

P400.6

P268

92/ *The* Summer

Passport

Texas Conservation PassportSM News

Summer 1992

Government Publications
Texas State Documents

AUG 18 1992

Dallas Public Library

Texas
Horned
Lizard

Chaparral WMA tour showcases 'Overlooked' Brush Country Animals

Many Texans think of the South Texas Brush Country as being the home of the javelina, mountain lion and trophy-class white-tailed deer. But as a Conservation Passport holder, you now have a chance to get familiar with a couple of the more down-to-earth Brush Country residents.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologist David Synatzske has learned a lot about big game species through his job as manager of the **Chaparral Wildlife Management Area**. He also has developed an affinity for the Texas horned lizard and Texas tortoise, animals that get less publicity than deer but are no less fascinating.

"As a kid growing up in Temple, I used to see horned lizards all the time, and I think a lot of people have the same

kind of memories," David said. "But nowadays you just don't see them in areas where they used to be abundant."

The reasons for the horned lizard's decline are still largely a mystery to biologists, but David hopes information gained in a marking and recapture study at the Chaparral will help add to our understanding of the flat-bodied reptiles.

Texas tortoises also have suffered an apparent decrease in range, perhaps because of habitat changes and other factors such as being run over by vehicles.

Both the Texas horned lizard (also known variously as horned frog, horned toad, etc.) and Texas tortoise are included on Texas' list of threatened species.

David and colleagues Melissa Montemayor and

Jimmy Rutledge have been marking and releasing tortoises for the past two years, and horned lizards since 1991.

"We're interested in anything that is part of the ecosystem here on the Chaparral," David said, "and these two animals are definitely an important and interesting part of that ecosystem."

Fortunately, both species appear to be thriving in the red sandy loam and scrub brush environment of the Chaparral. The biologists have marked and released 600-plus tortoises and more than 80 horned lizards. "Horned lizards especially have been doing well. Last year we saw a lot of young ones that were hardly bigger than your thumbnail," David commented.

With your Conservation Passport you can visit the Chaparral on one of the guided tours and expect to see both these interesting creatures up close. David adds that the tours also will expose visitors to the area's remarkable variety of birds and other wildlife. "We had excellent rainfall in early 1992, and there will be plenty of flowering plants and other vegetation that may be new to some of the visitors," he said.

The Chaparral can be an eye-opener for anyone who has never witnessed the rough beauty of the South Texas brushland.



How to use this Newsletter

Starting on page 2 you will find a calendar of Conservation Passport activities listed in chronological order. When you see an interesting activity that fits your schedule, turn to the map on the centerfold to determine its general location. Once you find the area, consult the accompanying listing for information on how to get there. **Most of the activities require advance reservations, and before visiting any area it's a good idea to call ahead** for local weather conditions or other factors that might affect your outing. Telephone numbers are found in the calendar and with the map.

From the Director

As I write this column, sales of the Texas Conservation Passport have exceeded the 47,000 mark for the year beginning last September. This means we are on track for achieving our ambitious goal of 100,000 for the fiscal year.

These numbers mean that people like you have chosen to learn more about Texas' wonderful natural resources by participating in Conservation Passport activities. The \$25 you paid for your Conservation Passport not only opens the door for your outdoor adventures; it also helps support the department's programs that enhance and preserve this outdoor heritage for the future.

I'm gratified by the favorable response we've received from this new program so far, and I hope you will encourage your friends to purchase Conservation Passports, too. The naturalist-guided tours give Passport holders a deeper understanding and appreciation of natural phenomena they might have observed only casually before.

On behalf of all Parks and Wildlife Department employees, I want to thank you for being on the Conservation Passport team.

Andy Sansom
Executive Director

Calendar of Texas Conservation Passport Activities

Please note:

- These interpretive tours require one Conservation Passport per person age 17 and over.
- All activities require **reservations** unless noted "no reservations required."
- Most activities have a **limit on group size**.
- For **reservations** and information, call the phone number listed with the activity. For WMAs, the best time to catch the wildlife biologist in the office is on a weekday between 8 to 9 a.m. and 12 to 1 p.m.
- For site location information, see the "Site Location Index." Sites are listed in alphabetical order.
- Abbreviations:
 SP= State Park
 SHP= State Historical Park
 SNA= State Natural Area
 WMA= Wildlife Management Area

-  Bird watching
-  Bayside Marsh Tour
-  Nature Tour (Driving)
-  Geological History Tour

-  Bat Observation
-  Reptile Observation
-  Water Bird Tour

-  Nature Tour (Walking)
-  Native Plant Tour
-  Wildflower Tour

JUNE

June Monday-Friday: McKinney Falls SP, painted bunting guided hike, guide park superintendent Ned Ochs, every weekday in June, 7-9 a.m., 512/243-1643

June 6 & 7: Black Gap WMA, desert bird seminar, guide Trans-Pecos naturalist Bonnie McKinney, 8 a.m. Black Gap Hdq. 915/376-2216

June 6: Eisenhower SP, reptile identification seminar, led by Boy Scouts staff Jacob Lowe and Aaron Levacy, 1-3 p.m., 903/465-1956

June 6: Kickapoo Cavern SP, cavern tour, guide park superintendent David K. Stuart, 3-5 p.m., liability waiver, hiking boots/shoes with gum-type soles, hard hat, flashlight required, must be in relatively good physical condition, 512/563-2342

June 6: Kickapoo Cavern SP, bat emergence observation, guide park superintendent David K. Stuart, 7 p.m., 512/563-2342

June 6: Matagorda Island SP/WMA, "Summer Birds and Their Nesting Grounds" bus tour, guide TPWD naturalist Luke Thompson, 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m., additional fee, 512/983-2215

June 13: Matador WMA, "Plodding the Pease River;" a walking nature tour, guide TPWD biologist David Dvorak, 8 a.m.-noon, 806/492-3405

June 14: Colorado Bend SP, bird watching tour focusing on the black-capped vireo and other endangered species, guide David K. Stuart, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 915/628-3240

June 14: Hill Country SNA, canyonland songbird hike, guide park superintendent Shaun M. Heavey, 9 a.m. (lasting 3-4 hours), bird field guide and ability to do strenuous hiking for 3-4 hours, 512/796-4413

June 20: Matador WMA, "Plodding the Pease River;" a walking nature tour, guide TPWD biologist David Dvorak, 8 a.m.-noon, 806/492-3405


June 20: Matagorda Island SP/WMA, marine life; tour of bayside marshes and the Gulf Coast by TPWD marine biologists, 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m., additional fee, 512/983-2215


June 20: Old Tunnel WMA, bat emergence with interpretive discussion, guide TPWD biologist Roy Welch, 6:30 p.m., 40 maximum by reservation only, 512/896-2500


June 21: Hill Country SNA, native plants tour, guide park superintendent Shaun M. Heavey, 9 a.m. (lasting 1-2 hours), ability to walk at a leisurely pace for 1 to 2 hours, 512/796-4413


June 27: Chaparral WMA, "Visiting the Texas Tortoise and Texas Horned Lizard," guide TPWD biologist David Synatzske, high clearance vehicle & personal gear recommended, primitive camping available, 512/676-3413


June 27: Lake Tawakoni SP, nature walk, approximately 4 hours long, 903/425-2332 (Purtis Creek SP phone number)


July 4 & 5: McKinney Falls SP,
painted bunting guided hike,
 guide park superintendent
Ned Ochs, 7-9 a.m.,
512/243-1643

July 11: Eisenhower SP,
 geological history tour, led
by Dr. Brent, Grayson
County Jr. College
instructor, 10 a.m.-noon,
903/465-1956


July 11: McKinney Falls SP,
 painted bunting guided hike,
guide park superintendent
Ned Ochs, 7-9 a.m.,
512/243-1643


July 12: Hill Country SNA,
 canyonland songbird hike,
guide park superintendent
Shaun M. Heavey, 9 a.m.
(lasting 3-4 hours), bird field
guide, ability to do strenuous
hiking for 3-4 hours,
512/796-4413


July 12: McKinney Falls SP,
 painted bunting guided hike,
guide park superintendent
Ned Ochs, 7-9 a.m.,
512/243-1643


July 18: Elephant Mountain
 WMA, nature driving tour,
guide TPWD biologist Jack
Kilpatric, 9 a.m.-noon or
later, high clearance vehicle
needed, 915/364-2228


July 18: McKinney Falls SP,
 painted bunting guided hike,
guide park superintendent
Ned Ochs, 7-9 a.m.,
512/243-1643


**July 18: Matagorda Island SP/
WMA,** marine life; a tour of
 bayside marshes and the
Gulf Coast by TPWD marine
biologists, 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.,
additional fee, 512/983-2215


July 18: Old Tunnel WMA, bat
 emergence with interpretive
discussion, guide TPWD
biologist Roy Welch, 6:30
p.m., 40 maximum by
reservation only,
512/896-2500

July 18: Richland Creek
 WMA, wading bird viewing
tour, guide TPWD biologist
Hayden Haucke, 8 a.m.-noon,
insect repellent
recommended, 903/928-2251

July 19: Hill Country SNA,
 native plants tour, guide park
superintendent Shaun M.
Heavey, 9 a.m. (lasting 1-2
hours), ability to walk at a
leisurely pace for 1 to 2
hours, 512/796-4413

July 19: McKinney Falls SP,
 painted bunting guided hike,
guide park superintendent
Ned Ochs, 7-9 a.m.,
512/243-1643


July 25: Lake Tawakoni SP,
 birding tour, approximately
4 hours long, 903/425-2332
(Purtis Creek SP)


July 25 & 26: McKinney Falls
 SP, painted bunting guided
hike, guide park
superintendent Ned Ochs,
7-9 a.m., 512/243-1643


J
U
L
Y


Editor's Note:


Check the Outdoor Datebook section of *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine for any updates to this schedule. As a Passport holder, you'll receive a 20 percent discount on the magazine's regular subscription price. To take advantage of the special offer of \$8 per year, call toll-free in Texas, 1-800-937-9393.


Aug. 8: Eisenhower SP,
 wildflower identification
tour, led by naturalist Paul
Cardwell, 11 a.m.-noon,
903/465-1956


Aug. 8: J.D. Murphree WMA,
 water birds rookeries tour,
guide TPWD biologist Jim
Sutherlin, 8 a.m.-noon,
spotting scope, insect
repellent and rubber boots
needed, 903/736-2551


**Aug. 8: Matagorda Island SP/
WMA,** marine life; a tour of
 bayside marshes and the
Gulf Coast by TPWD
marine biologists, 7:30 a.m.-
5 p.m., additional fee,
512/983-2215


Aug. 15: Davis Mountains SP,
 bird banding observation,
guide park superintendent
Kelly Bryan, 8-11 a.m.,
pre-registration available but
not required, 915/426-3337


Aug. 15: Old Tunnel WMA, bat
 emergence with interpretive
discussion, guide TPWD
biologist Roy Welch, 6:30
p.m., 40 maximum by
reservation only,
512/896-2500


Aug. 16: Hill Country SNA,
 native plants tour, guide park
superintendent Shaun M.
Heavey, 9 a.m. (lasting 1-2
hours), ability to walk at a
leisurely pace for 1 to 2
hours, 512/796-4413

Aug. 19 & 22: Davis Mountains
 SP, bird banding
observation, guide park
superintendent Kelly Bryan,
8-11 a.m., pre-registration
available but not required,
915/426-3337

Aug. 22: Eisenhower SP,
 geological history tour, led
by Dr. Brent, Grayson
County Jr. College
instructor, 10 a.m.-noon,
903/465-1956

Aug. 26 & 29: Davis Mountains
 SP, bird banding
observation, guide park
superintendent Kelly Bryan,
8-11 a.m., pre-registration
available but not required,
915/426-3337

Aug. 29: Kickapoo Cavern SP,
 bat emergence observation,
guide park superintendent
David K. Stuart, 7 p.m.,
512/563-2342

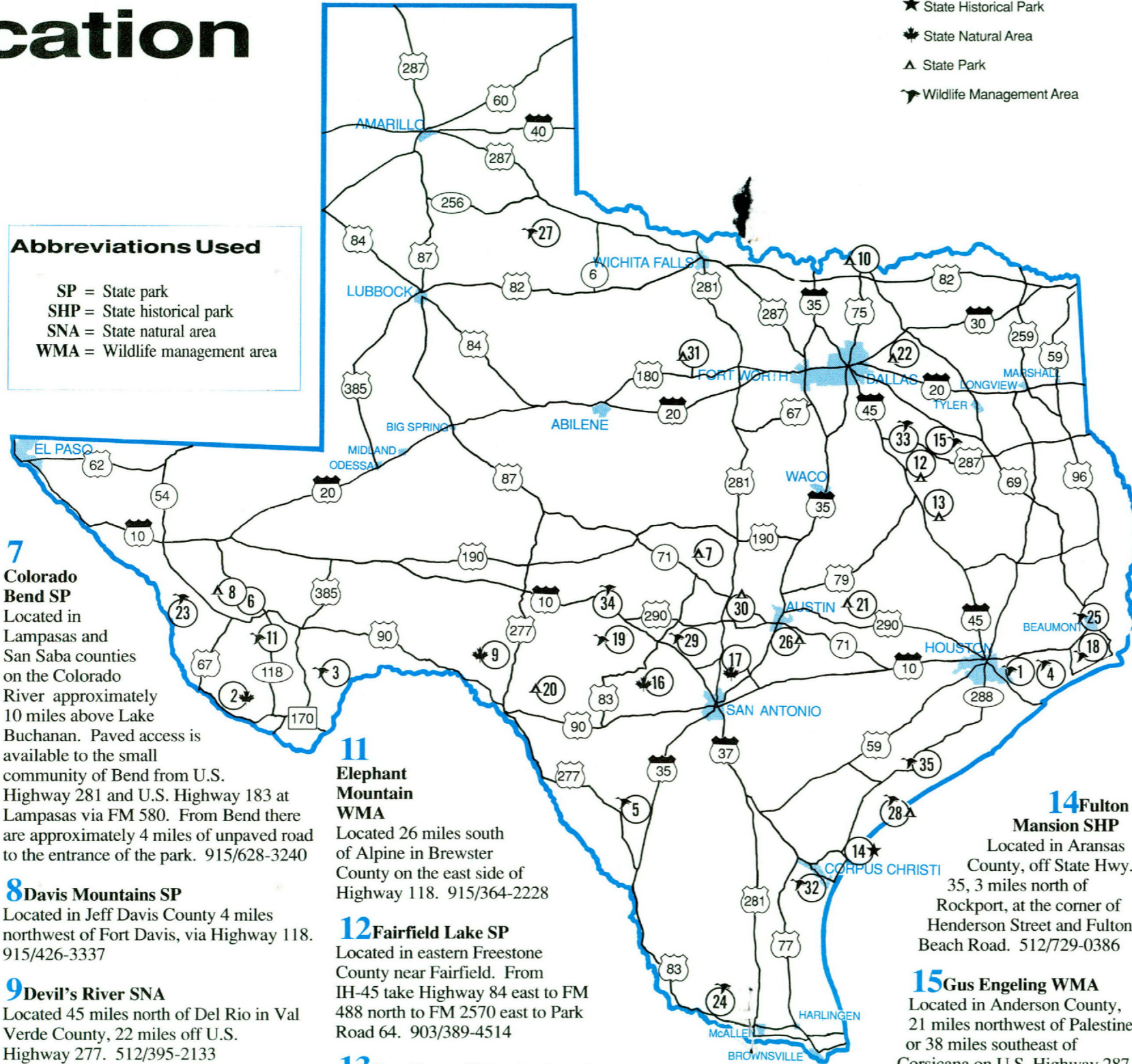
Aug. 29: Lake Tawakoni SP,
 nature walk, approximately
4 hours long, 903/425-2332
(Purtis Creek SP phone
number)

A
u
g
u
s
t

Site Location Index

Abbreviations Used

SP = State park
 SHP = State historical park
 SNA = State natural area
 WMA = Wildlife management area



1 Atkinson Island WMA
 Located between Chambers and Harris Counties on the Houston Ship Channel, off Morgan's Point. Accessed by boat only from Morgan's Point and Crauley's Bait Camp. (The Harris County side of the island is the only portion owned by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.) 409/736-2551

2 Big Bend Ranch SNA
 Located north of Lajitas on Highway 170 in Brewster and Presidio counties. 915/358-4444

3 Black Gap WMA
 Located in Brewster County, 58 miles south of Marathon. Drive 40 miles south on Highway 385 to FM 2627, then east on FM 2627 for 18 miles. 915/376-2216

4 Candy Cain Abshier WMA
 Located in Smith Point in the far southwesternmost part of Chambers County. From Interstate 10, take Highway 61 south to FM 562, then take FM 562 south to Smith Point. 409/736-2551

5 Chaparral WMA
 Located in LaSalle and Dimmit Counties, 8 miles west of Artesia Wells on FM 133. 512/676-3413

6 Chihuahuan Desert Visitor's Center
 Located in Jeff Davis County, 4 miles south of Fort Davis on Hwy. 118. 915/426-3337 (Davis Mountains SP)

7 Colorado Bend SP
 Located in Lampasas and San Saba counties on the Colorado River approximately 10 miles above Lake Buchanan. Paved access is available to the small community of Bend from U.S. Highway 281 and U.S. Highway 183 at Lampasas via FM 580. From Bend there are approximately 4 miles of unpaved road to the entrance of the park. 915/628-3240

8 Davis Mountains SP
 Located in Jeff Davis County 4 miles northwest of Fort Davis, via Highway 118. 915/426-3337

9 Devil's River SNA
 Located 45 miles north of Del Rio in Val Verde County, 22 miles off U.S. Highway 277. 512/395-2133

10 Eisenhower SP
 Located in northern Grayson County near Denison. The park is 5 miles northwest of Denison. Take U.S. Highway 75A to FM 1310 and travel 1.8 miles to Park Road 20. 903/465-1956

11 Elephant Mountain WMA
 Located 26 miles south of Alpine in Brewster County on the east side of Highway 118. 915/364-2228

12 Fairfield Lake SP
 Located in eastern Freestone County near Fairfield. From IH-45 take Highway 84 east to FM 488 north to FM 2570 east to Park Road 64. 903/389-4514

13 Fort Boggy SP (undeveloped)
 Located in Leon County 5 miles south of Centerville. From IH 45 take Centerville exit to Hwy 7 east to Hwy 75, turn south and go 5 miles. Look for park signs on the west side of Hwy. 75. 903/389-4514 (Fairfield Lake SP)

- ★ State Historical Park
- ☘ State Natural Area
- ▲ State Park
- Wildlife Management Area

14 Fulton Mansion SHP
 Located in Aransas County, off State Hwy. 35, 3 miles north of Rockport, at the corner of Henderson Street and Fulton Beach Road. 512/729-0386

15 Gus Engeling WMA
 Located in Anderson County, 21 miles northwest of Palestine or 38 miles southeast of Corsicana on U.S. Highway 287. 903/928-2251

16 Hill Country SNA
 Located in Bandera and Medina counties 10 miles west of Bandera. From Bandera, take Highway 173, take FM 1077 southwest 11 miles to the park entrance. 512/796-4413

17 Honey Creek SNA
 Located 30 miles north of San Antonio in Comal County, reached via Guadalupe River State Park from Park Road 31 off Highway 46. Thirteen miles east of Boerne or 8 miles west of the intersection of U.S. Highway 281 and State Highway 46. The park entrance is 3 miles off Highway 46 on Park Road 31. 512/438-2656 (Guadalupe River SP)

18 J.D. Murphree WMA
 Located in Jefferson County, accessed via State Highway 73, 0.5 miles east of the Taylor Bayou Bridge or 3 miles west of the intersection of State Highways 287 & 73 in Port Arthur. 409/736-2551

19 Kerr WMA
 Located on the scenic headwaters of the North Fork of the Guadalupe River in Kerr County, 14 miles west of Hunt accessed off FM 1340. 512/238-4483

20 Kickapoo Cavern SP
 Located in Edwards and Kinney counties northwest of Uvalde, 23 miles north of Brackettville. From U.S. Highway 90 take FM 674 north for 23 miles to park entrance. 512/563-2342

21 Lake Somerville SP - Nails Creek Unit
 Located in Burleson County northwest of Brenham. Nails Creek Unit is located on FM 180, 15 miles off U.S. 290. 409/289-2392

22 Lake Tawakoni SP (undeveloped)
 Located in Hunt County east of Dallas. From the end of FM 2475 to White Deer Landing Road to park entrance. 903/425-2332 (Purtis Creek SP)

23 Las Palomas WMA - Ocotillo Unit
 Located in southwestern Presidio County, 36 miles northwest of Presidio or 1 mile northwest of Ruidosa on FM 170. 915/229-3190

24 Las Palomas WMA - Rio Grande Valley Units
 Eight tracts located in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy counties. 512/383-8982

25 Lower Neches WMA - Bessie Heights Unit
 Located in Orange County, approximately 6 miles west of Bridge City and 2 miles north of Neches River in Bessie Heights Oil Field. Accessible by watercraft only. 409/736-2551

26 McKinney Falls SP
 Located in Travis County 13 miles southeast of the State Capitol. Take U.S. Hwy. 183 south to Scenic Loop Road. Travel 2 miles west on Scenic Loop to the park entrance. 512/243-1643

27 Matador WMA
 Located in Cottle County, 7 miles north of Paducah at the end of FM 3256, 2.5 miles west of Highway 83. 806/492-3405

28 Matagorda Island SP/WMA
 Located in Calhoun County with the headquarters, dock and information center in Port O'Connor. Port O'Connor is approximately 50 miles southeast of Victoria. 512/983-2215

29 Old Tunnel WMA
 Located in Kendall County, 14 miles south of Fredricksburg on Old San Antonio Road. 512/896-2500

30 Pedernales Falls SP
 Located in eastern Blanco County near Johnson City. The park entrance is 9 miles east of Johnson City on FM Road 2766, or by traveling west of Austin for 32 miles on U.S. Highway 290, then north on FM 3232 for 7 miles. 512/868-7304

31 Possum Kingdom SP
 Located in Palo Pinto County west of Fort Worth near Caddo. Take U.S. Highway 180 to Caddo then 17 miles north on Park Road 33. 817/549-1803

32 Redhead Pond WMA
 Located in Nueces County in the Flour Bluff area of Corpus Christ, on Laguna Shores Road, 1.8 miles south of State Highway 358. 512/729-2315

33 Richland Creek WMA
 Located in Freestone and Navarro counties, on U.S. Highway 287, 28 miles east of Corsicana, 31 miles northwest of Palestine. 903/928-2251

34 Walter Buck WMA
 Located on the South Fork of the Llano River in Kimble County, 5 miles southwest of Junction or 3 miles south of the Junction city limits sign on State Highway 377 to the WMA entrance. 915/446-3617

35 Welder Flats Coastal Preserve
 Located in Calhoun County at the junction of the Victoria Barge Canal with the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. Boat access only.

Self-Guided Tours with the Texas Conservation Passport

- ◆ Dates closed to visitation **must** be observed.
- ◆ Unless otherwise noted, these areas are **open every day of the week for day-use only**, from daylight to sunset.
- ◆ “No facilities” indicates that the site has no recreational facilities, potable water or restroom facilities. Some sites noted “no facilities” have an office with a restroom, but those offices are seldom open because the staff is out on the site.

Tours

Atkinson Island WMA - Unvegetated beach areas. No facilities. 409/736-2551

Big Bend Ranch SNA - One Conservation Passport per person is required for hiking and backpacking north of



■ Experience the rich and varied ecology of Matagorda Island on a guided Conservation Passport tour.

Tours By Request

Devil's River SNA, guided tour of archaeological pictograph sites and natural sites upon request, Fridays-Sundays, groups encouraged, bunkhouse lodging for 10 people and kitchen available, 512/395-2133

Fairfield Lake SP, wildlife calling seminar, guide

Highway 170. South of Highway 170, either the Conservation Passport or the daily entrance fee is acceptable. For information call the Barton Warnock Environmental Education Center, 915/424-3327.

Black Gap WMA - Will be closed November 30 - December 15. Day-use shelters on Rio Grande. Primitive camping at designated sites. High clearance vehicle required, preferably 4-wheel drive. 915/376-2216

Candy Cain Abshier WMA - Area primarily for birdwatching and nature study. No facilities. 409/736-2551

Davis Mountains SP Primitive Area - Will open August 1. All visitors must register at the Davis Mountains SP headquarters and sign a primitive-area use agreement. 915/426-3337

Gus Engeling WMA - Closed during hunting. Two interpretive walking nature trails. One self-guided driving wildlife demonstration tour is open in spring and summer. 903/928-2251

Kerr WMA - Golden-cheeked warbler trail open through June. Hill Country Interpretive Driving tour open all year except hunting days:

park superintendent Dennis Walsh, morning or afternoon/evening, additional fee, 903/389-4514

Kickapoo Cavern SNA, bird watching and nature tours upon request, primitive cavern tour by special arrangement, groups encouraged, bunkhouse lodging for 12 people and

Oct. 1-Dec. 15, April 9-11, 16-18, 23-25. No facilities. 512/238-4483

Las Palomas WMA (Rio Grande Valley) - Units of Las Palomas open for activities other than hunting and fishing September 1 - April 30 are: Adams, Champion, Frederick, Kelly, Kiskadee, La Grulla, McManus, McWhorter, Tucker and Voshell. No facilities. 512/383-8982

Las Palomas WMA, Ocotillo Unit - Closed during white-winged dove hunting season. No facilities. 915/229-3190

Lower Neches WMA - Bessie Heights Unit accessible by boat only. No facilities. 409/736-2551

Redhead Pond WMA - Large concentrations of wintering waterfowl. No facilities. 512/729-2315

Richland Creek WMA - Will be closed for hunting from November 2 - January 5. No facilities. 903/928-2251

Walter Buck WMA - Non-hunting activities coordinated through South Llano River SP. Area will be closed Oct. 1 - Dec. 15 for public hunts. 915/446-3617

Welder Flats Coastal Preserve - This area is entirely submerged land, so access is by boat. ALL shoreline area is privately owned and is NOT part of the preserve. Please do not trespass on private land and do not disturb the whooping cranes. 512/729-2315

kitchen available, please make reservations at least two weeks in advance, 512/563-2342

Lake Somerville SP - Nails Creek Unit, guided nature study of the Somerville Trailway and the Flag Pond area, guide park superintendent Brent Leisure, four-hour tour, 409/289-2392

Watching the Evening Flight at Old Tunnel and Kickapoo

Watching a million bats rising from a cave mouth and winging into the twilight has to be one of Texas' most impressive wildlife experiences.

The evening emergence is signaled by a warm vortex of air swirling upward from the cave mouth. A soft humming sound tells the observer that the parade is about to begin.

They first appear in twos and threes, but in a matter of minutes the fissure is alive with a mass of the winged mammals. Forming a tightly-packed column, the Mexican free-tailed bats pour from the cave for more than an hour, in numbers that stagger the imagination.

As a Texas Conservation Passport holder, you have the opportunity to witness this spectacle at two of Texas' best bat-watching sites, and also learn why bats are something to be appreciated rather than feared. It has been estimated that bats consume 1.2 billion pounds of insects each night worldwide, making them an irreplaceable link in our global

ecosystem.

At **Kickapoo Cavern State Park** near Brackettville and **Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area** near Fredericksburg you can see a million bats on the wing, and hear from expert guides who will explain why this important wildlife resource is facing an uncertain future.

Each site hosts about a million Mexican free-tailed bats during summer and fall, but the two bat colonies differ greatly in terms of history.

Green Cave at Kickapoo Cavern is a 2,000-foot-long natural cave that has an eight-foot-wide opening on a rocky hillside. On the other hand, Old Tunnel is man-made bat habitat, although its creators certainly didn't have bats in mind. A railroad tunnel on a line connecting Fredericksburg to San Antonio was completed in 1913. The rail line was closed just before World War II, and bats apparently colonized the abandoned tunnel shortly afterward.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department wildlife biologist

Roy Welch, your tour guide at Old Tunnel, said most people still are afraid of bats, but he hopes educational efforts such as the Conservation Passport tours will help. "These bats are gentle and harmless, nothing like the vampire image portrayed on the old-time movie screen," Welch said. "Besides, you can imagine what kind of problems we would have without bats to control insects."

David Stuart, park superintendent at Kickapoo Cavern, said the bat colony at Green Cave faces the same problems that threaten others in the nation. "Pesticides and destruction of habitat in Mexico are a tremendous concern, and the main reason bat populations have declined in the past few decades," said Stuart.

For more information on the status of bats in Texas and elsewhere, check the June issue of *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine. A profile on acclaimed bat authority Dr. Merlin Tuttle, executive director of Austin-based Bat Conservation International, and a story on Kickapoo Cavern State Natural Area and Old Tunnel WMA are featured.



Year-'round Activities

Big Bend Ranch SNA, bus tour with a chuck wagon lunch at the ranch headquarters, Texas Parks and Wildlife guide David Alloway. On the first and third Saturday of every month. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For the first Saturday of the month, call Fort Leaton State Historical Park (Presidio) 915/229-3613; for the third Saturday of the month, call Barton Warnock Environmental Education Center (Lajitas) 915/424-3327

Chihuahuan Desert Visitor's Center, tour of the visitor center sponsored by the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute (CDRI), guide CDRI

executive director Denny Miller, first and third Sunday May through September, 9-11 a.m., pre-registration available but not required, 915/426-3337 (Davis Mountains SP)

Fort Boggy SP, guided tour of the ecosystem at Fort Boggy SP site (undeveloped), guide park superintendent Dennis Walsh, last Saturday every month, 10 a.m.-noon, 903/389-4514 (Fairfield Lake State Park)

Honey Creek SNA, tour of the Lower Edwards Plateau ecosystem, approximately a two-hour tour covering 3

miles, every Saturday at 9 a.m., no reservations required, 512/438-2656 (Guadalupe River SP)

Pedernales SP, tour of Twin Falls nature trail, guide park superintendent Bill McDaniel, every Saturday 9:30-10:30 a.m., no reservations required, 512/868-7304

Possum Kingdom SP, wildlife photo contest, monthly and annual winner selected, winners announced the first of the month, conducted by park superintendent Charlie Gray, no reservations required, 817/549-1803

The Passport

The Passport is published quarterly for Texas Conservation Passport holders by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. To purchase or renew a Texas Conservation Passport, call 1-800-792-1112.

For address changes, please send your mailing label and your new address to:

Texas Conservation Passport
c/o Conservation Communications
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744

© 1992 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Austin, Texas
PERMIT No. 2270

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744
Forwarding and Address
Corrections Requested

The Passport

Dispersal of this publication conforms with Texas State Documents Depository Law, and it is available at Texas State Publications Clearinghouse and/or Texas Depository Libraries. PWD-BR-C2000-144-5/92

Year-'round Photo Contest

Contest

Possum Kingdom SP. Wildlife Photo Contest.

Monthly winners announced on the first of each month. Contest conducted by park superintendent Charlie Gray. No entry form required. For more information, call 817/549-1803.



■ *Green jays are just one of a host of native wildlife species you may see on a Conservation Passport tour at the Rio Grande Valley Units of the Las Palomas WMA.*