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PARKS & WILDLIFE



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TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

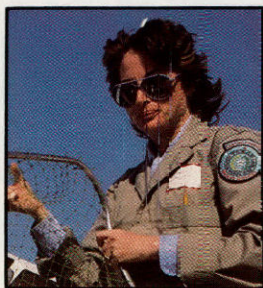
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Front Cover: The Civilian Conservation Corp's presence in Bastrop State Park 50 years ago is still very much in evidence today. Among the examples of the corp's fine craftsmanship is the park's large refectory building, a popular activity center. (See CCC story on page 2.) Photo by C. J. Simmons.

Inside Front: Collared lizards are wary and quick to take cover. When surprised in the open they run first on all fours, then on the hind legs once they gain speed. Photo by Bill Reaves.



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CCC CO. NO. 1827-CAMP SPIERIDIAN, TEX., SEPT. 1934
LT. ALFRED R. COM'D'G



CCC

Fond Memories from a Time of National Hardship

by Jim Cox, reprinted from
September 1978 *Texas Parks & Wildlife*

Depression, drought, unemployment and low farm and oil prices were but a few of the things bothering Texans in the early 1930s. The state's economy was suffering the same symptoms felt across the nation following the great stock market crash in 1929.

It was during this time, ironically, that the fledgling Texas State Park System got a major facelift and became a significant factor in the state's public recreational milieu. This was made possible by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's establishment of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the first New Deal recovery program started after his inauguration on March 4, 1933. This new program established work camps throughout

the nation where unemployed young men toiled on conservation projects such as flood control, reforestation and construction on public lands. The 15 camps established across Texas concentrated on improvements in state parks—and they came none too soon.

Texas' parklands hardly deserved the term "park system" when the CCC was organized in 1933. Although the Legislature previously had purchased a few historical sites, the state park system did not exist

CCC camps such as this one at Meridian State Park made a priceless contribution to the Texas State Park System. Texas had 2,620 men at work in state parks out of 18,000 nationally.

Leroy Williamson (Indian Lodge)

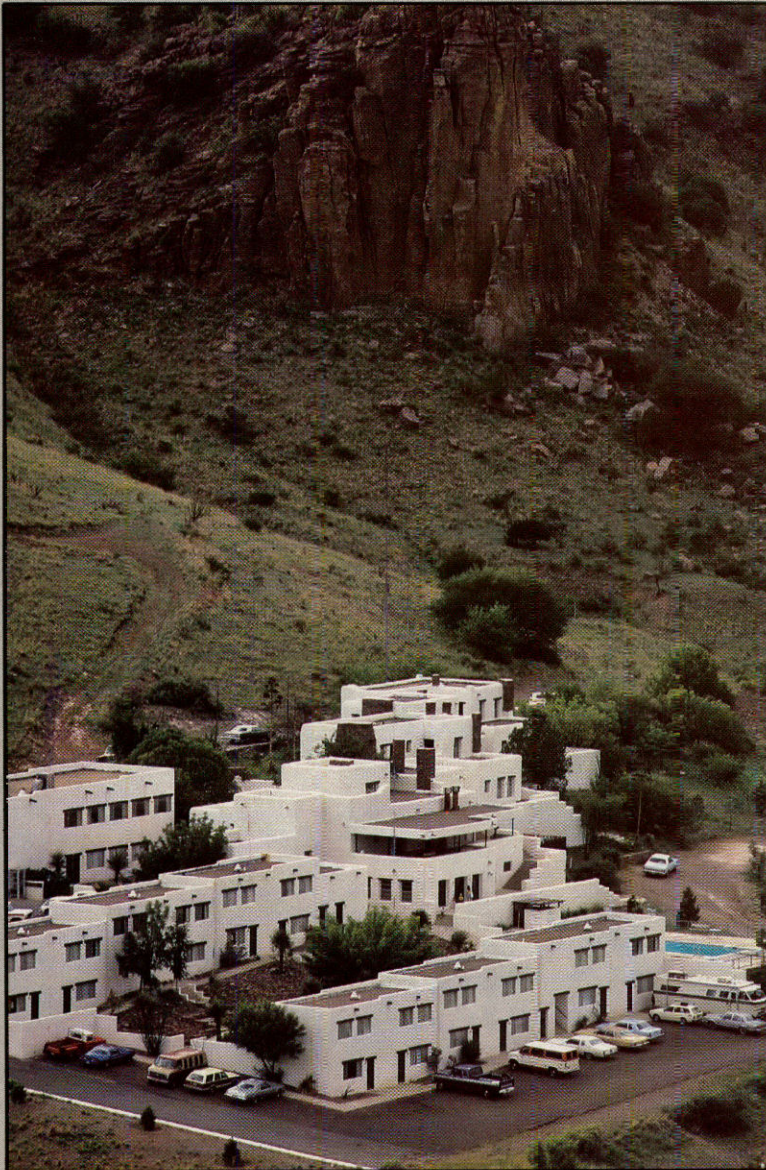
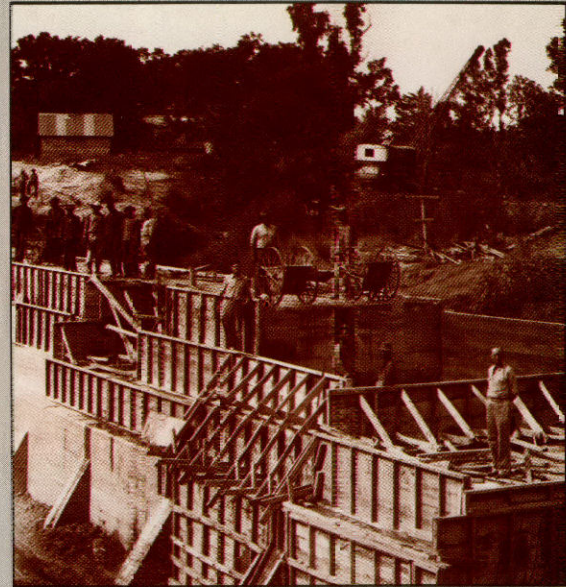


Photo courtesy Verre Phillips



Leroy Williamson (Indian Lodge)



Glen Mills (Bastrop)



Leroy Williamson (Caddo Lake)



Enduring quality is the hallmark of CCC craftsmanship. Among the many structures the crews built are Indian Lodge at Davis Mountains State Park, the dam at Fort Parker (top right) and a stone structure at Caddo Lake. Meticulous attention to detail is illustrated by the relief sculpture at Bastrop and the furnishings at Indian Lodge.

until 1923, when Governor Pat M. Neff urged the 38th Legislature to create the State Parks Board. The first official act of the board was to accept a small tract of land along the banks of the Leon River—later named Mother Neff State Park. Despite this obvious step in the right direction, the state park system still amounted to very little since it could only accept gifts of land and had no funding of its own to acquire parks.

But in 1933 several things happened on the federal level that were to benefit the state's park system. And not the least of these was the assignment of Civilian Conservation Corps units to help develop and improve the heretofore undeveloped park areas. By the end of 1933, the federal government had spent more than \$1 million on the Texas State Park System. This was a staggering amount for a major depression year.

During this national recovery period, young men from throughout the state and other parts of the nation came to find not only employment but also self-respect, physical health and maturity. There is no statistical method which could assess the enormous impact of CCC work in the state parks. Judged in the light of today's labor and materials costs, the CCC projects could be valued in millions of dollars. Indeed, some of the projects included craftsmanship which is not available nowadays—at least within present-day budget limitations.

But more than cold financial statistics, the CCC in Texas produced enduring memories in the hearts of thousands of Texans who still remember times of joy, hard work, achievement and even tragedy.

The CCC literally covered the state, as district camps went from one project site to the next, building and improving everywhere they

stopped. Their work ran the gamut from road, dam and swimming pool construction to fine handcrafting of furniture and cabinets. If one park could be singled out as an example of the CCC's impact, perhaps Bastrop State Park near Bastrop would be the best. The history of Company 1805 states that upon the 200-man group's arrival at the park site on October 21, 1933, "there was nothing very attractive about the place. Very little was visible except about 4,000 acres of cut-over pines, oak, and black sand hills."

The text went on to say that "Since that time, the park has been converted into one of the beauty spots of Texas." Persons who have visited the park may well agree with this assessment, as the architecture, the heavy cedar furniture, metalwork, landscaping and other work done by the corps all contributed to the beauty and utility of the park.

A large refectory building with massive beamed ceilings is still in use as an activity center and frequently is the site of family reunions, club meetings and weddings. It contains dozens of tables and chairs which have endured without repair since the CCC days, and the banquet hall area is accentuated by a relief sculpture in a solid slab of pink-hued native ironstone mounted over the massive mantle.

Also enduring at Bastrop are dozens of cabins, picnic units and

other structures—in fact virtually all the existing structures in the park. In addition, corpsmen at Bastrop's shops hand-fabricated much of the furniture, metalwork and other equipment eventually used in other state parks.

Nearby Lockhart State Park showed development of a slightly different kind, but still typical of the functional facilities made possible by the corps. A swimming pool was built alongside scenic Plum Creek, utilizing the fresh spring water. A dam and bridge also made the wooded creek area a thing of beauty.

There are other examples of unique design and craftsmanship in parks all across the state—but perhaps the most interesting legacy of the CCC is the enduring effect it had on the people who made up the crews.

Former CCC'ers are almost to a man effusive in praise of the organization. "In my opinion it was the greatest organization ever created by government," summed up Jim S. Fritts, of Austin, who toiled at Longhorn Cavern State Park. Joe R. Martinez of Point Comfort, who worked with crews at Palmetto and Balmorhea State Parks, said, "I think we should have some type of program like this for our young men nowadays."

Of course, it wasn't all fun and camaraderie. "I think I personally planted a million pine trees," recalled Bill T. King of Gilmer of his stint at Tyler State Park. But he also recalled that the \$30 a month he earned at the job supported his mother and brother through some difficult times. Werner Schlabach, now of Flora, Illinois, remembers how tough it was hauling caliche, rock and dirt and building the large blocks for construction of the Lake Corpus Christi State Park concession building. "Most of the visitors at the park told us it would never last through the first hurricane," Schlabach said. "You can imagine how I felt when I went back to visit the park in 1976—the building was still there!" Schlabach added, "Even though I didn't get paid much money, I felt I was being repaid with joy when I saw that building." Robert Porter of Ingleside also worked with the crew

State Parks Developed Or Improved by the CCC

Abilene	Huntsville
Balmorhea	Inks Lake
Bastrop	Kerrville
Big Spring	Lake Brownwood
Blanco	Lake Corpus Christi
Bonham	Lake Mineral Wells
Buescher	Lockhart
Caddo Lake	Longhorn Cavern
Cleburne	Mackenzie
Daingerfield	Meridian
Davis Mountains (Indian Lodge)	Mission Tejas
Fort Griffin	Mother Neff
Fort Parker	Old Fort Parker
Garner	Palmetto
Goliad	Palo Duro Canyon
Goose Island	Possum Kingdom
	Tyler

CCC water projects included the dam at Meridian and the water storage facility at Palmetto (opposite page). The camp at right housed the Meridian crew. The Cow Camp Cabins, still standing at Palo Duro but no longer in use, were built by the CCC and rented for \$1 per night, which included double-deck bunks, linens, a stove and cooking utensils.

who built the concession building which is still in use today at the park.

Many CCC'ers recall humorous incidents during their tours of duty. Richardson attorney Joe James remembers the sight of several dozen CCC boys perched in mesquite trees to trim the limbs at Lake Corpus Christi State Park. "We looked like a herd of grazing monkeys," he observed wryly. "Most of us worked hard."

Another story which made the rounds of West Texas CCC camps was when one of the assistant cooks at the Big Bend area camp reprimanded a gentlemen who, upon touring the outdoor kitchen, had lifted the lid of one of the pans on the stove, causing some cinders to drop therein. In no uncertain terms, the man was instructed to stay clear of the cooking operation. The cook was mortified later to learn that he had been addressing the touring former Texas Governor Pat M. Neff.

The CCC doubtless was an organization with faults, but that it had a beneficial effect on thousands of young men and gave a tremendous boost to Texas' park system can hardly be debated. The enduring monuments constructed by the CCC in parks throughout the state will provide continuing memories for those who were a part of the CCC, and will endure to serve future generations of park users. **

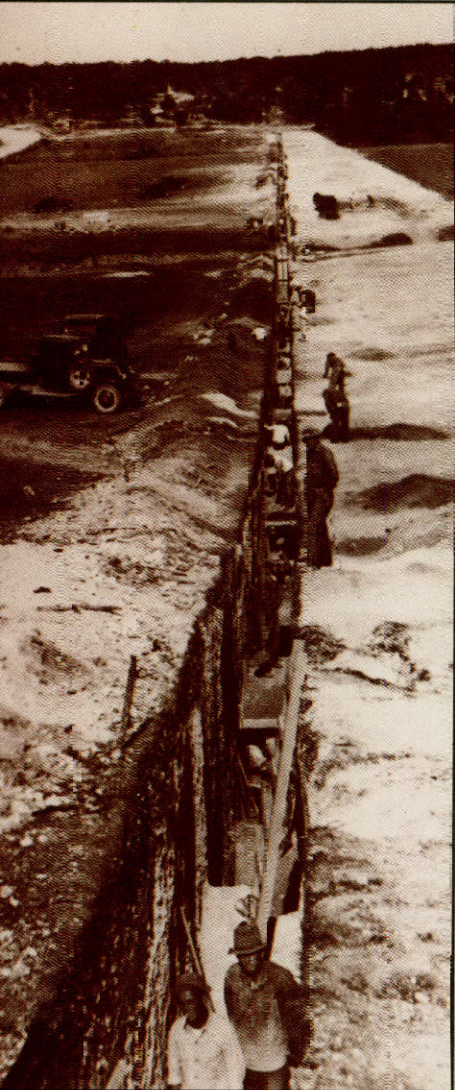
Editor's Note: Legislation to create an American Conservation Corps, similar to the CCC concept, is now in a U.S. Senate subcommittee. The bipartisan-supported legislation to reduce unemployment while conserving natural resources was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives by a vote of 301-87 on March 1. At publication time there was no prediction as to when the bill would reach the Senate floor.

Photo courtesy Meridian Estate Park



David Baster (Palo Duro Canyon)





Clen Mills (Palmetto)



CCC 50th Anniversary

by Sue Moss

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps, one of the most popular of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs. Four months after it received Congressional approval in 1933, the CCC began providing work for single, jobless men between the ages of 18 and 25 and World War I veterans. The Labor Department enrolled out-of-work men, the Army provided the camp organization and provisions, and the Soil Conservation Service, Forest Service and National Parks Service provided the projects.

A major thrust of the park development projects was the improvement and development of state-owned parks. Texas was a leader in such development. By the end of September 1933, barely six months after passage of the CCC legislation, there were 15 Texas camps working in state parks—more than in all other states except California, Illinois and New York. Texas had 2,620 men at work in state parks out of 18,000 nationally.

The CCC legacy is still present in 33 state parks, and most of the facilities those men built are being used every day by park visitors and staff. While the character of the structures varies across the state, there are common design elements in all of them attributable to the guidance of the National Park Service. The use of native materials and employing historic building styles were the guiding principles of almost all park design and construction of the CCC era. These principles are evident in such various places as the adobe Indian Lodge at Davis Mountains State Park in far West Texas and in the log interpretive building at Caddo Lake State Park in East Texas. Development often included combination buildings with dining facilities, concession areas and even dance terraces. The lodge at Palo Duro was built by the CCC, as well as the refectories at Lake Brownwood and Bastrop. All these structures were designed and built to blend in with the natural landscape and to enhance rather than dominate the park.

Some of the most distinctive of the CCC work can be seen in individual cabins at Bastrop, Caddo Lake, Lake Brownwood, Garner, Possum Kingdom and Balmorhea. Small buildings and features received the same attention to detail as did the larger structures. Overlooks, drinking fountains, cattle guards and fences were well planned and designed to harmonize with the parks. Other CCC work provided water recreation. The companies built dams at Huntsville, Cleburne, Daingerfield, Fort Parker and Meridian State Parks, thus creating places to fish and swim.

Not all CCC work took place in recreational parks. Several historical parks also received attention. Fort Griffin was significantly restored and Old Fort Parker was completely reconstructed. Goliad is an excellent example of the CCC's historical work with archeological investigations and reconstruction of the 18th century mission church and granary.

CCC alumni will meet in Eagle River, Wisconsin, on September 20 through 23 to mark their 50th anniversary. Information about the meeting and alumni membership can be obtained from the National Association of CCC Alumni, 7245 Arlington Blvd., Suite 318, Falls Church, Virginia 22042, or from James Ratcliff, President of the South Central Region, 106 Fairway Avenue, Sherwood, Arkansas 72116.

The Parks and Wildlife Department recognizes the importance of the CCC buildings, and is engaged in a year-long survey of the CCC structures in state parks. Many CCC buildings have been modified for better visitor use, but they still reflect the original utility and integrity. Park visitors still can see and appreciate the 50-year-old heritage at each of the 33 state parks where the CCC left its mark. **

Editor's Note: The department would like to hear from anyone who worked on CCC structures in state parks or who has information or photos from that time. Please contact Sue Moss, Historic Sites and Restoration Branch, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744, 512-479-4879.



by Larry Teague

Thanks to some revolutionary new technology, coupled with the cooperation of a sportsmen's group, a public utility and a state agency, the future of Texas redfish populations is looking brighter.

A 30-acre redfish spawning facility, called the John Wilson Marine Fish Hatchery, has been constructed by the Houston-based Gulf Coast Conservation Association (GCCA) and is being operated by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TP&WD) biologists.

The hatchery, built on land provided by Central Power and Light Company (CP&L) and located at Flour Bluff on the outskirts of Corpus Christi, has become a virtual redfish factory, pumping millions of fingerling redfish into a coastal artery once believed to be near collapse.

Hatchery programs certainly aren't new, but the John Wilson Hatchery is unique in that it is the first salt-water facility of its kind strictly geared for the mass production of finfish.

Months before the hatchery was completed, TP&WD Fisheries Director Robert J. Kemp predicted it would be capable of producing 10 million redfish per year for stocking in Texas bays. "But we won't be surprised if the number exceeds that as the state-of-the-art progresses," he added.

So far, Kemp has been right on target.

In June, 2.3 million 1½- to two-inch fingerlings were released in Espiritu Santo Bay, representing the facility's first crop. And returns from bag seine sample studies indicate an excellent survival rate for these released fish. The first drag of a 60-foot bag seine, pulled two weeks after the initial release, produced seven healthy redfish fingerlings.

Soon after hatching, the redfish fry are stocked in earthen ponds near Central Power and Light. Alfalfa or cottonseed meal is added to the ponds to bring on a peak of food organisms. After 45 days the fry become fingerlings, ready to stock in Texas bays.

Glen Mills

John Wilson Marine Fish Hatchery Redfish Factory



This is remarkable considering only 100 redfish fingerlings were recaptured from St. Charles Bay during a one-year period following an experimental release there in 1979.

The Redfish Factory was named in the honor of the late State Senator John Wilson of LaGrange, who died in September 1982 of cancer. Wilson was an outspoken proponent of coastal conservation and had been a leader in the movement to have Texas spotted seatrout and redfish classified as game fish. The "Redfish Bill," originated by the GCCA and passed by the legislature in 1981, made the sale of trout and redfish taken from Texas waters illegal.

GCCA also acquired funding for the hatchery to the tune of \$1.4 million, mainly through donations from private foundations and non-profit organizations. With a membership rapidly approaching 15,000, and with 11 chapters in Texas and additional ones in Louisiana and Alabama, GCCA has become an established national watchdog of saltwater conservation. The John Wilson hatchery stands as testimony to that fact.

If you're a fisherman, you're probably wondering at this point when you will be able to tussle with one of these newfangled laboratory fish.

It's possible you already have.

TP&WD's marine research laboratory at Palacios has been experimentally stocking Texas bays with laboratory-reared redfish for the past five years. It was at the Palacios facility where research on propagating redfish was transformed into actual large-scale production. By means of light and water temperature manipulation, female redfish are actually tricked into thinking it is fall—the season in which wild redfish spawn naturally.

Although biologists can dupe female reds year round, chilly Texas winters severely limited the production capabilities at the Palacios station. Not so at the Redfish Factory.

CP&L, in addition to donating the acreage for the new facility, is providing access to their 1,130-acre cooling lake. The lake's primary purpose is to hold water that has passed through super-heated turbines; its 68-degree Fahrenheit water temperature is ideally suited

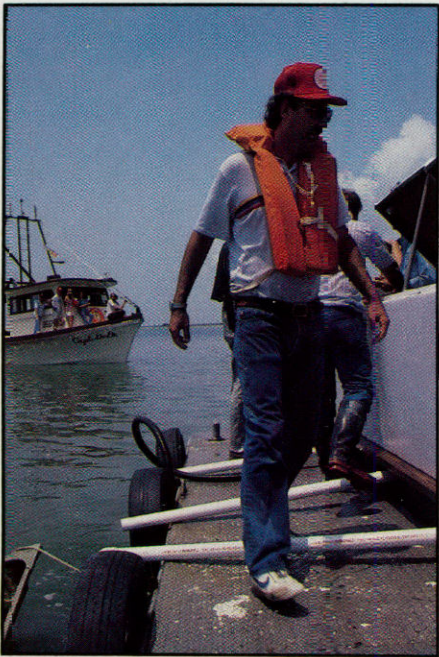
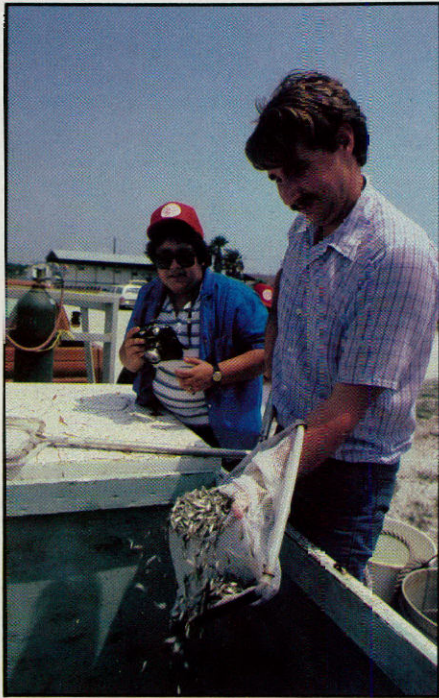


Captive brood fish (top left) produce eggs which are collected (top right) and moved to incubator jars. When the fry develop into fingerlings (opposite page, top) they are removed from the ponds and released into the bays (opposite page, bottom).

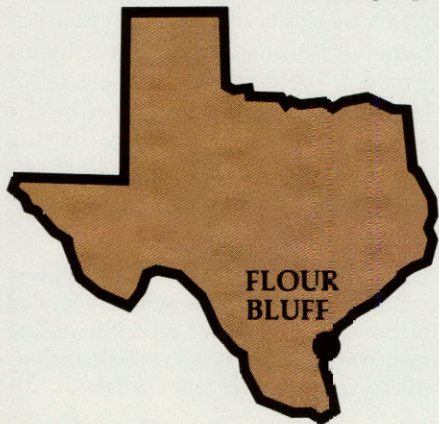
for the rearing of marine organisms year round.

The John Wilson Marine Fish Hatchery consists of 20 acres of ponds, two saltwater pumping stations and culture and maintenance buildings. There, 48 captive brood redfish are maintained in sixteen 3,200-gallon tanks. Since one female redfish in the 25- to 30-pound class is able to produce up to 15 million eggs per spawning period, the production capability of this hatchery is awesome, potentially rivaling that found in nature. Survival rate for the hatched eggs averages around 80 percent.

The new hatchery's culture building is divided into four 1,225 square-foot sections. Three sections are designed for brood fish maintenance chambers, with each chamber housing four 3,200-gallon tanks. Each



Larry Teague



tank holds two pairs of mature brood fish, and each chamber is set on different photoperiod cycles to produce separate spawns for each season. A wet lab incubator in the fourth chamber holds six 500-gallon incubator jars. Each jar is capable of incubating some 500,000 eggs.

Should the manipulation of light and temperature fail to produce a spawn, biologists can speed up the process by injecting the females with hormones. As soon as the females spawn, the males fertilize the eggs, which in turn float to the surface. The floating eggs are then transferred to incubator jars for their next stage of development. Within 72 hours they have become fry; however, they remain in the incubator jars for an additional 72 hours after developing mouth parts.

At the end of this period the fry are stocked in earthen ponds that previously have been fertilized with alfalfa or cottonseed meal to bring on a peak availability of food organisms (zooplankton). The John Wilson Hatchery has 10 such two-acre ponds. The ponds usually are not filled until six days prior to stocking to guard against the development of predatory insects and to allow for peak zooplankton blooms.

The fry are stocked at the rate of 300,000 per acre for a 45-day growth period. When the fish are from 1½ to two inches long, they are ready for stocking in Texas bays. The water is lowered and the fingerlings are placed in trailer tanks, ready to be shuttled to any point on the coast for release.

The bulk of the 1983 crop will be released in Espiritu Santo Bay for monitoring. TP&WD biologists will be able to detect the crop's impact on the fishery and weigh any possible increase in the population of redfish in Espiritu Santo against samples from other unstocked bays. Since this is the first undertaking of its kind in the world, biologists don't know how many fish will be needed to revive any particular bay system. All they know at this point is that **any** fish placed into the bays will help.

Barring hurricanes, major floods, severe droughts or other environmental extremes (factors that have not influenced the Texas saltwater fishery in the past 10 years), the fish released in the summer of 1983 should attain a healthy average length of 14 inches by summer 1984. As mentioned, it is thought that the fish are enjoying an excellent rate of survival. Those fish that survive the first year to become two-year-olds will have passed the minimum keeper size of 16 inches to attain average lengths of 23 inches.

Life in the wild for young redfish is hazardous, to say the least, hence the reason for the redfish production facility in the first place. Although redfish fingerlings are tough little predators on their own and grow as fast or faster than freshwater catfish, chances are slim of the fish surviving the first year and becoming a two-year-old fish. Man, the redfish's greatest enemy, also can be its greatest benefactor. Back when commercial fishing for redfish was legal in Texas, the mortality rate of fish that survived the first year was a gloomy 85 percent. Only 15 percent of the juvenile reds even had a chance of attaining adulthood. That chance is greater now, thanks to a series of laws passed in 1981 and some new ones effective this month.

By next fall, your favorite bay will have been massively planted with redfish. TP&WD is targeting every Texas bay system for stocking, and will have become more adept at practicing the new field of redfish farming.

By all means, don't forget the bag and possession requirements on redfish (16-inch minimum size, 30-inch maximum; 10 per day), and release all undersized fish with tender loving care. After all, they are the source from which future generations of redfish will spring.

Our children aren't likely to forget the conservationists of today. They'll look to the Redfish Factory—a symbol of cooperation between public, private and state agencies—and will know it as a unique production facility that grew redfish, instead of canning them. ******

Redfish Roundup

Sportsmen help remove reds from power plant lake

by Bill Baker and Roy Johnson

Seldom has a call to rescue elicited a response from such diverse and cooperative groups—the state conservation agency, a public utilities company, public officials, conservation organizations, fishing tackle representatives, sports writers and wildlife artists. The mission: catch and tag as many of the red drum as possible which had taken up residence in a power plant cooling lake and release them in Trinity Bay. The mission not only afforded opportunities for an enormously successful fishing trip, but also provided a chance to observe fishery management techniques firsthand and an opportunity to do one's part in aiding a species of fish whose declines have been clearly documented.

Since the early 1970s, studies of the Houston Lighting & Power Company's Cedar Bayou Generating Station cooling system (intake waters, discharge canal drop structure, cooling lake and receiving waters) has been the subject of extensive study by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas A&M University, the Environmental Protection Agency and HL&P. Results showed development of extensive fish and shellfish populations in

the system. Studies showed the resiliency of nature at work: animals taking advantage of new and diverse habitats and making the most of environmental changes that resulted from man's activities.

To understand fully the relationships between estuarine species and their use of the HL&P power plant systems, one must first understand the physical changes that have occurred here through the years. In 1968, in a response to power demands of the Houston-Baytown metropolitan area, groundwork was laid to construct the HL&P Cedar Bayou Generating Station on the east bank of Cedar Bayou, approximately 10 miles upstream from Tabbs Bay in the upper reaches of the Galveston Bay System. A six-mile-long discharge canal was dug eastward to Trinity Bay and a 20-foot drop structure was built at the termination of this discharge canal. To help cool the heated effluents, a 2,600-acre cooling lake was built in 1972 to receive the discharge water before it finally flowed over a spillway into the shallow waters of Trinity Bay.

Each year, myriads of larval shrimp, fish and crabs are drawn into the power plant condenser.

Many survive the circuit and make their way through the discharge canal, the cooling lake and eventually enter Trinity Bay. Larger organisms are blocked by traveling screens and detoured safely around the heat-producing generators directly into the discharge canal.

Bigger predatory fishes remain in the cooling lake and congregate below the drop structure because the water is teeming with juvenile fish and crabs that provide a steady diet for the game fish in the lake. The warmer year-round water temperature insures a higher annual metabolic rate for the fish, so they feed more often. The more they eat, the bigger they become and the bigger they become, the more fun they are to catch. At one time this area was open to public access, but game violations and litter problems forced HL&P to close it by 1977. This left the fish population of the compound relatively free of fishing pressure for several years. The Parks and Wildlife Department and HL&P

Bob Brister of the Houston Chronicle was one of the many people who responded to the call to rescue at HL&P's cooling lake. Hundreds of large redfish such as this were removed from the lake.





Coastal fisheries personnel from the Parks and Wildlife Department handled and tagged the fish removed from the cooling lake before they were released into Trinity Bay. Local individuals and companies supplied fishing equipment for people who did not have their own.

personnel reasoned that this attraction could spell danger for the concentrated fish populations as water temperatures increased in the summer, so they decided to remove as many fish as possible from the discharge site and release them into Trinity Bay.

This action should have several beneficial effects. By reducing the biomass of fishes in the area, any adverse effects of high summertime temperatures would be minimized. Since the cooling lake is off-limits to the public, the lake's reds and trout would be made available to the fishing public. Those fish caught and removed from the cooling lake would augment natural populations along the upper Texas Coast and Galveston Bay System. And, large numbers of red drum could be tagged within a short time and with minimal effort to increase our knowledge of red drum populations in Galveston Bay.

Dr. Frank Schlicht, senior biologist

for HL&P, the Gulf Coast Conservation Association and TP&WD personnel coordinated their efforts to set up a day for the redfish rescue and to invite various groups to participate in the angling effort. On April 9, 1983, volunteers met at the cooling lake to catch the large fish in the discharge areas.

Equipment for this endeavor was donated by local individuals and companies. Joe and Dan Meyer of the Cut Rate Sporting Goods, Inc. of Houston supplied rods and reels to those who did not have them, Pat Kelley of the Alpha Bait Company supplied baits for the effort and Marburgers Sporting Goods supplied dip nets for more than 90 fishermen. TP&WD biologists handled and tagged the fish. Even people who had seldom fished before were landing four- to 12-pound reds. When the day was over, 375 red drum, five spotted seatrout and seven black drum had been tagged. Subsequent tagging efforts in late April and early May yielded more than 1,000 red drum and 85 spotted seatrout.

Tagging efforts at the HL&P Cedar Bayou plant offer a unique opportunity for the TP&WD's ongoing research on redfish and spotted seatrout. Immediate dividends



were apparent. On April 13, 1983, four days after the initial fishing effort, the TP&WD received information on tag number F-15337. The fish was caught at the discharge area and was the first of 19 tagged red drum to be reported thus far in the program.

The large number of fish available for tagging in a short time permits the department to determine age, growth, movement and mortality of these fishes. Scales removed during the tagging process are used to age the fish. Growth rates can be determined by comparing the release size to the size of the fish when it is caught later by a sportfisherman. Movement is determined by measuring how far from the discharge canal the tagged fish were caught, and mortality can be calculated after a given time by comparing the total number of tags returned with the total number of fish tagged. Growth, movement and mortality are all pieces of the large puzzle the department is working on to manage our natural resources better. If anglers measure and report all tagged fish caught, the department will gain information important to the management of these species and be able to provide the public with the best fishing opportunities available. **



GUADALUPE RIVER CLEAN-UP

Article by David Price
Photos by Larry Hobbs

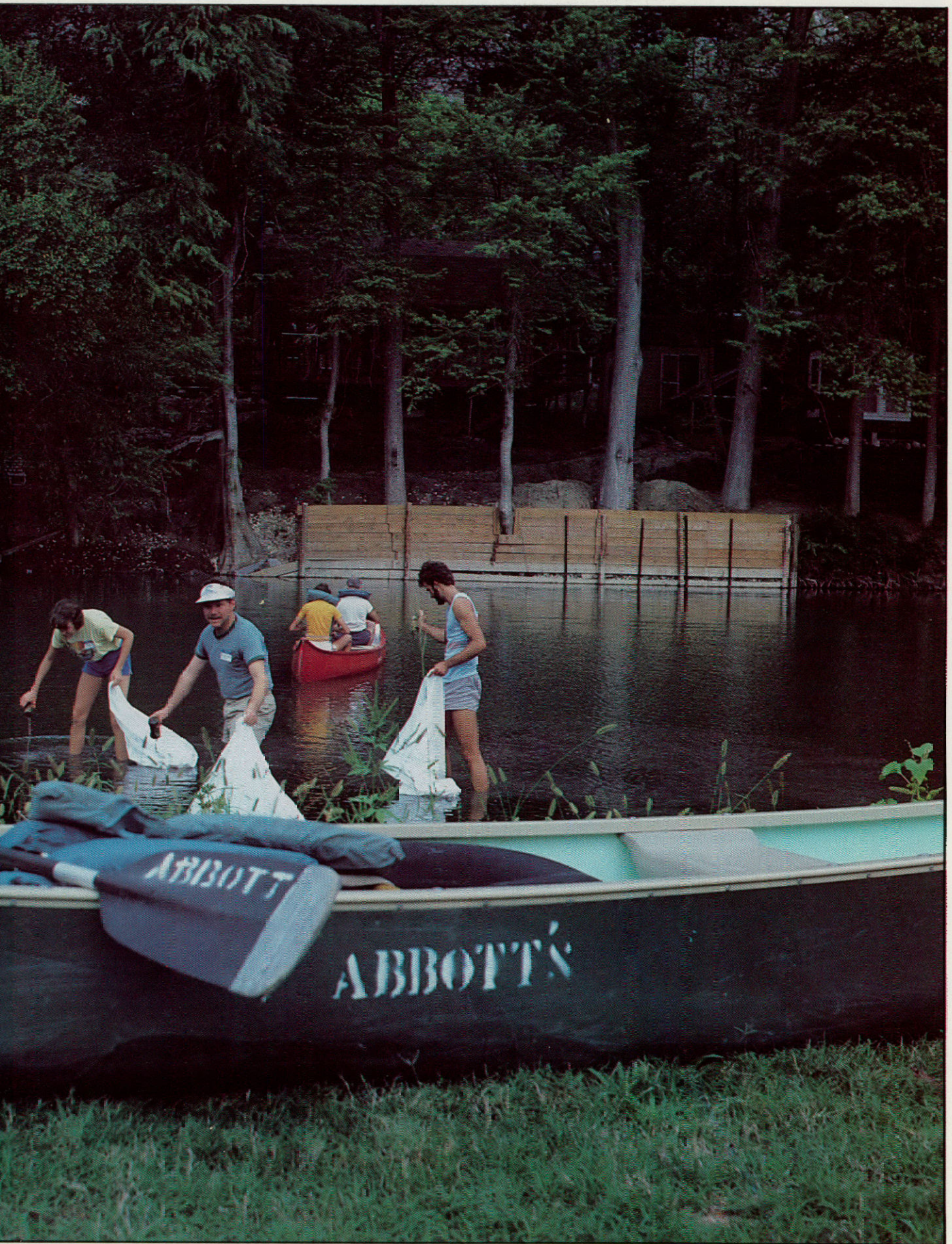
Thousands of people flock to the Guadalupe River between Canyon Lake and New Braunfels each day during the summer, making this section of the Guadalupe the most heavily traveled river in the state. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers estimated that some 250,000 people used the river during the 1981 Fourth of July weekend. The River Road, a county road that parallels and crisscrosses the river, provides ready access for the impatient crowds; however, it quickly becomes one long traffic jam as the river fills with tubers and canoeists.

People are here for a good time. They come to "shoot the rapids" and find fun in the sun. Unfortunately, some of them leave their manners at home. They also leave in their wake a river littered with tons of trash—cans, bottles (many of them broken into jagged little pieces) and an assortment of other debris.

This section of river runs through Comal County, and county officials have their hands full controlling the crowds that descend upon the Guadalupe each weekend. Funds are not available to conduct an organized system of trash pickup along the river. Businesses that operate along the river have made attempts to keep it clean, but their efforts do little good. Something more needed to be done.

Local canoe liveries did their part in the clean-up by providing canoes for the volunteers. A campground also helped out by offering free camping facilities. The Guadalupe clean-up has taken place every year since 1976.



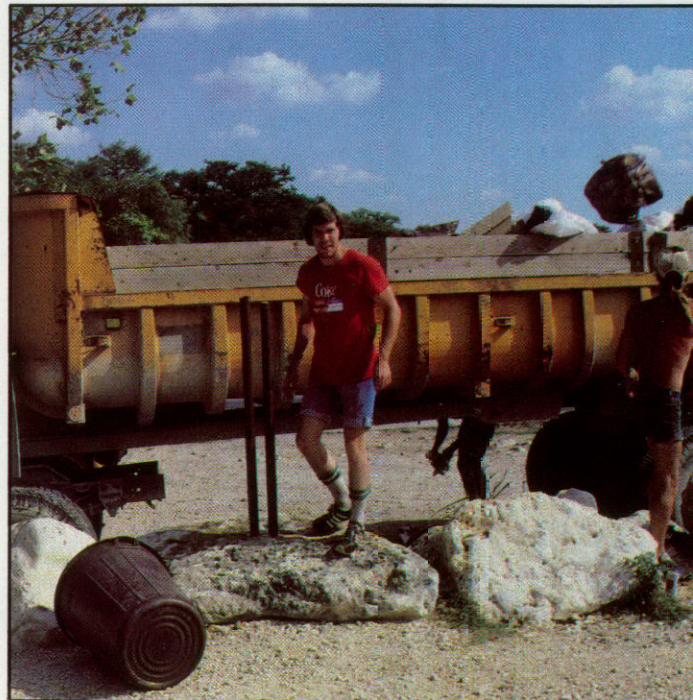




Clean-up volunteers included members of clubs from across the state as well as concerned individuals. Last year the group pulled some 20 tons of trash from the river, filling two large dump trucks to overflowing.

In 1976, the River Recreation Association of Texas adopted the Lower Guadalupe River as its project under the Isaak Walton League's "Adopt-a-Stream" program. With local canoe liveries providing canoes and a campground providing free camping facilities, the association held its First Annual Guadalupe River Clean-up that year.

Last year the association held its Sixth Annual Guadalupe River Clean-up, pulling some 20 tons of trash from the river, mostly aluminum beverage cans and glass bottles. The 1982 clean-up was attended by some 225 volunteers. Members of the River Recreation Association of Texas, Sierra Club, Texas Trails Association, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, along with members of the community and other concerned individuals, donated their time and energies to spend a day picking up trash from the river.





For the first time, the clean-up volunteers were treated to breakfast and lunch by local groups wishing to express their appreciation. Breakfast was provided by the Guadalupe River and Valley Association, a group of concerned homeowners and landowners. Lunch was provided by the New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce and Junior Chamber of Commerce. Again, as in past clean-ups, equipment and camping space were donated by local businesses along the river.

The clean-up itself was months in the planning. The association contacted groups from across the state to ask for help, and attended meetings to seek support for the operation.

The clean-up involved dividing the river into six sections. Each section was assigned to a group leader, who coordinated group members during the actual operations. After everyone was briefed on safety precautions and issued trashbags, they were sent to specific canoe liveries to pick up their boats. By the end of the day, two large dump trucks had been filled to overflowing.

This year, the River Recreation Association of Texas is again sponsoring a clean-up of the Guadalupe River

between Canyon Dam and New Braunfels. It will be held the first Sunday in October. For information, contact them at: P.O. Box 12734, Austin 78711.

The River Recreation Association of Texas is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization "dedicated to the safe and wise use of Texas waterways." In addition to the Guadalupe River Clean-up, they sponsor or cosponsor such events as the Houston Cruise with the Blind, Austin Cruise with the Disabled and other events. They are involved in waterway legislation/implementation, water safety and skills teaching. For more information, contact them at the above address. Membership is open to the public.

As with every other recreational area, the best way to keep the Guadalupe clean is to haul out everything you take in and not discard so much as a gum wrapper in the first place. Some folks think that if a beer can sinks or floats out of sight, it's all right to dump their trash in the water. Well, the 225 participants in last year's clean-up can tell you the trash from thoughtless tubers, canoeists and other recreationists doesn't disappear, it accumulates in eddies, on snags and throughout one of Texas' most beautiful rivers. **

OPERATION GAME THIEF APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

Two new appointments to the Operation Game Thief Committee have been announced by Charles D. Travis, executive director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The six-member committee meets twice yearly in Austin to review cases processed during the six-month period and disburses cash rewards to persons whose information leads to conviction of game and fish law violators. The program is funded entirely through donations from individuals and organizations, and the number is 1-800-792-GAME.

Appointed to six-year terms were William LeBlanc of Fulton, immediate past president of the Sportsmen's Clubs of Texas

Outdoor Roundup

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PARKS AND WILDLIFE
DEPARTMENT'S NEWS SERVICE

(SCOT), and Howard Watson of Killeen, chairman of the Texas Game Warden Association's Advisory Council.

The two appointments fill the expired terms of Ed Stedman Jr. of Beaumont and Radcliffe Killam of Laredo, who served on the committee since it was authorized by the 67th Texas Legislature.

HUNTING, FISHING RULES SET FOR MANAGEMENT AREAS

Regulations have been adopted for hunting at three of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's new wildlife management areas.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission has authorized public hunts during the upcoming 1983-84 seasons at the Matagorda Island W.M.A., a 43,000-acre tract in Calhoun County; the Alabama Creek W.M.A., comprised of 14,500 acres in the Davy Crockett National Forest, Trinity County; and the Bannister W.M.A., a 20,700-acre portion of the Angelina National Forest, Angelina County.

The commission also approved

regulations for two newly acquired tracts of the Las Palomas W.M.A., one in Hidalgo County and one in Cameron County.

The Parks and Wildlife Department earlier this year was given authority to manage fish and wildlife resources on Matagorda Island under an agreement with the U.S. Department of the Interior and the Texas General Land Office.

The Alabama Creek and Bannister areas are owned by the U.S. Forest Service, but fish and wildlife resources will be managed by the TP&WD.

On all three new management areas, public hunting will be offered for white-tailed deer, waterfowl, quail, doves and small game. All deer hunts will be held on a special permit basis, with hunters selected by public drawing. A \$25 fee will be charged persons drawn to hunt.

On the Bannister and Alabama Creek areas, hunting for doves, quail, squirrel and waterfowl will be free, with hunters required only to register at points of access. A \$5 fee will be charged for hunting doves, waterfowl and quail on the upland portion of the Matagorda area.

Application forms and instructions for public deer hunts on all the department's management areas will be available in September. They may be obtained by calling toll-free 1-800-792-1112.



400 RINGNECKS STOCKED IN NORTH TEXAS

Wildlife crews of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department have made the third and final stocking of 400 ring-necked pheasants in Hunt County near Celeste.

Walt Arnold, superintendent of the department's game bird facility in Tyler, said 350 of the stocked birds were adults and 50 were eight weeks old. The birds, released in mixed farm

and pasture land, bring the total released in the area during the past three years to 1,200.

Hayden Haucke, wildlife biologist stationed at Detroit near Clarksville, said there have been reports of natural reproduction in the area from the two previous stockings. However, it will take at least five breeding seasons before it will be known if the habitat can sustain a wild population of pheasants.

The stockings were done in an effort to establish huntable populations of pheasants.

DRY WEATHER HURTING PERMIAN BASIN ANTELOPE

Drought conditions currently causing woes for cattlemen and farmers in the Permian Basin region of West Texas also are hurting pronghorn antelope herds.

Herb Kothmann, a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologist stationed at Big Spring, said recent aerial surveys show the adult pronghorns are holding their own, but the fawn crop is poor or nonexistent in most areas.

"Range conditions right now are just about as bad as any time during the past 18 years," Kothmann said. "Actually it's fairly surprising to me that there are any fawns at all this year."

Kothmann said Permian Basin deer production also is feeling the effects of the drought. "We

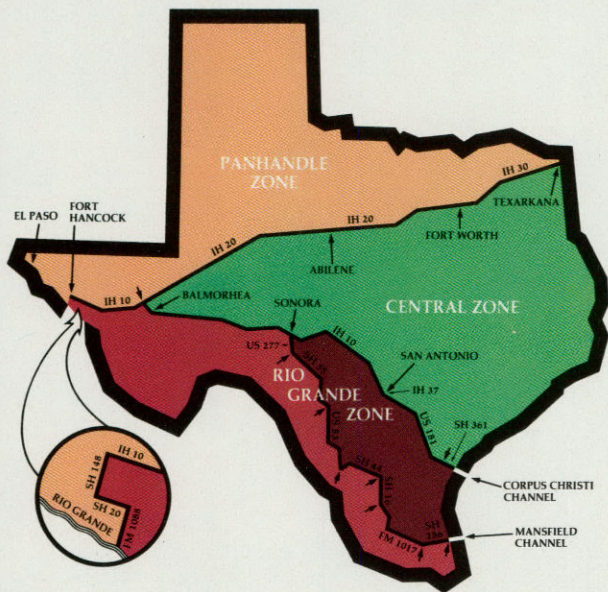
have seen about 300 to 400 deer while flying our antelope surveys, and we have yet to see a fawn among them," Kothmann commented.

The Permian Basin is an area bounded roughly by Sweetwater and San Angelo on the east and the Pecos River to the west. "You probably could say that Rankin in Upton County is the center of the severe drought area," he said.

While Kothmann describes the current conditions as "grim," he points out that this year's drought follows two years of excellent pronghorn reproduction. He said populations in many areas of the Permian Basin and Trans-Pecos were at a 10-year peak during 1981 and 1982.

"If we get any rainfall at all in the next few months I believe the antelope will be all right," said Kothmann, "but it's too late to expect any reproductive success."

MOURNING DOVE WHITE-WINGED DOVE HUNTING ZONES 1983-84



THREE-ZONE DOVE SETUP ADOPTED

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission has approved a new three-zone alignment for dove hunting in the upcoming seasons.

The commission established the Panhandle, Central and Rio Grande Zones. The new alignment replaces the two-zone system which had been in effect since 1946 (see map).

Significant changes brought about by the new alignment include a September 1 opening date for a large portion of Southeast Texas which formerly had the later South Zone opening date; a straight 70-day season for the Panhandle-South Plains and much of North Texas; and allowance for two white-winged doves in the daily bag limit statewide.

The Panhandle Zone mourning dove season will be September 1-November 9; the Central Zone season will be September 1-October 30, 1983, and January 7-16, 1984; the Rio Grande season will be September 17-November 5, 1983, and January 7-22, 1984.

The statewide bag limit will be 12 doves, not to include more than two white-winged doves. Shooting hours will be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

During the special four-day white-winged dove season in the Rio Grande Zone, hunting for both mourning and white-winged doves will be allowed September 3-4 and 10-11. In the light red portion of the zone, the daily bag limit will be 10 whitewings and 12 mourning doves. In the dark red portion, the daily limit will be 12 mourning doves and two whitewings, for a total daily limit of 14 birds.

Shooting hours during the four-day whitewing season will be noon to sunset.

One fully feathered wing must remain attached to the carcass of every dove taken by hunters in the Rio Grande Zone only, while the bird is being transported between the place where taken and one's abode or a commercial processing facility.

As in the past, all persons who hunt white-winged doves will be required to have a White-winged Dove Stamp in their possession in addition to a valid hunting license. The stamp requirement applies to any person taking or hunting white-wings statewide. A hunting license is not required of persons hunting doves in their county of residence.

The sanctuary system also remains in effect for this year's whitewing season.

TEAL DUCK SEASON SET BY COMMISSION

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission has approved September 10-18, 1983, as statewide season dates for hunting all species of teal ducks.

As in the past, the daily bag limit will be four teal in the aggregate; possession limit eight. Shooting hours will be sunrise to sunset statewide.

The special teal season gives waterfowl hunters the opportunity to hunt early arriving teal which often pass through much of the state before the opening of regular waterfowl seasons.

GRASS CARP DISCOVERED IN TRINITY RIVER

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department fishery biologists expressed surprise and concern after reports of large grass carp (white amur) being caught from the Trinity River were confirmed in early August.

Charles Menn, district management biologist at Sheldon, received a report in the summer that a commercial fisherman had been catching the fish from the river near Interstate Highway 10, about six miles upstream from Trinity Bay.

Menn contacted the fisherman who told Menn he previously had caught as many as 500 of the fish, ranging in weight up to 50 pounds each.

Grass carp are Asian imports which have been stocked in lakes in some states to control aquatic vegetation. It is illegal to release grass carp anywhere in Texas, with the exception of an experimental program authorized by the Texas Legislature and conducted by Texas A&M University at Lake Conroe, where about 270,000 of the fish have been released since 1981 to determine if they could control the aquatic weed hydrilla.

Biologists are puzzled over the origin of the Trinity River fish, since none had been detected in surveys in 1981 and 1982 upriver in Lake Livingston. Inland Fisheries Management Chief Ernest Simmons said the reported date of first capture of the fish would appear to indicate they were not among those stocked at Lake Conroe.

BLANCO STATE PARK REOPENED TO PUBLIC

Blanco State Park has reopened after completion of a \$700,000 renovation project.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials said one of the most unusual features of the renovation project was a solar water heater, the first solar energy unit of any kind in a Texas state park.

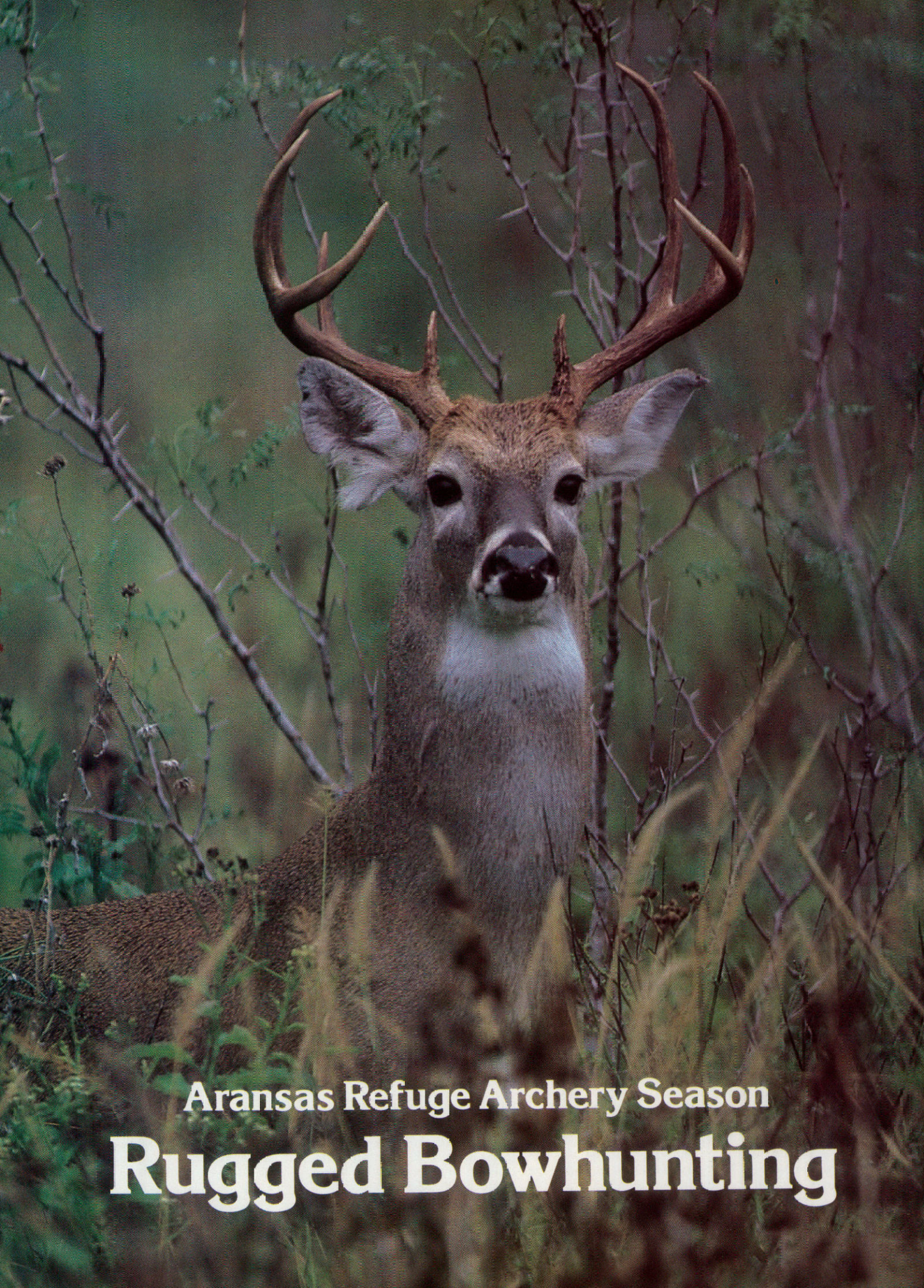
Added to the park's facilities were 15 picnic sites with parking, 20 multiuse campsites with shade shelters over the tables, two comfort stations, one restroom with showers and solar heating unit, new headquarters building, trailer dump station, an improved group pavilion and rerouted entrance road providing entry into the park from U.S. Highway 281.

For reservations or other information, call the park headquarters at (512) 833-4333.

OCTOBER IN . . .

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

Archaeologists in Texas are putting together a story that covers hundreds of generations. A picture of long-ago humans and their lives is emerging from human artifact records found in several spots in the state, and according to one archaeologist Texas is yielding one of the most exciting prehistoric scenes to be found. A story in the October issue will offer a look at Texas archaeology with details on some significant discoveries in the state. It's not too soon to start thinking about waterfowl season, and Texas has some of the best public waterfowl hunting areas in the country. Next month we'll have some tips on waterfowl hunting on public lands, along with a list of areas and how to get information on them. Also in October are stories on the Angelina-Neches Scientific Area, primitive camping in state parks, the Texas kangaroo rat, the new brood facility for bighorn sheep at the Sierra Diablo Wildlife Management Area and a Young Naturalist feature on the harvest-man, or daddy longlegs.



Aransas Refuge Archery Season
Rugged Bowhunting

Deer season for archery opens the first week of October in most Texas counties, more than a month before the regular firearms season begins. The bowhunter may hunt with bow and arrow exclusively, or he may be one of the many who commonly hunts with his rifle, but extends his deer season by taking to the field early with bow and arrow. If he is one of the latter group, chances are he will hunt with his rifle in the same areas where he hunted earlier with his bow. This gives him an advantage over other rifle hunters in his area because chances are he already has spent many days in the field with his bow. In fact, by the time the firearms season opens, he may have found a big buck that was always elusive enough to stay just out of bow range but will fall prey to his rifle.

However, this usually is not the situation with hunters who hunt the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. Aransas is open to bowhunting from noon on September 29 through October 3, from October 7 through October 9 and from October 14 through October 15. (With the exception of the first day, hours are from 5:30 a.m. until the close of the legal hunting time on each day.) There is no limit on the number of hunters, and admission is free; all one must do is show up. Usually a firearms season also is held (it was canceled in 1982), but it is regulated by a drawing. So the chances are slim that a bowhunter who hunts Aransas during the special nine-day bowhunting season will be one of the lucky few who wins the lottery and returns for the firearms hunt. Most bowhunters who hunt Aransas do so for the pleasure of the archery season, not in preparation for the firearms season.

The Aransas bowhunter is one who likes a challenge; he enjoys being in the outdoors; he hunts solely for the quality of the hunt. The kill is certainly not the incentive for any bowhunter, especially at Aransas. The kill ratio there is less than one percent, which is well below

the national average of 10 percent. Obviously, the Aransas bowhunter is motivated by some other reason. Perhaps it is just to get away from the city, or the challenge of the hunt, or the camaraderie of other hunters. Perhaps it's a combination of all three. Whatever the incentive is, it's not exclusively the quest of game.

The Aransas National Wildlife Refuge is maintained by the United States Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service, and during the hunting season refuge personnel are assisted by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department game wardens. The refuge contains 54,829 acres, of which approximately 34,000 acres are opened for hunting. Although the refuge provides prime habitat for most South Texas wildlife, deer and feral hogs are the only two game species that may be hunted.

Aransas lies on the Texas Gulf Coast seven miles southeast of Austwell. Thousands of sightseers, hunters, nature photographers and

game biologists visit the refuge annually to watch and study its wildlife. One can find thousands of species of birds and animals there, but it is renowned as the winter home of the whooping crane. (See *Texas Parks & Wildlife*, March 1983.)

Aransas has some of the wildest and roughest country in Texas. Its landscape is constantly being changed by coastal tides that flood its lowlands; and naturally, flooding rains and wind erode its permeable sands. Its vegetation, much of it salt-tolerant, is so dense that sunlight never touches the ground in some places. Thickets of trees and brush grow in areas that once were sand dunes. The meadows are plaided with thick marsh grass that is waist to chest high, and in some places nearly impossible to traverse. Low-lying areas become quagmires during the rainy season and are places to avoid.

Obviously, Aransas is difficult to hunt. In addition to the thickets and marshlands, there are other hazards. Poisonous snakes, ticks and hordes

Camouflage clothing and makeup are the standard bowhunting uniform. Some brands of makeup contain insect repellent, which is especially helpful at Aransas. Stand behind cover, not against an open area.



Glen Mills

Feral hogs (right) and whitetails are the only animals that may be hunted during the Aransas Area's bowhunt. As with deer, killing a hog is a long shot—17 were taken in 1982.

of mosquitoes are a nuisance. Snake leggings and insect repellent are a necessity, not only to a hunter but to any visitor who ventures afield. But difficult as it may seem, it is not impossible to kill a deer or hog at Aransas.

During the 1982 bow season there were 17 hogs and 63 deer taken from the refuge: of the deer, there were 38 bucks, 22 does and three fawns. The largest buck field-dressed at 135 pounds, the largest doe weighed 90 pounds not field-dressed and the largest hog tipped the scale at 126 pounds. The buck with the largest rack had 10 points. Two with nine points, and six with eight points also were taken.

The low kill ratio probably is due to the heavy hunting pressure. I scouted the refuge during the week before the season and found deer and hogs moving throughout the day, even during the intense noon heat. But when I hunted on the third day of the season I saw only three deer during the entire day.

The deer I saw were in good shape. The largest buck would probably weigh well over 100 pounds and I judged his 12-point rack to measure around 22 inches. Unfortunately for me, he stayed just outside my bow's range. I also saw a bootjack (four-points) and a doe, both as elusive as the big 12-pointer.

There was heavy hunting pressure on Aransas during its short season. This was evidenced by the hundreds of camps along the highway right-of-way between Hooper's Landing and the refuge gate. When we entered the gate at 5:45 a.m. the conservation officer on duty told me that my son and I were the 98th and 99th hunters to enter the refuge that morning. This is not to imply that the refuge was crowded because we did not see another hunter while afield that day, with the exception of those we passed on the road. There were, however, 5,136 hunters who hunted there during 1982, just 560 fewer than the record 1981 season.



(Two days of the 1982 season were rained out, and that probably accounts for its not being a record year for hunters.)

There are two ways to successfully hunt Aransas: from a blind and by still hunting. Still hunting is probably the least successful of the two, but it is the method I enjoy.

The best location for a blind is near the edge of one of the many thickets. It should be placed near a game trail or waterhole. Some type of camouflage material is best because brush and limbs may become a snake haven. There are few trees suitable for a stand, and most hunters who prefer the elevated type bring their own portable version. Most blinds that I saw were simple affairs—a swivel chair atop an eight-

or 10-foot tripod of pipe or angle iron. The apparatus is placed in a strategic location selected by pre-season scouting.

Still hunting is difficult on Aransas. Everything the hunter steps on seems to snap or pop, making it difficult to move quietly through either the meadows or thickets. However, if the hunter moves upwind (or crosswind) along the edges of the oak-laden sand dunes, just a few feet into the meadows that skirt the thickets, he will find that the grass is not so thick and high. By moving very slowly, stopping every two or three steps and then waiting several minutes before moving again, a hunter can successfully pick his way through the dense vegetation with very little noise. He should

watch carefully for game that may be browsing toward him. Once he sees his prey, he should sit tight and let the animal work its way to him, as he will find that stalking is almost futile.

Another avenue is to move along a well-beaten game trail. The hunter should stay on the downwind side and move a few steps at a time. He should not walk on the trail as he will leave ground scent; both deer and hogs are capable of detecting ground and airborne scent.

Camouflage clothing is a necessity to the bowhunter. On Aransas, a set of cammies with predominately medium or dark brown background is best. The hunter also should use camouflage makeup. One of the brands with an insect repellent impregnated in it is excellent. It should be applied to the uncovered parts of the body: face, neck and hands. I do not advocate use of a head net or gloves; they may be okay in a blind or stand, but they are hot, and the head net will restrict one's vision while moving about.

Whatever method the hunter chooses, he should remember to take advantage of cover and not silhouette himself along the skyline or open meadows.

As soon as the hunter sees his quarry he should nock an arrow and then be prepared to exercise patience and stealth. He must move quite slowly, if at all, and then only when the animal's vision is obscured by trees or brush. He should freeze when his quarry looks toward him.

Any movement, quick or slow, will spoil the hunt. Once he is within bow range, he should wait until the animal is feeding or looking in another direction, then draw and aim his arrow. When he releases the arrow, he should watch as closely as possible to see if it hits the animal and whether it is an effective hit. If the hunter is lucky, the arrow will remain in the animal, and he may be able to see where the wound is. More than likely, the arrow will penetrate completely, and the chances are good that he will not be able to find it in the dense vegetation. But if the hunter does find the arrow, he probably will be able to determine if the animal was hit.

In fact, he might find some indication of where it was hit. Green slime or food particles on the arrow indicate a gut shot. Light-colored blood is probably a lung shot, and bright red blood indicates a heart shot or severance of a major artery. The animal's reaction also may be an indicator of its wound. If it jumps straight up, it may have received a heart shot; if it humps up, it is probably gut shot; and if it kicks its hind legs, it is probably hit far back in the intestines or hams. Regardless of where the animal is hit, it may or may not run.

If the animal flees, the hunter should not chase it. First, he should mark with toilet paper or surveyor's tape the spot where he was standing when he released his arrow; then he should mark the spot where his target was standing. Finally, he

should mark the spot where he last saw his quarry. This will give him an angle of triangulation and establish a record of the animal's flight. Before taking up the trail, the hunter should wait 30 to 45 minutes; then he should proceed slowly, stopping every few steps to look for sign and to peer ahead for any movement in the event his quarry is not down-and-out. If he jumps the animal and it flees again, he may be able to determine where the wound is and its extent. If the trail or sign should play out, the best method for picking it up again is to mark the last sign and then search in overlapping circles. Once the kill is located (if it is a deer, tag it), the hunter should field-dress it immediately and then pack it out or go for help. The weather in late September and early October is hot and humid in South Texas and meat will spoil in short order.

The refuge is divided into six hunt units. The largest kill during the 1982 season was made in Unit 2, where 23 deer and five hogs were taken. The **hunting** and **no hunting** areas are clearly marked with stakes and signs, and each hunter is provided with a map of the refuge and a copy of the regulations. If the hunter follows these rules and guidelines and keeps his broadheads sharp, with a little luck he can have a successful hunt. Even if he doesn't score a kill, he can almost be assured that he will see all sorts of wildlife, get plenty of fresh air and forget the cares of everyday life. **

Census and Kill Statistics

Year	Length of Season	No. of Hunters	Deer Census				Deer Killed				Hogs Killed*
			Bucks	Does	Fawns	Total	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Total	
1977	12 days	1450	976	3462	1419	5837	53	29	0	82	10
1978	12 days	1520	1004	3011	602	4617	29	19	7	55	24
1979	9 days	1354	995	3980	756	5731	26	19	2	47	12
1980	9 days	2300	819	2128	702	3649	21	16	7	44	25
1981	9 days	5696	964	2771	914	4649	21	15	8	44	22
1982	9 days	5136	1143	2969	980	5092	38	22	3	63	17

*Although there is no formal census of feral hogs it is believed that the numbers remain constant between 500 and 1,000. (Statistics furnished by the ANWR - E.F. Johnson, Refuge Manager.)

Deer Behind the Wheel!

Article by J.C. Romines, Game Warden, Jacksboro
Illustration by Andrew J. Saldaña

Editor's Note: The following is from the Summer 1982 issue of *The Texas Game Warden*, the publication of the Texas Game Warden Association. Warden Romines says the story is true, with only some slight exaggerations to emphasize certain points.

It was suppertime at my house, and one of those rare occasions when the whole family had sat down together to eat. Unfortunately, the conversation soon was interrupted by the ringing telephone.

"You the game warden?" a voice asked when I picked up the receiver.

"Yes."

"Well, I live on 11th Street," the voice continued, "and I got a buck deer tied up in my yard."

"What's a buck deer doing uptown on 11th Street?" I asked.

"I don't know," the man said. "Are you gonna come get him?"

"OK," I said, then hurriedly finished my supper, wondering all the while what the heck a buck deer was doing on 11th Street, several blocks from the city limits of Jacksboro.

Since my state patrol car was in the shop being serviced, I got into my own pickup—my brand-new, personal pickup with barely 300 miles on it. When I turned onto 11th Street, I had no trouble finding the man's house since the whole neighborhood had turned out to watch. The yard was full of men, women, laughing children and barking dogs. I stopped at the edge of the crowd, put my pickup in park and left the engine running.

As I made my way through the crowd, I saw what the man had meant by the deer being tied up. There was a child's jump rope around the animal's neck and a man sitting astraddle of him. Before I could shout "Don't get up!" the man did. The little whitetail, sensing freedom, made a wild dash for it, but since the man still held on to the jump rope, the little animal's flight took a perpendicular direction, right up the man's middle. I frantically grabbed for the antlers while the flailing hooves were taking their toll on the man's clothes and flesh. Before I could say "Don't turn him loose!" he did. The frantic deer bounced off half a dozen people in the crowd, including me. People were screaming, running and falling; dogs were barking; and over all this bedlam I heard a small voice say, "I want my jump rope!"

The deer finally found a hole in the crowd and away he went—right back into the garden fence that had caught him the first time. Joining me in hot pursuit were several men, including the one who had been

holding the jump rope; however, he was displaying much more caution than the rest of us. Since the deer had entangled his antlers in the fence, we were able to pin him to the ground again.

"Now what are you going to do?" one of the men asked me.

"I'm gonna carry him to my pickup," I said. I placed one arm around the animal's chest, the other arm around his rump, locked my fingers on the opposite side and stood up. Now I had the deer restrained, but in no way did I have him secured. His thrashing antlers threatened my eyes and his flailing hooves were taking all the skin off everything below my belt. Determined to maintain my professional image, I fixed a grin over clenched teeth and strode tall through the crowd.

"Now what are you gonna do?" someone asked as I arrived at my idling pickup. I wondered too. Since I had thought I was coming after a tied-up deer, I had brought nothing along to tie him with. But still determined to maintain my professional image, I calmly asked someone to open the door to my pickup. The little deer had quieted somewhat and I gently placed him on the floor of the cab opposite the driver's side.

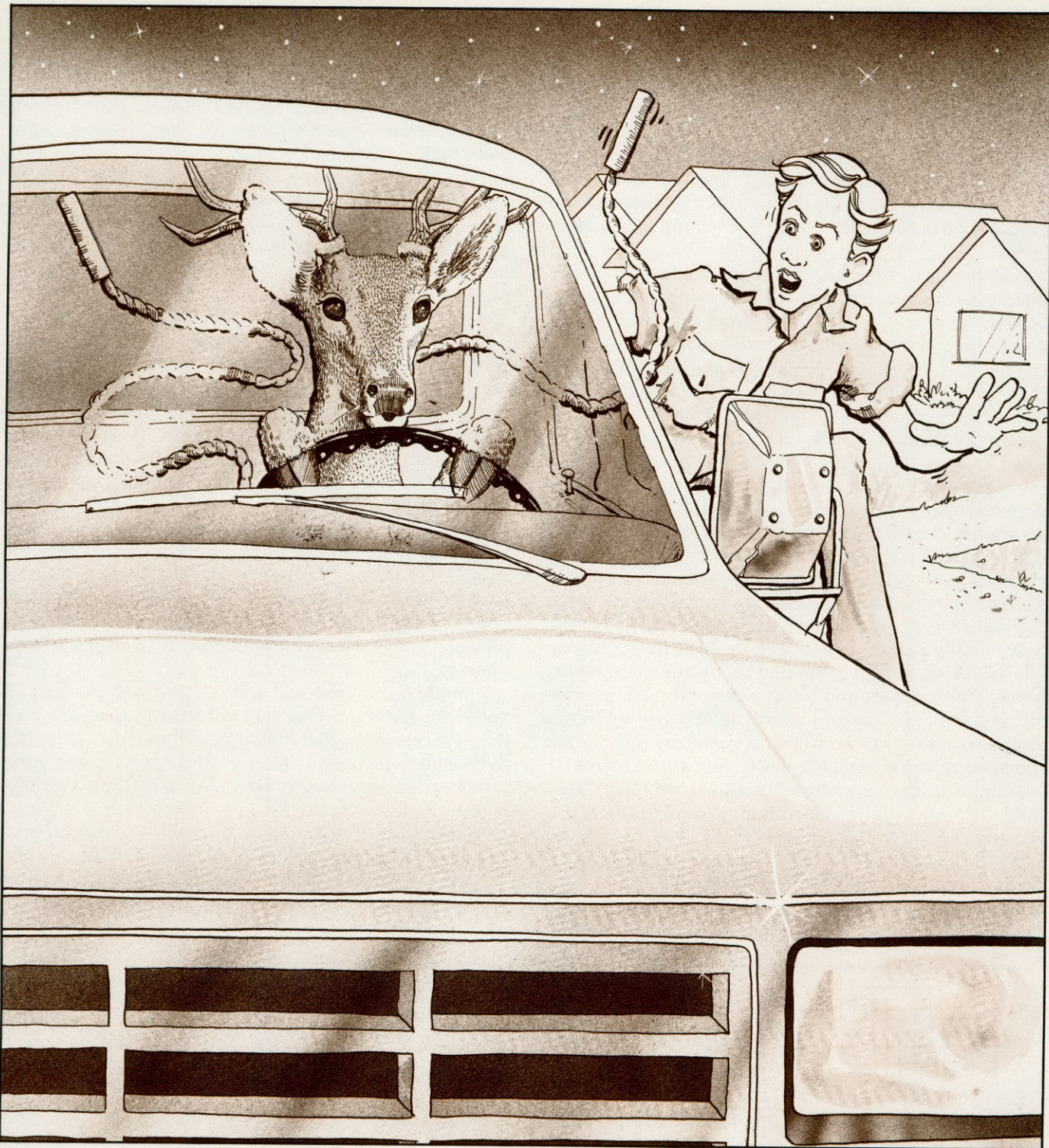
"I want my jump rope!" the small voice said again. I closed the pickup door, turned to the little girl and was just about to say, "I'll get your jump rope off in just a minute." But I never got it said. Suddenly all hell broke loose in my brand-new pickup.

The deer exploded into life inside the pickup's cab. He bounced off every window and on his first circle around he knocked the pickup in gear. On his second trip around, he somehow managed to stick both front legs through the steering wheel. When this happened, his back feet slipped off the seat and put him in an upright position, just as if he were driving. One of his back feet hit the accelerator, and away went my brand-new pickup with a whitetail buck behind the steering wheel!

By now I had abandoned all thoughts of my professional image. I raced alongside the truck trying to get the door open, but as I looked at the wildly thrashing deer I was suddenly filled with dread at the idea of jumping in that cab with him. Realizing that no one was safe with the deer driving, I finally jerked the door open, shoved him across the seat and reduced his status from driver to passenger.

It was then I discovered that my fears of joining him in the cab were well founded. As the deer continued his wild circling of the pickup's interior, his route now took him over the top of me on each trip around. He even managed to get a hoof down the back of my shirt, removing skin from a part of my body that up until now he had been unable to reach.

I finally managed to grab the jump rope and pull the



deer's head under my legs. I wrapped the rope around my left leg, held on with all my strength and once more had him restrained, but in no way secured. His antlers were now methodically removing the flesh from underneath my legs, the only part of my body he had not reached.

I rolled the window down and told the little girl I would bring her jump rope back as soon as I could. Then I took my now-damaged professional image and this supposedly timid little creature and headed for the country—or anywhere away from that amused crowd.

As I drove through the gathering dusk I wondered again what series of events could have taken place to bring this little deer to 11th Street.

I live about four miles out of town and have a small grain field across the road from the house. Since white-tailed deer often feed there late in the evening, I decided it was the most convenient place to release the little buck. After some struggling, the deer finally accepted the fact that I had no intention of letting him drive any more and settled for methodically skinning the backs of my legs with his antlers.

I arrived at the gate to my field and once more was faced with a dilemma—how to get out and open the gate. The gate is off a four-lane highway with a lot of traffic, and after what that deer and I had been through, I had no intention of letting him get killed at this stage of our relationship. I tied his head to the four-wheel drive shift that comes up through the floor, killed the engine, jumped out and closed the door. If he got loose I didn't want the engine running. I opened the gate and returned to the truck. Everything was as I had left it.

As I drove to the back of the field, I faced another dilemma—how to release the deer without getting further skinned up. If I just opened the door and he went out under my legs, he would surely take one of them with him. I certainly didn't want him going over the top of me, and he was facing the wrong way to go out the other side.

I had an idea. I would hold the antlers with my left hand, remove the jump rope, then take the antlers with my right hand, move my legs as close to the door as possible, open the door with my left hand and jump out, giving the deer all the room he needed. The plan almost worked, but we hit the door at the same time. Bursting out of the cab, we hit the ground together in a tangled heap of hooves, flesh and clothes. But this time there was a difference. This time it was me that wanted loose.

We finally got untangled, and the little deer gave me one last kick before bounding away into the night. I picked up my battered body and stood pulling grass burrs out of my clothes as I watched the whitetail disappear into the dark. I had done my job. I had returned this graceful creature to its natural habitat.

Now you must think this is the end of the story. Well, that's exactly what I was thinking until I heard the fence wire screeching and posts popping as they broke.

My old cows are used to me coming over and feeding them every day, and when I had stopped in the field they had ganged up around the driver's side of the pickup waiting to be fed. Although they are accustomed

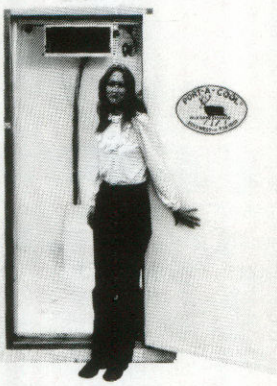
to seeing deer grazing in the field, panic set in when they saw me and a deer come bursting out of the pickup and fall in a tangled heap. Away went the cows in a full stampede, and since running away from me was also what the deer had in mind, he followed. But to those panic-stricken cows, they weren't being followed, they were being chased—chased by something that looked like a deer. But deer don't ride in pickups, so it couldn't be a deer; however, the cows weren't going to stay around and see what it was. Away they ran, right through the fence and into my neighbor's pasture. I lost one mouflon ram in that fracas that I haven't seen to this day.

As I drove my bruised and aching body out of the field, my thoughts were on the events of this day—and those of tomorrow. I would have to wait for daylight to get my cows off my neighbor's pasture and I had to take the jump rope back to the little girl. I resolved that never again would I turn a deer loose in a car, especially my new pickup. It had been dumb in the first place to drive my personal vehicle on state business. Then I had a chilling thought. What if I had turned that little whitetail monster loose in my patrol car with all that expensive radio equipment! He'd have wrecked everything in there and I would have had to pay for it! I silently thanked the Good Lord for taking care of me and the whitetail when I went after him in my pickup . . . and what the heck was he doing uptown anyway?

I laughed out loud as I got out to close the gate. I suddenly knew how he had gotten uptown—he had driven a car! Why, there was probably a stolen car with deer pellets in it sitting on 11th Street at that very moment. There certainly were deer pellets all over my pickup.


My pickup—there it stood with the door open and the engine running. The little whitetail buck was lurking somewhere out in the dark, maybe contemplating one last fling at driving my pickup. I jumped back in. If he was, I beat him to it. **

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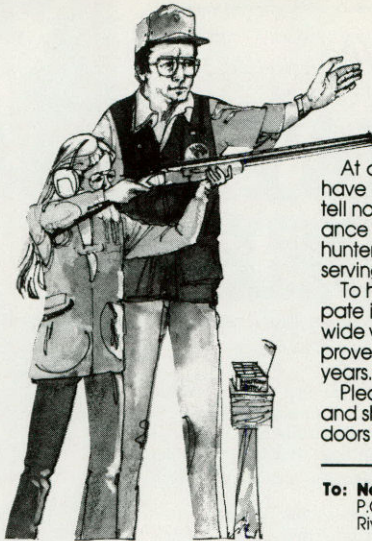


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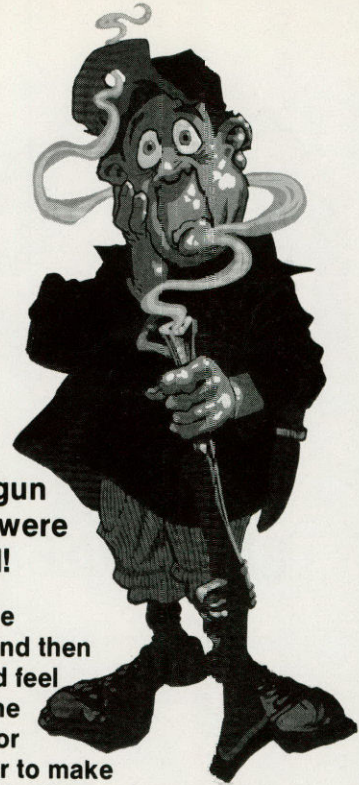
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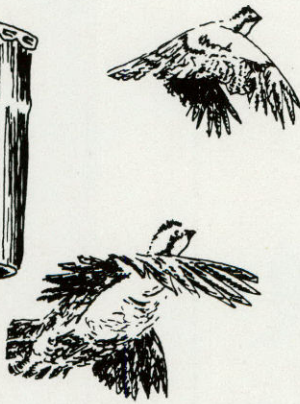
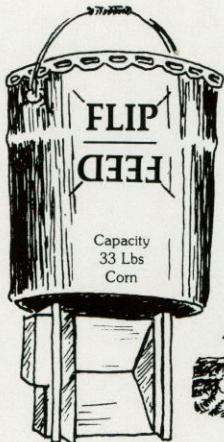


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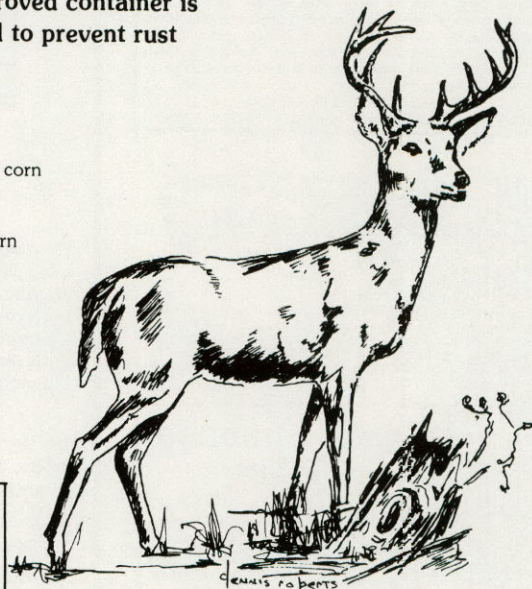
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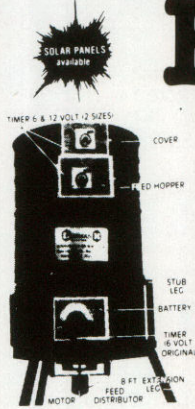
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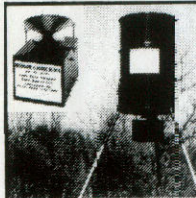
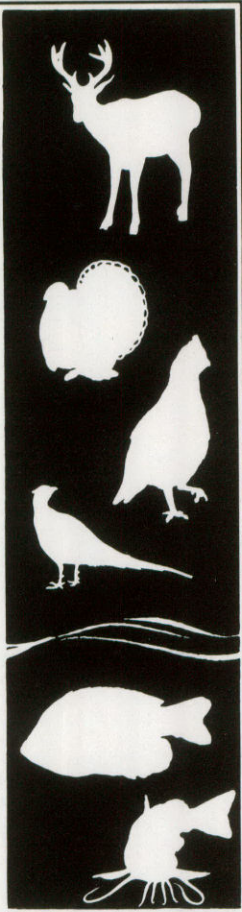
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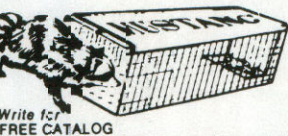
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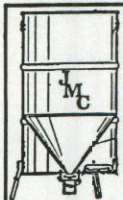
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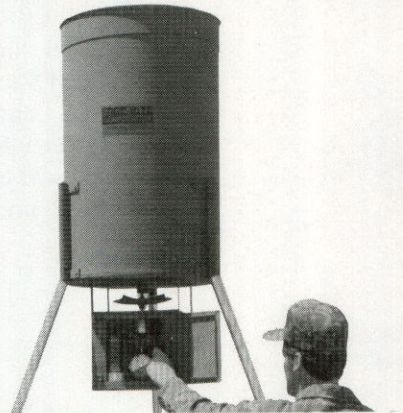
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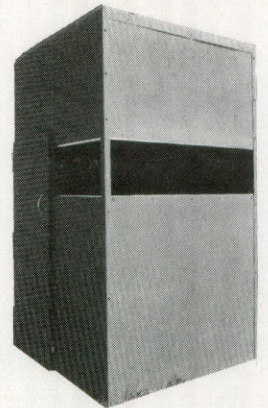
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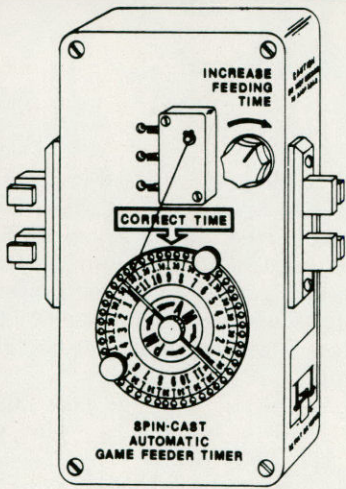
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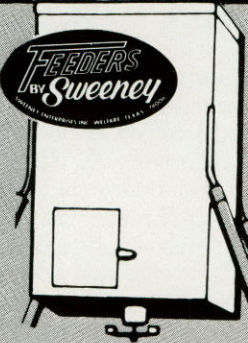
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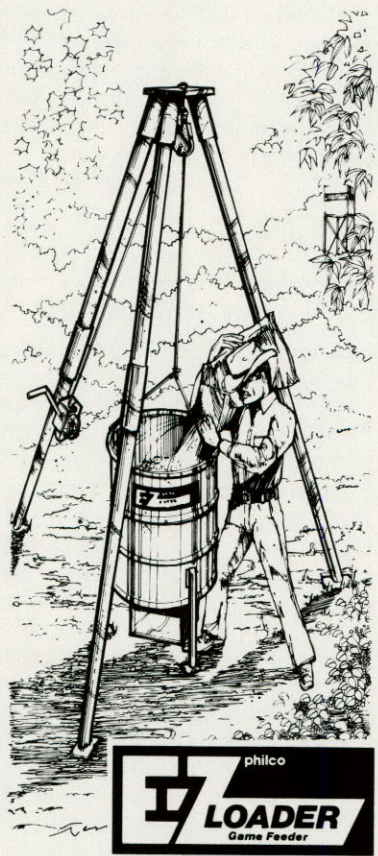
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Letters to the Editor

Leanderthal Lady

Thank you for the article and pictures of the Leanderthal Lady in the April issue. We want to send some copies of that issue to friends in other states, as this is a great find in our area and educational to all of us. Enclosed you will find my check for 12 copies of the April issue.

Keep up the good articles as we enjoy reading them all.

Cricket Elam
Round Rock

She Was There

I remember the Saturday night dances at Longhorn Cavern very well. In 1932, when I was 12 and my brother was 10, my father came to Longhorn Cavern to work. In 1933 he sent for my mother, brother and me. We were living in Cleveland, Ohio, and came to Dallas on the bus. A man dressed like a cowboy with leather chaps met us and drove us to the cave. You'll never know how shocked we were to end up in such a desolate place! We were city people. We lived in a big square tent with a dirt floor for four months, then moved to Burnet so my brother and I could go to school.

After the Saturday night dances, my brother and I would get up early Sunday morning and look the grounds over where the cars were parked. You'd be surprised at how much money we found—sometimes a whole dollar. When a man has too much to drink he has trouble finding his pockets.

I got the surprise of my life when I saw the Longhorn Cavern story in your June issue. My father, Herbert A. Smith, is in the picture of the people at the dance. I have the same picture. It's 50 years old.

Joy M. Maxey
Houston

Schuetzenfest

I enjoyed Barry Smith's Schuetzenfest article in the July issue. However, there is one part of the story that was left untold. I believe the origin of these highly accurate rifles (200 yards with open sights is no easy task) would have been of interest to readers who were unfamiliar with the Schuetzenfest.

These rifles are not bought off the shelf in some sporting goods store. They were custom made by a small group of highly skilled gunsmiths. My uncle, Roy

Willmann of Comfort, was one of these gunsmiths (now retired). The author mentioned Dwight Schmidt as one of this year's favorites to win. My uncle built his rifle. This remarkable shooting requires more than the man behind the sights; it also requires a fine rifle, and the highly skilled craftsmen who made these rifles deserve some credit.

Gary L. Willmann, D.V.M.
San Antonio

Aplomado

The excellent article "Steel-gray Falcon" in the July issue contains an error in the translation of the Spanish word "aplomado." The article states that "aplomado" means "steel-gray." In fact, "aplomado" is the past participle of the verb "aplomar" which means "to plumb" or "to make plumb." The noun "aplomo" means "aplomb" or "poise." "Aplomado," used as an adjective, means "poised." This falcon certainly must appear "poised," both in the sense of manifesting character and of being ready to strike.

D. J. Sibley Jr.
Austin

■ Aplomado also means the color of lead or leaden. Perhaps we would have been more accurate in saying the bird was a "lead gray" color rather than "steel gray." The Spanish word plomada also refers to a plumber, a lead pencil or fishing weights made of lead.

Steel Shot Exception

Your article "Lead Kills" in the July issue was excellent. While I do think that steel shot in general is more beneficial, it does pose hardships on certain hunters such as me.

I have hunted for years with fine double-barreled shotguns that could be ruined and damaged easily by steel shot. In fact, my favorite duck gun is a 16-gauge Parker (for which shells aren't even manufactured if one were willing to ruin a gun by shooting them).

The expansion of the no-lead zone and the indiscriminate requirement on all guns leave me with no choice but to: (1) stop hunting ducks; (2) buy a new gun;

or (3) hunt illegally with lead shot and be prepared to pay a fine if caught.

I would rather not do any of these. I see no reason for not having an exception for certain gauges or certain types of guns for those few of us who enjoy the handle and feel of a fine double-barreled shotgun.

Jake Taylor
Houston

Show and Tell

I am renewing a subscription for our granddaughter in Indiana. Samantha is eight years old and she loves your magazine. The past two years she has taken it to school each month for show and tell. Her teachers read articles of interest to the children, then they all look at the pictures. It takes a week before she can take it back home and she has saved every issue.

Mrs. Robert H. Stewart
Houston

Dinosaur Tracks

"Where the Dinosaurs Roamed" in the July issue was very interesting. I have read many articles about dinosaur tracks in Texas, but never anything about the ones south of Bertram. There are quite a few of them in the rocks there.

Gilbert Wendland
Hutto

BACK COVERS

Inside: A day of fishing on the coast brings many rewards, not the least of which is a good catch. A fine meal obviously is in store for this angler. Photo by Bill Reaves.

Outside: Prior to the 1900s, white-winged doves numbered in the millions in the Rio Grande delta. Massive clearing of the birds' brushy habitat in the early part of this century resulted in rich farmland, but fewer white-wings. Thanks to efforts begun in the 1940s to preserve this unique subtropical habitat, whitewings remain a valuable South Texas gamebird. White-wing season this year runs two weekends, September 3-4 and 10-11 (see Outdoor Roundup for details). Photo by Bill Reaves.



