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GAME WARDEN ENCOUNTERS STRANGER THAN FICTION

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

OCTOBER 1997



**Stalking Redfish
from Sea Kayaks**

**Wingin' It:
Great Texas Birding
Classic Takes Flight**

**State Parks Offer
Halloween Treats**

3 for 3.



*Dodge Ram. 1995, 1996, 1997 Total Quality Award™
for "Best Ownership Experience"
in Full-Size Pickups.**

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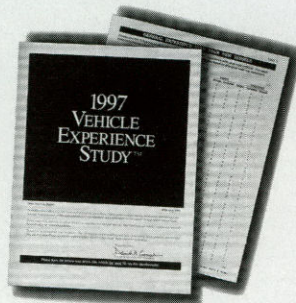
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Growing up on the coast, October was my big month. The cooling temperatures of autumn were both a balm and a stimulant. My birthday is in October so I always felt like it was the month when I could be a little bigger and a little more grown up. October was when I first would hear the geese as they returned to the prairies and marshes of Brazoria, and the rhythm of their arrival became an integral part of my own growth. The other thing about October for a kid like me was that was the time of the Brazoria County Fair. Today that harvest celebration is still one of the most traditional and successful such events in Texas, and the fun, the smells, the competition, the music and the food are a rite of the season that eclipses everything else going on that month, including my birthday.

So it is with Texas Wildlife Expo.

Since its inception in 1992, our annual outdoor festival on the grounds of Texas Parks and Wildlife has become the premier event of its kind in the nation. During these past five

years, more than 130,000 visitors have come to "Touch the Great Outdoors." Today, Expo is firmly established as a spectacular, absolutely free opportunity to introduce new generations of young Texans from all walks of life to the joys and responsibilities of the outdoors.

This year, there'll be more of everything, more shooting sports and more rock climbing, more fishing and more birding, more skill building and more understanding. We'll have a focus on camping where you can learn to put up everything from a featherweight backpacking tent to an elk-hunting wall tent. You and your kids will have the time of your lives, you'll be together and they will more fully appreciate both you and their world when its over.

I appreciate the effort the hundreds of volunteers, our sponsors and employees who contribute to make Texas Wildlife Expo a magnificent October gift to us all.

Andrew Sansom, *Executive Director*

I N N O V E M B E R



© WYMAN WEINER

"Nature in Motion" will be the theme of a photo essay coming up in the November issue.

WHEN IT 'SNOWS' IT'S POOR

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

THE BIRD IS THE WORD

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

TEXAS'S BEST-KEPT DEER SECRET

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

RARE AND WILD TEXAS

A new program arms teachers with valuable resources to educate youngsters about indigenous endangered species.

12 The Redfish Angler's Dreamboat Stable and highly maneuverable, sea kayaks are gaining favor with a growing legion of fishermen seeking access to backcountry waterways along the coast. *Article by Phil Shook, Photos by Rusty Yates*

20 Spooky! State parks offer some ghoulishly good fun for Halloween. *by Rob McCorkle*

24 Goose Chase Visitors to Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge can get an up-close look at wintering Canada geese. This refuge on Lake Texoma hosts a variety of other wildlife as well, including additional waterfowl species that stop over on their travels south. *Article by Sheryl Smith-Rodgers, Photos by Larry J. Howard*

32 Hiking the Solitario A trek through this 35-million-year-old collapsed volcano in Big Bend Ranch State Park—the only formation of its type in North America—requires stamina and an experienced guide. *by Kathy Adams Clark and Gary Clark*

40 On a Wing and a Prayer The state's first-ever birdwatching competition—The Great Texas Birding Classic—proved a great success, generating widespread support and raising \$50,000 for avifauna habitat conservation. *by Kathy Adams Clark*

46 "Aw, Shoot, It's the Game Warden" When game wardens catch poachers in the act, the ensuing events often can develop into an outdoor theater of the absurd. Wardens have found that no excuse is too far-fetched as the miscreants squirm to get off the hook. *by Sheryl Smith-Rodgers*

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 At Issue** **4 Letters** **8 Trail Mix**
51 Outdoor Datebook **55 TV and Radio Schedules**
60 Parting Shot

COVERS

Front A black oval, called an ocellus, dominates the reflection of a red drum's rear fin slicing through crystal-clear bay waters on the Texas coast. Using sea kayaks to gain access to redfish habitat is explored on page 12. *Photo © Rusty Yates. Canon EOS-1 camera, 70-300mm 5.6 Canon lens, 1/125 second @ f/8, Fuji Velvia film.*

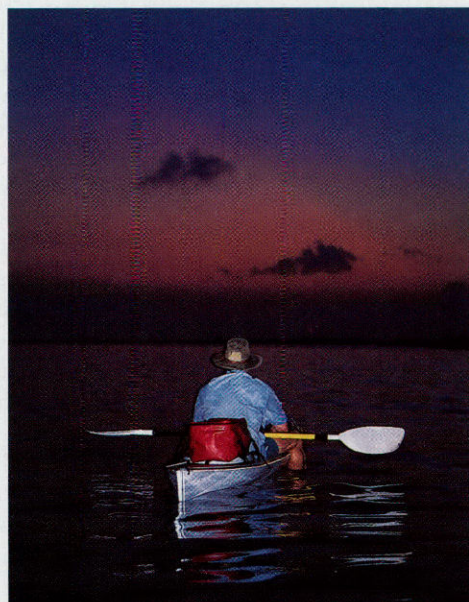
Back A macro photograph of a sedimentary rock wall in Fresno Canyon just northwest of the Solitario in Big Bend Ranch State Park takes on an otherworldly look in this unique geological wonderland formed eons ago. See story on page 32. *Photo © Rusty Yates. Pentax 645 camera, 120mm f/4 macro Pentax lens, 3 sec. @ f/32, Fuji Velvia film.*

For the latest and greatest parks and wildlife information, check out our web site <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us>.



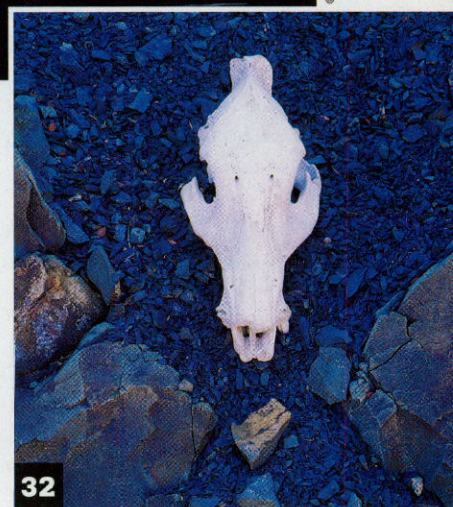
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12

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32

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CONFUSED DEER HUNTER

➤ I enjoyed the article about the Texas Grand Slam in the July issue. Congratulations to Mr. Holland (I'm green with envy) on his successful hunting adventures (and good luck on the pronghorn)!

However, on page 13, center, is a picture supposedly of a mule deer. I am by no means an expert, but it seems to me that this mule deer buck is sporting a white-tailed buck's antlers. Last I heard, whitetails' antlers (tines) are formed off a "main beam," which is what is depicted, and muleys' are "forked." I do understand the locality where this fine buck was harvested is in an area where these two species interbreed, so would you please set my confused mind at ease?

John Dunaway
Missouri City

■ Jerry Cooke, director of TPWD's Upland Wildlife Ecology Program: "I understand how confusion might arise over the photo of Larry Holland's desert mule deer. It really is a desert mule deer. As you note, desert mule deer bucks usually have a 'dichotomous' antler, which creates a series of equal forks at each branching. The buck in the picture is not forked in the 'G2' tines (the ones in the back). Desert mule deer often lose their brow-tines and/or the G2s during times of nutritional stress. The drought that has extended over the last five years in desert mule deer habitat of the Trans-Pecos ecological region of Texas may have been responsible for the lost G2s, but each desert mule deer is an individual reflecting its own nutritional history."

YOU CAN PLEASE SOME OF THE PEOPLE...

➤ The letter from E.R. Shield in the July issue claiming he/she will stop subscribing to *Texas Parks & Wildlife* because of the content of the magazine and the "associated advertisers" goes to show the growing intolerance of people in general.

I have been lucky enough to travel to many of the states of the Union and can say beyond a shadow of a doubt, there is no comparison to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to be found anywhere. I am an avid fisherman and, to be honest, I welcomed the increase in license fees because I knew you would use the money to make my fishing better.

In closing, let me say how much I appreciate what each member of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department does, from the game wardens to the magazine writers to the park volunteers. While I am on the lake this weekend, I will be thinking of the hard work you folks do and say a little prayer for E.R. Shield in hopes he/she will gain a higher level of tolerance for activities millions of other people enjoy!

Dean Reese
Houston

➤ After reading E.R. Shield's letter, I felt the need to respond.

I went through several back issues of *TP&W* and found a very well-balanced magazine. Sure, there are a lot of articles covering hunting and fishing. I also found just as many articles on birdwatching, canoeing, camping, archeology, etc.

Being a hunter and fisherman, I thank you for providing interesting articles on those subjects. And as an avid camper and canoeist, thanks again. If you based your magazine on Mr. Shield's narrow interests, you would be controlled by a small special interest group.

I challenge Mr. Shield to travel to some of the suburbs of Austin, where there is no hunting, and tell us how the deer, which are stunted from near-starvation, are better off than their cousins in managed hunting areas.

Mark Tipton
Houston

GREETINGS FROM AUSTRALIA

➤ G'day to you all.

Have just received three copies of your magazine from a friend in Orange, Texas: April, May and June editions. I thoroughly enjoyed reading them, and the pictures were excellent. But a pity about the one in the April issue on page 25 of the game warden talking to the children by the pond. The gun on her hip casts a shadow of uncertainty.

Lovely magazine all the same.

Shane Cracknell
Perth, Australia

SUMMER CAMP

➤ Just a note to tell you about a wonderful experience my daughter had last summer courtesy of a 1995 issue of *Texas Parks & Wildlife* and the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

We were searching for a summer wildlife experience and came across the article on the Welder Wildlife Foundation, January 1995. A call to Selma Glasscock at the foundation directed us to the Wildlife Society and a summer camping experience involving high school students from around the state. Twenty-two students, including my daughter, Wendy Bleyl, were selected to participate.

She received awards for the Best Field Journal, Best Team Presentation, and Best Mammal Census Team. The Wildlife Society coordinated numerous speakers and field trainers to educate the students. This was an excellent experience for everyone involved.

Lisa Chebret
Spring

FOLKS

I'm neither a hunter nor a fisherman, but I read your magazine for information about wildlife, plants and parks.

I enjoy "The Folks at Three Corners" very much. Is Ezra Ward going to publish a book about Three Corners?

Sylvia Lee
Phoenix, Arizona

■ Ezra is interested in compiling his columns into a book, probably for some time in 1998. We'll be pushing forward with it as soon as we can work out the details of what to include, royalties for him and any movie rights.

Ezra's taking a break this month, but he'll be back next month with another tale of the (mis)adventures of that infamous hunting duo E.L. Raines and George Hancock.

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

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

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

**TEXAS
PARKS & WILDLIFE**

OCTOBER 1997, Vol. 55, No. 10

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EDITORIAL OFFICE

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

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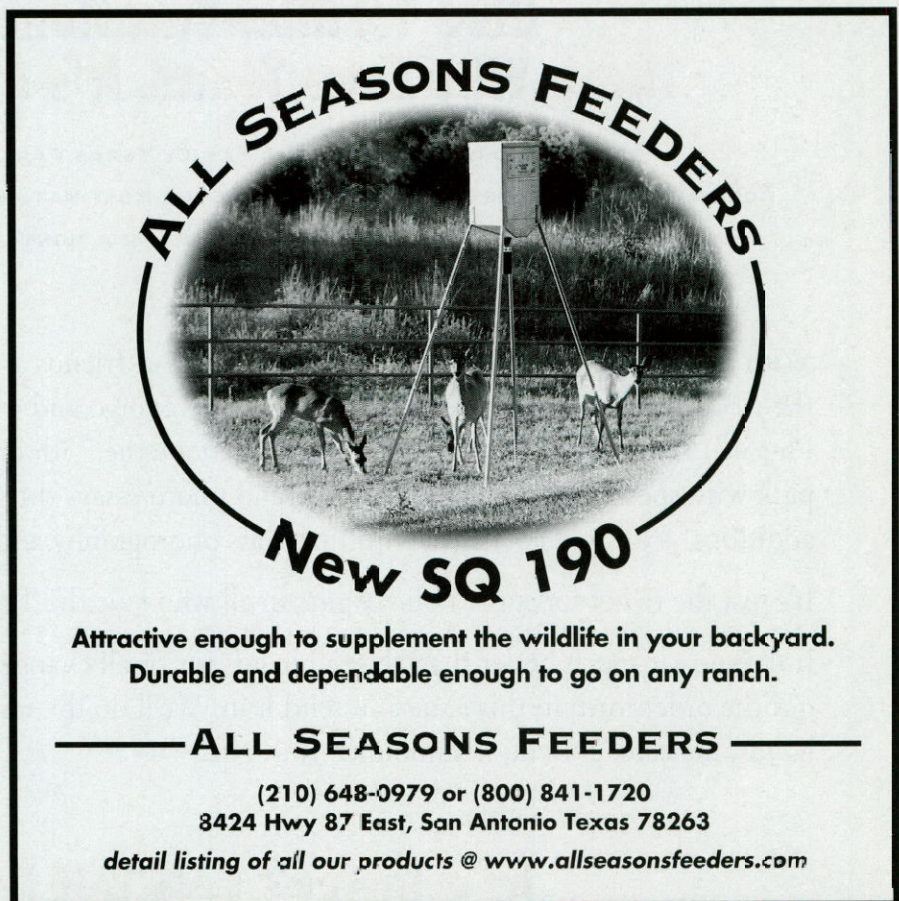
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News & Notes from Texas & Elsewhere

Migratory Bird Hunters Get "HIP" This Fall

Sportsmen are some of the best storytellers, particularly when it comes to sharing tales of their success. Under the new Harvest Information Program (HIP), beginning October 1, Texas migratory game bird hunters will be asked to provide a brief account of how they fared last season and if they plan to hunt migratory game birds this season.

This nationwide effort to obtain hunter harvest data began in 1992 with three pilot states. Texas is the 22nd state to enter. All states (except Hawaii which has no migratory game birds) will have HIP in place by 1998.

Participation in the HIP program amounts to answering a few simple questions when hunters buy a license or migratory game bird stamp. There is no additional cost involved and hunters who complete the survey are then "certified" to hunt migratory birds. A small percentage of these hunters will be randomly selected and asked to provide information later in the season. Hunters who purchase their licenses and stamps before October 1, 1997, are exempt from HIP responsibilities this season.

For more information about HIP, contact Mike Berger, TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744, or call 512-389-4766.



© PEGGY PARKS

Ride the Trails at Big Bend Ranch

Big Bend Ranch State Park is hosting its second annual fall trail ride November 14-16 through the scenic, ecologically diverse backcountry of the rugged and beautiful Big Bend.

Riders saddle their ponies at Saucedo, the park's ranch headquarters, for 12-mile rides through the Chihuahuan Desert. Cookouts, evening entertainment and barbecue add to this truly Western experience.

The \$450 cost includes horse, tack, meals, lodging and entertainment. For more information call the park (915-229-3416) or guides Jim Carr (281-486-8070) or Peggy Parks (512-398-7627).

Updated Version Of "Birding Texas" Booklet Available

Birdwatching buffs can now turn to the latest version of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department booklet, *Birding Texas*, for up-to-date information on Texas birding festivals, Texas bird checklists and other birding-related resources.

The 16-page booklet is the third edition of *Birding Texas*, originally published in 1930. TPWD decided to reprint the booklet after copies of the five-year-old 2nd edition were exhausted.

"*Birding Texas* has been very popular," said Natural Resources Program biologist Mark Lockwood, who helped compile the recent edition. "It contains good, basic information to introduce new birders or those from out of state to what's out there for birdwatchers."

A free copy of the booklet is available at state parks, TxDOT Travel Information Centers or from TPWD's Wildlife Information Line, 512-389-4505.



EARL NOTTINGHAM

Wildlife-Related Recreation Pumps Billions Into Economy

Americans spent \$104 billion on wildlife-related recreation during 1996, representing 1.4 percent of the national economy, according to a nationwide survey sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. By comparison, Americans spent \$81 billion on new cars during the year.

Web Site Offers Shooting Sites

Shooters can locate new shooting turf through the National Shooting Sports Foundation's new "Where to Shoot" Internet web site: www.wheretoshoot.org.

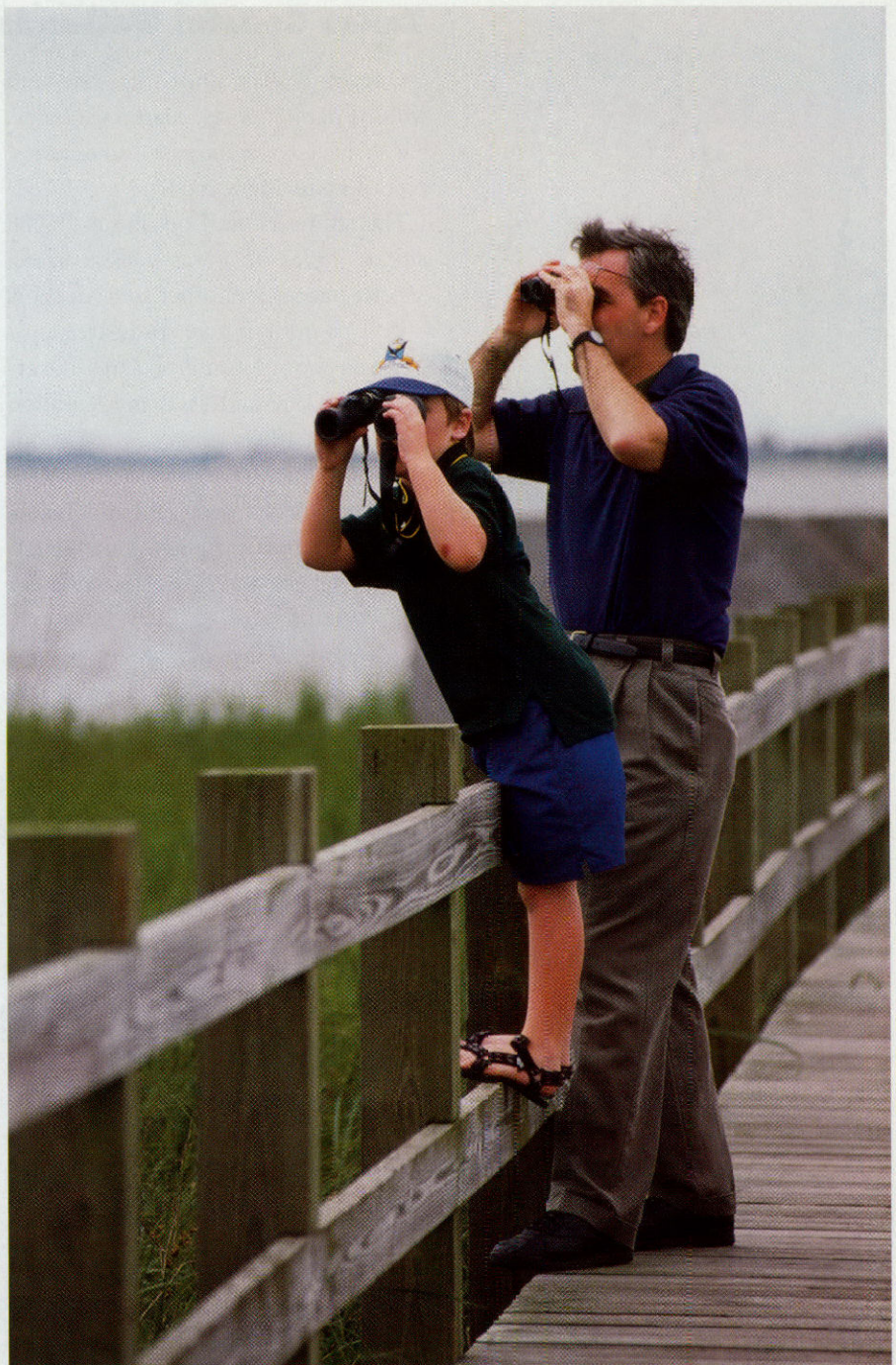
More than 1,380 public shooting ranges, sportsmen's clubs and hunting preserves that are open to the public are featured on a state-by-state basis, with additional listings added daily. Locations may be searched by facility name, state, area code, type of shooting offered or type of facility.

"Operation Renegade" Gets 38th Conviction

A Florida bird importer arrested as part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's highly successful "Operation Renegade" has been sentenced to a year and a day in prison for illegally smuggling more than 4,000 "Congo" African grey parrots into the United States and filing false importation documents.

Federal Judge Edward B. Davis also ordered Adolph "Buzz" Pare, 63, of Miami, Florida, to pay \$300,000 in fines and restitution, the largest sum ever levied against a defendant in a federal wildlife smuggling case.

Pare is the 38th person to be convicted as a result of "Operation Renegade," a three-year undercover investigation by Service law enforcement agents into



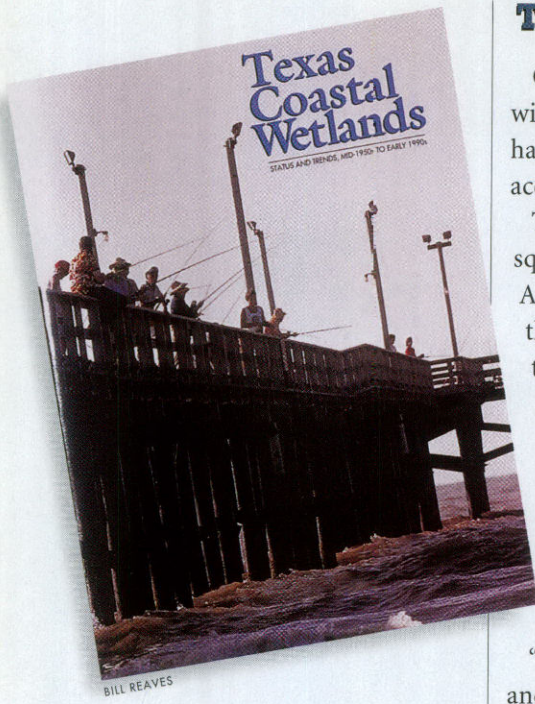
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smuggling rings that brought exotic birds, such as parrots or macaws, or their eggs into the United States. Twenty-three of these defendants have received prison sentences totaling more than 47 years and fines totaling more than half a million dollars.

Other successful prosecutions, achieved in cooperation with the Division of Law Enforcement in the Service's Southwest Region, included 10 individuals convicted of being part of a decade-long conspiracy to smuggle various species of par-

rots found in Mexico and Central and South America into the United States for resale to aviculturists and bird wholesalers and retailers. These defendants, convicted in Corpus Christi and Austin, received a total of 17 years' incarceration for their crimes.

In 1993, Congress passed the Wild Bird Conservation Act, banning trade in virtually all wild, exotic birds. The U.S. trade in exotic birds today is limited to those species commonly bred by aviculturists in captivity.



Texas Coastal Wetlands Tracked in New Report

One of Texas's most vital fish and wildlife habitat types, coastal wetlands, has shriveled over the past four decades, according to a new report.

The study focused on about 20,000 square miles of Texas coastal areas. Aerial photos and other sources show the 12.8 million-acre study area contained about 4.1 million acres of wetlands in 1955 and less than 3.9 million acres in 1992, a net loss of about 210,000 acres. The greatest losses were of freshwater emergent and forested wetlands, with significant but relatively smaller losses of saltwater wetlands.

"Millions of Americans are concerned—and rightly so—about the loss of tropical rain forest in Central and South

America," said Andrew Sansom, TPWD executive director. "Well, some of the wetlands referred to in this report are our rain forests, right here in Texas, and they are gradually disappearing from the landscape. Fortunately, this data, sifted and compiled into meaningful information through computer technology, arrives as we are poised to implement the first state plan to guide Texas wetlands conservation into the 21st century, so there is some hope for the future."

Texas Coastal Wetlands: Status and Trends, Mid-1950s to Early 1990s is available free from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. To obtain a copy of this 32-page, full-color booklet call 512-912-7055 or send an email message to dan.moulton@tpwd.state.tx.us.

The Biggest Snood Wins

The fleshy appendage on a gobbler's forehead is called a snood. Research in Louisiana has shown that the length of a gobbler's snood is the key feature in winning a mate. The snood also plays a role in gobbler hierarchy: in a confrontation between two gobblers, snood length was the best predictor of victory.



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Did You Know?



© GORDON RICKE

The greatest annual rainfall ever recorded in a Texas city happened in Clarksville, Red River County, in 1873, when it rained 109.38 inches.

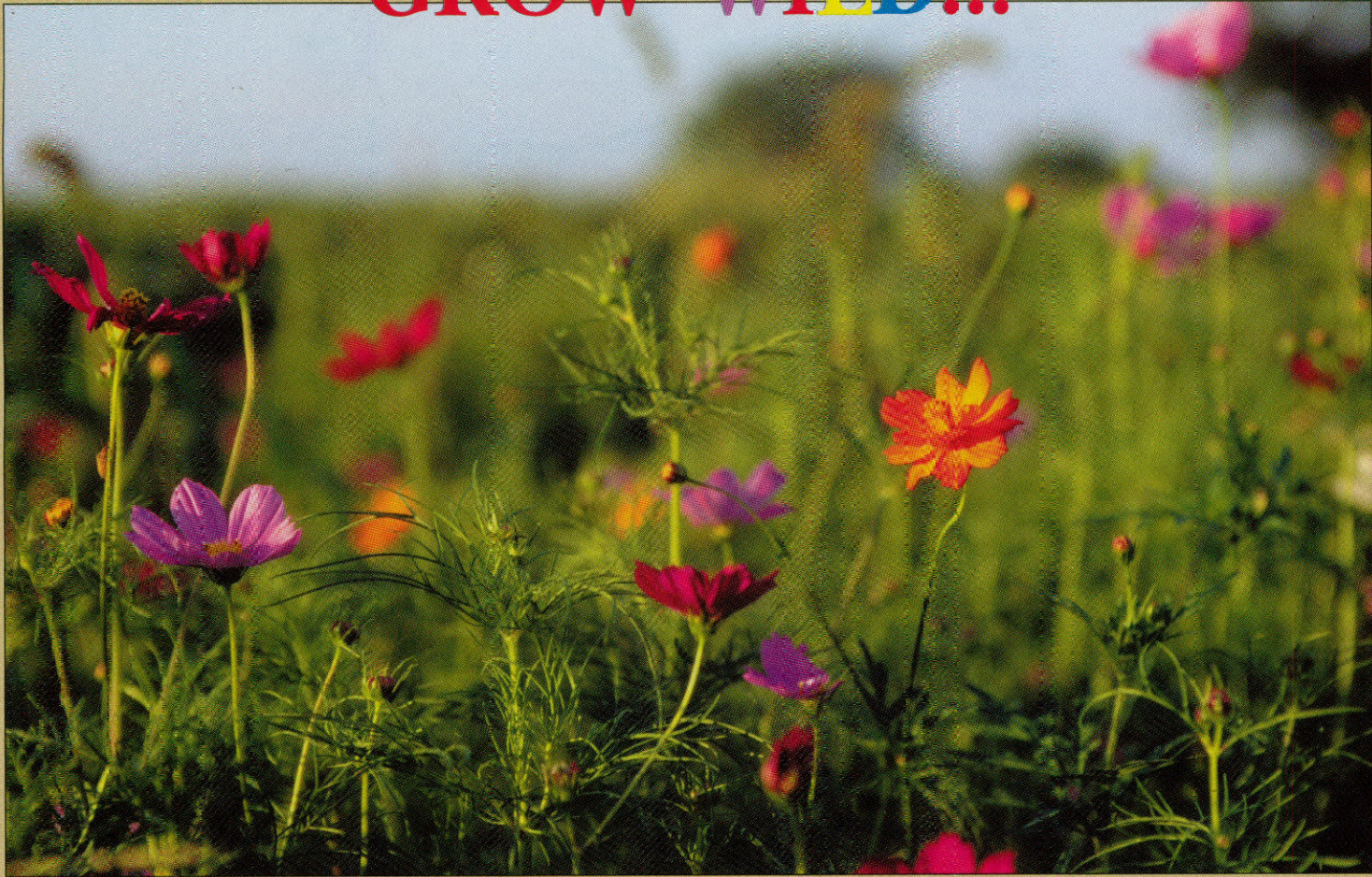
Americans recycle only about 10 percent of our trash. Some European countries recycle as much as 60 percent.

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*As Seen on the 1997 September Cover
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photo by Glenn Hayes

Wildflower foodplot photo by Dr. Gary M. Schwarz, Spring 1997, El Tecomate Ranch

The Redfish Angler's



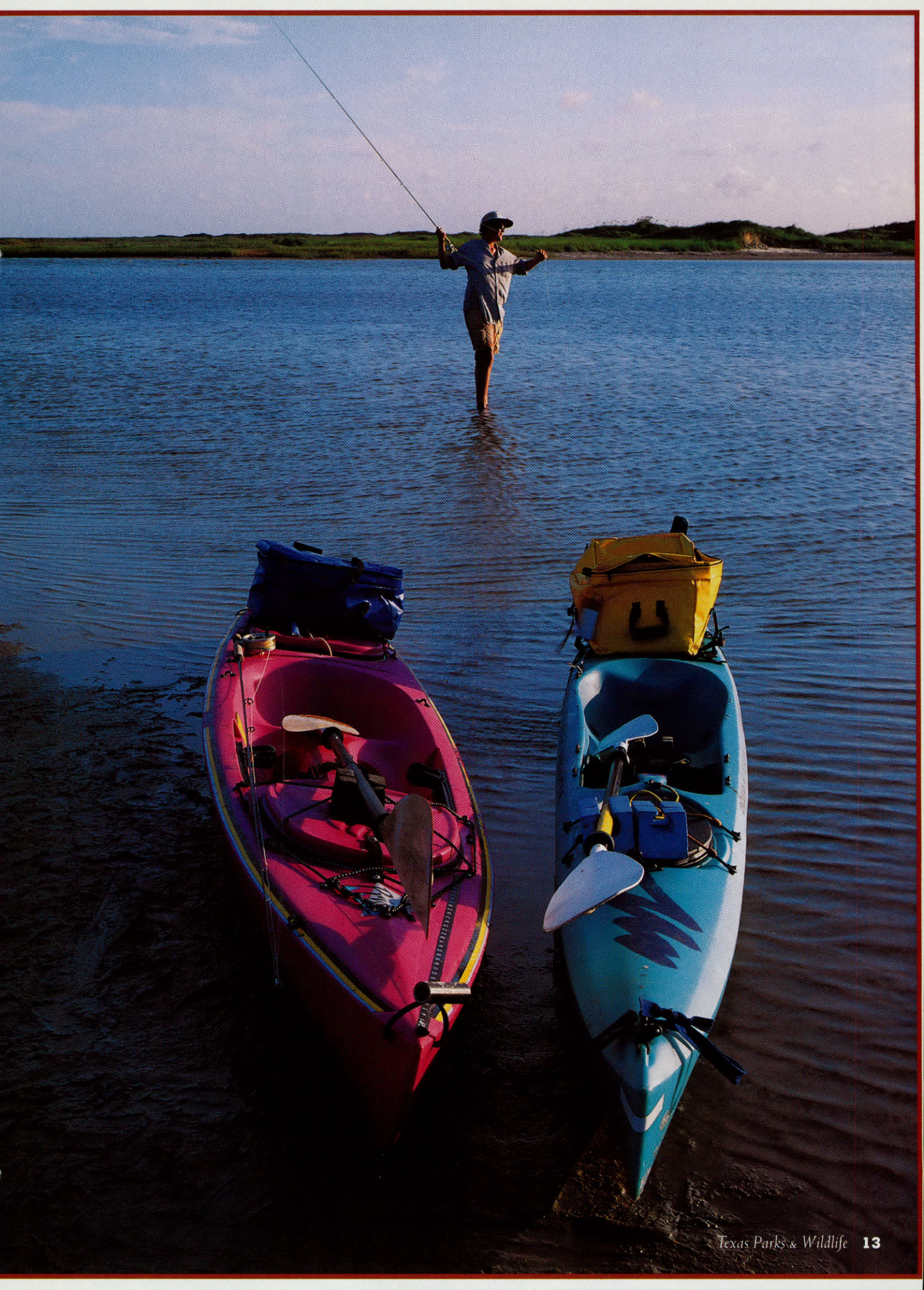
DREAMBOAT



PHOTOS © RUSTY YATES

Stable and highly maneuverable, sea kayaks are gaining favor with a growing legion of fishermen seeking access to back-country waterways along the Texas coast.

Article by Phil Shook
Photographs by Rusty Yates





Left: Beached kayakers await the call to angling action. **Above:** A tackle box of various hooked weapons gives the flyfisher a mental edge in his battle with reds.

The windmill on the Aransas Wildlife Refuge shoreline was barely visible in the predawn glow as I paddled my sea kayak down the north shore of St. Charles Bay. A musty smell of saltgrass and mud filled the air, and mullet splashed along the brackish water sloughs.

The still morning was full of promise. I was in no hurry. It would be a good half-hour before the morning sunrise would highlight any redfish tails against the cordgrass shorelines.

Splashing sounds coming from a small inlet caught my attention and I paddled over to investigate. Removing my fly rod from the holder, I pulled

out enough line to make a short roll cast. The little orange cactus shrimp fly dropped on the surface in the commotion just ahead of the bow. A broad-shouldered red drum took it on the fall, making a big boil as it barreled down the side of the kayak, snapping the tip-pet as it went by.

I sat open-mouthed, wondering what I could have done to prepare for what just happened. It wasn't even daylight and I already had lost a big fish.

These kinds of experiences with red drum are becoming more common these days as more and more anglers stalk the Texas flats in lightweight, silent-running sea kayaks. Kayaks designed for touring

and fishing provide the mobility and stealth required to locate game fish in their secluded neighborhoods. Without a kayak, I never would have had the point-black shot at the big red.

Sea kayaks come in many designs that work well on the Texas flats, but my choice for backcountry fishing on the Texas coast is an open cockpit, self-bailing, "no roll" model such as the 14-foot Aquaterra Prism. This design is ideal for exploring the numerous tidal creeks, marshlands and open flats along the Texas coast.

With a holder for a fly, spin or bait-casting rod, a stick-on ruler for measuring fish and storage space under two hatch-



es for a soft cooler, camera equipment and foul weather gear, a kayak is the perfect platform for the itinerant flats angler. An ideal sea kayak should be made from a thermoplastic linear polyethylene, weigh less than 60 pounds and be seaworthy in a variety of conditions. It should travel well on top of a vehicle and be light enough to be launched single-handedly in minutes from a roadside access point.

A good kayak should respond to light paddle strokes and easily cut through a slight chop. Self-bailing designs with air-tight compartments for buoyancy and stability are available in several models. Those with open cockpits allow easy entry and exit at the launch point or out on the water.

With a sea kayak, you don't have to get in line at a crowded launch ramp. You need only a beachfront or roadside creek access to a bay system where you can pull off, park your car and be on the water in minutes. The sea kayak also can be transported on a larger fishing boat when it is necessary to traverse long



Top and above: Lightweight sea kayaks maneuver well and are easy to haul from vehicle to water.

stretches of open water.

The Texas coast offers an enormous variety of drive-up launch points ideal for kayakers in search of angling adventure. Kayaks are especially useful on the

upper coast where water depths along shorelines can be waist-deep or deeper, often with boggy bottoms. Open-cockpit models allow anglers to swing their legs over one side for better casting



Above: Gotcha! The telltale boil of the bay's surface marks the spot where a redfish is hooked. **Left:** Fishing from kayaks allows anglers up-close views of their quarry in shallow waters.

angles and allow the craft to drift across reefs or drop-off areas.

Upper Coast

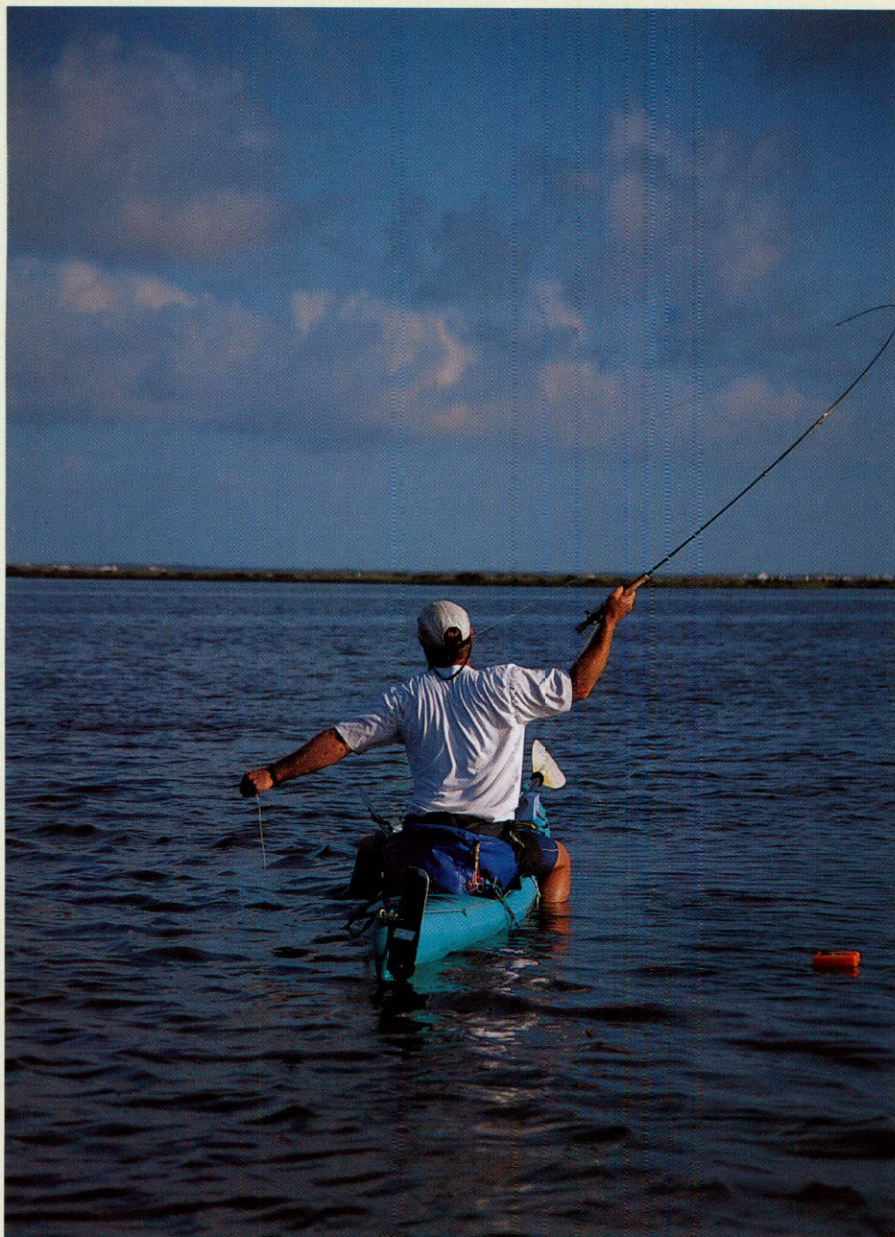
Upper coast favorites for kayak-borne anglers include Keith Lake near Port Arthur, the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge shorelines on East Bay, the series of coves and lagoons on the West Bay

side of Galveston Island and the grass flats of Christmas Bay on Follett's Island.

Uncrowded, remote shorelines and bayous with excellent redfish habitat are open to kayakers in the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge. Prime areas for Galveston-area kayakers are the estuaries and marshlands along the south shoreline of West Bay from Jumbile

Cove to Maggies Cove. These coves are accessible by kayak from launch ramps at Sea Isle or Jamaica Beach subdivisions. They offer access to places too shallow and boggy for most power boats.

Christmas Bay is another favorite destination for upper coast kayakers because its clear, hard bottoms, grass flats and shell reefs afford excellent sightcasting

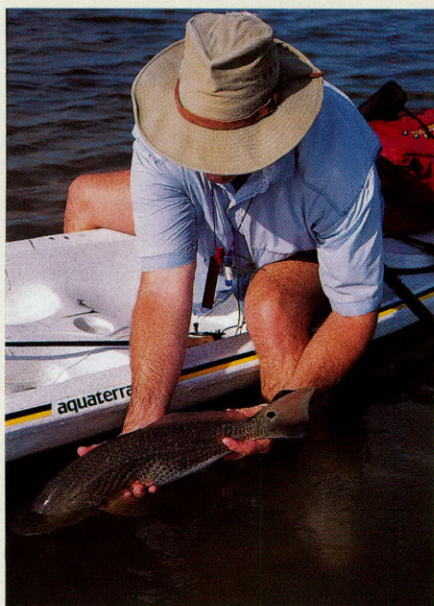


opportunities throughout the year. Beach roads on either end of the bay offer easy launch points. In addition to red drum and spotted seatrout, Christmas Bay gives the kayaker a chance at black drum and sheepshead.

Anglers up and down the Texas coast are using kayaks in creative ways to find the action. Instead of taking the long route that the flats skiffs must travel to get to some of the prime shoreline fishing along West Matagorda Bay, for example, kayakers can take an overland bypass. Park on the road running along the Colorado River, make the short trip across to Parker's Cut, carry the kayak about 100 yards and launch again on the other side. A series of channels and cuts provides an avenue to excellent red drum and seatrout habitat along the West Matagorda Bay shoreline.

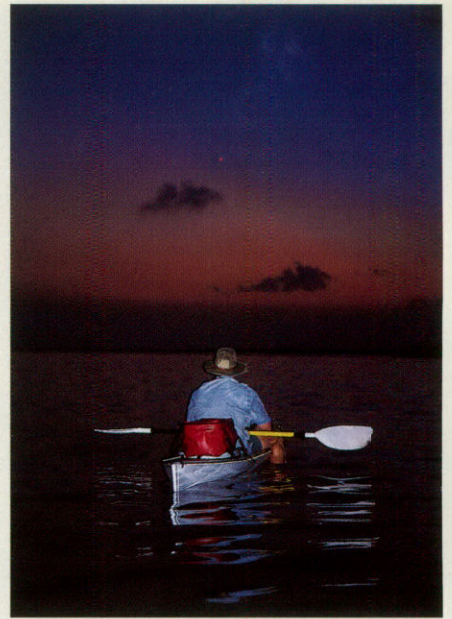
Kayakers will find another access point to prime red drum flats at Fulgham's Fishing Center, a marina located on the Intracoastal Waterway south of Seadrift. Anglers in kayaks have access to the nearby shallow flats of Shoalwater Bay, the Lagoon, a broad, shallow, sand bar and the shorelines and creeks along Espiritu Santo Bay.

Several outfitters, including Capt. Charlie Fulghum (713-781-5982), Capt. Mark Koliba (512-897-1201) and Bill Minor (210-921-6468) offer group tours and overnight houseboat excursions tai-



Above: Stable, open-cockpit models are ideal for exploring tidal basins and flats.

Far Left: Releasing a fish with minimal harm requires the proper technique. **Left:** Up periscope. The telltale spot of a redfish causes many an angler's heart to race.



Above: Casting from behind the kayak allows a break from sitting. **Right:** Silent-running sea kayaks invite contemplative moments on the water. **Facing Page:** A day of chasing red drum ends in the amber glow of a glorious Gulf sunset.

lored to kayakers out of Seadrift and Port O'Connor for fishing and exploring the waters around Matagorda Island.

Middle Coast

One of my favorite entry points to exciting flats fishing on the middle Texas coast is at the Highway 35 bridge just north of Rockport where it crosses Cavasso Creek. The site provides access to the western corner of St. Charles Bay, a relatively pristine bay system that is surrounded by the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge.

Windmills, prickly pear cactus and the occasional appearance of white-tailed deer and javelina give the shoreline a distinctive Texas flavor. During the summer months, herons tend their young in vacant duck blinds and in the fall and during the winter, pairs of whooping cranes sometimes can be spotted on the eastern shore.

One memorable May morning, after paddling down the refuge shoreline, Dallas flyfisher Mike Huffman and I immediately spotted tails glistening in the early sunrise. Anchoring up and wading, we found red drum brazenly rooting for crabs and baitfish right up against the banks. Kayaks also provide anglers with access to the series tidal lakes that cut

into the refuge, another redfish haven.

At the south end of St. Charles Bay is Goose Island State Park, which offers waterfront and wooded areas for picnics, fishing and camping and another ideal launch point for kayakers. From here, kayakers can make the short trip across the bay entrance to the eastern shore of Black Jack Peninsula.

Kayakers should look for days with moderate winds and clear water holding on St. Charles's east shoreline. The area from East Pocket to Egg Point offers an enticing mix of shell bars, grass flats and light sand bottoms that can hold good numbers of red drum, spotted trout and flounder.

Other prime middle coast launch points include the causeway road between Aransas Pass and the Port Aransas ferry landing. The area gives kayakers access to prime shallow-water wadefishing on South Bay, Brown and Root Flats, Stedman Reef and the spoil islands along the Intracoastal Waterway. The more experienced kayaker can travel easily to the expansive East Flats behind Mustang Island for more remote fishing spots.

Two ideal launch points for kayakers are located inside the Padre Island National Seashore below Corpus at Bird Island Basin and Yarborough Pass Flats. To avoid the boat traffic and wind surfing

activity, kayakers make a right turn after launching near the ramp at Bird Island Basin and head north. Look for tailing red drum early and late in the day along the shoreline, or prospect around the nearby spoil islands for spotted seatrout.

The Yarborough Pass Flats can be reached on the beach drive inside the Seashore. A four-wheel-drive vehicle is necessary for getting over the soft cune face and then it is about a mile by vehicle to the Laguna Madre flats. Kayakers at Yarborough have the option of working the shorelines and grass flats in either direction or paddling out along the spoil islands on the Intracoastal Waterway.

Lower Coast

On the lower coast, Port Mansfield fly-fishing guide Terry Neal said the old Arroyo Colorado River bed, now a marshland estuary, is the ideal place to take a sea kayak. Boat access is limited to the mouth of this back bay even for shallow-running flats skiffs. "Some of the biggest trout in the whole laguna live in here in numbers," said Neal. "It is a sanctuary for fish."

In a kayak, anglers often get close enough to cruising red drum to see the trademark black ocellus on their tails as well as the neon blue outline that runs



along the outer edge of the tail. When that happens, you have the choice of trying to put the kayak in reverse so you can make a cast or you can just sit there and marvel at the sight.

Although I prefer to get out and wade once I reach prime flats, a kayak also allows the flyfisher to cast from the boat. Flyfishers can cast from the molded seating area, or swing their feet over either side of the kayak to get a more favorable casting angle.

As important as the design of the hull and the personal equipment that go with the kayak—i.e. the paddle, personal flotation device, dry-bag systems—is the transport system that comes with a sea kayak. “Being able to have the boat travel at 70 m.p.h. (on the top of a car or van) without a hassle is a big advantage with this type of boat,” said Bruce Gillan, owner of Canoesport in Houston. “It comes without any potential wheel-bearing problems, electrical failures or tail lights blowing out the first time it drops in the water.”

With tough, light sea kayaks now designed for angling, Texas anglers are able to launch from remote locations

and zip across a channel or bay entrance to gain access to miles of undisturbed flats fishing. And if it sounds like an untested idea, remember that the Aleuts have been doing it up north for about 8,000 years. ★

PHIL SEOOK is a freelance writer living in Houston who writes frequently on angling in Texas.

Boating Courtesy

Boating basically is an unmanaged activity. It is up to individuals to govern their own actions by being courteous and respectful of others trying to enjoy the bays. Here are a few tips on boating courtesy.

- Do not turn your boat in front of drift fishing boats, wade fishermen or paddlecraft fishermen. Cross well behind and perpendicular to their line of travel if possible.

- Do not run shallow shorelines or flats. This disrupts successful fishing in these areas for long periods of time both for you and others. Lower-impact methods of exploring an area often are more productive.

- When entering or leaving a flat, try

to pole, drift or wade onto and off of it perpendicular to its longest side. This will minimize disturbance to the area for the fish, you and others.

- Use established channels and “running routes” to access areas. Do not run across prime shallow fishing flats just because your boat is capable of doing so.

- Take time to learn the waters by studying maps and running slowly through new areas.

- Enter blind turns carefully; someone may be wading or kayaking just around the corner.

- Maintain your boat properly. Everything should be in working order. A stranded boat usually means someone else will be forced to tow you home, an inconvenience for everyone involved.

- Be respectful of everyone's space. Our bays are full of many users pursuing many different activities.

- Bent rods are not an invitation to join the fun. If you feel you must approach do so quietly.

Remember the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

SPOOKY!

STATE PARKS OFFER GHOULISHLY
GOOD FUN FOR HALLOWEEN.

BY ROB MCCORKLE



As the sere oak campfire crackled, several wide-eyed youngsters in Halloween costumes leaned forward better to hear storyteller John Davis, who was masterfully weaving in somber tones his ghostly tale about the owl, the cat and the evil witch.

"She was a bad witch, a *bruja*, who would run about the countryside at night spreading mischief," Davis whispered to his enraptured audience of youngsters and young at heart. "And she had in her service a cat and owl, who were good. At night the witch would replace her eyes with those of the cat so she could see in the dark, and the blind cat would wander around the house bumping into furniture."

Welcome to Halloween at **Sebastopol State Historical Park**, one of a number of state parks that offer safe and fun events as an alternative to the more traditional door-to-door trick or treating treks on poorly lit streets and haunted houses at often overcrowded shopping malls.

Sebastopol House, a stately, white, 19th-century Greek Revival-style structure located in Seguin, serves as a fitting backdrop for an evening of ghost stories with a Texas twist. Again this year, park manager Martha George Withers has lined up several ghoulishly delightful raconteurs to spin fanciful and macabre tales of things that go bump in the night

at "Ghost Watch" scheduled for 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., October 25.

"We wanted to give the local people something different to do on Halloween," explained Withers. "We feel that storytelling fits in well with the historical context of the house, plus Sebastopol has its own history of ghosts, and people always want to hear about them."

Withers decided to call on some storytellers who had taken part in Sebastopol's special Christmas programs, as well as a living history buff with a knack for spinning a tale. Tabbed for the Halloween event were John Davis, a University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) English professor and former director of research for the Institute of Texan Cultures; his wife Rosemary, a fourth-grade teacher whose subjects include Texas history; and Seguin barber Charlie Eckhardt, head of the Guadalupe Frontiersmen and a writer of Western novels.

Not all the evening's activities revolve around the campfire storytelling sessions, however. Halloween visitors to Sebastopol also can treat their youngsters to a Victorian-era apple-bobbing game and a self-guided tour of this unusual limecrete home built in 1854 by Col. Joshua Young. Another activity will feature a Victorian spider web maze with a fortune to be found at the end.



EARL NOTTINGHAM

Youngsters try to catch apples swinging from strings at Sebastopol's Halloween celebration.

Youngsters in the Cardenas family couldn't resist the challenge of trying to catch with their tiny mouths the apples that swung, along with a lump of brown sugar, from string rigged by two Texas Lutheran College student interns helping with the event. The bobbing fruit proved to be an elusive prize for most, but all ultimately were rewarded with their first "treat" of the evening.

But the night's true essence emerged as twilight stole upon the campfire and spine-tingling tales of the grotesque and bizarre floated on the fall breeze. Two of the most popular ghost stories surround the sightings of apparitions who are said to have haunted Sebastopol for decades.

Rosemary recalled that when she was attending high school in Seguin many years ago, Sebastopol was an old, run-down structure rumored to be haunted. But that was before the Seguin Conservation Society stepped in to save it. Later, in 1976, the SCS sold it to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, which undertook a massive restoration,



EARL NOTTINGHAM

Creative costumes are part of the fun at state park Halloween events.



GLEN MILLS

Who knows what chilling sights await visitors to Fulton Mansion's Haunted Basement?

returning Sebastopol to its 1880s glory. Nonetheless, the stories of Sebastopol's ghosts persist to this day.

Local lore speaks of a 1960s encounter that a construction worker had as he began to gather his tools at the end of the day so he could go meet with his fellow workers who were waiting outside to give him a ride home. When the carpenter didn't show up after a while at the truck, the workers went inside to look for him, only to find him passed out in the kitchen. It seems the man had been gathering up his tools when he looked up to see a young child with red hair, whom he hadn't seen enter the room. On second glance, he told his colleagues, a tall red-headed woman in a flowing gown floated in mid-air where the child had been. He fainted from fright. The man left the construction site that night in a hurry and never returned to pick up his scattered tools.

One of the spookiest Sebastopol ghost stories benefited last year from an All Hallows Eve recreation of *la llarona*, known in the Hispanic culture as "the weeping lady"—a wailing woman with a pale complexion and flowing hair. Sebastopol residents and others have reported over the years seeing a tall, flax-

en-haired woman, illuminated by a strange light, who appears at the edge of East Walnut Creek that borders the back of the park. She walks slowly across the lawn, disappearing about the time she reaches the side of the house.

Fourteen-year-old Joy Stewart, the fetching niece of storyteller Charlie Eckhardt, last Halloween portrayed the ghost, also known as "the white lady." The barefooted high school teen donned a long white dress and carried a lighted candle, sneaking to the back of the two-acre park grounds. On cue from Eckhardt, who was relating the story about the park's apparition, Joy appeared in the darkness just beyond the circle of listeners, illuminated by the eerie glow of the candle, and strolled across the lawn. No doubt, there were more than a few goosebumps in the audience. It's like ol' Charlie says: "There are two kinds of people in this world—those who believe in ghosts and those who don't want to believe in them."

Rosemary has her own take on otherworldly spirits and how people react to stories about them. "People like to be scared," observed Rosemary, who sports a black outfit and matching fedora-style hat for her storytelling role. "They like

to think there are strange things that happened, or do happen and are real. And yet, they really don't want to believe they're real. It's fun to be scared but not be in danger."

As for the evil witch and her avian and feline companions mentioned at the start of the article, it seems the cat and owl tired of being used and decided to try to drive the wicked woman away so they could be free. The owl found and knocked onto the floor the earthen mug containing the witch's eyes, destroying them. The witch was horrified to learn what had happened, knew she would be exposed as a witch when daylight revealed she had the eyes of a cat, and had to leave the town. And, even today, especially around Halloween, keep an eye out for an owl and a blind cat because they still walk together and take care of each other. For more information about Halloween at Sebastopol, call 830-379-4833.

About 100 miles south of Seguin, along the Gulf Coast in Rockport, **Fulton Mansion State Historical Park** hosts "Mansion Madness," a Halloween event that's been held for 12 years at the ornate bayside home built in the 1870s by George and Harriet Fulton.

On October 31, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30

p.m., the park will host its traditional slate of Halloween activities, including children's games, a costume contest and a Haunted Basement populated by Dracula, a mad scientist, barking dogs, a chainsaw murderer and other fiends. Although park entry is free, there is a \$2 charge to take a chilling trip through the Haunted Basement. Call 512-729-0386 for more information.

An evening with the master of the macabre, Edgar Allen Poe, highlights the first-ever "Haunted History at Landmark Inn" weekend at **Landmark Inn State Historical Park** in Castroville on October 31 and November 1. Fort Worth actor Steve Abolt brings the American writer's works to life in a special one-man candlelight performance at 8 p.m. on the banks of the Medina River at this 19th-century hotel on the old San Antonio-El Paso road, now U.S. 90.

"Tanner Brothers' Traveling Medicine Show" is scheduled for November 1, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The show will be an entertaining history lesson for young and old alike, showing how 19th-century merchants brought various cures to save the

people of Castroville from chills, aches, pains or Asiatic cholera.

Landmark Inn is offering an All Hallows Eve Special—two tickets to the Poe performance and one night at this charming bed and breakfast inn—for \$70 plus tax. Tickets for the performance only are available at the inn for \$10. Reservations are suggested due to limited seating. Enjoy a relaxing weekend exploring Castroville, a charming town whose architecture retains much of its 19th-century heritage. Call 210-931-2133 for information and reservations.

Other Texas state parks hosting Halloween events this year are:

• **Big Spring State Park** This West Texas park offers a host of Halloween activities on Saturday, October 25, including 5K and 10K foot races, face-painting, hayride around Scenic Mountain and a pumpkin hunt for children, who search for hundreds of the orange globes in a maze of hay bales. 915-263-4931

• **Inks Lake State Park (Burnet)** The back deck of the park's Texas State Park Store on the edge of Inks Lake provides the perfect setting for an afternoon

of games and a pumpkin-carving contest sponsored by the park on Saturday, November 1. 512-793-2223

• **Lake Livingston State Park (Livingston)** Last year, more than 100 people took part in a Halloween night program hosted by a group of campers in the A Loop, featuring "haunted" campsites with electronic rats, coffins and other frightful props in a natural setting. A jack 'o lantern judging contest rounds out the evening. This year's event is scheduled for October 30 through November 1. 409-365-2201.

• **Lake Texana State Park (Edna)** The second annual Halloween Extravaganza on October 31 promises an educational and fun-filled evening of face-painting, costume contest, predator wildlife program and campfire ghost story session by park ranger Dave Stortz. 512-782-5718

• **Martin Dies, Jr. State Park (Jasper)** A sunset Haunted Halloween Hike for kids and adults on Saturday, October 25 precedes a campfire program featuring sing-alongs, ghost stories and other family fun. 409-384-5231 ★



Fulton Mansion will host its traditional slate of Halloween activities on October 31.

ROOSE

CHASE



VISITORS TO HAGERMAN
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
CAN GET AN UP-CLOSE LOOK AT
WINTERING CANADA GEESE.
THIS REFUGE ON LAKE TEXOMA
HOSTS A VARIETY OF OTHER
WILDLIFE AS WELL, INCLUDING
ADDITIONAL WATERFOWL SPECIES
THAT STOP OVER AT HAGERMAN
ON THEIR TRAVELS SOUTH.

ARTICLE BY
SHERYL SMITH-RODGERS
PHOTOGRAPHS BY
LARRY J. HOWARD





PHOTOS © LARRY J. HOWARD

Jim Williams braked his small sedan to an abrupt halt and pointed toward a distant pasture.

"Oh, gosh, look at the turkeys!" exclaimed the refuge manager to his passengers. "They're strutting and showing their plumage. It looks like two groups of toms, and they're fighting for dominance."

Although they're often seen in the area, turkeys aren't the dominant fowl at Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge in North Texas. No, it's birds of another feather that trigger the inevitable onslaught of telephone inquiries each fall.

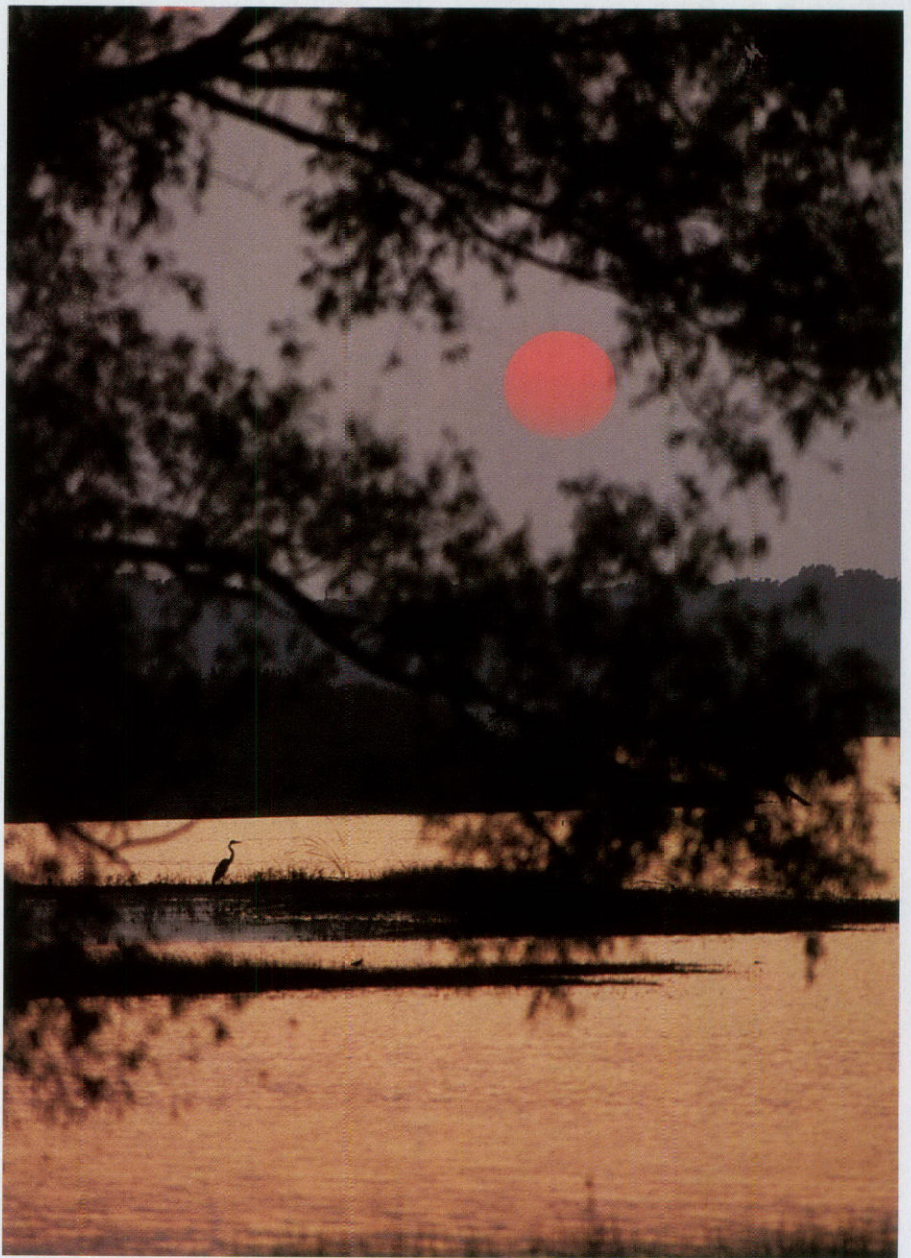
"Have the geese arrived?" callers ask hopefully.

And each October, after the first migrants alight on the refuge's feeding grounds, Williams heaves a sigh of relief.

"The first Canada geese to arrive is like breaking the ice," he said. "After they've been here a few weeks, they get very tame. You can get pretty close to them as long as you stay in your vehicle. And that's exciting, being that close to the geese. The national refuges on the Gulf Coast have more geese, but you can get closer to ours. Here people can bring an inexpensive camera and still get a good picture."



While most of the state's 14 national wildlife refuges lie along the Gulf Coast, Hagerman is located in Grayson County near Denison in North Texas. All the refuges are prime stopovers for birds migrating along the Central Flyway, one of four North American routes between



northern breeding grounds and southern wintering areas.

As agriculture and development continue to claim traditional stopovers, migrating birds have come to rely on a chain of Central Flyway refuges for rest and refueling. Many birds that visit Kansas and Oklahoma refuges eventually visit Hagerman before continuing their travels south to Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge on the Texas Gulf Coast and other areas farther south.

Each year, more than 15,000 wintering waterfowl seek sanctuary and sustenance at Hagerman, located on the south end of the Big Mineral Arm of Lake

ABOVE: EACH FALL WATERFOWL FLOCK TO HAGERMAN'S 3,000 ACRES OF WATER AND MARSH.

LEFT: WINTERING BALD EAGLES FIND THE FISHING FINE AT HAGERMAN.



Texoma. And they find plenty of both within the refuge's 8,000 acres of uplands and 3,000 acres of water and marsh.

With so many mouths to feed, providing an ample supply of food is important at Hagerman. Refuge staff and one cooperative farmer cultivate 600 acres of fields planted with milo, wheat and mung beans for both the geese and resident birds. "Everything loves mung beans, even the deer," Williams said. Since ducks mainly forage on water, earthen levees were constructed near the lakeshore to create marshlike "moist soil units" for their food needs. Water levels in the units are monitored and controlled to ensure optimum feeding conditions for all species of ducks.

Between October and April, four species of geese (Canada, white-fronted, snow and Ross') and more than 10 species of ducks, including mallards, northern pintails, blue-winged teal and gadwalls, migrate through Hagerman. In spring 1996, more than 100 Ross' geese were counted, a record for the refuge. Populations of migrating Canada geese have reached as high as 12,000 at one time but in recent years have averaged half that.

Although the traveling geese and ducks attract the most attention at Hagerman, small migratory birds are capturing a por-

ABOVE: FLOCKS OF THOUSANDS OF WHITE PELICANS DROP BY THE REFUGE IN SPRING AND FALL.

BELOW: HAGERMAN'S VARIED PLANT LIFE INCLUDES MORE THAN 700 DIFFERENT SPECIES.

tion of the limelight as well. Le Conte's and Harris' sparrows, pine siskins and even longspurs can be seen at Hagerman during the winter and into spring. "With the deterioration of their wintering grounds, neotropical migrants are being managed more actively now," Williams said. "Not only must their nesting grounds be protected, their migratory routes and wintering areas in Central and South America need protection as well." In the Yucatan, for example, jungles are cleared for cattle ranching, depleting the birds' natural habitats, he said.

Since Hagerman's establishment in 1946, birders have sighted 314 different species. Of these, 273 are abundant to rare in occurrence, and the rest, seen once or twice, are considered accidental sightings.

Whether they're neotropical or residents, birds of all types have fascinated Karl Haller of nearby Sherman for more than 70 of his 80 years. Since 1963, this self-educated birdwatcher has frequented Hagerman on a regular basis and is considered as much a part of the refuge as the many birds that live there. Each Tuesday and Thursday morning, Haller sits behind the wheel of the refuge's 1976 van and escorts a group of birders along the bumpy, gravel-topped roads, a 28-mile trek that lasts four hours or so.

Haller knows the birds well and speaks



knowledgeably about their nesting, feeding and migratory habits, facts he eagerly and willingly shares with his "bird bunch" during the morning excursions. Past lakeshore and through woodlands, the birdwatchers listen to Haller's remarks, gaze through their binoculars and count birds. Along the way, a pair of dogs that live in a privately owned, residential area rarely fail to trot out and greet the familiar van. "Then they stand in the middle of the road until we give them a biscuit," he said.

For his countless hours of work and dedication, Karl Haller was named the 1995 "Volunteer of the Year" for the national wildlife refuge system. "We have a body of knowledge and bird data that would not have been possible without him," Williams said. "It has been a tremendous resource in tracking bird dynamics over the years. Few refuges in the system have the body of data for the number of birds that we do. It's (Haller's work) a real legacy."

Hagerman's historical legacy stems from a small but thriving community that sprang up at the turn of the century near a Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad switch, which was named for railroad attorney James P. Hagerman. The town adopted the switch's name and eventually grew to support 250 residents, a cotton gin, a two-story school, bank, post office, train depot, churches and several stores. However, when news spread in the late 1930s that the federal government planned to purchase their community and dam the Red River for flood control, people began to move away, and many of the town's buildings were moved to nearby communities.

Following the completion of Denison Dam and the creation of Lake Texoma, a Public Land Order in 1946 established the wildlife refuge and converted the old

railway into the main service road. Today the only visible remnants of the original townsite, located not far from the refuge's headquarters, are a few foundation blocks, some concrete piers and several artesian wells. Like those faithful wells that continue to flow, surviving Hagerman residents and their descendants gather every Labor Day in nearby Denison to share memories and a potluck meal.

Working pumpjacks scattered across the wildlife haven are a startling contradiction to the refuge's unfettered lakeshore, blackland prairie and cross-timber habitat. In 1951, the original landowners, who retained mineral rights to their federally purchased property, discovered oil in the Hagerman refuge. Today approximately 150 active wells tap oil from underground, delivering a share of the profits to the former landowners. During the initial drilling, roads were constructed into the lake to outlying drilling pads. Birdwatchers, fishing enthusiasts and other refuge visitors now freely travel the pad roads, one of which offers a 12-foot-tall observation tower (actually a recycled oil well platform).



ABOVE: WINTER IS A SPECIAL TIME AT HAGERMAN, WHEN DUCKS, GEESE AND A VARIETY OF NONGAME BIRDS SOJOURN AT THE REFUGE.

BELOW RIGHT: BOWHUNTING FOR WHITE-TAILED DEER INCREASES IN POPULARITY EACH YEAR.

UPPER RIGHT: HAGERMAN PROVIDES AN OUTDOOR CLASSROOM FOR AREA STUDENTS.

Besides birders, Hagerman also attracts a number of anglers and boaters. Access through the refuge for fishing in Lake Texoma is permitted year-round during daylight hours only and in accordance with state regulations. Fishing in refuge ponds is allowed only April through September to avoid disturbing migrating waterfowl. To protect wintering birds, boating is permitted within the refuge from April through September only, and swimming and water skiing are not allowed at all.

The popularity of bowhunting at Hagerman increases each fall, according to Williams. During the 1995 season, hunters took the second and third place all-time Pope and Young white-tailed deer in the state here. Pope and Young is a scoring system for bucks taken with a bow. As a result, Williams said he expected applications to increase dramatically for future bow seasons.

With such varied terrain, hiking opportunities abound at Hagerman. In addition to roads crisscrossing the grounds, an interpretive trail is located on the refuge's southeast rim. Built by local Boy Scouts and college students, the savanna trail includes interpretive markers and the best scenic overlook of the area made from another recycled oil well platform, which perches atop a gently sloping hill.

For a less-strenuous overview of the refuge, visitors may pick up brochures at the visitor center and walk through a small exhibit room that features historical photographs plus mounted birds and animals. A board in the vestibule lists the latest bird sightings. From the visitor center, a four-mile, self-guided auto tour winds through the refuge's main management unit.

Dr. George Diggs knows all the roads, trails and even unexplored niches of Hagerman. That's because the botanist

and biology professor at Austin College in Sherman spent three years intensively collecting Hagerman's varied plant life. He documented more than 700 different species, including a quarter-acre of rare prairie cordgrass.

"Our most astonishing finding was the actual number of species in such a relatively small area," he said. "Hagerman is biologically a very rich area, primarily because of its different soil types and varied habitats. Prairie habitat has been virtually wiped out in this area except for small remnants, which are preserved in the refuge. So a place like Hagerman is very valuable."

Partially based on the Hagerman plant collections, Diggs and two other botanists—Robert O'Kennon and Barney Lipscomb—plan to update the region's authoritative plant manual (*Shinner's Manual of the North Central Texas Flora*) and publish their own volume, *Shinner's and Mahler's Plants of North Central Texas*.

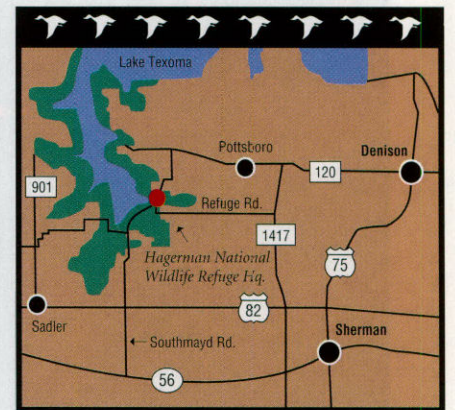
Besides biology students from Austin College, many other area students regularly visit Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge to do research or observe plants and animals in a natural setting.

"Hagerman is a very valuable resource for this part of Texas," Diggs said. "It's a preserve for native habitats, a stopover point for migratory birds and a class-



room not just for our students but the general public as well. In fact, the national wildlife refuge system as a whole is very valuable to this country." ★

SHERYL SMITH-RODGERS is a freelance writer living in Blanco and the author of *Weekends Away: Camping and Cooking in Texas State Parks* (Eakin Press).



VISITING HAGERMAN

Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge can be reached from Sherman or Denison via FM 1417. The visitor center is open 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. The office is closed weekends and holidays, but the refuge is open year around from dawn to dusk. Admission is free. For more information, write to Route 3, Box 123, Sherman, Texas 75092. The telephone number is 903-786-2826.

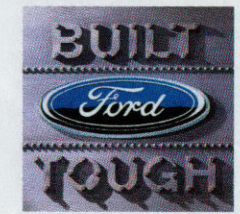




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IT HAS IN COMMON WITH
**THE TYPICAL
50-YEAR-OLD**
IS THE SPARE TIRE.



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HIKING THE SOLITARIO

Fresno Canyon, just northwest of the Solitario, is filled with scenery, fascinating geological treasures and the unexpected, such as the scene below. The canyon formed where lava flows lapped up against the Solitario uplift. The east side of the Fresno Canyon is formed by tilted limestone rocks that form the Solitario rim.



© RUSTY YATES

W

e wanted to hike the Solitario from the moment we heard about the geologic aberration in the Big Bend Country. Our oldest son, Michael, chose the Solitario—an eight-mile, circular ridge in far West Texas—as the subject of his geology master's thesis in 1990. His research revealed that early Spanish settlers chose the odd name *el solitario*, or the solitary, because of the formation's remote desert location. He told us, too, how the collapsed dome and the underlying laccolith were formed more than 35 million years ago when magma pushed against the earth's crust, causing the crust to bulge, buckle and split. When fractures in the crust finally reached the magma chamber, pressure was released, resulting in a massive explosion and volcanic activity for the next 10 million years.

We were impressed during a visit years later that people living 200 years ago came up with such a precise, beautifully descriptive name for this special place, *el solitario*, which also means "the only." True to its name, the Solitario is the only geologic formation of its type in North America. On the Solitario, now part of the Big Bend Ranch State Park, we can easily feel we're in a one-and-only solitary area.

Geologists estimate that 12 cubic miles of rock, ash and magma erupted in a blast larger than the 1980 volcanic inferno at Mount St. Helen's. All flora and fauna in the area quickly were incinerated. As steam and gases in the dome vented through the overlying rocks, the lowering heat relieved the pressure in the laccolith chamber. The earth collapsed, much as the crust of an apple pie falls once it is pulled from a hot oven. The implosion of the Solitario, though, covered a 72-square-mile area roughly 4½ times the size of Manhattan.

The release in pressure caused faulting, rippling and landslides. Today, 35 million years later, the Solitario has been carved by erosion into a maze of rugged hills and steep canyons. A bird's-eye view reveals the Solitario's concentric circles of ridges rippling out from a central depression. Viewed from Texas Highway 170, which borders the southern edge of Big Bend Ranch State Park, the Solitario appears as a vast, amorphous clump of hills and valleys leading into the Chihuahuan Desert. Viewed up close, on foot or horseback, the Solitario excels as a splendid geologic laboratory.

Shortly after we heard about the Solitario, we began planning a hike to witness first-hand its magnificent geologic formations. We were surprised to learn that the Solitario sits like an island in the midst of an imposing, rugged, high desert on the eastern edge of Big Bend Ranch State Park. There are no hiking trails and no easy access points.



© RUSTY YATES



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© RUSTY YATES

A geologic history more than 500 million years old is one of Big Bend Ranch's main attractions, in the Solitario and throughout the park. At the far left a visitor uses a hand lens to examine mineral formations. The photos at left show some of the textures and beauty that can be seen in the park's geological formations.



© KATHY ADAMS CLARK FOR REDUX HOME

A

ll hikers must hire a guide to make the journey into the Solitario's inner sanctum. "Our number-one priority is the safety of the public," said Park Superintendent Luis Armendariz. "With a guide, we know people will not get lost." The Chihuahuan Desert, he said, "is a hostile environment for people who don't know it."

Combine the desert with the rugged terrain of the Solitario, and it's easy to see why the park has decided to limit access to the area. Armendariz, a Presidio native, told us that rescuing an injured hiker might take hours or days and that mounting a rescue would be difficult since the park has a limited staff.

We decided to hire Park Naturalist David Alloway as our guide. Our destination on the Solitario was a canyon called the Lower Shutup. Shutups are canyons cut through the edges of the Solitario by water draining off the center. The northern end of the dome has two canyons, the Right-Hand Shutup and Left-Hand Shutup, which actually resemble wide valleys more than steep canyons.

The Lower Shutup, however, is a deep canyon cut by water draining off most of the Solitario dome. Alloway suggested that we begin our hike in the Lower Shutup Wash so that we could see the full impact of water eroding rock. We reached the Lower Shutup Wash after a two-hour drive along the eastern side of the Solitario on roads that severely challenged our four-wheel-drive vehicle. The first hour of the drive was over various types of limestone laid down millions of years ago when the area was covered by a shallow, inland sea. The second hour of the drive took us over a narrow, rough road that snaked between a couple of the Solitario's ridges. As we maneuvered up rocky hills and around washed-out areas in the road, it felt as if we were riding in an old buckboard being jerked along by mules.

When the road ended near a desert wash, it was time to begin our hike. Alloway pointed out that we were on the edge of the area where internal pressure of the Solitario had vented around 35 million years ago. An hour into our hike, ancient volcanic tuff hills of gray ash dominated the landscape. Similar tuffs can be seen at Big Bend National Park near Cerro Castelan. Both are indications of the region's violent volcanic activity.

Hiking down the wash of the Lower Shutup, we also saw an indication of the force of water on the landscape. For millions of years, water draining off the Solitario dome has cut through the layers of vented material, limestone and igneous rock. Rocks here have been polished smooth as marbles by centuries of running water. We scrambled over these rocks as we hiked through the wash. Later, as the canyon became more narrow, we climbed around and over huge, slippery boulders worn smooth by water.

Park Naturalist David Alloway, left, leads tours through the Solitario and often begins at the Lower Shutup Wash, pictured left and below. The Lower Shutup is a deep canyon cut by water draining off most of the Solitario dome. Tiling and ancient volcanic tuff hills of gray ash can be seen on the right of the photo below.



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Viewed from Texas Highway 170, which borders the southern edge of Big Bend Ranch State Park, the Solitario appears as a vast, amorphous clump of hills and valleys leading into the Chihuahuan Desert. Viewed up close, on foot or horseback, the Solitario excels as a splendid geologic laboratory.

Deep inside the canyon, walls tower 400 to 500 feet above the desert floor. Alloway directed us to a small cavern. Inside, we saw the base of a stalactite that formed on the ceiling as water dripped through fissures in the limestone layer above. Mineral deposits stained the ceiling in colors ranging from off-white to red. Calcite crystals decorated the outside of the cavern walls.

Along with the geologic wonders of the Lower Shup, we also found a healthy natural environment. Mexican buckeye, buttonbush and thistle formed small groves of greenery along the base of the canyon walls. A gray vireo, unusual in Texas, sang from a steep cliff. Canyon wrens, black-throated sparrows, blue grosbeaks and other bird species typical of the Big Bend area entertained us with song. Monarch and tiger swallowtail butterflies added splashes of color to the arid surroundings. We found a salmon-colored coachwhip snake under a rock trying to escape from the summer heat.

Because of the Solitario's isolation and lack of defined trails, Alloway proved a necessity as well as an endless source of naturalist knowledge. For hours we hiked on rocks, over steep cliffs and over boulders. At one point, a large pool of water blocked our way, forcing us to detour over a steep, slippery slope covered with lechuguilla and blind prickly pear. Getting in and out of the Solitario safely requires a guide like Alloway with superior experience in desert survival. We were lucky he also had excellent knowledge about the geology, birding and history of the park.

Guided hiking trips to the western edge of the Solitario are scheduled several times throughout the year. Big Bend Ranch State Park also offers a bus tour of the main areas of the park plus a variety of nature programs. Ten primitive campsites are available for tent camping. Those wanting a little more luxury can opt for a bunkhouse and a large house that can be rented by the night. Contact the park at 915-229-3416. ★

KATHY ADAMS CLARK is a freelance writer and photographer. GARY CLARK is the Dean of Natural Science at North Harris College in Houston. They explore Texas from their home in The Woodlands.



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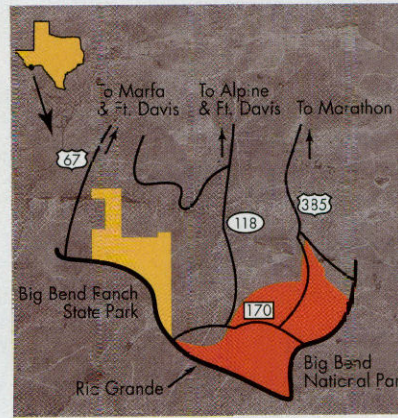
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A few of the sights of the Solitarius and Big Bend Ranch, left to right, beginning at the top: lechuguilla growing on a hillside; intertwining cactus spines forming an intricate pattern; delicate white blossoms of an Apache plume; a coachwhip snake found under rocks in the Lower Shutup; richly colored rocks of Fresno Canyon.



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ON A WING



THE BEAUTIFUL PAINTED BUNTING PROBABLY WAS ON SEVERAL OF THE LISTS COMPILED BY COMPETITORS IN THE GREAT TEXAS BIRDING CLASSIC.

© KATHY ALLEN

The state's first-ever birdwatching competition—The Great Texas Birding Classic—proved a great success, generating widespread support among communities and raising \$50,000 for avifauna habitat conservation.

by Kathy Adams Clark

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MEMBERS OF THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY TEAM RACE ALONG A COASTAL HIGHWAY AS THE COMPETITION HEATS UP. **T**EXAS AUDUBON SOCIETY'S YOUTH TEAM, THE TEXAS AUDUBON THRASHERS, SEARCH FOR BIRDS IN THE FOREST CANOPY, LEFT. MEMBERS WERE FORREST ROWLAND, JAY PACKER, RAGAN SUTTERFIELD AND CAMERON COX.

& A PRAYER

Over the last seven days, you have driven 3,100 miles around the 43 counties that border the Texas Gulf Coast. Three of the seven days, you stayed awake more than 24 hours, something you haven't done since college. Your vehicle not only has added mileage but added layers of road grime, peanut butter stains in the seats, caramel rice cakes ground into the floor mats and dead mosquitoes on the dashboard. A small window is broken on the truck because one of your companions locked the keys in the ignition, with the motor running, at 3 a.m. on a dirt road near Zapata. Memories flood through your mind and you smile. It was an adventure, but you finished the Great Texas Birding Classic.



ENTHUSIASM WAS HIGH IN THE COMPAQ COMPUTER/HOUSTON AUDUBON TEAM AFTER SPOTTING A MOURNING WARBLER LATE IN THE COMPETITION. PICTURED ARE TEAM MEMBERS DWIGHT PEAK AND GIFF BEATON.



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Billed as "the biggest, longest and wildest birding competition ever held in the United States," the Great Texas Birding Classic lived up to its name.

Thirteen of the 27 teams made up of three to four birders competed in the seven-day event. Their objective was to find the most bird species during three separate "Big Days" on three sections of the Texas coast. On Monday, April 21, teams counted birds on the upper Texas coast; on Wednesday, April 23, they looked for additional species on the central coast; and on Saturday, April 26, they wrapped up the competition in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

The winner of the competition was a team sponsored by Compaq Computer Corporation and Houston Audubon Society. Team members Giff Beaton, Roger Breedlove, Dwight Peake and Ron Weeks saw 298 species of birds during the competition. Peake put that in perspective by saying, "We saw more species of birds in three days in Texas than some states have during an entire year." As winners, they earned the right to determine which conservation projects receive the \$50,000 Conservation Grand Prize. They have chosen the Galveston marsh restoration project on Interstate 45, the Texas Audubon colonial waterbirds sanctuary along the central coast and the Wings over Weslaco project in the Rio Grande Valley.

Another seven teams chose to compete in only one day of the competition. Their goal was to win prizes for seeing the greatest number of bird species on one section of the coast. A youth team, the Texas Audubon Thrashers, sponsored by Texas Audubon Society, saw 213 species on the upper Texas coast. Team members Jay Packer, Forest Rowland, Ragan Sutterfield and Cameron Cox, all 17 years old, broke the existing record for birds seen on the upper Texas Coast and won the youth competition.

Competitive birding was only one portion of the Great Texas Birding Classic. Communities and environmental groups put on 38 events to coincide with the



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THE LAST DAY OF COMPETITION FOUND THE COMPAQ COMPUTER/HOUSTON AUDUBON TEAM MEMBERS PEERING UNDER BUSHES IN SEARCH OF ONE MORE B.R.D. THE TEAM SAW 298 BIRD SPECIES DURING THE COMPETITION TO BECOME THE OVERALL WINNERS.

classic, including a poster contest in Port Bolivar, an exhibit featuring Audubon bird prints in Orange, an art exhibit in Port Aransas, a county fair in Bishop and nature and bird walks in towns all along the coast.

Madge Lindsay of Texas Parks and Wildlife brought the idea of the classic to fruition by working with a committee representing coastal communities and a committee of birdwatchers. Lindsay said people working on the classic wanted "something that would work for Texas." In the end, corporations, coastal communities, governmental and conservation agencies and the public came together to focus on birds and spotlight the need for habitat preservation.

Birding currently is the fastest-growing outdoor activity in the country. Over the last decade, the number of people calling themselves birders has grown by 155 percent. Dr. Richard Payne, chair of the Political Science Department at Sam Houston State University, has participated in a number of studies that show birders pump millions of dollars into the economy of Texas. A 1992 study found

birders spent \$2.5 million during spring visits to High Island, Texas, to watch spring migrants. Another survey showed the 48,000 birders who visited the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge contributed an estimated \$5.63 million to the local economy, and birders who visited Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge spent \$14.4 million in the local communities.

Dr. Payne said the Great Texas Birding Classic will have a "substantial economic impact" on communities along the coast. As a participant in April's event, he noticed the immediate impact a group of birdwatchers had on Silsbee, Texas. The hotel where he and his team members stayed was filled with his team, other competitors and a large birding tour. Everyone ate meals in local restaurants, fueled cars at local gas stations and bought snacks at local convenience stores. Payne noticed the same thing happening in other communities as the competitor moved down the coast.

Along with Compaq Computer Corporation were other corporate-sponsored teams. Houston Lighting and

Power's team wore bright yellow shirts with the company's name on the front and drove a company vehicle. Dow Chemical, Zeiss Optics and Phillips Petroleum provided magnetic signs for the sides of their teams' vehicles. Teams sponsored by Houston Audubon Society/Compaq Computer Corporation, Central Power and Light, Landmark Graphics, San Benito Bank and Trust, and The Kenedy Ranch wore tee shirts during the week with the company's logo. Pentax provided binoculars for the American Birding Association's youth team, and Zeiss provided top-of-the-line binoculars for the Grand Prize winners.

Nice shirts and logos, though, were not enough to win the Great Texas Birding Classic. Teams such as Landmark Graphics exhibited exceptional bird identification skills by noticing there were unexpected cave and cliff swallows under the Interstate 10 bridge crossing the Trinity River. Their knowledge of bird habits produced elusive species such as the yellow rail at 3 a.m. in tall grass at the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge.

A keen knowledge of Texas back roads also was helpful. Members of Dow Chemical's team—James Heller, Tom Morris, Tom Taroni and Warren Pruess—are involved in outdoor activities in Brazoria and Matagorda counties. They knew county roads that quickly could get them where they needed to be.

Each team had a tightly guarded strategy for winning the competition. David Dauphin of the Landmark Graphics team said their strategy was to see as many resident birds on the upper coast as possible on Monday. Then they would concentrate on central coast and lower coast specialties as they moved south. Houston Audubon Society/Compaq Computer's team followed a similar strategy but also had team members who were experts on certain areas of the coast.

Teamwork increased productivity. One team set up four spotting scopes on Bolivar Flats. As one member would find a target bird, he would yell out the name

of the bird, rotate to another scope, and other members would rotate to his scope to see the bird. It looked like a lot of activity, but saved time because other team members were not trying to find the bird in his scope. Zeiss's team had a member become ill as the count began. After a visit to the emergency room, the team made a pallet for him in the back of the van and left the doors open at each stop so he could identify birds by sound. Because team members always had to stay within voice distance of each other, Zeiss team members would have to yell things like "did you hear the great horned owl?" to confirm their ill teammate got the bird.

Teamwork also extended to the community. The Landmark Graphics team picked up a man whose car had broken down on the highway outside Port Arthur and gave him a ride to Winnie. Phillips Petroleum/National Audubon Society team members, Steve Gast of Phillips, Dr. Frank Gill of National Audubon

Society, Mike Farmer of Texas Audubon and Phil Schlageter, took time to talk to residents of a South Padre Island neighborhood who wanted to know why there were so many birds in the yards. The team patiently explained that large flocks of birds, including dickcissel, indigo bunting, northern oriole and a wide variety of warblers were migrating over the Gulf of Mexico from the Yucatan. A strong low pressure system created a violent storm over the Gulf of Mexico and the Texas Coast. As a result, migrating birds, exhausted by the time they arrived at the coast, were resting out in the open. These birds had depleted their fat reserves and were desperately seeking seeds, fruit, and insects in yards and vacant lots. Birders call this type of event a "fallout." Several teams had anticipated the fallout and detoured to South Padre Island hoping to add species to their count totals.

The Paisano team was overwhelmed by the number of birds grounded on



A CASUAL OBSERVER MIGHT MISS A NIGHTHAWK PERCHED ON A BRANCH, BUT NOT THE EAGLE EYES OF BIRDING CLASSIC COMPETITORS.



EARL NOTTINGHAM



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South Padre Island. The fallout was so spectacular they stayed on the island all day. Their total for the day, 152 species, illustrates the number of birds that can be seen during a fallout on one small stretch of Texas coast during the spring.

Texas long has been recognized as the number-one birdwatching destination in the United States. Teams from New England, North Carolina, Florida and the Pacific Northwest came to compete in the Great Texas Birding Classic and enjoy Texas birds. A team from Washington State, The Triangulators, said they joined the competition to have fun and to see Texas birds. Next year they will return to compete seriously. Competition, birds, habitat preservation and fun proved a winning combination for the inaugural Great Texas Birding Classic. ★

KATHY ADAMS CLARK is a nature photographer and writer living in The Woodlands, Texas.

THE HOUSTON LIGHTING & POWER TEAM TAKES OFF ON FOOT AFTER SPOTTING A BIRD, BELOW. A PLATOON OF WEARY BIRDERS FROM LANDMARK GRAPHICS AND ARMAND/UNION TEXAS PETROLEUM WALKS ACROSS BOLIVAR FLATS AFTER COUNTING SHOREBIRDS.



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AW, SHOOT, IT'S THE
GAME WARDEN

When game wardens catch poachers in the act, the ensuing events often develop into an outdoor theater of the absurd. No excuse is too far-fetched as the miscreants squirm to get off the hook.

Article by Sheryl Smith-Rodgers Illustrations by Jimmy Longacre

LATE ONE COLD JANUARY NIGHT WHILE ON routine patrol, Game Warden Bill Blackburn of Llano County saw a bright light flash across the sky. Then he heard a gunshot.

Suspecting illegal hunters, Blackburn climbed out of his vehicle and ventured through the darkness across an unfamiliar pasture. Clasp ing an unlit flashlight in one hand, Blackburn trekked quietly, careful to keep a large tree between himself and his quarry. Closer and closer the warden inched, when suddenly one foot stumbled into a hole. With a crash, Blackburn toppled to the ground.

Startled by the noise, the hunters, hunched over a deer carcass, jerked upright and shined their flashlights in the direction of the ruckus. "That was probably the game warden. Let's shoot!" one joked. Terrified that the men might really fire in his direction, Blackburn held his breath and froze. After a brief discussion, the hunters finally dismissed the noise and proceeded to skin a freshly killed doe.

Now back on his feet, Blackburn crept toward the unsuspecting men. Then, flicking on his flashlight in the hunters' surprised faces, the game warden stepped forward and calmly announced, "Hold still and don't run!"

Recognizing the officer, the men slumped their shoulders in resignation. Aw, shoot, it *was* the game warden!



EXPERIENCES LIKE THIS ARE ALL IN A DAY'S work for Blackburn and Texas's 472 game wardens, who average 12 million vehicle patrol miles and 135,000 boat hours a year. From routine hunting, fishing and water safety checks to criminal investigations, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's commissioned peace officers perform an endless number of law enforcement tasks. Primarily, the wardens enforce the state's hunting and fishing regulations, in addition to the Water Safety Act. Besides arresting poachers and citing illegal anglers, wardens also recover drowning victims,

investigate boat accidents and boat thefts, enforce trespass statutes and, on some special occasions, handle Penal Code violations ranging from murder to cruelty to animals. In the wake of natural disasters, the officers assist with emergency management, such as rescue and recovery of victims, traffic control and law enforcement security.

Because their job puts them in contact with 1.5 million people annually, game wardens meet all kinds of different folks. Although the majority are law-abiding, officers still issue about 40,000 citations a year. Out of those thousands of encounters with violators, a small percentage ultimately turn into classic stories that wardens will remember for years to come. Some tales are funny. Some are hard to believe. All illustrate the daring, cunning and sometimes humorous side of a Texas game warden.



GAME WARDEN DON JACKSON OF PECOS County has nabbed lawbreakers in West Texas for more than 25 years and collected quite a number of "you've-got-to-be-kidding" tales. Well known for his storytelling ability, Jackson doesn't have to embellish his narratives to trigger a laugh. The foibles of human nature provide more than enough punch lines. Among Jackson's classic anecdotes is one that features a poacher with an overactive imagination.

Late one night while covertly parked near a prime location popular with road hunters, Jackson sat in the dark, quietly biding the time in his car. Headlights soon appeared and a gunshot rang out through the darkness. Jackson continued his vigil while the man loaded a deer's carcass in the back of an old station wagon and then drove away. Jackson pursued the vehicle and, a short while later, halted the driver. Assuming he'd easily spot the evidence, Jackson was astonished and perplexed to discover a mountain of junk in the back of the station wagon.

"I couldn't find that deer until finally I saw a foot sticking out from beneath

all this stuff," Jackson recalled. "The man acted surprised and said he didn't know how the deer had got in there."

The man then offered a perfectly "logical" explanation to Jackson. "I had a blowout. After I fixed the tire, I was backing up to find the hubcap when I must have hit the deer, and it fell in."

Yeah, right. While on patrol a different night, Jackson heard a gunshot fired on a nearby ranch. Driving down the ranch's road to investigate, Jackson met a Suburban heading out. Inside were a man, his wife, and a "real nice, 10-point buck, still steaming."

"My daughter has never seen a good buck before," the man explained. "So I was letting her look at him through the scope of my gun when she accidentally pulled the trigger."

Jackson peered inside the vehicle and saw a little girl lying on a pallet. When asked about the youngster's age, the father replied, "Seventeen months old."

The deer had been shot smack dab between the eyes.

And then there was the time Jackson and another warden were patrolling Lake Whitney south of Fort Worth when they happened onto a pair of fishermen in a boat. The two were illegally shocking fish with an old crank-style telephone and scooping up their dead catch with a net. Upon realizing they had been caught in the act, one sheepishly remarked, "Yeah, we were calling up fish, but we done got the wrong number!"



JOHN RISCHE, A LIEUTENANT GAME WARDEN in Lubbock, was just a rookie in Sweetwater when he stumbled upon a "sleeper" of a story back in 1974. A telephone call one hot August evening led Rische and fellow warden Dale Evans to the home of some suspected poachers. At the front door, a woman appeared but refused to let the wardens inside. So Rische left to retrieve a search warrant while Evans stayed to keep an eye on the house.

During Rische's absence, Evans could

see a flurry of activity inside the house. A few hours later, Rische, unsuccessful in his search to find a judge, returned empty-handed. Still determined, though, the officers knocked on the door again. This time, the occupants consented to allow the pair inside.

"It was not a very well kept house," Rische recalled. "In fact, it was pretty messy. They had a chest-type freezer that had fresh blood on it, so we knew there was a carcass somewhere. We looked in all the closets and under the beds. Finally, we got to a back bedroom to look. All the beds in the house had been unmade, but this bed looked a little different."

"We pulled back the sheets, and there they were—two bloody deer carcasses."

Now that's one bedtime story that won't make the pages of a children's book!



J.C. ROMINES, A RETIRED WARDEN WITH 35 years of experience, still chuckles over the department's christening experience with "Bucky," a generic name for the white-tailed deer decoys wardens use to apprehend road hunters. "We were filming a training video in a pasture, and we had a camera set up in some rocks," he recalled. "Some guys slipped in from behind and started shooting at Bucky. They didn't know it was a decoy. The bullets were hitting the rocks where the camera was, and we all hit the dirt. Some of the wardens started yelling, 'Arrest 'em!'"

"But they weren't doing anything wrong," Romines concluded, "because it was hunting season."

Brave Bucky, always stoic, forever statuesque, has tempted many a hunter's heart. Each year, wardens catch more than 200 road hunters, thanks to Bucky's tireless efforts. Though most law breakers aim guns in the decoy's direction, a few have resorted to other means.

For instance, Bowie County wardens in far Northeast Texas were working a decoy deer at 1 a.m. when a four-wheel-drive vehicle passed by, turned around and stopped about 100 yards from the

decoy. When Bucky's head moved, the truck revved into motion and sped toward the deer. Seconds later, the truck crashed into Bucky, catapulting his head 50 feet into the air and scattering body parts on the ground. The two men later told the wardens that they had only wanted to chase the deer. Background searches on the pair, though, cast a different light on their story. Both had been recently cited for road hunting in two adjoining counties.

Some people never learn.



ON HIS WAY TO A CALL LATE ONE NIGHT, Warden Ronnie Brooks of Montague County in North Texas spotted a suspicious-looking pickup and stopped to check it. Closer examination of the vintage 1940s truck revealed a dead fox lying on the running board. Since no one was around, Brooks hopped back into his vehicle and continued on his way.

A few days later, Brooks spotted the same pickup outside of Bridgeport and flagged the driver down. While the two men were talking, Brooks spied some splotches of dried blood on the truck's running board.

"What kind of blood is that?" Brooks asked the driver.

"I dunno," the man mumbled.

Brooks then wet his finger, leaned down and rubbed it in the blood. Taking a whiff of his fingertip, Brooks calmly proclaimed, "Why, that smells like gray fox blood."

Visibly shaken, the man's eyes widened in disbelief. "How did you know that?" he asked incredulously.

"Well, we're just well trained in that kind of stuff," Brooks modestly replied.

While assisting with opening weekend of pheasant season in Hansford County east of Wichita Falls, Brooks set up a frozen pheasant on a wooden stand. Wind gusts kept knocking the decoy over, so Brooks wound a heavy metal chain around the base and camouflaged it with grass. Soon a young man and his uncle drove by and spotted the tempting bird.

After firing at the decoy, the young man jumped out of the truck, ran over and grabbed the frozen thing. Shaking off the chain, the hunter raced back to the truck and proudly presented his bounty, which still clung to the wooden stand.

The older and wiser man just sadly shook his head. "Put it down, boy, we've been had," he lamented.

Sure enough, the two were ticketed for illegal hunting from a public road.



SOME GAME WARDENS, LIKE CURTIS JONES of Abilene, will confess that sometimes it's just plain tough trying to keep a straight face while on the job. One sunny day, Jones was watching a pair of road hunters in a pickup. When the truck took off, Jones followed them in his patrol vehicle. Finally, the pickup pulled over to the road's left side and stopped.

"Anyone comin'?" the driver asked his passenger.

"Nope," the man replied.

Unbeknownst to the hunters, Jones had walked up within earshot of their conversation on the driver's side of the pickup.

The driver then switched off the engine, and again asked, "Anyone comin'?"

Again, his accomplice replied, "Nope." Sticking the barrel of his gun out the truck's window, the hunter aimed at his target and fired.

"That was pretty good," Jones casually remarked from his vantage point, "but you missed."

Needless to say, two very surprised hunters were hauled off to jail that day.



CALVIN HARBAUGH, A GAME WARDEN IN Nueces County, periodically checks bait shrimp boats in the Corpus Christi Bay. One hot July afternoon, he stepped onto a boat and discovered more than half the shrimper's catch was dead, a violation of state commercial fishing regulations. Harbaugh issued a citation to the boat's captain and then began confiscating the crustaceans. To his dismay, though, the



© JIMMY LONGACRE

warden ran out of empty ice chests on board his patrol boat. So he used some of the captain's chests, which he promised to return after he had sold the shrimp.

Harbaugh headed back for the dock, where he unloaded the confiscated shrimp in his vehicle, drove them to a shrimp dealer, and obtained a sales receipt as evidence. Driving back to the

dock, he returned just as the shrimp boat was chugging to a halt at the pier. Climbing back on board with the borrowed ice chests, the officer encountered a red-faced captain and another bait shrimp load with more than half dead.

As he was penning a second citation, Harbaugh asked the man why he had decided to break the law again.

"Well, I didn't expect you to get back so fast," the captain replied.

The moral of this story? Never underestimate Texas game wardens. They just might surprise you. ★

SHERYL SMITH-RODGERS is a freelancer writer living in Blanco.



OUTDOOR ADVENTURES EVERY SUNDAY ON FOX SPORTS SOUTHWEST

HOSTED BY NOLAN RYAN

SUNDAY'S PROGRAM LINE UP



Americana Outdoors
9:00am



**Cajun Phil's
Outdoors & Fishin'**
9:30am July-Dec



Prime Time Outdoors
9:30am Jan-June



Outdoor Trails
10:00am



**Alan Warren
Outdoors**
10:30am



©

It's fall—the best time of all to be outdoors for many Texans. Here at Texas Parks and Wildlife, the highlight of our fall every year is **Texas Wildlife Expo**, scheduled for October 4 and 5 at TPWD headquarters in Austin. This year's Expo will be bigger and better than ever, so y'all come! Events reflect the season elsewhere in the state as well, as you'll see below: Monarch butterfly tagging at Honey Creek, Victorian holiday crafts at Sebastopol, fall foliage at Cleburne and Texas State Railroad, Halloween celebrations at a number of parks, and even a Christmas concert at Goliad the end of November.

Focus on nature at **Honey Creek State Natural Area's** Photo and Artist Outing scheduled for November 9. Honey Creek SNA, one of the gems of the Texas Hill Country, is adjacent to Guadalupe River State Park. To preserve Honey Creek's unique natural assets, access is available only through guided tours. Tours usually are conducted every Saturday at 9 a.m., but call 830-438-2656 to confirm that a tour will be held.



© PAUL M. MONTGOMERY

OCTOBER

Panhandle Plains

- OCT. 4: **Starwalk**, *Copper Breaks SP, Quanah*, 817-839-4331
- OCT. 4: **Nose-to-Nose With the Buffalo**, *Caprock Canyons SP, Quitaque*, 806-455-1492
- OCT. 4, 5: **Race Of The Ancients**, *San Angelo SP*, 915-658-6025
- OCT. 10: **Celebration Week**, *Lubbock Lake Landmark SHP, Lubbock*, 806-765-0737
- OCT. 10: **Stargazing Party**, *San Angelo SP*, 915-949-4757
- OCT. 11: **Petroglyph Tour**, *San Angelo SP*, 915-949-4757
- OCT. 11, 18: **Canyon Ramblings**, *Caprock Canyons SP, Quitaque*, 806-455-1492
- OCT. 18: **Ranger Campfire**, *Copper Breaks SP, Quanah*, 817-839-4331
- OCT. 18: **Fall Foliage Tour**, *Caprock Canyons Trailway SP, Quitaque*, 806-455-1492
- OCT. 25: **3rd Annual Quitaque Quest Mountain Bike Race**, *Caprock Canyons SP, Quitaque*, 806-455-1492
- OCT. 25: **Harvest Saturday**, *Big*

Spring SP, 1-800-734-7641

OCT. 25: **Dinosaur Walk**, *San Angelo SP*, 915-949-4757

Prairies and Lakes

- OCT. 4: **North Texas Amateur Astronomer's Star Party**, *Cleburne SP*, 817-645-4215
- OCT. 4: **Creatures Of The Night**, *Cooper Lake SP/Doctors Creek Unit, Cooper*, 903-395-3100
- OCT. 11, 25: **Wild Bird Rehabilitation**, *Dinosaur Valley SP, Glen Rose*, 254-897-4588
- OCT. 11: **Stagecoach Rides**, *Fanthorp Inn SP, Anderson*, 409-873-2633
- OCT. 11: **The Spider, Friend or Foe**, *Cooper Lake SP/South Sulphur Unit, Sulphur Springs*, 903-395-3100
- OCT. 18: **The World Of Insects**, *Cooper Lake SP/Doctors Creek Unit, Cooper*, 903-395-3100
- OCT. 18: **Duck At Dark**, *Ray Roberts WMA/Isle du Bois Unit, Pilot, Point*, 940-637-2763
- OCT. 18: **Ottine Swamp Fest**, *Palmetto SP, Gonzales*, 210-672-3266
- OCT. 18: **Tour of Sebastopol**, *Sebastopol SHP, Seguin*, 830-379-

4833

- OCT. 24-26 **Fossilmania XV**, *Somervell County Expo Center, Glen Rose*, 210-492-9163
- OCT. 25: **Sunset Nature Hike**, *Cooper Lake SP/South Shore Unit, Cooper*, 903-395-3100
- OCT. 25: **Kids' Wilderness Survival**, *Cleburne SP*, 817-645-4215
- OCT. 25: **Ghost Watch**, *Sebastopol SHP, Seguin*, 830-379-4833
- OCT. 25: **Civil War Confederate Camp**, *San Bell Maxey House SHP, Paris*, 503-785-5716
- OCT. 25: **Sticewalk Astronomy**, *Dinosaur Valley SP, Glen Rose*, 254-897-4588
- OCT. 25: **Annual Fall Bastrop State Park Orienteering Meet**, *Bastrop SP*, 281-484-1391

Pineywoods

- OCT. 4: **The Things That Matter**, *Caddo Lake SP, Karnack*, 903-884-3833
- OCT. 4: **Starlight Steam Train Excursion**, *Texas State Railroad SHP, Rusk*, 1-800-442-8951
- OCT. 11, 25: **Guided Nature Trail Hike**, *Village Creek SP, Lumberton*, 409-755-7322
- OCT. 10: **Southwestern Canoe Rendezvous**, *Huntsville SP*, 713-721-5851
- OCT. 11, 12: **Hunter Education—Student**, *Martin Dies, Jr. SP, Jasper*, 409-384-5231
- OCT. 11: **Those Dusky Ducks**, *Caddo Lake SP, Karnack*, 903-884-3833
- OCT. 12, 26: **Ecotour on Caddo Lake**, *Caddo Lake SP, Karnack*, 903-679-3743, TCP required
- OCT. 13, 14, 15: **Hunter Education—Instructor**, *Martin Dies, Jr. SP, Jasper*, 409-384-5231
- OCT. 14: **Jet Boat and Outboard Races**, *Atlanta SP*, 903-796-6476
- OCT. 18: **Rocky Raccoon Trail Series**, *Huntsville SP*, 713-468-8115
- OCT. 18: **Murder On The Dis-Oriented Express**, *Texas State Railroad SHP, Rusk*, 1-903-729-1680
- OCT. 18: **Canoeing the Forks**, *Martin Dies, Jr. SP, Jasper*, 409-384-5231
- OCT. 18: **Stargazing Party**, *Caddo Lake SP, Karnack*, 903-884-3833
- OCT. 25: **Haunted Halloween Hike**, *Martin Dies, Jr. SP, Jasper*, 409-383-0144

Gulf Coast

OCT.: **Fall Hawk Watches**, every Saturday, Fennessey Ranch, Refugio, 512-529-6600

OCT.: **Fall Migration Wildlife Tours**, call for times, Fennessey Ranch, Refugio, 512-529-6600

OCT.: **Mission River Boat Tours**, every Saturday, Fennessey Ranch, Refugio, 512-529-6600

OCT. 11, 19: **Walking Bird Tour**, Matagorda Island SP, Port O'Connor, 512-983-2215

OCT. 11: **Birding In Lower Rio Grande Valley**, Las Pailomas, WMA/Longoria Unit, Harlingen, 830-383-8982.

OCT. 12: **Wetland Plant Tour**, Matagorda Island SP, Port O'Connor, 512-983-2215

OCT. 18: **Beach-Combing Tour**, Matagorda Island SP, Port O'Connor, 512-983-2215

OCT. 25: **Sharks Of The Gulf**, Matagorda Island SP, Port O'Connor, 512-983-2215

Hill Country

OCT. 4-5: **1997 Texas Wildlife Expo**, TPWD headquarters, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 512-389-4472

OCT.: **Horseback Outing**, call for times, Hill Country SNA, Bandera, 830-796-3984

OCT.: **Old Tunnel Bat Emergence Tour**, every Thursday and Saturday, Old Tunnel WMA, Grapetown, 210-644-2478

OCT.: **Honey Creek Canyon Walk**, every Saturday, Honey Creek SNA, Spring Branch, 830-438-2656, TCP required

OCT. 3: **Range and Wildlife Management Seminar**, Kerr WMA, Hunt, 210-238-4483

OCT. 4, 11, 8, 25: **Monarch Butterfly Tagging**, Honey Creek SNA, Spring Branch, 830-438-2656

OCT. 4, 18: **Bat Flight Observation**, Devil's Sinkhole SNA, Rocksprings, 830-563-2342

OCT. 9, 23: **Canoe Tour**, Inks Lake SP, Burnet, 512-793-2223

OCT. 11: **1870 Uniform and Weapons Demo**, Fort McKavett SHP, 915-396-2358

OCT. 11: **Campfire Cooking Without Utensils**, Honey Creek SNA, Spring Branch, 830-438-2656

OCT. 11, 12, 18: **Make Jelly From**

Native Plants, Honey Creek SNA, Bandera, 803-438-2656

OCT. 19, 25, 26: **Cactus Fruit Jelly Cooking**, Honey Creek SNA, Bandera, 830-438-2656, TCP required

OCT. 25: **Texas History Forum**, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, San Antonio, 830-278-6102

OCT. 31: **35th Annual Hunters BBQ & Outdoor Expo**, Bandera, 800-364-3833

Big Bend Country

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

OCT: **Fate Bell Cave Dwelling Tour**, every Wednesday through Sunday, Seminole Canyon SHP, Comstock, 915-292-4464

OCT. 4, 18: **Bus Tour**, Big Bend Ranch SP, Presidio, 512-389-8900

OCT. 17: **Bird Identification Slide Show**, Hueco Tanks SHP, Presidio, 915-857-1135

OCT. 18: **Annual Living History Special Event**, Fort Lancaster SHP, Sheffield, 915-836-4391

OCT. 18, 19: **3rd Annual Interpretive Fair**, Hueco Tanks SHP, El Paso, 915-857-1135

OCT. 19: **Bird Identification Tour**, Hueco Tanks SHP, El Paso, 915-857-1135

OCT. 24: **Desert Survival Workshop**, Big Bend Ranch SP, El Paso, 915-229-3416

OCT. 25: **Pressa Canyon Tour**, Seminole Canyon SHP, Comstock, 915-292-4464

South Texas Plains

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

OCT. 4, 18: **Bird Identification Tour**, Choke Canyon SP/Calliham Unit, Calliham, 512-786-3868

OCT. 4, 18: **Lomitas Ranch Tour**, Bentsen Rio Grande Valley SP, Mission, 956-519-6448

OCT. 24: **Oilfield Park Endowment Charity Fund Fishing Tournament**, Falcon SP, Falcon Heights, 210-848-5327

NOVEMBER

Panhandle-Plains

Nov. 1: **Petroglyph Tour**, San Angelo SP, 915-949-4757

Nov. 8: **Dinosaur Walk**, San Angelo SP, 915-949-4757

Nov. 8, 9: **Fort Richardson Days**, Fort Richardson SHP, Jacksboro 940-567-3506

Nov. 15, **Macey's Ridge Hike**, San Angelo SP, 915-949-4757

Nov. 22, **Call Of The Wildlife**, San Angelo SP, 915-949-4757

Prairies and Lakes

Nov: **Kreische House Tour**, every Sunday, Monument Hill SHP, LaGrange, 409-968-5658.

Nov: **Kreische Brewery Guided Tours**, every weekend, Kreische Brewery SHP, LaGrange, 409-968-5658

Nov. 1: **Cowboy Campfire and Poetry**, Cleburne SP, 817-645-4215

Nov. 1: **Wildlife Of The Area**, Cooper Lake SP/Doctors Creek Unit, Cooper, 903-395-3100

Nov. 1, 15, 22, 29: **Bald Eagle Tour**, Fairfield Lake SP, 903-389-4514

Nov. 8, 22: **Wild Bird Rehabilitation**, Dinosaur Valley SP, Glen Rose, 254-897-4588

Nov. 8: **Stagecoach Rides**, Fanthorp Inn SP, Anderson, 409-873-2633

Nov. 8: **Veterans Day Celebration**, Purtil Creek SP,

Eustace, 903-425-2332

Nov. 15: **Victorian Holiday Crafts**, Sebastopol SHP, Seguin, 830-379-4833

Nov. 15: **Tour of Sebastopol**, Sebastopol SHP, Seguin, 830-379-4833

Nov. 22: **Park Promenade, A Square Dance Exhibition**, Cleburne SP, 817-645-4215

Nov. 29: **Twilight Stagecoach To Firesides**, Fanthorp Inn SP, Anderson, 409-873-2633

Nov. 30: **Fall Foliage Tour**, Cleburne SP, 817-645-4215

Pineywoods

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

Nov. 1, 22: **Guided Nature Trail Hike**, Village Creek SP, Lumberton, 409-755-7322

Nov. 9, 23, **Ecotour on Caddo Lake**, Caddo Lake SP, Karnack, 903-679-3743

Nov. 15, **Canoeing the Forks**, Martin Dies, Jr. SP, Jasper, 409-384-5231

Nov. 15, 17: **The Nose Knows**, Martin Dies, Jr. SP, Jasper, 409-384-5231

Nov. 28: **Night Moves**, Martin Dies, Jr. SP, Jasper, 409-384-5231

Nov. 29: **Crazy Hot Air Balloons**, Martin Dies, Jr. SP, Jasper, 409-384-5231

Nov. 30: **Take A Walk On The Wild Side**, Martin Dies, Jr. SP, Jasper, 409-384-5231



Gulf Coast

Nov. 8: **Walking Bird Tour**, Matagorda Island SP, 512-983-2215

Nov. 8: **Birding In Lower Rio Grande Valley**, Las Palomas WMA/Longoria Unit, Harlingen, 956-383-8982

Nov. 9, 15: **Beach-Combing Tour**, Matagorda Island SP, Port O'Connor, 512-983-2215

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

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

Hill Country

Nov: **Horseback Outing**, call for date and times, Hill Country SNA, Bandera, 830-796-3984

Nov: **Gorman Falls Hike**, every Saturday and Sunday, Colorado Bend SP, Bend, 915-628-3240

Nov: **Honey Creek Canyon Walk**, every Saturday, Honey Creek SNA, Spring Branch, 830-438-2656

Nov: **Wild Cave Tours**, every Saturday and Sunday, Colorado Bend SP, Bend, 915-628-3240

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

Nov. 1, 8: **Monarch Butterfly Tagging**, Honey Creek SNA, Spring Branch, 830-438-2656

Nov. 1: **Poe At The Inn**, Landmark Inn SHP, Castroville, 830-931-2133

Nov. 1: **Pumpkin Carving Contest And Halloween Games**, Inks Lake SP, Burnet, 512-793-2223

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

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

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

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

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

2133

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

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

Big Bend Country

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

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

Nov. 1, 15: **Bus Tour**, Big Bend Ranch SP, Presidio, 512-389-8900

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

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

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

Nov. 21: **Desert Survival**

Workshop, Big Bend Ranch SP, Presidio, 915-229-3416

SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS

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

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

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

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

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

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

SP STATE PARK

SHP STATE HISTORICAL PARK

SNA STATE NATURAL AREA

WMA WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Reach out and touch someone... without wires or fees!

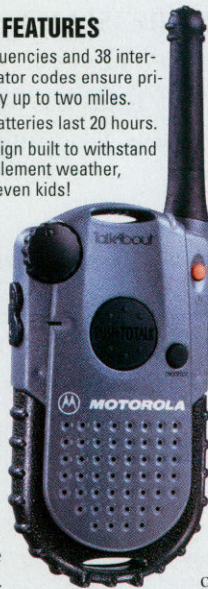
Motorola integrates microchip technology into a palm-sized two-way radio to create the ultimate communication device.

You're camping with your family. It's getting dark, and the kids haven't returned from "exploring." Split up and try to find them? No...just turn on your Motorola TalkAbout™ Radio, push a button and tell the kids to return to camp. These radios are the ultimate in personal communication, with hundreds of uses, both practical and fun.

Wireless freedom. Hand-held personal communication devices have been around for a while, but technology had not advanced to the point that they could be made small, powerful and affordable. The only way to get clarity, power and durability was to use cell phones, with sky-high usage fees and limited coverage...until now.

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- Three AA batteries last 20 hours.
- Rugged design built to withstand abuse from inclement weather, harsh terrain, even kids!



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Motorola, the world's leader in wireless two-way communication, has introduced a product that operates on the Family Radio Service (FRS) bands. The radio can be tuned to any one of 14 UHF frequencies and 38 interference eliminator codes, so you can pick any channel you want, without annoying interference. The powerful circuitry and unique antenna design enable crystal-clear reception for up to two miles.

Compact, durable. The TalkAbout Radios have a lightweight yet rugged casing that has undergone extensive testing. They can stand up to anything you, the environment or even your kids can dish out. No other communication device features this degree of clarity, power, portability and range.



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Learn about the endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtle and efforts being made to save it on "Texas Parks & Wildlife" during the week of September 28. Watch the series on your local PBS affiliate at the times shown below.

TELEVISION

"Texas Parks & Wildlife"

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

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

Odessa KOCV, Ch. 36	Sat. 7:30
<i>Also serving Midland</i>	
San Antonio KLRN, Ch. 9	Sat. 11a.m. Thurs. 12:00
<i>Also serving Laredo</i>	
Waco KCTE, Ch. 34	Sat. 3:00

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

Look for These Stories in the Coming Weeks

September 28–October 5: The recovery of the Kemp's ridley sea turtle; making jelly from cacti; wildlife smuggling.

October 5–12: The future of the small commercial fisherman on the Texas coast; rock climbing; a look back in time at Seminole Carvers.

October 12–19: Birding in the Rio Grande Valley; Dimona Valley State Park; the Explorer Scavenger program.

October 19–26: Sealing; giving injured birds a second chance; biodiversity.

October 26–November 2: A cloud forest in Mexico; how bugs can reveal the health of a waterway; fishing on the Texas coast.

RADIO

"Passport to Texas"

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

Abilene: KACU-FM 89.7 / 7:06 a.m. & 1:44, 6:01 p.m.
Amarillo: KACV-FM 89.9 / 9:20 a.m.
Athens-Malakoff: KCKL-FM 95.9 / 6:40 a.m., KLVQ-AM 1410 / 10:20 a.m.
Atlanta: KPYN-FM 100.1 / 4:30 p.m.
Austin: KUT-FM 90.5 / 1:58, 12:58 p.m.(F), KVET-AM 1300 / 8:55 a.m. <i>Austin American-Statesman's Inside Line 512-416-5700 category 6287 (NATR)</i>
Beaumont: KLVI-AM 560 / 5:40 a.m.
Big Spring: KBST-AM 1490 / 7:35 p.m.
Brady: KNEL-AM 1490 / 7:20 a.m., KNEL-FM 95.3 / 7:20 a.m.
Brenham: KWHI-AM 1280 / 6:50 a.m.
Bryan: WTAW-AM 1150 / 5:45 p.m.
Carthage: KGAS-AM 1590 / 6:46 a.m., KGAS-FM 104.3 / 6:46 a.m.
Center: KDET-AM 930 / 5:20 p.m.
Columbus: KULM-FM 98.3 / 7:20 a.m. & 5:20 p.m.
Comanche: KCOM-AM 1550 / 6:30 a.m.
Commerce: KETR-FM 88.9 / 10:15 a.m.
Corpus Christi: KEDT-FM 90.3 / 5:34 p.m., KFTX-FM 97.5 / 5:30 a.m.
Corsicana: KAND-AM 1340 / 5:45 p.m.
Crockett: KIVY-AM 1290 / 5:15 p.m., KIVY-FM 92.7 / 5:15 p.m.
Dimmitt: KDHN-AM 1470 / 12:31p.m.
Eagle Pass: KINL-FM 92.7 / 7:15a.m.
Eastland: KEAS-AM 1590 / 8:30 a.m., KEAS-FM 97.7 / 8:30 a.m.
El Campo: KULP-AM 1390 / 2:05p.m.
Fairfield: KNES-FM 99.1 / 7:49 a.m.
Ft. Stockton: KFST-AM 860 / 12:50 p.m., KFTS-FM 94.3 / 12:50 p.m.
Freeport: KBRZ-AM 1460 / 10:15 a.m. & 7:45 p.m.
Galveston: KGBC-AM 1540 / 1:45 p.m.
Hallettsville: KHLT-AM 1520 / 8:15 a.m.
Harlingen: KMBH-FM 88.9 / 4:58 p.m.
Hereford: KPAN-AM 860 / 2:50 p.m., KPAN-FM 106.3 / 2:50 p.m.

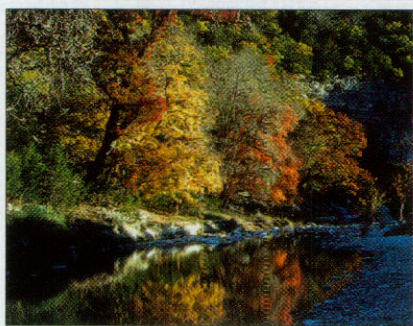
Hillsboro: KHBR-AM 1560 / 9:30a.m.
Houston: KTRH-AM 740 / 10:40 a.m.
Jacksonville: KEBE-AM 1400 / 7:25 a.m.
Kerrville: KRNH-FM 95.1 / 5:30 a.m. & 12:56, 9:56 p.m., KITE-FM 92.3 / 7:32 a.m. & 12:32, 5:32, 8:32 p.m.
La Grange: KVLG-AM 1570 / 5:45 p.m., KBUK-FM 104.9 / 5:45 p.m.
Lampasas: KCYL-AM 1450 / 7:45a.m.
Liberty: KSHN-FM 99.9 / 7:13 a.m. & 2:50 p.m.
Longview: KBNB-AM 1060 / 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.
Marshall: KCUL-AM 1410 / 7:15 a.m., KCUL-FM 92.3 / 7:15 a.m.
McAllen: KHID-FM 88.1 / 4:58 p.m.
Midland: KCRS-AM 550 / 6:43 a.m. & 1:43, 6:43 p.m.
Mineola: KMOO-FM 96.7 / 5:20 p.m.
Monahans: KLBO-AM 1330 / 8:50 a.m.
Nacogdoches: KSAU-FM 90.1 / 3:00 p.m.
Ozona: KYXX-FM 94.3 / 12:43 p.m.
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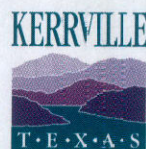
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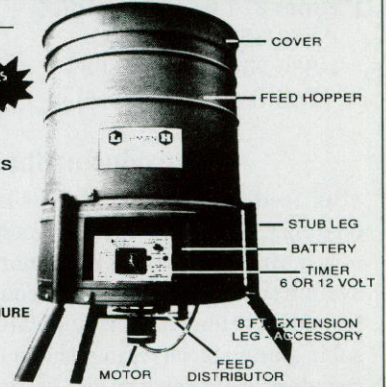
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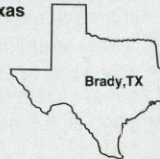
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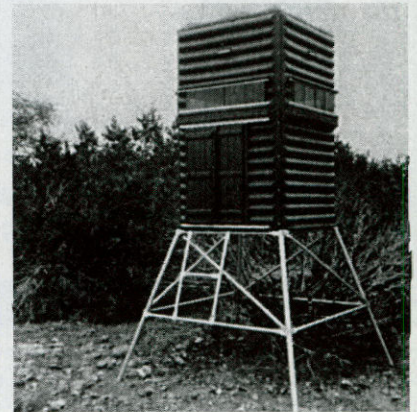
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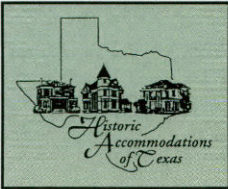
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