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texas parks & wildlife news

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744

In the Nov. 13, 1980 issue:

Either-Sex Deer Season Cancelled in Tyler County	Page 1
Aoudad Sheep Hunt Set For Caprock Canyons Park	Page 2
Commission Acts On Parks Matters	Page 2
Game Wardens Nab Night Deer Hunters	Page 2
Trinity River Net Ban to Remain In Effect	Page 2
Shrimp Laws Changed In Brazoria County	Page 3
Tags Required To Sell Bobcat Pelts	Page 3
Boat Launch Available For Galveston S.P. Visitors	Page 3
Quail Hunting Slow On Chaparral Area	Page 3

EITHER-SEX DEER SEASON CANCELLED IN TYLER COUNTY

AUSTIN -- There will be no special four-day either-sex deer season in Tyler County this year.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, meeting in Austin last week, adopted an emergency amendment to the county's game regulations deleting the special season which had been scheduled for the upcoming four-day Thanksgiving weekend.

A large delegation of Tyler County officials testified before the commission, expressing fears that the either-sex deer season would cause an overharvest of antlerless deer and create law enforcement problems due to an expected influx of hunters from other areas.

The Tyler County deer season will be Nov. 15 through Jan. 4. The bag limit will be three deer, no more than two bucks. Antlerless deer may be harvested, but only by permits issued by the department to landowners as in the past.

Hunters in Tyler County are reminded that references to the either-sex season in the department's 1980-81 Guide to Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations booklet are no longer in effect.

AODAD SHEEP HUNT SET
FOR CAPROCK CANYONS PARK

GAME WARDENS NAB
NIGHT DEER HUNTERS

AUSTIN -- A first-ever aoudad sheep hunt has been authorized for this January at Caprock Canyons State Park in Briscoe County.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission approved the special public hunt during its meeting in Austin last week.

Aoudad or Barbary sheep have been introduced to several sections of the rugged caprock area of the Panhandle-South Plains. The public hunt is designed to reduce aoudad numbers in the park, thereby reducing pressure on native plant species and diminishing competition for food with the park's mule deer herd.

Hunt dates are Jan. 3-5, 5-7, 7-9, 9-11, 11-13, 13-15 and 15-17, 1981. Prospective hunters must submit applications to the department by 5 p.m. Nov. 26 for the public drawing which will be held in Austin Dec. 1. A maximum of 42 permits will be issued and the bag limit is one aoudad of either sex.

A fee of \$150 will be charged all applicants drawn for the hunt. Permits will be issued for two-day hunts, beginning at noon the first day and ending at noon the third day. The hunts will be held on approximately 3,350 acres of the 13,000-acre park.

For application forms and instructions, write the department at 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744, or call toll-free 1-800-252-9327.

JC 11/12/80

COMMISSION ACTS
ON PARK MATTERS

AUSTIN -- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission dealt with several business items for the state park system in a recent public meeting in Austin.

The commission:

-- Approved pipeline rights-of-way requests at the Gene Howe Wildlife Management Area, Sabine Pass Battleground State Historic Park, and Lake Arrowhead State Recreation Area, and a road easement at Lake Brownwood State Recreation Area.

-- Approved a 10-year extension of the concession contract to Longhorn Caverns, Inc., for operation of Longhorn Cavern State Park.

-- Authorized the Lone Star Historical Drama Association to construct a 15-unit dormitory for the amphitheater complex at Galveston Island State Park.

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AUSTIN -- Two North Texas hunters have discovered it is cheaper to get a deer lease than to hunt illegally.

Park Ranger Robert M. Thompson of Possum Kingdom State Recreation Area caught two Dallas area residents just south of the park after they had killed three doe deer at 10 p.m. before the season legally opened.

Game Wardens Wayne Chappell of Mineral Wells and David Hancock of Graham filed charges of hunting during closed season and hunting deer at night.

When Justice of the Peace C. L. Hodgkins in Strawn banged his gavel, the total fine was \$1,652 -- and the hunters didn't get to keep the deer.

PH 11/12/80

TRINITY RIVER NET BAN
TO REMAIN IN EFFECT

AUSTIN -- The ban on use of nets in the Trinity River in Houston and Madison Counties above Lake Livingston will remain in effect.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission in a public hearing in Austin last week upheld the ban after hearing testimony on both sides of the issue.

The commission last April adopted the prohibition on netting for those counties to protect striped bass and white bass which swim upriver in large concentrations to spawn. Also, law enforcement officials reported several incidences of white bass being netted from the river and sold illegally. One arrest in March 1980 resulted in the confiscation of 17,000 pounds of game fish, primarily white bass, caught there and sold by three commercial fishermen.

The net ban went into effect Sept. 5, 1980. Department biologists told the commission that stripers and white bass are especially susceptible to netting during the spring spawning run, and flathead catfish also are easily netted at other seasons.

JC 11/12/88

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COMMISSION, cont'd.

BOAT LAUNCH AVAILABL
FOR GALEVESTON ISLAND
STATE PARK VISITORS

-- Approved park facilities development funding for Caprock Canyons State Park in Briscoe County, and additional facilities funding for Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historical Park in Washington County.

-- Authorized construction of additional picnic sites and multi-use campsites at Falcon State Recreation Area in Starr and Zapata Counties.

-- Approved the land acquisition project for Purtil Creek State Park site in Van Zandt County.

JC 11/12/80

SHRIMP LAWS CHANGED
IN BRAZORIA COUNTY

AUSTIN -- A liberalization of bait shrimping laws for portions of Brazoria County was approved recently by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission.

The commission adopted a rule allowing the taking of two quarts of bait shrimp per person per day during daylight hours with cast nets, dip nets or 20-foot or shorter minnow seine operated manually on foot.

The new rule basically allows limited bait shrimping with this limited gear in all the waters of the county, where in the past bait shrimping was illegal in some bays designated as shrimp nursery areas.

Department staff told the commission that the change was not expected to have any detrimental effect on the resource.

JC 11/12/80

TACS REQUIRED TO SELL
BOBCAT PELTS IN TEXAS

AUSTIN -- The taking and tagging period for bobcat pelts opens this Saturday (Nov. 15) and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department reminds hunters, trappers and fur dealers that all bobcat pelts must be tagged prior to sale. The season continues through Feb. 15, 1981.

Fur dealers may obtain a free bobcat tagging permit and tags from any department law enforcement field office across the state, or from Austin headquarters. The office locations are printed on the back of the department's 1980-81 Guide to Texas Hunting and Fishing Regulations booklet available where hunting licenses are sold.

JC 11/12/80

AUSTIN -- Visitors to Galveston Island State Park now can launch boats at a private boat ramp adjacent to the park, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Mitchell Development Corp. of the Southwest has made its boat launching facilities available to registered park visitors. The facilities at Pirate's Cove Marina on Lake Como include a sling-lift launch, parking, boat loading docks and restrooms. A \$1 fee is charged for boat launching for registered visitors to Galveston Island State Park.

The corporation has applied for a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit to construct a double boat ramp and parking for an additional 75 vehicles. This facility when completed in the near future will be available for registered park visitors for the same \$1 launching fee arrangement.

JC 11/12/80

QUAIL HUNTING SLOW
ON CHAPARRAL AREA

AUSTIN -- Quail hunters on the Chaparral Wildlife Management area in Dimmit and La Salle Counties in South Texas had poor hunting during the season's first weekend, according Ernie Davis, Chaparral area manager for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

A total of 512 hunters harvested 304 birds for an average of little over half a quail per person. Davis said it took an average of 11 hours of hunting for each bird bagged.

Hunts on the first weekend last year were much more productive when 835 hunters took 3,822 quail, or 4.6 birds per day of hunting, Davis said.

Dove hunting proved to be the opposite. This year 512 hunters bagged 1,638 doves which averaged a little more than three birds per hunter. Dove hunting on the Chaparral last year was classified as poor.

The area, located eight miles of Artesia Wells, is open to the public for quail hunting Dec. 13-14, 20-21, 1980, Jan. 3-4, 10-11, 17-18, 24-25, 31-Feb. 1, 7-8, 14-15, and 21-22, 1981. To defray the cost of conducting the hunt, each hunter is charged \$5 per day.

PH 11/12/80

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

1980-1981 Hunting Regulations

DUCKS AND COOTS

SEASON: High Plains Mallard Management Unit (that area of the state lying west of a line from the International Toll Bridge at Del Rio, thence northward following U.S. Highway 277 through San Angelo to Abilene, thence along State Highway 351 from Abilene to Albany and U.S. Highway 283 from Albany to Vernon, thence easterly along U.S. Highway 183 to the point of intersection with the Texas-Oklahoma state line in Wilbarger County) — October 28, 1980, through January 18, 1981.

SEASON: Remainder of the state — November 8 through November 30, 1980, and December 13, 1980, through January 18, 1981.

SHOOTING HOURS: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

DUCK LIMITS: The daily bag limit is reached when the point value of the last bird taken added to the total point value of all other birds taken reaches or exceeds 100 points. Possession limit is the maximum number of ducks which could have been taken legally in two days.

DUCK DAILY BAG LIMIT: One to 10 ducks in the aggregate based on the following 100-plus point system.

100-Point Ducks—Canvasbacks.

70-Point Ducks—Hooded mergansers, mottled ducks, Mexican-like ducks, mallard hens, redheads and wood ducks.

10-Point Ducks—Gadwall, mergansers (except hooded mergansers), pintails, scaups, shovelers, all species of teal (blue-winged, cinnamon and green-winged) and wigeon.

20-Point Ducks—All other species and sexes not listed above.

ILLEGAL DUCKS — The season is closed on black-bellied whistling ducks, fulvous whistling ducks and masked ducks.

DAILY COOT BAG LIMIT: 15; possession limit 30.

TEAL DUCKS ONLY — ALL SPECIES (Special Early Season)

SEASON: September 13 through September 21, 1980.

SHOOTING HOURS: Sunrise to sunset.

DAILY BAG LIMIT: Four in the aggregate; possession limit, eight in the aggregate.

GEESE West of U.S. Highway 81

SEASON: October 28, 1980, through January 18, 1981.

SHOOTING HOURS: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

BAG LIMIT: Five, not to include more than two Canada or white-fronted geese in the aggregate.

POSSESSION LIMIT: Ten, not to include more than four Canada or white-fronted geese in the aggregate.

GEESE East of U.S. Highway 81

SEASON: All goose species (Snow, Blue, Ross', Canada and white-fronted) November 8, 1980 through January 18, 1981.

SHOOTING HOURS: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

BAG LIMIT: Light geese (Snow, Blue, Ross'); five. Dark geese (Canada, White-fronted); one Canada goose or one White-fronted.

POSSESSION LIMIT: Light geese (Snow, Blue, Ross'); ten. Dark geese (Canada, White-fronted); two Canadas or two White-fronted or one Canada and one White-fronted.

RAILS AND GALLINULES

King and Clapper Rails

SEASON: September 1 through November 9, 1980.

SHOOTING HOURS: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

DAILY BAG LIMIT: 15 in the aggregate; possession limit, 30 in the aggregate.

Sora and Virginia Rails

SEASON: September 1 through November 9, 1980.

SHOOTING HOURS: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

DAILY BAG LIMIT: 25 in the aggregate; possession limit, 25 in the aggregate.

Gallinules

SEASON: September 1 through November 9, 1980.

SHOOTING HOURS: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

DAILY BAG LIMIT: 15; possession limit, 30.

SANDHILL (Little Brown) CRANES

SEASON: Zone A — October 31, 1980, through January 31, 1981, in that area of the state lying west of a line from the International Toll Bridge at Del Rio, thence northward following U.S. Highway 277 to its junction with U.S. Highway 87 at San Angelo, thence northwesterly following U.S. Highway 87 and including all of Howard and Lynn Counties, to its junction with U.S. 287 at Dumas; thence northwesterly following U.S. Highway 287 to the point of intersection with the Texas-Oklahoma state line in Dallam County.

SEASON: Zone B — December 5, 1980, through January 31, 1981, in that area of the state lying west of a line from San Angelo along U.S. Highway 277 to Abilene, thence along State Highway 351 from Abilene to Albany and U.S. Highway 283 from Albany to Vernon, thence easterly along U.S. Highway 183 to the point of intersection with the Texas-Oklahoma State line in Wilbarger County; and east of a line from San Angelo along U.S. Highway 87 excluding all of Howard and Lynn Counties, to the junction of U.S. Highway 287 from Dumas to the point of intersection with the Texas-Oklahoma state line in Dallam County.

SHOOTING HOURS: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

DAILY BAG LIMIT: Three; possession limit, six.

In addition to regular license requirements, a special permit is required for hunting sandhill cranes. These permits will be issued at no charge upon written request to the Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 South School Road, Austin, Texas 78744. The name, address and county of residence of each person to be issued a permit must be provided.

WOODCOCK

SEASON: November 15, 1980, through January 18, 1981.

SHOOTING HOURS: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

DAILY BAG LIMIT: Five; possession limit, 10.

WILSON'S SNIPE OR JACKSNIPE

SEASON: November 1, 1980, through February 15, 1981.

SHOOTING HOURS: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

DAILY BAG LIMIT: Eight; possession limit, 16.