

NON-CIRCULATING

texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

NOV 04 1993

In the October 22, 1993, issue:

Proposal Secures Future Of Caddo Lake Ecosystem	1
McKinney Testifies On Endangered Species Act	3
Eco-tourism Events Aimed At Boosting Local Economies	5
South Llano River State Park Protects Turkeys	6
Cranes, Eagles, Treasures On Tap For Passport Holders	7
Migrating Hummingbirds Need Backyard Feeders	10
Fishing Report	

PROPOSAL SECURES FUTURE OF CADDO LAKE ECOSYSTEM

UNCERTAIN, Texas--Ensuring both long-term environmental initiatives and sustainable economic development of Caddo Lake and the surrounding Cypress River Watershed are the major objectives of a new proposal, developed jointly by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Congressman Jim Chapman of Sulphur Springs.

The proposal was scheduled to be announced at a 2 p.m. press conference Oct. 22 at Caddo Lake State Park.

"This proposal will serve as a model for future plans of its kind in promoting environmental initiatives and sustainable development," said Andrew Sansom, TPWD executive director. "The key to the proposal, and something we've taken into consideration in every aspect, is sustainable development, which relies on eco-tourism as a basis to promote environmental initiatives."

Sansom said the department's major role in the proposal will be the subsequent development of a long-range management plan for the 7,500-acre Caddo Lake State Park and Wildlife Management Area.

"This proposal will enable us to explore and evaluate additional opportunities for resource management of this ecologically sensitive habitat, as well as traditional consumptive uses of Caddo's natural resources, including hunting and fishing," said Jim Neal, TPWD special representative to Sansom for East Texas.

Caddo Lake and adjacent areas support 44 species of plants and animals of special concern because of their rarity and has the most diverse fish assemblage in Texas. The lake, at about 25,400 surface acres, supports one of the area's premier bass fisheries.

The area is host to one of the few colonies of chimney swifts that still nest in natural tree cavities and supports nesting ruddy ducks, which are an unusual breeding bird in Texas. It also is a haven for more than 50 percent of all Neotropical migrant songbird species occurring in North America as listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In addition, the Caddo Lake area recently received a Priority 1 rating by the USFWS, the highest classification for wetlands and just this month will receive listing under the Ramsar Treaty as "Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat."

The proposal's unique concept, which combines sustainable development with environmental initiatives, is gaining grassroots support from Caddo Lake's surrounding communities. "We're bridging a lot of traditional boundaries," said Karen Leslie, TPWD's director of land acquisition. "There's been a genuine effort to solicit community input and support for this proposal. We're also looking at a joint effort involving sustainable development with the State of Louisiana, which is a first for TPWD.

"This proposal addresses long-term protection of both the cultural and natural resources at Caddo Lake."

A series of "Open House" meetings scheduled in November to garner public comment on the proposal also will provide the department with a forum for discussion about the development of a Caddo Lake State Park and WMA management plan. "We're looking for public input on the direction of the management plan and view these open house meetings as an excellent opportunity," Neal said.

For more information on the proposal, contact Congressman Jim Chapman at 2417 RHOB, Washington, D.C. 20515.

SL 10/22/93

MCKINNEY TESTIFIES ON ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

AUSTIN--Dr Larry McKinney, resource protection division director at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, testified Oct. 13 before the House Subcommittee on Environment and Natural Resources about ways to provide incentives for private landowners to more easily comply with the Endangered Species Act.

McKinney appeared at the request of Rep. Gerry E. Studds, chairman of the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. McKinney reviewed the contents of his recent paper, "Re-authorizing the Endangered Species Act - Incentives for Rural Landowners." The subcommittee hearing was one of several scheduled to address key issues of the Act before the full committee considers re-authorization.

"While debate about the relative merits of many provisions in the Act, both existing and proposed, have been divisive, I have found almost universal support for the need to amend the Act to provide private landowners, and more specifically rural agricultural landowners, a better means of complying with it, McKinney said. "Texas is perhaps the most vivid example of what is at stake. Because of its unique location and size Texas is blessed with an abundant and diverse community of plants and animals, many of which are found nowhere else in the world. Texas also is a state dominated by private ownership of land. As a result, more than 98 percent of the habitat base, a base upon which our state's biodiversity is centered, depends on those landowners to conserve and protect for the future."

While Texas may be unique in the extent of private ownership of land among western states, it is not alone in that regard. Private ownership of lands in these states averages 50 percent, with a low of 10 percent to 15 percent in states like Nevada and Alaska to a high (excluding Texas) of about 70 percent in states like Montana and Washington. Private lands are clearly an important factor in the conservation of endangered species.

The majority of those private lands are farms and ranches and, as a result, the responsibility for meeting the requirements of the Act has fallen upon those for whom agriculture provides a livelihood. McKinney said that burden has been generally unrelieved by existing provisions in the Act and any re-authorization must address that need.

"It's clear to me that there must be positive incentives and simple procedures to increase the participation of rural landowners in protecting endangered species," he said. "Currently, good land management practices that result in creation of habitat is considered a liability by many landowners. While I have heard no evidence to prove it, I am convinced that because of landowner fear and mistrust more habitat for listed birds like the black-capped vireo and golden-cheeked warbler has been lost in Texas since their listing than would have been lost without the Act."

In his paper, McKinney noted that if the Act is to be successful in meeting its goals, incentives like tax exemptions and modifications of farm programs are needed to assist landowners in conserving, even creating, endangered species habitat. In addition, provisions to more easily allow landowners to work cooperatively and pool resources, as well as providing for an increased role for state agencies like TPWD, is advocated.

"The importance of conserving Texas' unique and valuable biodiversity is a difficult concept to explain, but it is just as important as clean air, pure water and uncontaminated soil," McKinney said. "We cannot accomplish it at the expense, nor without the help, of our agricultural community. It is particularly disheartening to see the level of frustration and anger in this group that I do, not only because they are the key to recovering endangered species, but because conservation of wildlife has always been an important part of their land stewardship ethic. The current situation with the Endangered Species Act is destroying that and I want to do whatever I can to turn that around."

Cooperative Conservation Plans are a new idea McKinney presented in his paper that may help in that cause. One advantage the idea has in being accepted is that it is not dependent on tax or farm program reform.

A CCP would allow agricultural landowners with contiguous, or nearly contiguous property, to form cooperatives to accomplish the same goals as provided by a Habitat Conservation Plan, which is already provided for in the Act. One difference between the two is that a CCP would not require an Environmental Impact Statement or similarly complex and expensive technical requirements.

Such requirements would not be necessary for a CCP since little land use change would be contemplated because of its existing agricultural nature, McKinney said. That minimal level of land use change would be a key requisite for approval of such plans and their chief difference from an HCP

If successful a CCP would allow landowners greater control over actions on lands that have endangered species habitat, minimize the need for federal oversight, provide opportunities for cost recovery and expand the technical assistance role of state agencies. The CCP would operate more in the form of a wildlife management cooperative, a concept that has shown to be an increasingly accepted and successful means of pooling rural landowner resources.

10/22/93

ECO-TOURISM EVENTS AIMED AT BOOSTING LOCAL ECONOMIES

CORPUS CHRISTI--A national conference set for Nov. 11-13 here aims to protect wild creatures by making it easier for people to find and enjoy them, thus boosting what has already become an \$18 billion per year U.S. eco-tourism industry. A workshop targeted to private landowners and local Texas communities is scheduled on Nov. 10 in conjunction with the national conference.

The National Watchable Wildlife Conference will bring together more than 500 conservation and tourism professionals from across North America and Central America. These experts will share ideas about promoting wildlife-related activities like birdwatching and photography.

According to the latest data from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Americans spent more than \$18 billion dollars in 1991 for travel, food, lodging and equipment on wildlife-related pastimes, not counting hunting and fishing. In Texas, the tally topped \$900 million.

The conference will draw some of the hemisphere's top experts, including:

- * Marco Garcia of the International Center For Responsible Ecotourism, who has had a major role in developing Costa Rica's highly successful eco-tourism industry.

- * Mollie Beattie, incoming USFWS executive director

- * Charles Bartlebaugh of the Center for Wildlife Information at Yellowstone National Park, who is deeply involved in wolf and bear conservation and Rocky Mountain parks issues.

* Sara Vickerman of Defenders of Wildlife, the group that launched the watchable wildlife movement.

* Peter Stangle of Partners in Flight, an international effort to save Neotropical migratory songbirds.

As a preview to the national conference, a Texas eco-tourism workshop will draw private landowners and local chambers of commerce from across the state to come learn how to develop and promote wildlife-related tourism programs using the natural assets already present on their lands.

"Wildlife-related eco-tourism is already a rapidly growing enterprise," said Dr. Gary Graham, author of the Texas Wildlife Viewing Guide. "We are simply working to hasten the process. By promoting the economic value of wildlife and habitat, we add a powerful financial incentive to the many other reasons why wildlife deserves protection."

The Wildlife Planning for Tourism workshop is sponsored by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Phillips Petroleum, the Trull Foundation, the Texas Department of Commerce's tourism division and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's urban and nongame program.

The workshop, which is open to the public, is scheduled for Nov. 10 at the Sheraton Bayfront Hotel in Corpus Christi. There is a \$35 registration fee. The National Watchable Wildlife Conference is set for Nov. 11-14 at the Bayfront Plaza Convention Center in Corpus Christi. Registration fee is \$200 or \$225 for both events.

For more information on the workshop or conference, contact conference coordinator Mary Garrett and Associates at 1-800-460-5400.

T/H 10/22/93

SOUTH LLANO RIVER STATE PARK PROTECTS TURKEYS

JUNCTION--A portion of South Llano River State Park is off limits to the public from Oct. 1 through March 31 to protect the area's wild turkeys.

Wayne Haley, park superintendent, said a portion of the river bottom area in the park will be restricted to public access during the roosting season. The river bottom has served as a winter roost for Rio Grande turkeys for more than 80 years. The roost area is closed each year to protect and preserve the park's turkey population.

The purchase of 16 acres of land across the river allows visitors day use activities along the river. The additional land means the park still has more than 2,000 feet of river access open, he said. Campsites remain open to the public and some designated roads are open to hiking for those wanting to observe wildlife and get in some exercise.

The park, four miles south of Junction off U.S. 377, is home to many species of game and nongame animals, but the wild turkey is predominant. The 523-acre park has provided a stable roosting site for wild turkeys since at least 1910. An estimated 300-600 birds roost at the site each winter.

Turkeys are extremely susceptible to disturbance while going to the roost in the evenings and while on the roost at night. It doesn't take much human activity for them to decide to move somewhere else where they feel less threatened.

In addition to the roosting sites being off limits, hiking trails into the adjoining Walter Buck Wildlife Management Area will close to park visitors for public hunts from Wednesday through Friday at noon in October, from Nov. 13-21 and from Dec. 1-11.

For more information on South Llano River State Park contact the park at HC 15, Box 224, Junction, Texas 76849, or call (915) 446-3994.

LW 10/22/93

CRANES, EAGLES, TREASURES ON TAP FOR PASSPORT HOLDERS

AUSTIN--From a viewing tour of whooping cranes along the coast and bald eagles in East Texas to a treasure hunt in the Hill Country, Texas Conservation Passport holders will have plenty to choose from during November and early December.

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Nov. 14, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Nov. 20 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 4 and 5, passport holders can visit Matagorda Island State Park for a whooping crane tour. After an introduction at the visitor center, guests will travel 20 miles by bus to observe the endangered cranes and the winter birds inhabiting the island.

There is an additional fee of \$2 per person for the tour and the ferry costs \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 12 and under. The ferry will leave the island at 5 p.m. Reservations are recommended. For more information, contact the park at (512) 983-2215.

Fairfield Lake State Park has scheduled a bald eagle boat tour for 10 a.m. to noon on Nov. 20 and 27. Participants will view a video then board a pontoon boat for a tour of Fairfield Lake for wildlife viewing, including the wintering bald eagles.

Cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 12 and under. Reservations are required. For more information, contact the park at (903) 389-4514.

Legend has it that outlaw Sam Bass buried a treasure in Longhorn Cavern, on the site of Longhorn Cavern State Park in Burnet County. Join amateur sleuths on a treasure hunt game in the old cave ending with supper by the fireplace and a discussion of the historical clues uncovered from 7 p.m. on Dec. 3 through 9 p.m. on Dec. 4.

The game package includes two nights lodging/camping, snacks and a meal for \$60 to \$160 per person. The game will be limited in number. A passport, reservations and deposit are required. For more information, contact the park at (512) 756-4680.

Other events scheduled for Texas Conservation Passport holders during November include:

- * Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP, flora and fauna trail walk, 10 a.m. to noon, Nov. 3, 10, 17 and 24, (210) 585-1107

- * Caddo Lake SP, birding and nature walk, 9-11 a.m., Nov. 27, (903) 679-4006.

- * Davis Mountains SP northwest of Fort Davis, bird banding observation, 8-11 a.m., every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, (915) 426-3337

- * Fairfield Lake SP near Fairfield, demonstration of photographing wintering bald eagles then a boat tour, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Nov. 27, additional fee, reservations required, (903) 389-4514.

- * GCCA-CPL Marine Development Center in Corpus Christi, birding walk and hatchery tour and slide program, 9-11 a.m., Nov. 13, reservations required, (512) 939-7784.

- * Hill Country SNA southwest of Bandera and Running 'R' Ranch, guided horseback tour of the area with lunch and mount provided, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Nov. 14, additional fee, reservations required, (210) 796-3984.

* Honey Creek SNA in Kendall and Comal Counties, native grasses in Honey Creek Canyon trail walk, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Nov. 6, (210) 438-2656.

* Kerrville-Schreiner SP southeast of Kerrville, Hill Country birding tour, 10 a.m. to noon, Nov. 14, (210) 257-5392.

* Las Palomas WMA in the Rio Grande Valley, importance of wildlife management areas nature walk, 3-5 p.m., Nov. 3, 10, 17 and 24, (210) 585-1107. Also, birding tour of the lower Rio Grande, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Nov. 3, (210) 383-8982. Reservations required for each event.

* Matagorda Island SP off Port O'Connor, beachcombing and shelling, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Nov. 6, additional fee, call (512) 983-2215.

* Pedernales Falls SP in Blanco County, Twin Falls nature trail walk, 9-10:30 a.m. Nov. 6, 13, 20 and 27 and bird watchers walk, 7:30-11 a.m., Nov. 7, 14, 21 and 28, additional fee, reservations required. Call (210) 868 7304 for either

* Pedernales Falls SP and S&K Horse Stables, moonlight horseback ride, arrive by 6:30 p.m. to prepare for an approximately one-hour ride, Nov. 5, 12, 19 and 26, additional fee, reservations required; also, horseback ride and picnic with mount and picnic provided, 10 a.m. to noon, Nov. 6, 13, 20 and 27, additional fee, reservations required, (512) 479-9443; and viewing the art of horseshoeing, 9-10 a.m., Nov. 6, 13, 20 and 27. For information on any of these events, call (210) 871-4600.

A Texas Conservation Passport is required to attend these events for each person 17 years old and older. The \$25 passport also provides a waiver of park entry fees, discounts for camping and is a way for everyone to contribute directly to the preservation and enjoyment of Texas' natural and cultural resources.

Other benefits of the passport include entry to some currently undeveloped park lands, discounts on some department items such as the Texas Parks and Wildlife magazine and news of special outdoor programs.

The Texas Conservation Passport is sold at all state parks, TPWD regional law enforcement offices and through two vendors, Whole Earth Provision Company in Austin, Dallas and Houston and REI (Recreation Equipment Inc.) in Austin.

For more information about a specific tour, call the telephone number given above. For more information about the Texas Conservation Passport, call your local state park or department headquarters in Austin at 1-800-792-1112 or (512) 389-4800.

LW 10/22/93

MIGRATING HUMMINGBIRDS NEED BACKYARD FEEDERS

AUSTIN--If hummingbirds are still hanging around the backyard and a person wants to enjoy them awhile longer, clean the feeder, fill it with fresh solution and keep it out until the hummingbirds are gone.

This is the time when supplemental feeding is most important, said Madge Lindsay with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's nongame and urban program.

The most common myth about hummingbird feeding is that the feeder should be taken down after Labor Day or the birds won't migrate. Nancy Newfield, a hummingbird expert from Louisiana who has studied and banded hummingbirds in three states for 15 years, said that's not true. "There is not a single documented case of a breeding bird (ruby-throated or black-chinned hummingbird) remaining at a feeder after the rest of its population has migrated southward."

The wave of jeweled ruby-throated hummingbirds traveling through Texas recently will continue with a few stragglers still on their way. Newfield said late-nesting hummingbirds may just be arriving and they need supplemental nourishment. This is especially important following a dry summer like this year with flowering plants harder to find.

Late migrants will remain in the area until they develop enough body fat and energy reserves to begin their migratory flight across the Gulf of Mexico.

Keeping the feeder clean also is important. This keeps harmful bacteria from building up in the unused solution, she said. It is necessary to change the nectar every two to three days during hot weather and every four to five days when it's cooler. This will prevent growth and fermentation which might harm, or kill, hummingbirds.

Feeders should be washed in hot, soapy water and rinsed thoroughly. Vinegar can be used for stubborn cleaning jobs. Some feeders also may wash in the top part of automatic dishwashers.

If someone wants hummingbirds to show up next year, they should begin now to develop a backyard hummingbird garden. Many local nurseries have a good fall stock of native perennial plants and now is the time to plant them. Next year, these plants will bloom, which will attract hummingbirds and provide additional natural food.

For hummingbird enthusiasts who want to learn more about the bird and help with a survey, the department is developing the first Texas Hummingbird Roundup. This backyard survey, scheduled to begin in January, will attempt to find out when, where and what species are feeding in Texas backyards. The first year's survey information will be collected in December 1994 for compilation of 1994 form results.

The roundup fee includes a garden seed packet, decal, survey form and newsletter with survey results. To participate, a person needs a well kept feeder, identification guide and hummingbirds.

To sign up, mail a self-addressed envelope, along with your name, address and county (and an optional \$5 donation) to: Texas Hummingbird Roundup, c/o Nongame and Urban Program, TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744. Survey packages will be mailed to participants in January. The voluntary donation will help cover costs of running the survey.

LW 10/22/93

AUSTIN: Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Oct. 20, 1993

CENTRAL

BASTROP: Water clear, 80 degrees, 8 inches low; black bass are fair to good to 4 1/2 pounds on topwaters early and late and Power worms during the day in 8-10 feet off the points and near the pepper grass; crappie are fair at night on live minnows; catfish are fair to good on stink bait and worms.

BELTON: Water clear, 3 feet low; black bass are slow to 6 pounds at various depths; hybrids are good to 11 pounds on jigging spoons; crappie are slow; catfish are slow.

BROWNWOOD: Water slightly murky, 70 degrees, 6 feet low; black bass are fair to 8 1/2 pounds on purple worms and cranks on the drop offs in 20 feet of water; white bass are good under the lights on the docks at night with jigs and minnows; crappie are fair off the docks in the brush; channel catfish are good on bream and shrimp drift fishing.

CANYON: Water is clear, 76 degrees; black bass are fair to good to 5 pounds at various depths; striper are good to 25 pounds near the dam in 50 feet; crappie are very good up river in Tom's Creek and Cranes Mill Marina on minnows; channel catfish are fair up river on liver and shrimp; yellow catfish are slow.

DECKER: Water clear, 85 degrees, normal level; black bass are excellent to 9 1/4 pounds on soft jerk baits in 2 feet of water; hybrids are excellent on perch and slab minnows suspended at 20 feet of water; crappie are excellent on minnows in 17 feet of water near the power lines; catfish are good to 18 pounds on stink bait and shrimp.

FAYETTE: Water clear, 81 degrees, 12 inches high; black bass are good in the grass, off the points and in the trees on water dogs, the schooling action is tapering; catfish are good to 10 pounds on various baits in the trees in 6-14 feet of water.

GIBBONS CREEK: Water clear, 82 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are fair to 8 pounds in the grass on worms, topwaters and buzz baits and fair to 5 pounds off the points and main lake humps on cranks and Carolina rigged worms; crappie are slow; catfish are slow.

INKS LAKE: Water is clear, 74 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 4 1/2 pounds on motor oil and chartreuse colored worms in 6-10 feet of water; striper are fair below the dam on live bait; white bass are slow; crappie are slow; catfish are fair on trotlines with perch, minnows and shrimp.

LIMESTONE: Water murky, 80 degrees, 2 1/2 feet low; black bass are fair to 6 pounds on Lunger Lure buzz baits and worms on the grass edges; white bass are slow; catfish are slow.

NAVARRO MILLS: Water murky, 75 degrees, normal level; all fishing slow due to weather except for catfish which are good to 12 pounds on trotlines.

SOMERVILLE: Water clear, 80 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are fair to 4 pounds in the deep structure on worms and buzz baits

early near the rocks; white bass and hybrids are slow; crappie are good off the marinas and in the brush in 8-10 feet of water on minnows; catfish are fair to 3 pounds on liver and prepared baits.

SQUAW CREEK: Water off color, 80 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 5 pounds in shallow water on worms, spinners and cranks; small mouth bass are good on same baits; white bass are slow; crappie are fair; catfish are slow.

STILLHOUSE: Water clear, 85 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are good on worms in 14-24 feet of water; white bass are good; crappie are good on minnows in the brush and in the trees; catfish are good on prepared baits.

TRAVIS: Water clear, 78 degrees; black bass are good in number but running small to 5 pounds in 2-15 feet of water on worms, jigs and top waters early; white bass are fair but running small in the schools.

WACO: Water muddy, 72 degrees, 1 1/2 feet low; black bass are good to 7 pounds on spinners and craw worms in 5-10 feet; white bass are fair; crappie are good on minnows in the brush in 20 feet of water; catfish are fair on trotlines.

WHITNEY: Water off color in the creeks, 72 degrees, 6 1/2 feet low; black bass are good to 5 1/2 pounds on topwaters in the schools; striper are good to 11 pounds on top waters and shad white bass are fair to good in the schools with top waters, slabs and spoons; crappie are good on minnows and jigs to 12 per stringer; yellow catfish are good to 46 pounds on cut shad; channel catfish are good to 2 pounds.

NORTHEAST

BOB SANDLIN: Water off color, 2 feet low; black bass are good to 7 pounds near the grass on top water baits; white bass are poor; crappie are good on live minnows in 25 feet of water in the trees; catfish are good off the banks on night crawlers.

BRIDGEPORT: Water murky, near normal level; black bass are slow; crappie are good on minnows in 5 feet of water; catfish are slow.

CADDO: Water off color, normal level; black bass are slow to 4 pounds in the shallow lily pads on worms; white bass are slow to fair; crappie are slow; catfish are fair to 3 pounds on goldfish and minnows.

CEDAR CREEK: Water clear, 73 degrees, 1 foot low; black bass are good to 6 pounds in 2-8 feet of water on topwaters early and worms later; crappie are good on minnows under the bridges and around brush at various depths; catfish are good on trotlines and jug lines baited with cut bait and bream; white bass are excellent at various locations.

CYPRESS SPRINGS: Water muddy, 70 degrees; normal level; black bass are good to 6 1/2 pounds on black and blue jigs in 7 feet of water; crappie are good to limits on minnows in 15 feet of water over brush; catfish are good to 15 pounds on night crawlers in 12 feet of water.

FAIRFIELD: Water clear, 2 inches low, 85 degrees; black bass are good to 10 pounds on spinners; hybrid stripers are slow to 5 pounds; catfish are good to 8 pounds on stink bait; redfish are fair to 14 pounds on perch.

FORK: A tornado hit the lake

Monday night destroying Brady's Marina, flipped and destroyed two mobile homes behind the marina and damaged boats in the marina with assorted other damage nearby; very few fishermen out mid week; over the weekend black bass were good to 9 pounds on watermelon and june bug colored worms at various depths; crappie are good under the bridges near the power lines.

GRAPEVINE: Water stained, 75 degrees, 3 feet low; black are good with an occasional 6 pounder on worms, top waters and crank baits in shallow water and off the points in 15-20 feet of water; white bass are fair but improving especially in the schools; crappie are fair off the points and boat stalls on minnows in 20 feet of water; catfish are good drifting shrimp in 30 feet of water.

JOE POOL: Water muddy, near normal level; all fishing slow except for catfish which are good to 6 pounds on shad and minnows.

LAKE O THE PINES: Water clear, 74 degrees; black bass are good to 7 pounds on dark colored worms, buzz baits and deep divers; white bass are fair to 2 pounds on small cranks along the river channels; crappie are fairly good on minnows in 15-25 feet of water on brush; catfish are good to 7 pounds on rod and reel with live night crawlers;

LEWISVILLE: Water murky, 75 degrees, near normal level; black bass are fair and improving to 5 pounds on spinner baits and worms near the rocks in 3-15 feet of water; striper are slow on the main lake humps on live shad and slabs; white bass are good on the surface in the schools on various baits including white and chrome topwaters; crappie are good in the Hickory Creek area on jigs and minnows on the stumps and log-jams in 10-15 feet of water; catfish are good to 10 pounds on live minnows and worms drift fishing west of the I-35 bridge.

MONTICELLO: Water off color, 80 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 7 pounds on 8 inch black/red and black/blue worms in 12 to 15 feet of water in the creek channels; catfish are excellent to 8 pounds on shrimp and Canadian crawlers.

MOSS LAKE: Water clear, 71 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair 6 pounds on spinners in shallow water near the grass; crappie are fair; catfish are fair.

MURVAL: Water clear, 82 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are good to 9 pounds on buzz baits and top waters in the grass in 5 feet of water; crappie are fair under the 1971 bridge and near the stumps off the piers on live minnows; catfish are good to 7 pounds on trotlines.

PALESTINE: Water clear, 2 feet low; black bass are fair to 5 pounds on worms and topwaters early and late; crappie are good to 2 1/4 pounds on minnows in deep water in the brush; catfish are good to 20 pounds on shrimp and blood baited trotlines.

PURTIS CREEK: Water clear, normal level; all fishing slow.

RAY HUBBARD: Water clear, 70 degrees, normal level; few fishermen out mid-week due to rain and storms.

RAY ROBERTS: Water murky, 72 degrees, 13 feet low; black bass are good to 6 pounds on spinners and topwaters early in the creeks; white bass are good but running small in the schools on slabs; crappie are excellent on minnows in 15-30 feet of water; catfish

are slow to 12 pounds on trotlines.

RICHLAND-CHAMBERS: Water clear, 2 feet low; black bass are fair to 7 pounds in the schools near the points and pond dams on Rat-L-Traps and buzz baits with some deeper on Carolina rigged worms in 15-20 feet of water; white bass are good in 15-20 feet on the slabs and topwaters in the schools; crappie are fair on minnows suspended in the treetops in 10-20 feet with a few from each tree; catfish are good on shad and shrimp in 8-15 feet of water on both rod and reel and trotline.

TAWAKONI: Water muddy, 69 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are excellent to 6 1/2 pounds in shallow water on worms; white bass are good on slabs; striped are good to 11 1/4 pounds on pet spoons trolling in 13 feet of water; crappie are good on minnows in 20 feet of water suspended in 5 feet; catfish are excellent to 8 pounds on blood bait.

TEXOMA: Water off color, 70 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 5 1/2 pounds on cranks and jig and pigs at various depths to 20 feet; striped are good but running small to 12 pounds on live bait, slabs and topwaters in the schools; white bass are good and running with the striped; crappie are good on minnows in 14 feet of water.

WRIGHT PATMAN: Water murky on the lower end, clear main lake, 73 degrees, 1 foot low but rising; black bass are slow to 4 1/2 pounds on spinners, cranks, worms and jig and pig; white bass are poor; crappie are fair to 1 1/2 pounds on minnows and jigs; catfish are fair to 29 pounds on trotlines and drifting with live shad and perch.

SOUTHEAST

CONROE: Water clear, 78 degrees, 14 inches low; black bass are fair to 9 pounds early in 5 feet of water and later in 8-10 feet with Carolina rigged worms; white bass are fair to good trolling; crappie are excellent under the bridges on jigs trolling; catfish are fair to 28 pounds in the channels.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water clear, 73 degrees, normal level; black bass are good to 6 pounds on buzz baits shallow and Carolina rigged worms later in the day on pink and black ring worms; white bass are poor; crappie are excellent near the docks on minnows; catfish are fair to 12 pounds on trotlines and rod and reel on perch and chicken liver.

LIVINGSTON: Water clear, 5 inches low; black bass are good to 5 1/2 pounds on cranks and worms off the points; white bass are fair to good trolling with slabs; crappie are good and improving on live minnows and jigs in 8-12 feet of water; catfish are good to 38 pounds on trotlines.

RAYBURN: Water clear, 75 degrees, 4 1/2 feet low; before the high pressure system, black bass were good to 9 1/2 pounds on topwaters, small spinners and worms in shallow water near the grass in 10-12 feet; crappie are fair; catfish are fair on live and prepared baits.

SHELDON: Water muddy, 14 inches low; all fishing slow.

TOLEDO BEND: Water clear, 76 degrees, 8 feet low; black bass are fair to 7 1/2 pounds on top waters, worms and cranks near the grass; crappie are fair on minnows

in the baited holes; catfish are fair to 35 pounds on trotlines with live bait.

SOUTH

AMISTAD: Water clear, 79 degrees, 5 feet low; black bass are fair to good in the 2-4 pound range on pumpkin seed colored worms, top waters and spinners near the grass early and late; striped are slow; white bass are slow; crappie are slow; catfish are good in 12-60 feet of water on cheese baits, night crawlers and shrimp.

BRAUNIG: Water murky, 81 degrees, normal level; black bass are poor; striped are fair to 4 pounds on liver; crappie are slow; yellow catfish are good to 42 1/2 pounds for a possible new lake record caught on a plastic worm; redfish are good to 13 pounds trolling with Rat-L-Traps.

CALAVERAS: Water murky, 84 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair but running small on artificials near the grassy shorelines; striped are slow to 5 pounds; catfish are fair to 4 pounds on chicken liver; redfish are fair to 14 pounds on live perch and artificials in 18-20 feet of water; corvina are slow.

CHOKO: Water clear, 83 degrees; 2 1/2 feet low; black bass are fair to 9 pounds, 11 ounces on soft jerk baits, worms and lizards fished along the outer edges of grass beds with light line; Calliham, Mason and Greyhound points producing the most fish; white bass are slow in the river channels in the main lake; crappie are fair in 15-20 feet of water on live minnows; catfish are fair in deep water on cheese baits in the trees.

COLETO CREEK: Water clear, 79 degrees; 1 foot low; black bass are good to 6 pounds on spinners late in the day; crappie are good to 10 inches on minnows; catfish are good on live shad or shrimp.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Water off color, 4 1/2 feet low; black bass are excellent to 8 pounds on white spinners in the shallow water near the grass; crappie are slow but improving; blue catfish are good to 41 pounds on jug lines baited with live perch and cut bait.

TEXANA: Water muddy, 82 degrees, 2 feet low; black bass are poor; white bass are fair to good on Rat-L-Traps in the creeks; crappie are fair; catfish are good to 43 pounds in 8-12 feet of water on live perch.

WEST

ARROWHEAD: Water murky, near normal level; black bass are poor; crappie are good on minnows in 15 feet of water near the derricks; catfish are fair on shrimp and worms.

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water murky, 72 degrees, 7 1/2 feet low; black bass are fair to good to 6 pounds on buzz baits on the points and rock ledges; hybrid striped are good to 5 pounds; white bass are good on shad; blue catfish are good near the islands.

GRANBURY: Water muddy, 72 degrees, normal level; black bass are fair to 2 pounds on small spinners around boat docks; striped are fair but small near the warm water outlets; white bass are good on the edge of river channels on silver spoons; crappie are good on brush piles with minnows; catfish are good to 6 pounds in 20-30 feet of water near the river drop offs on cheese baits.

GREENBELT: Water clear, 68 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass

are good to 5 1/4 pounds in 7 feet of water on spinners and cranks; white bass are slow; crappie are slow but improving to 8 per stringer in 8 feet of water near the grass on minnows and small cranks trolling; catfish are excellent in the 4-6 pound range on minnows, liver and shrimp.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water muddy, 3 feet low; all fishing slow due to lack of fishermen except for crappie which were good before the storm.

KEMP: Water muddy; black bass are fair; white bass are very good jiggling artificials in 8 feet of water.

MCKENZIE: Water clear, 66 degrees; black bass are good to 3 1/2 pounds on minnows, spinners and cranks in 12 feet of water; small mouth are slow; hybrid striped are slow; crappie are slow to fair; catfish are fair.

MEREDITH: Water clear, 69 degrees; black bass are fair to good in the coves on minnows and jigs; small mouth are good to 16 inches on minnows and Road Runners near the rocky banks; white bass are excellent on minnows and slabs in 20 feet of water; crappie are fair and improving to 10 per stringer on live minnows; catfish are good to 8 pounds on stink bait; walleye are good to 4 1/2 pounds on shad and spoons.

OAK CREEK: Water clear, 72 degrees, 4 feet low; black bass are fair to 6 1/2 pounds on top waters and worms to 5 feet of water; white bass are slow; crappie are good on minnows at various depths over brush and off the docks; catfish are good to 7 pounds on chicken liver off the docks.

O.H. IVIE: Water clear in the main lake, murky at the upper end, 73 degrees, 1 3/4 feet low; largemouth bass are very good to 6 1/2 pounds on buzz baits early and late in shallow water and later in 10-20 feet of water on plastic worms; small mouth bass are fair to good on the rocky ledges and points on worms and deep diving cranks; crappie are fair and improving; channel catfish are good over baited holes on stink bait; yellow catfish are fair on live bait near the rocky ledges and points.

PROCTOR: Water murky, 3 feet low; black bass are fair to good to 5 1/2 pounds on cranks off the points; hybrid striped are slow; crappie are fair on minnows in 12 feet of water; channel catfish are good to 5 pounds on cut shad.

SPENCE: Water clear; black bass are good to 4 1/2 pounds; striped are good to 24 inches; crappie are good in number but running small; catfish are good on shrimp and minnows.

TWIN BUTTES: Water clear, 73 degrees; black bass are good on Power worms and jigs in 3-5 feet of water; catfish are fair to 5 pounds over baited holes using cheese baits.

WHITE RIVER: Water off color, 8 feet low; black bass are good to 5 pounds; catfish are fair to 30 pounds on worms and prepared baits; walleye are fair.

COASTAL

NORTH SABINE LAKE: Numerous redfish caught in the shallows on gold spoons, shrimp and mullet; spanish mackerel are good on spoons, mullet, shad and shrimp at various depths running with the trout; golden croaker are good on shrimp; sand trout are good; high tides midweek; overall fishing is good; live bait available.

SOUTH SABINE LAKE: Speckled trout,

oversized redfish and croaker are good at the reef and Bluebuck Point on mullet and silver and gold spoons; dead shrimp is effective for redfish and croaker; flounder are fair near channels and the causeway bridge; live mud minnows available.

FREEPORT: High winds early in the week kept most fishermen away; redfish were good before the wind on live shrimp and artificials in the surf and off the jetties; flounder are caught in the bays on live shrimp and mud minnows; offshore snapper fishing is good on squid and cigar minnows; a few kingfish being landed; grouper are fair with a few per trip on cigar minnows.

MATAGORDA: High winds keeping fishermen away early in the week; before the bad weather, limits of trout and redfish were common on artificial baits; live bait scarce.

ROCKPORT: Redfish are good on cocohoe minnows in the shallows; flounder are good in the same locations on same baits; trout are fair;

PORT ARANSAS: Redfish are good to limits on live mullet; wind keeping a lot of anglers away; drum are good, live bait is available; some black tip sand shark, speckled trout, and spanish mackerel are caught off the pier with some redfish to 28 inches.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Keeper redfish are good by the causeway bridge and near the Landcut on live shrimp and some artificials; some trout are hooked in the cut off the drop offs on live shrimp and some artificials; some drum are hooked while fishing for trout and redfish in the cut; live bait available.

PORT MANSFIELD: Shallow water is producing a few big trout in the 7-9 pound class at various grassy locations; lots of keeper redfish hooked in and near the Landcut on live or dead bait; high winds forcing anglers to try protected areas behind the Saucer area and down to Green Island; no offshore report due to high seas; live shrimp available at \$12 per quart.

SOUTH PADRE: High winds keeping most anglers home mid week; pier fishing producing good numbers of sand trout and a few speckled trout in the 19-22 inch range; mangrove snapper are good; whiting are fair; best fishing has been during an outgoing tide.

RD