

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Wildlife Society

1305 E. Blue Bell Rd., Brenham, Texas 77833

Telephone 979-277-6212 Fax 979-277-6223 www.wcwildlife.org

WCWS Annual Meeting

January 27, 2012

Washington County Fairgrounds - Events Center

Social will begin at 6:00 p.m., followed by a Business Meeting and Stew Dinner at 7:00 p.m. *** *Free Will Donation Dinner* ***

The Program will begin at 8:00 p.m

Don Steinbach will discuss Pond Management

Ponds dot the landscape over much of Washington County, and are one of the more valuable land resources that provide excellent recreational fishing, livestock water, conservation of our water and soil resources, and increased economic value to the land.

The value of our ponds were particularly evident this year, with one of the worst droughts in Texas history. As our ponds are at lower water levels or dry there are some management considerations that we should take into account. How should you clean out sedimentation to improve the use of your pond? What type of stocking considerations should be considered as the ponds refill?

Don Steinbach, Professor Emeritus, retired from the Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences Department at Texas A & M University. His role as the Associate Department Head for Extension included statewide responsibilities for wildlife and fisheries educational programs in Texas. Presently he operates a 100-acre family farm in Washington County, near Brenham Texas. He serves on the Texas Wildlife Association Board of Directors, is Past President of the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society, and is Past President to the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.



*Invite your neighbors
that might like to join the
Washington County
Wildlife Society*

*Bring your favorite
dessert to share*

*This would be a great opportunity
to **RENEW** your Wildlife Society
membership for 2012!*

*Or renew online at
www.wcwildlife.org*

WCWS Contact Info:**OFFICERS for 2011:**

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Operation Game Thief, (800) 792-4263

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

The 2011 heat and drought were a trial, but I hope you didn't suffer directly from the wildfires. As Dave Redden wrote in our Fall newsletter, under certain circumstances it is possible to improve wildlife habitat and simultaneously diminish wildfire threat with intentional 'prescribed fires'. There is a follow-up article in this issue with information about the new Texas Alliance of Prescribed Burn Associations. We are very fortunate to have members of Washington County Wildlife Society who are statewide leaders in this extremely important effort.



WCWS membership dues are now \$20 annually and are due in January. Your Board of Directors strive to minimize Society expenses so we can offer maximum educational opportunities for Society members and local youth. Dues can be paid each year by:

- Paying at the January 27 meeting
- Mailing payment to - or paying in person at - the Society at 1305 E. Blue Bell Road, Suite 104, Brenham, Texas 77833
- Paying on-line at www.wcwildlife.org.

Please contact Secretary Gael Burke if you have questions about dues payment.

We are a volunteer organization and can always use your help. Please contact me or anyone else listed in the in the *Contact Info* at left if you want to help. We will be happy to discuss various opportunities with you. You can also visit us at the Volunteer Opportunities table at the January Annual Meeting.

I hope you and yours are blessed and well.

Brian Burke, gaelbrian@hotmail.com

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY 2012**Trash Bag Challenge!**

Make PARTICIPATION your New Year's resolution!



FM 1948 on Jan 28, 2012

(Richard Thames, Coordinator)

FM 1155 on Feb 4, 2012

(Brian Burke, Coordinator)



ADDRESS CHANGES: For address changes, or to be added or removed from our mailing list, please contact Gael Burke, (979) 836-5258, gullywiatt@gmail.com.

Physically Challenged Hunters Enjoy a Day of Hunting

By Robert Lehmann, Society Vice President and Director of Greenvine WMA

Thanks to the Washington County Wildlife Society and the Burleson County Wildlife Association for reinstating the nearly lost 25 year annual Challenged Deer hunt. Due to budget and manpower cuts the Lake Somerville Corp of Engineers personnel did not conduct the hunt last year and was not going to have the hunt this year until the Washington County Wildlife Society and the Burleson County Wildlife Association and other volunteers teamed up to make it happen.

Because of the WCWS and BCWA support approximately 20 wheelchair confined hunters took to the field on Saturday Dec 3rd to participate in harvesting deer on COE



lands around Lake Somerville. Prior to the hunt WCWS members setup portable blinds and then on hunt day assisted the hunters with getting in and out of the blinds and transporting and cleaning their deer. A big thank you goes out to John Anderson, Doodle Johnston, Brian Burke and Robert Lehmann for participating and assisting with the hunt and hunters. A very special THANKS goes out to Allen Wickel who most expertly cleaned, skinned and quartered the deer for the hunters. Without the help and support of the WCWS and BCWA and other volunteers this event would not have taken place. If you are interested in helping please let one of the above mentioned members know.

The Texas Alliance of Prescribed Burn Associations

By Brian Burke, Society President and Greenvine member

More than 30,000 wildfires burned approximately 4 million acres and 4,000 buildings in Texas during 2011. There is a land management technique we can use to reduce future uncontrolled fires, which also yields immediate positive benefits for wildlife. It is called 'prescribed burning.'

As with efforts to conserve our precious water resources, key leaders helping the rest of Texas learn the skills to use prescribed burns are Washington County residents.

Wildfires have always been here, and pre-Columbian hunters set fires to promote new grass growth that would attract buffalo. By necessity, the use of uncontrolled fire as a tool changed with the face of the land. Relatively recently, land managers sought the benefits of controlled burning to:

-  Reduce excess fuel loads that could feed catastrophic fires,
-  Improve wildlife habitat, and
-  Enhance some aspects of pasture and forest productivity.

Use of prescribed burns gradually increased since the 1970s. Local groups formed to practice the technique. Real progress has been made since 2010 to affiliate the local groups within a state wide organization. On December 2, 2011 the Texas Alliance of Prescribed Burn Associations became active. I am very pleased that the first President is Larry Joe Doherty and the first Secretary is Dave Redden.

President Doherty is quoted here: "The formation of the Texas Alliance of Prescribed Burn Associations represents the making of Texas history in its finest traditions. We are a unique group of individuals banding together to better serve the land. Prescribed burning techniques safely applied can reduce the dangers in fuel buildups that lead to the terror of wildfires and its destructive forces, and at the same time discharges our duties as good land stewards."

This is a brief summary of a very important and interesting subject. I urge you read more at the TAPBA website: <http://pfire.tamu.edu>.

Please contact the TAPBA, or WCWS members using prescribed burns, if you want to investigate applying this tool at your property.

Washington County Co-op 2011 Deer Report

By Stephanie Damron, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

A big thanks goes out to all of the individuals who spent time recording their incidental sightings for deer in Washington County. The 2011 data set shows that co-op members identified and recorded a total of 5,809 deer resulting in 1,110 bucks, 3,199 does, and 1,500 fawns. This calculates to an amazing 1 buck per 2.9 does and a county average of 47% fawn survival rate. The 47% fawn survival rate is down 11% from last year's high of 58% fawn survival rate. The lower fawn crop was expected due to the drought conditions we have been experiencing. CHART 1 illustrates that the fawn survival rate continues to stay on an upward trend. Sun Oil WMA reported the highest rate within the county with 99% of their fawns surviving this year. SEE CHART 2

The results of this survey demonstrate that the efforts of co-op members and others are having a positive impact on the deer herd. There is a direct correlation between high fawn survival rates and the deer population increasing within the county. Without replacement fawns a deer population will not increase. It is very important to provide adequate fawning cover and proper nutrition during the fawning period to keep the fawn survival rates up.

I want to say a special thanks to the members who sent in daytime sightings, this valuable data can reflect the overall health of the herd and assist in making recommendations to benefit the deer population within the county.

Keep up the good work and feel free to call if you have any questions.

CHART 1 Washington County Percent Fawns All WMA's Combined 1997-2011

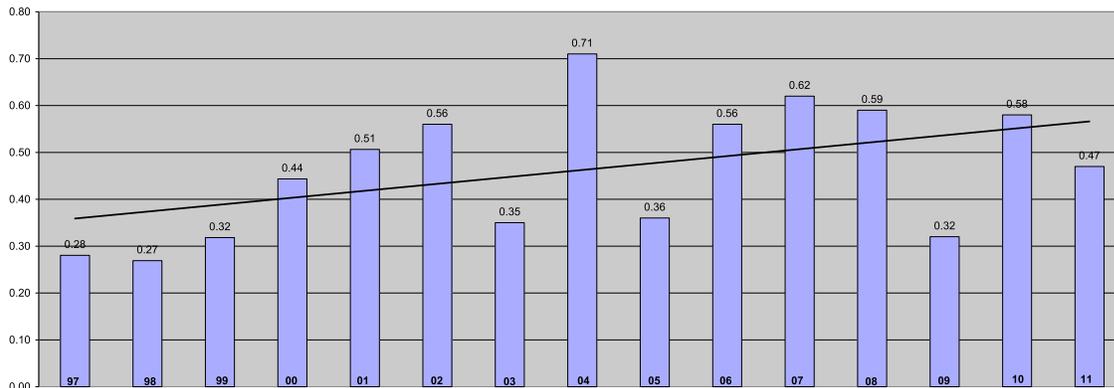
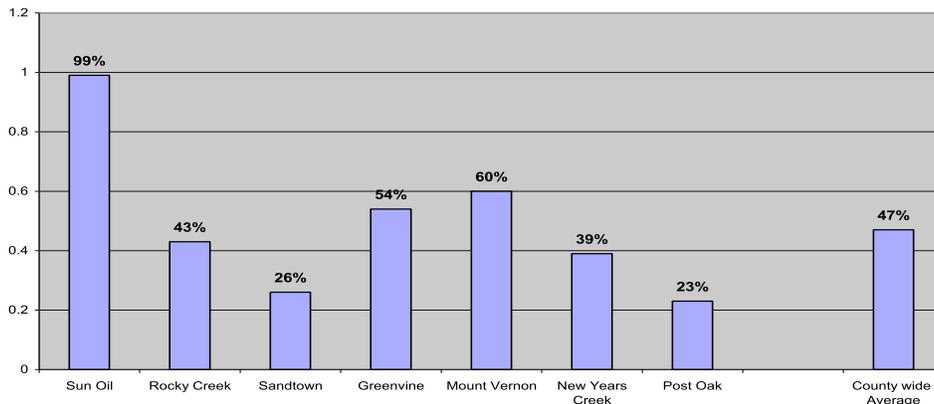


CHART 2 WMA's 2011 PERCENT FAWN SURVIVAL RATE



Let's Take Care with Unusual Wildlife

By Brian Burke, Society President and Greenvine member

The current drought and recent wildfires forced lots of critters to move beyond their normal habitats and comfort zones. They're trying to survive this extra stress period until a better future time.

I have heard about Washington County residents spotting wildlife species on their land which are usually not found in our area. It's an exciting experience.

Now for my plea, and it's meant as encouragement, not a lecture.

If you spot wildlife that you haven't seen before, please try to:

- * Avoid disturbing it.
- * Observe it and learn from it. This opportunity is likely the best wildlife classroom we could ever find.
- * Take a picture of it, and please send it to our Society website.
- * Resist the temptation to feed or 'adopt' it. Even if it appears to need physical help, go to the next suggestion.
- * Emergency nor not, report it to Stephanie Damron. Her contact information is at the left column on page 2.
- * Treasure it. You've been very fortunate and can be pleased. I'm certainly pleased for you.

Such experiences could be the result of unfortunate circumstances for our exotic visitors, but they're a chance to show our appreciation for the encounter.

Besides, I want them to return safely to their optimal habitat and brag about what a nice visit they had to Washington County.

Habitat Management Recommendations

Riparian Management and Enhancement

Annually and seasonally protect the vegetation and soils in riparian areas (low areas on either side of stream courses) from mismanagement, such as caused by excessive, long-term livestock trampling or caused by poor timber harvest practices. Riparian management and enhancement can include providing livestock with alternate watering sites, deferring livestock grazing in pastures with riparian areas during critical periods of the year, total exclusion of livestock from pastures with riparian areas, and fencing riparian areas to exclude or provide short duration grazing by livestock. Establish trees, shrubs, or herbaceous vegetation along streams or water courses to provide food, cover, and travel corridors, and to reduce erosion. Corridors should be at least 100 yards wide.



Of all the Gall!

The mysterious origin of strange growths on the stems, leaves, flowers and roots of plants have intrigued naturalists for centuries. Called galls or hypertrophies, these tumorous outgrowths develop from rapid cellular division and growth of plant tissues and come in an astounding array of colors, shapes and sizes. Galls may be smooth, spiny or fuzzy, and resemble everything from marbles and ping-pong balls to dunce caps, saucers and sea urchins. Many galls provide the food and brooding structure for various species of harmless insects. Several species of wasps parasitize gall-forming insects and reduce the number of galls formed. These wasps are natural enemies of gall-making insects and function as their biological control agents. To protect these beneficial wasps, avoid using broad-spectrum insecticides during the time they are searching for hosts from late spring through early summer.



Gall wasps in the genus *Neuroterus* have some of the most unusual galls. *Neuroterus irregularis* causes an irregular gall on the leaves of post oak. *Neuroterus saltarius* forms tiny galls on the leaves of post oak that are dehiscent, that is, they drop off of the leaf. A sunken scar marks the spot of the gall. If enough galls form on a leaf, the leaf may die back. Many of us have noticed recently that so many *Neuroterus* galls have dropped out of the trees that the ground appears to be covered with sawdust!

RISING FROM THE ASHES: Bastrop State Park

By David Mahler, Ecologist, Environmental Survey Consulting, <http://www.envirosurvey.com>

Looking at photos depicting vast areas of the Bastrop pines charred to the ground and covered in a white ash evoked sadness, as well as green scented images from long hikes through the pines over my last 40+ years in central Texas. Are the pines gone? Is Bastrop State Park changed forever? From an ecologist's perspective the answer is inevitably more complex. A look to the future gives more hope.

Bastrop State Park as a biological resource has always been much more than just the beautiful pines. It is also a very large area populated with hundreds of other plant species associated with the pine forest/savanna. It has been protected from most development and has a relatively low percentage of invasive exotic species that plague so much of the surrounding farm and grazing land. In the sunny openings between the trees, these assemblages of grasses and forbs have formed little pocket prairies, historically dominant in parts of Central Texas but now mostly gone, replaced by agricultural and "garden center" plants. Along the parks' power line easements, trees have been routinely removed and cut with machines, effectively replacing fire, but without leaving the nutritious ash. Still, this has created a beautiful native prairie, flourishing with many wildflowers such as several *Liatris* species, rattlesnake master, false aloe, and many more. A diverse collection of native grasses such as little bluestem, indian grass, dropseeds, etc. also flourish.

A viable seed bank of these sun loving native species remains in the soil where, until recently, there were mostly pines, oaks and an understory dominated by yaupon. There is little seed of exotic species in the former deep woods to compete with and slow the development of the natural prairie that is dormant now, but waiting its turn after fire, ash, and eventual rain. And, yes, when the rains come there will also be little pine seedlings poking through the ash, ready to give the pine forest stage of succession another chance in its turn. The oaks, even though killed above ground, will resprout from their extensive live root systems, creating oak groves and shading out the pine seedlings and prairie species in some places.



The small areas of large pines which have survived this fire will be set within large swaths of prairie, becoming iconic cathedrals reminding us of what was and what will be again. We will learn to treasure them even more as we learn to appreciate the beautiful open fields of flowers and grasses in what will potentially become the largest natural prairie habitat in Central Texas.

This magnificent prairie will be a treasure in its own right. It will be a tremendous resource for researchers to learn details about the nature of plant succession in this habitat. As the pines slowly return, perhaps dominate, and then slowly get pushed aside by the hardwoods, researchers will be able to see the ecological effects from how future fires are managed. This area also has the potential to be utilized as a resource for seed of prairie which are uncommon or reduced in this state. This could be a tremendous asset for habitat restoration of prairies and savannas in similar soils in Central Texas. It will be very important to resist any misguided calls to reseed this area with species that are not native to this habitat, or worse, with invasive exotics. It is important to support and fund the people who will have lots of good restoration work to do in the months and years to come.

Worldwide, pine habitats are fire dynamic communities, that is, they are shaped and somewhat dependent on natural fires, resetting the biological clocks affecting plant succession (the slow change of a plant community over time). A pine forest is often an early post-fire stage which sprouts in the sunlit ground created by fire, and which in turn is eventually shaded out by hardwoods that regenerate under the shade of a pine forest.

In some instances pine communities historically tend to form a savanna habitat, a "neighborhood park" like scene of scattered trees with sunny openings, and with a grassland understory encouraged by the sunlight. A savanna occurs when there are frequent enough fires to reduce the low woody growth sufficiently so that when a fire burns through there is less tall fuel in the understory and the fire is less likely to "crown" into the taller trees and kill them. The U.S. has a long history of fire suppression (Remember Smokey the Bear?) which has resulted in many wooded habitats. These habitats had previously been maintained in more open conditions by more frequent fires. They've since become much more susceptible to "catastrophic fires" which are much more drastic in their effect on a habitat than regular, frequent fires.

Continued on next page

Rising from the Ashes *Continued from previous page*

Over recent decades the attempt at total suppression of natural fires became understood by most natural area managers as a mistake which was having severe consequences for fire dependent species and habitats, as well as for public safety. A shift is now being made to allow more frequent fires, or intentionally initiating controlled burns to gradually recover the lost habitat and reduce the high fuel loads. Interestingly, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has recently been using controlled winter burns in some larger areas of Bastrop State Park to reduce the huge fuel loads in part of the park and these areas were starting to regain a more neighborhood park-like openness. It will be interesting to see how these areas fared in this huge fire compared to the untreated areas, although the

many fire variables such as wind speeds, time of day/night when the fire went through, etc, will make interpretation difficult.

Two years ago I drove and hiked through the areas "devastated" by the large-scale conflagrations which scorched about a third of Yellowstone National Park in 1988, and I can assure you that the land is doing quite well. There is a wonderful mix of habitats with plant communities in all stages of succession. And yes, the lodgepole pines are back in the burned areas, sprouting from the seeds of the serotinous cones, released after the intense heat cracked the resin sealing the cones.

Now we will get to watch the plant communities in Bastrop rise through the ashes.

Brush Piles for Wildlife

Many wildlife species, including birds and small mammals, require adequate resting and escape cover for survival. If living brush or natural cover is not readily available, artificial brush piles can be created serve this purpose. Artificially created brush piles can be especially beneficial in areas where natural cover is limited such as in agricultural areas, prairies, and open rangelands. The benefits of brush piles for wildlife include concealment from predators, protection from the elements, and as a place where seeds may germinate and lead to plant growth and establishment.

It is best to construct brush piles during the winter, or outside of the growing season. Creating brush piles goes hand in hand with clearing or thinning brush. Good brush piles need sturdy bases in order to hold up over time. Stones, old fence posts, oak wood, and other rot-resistant trees make durable bases. Tree limbs, small trees and shrubs of almost any species can be used as filler material. This is a great way to recycle your old Christmas trees, although be sure to remove tinsel and other decorations first. Caution is advised in selecting your filler tree species. Do not use noxious or invasive trees such as Chinese tallow or chinaberry which can drop seeds at the site and exacerbate the spread of such undesirable species. Yaupon, mesquite, and eastern red cedar are often targeted for brush control and are great materials for constructing brush piles in this area. Brush pile designs vary.

The teepee shape is a common design, with the largest materials forming the base, topped with layers of smaller limbs and branches. The base materials should include limbs that are approximately 6-inches or greater in diameter to create entrance holes at ground level for quick escape, while providing adequate support to prevent the stack from settling and rotting too quickly. Another common design involves constructing A-frames from



scrap lumber or other sturdy materials to serve as a support for stacking brush materials. Lumber can be wired and nailed together (6 to 8-ft wide by 8-20-ft high) to create the A-frame, and then cross braces can be added at various heights along the frame. Brush is then piled against the frame on both sides and in layers within the frame, providing nesting and roosting sites at both ground level and at various heights above ground. This layering effect adds to the diversity of use of the pile, allowing it to serve a greater variety of species. Brush piles can also be created along fencerows, which can serve as the base for stacking brush. Brush piles should not be created by bulldozer since soil often makes up the majority of the base, eliminating essential escape entrances at ground level.

The ideal locations for creating brush piles are in areas that are lacking suitable close-to-the-ground cover, such as open fields, fence corners, clearings, or forest with limited shrubs or bunch grasses. Brush piles can help encourage use of food plots planted for birds or small mammals by providing quick access to escape cover while feeding. The optimum distance between brush piles is 200-300 feet, but can vary according to target species and surrounding habitat.

The durability of materials used, quality of construction, and rate of decomposition will determine the functional life of a brush pile. Most brush piles last 3-5 years, but some can last for more than 10 years. Brush piles do require periodic inspection and will need to be refurbished over time with new limbs and branches as the older materials rot and settle. Annual inspection is recommended, and spring and summer are ideal times to add new material to pre-existing piles. Once a brush pile has lost its functional value, it should be removed by burning and should then be replaced with a new brush pile.

WMA NEWS

ROCKY CREEK: A Fall meeting was held on November 1st at the Rocky Creek VFD building on Longpoint Road . There were 25 attending. Food and drinks were provided by the WMA and desserts were provided by the attendants. Results of elections: John Anderson will be the Director and Mary Mann the Vice Director for the year 2012.

There was a short presentation by Stephanie Damron on the County's "HOG OUT" program and a presentation by Don Steinbach regarding the Lake Somerville Development Partnership outdoor classroom it proposes to provide the schools of the several counties adjoining the lake. The main program was a presentation by Dave Redden regarding PRESCRIBED BURNING explaining all the benefits and requirements of same.

GREENVINE: The Fall meeting was held November 11, 2011, at the Green Door Store in Greenvine. There were 53 people in attendance, and all enjoyed a sausage dinner featuring Burton sausage. Our new Washington County Game Warden, Eddie Hines, was on hand to answer questions about wildlife regulations. New officers for 2012 were elected: Gene Bishop will be Director, and Brent Michalak will be Vice-Director.

POST OAK & NEW YEARS CREEK: Post Oak and New Years Creek WMAs held a joint Fall Meeting on Dec 10th at Frieden's Church in Washington. Eighteen members of Post Oak attended, and confirmed Devin Holum as the new Director. A Vice-Director is sought to help Devin. Three members of New Years Creek attended, and 2012 Directors are needed for NYC.

Mr. Steve Stribling of Hog Busters (hogbusters@gmail.com) spoke about controlling wild hogs. He has much experience capturing hogs, and his presentation was very informative.

SANDTOWN & MT. VERNON: 29 members of our two most Western WMA's joined together on November 16th for an informative discussion on land and management practices in our county presented by Blake Eikenhorst, owner of Frontier Land and Wildlife Management (<http://frontierlandwildlife.com/>). A short business meeting followed. Doodle Johnston will be the new Director and Richard Thames will be Vice-Director for Sandtown. Rob Johnson will be the Director at Mt. Vernon and would appreciate a member to volunteer to as Vice-Director.

Guidance for Supplemental Shelter

Species:	Supplemental shelter type	Min. no. of structures per area of habitat
<i>E. bluebird, Tufted titmouse, Bewick's wren, Carolina chickadee</i>	Nest boxes	One nest box per 3 acres of suitable habitat. Minimum number of boxes required: 6. Maximum number of boxes required: 40
	Snag development	Create or maintain one snag per 3 acres.
Screech owl	Nest boxes	One nest box per 10 acres of suitable habitat.
	Snag development	Create or maintain one snag per 10 acres.
Wood duck	Nest boxes	One nest box per 8 acres of suitable lake, pond, riverine or stream habitat.
Bat spp.	Bat house	Houses should be erected in groups of 3 or more per 100 acres.
Bobwhite quail	Half-cutting mesquite	One per acre, in areas where suitable woody plant cover is lacking.
	Brush piles	One per acre, in areas where suitable woody plant cover is lacking.
	Shrub planting	One group of shrubs per acre, in areas where suitable woody plant cover is lacking.
Other	Slash retention	One per acre in areas where woody plant reproduction is inadequate.

The 15th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count

During February 17 – 20, 2012 take part in a family-friendly, educational activity that is lots of fun, costs nothing, and helps your local birds! Each year, tens of thousands of people throughout the U.S. and Canada take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). Participants count in their backyards, out their office windows, at local parks and nature centers, and absolutely anywhere else! You can spend as little as 15 minutes counting birds, or even make a whole weekend of it.

People of all ages and all levels of bird-watching experience are welcome. The GBBC is a great way to learn more about the birds in your community and connect with nature, and is perfect for fledgling birders. You can count by yourself, with your family, community group, school, or friends! It's an ideal way for more experienced birders to introduce children, grandchildren, and others to the wonderful world of birds.

For more information, including bird-ID tips, instructions and past results, visit www.birdcount.org.

Keep Those Hummingbird Feeders Active

TPWD News Digest for Dec. 16-22, 2011

"When am I supposed to take my hummingbird feeder down? I still have a hummingbird visiting, and I don't want her to freeze!" As the days grow shorter and the temperatures drop, this question becomes increasingly common for the folks who work at Texas Parks and Wildlife.

"The answer is, don't take your feeders down," says Mark Klym, TPWD coordinator of the Texas Hummingbird Roundup.

Years ago, the answer would have been different. "At one time, we would tell people to take their feeders down about early November, out of fear these birds would not migrate," Klym said. "Through programs like the Texas Hummingbird Roundup, banding studies and the simple availability of information to be shared easily across the nation; we are learning that these birds are not as fragile as we thought."

In Texas, hummingbirds of various species have been seen in the winter months as far north as Amarillo. In other states, winter visits have been reported as far north as the Canadian border.

"It is important though to keep the feeders clean and fresh." Klym cautioned. "During the winter we do not have to change the feeders as often, but it is still important to empty and wash them about once every 6 days. To save on sugar and water expenses, do not fill the feeders as full when there are not as many birds using them."

TPWD encourages Texans to participate in the Texas Hummingbird Roundup – an annual survey that tracks these birds and the resources they use in Texas. To find out more about the roundup visit <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/hummingbirds> or call 512-389-4644.

If you want to see pictures of your wildlife on the pages of our newsletter or on our website, email your photos to photo@wcwildlife.org.



River Otters



8-pt. buck



Fighting bucks

Pictures submitted by Robert Lehmann of wildlife on his property in Greenvine.

Red-Eared Slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*)

Red-eared sliders are Texas's most common aquatic turtles.

These turtles get their name from a broad red stripe behind their eye and their habit of sliding off rocks and logs when startled. Older turtles are often covered with a thick coat of algae. Some red-eared sliders live more than 30 years.

Sliders are cold-blooded and spend hours sunning themselves on rocks and logs. If there are not enough rocks or logs for all of them they will often stack themselves one on top of the other! They bury themselves in loose soil or mud during the winter to escape the cold. When population numbers get high, these turtles move across land to other bodies of water in search of food and space. They eat aquatic plants, small fish, and decaying material.

Female turtles lay their eggs in holes that they dig in the ground and leave. Young turtles are born having to take care of themselves. Baby red-eared sliders were once very popular as children's pets until it was discovered that some of them carried the disease, salmonella. It is now illegal to sell sliders less than 4 inches in diameter. Most wild animals make very poor pets and are best observed in their native habitat.

Red-eared sliders are found in most permanent slow-moving water sources with mud bottoms in the eastern three quarters of the state.



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