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Front and Back Cover: Graceful pronghorn antelope were hunted to near

Front and Back Cover: Graceful pronghorn antelope were hunted to near extinction by the turn of the century but restocking efforts and controlled hunting have helped the plains animals make a successful comeback. This department trapped 596 of the animals in the early winter of last year on a West Texas ranch and relocated them on some 800,000 acres of ranchlands throughout the state. Photo by Martin T. Fulfer.

Inside Front: A beautiful sunset can transform an ordinary day into something memorable. Photo by Reagan Bradshaw.





Daingerfield State Recreation Park

East Texas Hideaway

by Ed Dutch

IF YOU have only one more weekend or a couple of days off before the kids have to go back to school and are looking for some place to go, then it would be a good idea to visit one of the most unique state parks in Texas. The relaxed atmosphere and beautiful surroundings of Daingerfield State Recreation Park could be a climax to your summer activities.

When you turn into the park entrance on State Highway 49 between Daingerfield and Hughes Springs, it seems as if you are entering a hideaway among the solitude of towering pines and majestic hardwood trees. Sunlight becomes only dappled rays throughout the thick vegetation until you reach the circle at the end of the road in front of the park headquarters which overlooks the 80-acre lake. Rising

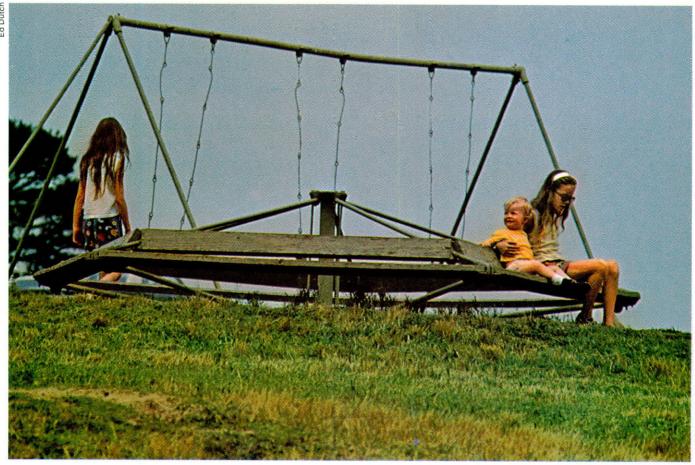
from the lakeshore are eastern Texas "mountains" of pine and scattered hardwood trees.

It is difficult to decide what to do first as there are many facilities to suit even the most varied interests. Whether you're there for only a picnic at one of the many tables on the lakeshore or for an entire week, the park is designed for your complete pleasure.

In the main park area, there are children's recreational facilities including swings, a merry-go-round and a slide. Across from these facilities is the main concession building which has refreshments, dressing rooms with showers for swimmers or sunbathers, a juke box and large patio terrace which overlooks the swimming area.

The swimming area has an elevated platform for





diving in deeper water and a clean, sandy bottom for everyone in the shallow area. A grassy hill adjacent to the area is perfect for sunbathing or just sitting and relaxing while the kids swim.

Fishermen catch bass, sunfish, crappie and catfish in the park's clear, spring-fed lake. Boats which do not exceed the maximum limit of 19 feet and have a 12-horsepower motor or less are allowed on the lake. But for those who want to fish and do not have a boat, the entire shoreline of the lake is easily accessible and there are two fishing piers. One is a lighted 80-foot pier with a 47-foot tee which has a fishing light suspended just over the water. Fish cleaning facilities include a cleaning table with running water.

Two air-conditioned cabins and a large lodge-type facility for up to 25 persons are available for renting, but it is usually necessary to reserve them in advance by writing or phoning the park office (Daingerfield State Recreation Park, Box B, Daingerfield, Texas 75638, AC/214-645-2921). The cabins rent for \$6.00 a night for one or two persons and then \$1.50 for each additional person up to a maximum of 4 adults. The lodge rents for \$24 a night for 1 to 16 persons and then \$1.50 for each additional person up to a maximum of 25 people. Linens are furnished and there are kitchen facilities, but you must bring your own pots, pans, dishes and eating utensils.

Camping can be rated excellent in the park. Along the upper lake is the Dogwood Camping Area which

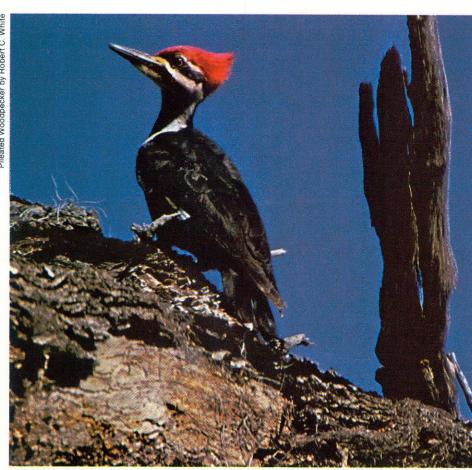
has 17 camp sites with tables, water and grills and 10 trailer camp sites each with water, sewer connection, electricity, table and grill. The Mountain Camping Area has 12 camp sites with water, table and grill. All areas have modern restrooms and most have clean showers. Camping fees are about \$1.50 per night depending on which area you choose. This fee is in addition to the \$1.00 entrance fee.

Nature lovers can walk throughout the park's 551 acres in search of the many varied types of flora and fauna that are found there. A 21/2-mile nature trail which has over 42 different species of trees and other vegetation circles the lake. The trail and lakeshore are almost unbelievable in the fall with the many colors of the turning hardwood leaves and the beautiful pine trees. Also, the spring is quite colorful with the many dogwood and redbud trees in bloom.

Daingerfield State Recreation Park was established in the late 1930's when a donation of land was made by some local people. The park was constructed under the federal CCC program. It's difficult to believe that such a clean, beautiful park has been in existence for over 40 years and has been visited by so many people. But, much recent development and hard work has kept the park one of the prettiest spots in Texas.

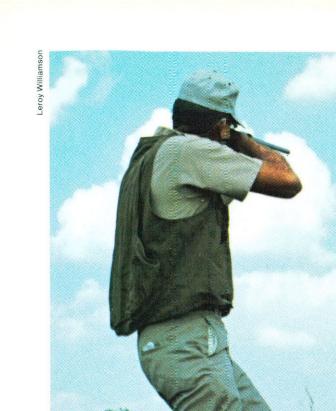
Many other fine fishing lakes and historic places are located within a short drive of the park. It is ideally suited to be a vacation paradise and hopefully you can go and discover why for yourself.





Playground equipment for the children, wildlife for the naturalist and a clear, spring-fed lake for the fisherman, as well as excellent camping facilities for everyone, are found in this East Texas hideaway.







By Charles Dickey (Reprinted from Florida Wildlife)

MOURNING DOVES cause more gun staring than any other species of game bird.

You know what gun staring is, don't you? You've seen it if you've been on the skeet field. A shooter has run 18 straight clay birds and then cleanly misses a double. He watches both birds land unbroken in the grass and then slowly raises his gun and stares at it. The implication to all who watch is that there is something the matter with the gun. Despite the fact that the first 18 birds were broken cleanly, the gunner seeks to find solace in some mysterious malady of his scattergun. Did the choke suddenly tighten up? Did the barrel cave in or perhaps bend?

Gun staring salves a shooter's ego, if only for a fleeting moment. It's easier to glare at the gun than to admit he locked up and it was his fault both birds were missed. Glaring is better than swearing. When you cuss, you're freely admitting to your companions that the error was yours.

One reason mourning doves cause so much gun staring is that shooting is generally in social groups of three or four hunters, or perhaps as many as 30 or 40 around a large field. Your misses are always observed by someone. No matter how you try to sneak off to a corner away from the other gunners, it never quite works. Whenever you miss, someone knows.

Once in a while a lone dove comes winging at you and you shoot three times. Nothing is seen falling but the wads and the whole field of shooters is witness to your debacle. Ignore the yells and laughs. Hold your gun high and stare at it for half a minute, then break it down and act like you're adjusting parts. Perhaps you remove a small piece of lint from the front sight. It is really permissible to imply by any action you choose that the misses were not your fault.

Gun staring is for relieving tension and saving pride when you're with other hunters. There is no known case of a solitary shooter, knowing he was totally alone, ever having stared at a shotgun after missing a dove.

The dove has several characteristics which make it so popular with gunners. It is a gregarious bird and usually travels in flocks. Hunters get a lot of shooting without much walking if they find the right water hole, feeding field, flight line or roosting area. The dove is easy to dress, either by picking or skinning, and is excellent table fare when an experienced game cook does the honors. However, to many shotgunners, the most appealing characteristic of the dove is its challenging speed, maneuverability and rate of acceleration and deceleration.

If you understand the speed of doves and the average number of shells it takes to bag one, you might be doing better with your shooting than you think—and you can cut down on your gun staring times. Doves fly from 29 to 60 miles an hour, not counting wind factors. Oddly enough, when the dove is alerted or suspicious, he may fly at low speeds; his normal cruising is wide open. For a stable comparison, a skeet target travels about 55 to 60 miles per hour, or 73 to 88 feet per second. A cruising dove flies at 70 to 90 feet per second. Of course, there's a major difference. The skeet target flies the same pattern on each pull, but you never know what a darting dove will do. How could you? The dove itself doesn't know what it's going to do.

Various studies by state and federal wildlife agencies show from five to eight shells are fired for each bird in the pot. One of the most comprehensive federal surveys stated six shells per bird was the best working average for a cross-section of the nation. If you accept this statistic, it takes the average shooter 72 shells to get a limit of 12 doves in midseason.

Of course, I've never known a hunter who'd admit he used over two boxes of shells to fill out. If you can shoot 12 for 15, I suggest you have two witnesses who are unrelated to you. If you shoot 12 for 12, then you're not a sportsman and should quit shooting birds off telephone wires.

While there are many tricks to dove shooting, there are a few simple things you can do this season which will improve your average. Let's start by saying that theoretically dove shooting should be fairly simple. In most cases, you see the birds coming from 200 to 800 yards away. You know in advance how high they'll be and roughly their speed. They are clearly silhouetted against the sky. If you don't jump around, they will fly in easy range. You have plenty of time to get ready. There's just one catch! You have too much time to think about what you're going to do.

Say you're wearing a camouflage outfit and standing comfortably in a field of Johnson grass and you see a dove 400 yards away coming straight towards you. No one else shoots to swerve the bird. You begin to think: The dove is 30 yards high, he's traveling at 55 miles an hour, he'll pass just to my right and that means I'll have to lead him? . . . now where's my slide rule?... if he's flying at 73 feet a second and my reaction time is one-quarter second, and it takes a shot string how long to go 35 yards, and it's a simple triangulation problem and I should lead the dove 12 feet . . . is it sine or cosine? . . . he's only 100 yards away now, so I'll ease my gun up and begin to track him and when he gets 35 yards away ... maybe I should only lead him nine feet ... I'll just pull through him once . . . uh, oh, he's changing course . . . that means on the triangulation it should be an isosceles . . . he's getting away...oh, hell, I may as well shoot anyway. There goes the old average!

One of the dove's main defenses is that in most cases the shooter sees him a long way off. The more time the shooter prepares for the shot, the more apt he is to miss. Shooting is a mental game, especially if you've done very much shooting. Most of the shots you get on a given dove hunt you've had many times before and been successful with them. Then what makes you suddenly begin to miss? Generally it's the old mental problem; the conscious takes over and pushes out the smooth-working subconscious that has all the data tabulated in its little gray-cell computer.

Let's look at it this way: If you'll analyze the best wing shots you ever made, you'll probably discover they were instinctive shots. You didn't have much time, but the stock moved under your cheekbone and you looked at the bird, swung and fired, and it crumpled. You didn't remember taking the safety off and you were not conscious of leading. Your subconscious took over, with its electronic computer, and your mounting of the gun and shooting was a smooth, swift action so fast and easy you later could not remember the steps.

If you'll recall the best dove shots you've made, how many were snap or instinctive shots when a dove sneaked in behind you and you had maybe a second to shoot before the bird got out of range? Or the times you've suddenly looked up and there was a big fat dove and you just shot without thinking about it?

To help your shooting, try to let your subconscious



Relax, shoot by instinct and the solitary dove may be in the bag.

do the work. Here's how you can help it: When you take up a stand, make some markers, such as broken weeds, in a circle at 35 yards. It's difficult to judge distances of fast-moving birds; clock-markers at 12, 3, 6 and 9 will give you a good start. A marker at 35 yards, plus the varying height of birds, means that your shots will be at 40 yards or less. There aren't three shooters in a hundred good enough to consistently hit doves cleanly at distances over 40 yards.

Approaching doves spook from movement. They are less likely to see movement if you wear camouflage clothes and use cover or a blind. A moving white face or a wavering gun barrel are usually the cause of dove-swerving, or complete change of course.

Now once you are in your blind and have your markers out you deliberately keep your mind off shooting problems, the most confusing of all being how much to lead a bird, which is different for each shooter. When you see a dove 300 yards away coming

towards you, just stay relaxed and say, "Ain't that nice." Tell yourself you are not going to make a move until the bird crosses your 35-yard circle. Then, as the dove crosses, you raise your gun, with the muzzle slightly behind the bird, then swing through and pull the trigger—all in one quick, instinctive motion which your subconscious controls. Next you yell to your dog, "Fetch!"

By using this method of not making a move, mentally or physically, until the dove is in range, you deliberately force yourself into instinctive shooting, rather than balking mental exercise.

In addition to improving your marksmanship, you will have cleaner kills because the doves will be in range when you shoot. Also, you will not be spooking doves when they are out of range; when you make your move to shoot, the dove may see you and flare, but he won't have time to cut many didoes.

Of course, on the days when your subconscious computer is being key-punched by your conscious demon and your score is 5 for 50, it's okay to do a little gun staring. I always carry a tool kit into the field. It makes it more credible to my buddies that I'm having gun trouble!

NATIONAL HUNTING & FISHING DAY September 22, 1973

National Hunting and Fishing Day is a day of recognition for hunters and fishermen, who have contributed millions of dollars to conservation projects over the years. These sportsmen spent over \$230,000,000 last year alone for conservation, wildlife restoration and hunter safety programs.

All hunters and anglers should be proud of their sport and check with local sportsmen's clubs to see if there are any activities planned in their area on this day.

Be active, be proud and be good sportsmen.





P.O. Box E-23-CT , Marble Falls, Texas 78654

TAKE A QUICK LOOK.

IT'S THE QUICKEST WAY TO IMPROVE YOUR SHORT-RANGE RIFLE SHOOTING.



OUTDOOR BOOKS

THE SURVIVAL HANDBOOK by Bill Merrill; Winchester Press, New York, 1972; 306 pages, \$5.95.

Pick up any newspaper and you will find accounts of freak accidents occurring outside city limits that could have been avoided. Any time you get in your car and drive in the country, whether on a camping trip or going from one place to another, you run a risk of being stranded away from people and involved in emergency situations.

The Survival Handbook attempts to help you anticipate problems and offers solutions for everything from shipwrecks and crash landings to back country accidents. This book is so packed with useful information that it would be impossible to remember it all. As the author suggests, this book should be carried along as additional "emergency equipment."

As an example, you are hiking in the woods and not planning to spend the night, but you become lost at dusk. Do you improvise a temporary camp, attempt a walk out using the stars as guides or give a distress signal for possible searchers? What to do and how to do it are covered in this one volume.

A particularly interesting and useful chapter deals with first aid. The author says, "This subject is a dangerous one. There has been disseminated a good deal of misinformation, and a good deal of correct instruction has been misunderstood or misapplied." Some of the topics discussed include cut arteries or veins, internal bleeding, electric shock, poisoning, snake bites, swimming cramps, sun strokes, burns and scalds. Giving step by step instruction, Merrill claims that in cases of multiple injuries, the patient should first be treated for serious bleeding followed with treatment for stoppage of breath, poisoning and shock. The author includes preventions (where applicable) and symptoms, followed by first aid instructions and illustrations for visual comprehension. Overall, this is probably one of the most important chapters.

Beginning as a Forest Service patrolman in 1922, the author has assisted in many search and rescue operations and even has become lost himself. Bill Merrill is an expert on the outdoors and offers his years of experience. The great outdoors offers much pleasure and relaxation, but a sudden turn of events could make the day a disaster. With a knowledge of how to handle these situations, many accidents can be avoided. This book should be read by any person who ventures into semi-isolated areas.—Terrie Whitehead

AMPHIBIANS AS PETS by Georg and Lisbeth Zappler; Doubleday & Company, Inc., Garden City, N.Y., 1973; 149 pages, \$4.95.

For persons with a fancy for more unusual pets, amphibians might make suitable companions. *Amphibians As Pets* discusses the pros and cons of having a pet frog or salamander, and offers many good ideas on how to construct and decorate their homes.

The title of the book is somewhat misleading because only the last quarter discusses amphibians as pets. The first portions merely review the characteristics of amphibians, their ancient relatives and some common amphibians of today.

The authors discuss the favorite habitats of different types and species, giving the reader helpful clues on how to locate them. Georg and Lisbeth Zappler highly recommend capturing two adult species at egg-laying time and raising the amphibian from the earliest stage possible. But the authors allow for the less-dedicated persons and add that adults may be captured or even bought at pet stores.

The authors transform what would seem to be a relatively simple project into a spiraling enterprise. As with any household pet, amphibians must eat. The first alternative offered is to go bug hunting for your pet. Or the amphibian owner could become an insect farmer and raise a variety of favorite delicacies for the amphibian. If this second alternative is chosen, the would-be amphibian owner might best read Insects As Pets by Paul Villard (reviewed in the June issue of Texas Parks & Wildlife) to find out how to raise bugs. But on the bright side, amphibians seem to be able to fast for long periods of time without adverse affects. The authors attribute this ability to their survival in difficult climates.

Like other pets, amphibians some-

times require special attention when they don't feel well. Listing the symptoms of some of the most common diseases, the authors give "sure to cure" remedies, including a host of prescribed vitamins. And for a last resort, they recommend a trip to the local veterinarian for further diagnosis. In a sincere statement the authors say, "You must take your responsibility very seriously, for another life is involved."

The authors almost discourage the reader from having an amphibian for a pet with their honesty on some of the problems involved. Perhaps this is an active attempt to persuade only sincere persons to adopt an amphibian.

The book is informative and interesting. And if you are considering an amphibian pet, it should not be any more trouble than a tropical fish aquarium, provided the pet does not contract some disease.—Terrie White-bead

OUR CHANGING FISHERIES edited by Sidney Shapiro; United States Government Printing Office, Washington D.C., 1971; 521 pages, \$9.00; and THE LIVING OCEANS by Alec Laurie; Doubleday & Company, Inc., Garden City, N.Y., 1973; 177 pages, \$6.95.

A Chinese proverb says, "Give a man a fish and he will live for a day, teach him to fish and he will have food for life." This adage aptly applies in the 20th century world as pollution threatens to destroy the delicate balance of plants and animals.

Both of these books discuss the world's oceans as a separate environment, informing the reader on its many aspects. The Living Oceans concerns itself with the biological aspect, using semi-technical language. The author begins with an analogy of familiar food chains and energy re-cyling on land. Then he associates the same cycles in sea water with plants being the first link in the chains. To illustrate an example of marine life, the author will often make a comparison with something familiar the the reader, such as the human body.

Our Changing Fisheries, published by the federal government, seems to be a more practical book. It covers much of the same information in The Living Oceans in addition to stressing food demand for an anticipated world population of 300 million in the year 2000. Because the United States is bounded on nearly all sides by water, fisheries will remain a basic part of the economy.

Each chapter in the second book is authored by one to three experts in their

respective fields. An important and interesting heading covered in Our Changing Fisheries is the study of the dietary role of fish and shellfish as related to food science. The book explains and summarizes enzyme reactions, high proteins and low fatty acids in easy language and then lists the more technical data in parenthesis for the person who is more familiar with the subject.

The most outstanding difference between the two books is timeliness. Whereas The Living Oceans concerns itself with the geological history of the earth, earthquakes and their effect on marine life, Our Changing Fisheries emphasizes the present state of the oceans and inevitable problems of the future.

Both books are well illustrated, although *The Living Oceans* is somewhat superior in quality and uniqueness. Some of the photographs were taken from the depths of the ocean, revealing strange creatures.

These two books are for those persons who are interested in understanding chemical and biological balances in our fresh and salt waters and exploring the oddities of marine life.—Terrie Whitehead.

THE WORLD OF THE WOOD DUCK by F. Eugene Hester and Jack Dermid; J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia and New York, 1973; 160 pages, \$5.95.

Probably the most beautiful of all waterfowl is the multicolored wood duck, and anyone interested in this species will enjoy reading *The World of the Wood Duck*.

In this volume the authors cover not only the behavior, migratory patterns, eating habits, molts, nesting, predation and mortality of the species, but also make the reader realize that the wood duck is facing a precarious future. Lack of natural nesting sites is endangering this handsome duck; and without proper management and the provision of nesting boxes, wood duck populations will again decline to the dangerously low levels reached at the turn of the century.

For individuals interested in making a personal contribution to the preservation of wood ducks, the authors have included a final chapter which has detailed diagrams for the construction of nesting boxes. Also included are suggestions as to where, when and how to erect these boxes and maintain them.

Hopefully, enough people will lend a hand to insure that this beautiful creature is always around for us to enjoy.—Ilo Hiller

SHORT CASTS

compiled by Neal Cook

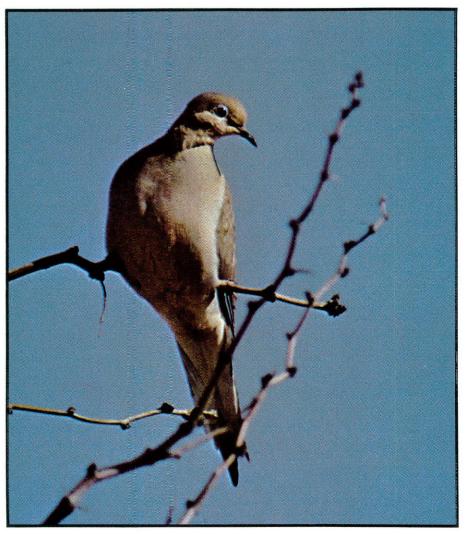
Extreme Pollution: The Cuyahya River which feeds into Lake Erie is so polluted that not even sludge worms—one of the lowest forms of aquatic life—can live in it.

Japan Fights Back: With some of the worst pollution in the world in their country, Japanese industries and government bodies have decided to spend over \$34.7 billion in the next 10 years fighting pollution in Tokyo and 11 other cities. Principal targets are air pollution, contaminated water, excess noise, offensive odors and sinking of the ground.

Overdue Congratulations: Two Texans were honored in May by the American Motors Corporation with its Conservation Award for 1973. The awards are presented annually to 10 professional and 10 non-professional conservationists from throughout the United States, and Texas can be proud of having winners in both categories. David L. Wintermann of Eagle Lake was a winner in the non-professional category. He is a rancher who conducts his business in such a way as to make the land productive for wildlife as well as livestock. He has worked to preserve the rare, endangered Attwater's prairie chicken and created six sanctuary ponds for migratory waterfowl. The state's largest inland colony of wading birds is on his ranch and he provides guards for them during the nesting season. He has banned the use of "hard" pesticides and fungicides in his ranching operations and gives much of his time to national conservation organizations. The winner in the professional category was Glen A. Riley, Jr. of Liberty. Riley is a self-taught expert on another of Texas' endangered species, the red wolf. He has gained the confidence and support of ranchers, biologists and the general public in launching programs to preserve the species. Largely due to Riley's work, much has been learned about the animal's problems and potential for preservation. We thank these men for their work.

Snips For Birds: A pair of small tin shears makes the job of cleaning game birds and small game animals such as rabbits much easier. They snip through bones without effort and make removing heads, feet and wings a snap.

Another Hint: Feathers embedded in a downed bird as well as shot can be easily removed by using a small nail with the point hammered flat to make a small spade. Insert the nail where the shot went in, twist and out come both feathers and shot.



Mourning Doves

Where do they go?

by Bill Russ Wildlife Biologist Federal Aid Project W-95-R

FINDING a band on a mourning dove may surprise the hunter who associates banding with ducks and geese, but it is really not unusual.

It began in Texas with the banding of five mourning doves in 1923. An additional 51,095 doves were banded from 1925 to 1965, with most of the banding prior to 1951 accomplished by private individuals possessing banding permits.

Large-scale banding did not begin until the United States Bureau of Sport

Fisheries and Wildlife initiated the nestling banding program of the 1950's. This was terminated in the early 1960's and banding emphasis was then shifted to flying doves during the pre-hunting season (June-August) and post-hunting season (January-March).

As hunter interest in this game bird continued to increase, the Parks and Wildlife Department recognized the need to acquire more information. To accomplish this, a project concerned strictly with mourning doves was

established in 1966. Questions such as, "Are all those fat October birds from Kansas?" and "Do all doves migrate?" and "What percentage of the population dies annually?" needed to be answered. Another objective of the project was to analyze results from banding operations prior to 1966 and determine future needs.

A total of 2,700 bands have been recovered from birds banded in Texas and from birds banded elsewhere and recovered in Texas during 1925-1965. Of these, 1,734 were Texas-banded doves.

The distribution of band recoveries in and dispersals from Texas is shown on the accompanying band recovery maps.

The numbers on Figure 1 represent the doves banded in other states or foreign countries and recovered in Texas. Figure 2 indicates recoveries from doves banded in Texas and recovered in Texas, other states, and foreign countries.

The map of the United States is divided into the Western, Central and Eastern Management Units. Almost 85 percent of all recoveries were from doves banded in the Central Management Unit, and the majority of these recoveries were banded in Texas. The Eastern Management Unit contributed almost 15 percent of the Texas recoveries, while the Western Management Unit provided less than one percent. The Canadian Province of Manitoba contributed the single foreign recovery made in Texas. Practically all the recoveries from the Eastern Management Unit were from states bordering the Central Management Unit, particularly Louisiana with almost 10 percent of the total Texas recoveries. With the exceptions of California, Massachusetts and Florida, there were no Texas recoveries of doves banded along the Atlantic or Pacific seaboards. It is readily apparent that Texas benefits from many states, and not just Kansas.

Of the 1,734 Texas-banded doves recovered, more than 85 percent were recovered in Texas, and the majority of these recoveries were taken in the same ecological region where the birds were banded. Sixty-three percent of recoveries from winter-banded adults occurred during the following hunting season in the same region of banding. This suggests that adult doves return to the same wintering area year after year and a portion of them could be year-round residents. More than twothirds of the recoveries from nestling and juvenile mourning doves banded in summer were taken the following fall within the same ecological region

where banded, which indicates that a substantial proportion of immature doves remain in the area where banded until hunting season begins.

Among other states, the greatest number of Texas-banded doves were recovered in Louisiana, accounting for 24 percent of these recoveries. Hunters in 18 other states recovered at least one Texas band. Several doves covered considerable distances to these other states after their capture and banding in Texas; four were taken in California, three in Minnesota, two in North Dakota and one in Florida.

The speed of dove migration is not presently known, but the band recoveries of a couple of speedsters show how quickly they can cover distance. That Manitoba dove was banded on August 23, 1965, and shot just 37 days later in Travis County after a journey of at least 1,600 miles. A Texas dove banded on February 28, 1964, in Brooks County was taken on May 5, 1964, in North Dakota, over 1,500 miles away from the banding site.

A final look at Figure 2 reveals the importance of Mexico in relation to Texas doves. Mexico accounted for 54 percent of the 245 doves taken outside of Texas and 91 percent of the 145 foreign recoveries. The most band recoveries from Central America were reported from Guatemala. In Mexico, the west-central states of Michoancan, Jalisco and Guanajuato had 70 percent of the recoveries from Texas. A substantial concentration of recoveries in Mexico suggests that Mexico is the wintering area for Texas doves, particularly in the three west-central states listed above.

The record for the longest time between date banded and date recovered appears to be held by a dove banded in Palo Pinto County on June 4, 1953, and recovered in Mexico during October, 1964, an elapsed time of 11 years and 4 months. It should be remembered, however, that the actual date of recovery and the date reported may differ considerably. Another record involves a nestling dove banded in Gray County on July 28, 1952, and shot September 3, 1962 in Hunt County, a period of 10 years, 1 month, and 6 days. These two cases should be considered exceptions to the rule, as studies show that at least 50 percent of mourning doves never see their first birthday.

As mourning dove band studies continue, the resulting information should enable biologists to better manage this popular game bird for the benefit of all Texans.

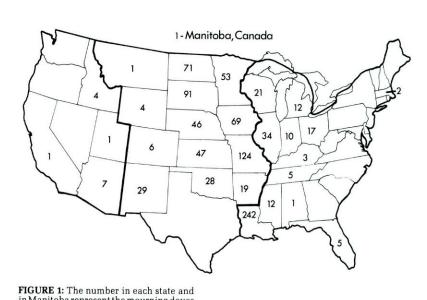
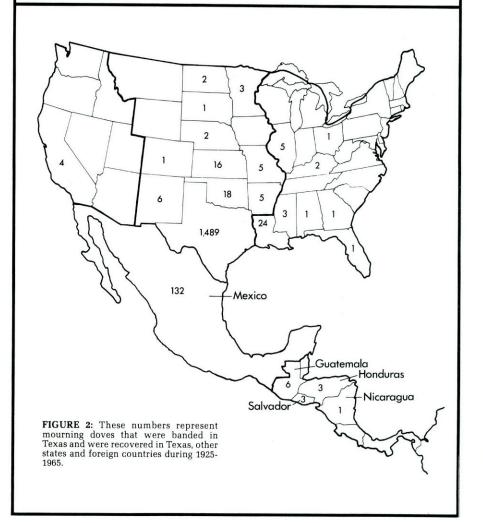


FIGURE 1: The number in each state and in Manitoba represent the mourning doves that were banded in that state or province and recovered in Texas during 1925-1965.



Know **Your Wardens**

Our law enforcement personnel are located throughout the state not only to enforce game, fish and safety laws but also to help anyone who has questions about those laws or who wishes to report suspected violators.

The five regions of the state are broken into districts which are comprised of several counties. Check the map to find the nearest warden, district supervisor or regional director to contact.

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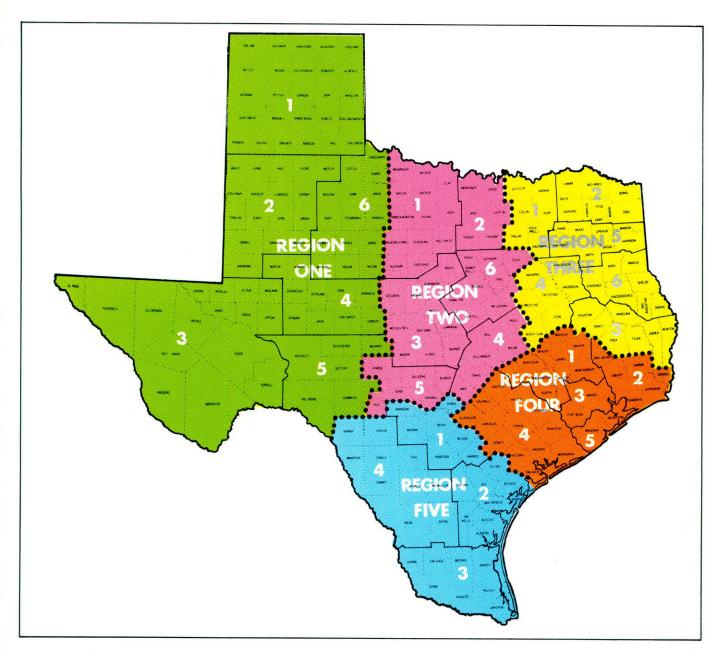
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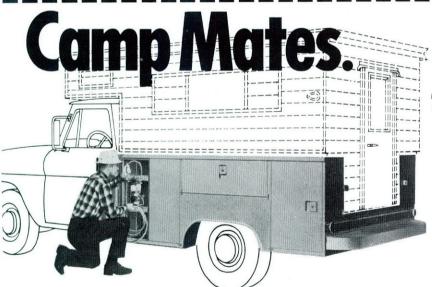
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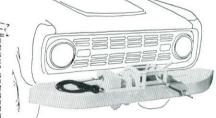


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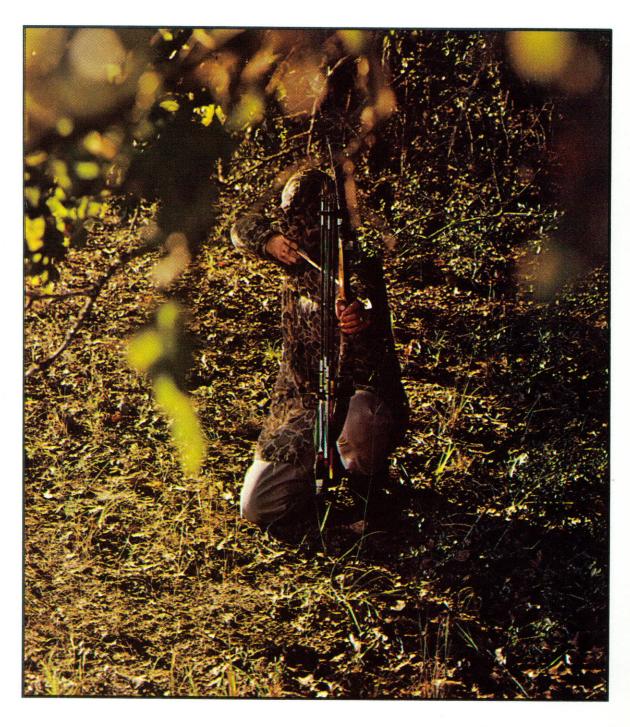
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Bowhunters — Be Prepared!

Article and photographs by Ed Dutch



BOWHUNTING is only for those sportsmen who are willing to pay the price.

I'm talking about the time, interest and dedication that it takes to become a skilled archer and knowledgeable hunter, and not the price of a new bow with six matched hunting arrows, a tube of camouflage cream and other accessories.

Each year during September, which is the month preceding the opening of the archery deer season in most Texas counties, sporting goods stores and other businesses practically sell out their archery supply inventories to growing numbers of potential bowhunters. These "outdoorsmen" have realized that by using a bow, they can extend their deer hunting season by as much as a month. Most, however, don't fully realize what bowhunting requires in skill and stamina.

After shooting a few arrows into a couple of bales of hay, these hunters head out on opening day with visions of killing their first deer. If they are fortunate enough to see a deer, their first reaction is to let the arrows fly.

Then if by some chance an arrow hits the deer, they expect the animal to fall dead. In most instances, the animal runs off never to be seen again except through the eyes of either a carrion eater or a disgusted landowner. The hunter returns to camp or home with his story and plans are made for another hunt, if he can find another place.

This type of bowhunter, if you can even call him one, has done three things. First he added to the bad reputation that bowhunting has as a cruel sport, which actually came about because of novice hunters such as himself. He also gave himself this reputation. Finally, there is a dead or wounded animal which probably will die without providing any benefit to anyone except possibly a predator.

Bowhunting is extremely difficult and facts can prove it. Departmental management area hunts in the fall of 1972 provided some interesting information.

Bowhunters spent 2,001 man/hours on the Kerr Management Area and managed to kill only four deer. Other

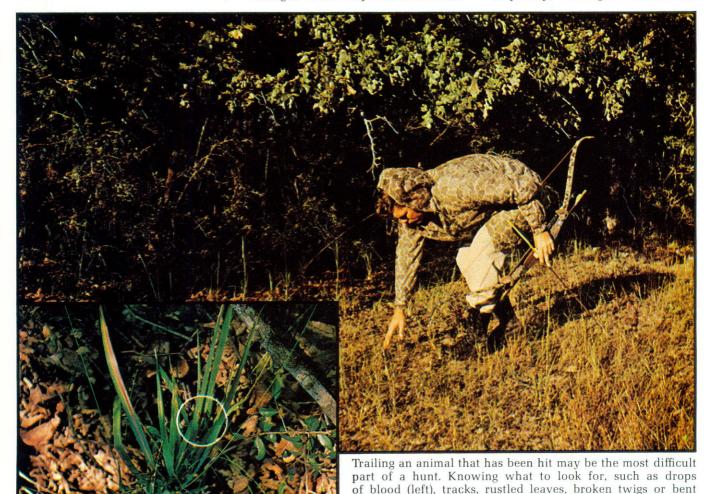
management area reports showed that 191 hunters on the Chaparral Management Area and 60 hunters on the Stephen F. Austin Management Area did not kill a single deer. Engeling Management Area hunters succeeded in killing 16 deer but only one was an antlered buck. That is a total of 624 bowhunters who killed 20 deer for a 3.2 percent hunter success, or only one hunter in every 32 killed a deer.

It is also interesting to note that on the Kerr and Chaparral areas a total of 331 hunters shot 206 arrows at 188 deer. Of these, only four killed deer. But also, only three deer were reported to have been hit and not recovered on the Chaparral area. That's an awful lot of arrows stuck in trees and the ground.

Many factors are involved in this unbelievably low hunter success percentage such as not being familiar with the area or not knowing where the deer were, but in comparison with the same factors, hunters during the rifle season harvested 404 deer on these same areas. That's quite a drastic increase.

Hopefully, these figures are not dis-

grass, and then having the time and patience to continue searching for maybe several hours are essential in trailing.



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couraging for bowhunters, but show that intense preparation, learning and practice are essential to become a skilled and successful bowhunter and that even good bowhunters aren't always successful. The following are only a few suggestions that might help you. In addition, read as much as possible, talk to people who know bowhunting, study the area you plan to hunt and, most importantly, get out on the field practice range and release a few thousand arrows before you go into the field.

- 1. Don't shoot at any animal further than 30 yards.
- 2. Restrict your shots to a standing or walking animal.
- 3. Avoid head-on shots because the animal might jump as the string "twangs."

- 4. Pick a small spot to shoot at instead of just pointing at the animal.
- 5. Know where to shoot for a quick and clean kill.
- 6. Remain motionless after shooting and try to tell where the hit was made.
- 7. If the animal runs off, try to find the arrow to tell where the hit was made (hair and blood color are indicators).
- 8. Leg hits should be followed immediately to keep the animal moving and the wound open and bleeding.
- 9. If hit is made anywhere other than the chest cavity, wait as long as is reasonable before trailing.
- 10. Before starting to track a deer, mark areas where you released and animal stood.
- 11. Learn the signs left by a wounded animal - blood drops or smears, tracks,

broken twigs or branches and rustled

12. Don't give up until you can thoroughly convince yourself that there is nothing left to do.

Besides these few things, you must be both physically and mentally prepared for any situation that could arise. Your equipment needs to be in perfect shape with razor-sharp arrows and any additional accessories that you prefer. Most important, you need to be confident and the only way to achieve that is to continually practice and go into the field to acquaint yourself with the many shots that might need to be made to cleanly kill an animal.

Its only for those who are willing to work at it, and I personally plan to work at it and continue to hunt so I'll see you on the practice range.

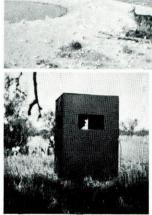
PORTABLE HUNTER'S STAND AND BLINDS

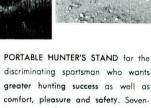






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Front and Back Cover-Martin T. Fulfer; Nikon F, 400mm Leitz Telyt; Kodachrome X.

Inside front-Reagan Bradshaw; Nikon F, 50mm Nikkor; Kodachrome X.

Page 2-Ed Dutch; Nikon F2, 28mm Nikkor; Kodachrome X.

Pages 3-4 - Dutch; Nikon F2, 400mm Leitz Telyt; Ektachrome

Page 5 (top)-Robert C. White; Cannon FTB, 400mm; Kodachrome X.-(bottom)-Dutch; Nikon F2, 80-200mm zoom Nikkor: Ektachrome X.

Page 6-Leroy Williamson; Mamiya C-33, 80mm Sekor; Kodachrome

Page 8-Fulfer; Nikon F, 560mm Leitz Telyt; Kodachrome X.

Page 12-Fulfer: Nikon F. 560mm Leitz Telyt; Kodachrome X

Pages 20-21-Dutch; Nikkormat, 50mm Nikkor; Kodachrome X.

Pages 24-25-Bill Reaves; Nikon F. 55mm micro Nikkor with strobe; Ektachrome X.

Page 26 (right)-Reaves; Nikon F, 28mm Nikkor; Ektachrome X .-(left)-Robert Colura; Besseler Topcon, 58mm; Kodachrome II.

Pages 30-31-(Javelina) E. P. Haddon: Technical information not available.-(Raccoon) Leonard Lee Rue III; T.I.N.A.-(Nutria) Fulfer; Nikon F, 400mm Leitz Telvt: from Kodachrome X.-(Armadillo) Neal Cook: Nikon F. 400mm Leitz Telyt; from Kodachrome X.-(Owl) Leonard Lee Rue III; T.I.N.A.-(Heron) John Suhrstedt; Nikon F, 300mm Nikkor; from Ektachrome X .-(Ibis) Leonard Lee Rue IV; T.I.N.A.-(All skulls) Reaves; Nikon F2, 55mm micro Nikkor; Plus-X.

Inside back-Henry Compton; colored ink, pencil and gouache on illustration board.



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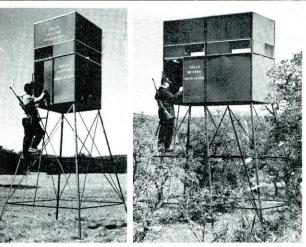
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Hatchery Redfish

Many problems still must be solved.

by Robert L. Colura Coastal Fisheries Biologist

ANGLERS eagerly await the filling of a new lake because they know that for a few years it will provide fantastic fishing, but then something happens and fishing declines.

Heavily fished native sportfish such as black bass are unable to utilize properly the rough and large forage species such as carp, buffalo, suckers and gizzard shad, which soon overpopulate the lake.

One solution to this problem is the introduction of large euryhaline fish (ones able to live in fresh or saltwater) which will not only feed on these abundant rough and forage species, but also will provide fishing action for the angler. Experiments introducing striped bass into Texas waters have proved so successful that Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists began considering other species such as redfish for experimental introduction.

With their voracious appetite, large size and ability to adapt to fresh water, redfish fit the guidelines used for selecting a marine fish for fresh water introduction. In the past, department biologists released small numbers of redfish in freshwater impoundments, and these experiments proved promising. But the establishment of a species in new waters requires large numbers of fish which can be acquired only by spawning the fish in a hatchery.

Prior to 1970, biologists knew very little about redfish except that they mature in four years at a weight of about 12 pounds and spawn in the Gulf during the fall. To obtain additional information on the spawning habits of redfish along the Texas coast for future hatchery work, a study was started in 1970 which revealed that most spawning occurs after September.

Attempts to spawn redfish began in 1972 when department personnel traveled as far as North Carolina seeking ripe redfish for the project. Biologists, however, captured most of the fish in Texas waters with nets or hook and line and some were obtained from commercial and sport fishermen. The redfish were transported then to the Marine Fisheries Research Station near Palacios on Matagorda Bay, and most fish survived transporting. But keeping them alive long enough to spawn proved difficult.

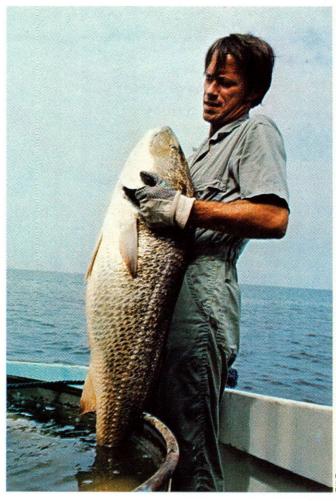
Some loss occurred because handling the large redfish knocked off scales. This caused bacterial and fungal infections which spread over their bodies, eventually killing them. Extra care during handling plus treatment with antibiotics reduced this problem.

Another problem encountered involved excessive expansion of the fish's swim bladder. A fish uses its swim bladder as a float to maintain its position in the water. In saltwater, the swim bladder occupies approximately five percent of the fish's body volume. If a fish swims to a greater depth, the water pressure decreases the volume of the swim bladder causing the fish to sink. The fish compensates for this decrease and maintains its equilibrium by taking oxygen and carbon dioxide from its bloodstream to increase the pressure and thus the volume of its swim bladder. When the fish is rapidly brought to the surface, it is unable to equalize the pressure in its swim bladder as rapidly as the water pressure surrounding it decreases. The bladder expands and presses against internal organs, usually resulting in death.

Although this problem was expected in fish caught in deep water, it also

One of the many problems encountered was in the handling of the redfish. Scales were damaged when biologists worked with the large fish which made the fish susceptible to bacterial and fungal infections such as on the fish shown below. Treatment with antibodies and extra care in handling reduced this loss.





fish were found.

spawning other marine fish. One was then released into a pond with a ripe male to determine if the fish would spawn without further aid; no larval

Egg samples were taken periodically from the two remaining females. As spawning approaches, the eggs begin to clear until they are totally transparent. The eggs of both fish began to clear, but the egg development of one stopped just short of spawning. The other fish spawned, producing several hundred buoyant eggs which were fertilized and placed in a hatching jar. Several larvae hatched but did not survive. Unfortunately, no other mature redfish were found, forcing an end to the 1972 spawning study.

Despite the numerous problems encountered, the experiment proved that redfish can be spawned in captivity. These studies also developed techniques for capturing and returning healthy adult redfish to the laboratory. With this knowledge, biologists approach the 1973 spawning season with hopes that hatchery-produced redfish will soon be swimming in Texas lakes

occurred in shallow-water fish. After losing a number of fish because of swim bladder expansion, researchers discovered that a hypodermic needle could be inserted through the body wall into the swim bladder, allowing the escape of excess gases. After development of this procedure, no more fish were lost from bladder expansion.

By the time biologists learned how to return healthy fish to the laboratory, the spawning season had ended. Fortunately, problems in capturing and returning healthy fish to the laboratory had been anticipated early in the program, and a second approach to spawning redfish had already been initiated.

In 1967 young redfish several inches long were captured and stocked in a freshwater pond at the Olmito State Fish Hatchery near Brownsville. Four years later biologists transported 23 of the fish from Olmito to the Marine Fisheries Research Station to determine if they would spawn. The redfish were placed in a saltwater pond with a second group of 31 redfish that had been held at the research station since 1969. This experiment proved success-

ful when 15 mature males and six mature female redfish were taken from the pond to the laboratory in the fall of 1972.

Most important, none of these mature fish exceeded 10 pounds. The pond environment stunted the fish's growth making them easier to handle during spawning experiments.

To determine if the mature pondreared females were near spawning, a plastic tube was inserted into their oviducts. By applying a slight suction to the free end of the tube, eggs were drawn from the females and examined under a miscroscope. Redfish approach spawning when the majority of the eggs are approximately 0.8mm in diameter and have a granular, opaque appearance. Three fish were thought to be several weeks away from spawning and were released into the pond for further growth. The remaining three females exhibited eggs approaching maturity, and along with several ripe males were taken to the laboratory for spawning experiments.

In the laboratory the females were injected with a hormone, Human Chorionic Gonadotropin, used in

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Young Naturalist

Skulls

by Ilo Hiller

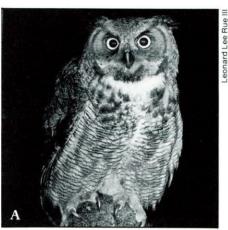
1. Mammal found throughout western Texas and the brush country of South Texas. It has daggerlike tusks and crushing molars which help it eat various types of cactus (especially prickly pear), mesquite beans and other vegetation. As many as 30 of these animals may roam together in one herd, and although it usually avoids man, it has been known to slash hunters or hunting dogs with its long, sharp tusks. It makes a loud popping sound with its teeth as a warning signal and squeals if startled. Adults weigh between 30 and 50 pounds.

2. Strictly nocturnal mammal spends the daylight hours sleeping in its den in a hollow tree or log. It is quite fond of water and does most of its feeding in or by the water's edge. Although classed as a carnivore, this animal is not a specialized feeder and eats fruits, nuts and corn as well as fish, birds, snakes, insects and crayfish. As a result, it has flat-crowned molar teeth which are adapted for crushing instead of the shearing or cutting molars of the dog and cat families. Adults weigh between 10 to 30 pounds.

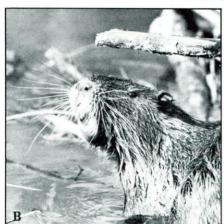
3. Imported mammal is a member of the rodent family and has large gnawing incisors characteristic of this group. It prefers a semiaquatic habitat and can be found in swamps and marshes or along the shores of lakes and rivers. It is equally at home in both fresh and salt water. Aquatic and semiaquatic vegetation are its staple food items, but a nearby garden with cabbage, carrots and sweet potatoes may also be raided by this South American native. Adults normally weigh 18 to 25 pounds.

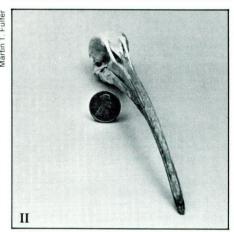
SOMEDAY, while walking through your favorite woods or brushland, you may come across the skeleton or maybe just the skull of an animal. With a little bit of thought, you may be able to figure out the identity of the animal by the size and shape of the skull or the type of teeth it has.

To help you with your thinking, here are a few skulls for you to study. Match the information about the animal with its skull and its picture. Each column is jumbled, so you might end up with an answer such as 1, F, IV. To check to see if you put everything together right, look at the answers at the end of page 32.







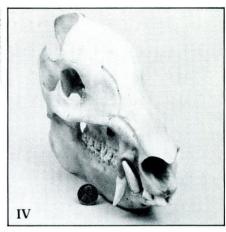




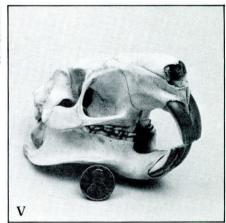


- 4. This mammal is a very active digger and will have several unoccupied dens or burrows which are used for escape shelters. Although most of its body is covered with a bony armor to help protect it from predators, its lack of hair makes it susceptible to cold weather. In fact, long periods of freezing weather can kill a whole population. Its long snout, well-suited for probing the ground for insects, is equipped with around 30 peglike teeth. Adult males weigh 12 to 17 pounds and females eight to 13 pounds.
- 5. Predatory bird with a huge appetite. It can swallow whole rats, mice and small birds. Larger animals are torn into pieces by its sharp, hooklike beak. Bones, feathers and fur are all eaten and the parts which cannot be digested are compressed into a pellet about one inch in diameter and two inches long which the bird then regurgitates. This bird is well-adapted to night hunting and its flight is almost noiseless. It has extremely large eyes which can take advantage of the dim light of night.
- 6. Large, long-necked wading bird, often mistaken for a crane. It uses its spearlike bill to catch its food and defend itself against enemies. In addition to fish, this four-foot-high bird with its six-foot wing span eats snakes, mice, frogs, eels, salamanders, insects and an occasional marsh bird. When in flight, it folds its long neck and rests its head on its shoulders. Marshes, swamps, ricefields, rivers and shorelines are choice habitat.
- 7. Medium-sized wading bird prefers the shallow water of marshy areas, wet fields and tidal flats for feeding areas. Crayfish, fiddler crabs, snakes and insects fall victims to its long, curved bill. When in flight, this bird keeps its neck outstretched and alternates between flapping and gliding.

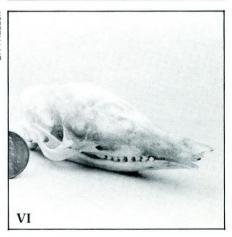




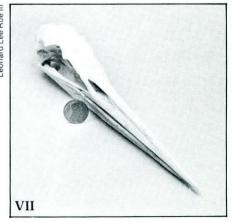












Bright Future?

In your June "Letters to the Editor" section, there appeared a very interesting communication from Mr. William James, who rightly applauded your agency's efforts at managing the state's wildlife resources.

However, Mr. James' otherwise excellent rationale suffered when he implied that our Texas forests and natural cover are being systematically and irrevocably removed. The "Bull-Dozer Syndrome" with which he is apparently afflicted is an increasingly contagious malady transmitted through continuous exposure to misinformation.

In addition to begging the serious question that personal property rights should be automatically subordinated to "public rights" when the two appear to be in conflict, Mr. James' generalization that Texas forests and natural cover are being "rapidly removed," as evidenced by his observations of specific, land-clearing projects in Caldwell County, is a generalization not

warranted by the actual facts of the matter. If he is indeed adhering to this generalization, I would like to make a point about the forests in Texas.

A recent article published by the American Forest Institute concerning America's forests and their current

status reads in part:

"After supplying so much of the material and the land to build America's houses and cities and highways, after meeting our-constantly growing demands for paper products, our forest is still 761 million acres big. To supplement natural planting, we're planting trees ourselves: more than a million and a half acres of forest a vear-and more than one tree for every tree we use.'

Here in Texas the record of the private forest landowner is equally admirable. Under the free enterprise system, Texans have been pursuing modern forest management programs for years and have been largely responsible for the exceedingly bright forest resource picture that is very much in evidence in our great state.

The professional forester in Texas is quietly preparing to help this state meet its awesome responsibilities in the South's Third Forest. This exciting, concept is based on a doubling of the demand for forest products and services by the close of the century. As he goes about this task, the forester views with chagrin and some irony, the success of a few social propagandists who, armed with half-truths and evangelical zeal, would misinterpret our resource status, malign our vital program of forest management, and desecrate the professional foresters competence and dedication.

The state, federal and privatelyowned forests in Texas are not only in no danger of being "removed," their future has never looked brighter.

> Bruce R. Miles College Station



In Memoriam

Parks and Wildlife Department game warden Ronnie L. Germany, 26, was shot and killed July 29 while investigating reports of illegal hunting in San Augustine County. A suspect was arrested at the scene.

He is survived by his wife, Belinda, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. K. Germany of Tyler.

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Answers to Young Naturalist Quiz:

1, F, IV, Javelina

2, G, I, Raccoon

3, B, V, Nutria

4, C, VI, Armadillo

5, A, III, Great-horned Owl

6, E, VII, Great Blue Heron

7, D, II, Ibis



TEXAS SALTWATER FISHES

Of these two reef fishes found primarily in the deeper offshore waters of the Texas Gulf, the mutton-fish (top) is the more common. It feeds upon small fish, crabs, shrimp and squid. Average muttonfish weigh between two to five pounds but some may reach 25 pounds.

The yellowtail snapper (bottom) is relatively rare off Texas and is seldom caught by fishermen. It also feeds upon small fish, crabs, shrimp and squid. Size of these small snappers may vary from less than one foot up to about two feet in length.

Artwork by Henry Compton.

