes a great gift!  
 Harris Farms Publishing, P.O. Box 191, Hamilton, TX, 76531  
 1-800-657-9019

From the authors of the award-winning *Texas Ranger Cookbook*

**Mama's Cookin'**  
 Recipes & Remembrances

Hearty, homemade, easy-to-use heirloom recipes (plus great stories & photos) from our family to yours.

Share this gift of love and tradition with your family.  
 Harris Farms Publishing, P.O. Box 191, Hamilton, TX, 76531  
 1-800-657-9019

*Delicious!*  
**TEXAS LEAN**

**BEEF JERKY**  
 NEW PRODUCT—TURKEY  
 Call for information  
**1-800-848-3515**  
**Chickasaw Trading Co.**  
 P.O. Box 1418, Denver City, Texas 79323  
<http://www.discover-texas.com/chickasaw>

U.S. Inspected and Passed by Department of Agriculture EST. 7203

MARIO GONZALEZ, TPWD



# WHEN IT 'SNOWS' IT'S POOR

A large flock of snow geese flying in a blue sky. The birds are in various stages of flight, with some wings spread wide and others tucked. The sky is a clear, deep blue, and the birds are a mix of white and dark feathers, creating a dense, textured pattern against the background.

*An exploding population of snow geese threatens to cook Arctic marshlands' environmental goose unless wildlife managers can find a palatable solution.*

BY LARRY D. HODGE

Imagine lying flat on your back at the entrance to a beehive as thousands of bees crisscross the sky just above your nose. That's what it's like on the Texas coast as hundreds of thousands of geese check out of their roost ponds at dawn and buzz off to find breakfast. Layers of geese at different heights heading in all directions weave a living tapestry in the sky. It's as if they're stitching a giant celestial comforter into which one can snuggle and know all must be right with a world that can produce beauty in such abundance.

I hate to give up that vision. And I would hate to go goose hunting just to kill geese. But due to a combination of factors, the mid-continent population of lesser snow geese now greatly exceeds the carrying capacity of its Canadian nesting grounds. Perhaps 6 million birds—four times as many as biologists think desirable—are systematically destroying the habitat where they live four months of the year. Unless something is done soon, millions of snow geese are going to die slowly from starvation and disease.

The irony is, the only way to save them from this fate is to kill them more quickly. But as is so often true when humans intervene in the workings of nature, it isn't quite that simple. In fact, human intervention created the problem, which looms as one of the biggest crises ever to face wildlife managers. Dedicated to the proliferation and expansion of the species, wildlife biologists now find themselves in the uncomfortable position of having to find ways to kill off the very animals they have worked so hard to propagate. Yet their hands are tied,





© GARY KRAMER

since they currently have neither the means nor the legal authority to do what's necessary to reduce snow goose numbers to the desired level.

The problem facing wildlife managers from Canada and the United States is a potential public relations nightmare, and solving it will require drastic alterations in attitudes, approaches and activities of national and state wildlife agencies. To complicate the matter, private citizens—nonhunters and hunters alike—must support and actively participate in the process, or it is doomed to failure. Goose hunters and guides, farmers who lease land for hunting, birdwatchers, wildlife refuge managers, conservation associations and retailers who sell supplies and services to hunters and birdwatchers all have a stake in the outcome because they all share part of the blame for the problem.

**HAVE A RICE DAY** Nature writer Aldo Leopold is cited frequently in conservation articles, but in the case of the snow goose, a quote from Walt Kelly's Pogo is more apropos: "We have met the enemy, and he is us."

Snow geese hatch goslings in the summer; fly south in the fall; winter where they can find food, water and safe roosts.

and fly north in the spring to begin the whole process anew. This annual cycle operated and balanced itself naturally for untold thousands of years, with the limited amount of food in coastal salt marshes reducing overwinter survival and keeping goose numbers in check.

Then came wheat farming in North Dakota and rice farming on the Texas coast. Geese found rice nice while wintering in Texas, which hosts a major segment of the mid-continent population of lesser snow geese. Beginning in the 1940s and increasing rapidly since, abundant supplies of waste grains on the wintering grounds enabled more birds to survive and make the trip north to breed and reproduce. Farmers and hunting clubs on the Texas coast flooded fields to provide roosting habitat and improve hunting. During their annual stopover in North Dakota, geese gorged in wheat fields. They arrived at the breeding grounds in peak condition—ready to mate and reproduce. During this same time, numerous state and national wildlife refuges were established to provide food, water and protection from hunting, which also increased survival rates. The result: living became easy for snow geese, and their numbers rose sharply.

While the goose population multiplied, fewer hunters killed

**Above:** Snow goose hunting is a popular recreational activity in Texas, as well as an important economic factor, attracting thousands of nonresident hunters annually from other states and countries. Snow geese may be in trouble unless the population can be brought into balance with its breeding habitat.



a smaller portion of the flocks. In 1970, hunters killed nearly 40 percent of the geese each year, but by 1994 the kill rate decreased to less than 8 percent. The snow goose population spiraled out of control. Biologists set the desirable size of the mid-continent population at 1.5 million, but the annual flight swelled to as many as 6 million birds. Public and private efforts at goose management had succeeded to the point of failure.

**HUNTER HEAVEN, GOOSE HELL** Goose hunters from North Dakota to Texas revel in the sight of huge flocks of geese. One of the most awesome experiences in nature comes to goose hunters lying in muddy rice fields west of Houston listening as tens of thousands of geese discuss at the top of their lungs where they're going to feast today. As the eastern sky brightens and ducks whip past in the semi-darkness, the clamor on roost ponds swells to a roar and then, as if at some signal, thousands of geese roll off the ground in a white cloud, each honking like a demented taxi driver.

The huge numbers of geese on the wintering grounds present goose hunters with a bounty beyond their ability to consume. Wildlife management has created a hunter's heaven, but there is trouble in paradise. An environmental disaster in the making looms behind the billowing clouds of snow geese.

Most lesser snow geese in the mid-continent population nest and rear their young on fragile Arctic and sub-Arctic coastal marshes west of Hudson and St. James Bays, in the

and graze on grasses, destroying the habitat. The best estimate is that the geese have wiped out 35 percent of the vegetation in their nesting area and so badly damaged another 30 percent that it no longer provides a food source. The remaining 35 percent is overgrazed and in danger of being destroyed. Signs of malnutrition are evident in some nesting colonies, where adult body size and gosling survival have declined.

"The goose has come home to roost." This sobering statement in a 1997 report on the situation—*Arctic Ecosystems in Peril: Report of the Arctic Goose Habitat Working Group*—outlines what we can expect in the future:

*Large portions of the Arctic ecosystem are threatened with irreversible ecological degradation. Plant communities associated with goose breeding habitat are finite in area and distribution and likely will be lost permanently unless there is effective human-induced intervention to reduce the size of certain goose populations.*

"Large portions of the Arctic ecosystem are threatened with irreversible ecological degradation. Plant communities associated with goose-breeding habitat are finite in area and distribution and likely will be permanently lost unless there is effective human-induced intervention to reduce the size of certain goose populations."

And, the report notes, other birds dependent on the Hudson Bay lowlands—including other species of geese, ducks and shorebirds—also may suffer. There is evidence that nesting populations of semipalinated sandpipers, red-necked phalaropes and yellow rails have declined in areas damaged by snow geese.

Pogo was right. But while humans have created the current crisis, they also have the power—and the obligation—to help fix it.

**A BITTER PILL** Protecting the coastal Arctic ecosystem is the ultimate goal of wildlife managers. To accomplish this,



© LARRY DITTO

Canadian provinces of Manitoba and Ontario and in the Northwest Territories. Adult snow geese return to their hatching place to nest and, while the number of geese has exploded, the size of their nesting area has remained the same. Foraging geese grub in the soil for roots, pull young shoots of sedges

**Above:** Snow geese are wary and challenging to hunt, and hunters seldom get their bag limit. Regulatory changes currently under consideration might make close-range sightings of snow geese, such as this young bird, more common for hunters.





© ROBERT L. JEFFERIES

they deem it necessary to reduce the mid-continent snow goose population by 50 percent by the year 2005. After much study and debate, an international team of snow goose experts settled on increased hunting effort as the initial strategy. In practical terms, this means increasing the annual harvest of snow geese three-fold. Hunters now kill about 305,000 snow geese in the mid-continent population each year; they need to take about 915,000. Since the population is composed mainly of adult geese of breeding age, the total number of geese ultimately will decline due to increased mortality and a lower hatching rate. The team rejected the alternative of doing nothing and letting nature take its course, because the snow goose problem was caused by humans and because doing nothing would lead to environmental disaster.

Managers realize that selling this idea to the public will not be easy. Killing nearly a million geese a year for close to a decade—even with the goal of saving millions of others from death from

starvation or disease—smacks of wanton slaughter. Since the overpopulation problem resulted from long-term efforts to increase goose numbers, some might charge wildlife managers and hunters with being incompetent hypocrites.

While a certain amount of name-calling inevitably will occur, this will have no positive impact on the hungry snow goose searching in vain for something to eat throughout a long Arctic day. The only thing that will put more food in that goose's belly is having fewer mouths with which to compete.

Ironically, the snow goose's best friends are the men and women armed with shotguns lying amid spreads of white rag decoys around Altair, Eagle Lake and El Campo, waiting for that magical moment when the sky rains snow. ★

*Freelance writer LARRY D. HODGE of Mason believes hunters share responsibility for protecting the habitat of the game they seek.*

**Top:** Overabundant snow geese have damaged large areas of breeding habitat, as seen in this aerial view of coastal marshes near Canada's Hudson Bay.



## A CALL TO ARMS: CONTROLLING THE SNOW GOOSE POPULATION

The Arctic Goose Habitat Working Group, a committee formed by the Arctic Goose Joint Venture Management Board, has adopted a variety of strategies for reducing the mid-continent population of lesser snow geese. They are outlined in greater detail in the report *Arctic Ecosystems in Peril: Report of the Arctic Goose Habitat Working Group*. Copies are available from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Canadian Wildlife Service and TPWD.

Anyone who has hunted snow geese knows these birds are intelligent. Once shot at, adults become difficult to decoy, and young birds quickly learn the meaning of a few hundred white rags spread over rice stubble. Indeed, the authors of the report shared serious doubts that further liberalization of traditional hunting frameworks and techniques could be effective in reducing snow goose numbers. Nevertheless, an overriding concern of the working group was the principle that any interventions should respect the birds as valuable components of the environment in general and as game animals and food. Population reduction methods that did not allow geese that were killed to be used as food were rejected.

For these reasons, the group's recommendations for increasing harvest centered on increasing both the number and the effectiveness of hunters. It should be noted the authors of the report were aware that some of the methods listed below could invite abuse or lead to other problems, and they suggest careful monitoring. The first three in this list were priority recommendations.

**TREATY AMENDMENTS** The Migratory Bird Treaty with Canada prevents the harvest of snow geese between March 10 and September 1 and restricts the length of the season to 107 days. The group recommends the treaty be amended to remove these restrictions.

**REFUGE MANAGEMENT** Allowing additional hunting on refuges used by snow geese could increase harvest. Management practices could be changed to reduce availability of food, water and areas safe from hunting.

**HUNTING METHODS** The group proposes changing long-standing federal regulations to permit the use of techniques now illegal, such as baiting, the use of electronic calls and live decoys, and increasing the number of shells allowed in a gun.

**SUBSISTENCE HARVEST IN THE FAR NORTH** Native peoples in the Arctic nesting grounds currently are not restricted in their goose harvest, and the group proposes action to increase the number of geese taken.

**EGGING** Native peoples in Canada could be encouraged to increase the taking of eggs for food from nesting birds. Snow geese that lose their eggs generally do not renest.

**AWARD PROGRAMS** Harvest and hunter participation

could be increased by offering cash rewards for the return of special leg bands.

**RECIPROCAL SNOW GOOSE HUNTING LICENSES** Legislation might be passed allowing a hunter legally licensed to hunt snow geese in one state to do so in any other participating state or province without having to purchase an additional license.

**IMPROVED ACCESS FOR HUNTING ON PRIVATE LAND** Wildlife agencies would be encouraged to increase hunter access to private lands through information and education programs, purchasing or leasing hunting rights, personal contacts or tax incentives.

**SUBSIDIZED HUNTING** Wildlife agencies and local groups, such as chambers of commerce, would be encouraged to reduce the cost of hunting by providing decoys and other equipment for loan or rental. All or part of the cost of guides might be paid.

**LIBERALIZED BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS** Hunters might be given a tag allowing them to take a set number of birds (the example used in the report was 100) in addition to bag and possession limits. Texas currently has a bag limit of 10 and possession limit of 40.

**ADJUSTED SHOOTING HOURS** Hunting all day rather than half days and extending shooting hours until one-half hour after sunset could increase harvest. Or, half-day hunts could be staggered to prevent geese from adapting to regular shooting schedules.

**ENCOURAGEMENT OF NONRESIDENT HUNTERS** Limits on the number of nonresident licenses that can be sold in some states could be removed, as could limits on the number of days and zones open to hunting by nonresidents. Fees for nonresident hunters could be reduced.

**INFORMATION AND EDUCATION** Despite their abundance, snow geese are not the favored species of many hunters due to difficulty and expense in hunting them and a perceived lesser table quality. Efforts could be made to improve the image of snow geese and make them more desirable to hunters.

Only if the above methods do not increase harvest to the desired level, the team suggested alternatives including commercial harvest and trapping and culling birds in migration and wintering areas.

## THE TEXAS CONNECTION BY BRIAN SULLIVAN

Because the snow goose resource is so important to Texas, TPWD has been actively involved in the overpopulation issue. Staff from the Wildlife Division's Migratory Game Bird Program participate in the Arctic Goose Joint Venture (the oversight committee for the Arctic Goose Habitat Working Group), the Central Flyway Council and other national and

**Opposite page, inset:** Small areas fenced to keep out snow geese dramatically show the impact of these birds on their breeding habitat. Lush vegetation persists inside the fence, but the geese have wiped out the surrounding area.





international committees responsible for the development of waterfowl management and regulatory recommendations. TPWD was involved with the working group's report by providing data, input on potential management actions, comments on preliminary drafts and funds for publication.

Wildlife Division staff annually conducts surveys of the wintering population and harvest of snow geese in Texas. They also monitor roosting areas for habitat conditions and disease losses. Funds from the sale of state waterfowl stamps are used to support cooperative research projects on the snow goose breeding grounds, and the results provide critical documentation on the extent of habitat damage.

Annual federal frameworks have allowed TPWD recently to implement more liberal hunting regulations for snow geese, including longer seasons and higher bag and possession limits. During 1996-97, the snow goose season was 107 days (the maximum allowed under the Migratory Bird Treaty), running from early November through late February, with a bag limit of 10 and a possession limit of 40. Longer seasons or special hunting techniques (electronic calls, baiting, etc.), as recommended by the working group, will require changes in long-standing federal regulations or the Migratory Bird Treaty. TPWD

is hopeful that federal agencies in the U. S. and Canada will take appropriate action so the working group's recommendations can be considered for the 1998-99 hunting season.

TPWD has been making an intense effort to inform the public about the snow goose issue. In addition to this article, staff has issued news releases, participated in interviews with outdoor media representatives, given presentations to constituent groups, developed a slide series with a narrative (available upon request), conducted workshops for hunting guides, media representatives, and state and federal refuge managers, and posted information on the Internet ([www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us)). The agency has incorporated many creative and innovative solutions to the snow goose problem from hunters and other concerned citizens into the working group's report.

To comment or request further information, contact:

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
4200 SMITH SCHOOL ROAD  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

OR

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
OFFICE OF MIGRATORY BIRD MANAGEMENT,

**Above:** Agricultural development throughout North America has benefited geese and is one of the main causes of the snow goose overpopulation. This large flock was encountered in a harvested rice field during an aerial survey.



MIGRATORY GAME BIRD PROGRAM  
ROOM 634 ARLINGTON SQUARE  
4401 N. FAIRFAX DR.  
ARLINGTON, VA 22203

BRIAN SULLIVAN is TPWD's Waterfowl Program coordinator.

## REFLECTIONS OF A GOOSE HUNTER BY LARRY D. HODGE

I love to hunt geese. The annual fall trip to Altair's Blue Goose Hunting Club is one of the highlights of my year. Visiting with new and old friends until half-past late, rising groggily at 4 a.m., slogging through muddy rice fields setting out hundreds of decoys in the dark (hoping not to fall into a water-filled rut left by a rice combine) and then watching helplessly as flight after flight of snow geese detour just out of range—you have to be there to understand why it's so much fun.

The land is privately owned. Wildlife belongs to all the people, but most of it lives on private land, and access to it is granted by sale of trespass rights commonly referred to as hunting leases. The overpopulation of snow geese, a public resource, was brought about not by the actions of public employees but by the enhancement of habitat on private land by hundreds of individuals acting on their own, in their own self-interest. The cumulative effect on the environment and the geese was swift and staggering. Do private citizens acting on their own behalf have the right to take actions that hurt the environment in another country and a species shared by both? Can we work to increase a species to the point of saturation and then wash our hands of the matter, saying, "Nature, heal thyself?" I think not. And yet I strongly believe in and support the right of private property owners to manage their land.

We face a situation in which I doubt the same individuals who created the problem will be as eager to act to solve it. Having large numbers of geese—even ones that are too smart to get shot—is highly desirable for landowners, guides and hunters. High bag and possession limits are a selling point when booking hunts. Having huge flocks to see and hear makes even the least successful hunt a memorable event. Asking all those involved in goose hunting to take measures that, if successful, will lead to fewer geese seems contradictory.

And yet the report of the Arctic Goose Habitat Working Group makes clear we have planted a ticking time bomb in our own nest, and only we can defuse it. A combination of direct and indirect human-generated factors are at the root of the 20th-century increase of Arctic geese. These major factors, such as agricultural practices and climate change, are not the responsibility of wildlife management agencies.

Nevertheless, these agencies are left with the primary responsibility of changing the direction of population growth. "Although agricultural economics is beyond direct wildlife agency control, it would be prudent to engage in discussions with the agricultural community about alternative agricultural practices less beneficial to geese because they play a pivotal role in the phenomenal success of geese," said the report. "As long as cultivation of rice, corn and other grains used by geese

is economically profitable and agricultural practices remain unchanged, the output of these agro-ecosystems will allow continued population growth of geese."

It seems to me that the snow goose dilemma has a parallel to which we may look for guidance. White-tailed deer management in Texas has gone through an evolutionary process over the last five decades or so. Wildlife management has increased the population of deer in some areas to the point where die-offs are a problem. Wildlife management associations are proving to be an effective way to channel the expertise of TPWD wildlife biologists to local landowners working to improve habitat and control deer populations. Such an organization might ultimately provide a method coordinating public and private efforts to deal with the snow goose situation.

Wildlife managers historically have been oriented toward increasing the numbers of managed species, and they admit to being somewhat at a loss in trying to deal with the surplus of snow geese. New skills will be required to deal with the task now before them. Property owners stand at a fork in the road as well. Managing habitat for wildlife without the well-being of the species as the guiding principle seems a hollow endeavor indeed. Perhaps it's time for wildlife managers and property owners to move to the next level, that of learning how to work together to maintain an international population of free-roaming animals in balance with the habitat and with human needs. As complex as the task of bringing back species from the brink of extinction has been, it pales in comparison to contending with the current surfeit of snows. ★

*Can we work to increase a species to the point of saturation and then wash our hands of the matter, saying, "Nature, heal thyself?" I think not. And yet I strongly believe in and support the right of private property owners to manage their land.*



# Texas's Best-Kept Deer Secret

The white-tailed buck's bigger and tougher Panhandle nephew—the mule deer—merits greater attention among record-seeking hunters.

by Brandon Ray

© WYMAN MEINZER

A heavy-antlered, big-bodied mule deer buck is an animal revered by sportsmen everywhere. States such as Colorado and Utah attract serious hunters in search of a wide-racked trophy. But many Texans who travel to the Rocky Mountains in search of the buck of their dreams drive right through some excellent mule deer country right here in their home state. While Texas is known nationally for its trophy white-tailed bucks from the South Texas Brush Country, the state's quality mule deer hunting remains mostly a secret. Yet impressive desert mule deer populate the Trans-Pecos and other regions of the state.

The Trans-Pecos boasts the majority of Texas's mule deer herd. This harsh, desert atmosphere receives less than 12 inches of precipitation in an average year. Rolling hills and broad, rocky canyons dotted with hearty vegetation such as yucca, juniper and creosote-tarbrush dominate this sparsely vegetated desert landscape. A severe drought in recent years may have caused some mule deer hunters to focus their efforts in the northern portion of the Lone Star State.

Panhandle mule deer make their home in a variety of habitat types. In the northernmost portion of the 56 counties that make up the Texas Panhandle, narrow creeks choked with tall cottonwood trees and surrounded by open, rolling hills are home to big-eared bucks. Farther south, near the town of Canyon, the treeless plains abruptly drop into Palo Duro Canyon. Sometimes referred to as the "Grand Canyon of Texas," this spectacular chasm shimmers in colors of red, orange and purple along the canyon's rocky rim. Shin oak, mountain mahogany, cedar, skunkbush sumac and a variety of grasses and weeds make up a rich habitat for mule deer. In the 1800s, large herds of buffalo roamed the prairies that surround the canyon. Wolves and even black bears were common. Today, mule deer share the canyon with aoudad sheep, white-tailed deer, coyotes, foxes, bobcats and quail. A watchful deer hunter even might encounter flocks of noisy geese and

sandhill cranes overhead during November and December.

Today's Panhandle mule deer have two factors in their favor that West Texas mule deer do not. First, the Panhandle receives more rainfall annually than the mountains of West Texas—an average of about 18 inches. Second, a patchwork of farmland covers the Panhandle. Unlike the Trans-Pecos, which is predominantly rangeland, the Panhandle is approxi-

mately half rangeland and half farmland. Muleys grow fat on the scattered crops of corn, winter wheat and grain sorghum planted throughout the High Plains and the Rolling Plains. This abundant agriculture means food during the cold winter months when native browse becomes limited.

The Panhandle mule deer herd generally is considered to be relatively small in number, but slowly increasing, accord-





ing to wildlife biologist Danny Swepton of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in Canyon. Not only is the population considered stable to slightly increasing, mule deer are extending their range. Swepton links the spread of the mule deer's range with the availability of crops. A deer density of about one deer for each 100 to 200 acres is the rule for the entire Panhandle region. The highest concentrations are in the Palo Duro

Canyon counties and the eastern caprock counties. The counties of Randall, Armstrong, Briscoe and Floyd have better than average numbers of deer. "While these counties are home to lots of deer, a good buck is just as likely to come from anywhere in the Panhandle right now," said Swepton. In 1993, Curtis Simpson harvested a muley in Cottle County topped by a 32-inch outside spread, which scored  $202\frac{7}{8}$  inches non-typical

in the Texas Big Game Awards Program. Simpson's huge buck is one of the highest scoring non-typicals ever documented in the state.

Another huge Panhandle mule deer was harvested by Steve Mitchell in Oldham County. Mitchell's buck sported a 28-inch outside spread and scored  $173\frac{5}{8}$  inches typical in the TBGA program. In 1994, Jarrett Ricketson shot a buck in Dallam County that scored  $189\frac{5}{8}$  inches non-



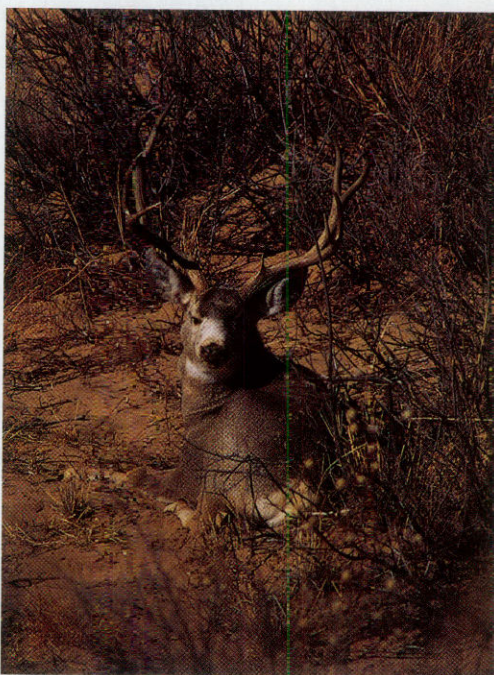
typical with a 33-inch spread. These bucks definitely are proof that the Panhandle can produce some giant deer.

**T**he first-time Texas mule deer hunter needs to keep in mind several factors while planning a hunt. Even an average mule deer buck taken in the Panhandle is considerably larger than the whitetails most Texas hunters are accustomed to encountering. Dressed weights of 160-180 pounds are common, according to Swepston, with weights of 200 pounds and more possible on older bucks in good condition. Another thing to consider before venturing north is the shot distance typical on most mule deer hunts. Cross-canyon shots of 200 to 300 yards are common. Of the five Texas muleys I have shot with a rifle, only two were closer than 200 yards. A Sako .30/06 rifle loaded with 165-grain bullets has proven effective for me on Panhandle mule deer and even aoudads. Good equipment and confidence in it are as important to success as stealth and patience. ★

BRANDON RAY is a freelance writer and artist living near Palo Duro Canyon. In 1993 he killed an 11-point Panhandle mule deer that scored over 160 inches in the Texas Big Game Awards Program.

## On the Muley's Trail

A typical day of mule deer hunting in the Panhandle starts well before first light with a bumpy ride in a pickup followed by a hike in the dark to a good vantage point. Good areas to start looking for bucks include rough draws and canyons located near active feeding areas, such as bright green winter wheat fields. As the eastern horizon starts to glow, the hunter and guide begin to dissect the landscape with strong optics. Zeiss 10 x 40 binoculars and a Leupold spotting scope go with me everywhere in mule deer coun-



**T**his nice 10-point muley should get a hunter's pulse to racing. Your pulse will continue to race after pulling the trigger as you work to get a 180-pound field-dressed buck out of a Panhandle canyon.

© ROBERT LILES

try. As the morning light increases, shadows and silhouettes come to life. Patient glassing can pay big dividends. Bucks also should be scouted at water holes and windmills, thick draws and ravines.

A trip I made to Hall County in the eastern Panhandle in November 1994 was an example of a classic spot-and-stalk hunt for Panhandle muleys. A pickup truck survey of the ranchland topography revealed a series of deep draws criss-crossing the property and several draws creeping up to small wheat fields on the few flat spots of earth.

By first light on November 26, I sat huddled under a short cedar tree at the top of a narrow canyon. Movement on the horizon caught my eye and closer inspection through my binoculars revealed five does, a small forkhorn buck and a larger buck. The small herd was leaving a green wheat field where it probably fed for most of the night under the cover of darkness. I passed on a young 10-pointer with plenty of potential.

The afternoon hunt started slowly, with little deer activity due to unseasonably warm temperatures. Most Panhandle gun hunts require long underwear and thick fleece clothing due to icy winds and

cold temperatures, but on this day I was hunting with sweat on my brow and wearing thin cotton pants. After an hour of uneventful hiking and glassing, I was startled at the sight of a distant bedded buck across a steep draw. Although motionless, his white rump and partially skylined rack had given him away.

The mature buck's wide rack looked to be about 24 inches, with good mass and long brow tines. With the animal bedded more than 400 yards away, the distance was too great for my shooting abilities. I moved off at a crouch behind a screen of short mesquite trees until I reached the lip of the eroded draw. I crawled down off the lip of the draw to avoid being spotted and slipped through some tall, dead grass as quietly as possible. From the bottom

of the eroded draw I slowly worked my way closer behind a large bank of red clay until I was in range. Cradling my rifle across my daypack, I steadied the scope's crosshairs slightly behind the buck's shoulder and squeezed the trigger. The blast brought the buck to his feet, but a second shot put him down quickly.

The old buck was better than I had expected to find on this short, two-day hunt. His dark rack was over 24 inches wide and his longest tines stretched the tape beyond 13 inches. Five-inch, polished brow tines made the 7½-year-old buck even more impressive.

In the fading afternoon light, I ran my fingers over the dark antlers and gasped at the size of the deer's body. I estimated he would tip the scales at close to 200 pounds. As I rummaged through my daypack for my skinning knife and a small flashlight, I knew the real work was yet to come.

## Hunting the Panhandle

Mule deer hunting in the Panhandle begins with a month-long archery season in October. Bowhunting these open-





© ROBERT LILES

A skilled guide might be more well-spent if you are short on time and unfamiliar with the countryside.

country deer provides a formidable challenge. Any branch-antlered buck stalked and arrowed should be considered a trophy. During the very early part of the bow season some mule deer bucks' antlers still are in velvet, offering yet another twist to an exciting hunt.

The general season for mule deer usually starts in late November and lasts about two weeks. Mule deer and moadad sheep seasons usually overlap during these two weeks, offering the chance for a combination hunt. Good-quality binoculars and a tripod-mounted spotting scope should be considered essential gear for any Panhandle deer hunt.

While the Panhandle is home to some exceptional mule deer bucks, hunting opportunities are relatively limited. Planning a hunt as far as a year in advance is a good idea. Not all ranches in the Panhandle offer trespass rights to hunters. The ranches that do offer hunting and consistently produce trophy bucks usu-

ally book up fast and limit the numbers of hunters, so call early.

If you are limited on time, a fully guided hunt might be a good option. These hunts usually include meals, lodging, transportation during the hunt and field care of your trophy. As with any guided hunt you should ask for a list of references and do your research before hiring a guide. Ask for a list of past hunters and inquire about game management, how many hunters will be in camp and the size of typical bucks taken on previous hunts. Expect to pay \$1,000 per gun and up for a season lease and up to \$3,000 for a fully guided hunt. Be sure to ask about possibly hunting whitetails, moadad sheep and other game. In addition to the names listed here you can contact regional Texas Parks and Wildlife offices for help in locating a season lease or look through the ads in Panhandle area newspapers or hunting magazines for more details.

#### **Rim Ranch**

Rt. 1 Box 220  
Claude, Texas 79019  
806-335-1017

#### **The Tule Ranch**

Kent Carpenter  
P.O. Box 658  
Silverton, Texas 79257  
806-847-2262

#### **Top of Texas Hunting**

Gary Connor  
P.O. Box 30504  
Amarillo, Texas 79120  
806-352-1106

#### **Quarter Circle Heart Outfitters**

Larry Fancake  
4238 West 14th  
Amarillo, Texas 79106  
806-673-2959

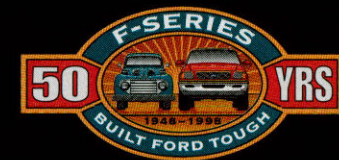
#### **La Esperanza Hunting Service**

Mark Fullingim  
P.O. Box 35  
Petersburg, Texas 79250  
806-667-2245





ABOUT THE ONLY THING  
IT HAS IN COMMON WITH  
**THE TYPICAL  
50-YEAR-OLD**  
IS THE SPARE TIRE.

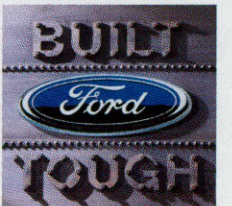


\*Based on an average of consumer-reported problems at 3-months' ownership in a survey of Ford and competitive models designed and built in North America. Sales leadership based on Divisional sales.

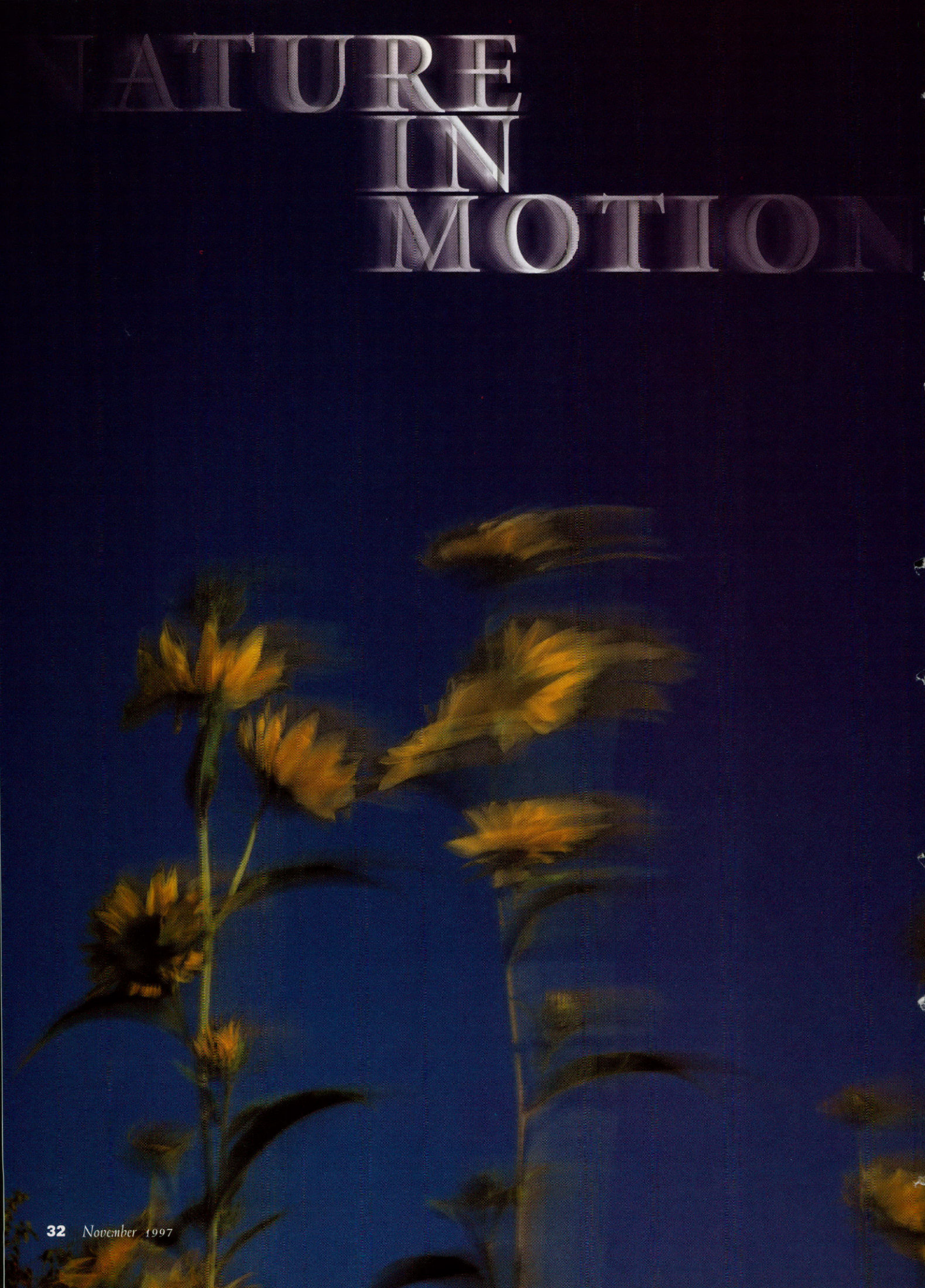
F - S E R I E S   C E L E B R A T E S   F I F T Y   Y E A R S   O F   B U I L T   F O R D   T O U G H .

THE BEST-BUILT, BEST-SELLING AMERICAN TRUCKS.\*

1-800-258-FORD or [www.ford.com](http://www.ford.com)







# NATURE IN MOTION

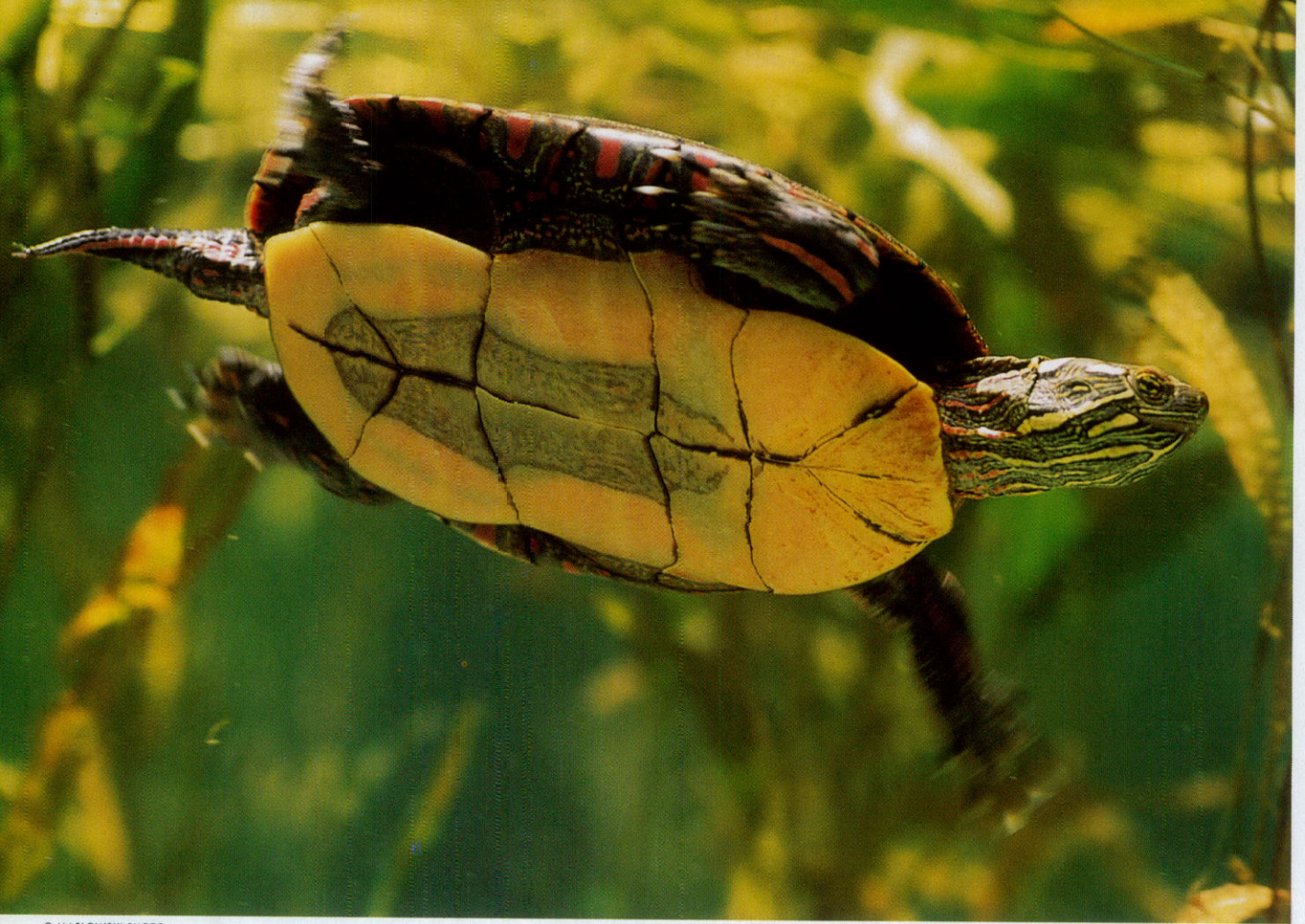


**From the waves to the wind to animals walking, running or flying, nature is anything but static.**



© DOUGLAS MILLER





© MASLOWSKI PHOTO



© LUSTY YATES

#### MOTION ON THE WATER

*Above: A turtle lives in two worlds, the water and the land, and, like a brick with legs, it moves slowly in both. It has adapted to a life of deliberate predictability.*

*Left: The white ibis moves over the coastal bays feeding with its curved bill.*





© WYMAN MEINZER

**Nature is motion—the life force of our planet. The wind scatters seeds across the ground for another season, animals feed or flee, move and change in their environment, gravity pulls water over rocks until it reaches the sea, only to evaporate and become rain clouds that start the process over again. Nature in motion gives us night and day, the breeze on our faces and the food we eat.**

**We've asked the talented photographers whose work you see in our magazine every month to share how they see nature moving through their lens. We hope you enjoy their efforts.**

#### MOTION ON THE LAND

*Above: The fleet-footed pronghorn antelope inhabits open spaces of West Texas where it uses its speed to flee from danger.*

*Right: Roadrunners use their speed to chase down supper and food for their young.*



© WYMAN MEINZER









© RICHARD REYNOLDS

#### WIND AND WATER

*Left: Endless fields of wheat move under the weight of the summer wind. Above: Like folds of a satin sheet, river water is pulled toward the Texas coast, out into the Gulf of Mexico and up into the clouds to renew the cycle.*





© ERICH SCHLEGEL

#### TEXAS WEATHER

*Above: Some people say there's nothing between the Texas Panhandle and the North Pole but a barbed-wire fence. When a wall of frigid air moves across the land it changes everything in its path. Right: Lightning can ignite wildfires, which can bring regrowth and renewal. Below: Raging water can change the shape of the land.*



© WYMAN MEINZER



© WYMAN MEINZER





© FICHARD REYNOLDS

#### WATER IN MOTION

*Above: The sea shapes the land where shoreline and water meet. Below: Frost, sun and water work in a harmony of seasonal motion.*



© LYNN HERRMANN



# THE *Bird* IS THE WORD

Often referred to as a gray cardinal, the pyrrhuloxia is one of 290 bird species documented at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park.



© GARY KRAMER

Woodlands draped in Spanish moss impart a subtropical flavor to Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park near Mission

PHOTO © LAURENCE PARENT

Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park's birding reputation draws birdwatchers from afar to view exotic subtropical species found nowhere else in the United States.

---

BY ROB McCORKLE









hen asked last December if they preferred to work over the Christmas holidays or be voluntarily laid off from their Ford Motor Company jobs

for a few weeks, Rick Henriette and Mary Ann Garner chose the latter, hopped a jet and flew to where the weather was warmer and the birdwatching was hot—the Rio Grande Valley. The Flint, Michigan, couple had targeted Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park south of Mission, Texas, as their vacation destination.

“We heard on a birding hotline about some wonderful birds down here, so we decided to come to Texas,” said Mary Ann, explaining her presence in the park on an unseasonably cold, overcast January day. “And we’re going to keep coming back.”

“I’m impressed,” Rick added. “I’ve never seen a park where they’re so involved with birds. The minute we arrived and told them we were birders, the park people told us of some of the recent sightings and the good birding areas.”

Newly arriving birders at Bentsen-Rio Grande need look no further for the season’s avian sightings than the campground bulletin board, which keeps a running tally of species spotted, in addition to lists of nearby laundromats and

scheduled propane gas deliveries.

Among the nation’s birding intelligentsia, Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park boasts a stellar reputation. The park’s location on the U.S.-Mexico border makes it prime habitat for a host of unusual winged interlopers from Latin America, whose northernmost range ends in the Rio Grande Valley. More than 290 bird species have been sighted in the park.

According to park manager Rey Ortiz, Bentsen-Rio Grande ranks among the top 10 birdwatching locales in the United States. He refers to birdwatchers as the park’s economic “bread and butter” and is fond of recounting stories of past sightings that have prompted a sudden influx of birders from throughout the nation.

One afternoon three years ago, it was a visitor from Latin America that created a major traffic jam on park roads. The reason for the gridlock: a collared forest-falcon had taken up brief residence in the park, which serves as a refuge for a variety of both neotropical migrants and wintering northern bird species.

Last year, a Stygian owl, which ranges as far south as South America, proved the show-stopper. The sighting was a first for Texas and the United States. And, last January, winter Texans and bird-lovers from every corner of the United States and overseas focused their binoculars on the brushland behind Canadian Mary Collins’s trailer in the park’s Chaparral Wilderness campgrounds, hoping to catch a rare glimpse of an iridescent blue bunting.

Collins and her husband are typical of birdwatchers and winter Texans from northern climes who roll into the park in expensive recreational vehicles and fancy campers to set up “homes” on the edge of the chaparral for two weeks at a



© GARY KRAMER

Chacalacas are a hallmark avian species of the lower Rio Grande Valley frequently seen in park campgrounds on picnic tables and in low-hanging branches.



© GRADY ALLEN

Recreational vehicles and campers of all kinds serve as home away from home for peripatetic birdwatchers who flock to South Texas to add to their “life list” of bird sightings.



time. Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park features 78 RV sites in the main camping area and 65 additional sites with water only for tent camping along a scenic *resaca*, a former river channel that snakes through the park. A slow drive through the camping areas during the park's busiest season—November through April—will reveal as many out-of-state plates from places like Oregon and Ohio, as it will Texas license plates.

Ortiz puts the normal ratio of in-state to out-of-state visitors at 50-50. He said more than 400,000 people find their way to this South Texas park each year, with the majority composed of day visitors flocking to the park to spy the colorful blue jay, vermilion flycatcher, buff-bellied hummingbird, Altamira oriole and other unusual species. Summer visitation primarily consists of Texans, many of them from surrounding communities throughout the Rio Grande Valley such as McAllen, Hidalgo, Mission and Edinburg, who come to picnic, canoe, fish and watch the plentiful wildlife in this 587-acre sanctuary of subtropical *resaca* woodlands and thorny thickets amid the Valley's sprawl of citrus groves, RV parks and croplands.

According to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department wildlife biologist Noreen Damude, Texas is the nation's number-one birding state, boasting just over 600 avian species. Almost half of those species can be found in Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park at one time of the year or another.

Ortiz is quick to agree. "You can compare parks like Bentsen and Santa Ana (National Wildlife Refuge) along the Rio Grande to rest stops on a Texas highway," he explained. "These parks are rest areas for the birds, the hawks, falcons and other species migrating south. Then, there's the fallout in the spring. Birds can stop, feed and roost here where it's warm."

To make sure birds have plenty to eat and drink, park hosts regularly fill water bottles hanging in popular birdwatching spots, such as the camouflaged Bird

Observation Blind at Eagle Pond, and set out orange slices, shell peanuts and "scratch" on picnic tables and in feeders. Some of the more dedicated birders return year after year to claim their favorite campsite and fix up their "back yards" with elaborate feeders, running water and other enticements.

From January through March, assistant park manager Baldomero "Baldo" Loya offers a day-long Kiskadee Bus Tour for \$20 on Tuesdays and Fridays. The yellow buses, purchased from the LaJoya Independent School District for \$200 each, give the tour its sobriquet, named as it is for the lemon-breasted kiskadee that frequents the park. Loya, a Peñitas native, takes riders to Falcon State Park, the Santa Ana NWR, TPWD wildlife management areas and premier birding sites on private area ranches. It is not unusual, park ranger Nelda Flores said, for tour participants to check off 90 to 100 bird species on their checklist on one trip.

But there's more than just the birding phenomenon to recommend Bentsen-Rio Grande, which sits at the mostly frost-free northernmost extension of the Mexican subtropical biota. An extraordinary nature preserve, the park's diverse habitat of wetlands and semi-arid brushlands serve as a haven for unique plant and animal communities.

Take a stroll on the 1.5-mile Singing Chaparral Nature Trail, whose interpretive signs explain the park's fascinating natural communities, or walk the marked two-mile Rio Grande Hiking Trail. The trail offers an excellent overview of the park's vast array of plant species—from xerophytic mesquite and prickly pears to water-loving species, such as Mexican and Rio Grande ash, sugar hackberry, cedar elm and a few surviving sabal palms. Several rare shrub species, such as snake eyes, colima and chapotillo (Texas torchwood), are found only in subtropical environments common to deep South Texas, Florida and Mexico.

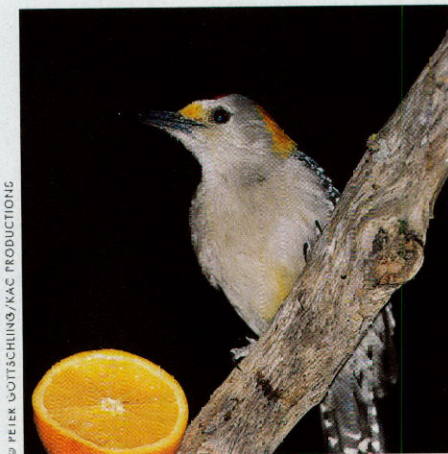
Along the way, watch for the Texas tortoise, Rio Grande chirping frog and leop-

© GRADY ALLEN



**A black-bellied whistling duck surveys the waters of one of the park's *resacas*, a Spanish word that describes a portion of a river that was cut off when the river changed course.**

**An orange half set out by campers to attract birds draws the attention of a golden-fronted woodpecker grown tired of drilling trees for insects.**



© FELIX GOTTSCHING/KAC PRODUCTIONS





© GARY KRAMER

The male blue grosbeak sports dark blue feathers and two rusty wingbars, while the female tends toward less flashy tan and buff underparts.

ard frog, Texas indigo snake, ocelot, jaguarundi, javelina and other fascinating species found in this subtropical paradise. The state-protected ink-blue Texas indigo snake has wiped out the park's Western diamondback rattlesnake population. Unfortunately, two-legged predators have driven the jaguar and black bear, which once frequented the Rio Grande Valley, from the area.

Spring and summer see an aerial invasion of butterflies, which brings magnificent splashes of color to the foliage of blue bonset, Mexican buttonbush, Mexican lead trees and other unusual flowering natives. Commonly seen species include the distinctive snout butterfly, yellow-and-brown giant swallowtail, red-brown queen butterfly and tiny hairstreak. The nearby city of Mission will hold its second annual Butterfly Festival March 20-22.

For those park visitors who can't tell a chickadee from a kiskadee and want to learn more about the Rio Grande Valley's exotic birds and beasts, or who covet a keepsake to take home, the Texas State Park Store is a must stop. The tiny store in the park visitor center offers a variety of quality souvenirs, from birding bumper stickers ("I Brake for Birds") to butterfly-festooned tote bags and dozens of bird, butterfly and other natural history books.

Available, too, are a field checklist for the park's birds and a "Critters of the Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park" brochure. Both are invaluable resources to take along on hikes through this living museum that represents what's left of a vanishing Lower Rio Grande ecosystem. ★

The unusual teardrop-shaped nests of the Altamira oriole can be spotted in trees throughout the park.

## Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park

In addition to birdwatching and the study of fascinating plants and animals found in one of the few remaining undisturbed islands of native Lower Rio Grande Valley vegetation, Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park offers a host of activities and specialized tours, as well as extensive facilities.

Three miles of hiking trails through a mix of riparian woodlands and brushlands beckon the explorer. An approximately one-mile path leads to the Rio Grande, where Rio Grande ash and willows prosper. The well-marked 1.5-mile Singing Chaparral Trail just off Park Road 43 traverses thorn woodlands, or what in Spanish are called the *monte* or *mat-torral*. An unusual Bird Observation Blind built near Eagle Pond offers a camouflaged refuge from which to view or photograph birds and other wildlife.

Every Tuesday and Friday at 7:30 a.m., the Kiskadee Bus Tour takes park visitors on a day-long trip to some of the best birding spots in Texas. The fee is \$20 and reservations are required (956-519-6448). Closer to home, park naturalists and park hosts conduct daily, on-site birdwatching and wildlife tours from December through March.

On November 1, 15 and 29 and December 13 and 27, the park offers a Lomita Ranch Tour for \$27 per person. The outing focuses on native plants and their uses, including landscaping and propagation, as well as poisonous, medicinal and edible plants. Reservations are required. Call 956-519-6448.

Camping, picnicking, boating, bicycling, volleyball, shuffleboard and fishing (in a 60-acre oxbow lake) prove popular diversions for park users.

Facilities include restrooms with showers, picnic sites with tables, grills and water nearby; campsites with water, pull-through campsites with water, electricity and sewer hookups; a youth group camp with fire rings and tent space; a group pavilion with tables, fish-clean-



© LARRY DITTO





ing table, boat ramp, trailer dump station and playground.

To reach Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park, take U.S. Highway 83 to Mission and continue west, exiting on Inspiration Road; continue west for three miles, then take FM 2062 south for approximately three miles and enter on Park Road 43. For park information, call 956-585-1107. For reservations, call 512-389-8900.

### Park Hosts Provide Personal Campground Touch

A recent unseasonably chilly January day found Lucy Reese scurrying about the “yard” behind her campground home in Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park, filling water dishes and putting out

orange slices and other tasty morsels for her winged neighbors. Scattering peanuts on a picnic table, she promised park visitors a close encounter with her avian friends.

Moments later, a rustling in the underbrush signaled the arrival of one of the park’s familiar feathered residents. Suddenly, the air around the picnic table blurred with flashes of blues and green, as a handful of green jays unabashedly swooped down for their shelled treat.

The bird is the word at Bentsen. The campground grapevine and the community bulletin board that tallies the season’s species count spread the avian gossip faster than a hook-billed kite can crack open a ground snail shell.

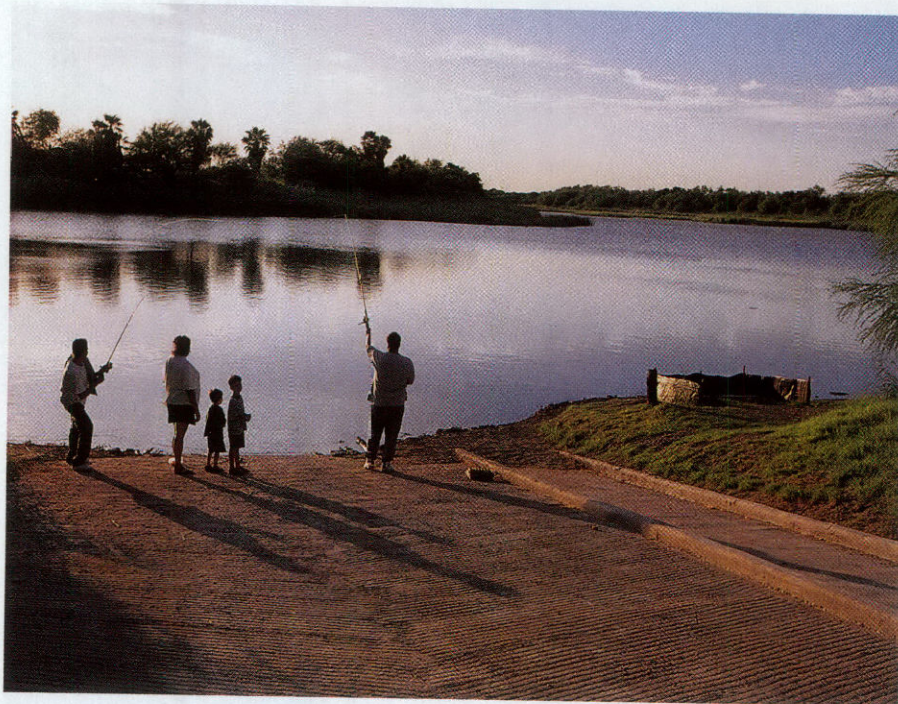
“When there’s been a sighting of a rarely seen species, there’s a herd of people on

**Sabal palms, reflected in a park resaca, once covered the lower Rio Grande Valley, but have been greatly diminished in number in recent decades by conversion to cropland and increasing urbanization.**

foot and on bikes rushing to the lucky campsite, and you’d best not get in their way,” Lucy said with a chuckle.

Like many American couples, Lucy and her husband Howard caught a terminal case of road fever after retiring. They sold their home in Magnolia, Texas, and headed west in a new, fully-loaded RV. Avid fans of Texas state parks and parents of a South Texas botanist, Lucy and Howard proved ideal candidates for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s Park Host Program.





© GRADY ALLEN

A 60-acre oxbow lake is popular with the park's anglers and boaters.

Sporting a name that sounds like that of a large-nosed cocktail waitress, the groove-billed Ani, a South American native, ranges only as far north as the Lower Rio Grande Valley.



© GARY KEAMER

The Park Host Program was begun in 1991, according to program manager Kevin Good, as a way to supplement park staff in the campgrounds and to provide a way for volunteer-oriented park patrons to give something back to their favorite park.

"It's a good deal for both sides—the park and the hosts," he said. "It gives Texas Parks and Wildlife eyes and ears it wouldn't otherwise have around the clock in campgrounds and offers additional assistance to our park visitors. The volunteers get to enjoy the park and be around people, and it gives them a way to see the country."

Many park hosts spend the hotter summer months volunteering in parks up north, returning to Texas along with the more seasonable weather in winter. In exchange for their services, hosts are given designated campsites with water and electrical hookups, receive training and wear special vests and caps that identify them as representatives of TPWD.

Hosts serve about 25 hours a week and usually volunteer from one to three months at a time. During the park's busy seasons, there are more volunteers than can be accommodated, so hosts are chosen, first, based on what special skills they might bring to a particular park, and then

on a first-come, first-served basis.

Persons interested in applying to be a park host should contact the manager of the park of their choice or write Kevin Good, Volunteer Programs-State Parks Division, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744.

## Nature Festivals Bonanza in the Rio Grande Valley

When bird-loving economic development leaders in Harlingen proposed to city fathers that the city should put on an annual birding festival, they were considered bird brains. Reluctantly, the powers that be relented and the Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival debuted in 1994, drawing about 1,000 attendees. Last year, the festival attracted more than 2,000 people, creating an economic impact of \$1.6 million. This year's festival will take place November 12-15. Call the Harlingen Chamber of Commerce at 1-800-531-7346 for more information.

Further proof that birding has indeed "arrived" in the Rio Grande Valley is the booking in McAllen of the annual convention of 20,000-member American Birding Association. McAllen officials predict about 600 delegates will attend the convention, scheduled for April 20-26, 1998.

A newcomer to the nature tourism convention is the Texas Tropics Nature Festival, held in McAllen for the first time last April to showcase the area's outstanding natural history. Speakers from all over the country will share their expertise once again next year on such topics as native flora and fauna April 16-19. Call the McAllen Convention & Visitors Bureau at 1-800-250-2591 for information.

And in Mission, city leaders this past spring launched a Butterfly Festival to call attention to the swarms of colorful insects that migrate through the Valley each year. The 1998 Butterfly Festival will be held March 20-22. Call 1-800-580-2700 for more information.



## While You're There

Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park sits smack in the heart of the Rio Grande Valley, a tornado-shaped part of the state dubbed The Texas Tropics by marketers to extol the exotic flavor of this warm-weather paradise, where poolside sunbathing in February amid fuchsia bougainvillea sets the tone.

For the adventurous or merely curious, the options seemingly are endless. History buffs, wildlife lovers, golfers and bargain hunters alike can entertain themselves for weeks within a two-hour drive of the park. After all, where else can you watch senior citizens line dance at a riverside eatery (Pepe's Riverside Fiesta), visit world-class national wildlife refuges (Santa Ana and Laguna Atascosa), walk the battleground of the last Civil War land skirmish (Palmito Ranch Battlefield), enjoy the Spanish Colonial ambiance of a string of centuries-old Mexican towns across the border on Highway 2 (Mier, Miguel Aleman and Camargo) and gaze upon Gulf waters from atop a 144-year-old lighthouse (Port Isabel Lighthouse)?

The ancient history and flavor of the Texas-Mexico borderland are manifest in the Mexican-influenced cuisine, culture, missions, forts and other adobe structures along the Caminos del Rio (Roads of the River) heritage corridor that stretches 200 miles from Laredo/Nuevo Laredo to Brownsville/Matamoros. Pick up the informative Caminos del Rio color brochure at a local tourist office or hotel lobby and hit the road to check out the Valley's many attractions. Just a sampling of the travel smorgasbord to be discovered follows.

- No sojourn in the Valley would be complete without a trip across the Rio Grande to sample our Mexican neighbors' spicy cuisine and margaritas, and to shop for bargains at the mercados for hand-crafted glassware and pottery, leather goods, jewelry and apparel. Eschew the busier, frenetic border cities

of **Nuevo Laredo**, **Reynosa** and **Matamoros** for what is arguably the cleanest border city on the Texas-Mexico boundary—**Nuevo Progreso**, a tourist mecca of 12,000 about a half-hour from McAllen. Park and walk over to enjoy gourmet victuals at Arturo's or try the more adventurous native cuisine at La Fogata. The well-stocked Señoral offers one-stop shopping, while mom-and-pop shops line the main drag.

- Visitors wishing to see what much of the Rio Grande Valley looked like before the fertile delta lands succumbed to plow and pavement should put **Sabal Palm Grove Sanctuary** on their "must see" list. The 527-acre wildlife sanctuary operated by the National Audubon Society preserves the largest piece of the Texas sabal palm forest remaining in the United States. Call 956-541-8034 for more information.

- **South Padre Island**, a 34-mile long sliver of white-powder beaches, awaits sun-lovers just off the very tip of Texas. The island is reached by crossing The Queen Isabella Causeway, which spans the fisheries-rich Laguna Madre. Call 1-800-SO-PADRE for more information.

- One of the finest zoos in the nation, the **Gladys Porter Zoo** in Brownsville, beckons with more than 30 acres of rare and fascinating animals living in a realistic setting that incorporates natural waterways. Call 956-546-7187 for more information.

- Dine or just stop by to marvel at the palm-graced **La Borde Home**, a stately, 1877 Victorian structure in Rio Grande City that recalls a by-gone era when river boat commerce held sway inland on the Rio Grande. Call 956-487-5101 for information.

- Cross the Rio Grande aboard the historic **Los Ebanos Ferry**, the last hand-pulled ferry on the U.S.-Mexican border, named for the gnarly ebony trees that

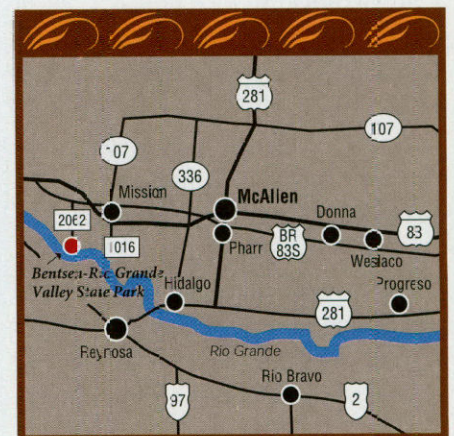


A birder with photography on her mind scans the underbrush at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park, one of the nation's top birdwatching hotspots.

shade the river banks. A new string of faux-Western curio shops and a "saloon" welcome tourists on the U.S. side.

- **McAllen** thrives as the hub of the RGV's agriculture-dominated commerce and convention business, offering several modern shopping malls, lush golf courses, fine restaurants, citrus stands, a nature center, an international museum and more. Call the McAllen Chamber of Commerce at 956-682-2871 for more information.

For a comprehensive listing of Valley attractions, pick up a copy of the *1997 Guide Book to the Texas Rio Grande Valley* at Valley chambers of commerce and tourist information centers, or phone 956-425-3798.





# THE FOLKS AT THREE CORNERS

**BUCK IN THE HAND  
IS WORTH MORE  
THAN A BRAGGART  
IN THE BUSH**

BY EZRA WARD

Time heals all wounds, they say. For proof, the folks of Three Corners point to the oddly durable outdoor partnership of E.L. Raines and George Hancock, whose fishing and hunting escapades had twice left them ringing the bell at old Doc Pennywell's office for treatment of wounds inflicted upon each other. Yet E.L.'s boasting and George's legendary insensitivity to others caused them to be universally shunned by others, so they always turned to one another eventually for companionship. Locals shook their heads and repeated the old Mexican proverb, *Juntando se salvaron dos otros*—or, "Together, they saved two others."

It had been 22 months since Doc Pennywell had to pick birdshot out of George and E.L. and they had long since been spotted engaging in the seemingly safer sport of fishing together. So one day in November, E.L., who spent a week-end each deer season hunting on a relative's big ranch near Junction, invited George to accompany him.

They drove out to Junction on Friday evening and the arguing began immediately when E.L. arrived to pick up George, only to discover that he intended to bring on the hunt his infamously

evil-tempered, half-breed German shepherd dog. E.L. had been bitten by that dog and had watched it eat the birds he had shot. He was more than a little afraid of it and insisted the animal should stay behind, contending it would bark and drive deer away. George, however, contended his dog behaved as nature intended and that its inherent hunting knowledge would lead it to drive deer out from their hiding places so that he could get a clear shot. Finally, E.L. relented just so they could get underway.

During the drive to Junction, E.L. talked nonstop about all of the things that he felt made him the best deer hunter in the state, and how George would vastly improve his chances if he would emulate E.L.'s choice of camouflage, methods of masking his scent, use of antlers to rattle up a big buck, and so forth. He spoke at length about the features and advantages of his Winchester .223 rifle with a hand-carved stock and high-powered scope and the shortcomings of George's beat-up old M-14 Army rifle with its open sight. He droned on about patience in shot-taking, waiting for the does and small bucks to grow comfortable enough in the landscape that a wily old big buck might be lured into the open. And, mindful of George's enormous capacity for carelessness—as well as the fact that this outing involved high-powered, lethal weapons—E.L. chattered ceaselessly about the rules of handling loaded rifles, taking care not to shoot in the direction of fellow hunters and other safety tips.

Before dawn the next morning, they prepared to put their gear into the Bronco to drive out to the deer blinds. E.L. was camouflaged from head to toe, but George emerged from his room wearing a white jacket and cap and reeking of after-shave lotion. He refused E.L.'s entreaties to change clothes or wash off the scent. Inside the vehicle, George lay his loaded rifle across his lap, with the muzzle pointed directly at E.L.'s side.

"I hope the safety's on," E.L. said.

"No," said George off-handedly, "It's

not. It doesn't even work. But there's nothing to worry about, because the trigger on this baby takes a strong pull."

To his credit, E.L.—whose own carelessness once had put a bullet through the roof of A. C. Long's Blazer—insisted George unload his M-14 and personally inspected the chamber to ensure it was empty before moving on.

E.L. also had chosen their respective blinds with safety in mind. George's was in a valley with physical barriers between him and any other hunter. E.L.'s blind was safely on the other side of a ridge from George. They settled in and waited for dawn, E.L. silent and alert, George humming aloud and drumming his fingers on the side of his blind while his dog rummaged noisily in the dry leaves.

Probably the most obnoxious aspect of E.L. Raines's boasting was that, in many respects, it was well-deserved. He was without doubt a very good hunter and fisherman—not the best in Three Corners, a distinction owned by Boyd Ammerman, but maybe runner-up. Moreover, he had uncommonly good luck.

The light was strong, but the sun hadn't even cleared the ridge-top before E.L. had his scope crosshairs on the biggest white-tailed buck he had ever seen. It was a magnificent animal with a terrific trophy rack of antlers—possibly even, E.L. breathed excitedly to himself, a record-breaker. He steeled himself and slowly squeezed off a shot.

E.L. knew he had mortally wounded the deer, but it sprang high into the air almost at the sound of the rifle's report and then raced up and over the ridge. The hunter quickly eased down from his tree blind and walked up the slope to pick up and follow what he knew would be a copious blood trail.

George, in the next valley opposite the ridge, heard the shot, but thought little of what it meant. He was distracted immediately by a crashing and crackling in a distant grove of trees, which he did not connect in any way with the gunshot he had just heard. In the morning



stillness, the ruckus carried a great distance easily and the dog heard it, too, and growled and bristled but did no more. Then all was quiet again.

E.L. hurried up the slope and across the ridge, the buck's path clearly marked with blood. So anxious was he to see the size of his kill and to measure its rack and count its points that he gave no thought to his entrance into George Hancock's valley. Even if he had thought about it, the sheer distance of George's blind—some 500 yards from the wooded area where the deer fell—would have eased any concern.

In his blind, George waited and watched the far-away stand of trees. His dog had trotted all the way over to its edge and, when E.L. entered the copse, the brute began barking fiercely. George jacked up the sight on his M-14 to 500 yards, aimed into the trees above and beyond his dog, and began firing away.

When the first bullet ripped through the trees, E.L. dropped his rifle and hit the ground, badly frightened. Then came the second round and the third and the fourth, the shots evenly spaced as George mentally divided the wooded patch into a grid and put a bullet into each square. Eyes wide with terror, face down in the dirt, a hand covering each ear in a futile effort to shut out the fearful explosions, showered with wooden splinters, E.L. lay as flat as possible, wishing desperately he could be a liquid and seep into the very crevices of the forest floor.

George finally emptied his 20-round clip, climbed down and walked up to the edge of the grove of trees. His dog disappeared into the brush in front of him. George found the dead buck just inside the trees and dragged it out into the open, grinning with elation. His dog emerged from the woods with E.L.'s camouflage cap in his teeth and George took it.

It was nearly noon before E.L. staggered up to the hunting cabin on foot, having left his Bronco near his deer blind. He had also left his beautiful rifle on the ground where he dropped it. He still had his hands cupped over his ears,



had lost his eyeglasses and his face and silver hair were smudged and sprinkled with debris of the forest floor. His eyes were wild and he seemed dazed.

George, as was his way, took no notice of these things.

"E.L., come on out back! Wait'll you see what I've got to show you!" George said excitedly, and he led E.L. to a tree behind the cabin, where the enormous buck had been field-dressed and hung.

"Just look at him!" George enthused. "Some of the other hunters say he might be a new state record! There's a fellow on his way out right now to photograph it for a story in a hunting magazine. They said it might be a record shot, too—right through the heart at over 500 yards with an open sight!"

E.L. stared at the buck. For a moment, there seemed a glimmer of recognition in his eyes, but it passed quickly. He was still speechless.

Then George adopted a chiding tone as he pulled E.L.'s cap from his pocket. "Here's your cap, E.L.," he said. "You really ought to be more careful with your things. Lucky for you that my dog found

it where you dropped it in the woods." E.L. said nothing, so George put the cap atop his head and led the disoriented man back into the cabin.

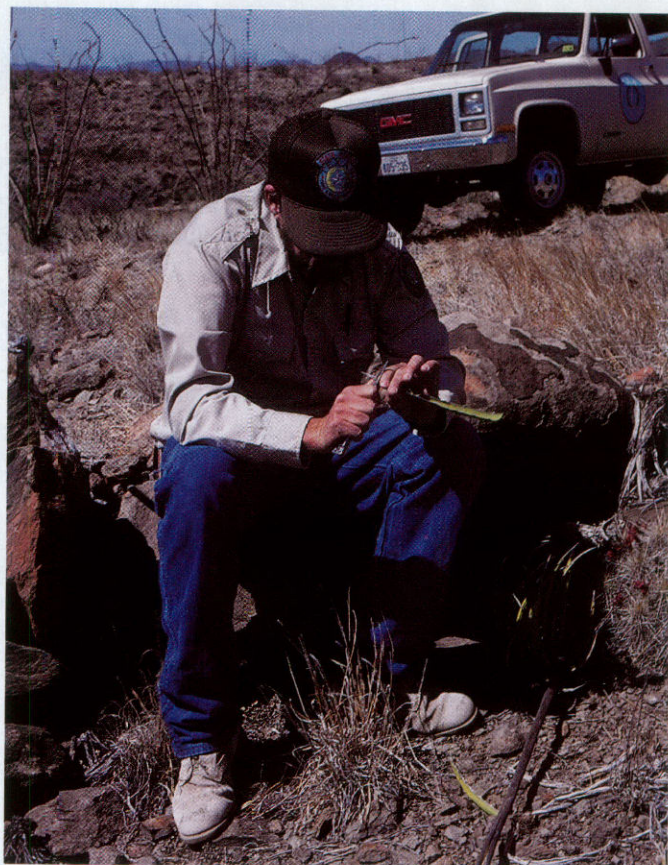
George Hancock and his big buck were written up in all the hunting magazines and newspaper outdoors pages. E.L. was a long time recovering, but eventually was himself once again. He never did remember exactly what had happened on that November hunt and he and George have been seen fishing together (but not hunting) several times since then. But some say E.L. isn't as boastful around George any longer, perhaps because George now holds the state record for white-tailed deer.

*If you have an outdoor story you'd like to share with Ezra Ward, jot it down and send it to his attention at Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine, 3000 South IH 35, Suite 120, Austin, Texas 78704.*

*But don't be surprised if it looks somewhat different if Ezra decides to use it and you see it in print through the lives and adventures of his characters. Ezra and the folks in Three Corners, after all, have their own way of looking at things.*



**H**ave you ever wondered how you'd fare if you suddenly found yourself stranded in the desert with little but your wits to keep you alive until help arrived? You can improve your odds by signing up for a three-day **Desert Survival Workshop** at Big Bend Ranch State Park that has attracted the likes of U.S. Border Patrol agents and U.S. Air Force pilots. Park ranger and naturalist David Alloway, right, who grew up in the Chihuahuan Desert, teaches how to find water and food, start a fire to stay warm, make primitive tools from native plants and rocks, construct a crude shelter and psychologically cope with the crisis. Reserve a spot for this unique November 21-23 workshop by calling 915-229-3416.



ROB MCCORRLE

## NOVEMBER

### Panhandle Plains

- Nov. 1: **Petroglyph Tour**, San Angelo SP, 915-949-4757
- Nov. 8: **Dinosaur Walk**, San Angelo SP, 915-949-4757
- Nov. 8,9: **Fort Richardson Days**, Fort Richardson SHP, Jacksboro 940-567-3506
- Nov. 15, **Macey's Ridge Hike**, San Angelo SP, 915-949-4757
- Nov. 22, **Call Of The Wildlife**, San Angelo SP, 915-949-4757

### Prairies and Lakes

- Nov: **Kreische House Tour**, Every Sunday, Monument Hill SHP, LaGrange, 409-968-5658.
- Nov: **Kreische Brewery Guided Tours**, Every Weekend, Kreische Brewery SHP, LaGrange, 409-968-5658
- Nov. 1: **Cowboy Campfire and Poetry**, Cleburne SP, 817-645-4215
- Nov. 1: **Wildlife Of The Area**, Cooper Lake SP/Doctors Creek Unit, Cooper, 903-395-3100
- Nov. 1, 15, 22, 29: **Bald Eagle**

**Tour**, Fairfield Lake SP, 903-389-4514

- Nov. 8, 22: **Wild Bird Rehabilitation**, Dinosaur Valley SP, Glen Rose, 254-897-4588
- Nov. 8: **Stagecoach Rides**, Fanthorp Inn SP, Anderson, 409-873-2633
- Nov. 8: **Veterans Day Celebration**, Purts Creek SP, Eustace, 903-425-2332
- Nov. 15: **Victorian Holiday Crafts**, Sebastopol SHP, Seguin, 830-379-4833
- Nov. 15: **Tour of Sebastopol**, Sebastopol SHP, Seguin, 830-379-4833
- Nov. 22: **Park Promenade, A Square Dance Exhibition**, Cleburne SP, 817-645-4215
- Nov. 29: **Twilight Stagecoach To Firesides**, Fanthorp Inn SP, Anderson, 409-873-2633
- Nov. 30: **Fall Foliage Tour**, Cleburne SP, 817-645-4215

### Pineywoods

- Nov. 1, 8, 15: **Autumn Color Runs**, Texas State Railroad SHP, Rusk, 1-800-442-8951
- Nov. 1, 22: **Guided Nature Trail**

**Hike**, Village Creek SP, Lumberton, 409-755-7322

- Nov. 9, 23, **Ecotour on Caddo Lake**, Caddo Lake SP, Karnack, 903-679-3743
- Nov. 15, **Canoeing the Forks**, Martin Dies, Jr. SP, Jasper, 409-384-5231
- Nov. 15, 17: **The Nose Knows**, Martin Dies, Jr. SP, Jasper, 409-384-5231
- Nov. 28: **Night Moves**, Martin Dies, Jr. SP, Jasper, 409-384-5231
- Nov. 29: **Crazy Hot Air Balloons**, Martin Dies, Jr. SP, Jasper, 409-384-5231
- Nov. 30: **Take A Walk On The Wild Side**, Martin Dies, Jr. SP, Jasper, 409-384-5231

### Gulf Coast

- Nov. 8: **Walking Bird Tour**, Matagorda Island SP, 512-983-2215
- Nov. 8: **Birding In the Lower Rio Grande Valley**, Las Palomas WMA/Longoria Unit, Harlingen, 956-383-8982
- Nov 9, 15: **Beachcombing Tour**, Matagorda Island SP, Port O'Connor, 512-983-2215

Nov. 15, 16: **Battle Stations 1944**, Battleship Texas SHP, LaPorte, 281-479-2431

Nov. 30: **Youth Waterfowl Hunt**, J.D. Murphree WMA, Port Arthur, 409-736-2551

### Hill Country

- Nov: **Horseback Outing**, call for date and times, Hill Country SNA, Bandera, 830-796-3984
- Nov: **Gorman Falls Hike**, every Saturday and Sunday, Colorado Bend SP, Bend, 915-628-3240
- Nov: **Honey Creek Canyon Walk**, Every Saturday, Honey Creek SNA, Spring Branch, 830-438-2656
- Nov: **Wild Cave Tours**, every Saturday and Sunday, Colorado Bend SP, Bend, 915-628-3240
- Nov: **Bird Walk**, every weekend, Pedernales Falls SP, Johnson City, 830-868-7304
- Nov. 1, 8: **Monarch Butterfly Tagging**, Honey Creek SNA, Spring Branch, 830-438-2656
- Nov. 1: **Poe At The Inn**, Landmark Inn SHP, Castroville, 830-931-2133
- Nov. 1: **Pumpkin Carving**



**Contest And Halloween Games,** Inks Lake SP, Burnet, 512-793-2223

Nov. 1: **Dutch Oven Cooking,** Honey Creek SNA, Spring Branch, 830-438-2656

Nov. 1: **Tanner Brothers' Medicine Show,** Landmark Inn SHP, Castroville, 830-931-2133

Nov. 8: **The Secrets of Choucroute,** Landmark Inn SHP, Castroville, 830-931-2133

Nov. 9: **Photo And Artist Outing,** Honey Creek SNA, Spring Branch, 830-438-2656

Nov. 13: **Canoe Tour,** Inks Lake SP, Burnet, 512-793-2223

Nov. 14: **Soapmaking,** Landmark Inn SHP, Castroville, 830-931-2133

Nov. 29: **Classy Coyote Fall Road Runners' Challenge,** Garner SP, Concan, 1-800-805-1804

Nov. 29: **Wild Game Supper,** Big Lake, 915-884-2382

**Big Bend Country**

Nov: **Rock Art Tour,** every Saturday and Sunday, Hueco Tanks SHP, El Paso, 915-857-1135

Nov: **Fate Bell Cave Dwelling Tour,** Every Wednesday thru Sunday, Seminole Canyon SHP, Comstock, 915-292-4464

Nov. 1: **Bus Tour,** Big Bend Ranch SP, Presidio, 512-389-8900

Nov. 14: **Big Bend Trail Ride,** Big Bend Ranch SP, Presidio, 915-229-3416

Nov. 15, 29: **Pressa Canyon Tour,** Seminole Canyon SHP, Comstock, 915-292-4464

Nov. 15: **Bus Tour,** Big Bend Ranch SP, Presidio, 512-389-8900

Nov. 16: **Bird Identification Tour,** Hueco Tanks SHP, El Paso, 915-857-1135

Nov. 21: **Desert Survival Workshop,** Big Bend Ranch SP, Presidio, 915-229-3416

**South Texas Plains**

Nov: **Kiskadee Bus Tour,** every Tuesday and Friday, Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP, Mission, 956-585-1107

Nov. 1, 15, 29: **Lomitas Ranch Tour,** Bentsen Rio Grande Valley SP, Mission, 956-519-6448

Nov. 8, 22: **Bird Identification Tour,** Choke Canyon SP/Calliham Unit, Calliham, 512-786-3868

Nov. 13, 14, 15, 16: **Arroyo Colorado Field Trip,** Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP, Mission, 956-519-6448

Nov. 22: **Christmas Concert,** Goliad SHP, 512-645-3405

Nov. 28: **Youth Javelina Hunt,** Chaparral WMA, Artesia Wells, 830-676-3413

**DECEMBER**

**Panhandle-Plains**

DEC. 6: **Petroglyph Tour,** San Angelo SP, 915-949-4757

DEC. 13: **Country Christmas,** Fort Griffin SHP, Albany, 915-762-3592

DEC. 13: **Dinosaur Walk,** San Angelo SP, 915-949-4757

**Prairies and Lakes**

DEC. 5: **'Twas a 19th-Century Christmas,** Washington-On-The-Brazos SHP, 409-878-2214

DEC. 6, 13, 20, 27: **Bald Eagle Tour,** Fairfield Lake SP, Fairfield, 903-389-4514

DEC. 6: **Victorian and Country Christmas Ornament Workshop,** Sam Bell Maxey House SHP, Paris, 903-785-5716

DEC. 7: **Victorian Christmas,** Eisenhower Birthplace SHP, Denison, 903-465-8908

DEC. 7, 12, 18: **Trail of Lights,** Monument Hill SHP, La Grange, 409-968-5658

DEC. 12, 13, 14: **Christmas at the Fort,** Fort Parker SHP, Mexia, 254-729-5253

DEC. 13: **Stagecoach Rides,** Fanthorp Inn SHP, Anderson, 409-873-2633

DEC. 13, 27: **Wild Bird Rehabilitation,** Dinosaur Valley SP, Glen Rose, 254-897-4588

DEC. 14: **Christmas Gala,** Sam Bell Maxey House SHP, Paris, 903-785-5716

**Pineywoods**

DEC: **Candlelight Christmas,** call for dates, Starr Family SHP, Marshall, 903-935-3044

DEC. 6: **Victorian Christmas Train,** Texas State Railroad SHP, Rusk, 1-800-659-3484

DEC. 13: **Sunmart Texas Trail Endurance Run,** Huntsville SP, 713-444-2266

DEC. 13, 27: **Guided Nature Trail Hike,** Village Creek State Park, Lumberton, 409-755-7322

DEC. 20: **Canoeing the Forks,** Martin Dies, Jr. SP, Jasper, 409-385-5231

**Gulf Coast**

DEC. 6: **A Varner-Hogg Christmas,** Varner-Hogg SHP, West Columbia, 409-345-4656

DEC. 6: **Pearl Harbor Ceremony,** Battleship Texas SHP, LaPorte, 281-479-2431

DEC. 13: **Christmas at the Mansion,** Fulton Mansion SHP, 512-729-0386

**Hill Country**

DEC: **Horseback Outing,** call for dates, Hill Country SNA, Bandera, 830-796-3984

DEC: **Honey Creek Canyon Walk,** call for dates, Honey Creek SNA, Spring Branch, 830-438-2656

DEC: **Soapmaking,** call for dates, Landmark Inn SHP, Castroville, 830-931-2133

DEC: **Bird Walk,** every weekend, Pedernales Falls SP, Johnson City, 830-868-7304

DEC. 6, 13, 18: **Primitive Tour,** Kickapoo Cavern SP, Brackettville, 830-563-2342

DEC. 21: **Christmas Tree Lighting,** Lyndon B. Johnson SHP, Stonewall, 830-644-2252

**BIG BEND COUNTRY**

DEC: **Fate Bell Cave Dwelling Tour,** every Wednesday through

Sunday, Seminole Canyon SHP, Comstock, 915-292-4464

DEC: **Rock Art Tour,** every Saturday and Sunday, Hueco Tanks SHP, El Paso, 915-857-1135

DEC. 6: **Bus Tour,** Big Bend Ranch SP, Presidio, 512-389-8900

DEC. 7: **Christmas at the Magoffin Home,** Magoffin Home SHP, El Paso, 915-533-5147

DEC. 20: **Bus Tour,** Big Bend Ranch SP, Presidio, 512-389-8900

DEC. 20: **Pressa Canyon Tour,** Seminole Canyon SHP, Comstock, 915-292-4464

DEC. 21: **Bird Identification Tour,** Hueco Tanks SHP, El Paso, 915-857-1135

**SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS**

DEC: **Kiskadee Bus Tour,** every Tuesday and Friday, Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP, Mission, 956-585-1107

DEC. 6: **A Taste of Christmas Past,** Sebastopol SHP, Seguin, 830-379-4833

DEC. 6: **A True Texas Christmas,** Sebastopol SHP, Seguin, 830-379-4833

DEC. 6: **19th-Century Reenactors Frontier Rendezvous,** Presidio La Bahia, Goliad, 512-645-3752

DEC. 13, 27: **Lomitas Ranch Tour,** Bentsen Rio Grande Valley SP, Mission, 956-519-6448

**SP STATE PARK**

**SHP STATE HISTORICAL PARK**

**SNA STATE NATURAL AREA**

**WMA WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA**







The Chihuahuan Desert of West Texas is an unusual place to find a rich aquatic ecosystem, all the more reason to preserve it. See this story the week of November 30–December 7. Check schedule for times.

## TELEVISION

### "Texas Parks & Wildlife"

Watch our Emmy Award-winning companion television series on your local PBS affiliate. All times p.m. unless otherwise noted. In stereo where available.

<b>Amarillo</b>	
KACV, Ch. 2	Sun. 8:00
<b>Austin</b>	Mon. 12:00
KLRU, Ch. 18	Sat. 8:00
<b>College Station</b>	Thurs. 7:00
KAMU, Ch. 15	Fri. 11 a.m.
<b>Corpus Christi</b>	
KEDT, Ch. 16	Fri. 11:30 a.m.
<b>El Paso</b>	
KCOS, Ch. 13	Sun. 5:00
<b>Harlingen:</b>	
KMBH, Ch. 60	Sun. 12:30
<i>Also serving McAllen, Mission</i>	
<b>Houston:</b>	
KJHT, Ch. 8	Mon. 7:30
<i>Also serving Beaumont, Port Arthur, Galveston, Texas City, Victoria</i>	
<b>Killeen</b>	
KNCT, Ch. 46	Sun. 4:00
<i>Also serving Temple</i>	
<b>Lubbock</b>	
KTXT, Ch. 5	Sat. 7:00

#### Odessa

KOCV, Ch. 36 Sat. 7:30  
*Also serving Midland*

**San Antonio** Sat. 11 a.m.  
KLRN, Ch. 9 Thurs. 12:00  
*Also serving Laredo*

#### Waco

KCTF, Ch. 34 Sat. 3:00

*Programming schedules are subject to change, so check your local listings.*

#### Look for These Stories in the Coming Weeks:

**November 2–9:** Preserving ancient pictographs; Rio Grande turkeys at South Llano River State Park; offshore artificial reefs.

**November 9–16:** Dogs that work for a living; wildlife watching sites; a veterinarian who treats exotic wildlife.

**November 16–23:** Creating wildlife habitat in your back yard; the Texas State Railroad in the movies; quail hunting.

**November 23–30:** Seeking a balance between urban needs and wildlife habitat on Houston's Katy Prairie; women in the shooting sports; a marathon canoe race.

**November 30–December 7:** Aquatic ecosystems in the desert; a newly opened section of the coastal birding trail; the Houston Ship Channel.

## RADIO

### "Passport to Texas"

Your Radio Guide to the Great Texas Outdoors.  
Join Joel Block weekdays for a 90-second Journey into the Texas Outdoors. Kathleen Jenkins, Producer. Check this listing for a station near you.

**Abilene:** KACU-FM 89.7 / 7:06 a.m. & 1:44, 6:01 p.m.

**Amarillo:** KACV-FM 89.9 / 9:20 a.m.

**Athens–Malakoff:** KCKL-FM 95.9 / 6:40 a.m., KLVQ-AM 1410 / 10:20 a.m.

**Atlanta:** KPYN-FM 100.1 / 4:30 p.m.

**Austin:** KUT-FM 90.5 / 1:58, 12:58 p.m.(F), KVET-AM 1300 / 8:55 a.m.  
*Austin American-Statesman's Inside Line 512-416-5700 category 6287 (NATR)*

**Beaumont:** KLVI-AM 560 / 5:40 a.m.

**Big Spring:** KBST-AM 1490 / 7:35 p.m.

**Brady:** KNEL-AM 1490 / 7:20 a.m., KNEL-FM 95.3 / 7:20 a.m.

**Brenham:** KWHI-AM 1280 / 6:50 a.m.

**Bryan:** WTAW-AM 1150 / 5:45 p.m.

**Carthage:** KGAS-AM 1590 / 6:46 a.m., KGAS-FM 104.3 / 6:46 a.m.

**Center:** KDET-AM 930 / 5:20 p.m.

**Columbus:** KULM-FM 98.3 / 7:20 a.m. & 5:20 p.m.

**Comanche:** KCOM-AM 1550 / 6:30 a.m.

**Commerce:** KETR-FM 88.9 / 10:15 a.m.

**Corpus Christi:** KEDT-FM 90.3 / 5:34 p.m., KFTX-FM 97.5 / 5:34 a.m.

**Corsicana:** KAND-AM 1340 / 5:45 p.m.

**Crockett:** KIVY-AM 1290 / 5:15 p.m., KIVY-FM 92.7 / 5:15 p.m.

**Dimmitt:** KDHN-AM 1470 / 12:31 p.m.

**Eagle Pass:** KINL-FM 92.7 / 7:15 a.m.

**Eastland:** KEAS-AM 1590 / 8:30 a.m., KEAS-FM 97.7 / 8:30 a.m.

**El Campo:** KULP-AM 1390 / 2:05 p.m.

**Fairfield:** KNES-FM 99.1 / 7:49 a.m.

**Ft. Stockton:** KFST-AM 860 / 12:50 p.m., KFTS-FM 94.3 / 12:50 p.m.

**Freeport:** KBRZ-AM 1460 / 10:15 a.m. & 7:45 p.m.

**Galveston:** KGBC-AM 1540 / 1:45 p.m.

**Hallettsville:** KHLT-AM 1520 / 8:15 a.m.

**Harlingen:** KMBH-FM 88.9 / 4:58 p.m.

**Hereford:** KPAN-AM 860 / 2:50 p.m., KPAN-FM 106.3 / 2:50 p.m.

**Hillsboro:** KHBR-AM 1560 / 9:30 a.m.

**Houston:** KTRH-AM 740 / 10:40 a.m.

**Jacksonville:** KEBE-AM 1400 / 7:25 a.m.

**Kerrville:** KRNH-FM 95.1 / 5:30 a.m. & 12:56, 9:56 p.m., KITE-FM 92.3 / 7:32 a.m. & 12:32, 5:32, 8:32 p.m.

**La Grange:** KVLG-AM 1570 / 5:45 p.m., KBUK-FM 104.9 / 5:45 p.m.

**Lampasas:** KCYL-AM 1450 / 7:45 a.m.

**Liberty:** KSHN-FM 99.9 / 7:13 a.m. & 2:50 p.m.

**Longview:** KBNB-AM 1060 / 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

**Marshall:** KCUL-AM 1410 / 7:15 a.m., KCUL-FM 92.3 / 7:15 a.m.

**McAllen:** KHID-FM 88.1 / 4:58 p.m.

**Midland:** KCRS-AM 550 / 6:43 a.m. & 1:43, 6:43 p.m.

**Mineola:** KMOO-FM 96.7 / 5:20 p.m.

**Monahans:** KLBO-AM 1330 / 8:50 a.m.

**Nacogdoches:** KSAU-FM 90.1 / 3:00 p.m.

**Ozona:** KYXX-FM 94.3 / 12:43 p.m.

**Pecos:** KIUN-AM 1400 / 10:30 a.m.

**Rockdale:** KRXT-FM 98.5 / 5:04 a.m.

**San Angelo:** KUTX-FM 90.1 / 1:58, 12:58 p.m. (F)

**Sonora:** KHOS-FM 92.1 / 12:43 p.m.

**Sulphur Springs:** KSST-AM 1230 / 11:15 a.m.

**Temple:** KTEM-AM 1400 / 6:50 a.m.

**Texarkana:** KCMC-AM 740 / 12:15 p.m.

**Uvalde:** KVOU-AM 1400 / 5:33 a.m., KYUF-FM 105 / 5:33 a.m.

**Victoria:** KVRT-FM 90.7 / 5:34 p.m.

**Waco:** KBCT-FM 94.5 / 6:20 a.m.

**Weatherford:** KZEE-AM 1220 / 6:30, 8:10 a.m. & 5:15 p.m.

**Wichita Falls:** KWFS-AM 1290 / 6:15, 7:45 a.m.

**Yoakum:** KYKM-FM 92.5 / 8:15 a.m.

RealAudio - World Wide Web:  
[www.tpwd.state.tx.us/news/radio/pptx.htm](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/news/radio/pptx.htm)

"Passport to Texas" is available at no cost to stations across the state. For information call 512-454-1922, fax 512-454-2552, or write to P.O. Box 5966, Austin, Texas 78763, e-mail [passport@io.com](mailto:passport@io.com).

THIS SERIES IS MADE POSSIBLE  
IN PART BY A GRANT FROM







# OUTDOOR ADVENTURES EVERY SUNDAY ON FOX SPORTS SOUTHWEST

HOSTED BY NOLAN RYAN

## SUNDAY'S PROGRAM LINE UP



### Americana Outdoors

9:00am



### Cajun Phil's Outdoors & Fishin'

9:30am July-Dec



### Prime Time Outdoors

9:30am Jan-June



### Outdoor Trails

10:00am



### Alan Warren Outdoors

10:30am



©



# READER SERVICE

## **ALL SEASONS FEEDERS**

Circle Number **1**

Attractive, durable and dependable. For ranches and backyards.

Call 800-841-1720.

## **BELT BUCKLES UNLIMITED**

Circle Number **2**

A proud Texas Tradition! Presenting the State Seal Commemorative Buckle.

Call 800-934-2358.

## **BRENHAM SAUSAGE COMPANY**

Circle Number **3**

Authentic German Recipes. Pecan wood smoked and dried meats.

Call 800-460-5030.

## **CAPITOL GIFT SHOP**

Circle Number **4**

Merry Texas, Again! Second in a series of collectable ornaments.

Call 512-305-8404.

## **CHICKASAW TRADING COMPANY**

Circle Number **5**

Texas Lean Beef Jerky and Turkey Breast. Visit our website

@ [www.discover-texas.com/chickasaw](http://www.discover-texas.com/chickasaw)

Call 800-848-3515.

## **COMTRAD INDUSTRIES**

Circle Number **6**

"My TV reception is so clear...". Get the picture...risk free!

Call 800-704-1211.

## **DIAMOND K RANCH**

Circle Number **7**

Experience for yourself one of the most exclusive hunting adventures in Texas. Call 210-324-6727.

## **FEDERAL LAND BANK ASSOCIATION**

Circle Number **8**

Helping people for more than 75 years find the way to invest in land for recreation, weekend escapes, or a country home.

Call 800-922-5263.

## **FOX SPORTS SOUTHWEST**

Circle Number **9**

Send for information about 1998 fishing and hunting tournaments.

Call 888-880-5775.

## **LAMMES CANDIES**

Circle Number **10**

Austin's own...Confectionery gifts and Mail Order Service.

Visit our website @

[www.lammes.com](http://www.lammes.com)

Call 800-252-1885.

## **MAMA'S COOKIN COOKBOOK**

Circle Number **11**

Recipes that will tempt anyone who loves Texas Cookin!

Call 800-657-9019.

## **PRATERS FOODS**

Circle Number **12**

Quality smoked meats, smoked in the largest smokehouses in West Texas. Visit our website @

[www.praters.com](http://www.praters.com)

Call 800-580-9693.

## **RADIO SHACK**

Circle Number **13**

Discover the World's Treasures with a Radio Shack Pro Metal Detector. Call 800-THE SHACK.

## **SCOTT WYNNE OUTFITTERS**

Circle Number **14**

Outfitting Texans since 1984.

Check out our website @

[www.outfits.com](http://www.outfits.com)

Call 800-528-8121.

## **TEXAS RANGER COOKBOOK**

Circle Number **15**

"The Authorized Texas Ranger Cookbook"! Call 800-657-9019.

## **THE STORE AT PECAN VALLEY**

Circle Number **16**

Pick up hunter snacks for the trip or great goodies to take home!

Call 800-4-PECANS.

## **TU ELECTRIC**

Circle Number **17**

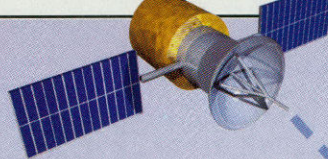
A Texas Utilities Company. "We're perfecting new ways to preserve and protect the world around us".

## **WILDLIFE T-SHIRT**

Circle Number **18**

Begin the Legacy with the first collectable Texas Parks & Wildlife classic wildlife T-shirt. Order today!

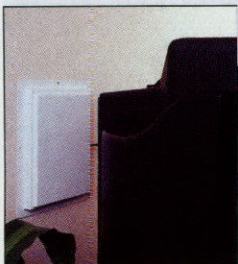




# "My TV reception is so clear, you'd think I had a 50-foot antenna on my roof!"

Emerson's ingenious new antennas are hard to spot, easy to install and provide clear, powerful reception of broadcast signals...without rabbit ears.

by Hope Chapman



Replace your unsightly "rabbit ears" today!

I'm amazed at the way technology has improved television. Developments in electronic circuitry have resulted in TV sets that have sharper pictures, brilliant colors and clearer sound. From the smallest portables to wide-screen home theater systems, televisions continue to work better and better as optical innovations are introduced. Unfortunately, a television's picture is only as good as the broadcast it's receiving, and even the world's best televisions cannot make up for a weak or distorted signal. Antenna technology has not kept pace with television design, and the rabbit ears from the 1950's are not far removed from what's available today. Well, there's finally been a quantum leap in the design of antennas, and it's the result of two patented components developed by scientists. These improvements are the secret behind Emerson's revolutionary new antennas.

**Picture imperfect.** Cable subscription solves the problem of getting the signal to your television, but storms and other factors can result in cable outages. If you prefer not to pay the rising monthly fees for cable or live in an area where it's not available, your picture is likely to be weak, undefined and distorted.

One way to improve your reception would be to mount a large antenna on your roof. Unfortunately, most roof antennas are not particularly pleasing to the eye and may even be prohibited in the area where you live. Rabbit ear antennas don't improve your picture to any great degree and make your room look like something from an earlier decade. Most antennas need to be aimed at the source of the broadcast and require turning mechanisms to pick up the signal clearly.

Whether you live miles out in the country or in a concrete building next door to a broadcast tower, bad reception can rob you of the definition and color you were intended to see. The Optima antenna gives you the signal-grabbing

power of a large antenna in an inconspicuous, low-profile size.

**Stealth antenna.** In the past, creating an antenna with optimal reception meant making it big, with a large amount of surface area. This resulted in products that were large and unsightly or small and ineffective. Either way, the aesthetic look of your room or house suffered. Research and development tended to focus on the television, not on signal reception...until now.



Your neighbors won't know it's there unless you tell them.

Recently, a brilliant scientist in Colorado developed an antenna that would maximize reception without being overly conspicuous. Emerson, a leader in electronic technology, has now made this innovation available to the public.

At a lab in Colorado, they developed two patented design improvements that made the Optima antenna possible. First, they created a flexible circuit board with a serpentine antenna, resulting in a large surface area confined to a small space. Second, they developed a technique that converts the copper shielding on the attached cable to an additional signal receiver that results in an antenna almost 10 feet long. This greatly enhances the antenna's reception power and



**Attention mini-dish owners.** If you own a mini-dish satellite system, you are aware of the off-air issue and are probably wondering how you can pick up local broadcasts. After all, what good are hundreds of channels if you can't find out who won the local city council race? The Dishmate™ harnesses the same technological innovations as the Optima TV antenna to give you a powerful omnidirectional antenna that is virtually invisible. It is compatible with a variety of systems and is easy to install.



allows you to tune the antenna by simply moving the cable! The handmade assembly is encased in aircraft-grade plastic and high-density foam. The weather-resistant cover is a neutral white and can be painted to match the color of the house or room. Plus, the omnidirectional design allows you to mount the unit anywhere you please. The Optima's universal design makes it adaptable to any component, and installation is a snap. Simply mount the antenna on a wall inside or outside the house, connect the cable and fasten it in place. Then sit back, relax and enjoy the clearest picture you can get from your television.

**Get the picture...risk-free.** Call now to order the Optima Indoor/Outdoor TV Antenna or the Dishmate™, the small antennas that get big reception. They both come with a 90-day manufacturer's limited warranty and Comtrad's exclusive risk-free home trial. Try them, and if you're not completely satisfied, return them within 90 days for a full "No Questions Asked" refund.

**Indoor/Outdoor Antenna . . . . \$69.95 \$8 S&H**

**Dishmate™ UHF/VHF Antenna . \$69.95 \$8 S&H**

The Dishmate™ Antenna will work with 18" dishes from RCA, Toshiba, ProScan, GE, Eurosat, Uniden, and Hughes DSS™ Satellite systems.

Please mention promotional code 2832-11927.

**For fastest service, call toll-free 24 hours day**

**800-992-2966**



To order by mail send check or money order for the total amount including S&H. To charge it to your credit card, enclose your account number and expiration date.

Virginia residents only—please include 4.5% sales tax.

**comtrad industries**  
2820 Waterford Lake Dr., Suite 102  
Midlothian, Virginia 23113





# OUTDOOR MARKETPLACE

## Goods & Services for the OUTDOOR ENTHUSIAST

PLACE YOUR AD IN OUTDOOR CLASSIFIEDS AND REACH TEXAS'S MOST ACTIVE OUTDOOR MARKET! *OUTDOOR CLASSIFIEDS* appears monthly. All advertisements are subject to publisher's approval and the publisher reserves the right to reject or cancel any advertisement. Space is sold by the column inch and rates are \$120 per column inch (minimum one-inch). A check or money order must accompany ad. Payment or cancellation notice must be received by the first of the month, two months prior to the issue date. Display ads with logos or other artwork must be submitted camera-ready.

CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION & MECHANICAL SPECIFICATIONS: **512-912-7003**

### ART

## Duck Stamp Prints

Texas Duck Stamp Prints,  
Texas Saltwater, Texas Quail,  
Texas Wild Turkey,  
GCCA, Federal  
John Cowan Prints



All Years  
**FREE CATALOG**

*Charlie's Gallery*

P.O. BOX 11056 • SPRING, TEXAS 77391-1056  
(281) 370-6945 Serving Texas Collectors Since 1980

### FOOD

Delicious  
**TEXAS LEAN**



**BEEF JERKY**

NEW PRODUCT—TURKEY

Call for information

**1-800-848-3515**

**Chickasaw Trading Co.**

P.O. Box 1418, Denver City, Texas 79323  
<http://www.discover-texas.com/chickasaw>



U.S. Inspected and Passed by Department of Agriculture E317-7201

### HUNTING



More than 54% of our subscribers are active hunters, spending an average of \$571 each during the past year purchasing hunting equipment and accessories.

That's a total of \$43,567,300!

**OUTDOOR MARKETPLACE**  
Goods & Services for the Outdoor Enthusiast

### HUNTING

## FINE SPORTING ART

Largest inventory of John P. Cowen Prints  
John Dearman & David Drinkard  
Originals and Prints  
Artist Commissions & Bronzes  
Federal and State Stamp Prints

**HAKCO**

10555 N.W. FREEWAY #148  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77092  
713-686-2020

### FOOD

**Brenham Sausage Co.**  
Authentic German Recipes

★ **TEXAS STAR** ★  
Pecan Wood Smoked and Dried Meats

Ring or Pencil  
**Beef Jerky Sausages**  
Hand Cut/Bulk packed Regular or Hot



Brenham, Texas  
**1-800-460-5030**  
Products shipped priority mail

USDA  
Inspected  
Mastercard  
Visa

## Digital, 24-Hour Quartz, and Photocell Timers

Three-Year Warranty



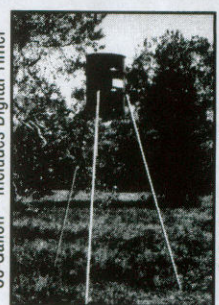
#92107—Feeder

#2103 Photocell Timer  
(battery not included)



#12119—Magnum "+"

New and Improved!



#62103—Complete Feeder

Solar Charger • 12-V Battery

Free Brochure

**MAGNUM**  
**HUNTING PRODUCTS**  
MORE FOR YOUR BUCK

219 Brand Lane  
Stafford, Texas  
77477  
(281) 261-0803

## Solar Chargers • Batteries • Accessories

THE BEST IN THE FIELD

## LEHMAN-H AUTOMATIC FEEDERS.

SOLAR PANELS available

FISHERMEN • HUNTERS • BIRDWATCHERS

- Feed at selected times
- 80, 250, 500, 1,000 lb. capacities
- THE TIMER IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART IN ANY AUTOMATIC FEEDER. OUR EASY TO SET QUARTZ SOLID STATE TIMER ADAPTS TO ALL SIMILAR FEEDING SYSTEMS
- Dry cell or rechargeable D.C. battery
- QUANTITY TIMER MODELS
- Original 6 volt & Solid State 6 or 12 volt & Economy 12 volt "Get By" Mini timers

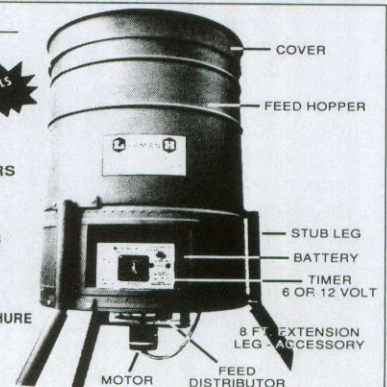
3 YEAR WARRANTY - Write or call for FREE BROCHURE

LEHMAN-H FEEDER & PLOW, INC.  
(512) 855-0049 Route 3, Box 53  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78415

We've been using Lehman-H Automatic Feeders for years and are well satisfied with their durability and low maintenance.

*Nolan Ryan*  
NOLAN RYAN

VISA • M/C • AMEX





**POLY-TANKS**

**VERT 20,000 GAL**  
**CONE 7500**  
**HORIZ 2600**  
**OPEN TOP 2500**

**WATER TANKS**  
 FERTILIZER, HERBICIDES  
 ANIMAL FEED & INSECTICIDES

800-553-1354 AMERI-PRO

**TEXAS HUNTER®**

- BLINDS
- FEEDERS
- TRIPODS
- BBQ PITS
- ETC.

Send for free catalog  
 PH: (210) 734-5189 FAX (210) 734-0601  
 P.O. Box 5087 • San Antonio, TX 78201

**OUTDOOR MARKETPLACE**  
 Goods & Services for the Outdoor Enthusiast

Reach 141,000 loyal subscribers.  
 For advertising information call  
 Jennifer Wallace at 512-912-7003.

**\$ 119<sup>95</sup>**  
 +Tax, S&H

Mk-2 model as shown

**Spin-Cast Wildlife Feeders**

5680 Randolph Blvd  
 San Antonio TX 78233  
 Phone: 210-653-7514 {Info}  
 210-653-3641 {Fax}  
 1-800-950-7087 or 8087  
 {Toll free for orders}

**•Introducing the Ultimate Feeding Machine•**

•Six feeding times available•The rate of feed is fully adjustable for each feeding•All setting buttons operate forward and backwards•A Lithium battery maintains settings in memory for three years•Press-to-test runs complete system check and operates in conjunction with an adjustable motor activation time delay•Low battery indicator•Solar confidence display shows when the solar panel is charging the battery on Mk-1 model•Progressive counter registers each feeding for estimating total amount of feed dispensed• All models are shipped with fresh batteries installed•Catalog Available•

**SSI Game Feeders**

- The very popular ECONOTIMER
- Full line of dispensers, feeders, accessories and parts; including solar chargers and remote controls
- Three year limited warranty
- Don't buy anything until you've seen our complete free catalog
- High tech feeders since 1964

**Specialty Systems, Inc. TP**  
 5911 Bullard Dr., Austin, TX 78757  
 Phone 512-454-3355 Fax 512-459-5864  
<http://www.lnstar.com/ssi>

**SureFed Feeds**

For all your hunting supplies and feeds in the Heart of Texas

20% High Protein Buck & Doe  
 19% Deer Supplement  
 16% Deer & Game  
 Whole Cleaned Corn & Milo  
 Call of the Wild Blocks  
 Deer Blocks & Feeders

1-800-782-5109

Please call for the location of the nearest dealer

**PERSKY FARMS DEER CORN**

**Premium Quality Deer Corn at a Competitive Price**

Why pay good money for pieces of cobs, dust, and trash, when you can buy pure corn?  
 Remember how upset you were the last time you found your feeder choked up with trash?

**Buy our corn and rest easy.**

Clean Safe Satisfaction Guaranteed  
 Wholesale Only  
 In 50lb. Bags, 40 Bags per Pallet

If your favorite store does not stock it, get in touch with us.

**PERSKY FARMS** 254-527-3332  
 19242 Carrs Creek Rd. Fax 254-527-3682  
 Bartlett, Tx 76511 [perskyfarm@aol.com](mailto:perskyfarm@aol.com)

**Davis's Best Deal Ever!**

**COMPLETE WEATHER STATION**

PROFESSIONAL QUALITY ▲ EASY TO USE

Get a complete weather station for only **\$495!**  
 You save **\$100!**

- ▲ WEATHER MONITOR II®
- ▲ RAIN COLLECTOR (0.01" OR 0.2 MM)
- ▲ TEMPERATURE/HUMIDITY SENSOR

One-year warranty • 30-day money-back guarantee  
 S&H: Add \$10 for US destinations; \$15 for Canadian destinations. Call for expedited shipping.

**Davis Instruments** 3465 Diablo Ave., Hayward, CA 94545, U.S.A.

For more information, call:  
**1-800-678-3669**





Historic Accommodations of Texas (HAT) includes the state's finest historic bed & breakfasts, country inns, guesthouses and distinctive hotels. Each has passed a rigorous inspection process. The HAT seal of approval means that the property is not only beautiful but unique, sparkling clean, and full of Texas charm. ☆ Advertisers in this section represent a partial listing of HAT accommodations. For a more comprehensive listing, visit us at [www.hat.org](http://www.hat.org) or call 1-800-HAT-0368.

★ **AUSTIN-GOVERNORS' INN**

1897 Victorian mansion near the State Capital and UT. Enjoy antique filled rooms, private baths, cable TV, in-room phones and gourmet breakfast. From \$59-\$109. **800-871-8908**

★ **AUSTIN-MCCALLUM HOUSE**

National register and ratings. Luxurious amenities. Close in location. Moderate rates. [McCallum@austintx.net](mailto:McCallum@austintx.net) **512-451-6744**

★ **AUSTIN-WOODBURN HOUSE**

Austin Landmark in Historic Hyde Park, centrally located, 1996 *Austin Chronicle*'s "Best B&B in Austin" e-mail [woodburn@iamerica.net](mailto:woodburn@iamerica.net) **512-458-4335**

**THE GUADALUPE RIVER RANCH**

Hide away in this rustic, elegant 340-acre Texas Hill Country retreat. Cottages, rooms, & suites. Horseback riding, canoeing, pools, hot tub, sauna. Gourmet cuisine, fine wines, winter weekends. Attentive staff, personal attention. Thirty minutes north of San Antonio.

P.O. Box 877, Boerne, TX 78006  
Reservations & Sales: 1-800-460-2005 [www.guadalupe-river-ranch.com](http://www.guadalupe-river-ranch.com)  
Direct: 830-537-4837 e-mail: [grranch@gvtc.com](mailto:grranch@gvtc.com)

★ **BOERNE-YE KENDALL INN 1859**

National Landmark. 15 unique shops in a restored village. 13 rooms & suites. **800-364-2138**

★ **CLEBURNE-1896 RAILROAD HOUSE B&B**

Restored Railroad Hotel. Come and *do nothing* or visit nearby attractions including State Park and Fossil Rim Wildlife Park. Convenient to Dallas and Fort Worth. **800-668-1896**

★ **COLUMBUS-MAGNOLIA OAKS**

One hour from Houston. Fireplaces, jacuzzi, guitar serenade, full breakfasts. Revitalizing. **409-732-2726**

★ **COMFORT-MEYER B&B**

On Cypress Creek, Hill Country, Mid 1800's Stage Stop, Texas Landmark. **800-364-2138**

★ **DEL RIO- LA MANSIÓN**

Romantic 1887 hacienda with fountain courtyard. Tranquil setting of century old palms and magnolias. Backed by Texas' oldest winery. **800-995-1887**

★ **FREDERICKSBURG-AUSTIN STREET RETREAT**

Beauty and elegance in the historic district. Fredericksburg's premier guesthouse- five secluded suites in a century-old villa. Luxury, privacy, grace...Reservations **830-997-5612**

★ **FREDERICKSBURG-DAS COLLEGE HAUS**

Beautifully appointed with antiques and original art. Near downtown. Delicious home cooked breakfast. **800-654-2802**

★ **FREDERICKSBURG-THE LUCKENBACH INN**

"Go Back, Well Fed And Rested."  
[www.luckenbachtx.com](http://www.luckenbachtx.com) **800-997-1124**

★ **FREDERICKSBURG-MAGNOLIA HOUSE**

A comfortable, elegant, TRADITIONAL B&B at its best!! 1923 historic home with 1997 comfort. Gourmet breakfast, antiques, fireplaces, relaxing patio, porches. Three diamond rating. **800-880-4374**

★ **FREDERICKSBURG-SCHILDKNECHT WEIDENFELLER HOUSE**

1870's German limestone house. Private. Primitive antiques. Fireplace, porch, cellar. Reservations **830-997-5612**

★ **FREDERICKSBURG-SETTLERS CROSSING**

Fredericksburg's finest! Historic plantation home and seven private guest houses. Fireplaces, antiques, jacuzzis. One of America's great country inns. Featured in *Country Home*, *Country Living*. Color brochure. **800-874-1020**

★ **FREDERICKSBURG-WATKINS HILL**

FREDERICKSBURG'S MOST BEAUTIFUL GUEST HOUSE™. Privacy and luxury. 1935-1890 in town. Gourmet breakfast to your door. Ten press raves in past year alone. 25% discount Sunday-Thursday & January-February. **800-899-1672**

★ **HOUSTON- ANGEL ARBOR INN**

Elegant yet comfortable accommodations near downtown. Whirlpool tubs for two. Special corporate rates. **800-772-8788**

★ **MINEOLA- NOBLE MANOR**

East Texas Manor circa 1910. Eight rooms plus private cottage, all with private baths. Minutes from Botanical festivals: Lake Fork and Bald Eagle Festival. AMTRAK city. **903-569-5720**

★ **NEW BRAUNFELS-HISTORIC KUEBLER-WALDRIP HAUS**

Come Relax! Complimentary refreshments, candlelight breakfasts! Peaceful 43-acre paradise near rivers, Gruene. Deer, birds, gorgeous views abound! Luxuriously restored hand-hewn limestone home. Cozy fireplace, games, vintage books/videos. Private baths, whirlpools. TV's, VCR's, phones. Families/Groups Welcome! Credit cards. **800-299-8372**

★ **NEW BRAUNFELS-HUNTER ROAD STAGECOACH INN**

Enjoy Texas hospitality and history at an 1850's Pioneer Homestead nestled amidst antique roses and herbs. For reservations **800-201-2912**

★ **NEW BRAUNFELS-KARBACH HAUS**

Turn-of-the-century mansion. Downtown acre estate. Private baths, pool, spa, world-class breakfasts. **800-972-5941**

★ **NEW BRAUNFELS-PRINCE SOLMS INN**

Murder Mystery Weekend, Romance Packages. Celebrating 100 years of continuous operation. **800-625-9169**

★ **ROCKPORT-HOOPES' HOUSE**

Renovated 1892 Victorian on Aransas Bay in Downtown. National Landmark. Eight guest rooms each with private bath, telephone and TV. Full Breakfast. Pool, Hot tub, Gazebo. Abundant fishing and birding. Credit Cards. Color Brochure. **800-924-1008**

★ **SETTLEMENT HOUSE AT ROUND TOP**

Seven luxuriously restored historical buildings. Featured in June 1997 *Country Living* magazine. **888-ROUNDTOP**

★ **SALADO-ROSE MANSION BED & BREAKFAST**

Beautiful Greek Revival home, cottages & authentic log cabins. Ten rooms, private baths, some with fireplaces. Oak shaded grounds offer hammocks & swings. Full breakfast. **800-948-1004**

★ **SAN ANTONIO-ADAMS HOUSE**

King William Historic District, Riverwalk, trolley, antiques, full breakfast. <http://www.san-antonio-texas.com> **800-666-4810**



# HISTORIC ACCOMMODATIONS OF TEXAS

## ★ SAN ANTONIO- THE COLUMNS B&B

1892 mansion and guesthouse. Historic district, Riverwalk, Trolley, antiques, jacuzzis, fireplaces, full breakfast. **800-233-3364**

## ★ SAN ANTONIO-NOBLE INNS

Downtown King William Historic District. Near Spanish Missions, museums. Walk to Riverwalk, Alamo. Luxury, antiques, Jacuzzis, pool, heated spas. Homemade breakfasts. Color brochure. **800-221-4045**

## ★ SAN MARCOS-CRYSTAL RIVER INN

Enjoy world-class discount shopping. Three-star Victorian inn has horse-drawn carriages, gourmet breakfast, designer decor, fountains, and gardens. Great Gift Idea: MYSTERY WEEKENDS October 24-25, December 5-6, and New Year's Eve. **512-396-3739**

## ★ SAN MARCOS / MARTINDALE- COUNTRYSIDE INN

1874 country setting, family-style breakfast, fireplaces. Three rivers-tubing, canoeing, birding, shopping, historic sights. **512-357-2550**

## ★ SEGUIN-WEINERT HOUSE

Serene-renewing heart and soul. Excellent service, 1895 magnificence, afternoon teas. **830-372-0422**

## ★ SMITHVILLE-THE KATY HOUSE

Four guest rooms with private baths, antique & railroad memorabilia. **www.katyhouse.com 800-843-5289**

## ★ STEPHENVILLE-THE OXFORD HOUSE

Relive the elegance and charm of this 1898 Queen Anne Victorian. **800-711-7283**

## ★ TYLER-CHARWOOD HILL INN

The ultimate in overnight accommodations..... Watch for us on the Learning Channel! Tour Charnwood Hill at **www.ballistic.com/~chnwood/ 903-597-3980**

## ★ VANDERPOOL-TEXAS STAGECOACH INN

Spectacular *Fall Foliage* surrounds *Lost Maples* & the spacious riverside *Texas Stagecoach Inn*. Nature tourism in the *Hill Country's Finest* includes canoeing, hiking, scenic drives, star gazing & wildlife. **830-966-6272**

## ★ WAXAHACHIE-BONNYNOOK INN

Smell the roses or other 57 plant varieties, victorian rooms, private baths (whirlpool), full breakfast. **800-486-5936**

## ★ WINNSBORO-THEE HUBBELL HOUSE

Two-acre plantation estate, 12 bedrooms & baths: candlelight dinner, massage, hot tub house & carriage rides; within 30 minutes are 200 antique shops, seven golf courses & ten lakes. **800-227-0639**

## THE GREAT STAYS OF TEXAS



The official guidebook to Texas' finest Historic B&Bs, Country Inns, Hotels and Guest Houses

Call 1-800-HAT-0368 only \$9.95

## T O U R I S M

Join in the 4th annual South Texas migration!



Come to Harlingen this November 12-16 for one of the top birding events in the nation!

REGISTER NOW!  
Harlingen Area Chamber of Commerce  
1-800-531-7346

## The Fennessey Ranch & The Hummingbird Lodge and Education Center

Rockport, Texas

provide complete tour packages for Hunters, Birdwatchers, Fishermen, Hikers, Bikers, Homeschoolers, Workshops, Schools....

888-827-7555 512-529-6600 Rodkimry@aol.com

## KING RANCH Wildlife Tours

- King Ranch, located in South Texas, now offers guided native wildlife tours!
- Special tours for birdwatchers!
- White-tailed Deer, Javelina, Wild Turkey, Crested Caracara, Green Jay, and a variety of waterbirds are just some of the wildlife species possible!
- For more information, call, write or visit our home page.



King Ranch Visitor Center  
P.O. Box 1090  
Kingsville, TX 78364-1090  
(512) 592-8055 Fax: (512) 595-1344  
email: krvisitor@gmt@interconnect.net  
http://turff.tamu.edu/~king



The Gillespie County Historical Society Presents Its Annual

## CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT TOUR

Fredericksburg, Texas

Sat. Dec. 13, 1997 from 3-9p.m.

Tickets: \$20

Info: 830-997-2835

Proceeds support museum operations at the Historical Society

## O T H E R

### FACTORY DIRECT

Best Building Deal In Texas



Garages Workshop Storage

Made in USA **AMERICAN STEEL SPAN**  
1-800-283-5903



## Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (Required by 39 USC 3685)

1. Publication Title Texas Parks & Wildlife		2. Publication Number 0 0 4 0 1 5 8 6		3. Filing Date 9-25-97	
4. Issue Frequency Monthly		5. Number of Issues Published Annually 12		6. Annual Subscription Price \$14.95	
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4) 3000 IH 35 S., Suite 120, Austin, TX 78704				Contact Person David L. Baxter Telephone 512-912-7001	
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) SAME					
9. Full Name and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank) Publisher (Name and complete mailing address) David Baxter, Texas Parks & Wildlife Magazine, 3000 IH 35 S., Suite 120, Austin, Texas 78704 Editor (Name and complete mailing address) David Baxter, Texas Parks & Wildlife Magazine, 3000 IH 35 S., Suite 120, Austin, Texas 78704 Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Mary-Love Bigham, Texas Parks & Wildlife Magazine, 3000 IH 35 S., Suite 120, Austin, Texas 78704					
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the name and address of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the individual owner. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of all individual owners. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)					
Full Name		Complete Mailing Address			
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department		4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744			
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box <input type="checkbox"/> None					
Full Name		Complete Mailing Address			
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates) (Check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-Profit/Charitable/Religious/12 Months <input type="checkbox"/> Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)					

PS Form 3526, September 1995

(See instructions on Reverse)

13. Publication Title Texas Parks & Wildlife		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below October 1997	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation			
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		137,887	154,112
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation		1,920	1,669
(1) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, and Counter Sales (Not mailed)			
(2) Paid or Requested Mail Subscriptions (Include advertiser's proof copies and exchange copies)		137,032	136,901
c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b(1) and 15b(2))		138,972	138,570
d. Free Distribution by Mail (Samples, complimentary, and other free)		4,076	4,107
e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)		125	1,500
f. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d and 15e)		4,201	5,607
g. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15f)		143,173	144,177
h. Copies not Distributed		6,569	2,619
(1) Office Use, Leftovers, Spoiled			
(2) Returns from News Agents		8,146	7,116
i. Total (Sum of 15g, 15h(1), and 15h(2))		157,887	154,112
Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15b/15g x 100)		97.07%	96.11%

16. Publication of Statement of Ownership  
 Publication required. Will be printed in the \_\_\_\_\_ issue of this publication.  
 Publication not required.

17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner  
Date 9/24/97

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including multiple damages and civil penalties).

### Instructions to Publishers

1. Complete and file one copy of this form with your postmaster annually on or before October 1. Keep a copy of the completed form for your records.
  2. In cases where the stockholder or security holder is a trustee, include in items 10 and 11 the name of the person or corporation for whom the trustee is acting. Also include the names and addresses of individuals who are stockholders who own or hold 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities of the publishing corporation. In item 11, if none, check the box. Use blank sheets if more space is required.
  3. Be sure to furnish all circulation information called for in item 15. Free circulation must be shown in items 15d, e, and f.
  4. If the publication had second-class authorization as a general or requester publication, this Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation must be published. It must be printed in any issue in October, or if the publication is not published during October, the first issue printed after October.
  5. In item 16, indicate the date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be published.
  6. Item 17 must be signed.
- Failure to file or publish a statement of ownership may lead to suspension of second-class authorization.

PS Form 3526, September 1995 (Revnew)





© LLEWELLYN DENSMORE

## MAKE THAT ONE BUNNY... TO GO, PLEASE

**T**his photograph taken from a deer blind near Inez by Texas Tech University associate professor of biological sciences Llewellyn “Lou” Densmore had fellow academicians scratching their heads in wonder.

Mammalogists in Dr. Densmore’s department remarked that in all their years in the field they had never seen a bobcat carry its prey. Most wildcats devour their kill on the spot, but this feline obviously decided to have carry out.



**Ask a neighbor.**



**Tell a friend.**

A house is made of walls and beams, but a home is built with hopes and dreams.

We couldn't agree more, because for more than 75 years we've been helping people discover life's simpler pleasures in the country. We're your

locally-owned and operated Federal Land Bank Association.

You won't find a deeper appreciation for your hopes, a better understanding of your financial needs, or a stronger commitment to be your lender, whether you're

looking to purchase land, or to buy, build, improve, or refinance a home.

Just ask the more than 90 percent of our customers who'd recommend us to a friend or neighbor. When it comes to serving your financial needs, we open doors.



Part of the fabric of rural life.



**1-800-922-5263** Call now for information, or to apply for a loan to buy land or the home of your dreams in the country. You can also visit us at [www.farmereditbank.com](http://www.farmereditbank.com).





