

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

October 23, 2009

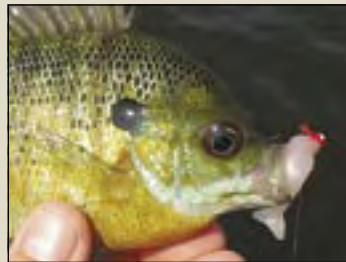
Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper

Volume 6, Issue 5



South Texas giant
A bowhunter found his mark on a trophy, after almost three years. **Page 18**

Inside



■ FISHING Not big enough

Texas might set a lower limit for record fish at half a pound.

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Baby tarpon upriver

More juvenile tarpon are being found upstream from the Gulf in Texas rivers.

Page 8



■ HUNTING Blues up, bobs down

The forecast is strong for blue quail but not so good for bobwhites this season.

Page 6

Dove on the move

Dove season is winding down around Texas, but birds are still flying.

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Reader Survey

Please fill out the reader survey online at LSOnews.com.

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■ LSOnews.com

Cold front helps Pa. angler take TTBC Lefebre wins by 4 ounces at Lake Conroe tournament

By Craig Nyhus
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Other anglers thought Dave Lefebre's spots at the Toyota Texas Bass Classic at Lake Conroe would dry up. Lefebre's team won the program on Thursday. Lefebre, of Union City, Pa., took a big lead after day one, and held onto a more than

5-pound lead going into the final day.

It turned out it wasn't the spot that did it for Lefebre but the pattern.

"I used a Taboo jig that I designed with Kelly Jordan," Lefebre said. "It's smaller at 7/16 ounces, and I worked it way back under the docks and would swim it with a Speed

Craw trailer."

The technique was enough, but just barely enough, to fend off a charge by Andy Montgomery of Blacksburg, S.C. Montgomery, trailing by 6 pounds going into the final day, brought in 15 pounds, 12 ounces to challenge the leader with

See **TTBC**, Page 12



BIG DAY: TTBC winner Dave Lefebre celebrates. Photo by Erik Guggenheim, for LSON.



WHIFFED: Hunters hoping for a buck like this take all kinds of measures to keep him or the does behind him from picking up their scent. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

Scent-free thinkers

Bowhunters tap new resources for concealing odor

By Thomas Phillips
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Self-described "scent-control" freaks often go to extreme lengths to keep their odor out of deer's nostrils when bowhunting. The methods they use would win them a spot in the insane asylum or the inventors hall of fame.

Kevin Smith of Wylie took a cue from do-it-yourself home improvement when seeking to keep a low scent profile. He affixes a thin sheet

of clear exterior window insulation film to each window of his popup blind.

He can see — and shoot — through the film, and it doesn't deflect his arrow.

"You shoot right through, and it's right on," said Smith, a pro staffer for Bass Pro Shops in Garland.

To apply the film, Smith attaches it with duct tape to a small frame that will cover his window. He uses a hair dryer to shrink it to fit. When heat is applied from the hair dryer, the wrinkles fade out and the film becomes "super extremely clear," Smith said, like glass.

Most important, though, the film, combined with the walls of his popup blind, keep his scent inside. His level of scent control allows him more flexibility when finding a spot to set up.

INSIDE

■ **Hungry deer:** A study indicates white-tailed deer will eat meat if the opportunity presents itself.

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"You just don't have to worry about wind," Smith said.

The method has paid off for him. He once used it to shoot a 10-point

buck.

Gauging the success of one of Jason Morris' top scent-control methods is not so clearcut. Several factors play into scent control,

See **SCENT**, Page 30

Perry praises DSC, endorses Prop 11

Ballot measure would limit eminent domain

By Thomas Phillips
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Gov. Rick Perry applauded conservation groups and spoke in favor of Proposition 11 during a speech Oct. 15 at the Dallas Safari Club's monthly meeting in Dallas.

"I'm especially impressed with the strategic approach that the (Dallas) Safari Club is taking to conservation," Perry said. "Through your non-profit arm, you've been introducing thousands of young people to the joys of the outdoors. Frankly, they're having and being exposed to things that they would never experience sitting in front of a TV with a game controller in their hand."



HUNTER IN CHIEF: Gov. Rick Perry speaks Oct. 15 at the Dallas Safari Club. Photo by Thomas Phillips, Lone Star Outdoor News.

Perry, speaking before about 175 club members and their guests, also pressed DSC and other groups to do more. He urged them to view their time outdoors as a privilege to be protected and handed off to future generations.

"You've got to ask yourself, 'What are we doing to ensure our grandchildren experience that unmatched sensation of hooking into a really keeper bull red or watching two bucks clash in the middle of the rut, hearing a tom gobble when you've put your best call on?'"

"The way I see it, folks who love the outdoors, folks like you and I who truly love Texas, have a responsibility. We have a responsibility to leave a legacy in this state."

After praising the club's work on behalf of children through the Dallas Ecological Foundation-Outdoor

See **PERRY**, Page 24



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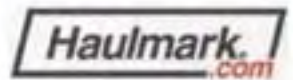
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CONSERVATION

No gigging in November

Flounder gigging illegal for the month

Next month begins a new tactic in conserving flounder numbers in Texas.

For the November flounder run, anglers will be limited to rod and reel for taking the flat fish. Gigging, perhaps the most popular method for taking flounder, will not be allowed, and the bag limit is two fish per day.

"The purpose is to protect greater numbers of migrating flounder as they move to offshore waters during the peak of the spawning run, part of a regulatory strategy to try to increase the abundance of a species in decline," Texas Parks and Wildlife said in a press release.

TPW Coastal Fisheries Division data show that the relative abundance of flounder has fallen by about 50 percent since the early 1980s, so that flounder populations are now about half what they once were. Anglers along the Texas Gulf coast reported a rebound in flounder numbers in 2007 and 2008, also reflected in TPW sampling, but even that short-term increase in relative abundance places numbers near the bottom of the long-term trend.

The timing of the new rule coincides with the peak of the annual fall flounder run, which has been targeted historically by giggers and rod and reel anglers alike as flounder congregate at Gulf passes. Many anglers consider this



GIG-FREE MONTH: Flounder gigging will be off-limits during November, and rod and reel will be the only legal method. Photo by Texas Parks and Wildlife.

run the best time of the year to fill stringers. Unfortunately, flounder have been unable to keep pace with harvest and the new regulations hope to allow more fish, particularly young adults, a chance to spawn.

Coastal Fisheries Division biologists expect that by allowing more fish to spawn that more hatchlings will return to the bays, and flounder will become more abundant for anglers. It is thought that because of the relatively short, six-year life span of flounder, with-

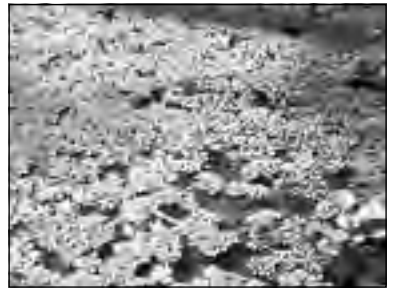
in two years anglers will begin to see a noticeable increase in flounder abundance. Modeling suggests the new regulations will result in an increase of spawning stock biomass of slightly more than 80 percent over six years, with the majority of that recovery taking place in the first several years.

Beginning Dec. 1, gigging will be allowed and bag limits will return to five for recreational fishermen and 30 for commercial fishermen.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report

Sam Rayburn catches case of giant salvinia

Aquatic plant was missed during survey, spotted by duck hunter



A savvy duck hunter pointed state officials to 100 acres of giant salvinia found Oct. 13 in the Angelina River north of Sam Rayburn Reservoir.

Acting with the help of a waterfowl hunter, state personnel investigated and identified the plants in a back-water area called Estes Lake about 10 miles upstream from Marion Ferry and Kingtown, in Nacogdoches County. An annual vegetation survey conducted by airplane last month did not detect the infestation because the survey does not include the Angelina River above Kingtown.

The infestation had apparently been contained by shallow water and dense brush perhaps for a year or more. Low water levels help contain the infestation but recent rains may force the infestation south towards the main portion of the reservoir. Additional surveys are being conducted to define the southern extent of the infestation and determine if the infestation has reached the river channel.

Giant salvinia is highly mobile. The Five Fingers boat ramp on Sam Rayburn recently dodged an introduction of giant salvinia for the second time this year. Thanks to the vigilance of a concerned angler and

SPREADING DISASTER: State officials recently confirmed the presence of giant salvinia, a rapidly growing aquatic plant, on the Angelina River north of Sam Rayburn Reservoir.

his willingness to help, the area around the boat ramp was cleaned of all visible salvinia before it could float away and colonize new areas.

A second infestation of giant salvinia was found on Lake O' the Pines in September. The infestation at the Overlook Park boat ramp reached about 1 acre in size before being detected. The area was quickly contained by oil-spill booms.

Giant salvinia, the most problematic aquatic plant in Texas, has been present in Texas over 10 years. Giant salvinia was first discovered on Toledo Bend in 1998 and before long reached epidemic proportions. A small but persistent infestation remains behind containment booms in Coleman Creek on Sam Rayburn while a highly mobile population seems determined to evade all control efforts on B.A Steinhagen. The fate of Caddo Lake is, at best, uncertain because of the expansion of giant salvinia.

— Texas Parks and Wildlife report

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NATIONAL

Schwarzenegger signs ammo bill

Regulations prohibiting some sales

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger earlier this month signed a bill that requires vendors of handgun ammunition to keep a log of information on sales, store ammunition in a safe and secure manner and require the face-to-face transfer of ammunition sales.

Schwarzenegger cited public safety as his reason for signing the bill.

"My No. 1 priority has always been public safety and protecting the people," he said. "I've signed laws that crack down on sex offenders, drunk drivers, gangs and drugs. And today, we are highlighting another very important bill I signed to help make our communities safer by keeping deadly ammunition out of the hands of criminals, gang members and violent felons."

The state law follows models set in 13 cities across California. Last year in Sacramento, one of the cities with similar ammunition regulations, almost 200 people who were not legally entitled to own firearms or ammunition walked into a store and bought ammunition and were arrested for purchasing ammunition.

The new law will make it unlawful for a vendor to knowingly sell handgun ammunition to anyone prohibited from possessing a firearm and prohibit any person subject to a gang injunction from owning or possessing handgun ammunition.

The signing met with opposition from the National Rifle Association.

"This law presents intrusive and unnecessary burdens that will only affect law-abiding firearm retailers and gun owners — not criminals," said Chris W. Cox, the

NRA's chief lobbyist. "At a time when California is facing dire budget problems, California has squandered valuable resources in policing law-abiding Californians instead of investing in substantive measures that target criminals. More than two decades ago, Congress abolished similar requirements to U.S. federal law because ammunition sales records were found to be ineffective for solving crimes. It is indeed regrettable that foolish minds and bogus arguments prevailed over common sense and empirical evidence."

Schwarzenegger vetoed Senate Bill 585, a bill that would have prohibited the sale of firearms and ammunition on the property or inside the buildings that comprise the Cow Palace in Daly City, just outside of San Francisco. He also signed Senate Bill 175, which will exempt gunsmiths from a vague California law. This exemption will now allow for the exchange of a firearm to or from a gunsmith for service or repair.

"Gov. Schwarzenegger acted in the interest of good public policy with his actions to SB 585 and SB 175. But, in signing AB 962 (the ammunition bill), he has paved the way for one of the most intrusive and ineffective gun control laws that California has seen in recent years," Cox said.

With Schwarzenegger as governor, California has been a home for firearms legislation. The state became the first to ban .50-caliber rifles, instituted the California Firearms License Check program and began the use of microstamping in handguns.

— State of California and NRA reports

National News in Brief

Mont. wolves near Yellowstone off-limits for rest of season

Montana wildlife officials earlier this month closed wolf hunting in a southern Montana wolf management unit.

"We're learning things every day as Montana's first-ever, fair-chase wolf hunt progresses," said Joe Maurier, director of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. "We were always a bit unsure about the level of hunter success we'd see in the remote, early-season backcountry areas. One thing we hope to achieve with closing the backcountry hunt in WMU 3 is to provide some hunting opportunity in other portions of the management unit where we've seen conflicts with livestock. We also need to learn as much about wolf hunting in the valleys as we're learning about hunting in the backcountry."

The backcountry area is in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness north of Yellowstone National Park.

The 2009 wolf quota in the WMU is 12. So far, nine wolves have been harvested during the WMU's early season, which opened Sept. 15.

— Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks report

Ark. commission votes to close 2009 fall turkey hunting

After voicing concerns about declining spring turkey harvests, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission recently voted to close all 2009 fall turkey hunting seasons in the state.

The archery turkey season was scheduled to open Oct. 1, followed by opening of the firearm turkey season Oct. 26. The vote to close the season was 4-3 in favor of closing. Commissioners Emon Mahony, Ron Pierce, Rick Watkins and Commission Vice Chairman Craig Campbell voted in favor of the closure. Commissioners George Dunklin, Ron Duncan and Commission Chairman Brett Morgan voted against the closure.

Campbell said one way to stop the turkey population's continued decline is to close the entire fall season.

"I'm convinced we have a heck of a problem, but I'm convinced we're moving in the right direction," Campbell said. "We're going to mess around and not have a spring turkey season if we don't do something."

Dunklin said that he felt a decision to close the season would polarize the commission and Arkansas' hunters.

"What concerns me is we're dividing our user groups," Dunklin said. "We're saying the hunter is the problem. Hunters are our partners. Without hunters, the resource goes away."

— Arkansas Game and Fish report

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HUNTING

Ammo available, but prices up

Political climate taking much of the credit

By Bill Miller

FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

It's the worst economy in recent memory — recession, struggling stocks, unemployment at nearly 10 percent — yet ammunition sales are booming.

Industry observers report, however, that Texans and other Americans aren't just stocking up for deer season.

Although President Barack

Obama has not unveiled a gun control agenda, a lot of people believe he will.

Still resonating among conservative pundits are Obama's pre-election comments to supporters that small-town Americans "cling to guns or religion ... as a way to explain their frustrations."

Subsequently, fierce ammo sales during the first half of 2009 quickly rid the shelves of most calibers, especially .45 ACP, 9mm and .380

auto. That's good for business, but retailers are concerned.

"We're busy in the fall, which is good for us, given the state of this economy," said Bill Carter of Carter's Country Houston-area gun stores. "But you have to realize, it's for all the wrong reasons."

"It could all be taken away from us in the future."

Gun purchases in early 2009, re-

See AMMO, Page 22



FIRED UP: Ammunition has been flying off the shelves this year, and supply recently began to match demand. Photo by Lone Star Outdoor News.



BIRD NUMBERS: Reports around the state indicate declining quail populations. Photos by Lone Star Outdoor News.

Bobwhites down — again

But numbers of blues up in areas, officials report

By Ralph Winingham

FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Texas quail hunters might have to consider singing the blues, as in scaled quail, if they expect to track down decent numbers of birds when the season opens Oct. 31.

Two years of drought conditions across most of the state have hammered the bobwhite quail population, although welcome rainfall in September and early October have offered some hope of a second hatch this fall.

It is a different story in West Texas. Timely rains have Mike Pittman, manager of the Black Gap and Elephant Mountain wildlife management areas, expecting a good year for blue quail hunters.

"Right now, it looks like we are going to have a pretty good season," he said. "We didn't have as much rain as we would have liked, but we did have some timely rains and good numbers of grasshoppers, so we raised quail throughout the later part of the summer."

About 500 hunters venture into



the vast, rugged areas — Black Gap is 115,000 acres and Elephant Mountain is 23,417 acres — each year to harvest quail. During a good year, about 2,000 birds are brought in by the hunters.

"It will be tough hunting (because of the terrain), and the more

you hunt blue quail, the more they stay away from the roads," Pittman said.

Pittman's comments were echoed by Jason Wagner, a Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist based in Fort Stockton.

"We had a good spring hatch

and are seeing a second hatch," he said. "The blues could be more difficult to hunt this year because there is a lot of cover, and they run a lot more than the bobwhites."

They are seeing many coveys of 15 to 20 birds. The second hatch should see five to 10 chicks per covey.

"Right now, we are expecting a pretty good season," Wagner said.

The bobwhite situation in all but a few isolated areas of the state is far less favorable.

"We thought we might have a better year than last year, because our rainfall was nearly normal," said Larry Jones, a technician at Matador Wildlife Management Area in Cottle County.

"But we haven't seen very many birds on our roadside surveys, and the morning call counts we just started are pretty low. It won't be a banner year for sure," he added.

Last year, about 1,200 to 1,500 birds were harvested at the 28,183-acre wildlife management area, which was well below a typical good year harvest of about 7,000.

Bird counts of few to no birds and poor range conditions because of the lingering drought have been common across the state, TPW officials said.

See QUAIL, Page 29

Study: Deer are meat eaters, too

Game cameras catch whitetails feasting on gut piles, dead animals

By Mark England

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Deer may like meat almost as much as hunters, according to a study done by two deer researchers.

With the aid of volunteers, Bradley Thurston, a retired Indiana physician and independent deer researcher, and Phil Squibb, a Michigan wildlife biologist, produced numerous trail camera photos of deer dining on meat.

The cameras reportedly caught deer eating from deer gut piles, dead rabbits and beavers and a leftover Thanksgiving turkey. Deer visited 63 percent of the baited sites in the three-year study, which was conducted in 19 states. Sometimes deer only looked, but some photos showed them eating the meat.

"We need to consider rethinking the notion that deer are herbivores and instead consider them omnivores that just aren't good at catching game," Thurston told ESPNOutdoors.com.

Texas deer researchers, however, aren't ready to go that far.

"It's absolutely ludicrous to say that," said Alan Cain, a wildlife biologist and South Texas district leader for Texas Parks and Wildlife. "Deer are plant eaters. That's what they're built for. They've got a rumen — which helps them digest plant material. If they were omnivores, they'd

See MEAT EATERS, Page 23



OMNIVORES? Deer, typically browsers of forbs and other plants, were caught frequently visiting gut piles left in the field by hunters, and they sometimes ate deer remains, according to a study. Photo by LSON.

Waterfowl season dates

Ducks

High Plains Mallard Management Unit

- Oct. 24-25; Oct. 30-Jan. 24
- Youth-only season Oct. 17-18

North and South Zones

- Oct. 31-Nov. 29
- Dec. 12-Jan. 24
- Youth-only season Oct. 24-25

Hunters will have a six-duck limit per day in the aggregate, with the following species and sex restrictions: five mallards (of which only two may be hens), three wood ducks, two scaup, two redheads, one pintail, one canvas-back, and one "dusky duck" (mottled duck, Mexican-like duck, black duck and their hybrids).

Mottled ducks may not be harvested before Nov. 5 in the North and South Zones and Nov. 2 in the High Plains Mallard Management Unit.

The bag limit on mergansers is five daily, of which only two may be hooded mergansers, and the daily bag on coots is 15.

Geese

Western Goose Zone

- Nov. 7-Feb. 7
- The daily bag limit is 20 light geese in the aggregate and four Canada geese and one white-fronted goose. Possession limit is twice the daily bag for dark geese and none on light geese.

Eastern Goose Zone

- Oct. 31-Jan. 24 for light and Canada geese
 - Oct. 31-Jan. 10 for white-fronted geese.
- The daily bag limit is 20 light geese in the aggregate and three Canada geese and two white-fronted geese.

Light Goose Conservation Order

- Feb. 8-Mar. 28 in the Western Goose Zone
 - Jan. 25-Mar. 28 in the Eastern Goose Zone
- No bag or possession limits.

Sandhill Crane

- Zone A: Nov. 7-Feb. 7. Daily bag limit: three.
 - Zone B: Nov. 27-Feb. 7. Daily bag: three.
 - Zone C: Dec. 19-Jan. 24. Daily bag: two.
- Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

Hunting News in Brief

Maryland artist wins duck stamp contest

Robert Bealle, an artist from Waldorf, Md., took top honors recently at the 2009 Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest.

Bealle's painting of an American wigeon will be made into the 2010-11 federal duck stamp, which will go on sale in late June. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service produces the stamp, which sells for \$15 and raises about \$25 million each year to fund wetland habitat acquisition for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Of the 224 entries in this year's contest, eight entries made it through to the final round of judging in the two-day art contest, the oldest and most prestigious wildlife art competition in America. Scot Storm of Freeport, Minn., placed second with his acrylic painting of a pair of wood ducks, and Jeffrey Mobley of Tulsa, Okla., took third place with an acrylic



STAMP ART: Robert Bealle painted an American wigeon for his entry into this year's federal duck stamp contest.

painting of a gadwall.

"The magnitude of this moment has not escaped me," said Bealle, who had entered the duck stamp contest numerous times. "I'm so humbled and appreciative of this. I just don't know what to say."

— U.S. Fish and Wildlife report

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FISHING

Open Beaches amendment on ballot



FREE TO ROAM: A measure on the Nov. 3 ballot will let Texas voters decide on a constitutional amendment on beach access in the state. Photo by LSON.

Measure would reinforce right to access

By **Brandon Shuler**
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

A proposition on the Nov. 3 ballot could let Texas voters strengthen their access rights to beaches.

Proposition 9 asks whether voters want to turn the Texas Open Beaches Act into an amendment to the state constitution.

The Texas Open Beaches Act, passed in 1959 and amended in 1991, ensures that all Texans have "the public's right of free and un-

restricted access to 'public' beach." The act's 50-year history has not gone smoothly.

With growing coastal populations and development, natural beach erosion, storm erosion and changes in beachfront vegetation lines, a number of lawsuits have challenged the legality of the act. Most suits concern alleged property-right infringements.

However, Proposition 9 does not address private rights nor does it affect property ownership. It creates a constitutional right that states "the public ... shall have the free and unrestricted right of ingress and egress to and from the state-owned beaches bordering on the

See **BEACHES**, Page 23



INLAND TARPON: Chaney Moore holds the juvenile tarpon he caught from the San Bernard River.

Juvenile tarpon might be native Texans

Angler catches one miles inland upriver; researcher finds them in gill net

By **Scott Sommerlatte**
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Anglers have slowly begun to see more tarpon in Texas waters over the last five to 10 years. This could not be more evident than in the landing of a small, juvenile tarpon nearly 20 miles up the San Bernard River by angler Chaney Moore.

Moore, who lives so far up the San Bernard River that, according to current Texas Parks and Wildlife regulations, it is not even considered salt water, had taken a break from mowing the lawn when he stepped out onto the pier in his backyard to make a few casts. He was using his son's Zebco 33 on an old pole and a small artificial jig when he hooked the fish. At first, he thought nothing of it, thinking that it was just another gar considering that they had already caught several.

"I was tossing a small white shad tail on a small jig head and had no idea that it was a tarpon until it jumped," Moore said. "When I realized what it was, I fought it as carefully as I could and after about a five-minute fight I was able to land it for a quick photo.

"I had heard that people would occasionally catch tarpon up the Brazos River but had never heard of them coming up the Bernard."

Over the years there has been speculation as to what caused the once plentiful tarpon to virtually disappear from Texas waters during the early 1960s. Many attributed it to pollution while others say it is a result of the lack of freshwater inflow caused by the damming of the once numerous free-flowing rivers to the Gulf of Mexico.

No matter what the cause for the tarpon's near disappearance from Texas waters, it is obvious that tarpon are slowly returning. To some biologists, Moore's catch comes as no surprise considering that there has been some evidence tarpon spawn in Texas waters.

See **UPRIVER**, Page 26



TINY TROPHY: Small fish, though they might be the biggest of the species caught in Texas, are minimizing the prestige of state record books, said the man who runs the records program for Texas Parks and Wildlife. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

Not big enough for the books

By **Thomas Phillips**
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Record-setting fish come in all shapes and sizes in Texas. From the biggest: a 1,129-pound tiger shark. To the smallest: an inland silverside weighing one hundredth of a pound and measuring 2 1/4 inches long.

Both are records, but a proposal under consideration at Texas Parks and Wildlife could change the game for small species.

TPW is considering setting a lower limit for adults submitting a fish for consideration as a state

State considering minimum limit for angling records

or water-body record, said Joedy Gray, who oversees TPW's records program.

"It's the little bitty sunfish that are driving me crazy," Gray said.

Gray wants to institute a lower limit for adults submitting fish to be considered records. The fish would have to weigh at least half a pound, regardless of species, for consideration.

The limit would set a bar for

anglers trying to have their names entered in the record books. No longer could they catch an obscure, tiny species to win 15 minutes of fame.

"It's messing with the integrity of the program," Gray said.

The limit would only apply to adults. Children 16 and younger could still submit a small fish.

Another change under consideration would remove the re-

quirement of having a witness for catch-and-release records. The change precipitates from kayak anglers fishing alone and having no witness.

A photo of the fish beside a ruler would be the only documentation necessary, other than the application, Gray said. All other program rules would still apply.

"I'm trying to increase participation, not make it hard," Gray said.

Gray initially considered set-

See **RECORDS**, Page 23

Long fight for new record crevalle jack

Padre angler takes 40 minutes to beach fish

By Thomas Phillips
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Ron Cruse's biggest moment in fishing came, and he had his best friend of 30 years there to share it with him.

Cruse, of Austin, and his friend, Harry Wood of Knoxville, Tenn., were fishing together when Cruse landed the new fly-rod and catch and release state record for crevalle jack.

The fish was 40 inches long and weighed 30 pounds, beating the former fly-rod record by 1.4 pounds. Cruse's fish was the first crevalle jack to be recorded in the catch and release category for state records.

Cruse and Wood were fishing with Austin Fly Fishers for the club's annual trip to Padre Island National Seashore. The two had arrived early to help set up.

To fish, they used the common method of driving along the beach to find fish to cast to, and riding was rough, Cruse said.

"It just beat you to death," he said.

They were blanked their first day of beach riding. The second day, Cruse and Wood took Cruse's two-wheel-drive pickup as far as it could travel, about 20 miles, and fished their way back.

When Cruse caught the record fish, he was casting into a deep cut by the shore. He made two casts into the cut with his eight-weight rod before the crevalle jack took his fly.

"This fish took off and went through the backing like nobody's business," Cruse said.

For 40 minutes, Cruse did not know what he was fighting.

"I had no idea what it was," he said. "It just hit and went."

After he landed it, Cruse still could not identify it.

"I wasn't sure at first it was a jack crevalle," he said. "It looked like a tuna."

When he and Wood returned to camp, other anglers verified that it was a crevalle jack.

The fish took a fly Cruse tied, a modified clouser with large eyes on a No. 2 hook. Hook



BIG JACK: Ron Cruse hoists the crevalle jack he caught on a fly rod at South Padre Island. The fish is the new state record for fly-rod and catch and release.

and fly line were connect by a 12-pound-test leader and 20-pound tippet.

The fish bottomed out Cruse's hand scale at 30 pounds, and it is the biggest fish he has caught. He later had the scale certified so he could qualify for the state records.

"My knots are never very good, and it was a fly that I tied," Cruse said. "And I wasn't sure how it was going to hold up."

The trip was a success in addition to Cruse's crevalle jack, he said. The group of anglers caught trout, redfish, ladyfish and more crevalle jack. Some caught skipjacks, one man caught a

blue fish, and one hooked, but didn't land, a tarpon at the jetty at the Port Mansfield cut.

The mosquitoes were horrible on the trip, but the waves cooperated, Cruse said. On previous trips, Cruse said, anglers struggled to fish the surf because the waves were so strong.

This year, they were weaker, and anglers could wade out farther, he said.

This was Cruse's fourth trip to Padre with Austin Fly Fishers, and he is still enjoying his record catch.

"It's been a big time," he said. "I've been having a good time with it."

Fishing News in Brief

Wong wins tourney; Martin-Wells takes AOY

Pam Martin-Wells and Judy Wong shared a fishing spot for three days at the Academy Sports & Outdoors Bassmaster Women's Tour Championship on Louisiana's Cypress Black Bayou Lake. When it came down to trophies and titles, they split them.

Wong won the tournament. Martin-Wells, however, won the coveted 2009 Toyota Tundra Bassmaster Women's Tour Angler of the Year trophy and the 2010 Bassmaster Classic berth and new pickup that go with it.



Martin-Wells

A four-time Women's Bassmaster Tour winner from Bainbridge, Ga., Martin-Wells is only the second woman in history to qualify for the sport's biggest event. Kim Bain-Moore of Alabaster, Ala., was the first, winning the 2008 Angler of the Year and a berth in the 2009 Classic.

"Words can't describe this," Martin-Wells said. "I can walk through the living room and see a commercial on TV for the Bassmaster Classic — I freeze, watch it and get goose bumps. Now I'm going to get them for real. It's going to be an awesome experience."

After day two of the three-day competition in Louisiana, it was evident Martin-Wells would take AOY honors. But she did not consider it her prize until the title was officially awarded.

"With these ladies, you don't know what can happen; they're all excellent anglers," she said.

With a three-day weight of 36 pounds, 10 ounces, Wong bested Martin-Wells by almost 5 pounds. Finishing in third was a hard-charging Robin Babb of Livingston with 30-15. Juanita Robinson of Highlands was fourth with 23-5.

Robinson made a run at the AOY title, staying close to Martin-Wells since the season opener, at which Martin-Wells took the win and the AOY points lead. Coming into the Louisiana championship, Robinson had a shot at overtaking the points leader, but her fourth-place finish wasn't enough.

— BASS report

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GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

'COYOTE' HUNTERS USED BAD BAIT

Brooks Yeates, the game warden in Midland and Glasscock counties, located two individuals who claimed to be hunting coyotes. When asked if they had had any luck, they said that they had only killed a few birds earlier. When asked about the birds, the two individuals said that after they shot the birds they were thrown into the field to be used as coyote bait. All birds were located and identified as mourning dove. The field was baited. Cases pending.

ALL LOADED UP WITH NOWHERE TO (LEGALLY) SHOOT

Wharton County Game Warden Scott Blackburn was checking teal hunters in the Lissie Prairie area when he heard shots that seemed to come from something other than a shotgun. One county road over, Blackburn, using his binoculars, saw a man standing outside his vehicle on a bridge. The man, who was wearing shorts and a T-shirt, did not seem to be a teal hunter. When the man saw a vehicle coming his way, he left the area. Blackburn pulled the man over and found three loaded pistols (one on his hip), two loaded rifles, a 6-inch folding knife in his pocket, a double-edged machete and more than 1,000 rounds of ammo. After some questions and answers, the man admitted that he had been shooting from the bridge at targets that he had thrown down in the creek and admitted that he knew it was illegal to shoot from a public roadway but had nowhere else to go shoot. Cases pending.

BAITED FIELD IS A BIRD MAGNET

McMullen County Game Warden John Palacios heard numerous shots coming from a high-fenced ranch near Choke Canyon Reservoir. Many doves were in the area, and few were anywhere else. Palacios made his

Hundreds of dove, dozens of citations

While working dove hunters in central Duval County on the morning of Sept. 19, Duval County Game Warden Cullen Stakes and Deputy Game Warden J.D. Beeson heard numerous shots from various locations. After checking three groups of hunters, four citations were issued, two of which were for hunting over bait (corn). Twenty-three dove were confiscated. Stakes, Beeson and Game Warden Ram Coronado then met up for a quick lunch break of sausage, pork chops and fajitas that were cooked on the tailgate of Stakes'

truck with a gas cooker. While lunch was wrapping up, Beeson received a call that a truck was driving down a nearby county road where men were shooting dove off the power lines from the bed of the truck.

Coronado, Beeson and Stakes broke camp and conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle. Coronado issued two citations for hunting from a public road and possession of an open container. That afternoon scattered showers crept into the area. Within an hour, Stakes and Beeson could hear several

shots despite the rain. As they moved into position to check the field of hunters, the sky was filled with dove. After making contact with the hunters, many of whom were hunting in rain jackets and slickers, 462 dove were confiscated and 23 citations were issued for hunting over bait (wheat), and one citation for placing the bait was issued to the owner of the property. At the end of the day, Stakes and Beeson had issued 27 citations and confiscated 485 dove that were illegally killed over baited fields. Cases pending.

victim slowly climbed out of the window of the van and slid down the door into the cold, murky water. The victim stood in the waist-deep water and began to walk towards Satsky. After taking four or five steps, the current swept the victim off of his feet, which allowed him to pendulum on the rope over to the shoreline, where Satsky and Scott assisted him safely out of the water. The victim refused medical treatment and was escorted by Satsky and Scott back to the first high water area that they initially crossed.

TWO POACHERS RUN FROM LIST OF CHARGES

When Waller County Wardens Kevin Glass and Dornell Crist approached a field with five dove hunters, they noticed that after the hunters spotted them, two of them began trying to put a plug in a shotgun. Two others fled. The other three were rounded up and were found not to have plugs in their guns and no hunting licenses. Game Wardens Jason Bussey and Jonny Heaton came to assist in locating the two hunters who fled. They were unable to locate them but found milo and corn that had been placed in the field. The two suspects were later identified. Cases pending.

TRACKS LEAD TO CONFESSION FROM GRANDSON

A landowner reported finding a deer carcass on his property with the antlers removed. Cherokee County Game Warden Brian Bearden collected a .22-caliber shell casing from the scene and noted that four-wheeler tracks led from the carcass to a neighbor's house. The initial interview with neighbor and his grandson resulted in a denial of involvement. Subsequent investigation yielded the collection of a machete used to remove the antlers from the carcass and a full confession from the grandson. Case pending.

way through the brush before coming across a group of dove hunters. Palacios saw that the hunters were hunting in a pasture baited with corn and varied grain. Thirty birds were seized, and several citations were issued for hunting over bait. Cases pending.

DEAD BUCK DISCOVERED; CHARGES FOLLOW

An eight-point buck was found on top of a tank dam after it was dragged against a high fence on the Coke-Runnels county line. Four hours later, a person arrived at the scene and threw over an unidentified object and went to work on the deer's head. The landowner signed an affidavit for Class B criminal trespass for Game Warden Lane Pinkney, and the person was charged with possession of illegally killed deer during closed season.

BIG BEAST IS UNWELCOME IN EL PASO

A northeast El Paso homeowner went out to clean his pool and reported he had an elk in his backyard. El Paso Game Wardens Ray Spears and Mike Legarretta arrived to find a large and unhappy Aoudad ram. With as-

sistance from a Texas Department of Health veterinarian and his tranquilizer gun, the wardens moved the animal without incident.

REVOLVER FALLS, FIRES INTO HUNTER

A hunter in East Texas was fatally shot when a revolver fell from his pocket and discharged. Upshur County Game Warden David Pellizzari investigated the accident north of Gilmer. Three men were loading their gear into a pickup after a morning hog hunt when the revolver fell out of the man's pocket. The victim was airlifted to a hospital in Tyler, where he died during surgery. Pellizzari was assisted in the investigation by Wood County Game Warden Derek Spitzer and the Upshur County Sheriff's Office.

WARDENS RESCUE FLOOD VICTIM FROM VAN

Comal County Wardens Brent Satsky and Jake Scott responded to a 911 call in the area of Farm-to-Market Road 1863 and Dry Comal Creek in Comal County for a white van that was swept off of the roadway by swift water. Satsky and Scott

arrived at the location and were briefed by Comal County sheriff's deputies and witnesses. Satsky and Scott, who are trained and certified swift water rescue technicians, assessed the situation and decided they would have to perform a rescue attempt immediately by themselves to save the victim's life. As they geared up, the wardens told the deputies on scene and the dispatcher that they would attempt to locate the victim on foot. Satsky and Scott began to cross the raging, flooded roadway overrun by Dry Comal Creek, which was about 100 yards wide and 2 feet deep. Once they were across, the wardens ran about half a mile to the next flooded area, where they assumed the victim was located. As they were approaching, Satsky saw what appeared to be a large white object about 200 to 300 yards downstream on the roadway. The wardens entered into an adjacent pasture and discovered that it was their victim. After preparing all of their gear, Satsky threw the throw bag over to the victim, who successfully caught it and then secured it around his waist. At that point, the

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For boosting sales, go pink with a purpose

Survey indicates buyers want a reason to buy pink products other than for color

When it comes to selling outdoors equipment, a new survey indicates buyers said selling something pink, if it is marketed as promoting awareness of breast cancer, would boost sales.

In a recent poll from HunterSurvey and AnglerSurvey, sportsmen and women were asked how color, particularly pink, factors into the market for purchasing angling and hunting supplies such as fishing rods and reels, firearms, binoculars, coolers, and other similar outdoor equipment.

The discrepancy between using pink for the color and pink for breast cancer awareness was significant. Among all hunters and anglers, 72 percent and 74 percent respectively, regardless of gender, believed selling pink equipment to promote breast cancer awareness would promote sales. Eighty-seven percent of female hunters agreed that pink equipment would sell better if intended to promote awareness, along with 88 percent of female anglers.

For hunters and target shooters, taken from nearly 3,700 sportsmen and women, the most popular colors for purchase of supplies were camouflage, with 62 percent of males and 60 percent females preferring this color. Other popular colors included black, green and brown. The lowest preference for both male and females included brighter colors — white, yellow and multicolored. And 15.4 percent women preferred pink, unrelated to breast cancer causes. Overall, 20 percent of men and women did not care about color in purchasing supplies.

Anglers reported similar results, based on responses from 2,523 males and 148 females. Again, the most popular color was black, with 52 percent of males and 38 percent females preferring this color. Sixteen percent of women preferred pink — and the lowest preference was still reflected in orange, yellow, and overall brighter shades. 30 percent overall did not factor color into purchasing.

— HunterSurvey and AnglerSurvey report



CONROE BASS: At left, Dave Lefebre catches a fish during the Toyota Texas Bass Classic. Above, Sean Hoernke of The Woodlands displays the biggest bass caught in the tournament. The fish weighed 9 pounds, 8 ounces. Photos by fishpaa.com.

TTBC

Continued from Page 1

his total of 46 pounds, 8 ounces.

But Lefebre's 10-pound bag, bringing his total to 46 pounds, 12 ounces, was just enough — by 4 ounces — to earn him cash and prizes totaling \$250,000 and the title of Toyota Texas Bass Classic World Champion.

The conditions at the event caught some anglers off guard.

In practice, the 60 Professional Anglers Association anglers from the BASS, FLW and other tours mostly keyed on docks. And for many, practice was bringing big bass after big bass at Lake Conroe.

Mother Nature threw the pros an October curveball in the form of a cold front

and stiff north winds, turning the shallow bass off and making many docks and areas targeted off-limits.

Practice wasn't perfect for some big names and local anglers, as they struggled with the post-front fish. Kevin Van Dam, Kelly Jordon, Greg Hackney, Edwin Evers and Todd Faircloth all fell short of continuing on to Sunday's final.

Flipping docks worked well for many anglers in practice, but the technique fell short in the tournament.

"The big ones just didn't hit," Faircloth said.

Evers blamed himself for missing the cut.

"I was like the Sooners," he said. "I fumbled about three times."

For Lefebre, it was a last-minute fish

that secured the win.

"The wind finally laid down enough to reach some areas where no one had been able to fish for two days," he said. "In the last 15 minutes I caught a 2-pound, 4-ounce bass — not much by Texas standards, but it made the difference."

The event was highlighted by concerts from Josh Turner, Pat Green and Julianne Hough, along with a check for \$250,000 to Texas Parks and Wildlife to support its freshwater fishing programs.

Clark Wendlandt of Leander finished sixth with 41 pounds, 4 ounces, and Sean Hoernke of The Woodlands ended in ninth with 37 pounds, 8 ounces. Hoernke brought in the event's biggest bass, a 9-pound, 8-ounce largemouth caught on Saturday.

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HEROES



JORDAN TREBILCOCK, 15, of Mansfield holds a red snapper caught on the boat *Lookin For Action* on a recent fishing trip out of Port Aransas.



JASON PHILLIPS shot this nine-point buck at 15 yards with his bow near Boerne. Phillips is pictured with his son, **Cody**.



ERIC PAGE holds a bull shark he caught near Port Aransas.



RON KIFFE of Los Fresnos holds a barracuda caught out of Port Isabel using cut bait.

JAMES HESSE, left, and his grandson, **JARED**, caught this 44-inch, 30-pound redfish at Matagorda Beach. They were on a fishing trip to celebrate James Hesse's 51st birthday.



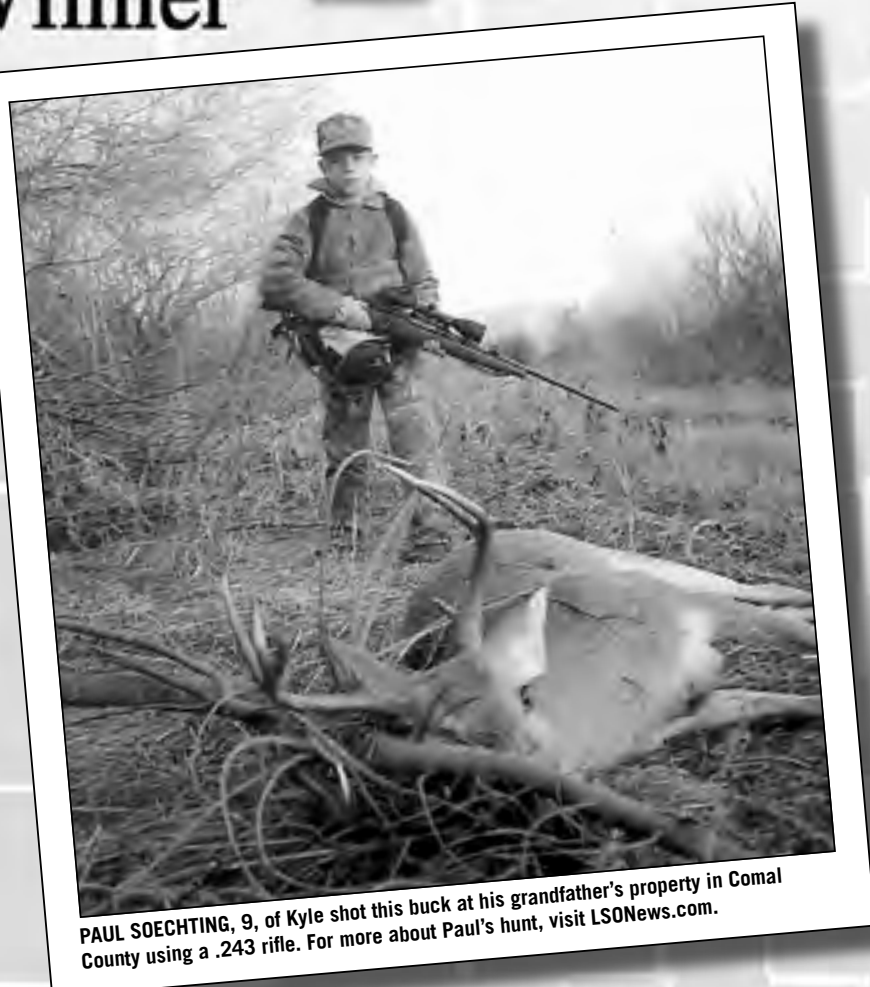
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PAUL SOECHTING, 9, of Kyle shot this buck at his grandfather's property in Comal County using a .243 rifle. For more about Paul's hunt, visit LSONews.com.

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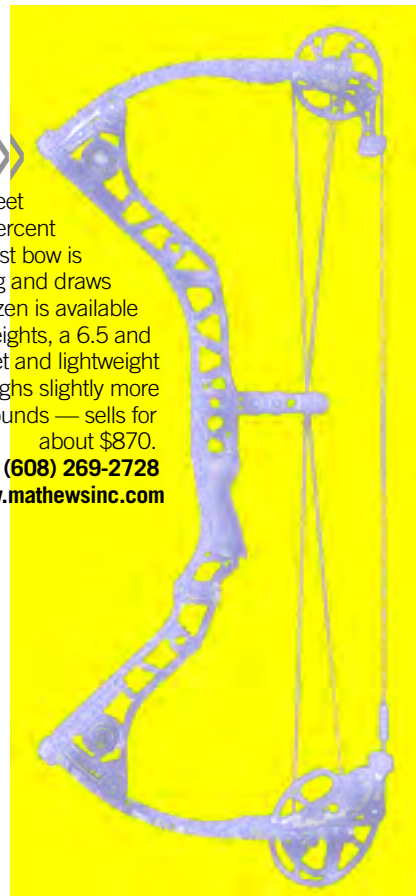
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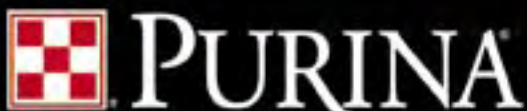


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Bowhunter takes monster deer at low-fence ranch in ST

Deer in first place in South Texas buck contest

By Thomas Phillips
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

James Newport of Pearsall had been watching the white-tailed deer he shot opening day of bow season for more than two years.

Last year, he had a hunter coming to hunt him at the 8,000-acre, low-fence ranch he manages in La Salle County. But the buck had broken his left beam, so he won a reprieve.

This year, Newport had not seen the deer in person but had game-camera photographs of him from about a month before bow season started.

"The first time I saw him was Saturday morning sitting in the tripod," said Newport, who is also a taxidermist.

From the game-camera images, he estimated the deer scored about 180. He would learn otherwise once he harvested it.

It was still dark opening morning when the chance encounter occurred, and Newport did not have a shot. That evening of opening day, Oct. 3, Newport was hunting again.

"With humidity around 300 percent, 2 million mosquitoes and 4,000 biting gnats, he shows at 7 o'clock," Newport said.

Several other deer were within 30 yards, Newport said, and he thought that could be a problem.

"With six does, three fawns and three other young bucks all within 30 yards, I thought there was no way

to get to full draw," Newport said. "I pulled back, and amazingly it was still calm."

He leaned into his shooting lane and released his arrow on a 20-yard shot. The broadhead found its mark, and the deer went down within 60 yards.

"I'm surprised I was able to hold it together," Newport said. "It was close."

The deer scored 199 when entered into the archery division of the Los Cazadores Deer Contest. Another scorer put it at 202 3/8, Newport said.

"I like 202 better than 199," Newport said. "I might be biased myself."

Newport aged his buck at 8 1/2 years old, and as of Oct. 20 it is leading the archery low-fence entries in the Los Cazadores contest, which is overseen by a hunting store of the same name in Pearsall.



TOP BUCK: James Newport of Pearsall shot this buck opening day of bow season on the 8,000-acre ranch he manages in La Salle County.

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Sun | Moon | Tides

Texas Coast Tides

Sabine Pass, jetty

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Oct 23	12:44 p.m.	0.5L				
Oct 24	12:45 a.m.	3.2H	1:42 p.m.	0.7L		
Oct 25	1:10 a.m.	3.0H	2:46 p.m.	0.9L		
Oct 26	12:52 a.m.	3.0H	3:54 p.m.	1.1L		
Oct 27	12:46 a.m.	2.9H	4:58 p.m.	1.3L		
Oct 28	12:47 a.m.	2.9H	7:27 a.m.	2.1L	11:23 a.m.	2.3H
Oct 29	12:52 a.m.	2.7H	7:18 a.m.	1.8L	12:52 p.m.	2.5H
Oct 30	12:57 a.m.	2.7H	7:24 a.m.	1.4L	2:02 p.m.	2.7H
Oct 31	1:02 a.m.	2.7H	7:41 a.m.	0.9L	3:01 p.m.	3.0H
Nov 1	1:05 a.m.	2.7H	7:05 a.m.	0.5L	2:54 p.m.	3.2H
Nov 2	12:04 a.m.	2.7H	7:36 a.m.	0.2L	3:47 p.m.	3.4H
Nov 3	12:04 a.m.	2.9H	8:12 a.m.	-0.2L	4:40 p.m.	3.4H
Nov 4	12:09 a.m.	3.0H	8:54 a.m.	-0.4L	5:39 p.m.	3.4H
Nov 5	12:27 a.m.	3.2H	9:41 a.m.	-0.4L	6:45 p.m.	3.4H
Nov 6	12:55 a.m.	3.2H	10:34 a.m.	-0.4L	8:00 p.m.	3.2H

Galveston Bay entrance, south jetty

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Oct 23	1:10 p.m.	0.4L				
Oct 24	1:32 a.m.	2.6H	2:08 p.m.	0.6L		
Oct 25	1:57 a.m.	2.4H	3:12 p.m.	0.7L		
Oct 26	1:39 a.m.	2.4H	4:20 p.m.	0.9L		
Oct 27	1:33 a.m.	2.3H	5:24 p.m.	1.0L		
Oct 28	1:34 a.m.	2.3H	7:53 a.m.	1.7L	12:10 p.m.	1.9H
Oct 29	1:39 a.m.	2.1H	7:44 a.m.	1.4L	1:39 p.m.	2.0H
Oct 30	1:44 a.m.	2.1H	7:50 a.m.	1.1L	2:49 p.m.	2.1H
Oct 31	1:49 a.m.	2.1H	8:07 a.m.	0.7L	3:48 p.m.	2.4H
Nov 1	1:52 a.m.	2.1H	7:31 a.m.	0.4L	3:41 p.m.	2.6H
Nov 2	12:51 a.m.	2.1H	8:02 a.m.	0.1L	4:34 p.m.	2.7H
Nov 3	12:51 a.m.	2.3H	8:38 a.m.	-0.1L	5:27 p.m.	2.7H
Nov 4	12:56 a.m.	2.4H	9:20 a.m.	-0.3L	6:26 p.m.	2.7H
Nov 5	1:14 a.m.	2.6H	10:07 a.m.	-0.3L	7:32 p.m.	2.7H
Nov 6	1:42 a.m.	2.6H	11:00 a.m.	-0.3L	8:47 p.m.	2.6H

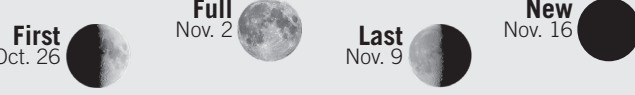
San Luis Pass

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Oct 23	2:06 p.m.	0.3L				
Oct 24	2:02 a.m.	1.5H	3:04 p.m.	0.3L		
Oct 25	2:27 a.m.	1.5H	4:08 p.m.	0.4L		
Oct 26	2:09 a.m.	1.5H	5:16 p.m.	0.5L		
Oct 27	2:03 a.m.	1.4H	6:20 p.m.	0.6L		
Oct 28	2:04 a.m.	1.4H	8:49 a.m.	1.0L	12:40 p.m.	1.1H
Oct 29	2:09 a.m.	1.3H	8:40 a.m.	0.9L	2:09 p.m.	1.2H
Oct 30	2:14 a.m.	1.3H	8:46 a.m.	0.7L	3:19 p.m.	1.3H
Oct 31	2:19 a.m.	1.3H	9:03 a.m.	0.4L	4:18 p.m.	1.5H
Nov 1	1:22 a.m.	1.3H	8:27 a.m.	0.3L	4:11 p.m.	1.5H
Nov 2	1:21 a.m.	1.3H	8:58 a.m.	0.1L	5:04 p.m.	1.6H
Nov 3	1:21 a.m.	1.4H	9:34 a.m.	-0.1L	5:57 p.m.	1.6H
Nov 4	1:26 a.m.	1.5H	10:16 a.m.	-0.2L	6:56 p.m.	1.6H
Nov 5	1:44 a.m.	1.5H	11:03 a.m.	-0.2L	8:02 p.m.	1.6H
Nov 6	2:12 a.m.	1.5H	11:56 a.m.	-0.2L	9:17 p.m.	1.5H

Freeport Harbor

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Oct 23	1:07 p.m.	0.3L				
Oct 24	12:54 a.m.	2.2H	2:05 p.m.	0.4L		
Oct 25	1:19 a.m.	2.1H	3:09 p.m.	0.5L		
Oct 26	1:01 a.m.	2.1H	4:17 p.m.	0.5L		
Oct 27	12:55 a.m.	2.0H	5:21 p.m.	0.6L		
Oct 28	12:56 a.m.	2.0H	7:50 a.m.	1.1L	11:32 a.m.	1.6H
Oct 29	1:01 a.m.	1.8H	7:41 a.m.	0.9L	1:01 p.m.	1.7H
Oct 30	1:06 a.m.	1.8H	7:47 a.m.	0.7L	2:11 p.m.	1.8H
Oct 31	1:11 a.m.	1.8H	8:04 a.m.	0.5L	3:10 p.m.	2.1H
Nov 1	1:14 a.m.	1.8H	7:28 a.m.	0.3L	3:03 p.m.	2.2H
Nov 2	12:13 a.m.	1.8H	7:59 a.m.	0.1L	3:56 p.m.	2.3H
Nov 3	12:13 a.m.	2.0H	8:35 a.m.	-0.1L	4:49 p.m.	2.3H
Nov 4	12:18 a.m.	2.1H	9:17 a.m.	-0.2L	5:48 p.m.	2.3H
Nov 5	12:36 a.m.	2.2H	10:04 a.m.	-0.2L	6:54 p.m.	2.3H
Nov 6	1:04 a.m.	2.2H	10:57 a.m.	-0.2L	8:09 p.m.	2.2H

Moon Phases



Port O'Connor

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Oct 23	3:59 a.m.	1.5H	4:05 p.m.	0.4L		
Oct 24	4:52 a.m.	1.5H	5:07 p.m.	0.5L		
Oct 25	5:37 a.m.	1.4H	6:16 p.m.	0.6L		
Oct 26	6:13 a.m.	1.4H	7:31 p.m.	0.6L		
Oct 27	6:35 a.m.	1.3H	8:47 p.m.	0.7L		
Oct 28	6:32 a.m.	1.2H	10:04 p.m.	0.8L		
Oct 29	5:48 a.m.	1.1H	11:11 a.m.	1.0L	4:50 p.m.	1.1H
Oct 30	4:22 a.m.	1.0H	10:44 a.m.	0.8L	6:46 p.m.	1.1H
Oct 31	10:54 a.m.	0.7L	8:12 p.m.	1.3H		
Nov 1	10:19 a.m.	0.5L	8:33 p.m.	1.4H		
Nov 2	10:51 a.m.	0.4L	10:00 p.m.	1.4H		
Nov 3	11:30 a.m.	0.2L	11:36 p.m.	1.5H		
Nov 4	12:14 p.m.	0.2L				
Nov 5	1:05 a.m.	1.6H	1:03 p.m.	0.1L		
Nov 6	2:19 a.m.	1.6H	1:55 p.m.	0.1L		

Rockport

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Oct 23	6:35 a.m.	0.77H	5:23 p.m.	0.40L		
Oct 24	7:45 a.m.	0.76H	6:19 p.m.	0.42L		
Oct 25	8:50 a.m.	0.74H	7:07 p.m.	0.44L		
Oct 26	9:45 a.m.	0.72H	7:43 p.m.	0.46L		
Oct 27	10:38 a.m.	0.68H	8:07 p.m.	0.48L		
Oct 28	11:46 a.m.	0.64H	8:16 p.m.	0.52L		
Oct 29	3:45 a.m.	0.62H	9:49 a.m.	0.58L	2:09 p.m.	0.59H
Oct 30	3:02 a.m.	0.63H	10:58 a.m.	0.52L		
Oct 31	2:35 a.m.	0.66H	11:39 a.m.	0.46L		
Nov 01	1:16 a.m.	0.68H	11:16 a.m.	0.41L		
Nov 02	1:09 a.m.	0.71H	11:55 a.m.	0.36L		
Nov 03	1:22 a.m.	0.74H	12:39 p.m.	0.33L		
Nov 04	1:58 a.m.	0.75H	1:30 p.m.	0.30L		
Nov 05	2:52 a.m.	0.76H	2:27 p.m.	0.29L		
Nov 06	3:57 a.m.	0.76H	3:26 p.m.	0.28L		

Port Aransas, H. Caldwell Pier

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Oct 23	12:49 p.m.	0.2L				
Oct 24	1:25 a.m.	2.1H	1:47 p.m.	0.3L		
Oct 25	1:50 a.m.	2.0H	2:51 p.m.	0.4L		
Oct 26	1:32 a.m.	2.0H	3:59 p.m.	0.5L		
Oct 27	1:26 a.m.	1.8H	5:03 p.m.	0.5L		
Oct 28	1:27 a.m.	1.8H	7:32 a.m.	0.9L	12:03 p.m.	1.5H
Oct 29	1:32 a.m.	1.7H	7:23 a.m.	0.8L	1:32 p.m.	1.6H
Oct 30	1:37 a.m.	1.7H	7:29 a.m.	0.6L	2:42 p.m.	1.7H
Oct 31	1:42 a.m.	1.7H	7:46 a.m.	0.4L	3:41 p.m.	2.0H
Nov 1	1:45 a.m.	1.7H	7:10 a.m.	0.2L	3:34 p.m.	2.1H
Nov 2	1:44 a.m.	1.7H	7:41 a.m.	0.1L	4:27 p.m.	2.2H
Nov 3	12:44 a.m.	1.8H	8:17 a.m.	-0.1L	5:20 p.m.	2.2H
Nov 4	12:49 a.m.	2.0H	8:59 a.m.	-0.2L	6:19 p.m.	2.2H
Nov 5	1:07 a.m.	2.1H	9:46 a.m.	-0.2L	7:25 p.m.	2.2H
Nov 6	1:35 a.m.	2.1H	10:39 a.m.	-0.2L	8:40 p.m.	2.1H

South Padre Island

Date	Time	Height	Time	Height	Time	Height
Oct 23	12:49 p.m.	0.3L	11:43 p.m.	2.2H		
Oct 24	1:44 p.m.	0.5L				
Oct 25	12:28 a.m.	2.2H	2:41 p.m.	0.7L		
Oct 26	12:52 a.m.	2.1H	3:41 p.m.	1.0L		
Oct 27	12:58 a.m.	2.1H	4:42 p.m.	1.1L		
Oct 28	12:54 a.m.	2.0H	7:32 a.m.	1.6L	11:07 a.m.	1.7H
Oct 29	12:44 a.m.	1.9H	7:13 a.m.	1.4L	1:10 p.m.	1.7H
Oct 30	12:30 a.m.	1.7H	7:21 a.m.	1.1L	2:31 p.m.	1.8H
Oct 31	12:11 a.m.	1.6H	7:40 a.m.	0.8L	3:37 p.m.	1.9H
Nov 1	7:05 a.m.	0.4L	3:37 p.m.	2.0H		
Nov 2	7:37 a.m.	0.1L	4:36 p.m.	2.1H		
Nov 3	8:14 a.m.	-0.1L	5:39 p.m.	2.2H		
Nov 4	8:57 a.m.	-0.3L	6:47 p.m.	2.3H		
Nov 5	9:46 a.m.	-0.3L	7:58 p.m.	2.3H		
Nov 6	10:39 a.m.	-0.3L	9:05 p.m.	2.4H		

Solunar | Sun times | Moon times

Houston

2009	A.M.	P.M.	SUN	MOON
Oct-Nov	Minor Major	Minor Major	Rises Sets	Rises Sets
23 Fri	10:12 3:59	10:38 4:25	7:27 6:43	12:39p 10:56p
24 Sat	11:06 4:54	11:30 5:18	7:27 6:42	1:22p 11:51p
25 Sun	11:56 5:44	-----	6:07 7:28	6:41 2:00p NoMoon
26 Mon Q	12:17 6:30	12:41 6:52	7:29 6:40	2:34p 12:47a
27 Tue	1:01 7:12	1:23 7:33	7:30 6:39	3:05p 1:43a
28 Wed	1:40 7:51	2:01 8:11	7:30 6:38	3:34p 2:37a
29 Thu	2:17 8:27	2:37 8:48	7:31 6:37	4:03p 3:31a
30 Fri	2:53 9:03	3:14 9:25	7:32 6:36	4:32p 4:26a
31 Sat	3:30 9:42	3:53 10:04	7:33 6:35	5:03p 5:23a
01 Sun >	4:12 10:24	4:36 10:48	7:33 6:34	5:38p 6:22a
02 Mon F	3:59 10:12	4:25 10:38	6:34 5:34	5:18p 6:26a
03 Tue F	4:52 11:06	5:20 11:34	6:35 5:33	6:04p 7:32a
04 Wed >	5:52 -----	6:22 12:07	6:36 5:32	6:58p 8:38a
05 Thu >	6:58 12:42	7:28 1:13	6:37 5:31	7:59p 9:41a
06 Fri	8:05 1:50	8:36 2:21	6:37 5:31	9:05p 10:40a
07 Sat	9:12 2:57	9:42 3:27	6:38 5:30	10:13p 11:33a
08 Sun	10:14 4:00	10:43 4:29	6:39 5:29	11:22p 12:19p
09 Mon Q	11:11 4:58	11:38 5:24	6:40 5:29	NoMoon 12:59p
10 Tue	-----	5:49 12:02	6:41 5:28	12:28a 1:34p
11 Wed	12:23 6:35	12:47 6:59	6:42 5:27	1:32a 2:08p
12 Thu	1:05 7:17	1:29 7:40	6:42 5:27	2:34a 2:40p

Dallas

2009	A.M.	P.M.	SUN	MOON
Oct-Nov	Minor Major	Minor Major	Rises Sets	Rises Sets
23 Fri	10:18 4:05	10:43 4:31	7:36 6:45	12:53p 10:53p
24 Sat	11:12 4:59	11:36 5:24	7:36 6:43	1:36p 11:50p
25 Sun	-----	5:50 12:01	6:13 7:37	6:42 2:13p NoMoon
26 Mon Q	12:23 6:36	12:47 6:58	7:38 6:41	2:45p 12:47a
27 Tue	1:07 7:17	1:28 7:39	7:39 6:40	3:14p 1:44a
28 Wed	1:46 7:56	2:06 8:17	7:40 6:39	3:42p 2:40a
29 Thu	2:22 8:33	2:43 8:53	7:41 6:38	4:09p 3:36a
30 Fri	2:58 9:09	3:20 9:30	7:42 6:37	4:36p 4:32a
31 Sat	3:36 9:47	3:58 10:10	7:42 6:36	5:06p 5:31a
01 Sun >	4:17 10:29	4:41 10:53	7:43 6:35	5:39p 6:33a
02 Mon F	4:04 10:17	4:30 10:43	6:44 5:35	5:17p 6:38a
03 Tue F	4:58 11:12	5:26 11:40	6:45	

FISHING REPORT

HOT BITES

LARGEMOUTH BASS



CONROE: Very good on pumpkinseed and tequila sunrise soft plastics, Senkos, crankbaits and Rat-L-Traps.
STILLHOUSE: Very good on chrome and crystal clear Tiny Torpedoes and on cotton candy and watermelon red soft plastic worms.
TRAVIS: Very good on chrome chuggers, watermelon red soft plastic worms and smoke grubs in 5-25 feet.
BELTON: Good on spinnerbaits near the bank and trolling Rat-L-Traps.
BRIDGEPORT: Good on spinnerbaits and buzzbaits early, midday switching to crankbaits and Texas rigs.

WHITE, HYBRID, STRIPER



GRAPEVINE: White bass are good to excellent all over the lake.
RAY ROBERTS: White bass are excellent on jigging spoons in 25-30 feet.
PROCTOR: Striped bass are good on crankbaits and shad.
WHITNEY: Striped bass are good on minnows and green striper jigs.
RAY HUBBARD: Hybrid striper are good on 2-ounce slabs and live shad.

CATFISH



BRAUNIG: Channel catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp, cut bait and cheesebait near the dam and the discharge.
CALAVERAS: Channel and blue catfish are excellent on liver, shrimp, cheesebait and shad near the railroad trestle, 181 Cove and the discharge.
FALCON: Channel and blue catfish are excellent on cut bait and shrimp.
RICHLAND CHAMBERS: Good on prepared baits and cut shad.
SAM RAYBURN: Good on live bait, shrimp and punchbait.

CRAPPIE



BASTROP: Very good on minnows and pink tube jigs.
ALAN HENRY: Good on minnows and jigs.
GRANGER: Good on chartreuse/orange jigs tipped with bait in 4-15 feet.

ALAN HENRY: Water lightly stained; 74 degrees; 1.84' low. Black bass are fair on white spinnerbaits, buzzbaits and black/chartreuse soft plastic worms along grass lines. Catfish are good on live bait.

AMISTAD: Water stained; 80 degrees; 2.86' low. Black bass are good on spoons and soft plastic worms in 10-30 feet. Striped bass are fair on green DD-22s near the 277 bridge. White bass are slow. Catfish are fair on brim.

ARROWHEAD: Water lightly stained; 70 degrees; 6.73' low. Black bass are good on crankbaits suspended 2-5 feet near rock structure and submerged vegetation. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows suspended 14-16 feet. White bass are good off wind-swept points with some surface action. Blue catfish are good drift fishing with cut shad or cheese bait on flats and on jugs.

ATHENS: Water fairly clear; 69-73 degrees; 0.25' low. Black bass are good on spinnerbaits, Texas rigs and medium running crankbaits. Crappie are fair to good on jigs and minnows over brush piles. Catfish are good on prepared baits nightcrawlers (use Worm-Glo). Bream are good on bits of nightcrawlers.

BASTROP: Water clear. Black bass are good on live minnows. Channel and blue catfish are fair on shrimp and stinkbait.

BELTON: Water stained; 81 degrees; 6.07' low. Hybrid striper are fair on live shad. White bass are good on light blue jigs. Crappie are fair on minnows at night. Channel and blue catfish are good on Spam and nightcrawlers. Yellow catfish are good on live perch and live shad.

BOB SANDLIN: Water fairly clear; 68-73 degrees; 0.29' high. Black bass are good on topwaters early, later switching to Texas-rigged Baby Brush Hogs, jigs and drop-shot rigs fished around pads and off points. White bass are fair to good on Rooster Tails and Humdingers. Catfish are good on bait and nightcrawlers.

BRAUNIG: Water stained; 81 degrees. Black bass are slow on crankbaits and dark soft plastic worms. Striped bass are fair on liver and shad near the pier and at Dead Tree Point and on marble spinnerbaits near the jetty and dam. Redfish are fair on perch, shad and silver spoons and down-rigging spoons near the jetty and dam. Blue catfish are good on cut bait.

BRIDGEPORT: Water fairly clear; 68-72 degrees; 1.1.38' low. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs over brush piles. Hybrid striper are fair on live shad. Catfish are fair on chartreuse (use Worm-Glo) nightcrawlers. Bream are fair on crickets.

BROWNWOOD: Water clear; 81 degrees; 7.29' low. Black bass are good on buzz frogs and redbug and watermelon/chartreuse-tailed worms along the docks, rocks and near brush piles in 2-8 feet early and 8-16 feet later and on topwater frogs, torpedoes and Pop-Rs on main lake flats near grass. Hybrid striper are good trolling hellbenders. White bass are good off lighted docks. Crappie are good. Channel catfish are good on cut bait and nightcrawlers. Yellow catfish are good.

BUCHANAN: Water clear; 81 degrees; 29.84' low. Black bass are fair on root beer drop-shot worms on drop-shot rigs, silver flake soft plastics on jigheads and white/chartreuse/purple back crankbaits in 8-20 feet early. Striped bass are fair. White bass are fair. Crappie are fair. Channel catfish are fair. Yellow and blue catfish are good.

CADDO: Water off-color; 68-73 degrees; 1.52' high. Black bass are fair on flukes, Senkos, spinnerbaits and buzzbaits early, later switching to Texas-rigged worms. Crappie are fair on jigs and shiners over brush piles. Bream are slow. Catfish are good on limb lines and trotlines.

CALAVERAS: Water stained; 81 degrees. Black bass are fair on dark soft plastic worms, spinnerbaits and crankbaits around reed beds, near the dam and in Granny's Cove. Striped bass are slow. Redfish are good down-rigging spoons. Crappie are slow.

CANYON LAKE: Water clear; 80 degrees; 14.69' low. Black bass are fair on drop-shot rigs, watermelon red soft plastics on wacky rigs and Texas-rigged 6" pumpkin

worms and white spinnerbaits along main lake bluffs in 12-20 feet and in standing timber in 4-8 feet. Striped bass are fair to good. White bass are slow. Smallmouth bass are fair. Crappie are fair. Channel catfish are slow. Yellow and blue catfish are fair on trotlines.

CEDAR CREEK: Water lightly stained; 68-73 degrees; 0.22' high. Black bass are good on jigs with trailers, spinnerbaits and drop-shot rigs. White bass are good on slabs. Hybrid striper are fair to good. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs over brush piles. Catfish are good on prepared bait and nightcrawlers.

CHOKE CANYON: Water clear; 82 degrees; 9.01' low. Black bass are good on large soft plastic worms and lizards. White bass are slow. Crappie are slow but some large crappie have been caught on flats and on jugs.

COLEMAN: Water clear; 81 degrees; 9.62' low. Black bass are good on watermelon red spinnerbaits, crankbaits and soft

flesh shad and prepared baits in newly flooded vegetation. Yellow catfish are fair on live perch and goldfish.

GRAPEVINE: Water off-color; 68-74 degrees; 2.12' low. Black bass are fair on Texas rigs and crankbaits near rocky points. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs over planted brush piles. Catfish are fair on prepared baits and nightcrawlers.

HOUSTON COUNTY: Water stained; 81 degrees; 0.95' low. Black bass to 5 pounds are good on green pumpkin Trick worms in 1-4 feet. White bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Bream are very good on live worms off piers and grass beds. Channel and blue catfish to 54 pounds are good on live worms and on trotlines.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water lightly stained; 73 degrees; 7.31' low. Black bass are fair on white/chartreuse buzzbaits and spinnerbaits worked along and over grass lines and green pumpkin soft plastics tubes and worms worked along timber and rocks. Crappie are good. White bass and hybrid stripers are good on live bait. Catfish are good on live bait.

and blue catfish are good on shad. Yellow catfish are fair on perch.

O.H. IVIE: Water lightly stained; 74 degrees; 19.88' low. Black bass are good on shad-colored crankbaits, live bait and 10-inch black/blue or black neon soft plastics worked around timber. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on live bait and shad-colored crankbaits. Smallmouth bass are good on live bait and white chatterbaits. Channel catfish are good on live bait.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water stained; 73 degrees; 5.22' low. Black bass are good on shad-colored crankbaits and topwater lures near mid-lake rocky points. Crappie are fair. White bass are good. Stripers are good on topwater lures, silver spoons and Rat-L-Trap. Catfish are fair on shad.

PROCTOR: Water stained; 82 degrees; 7.97' low. Black bass are slow. White bass are good on minnows. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are good on goldfish and minnows.

RAY HUBBARD: Water fairly clear; 67-73 degrees; 0.07' high. Black bass are good early on topwaters, later switching to Texas rigs, drop-shot rigs and crankbaits. Crappie are fair to good. White bass are good on slabs. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers and prepared bait.

RAY ROBERTS: Water clear; 68-72 degrees; 1.16' low. Black bass are fair and improving on Bomber 4A crankbaits and Booyah spinnerbaits (slot removed Sept. 1st; now a 14" minimum). Crappie are good on minnows over brush piles. Catfish are excellent on prepared bait and cut shad.

RICHLAND CHAMBERS: Water off-color; 74-78 degrees; 2.18' low. Black bass are fair to good on topwaters and spinnerbaits early, midday switching to Carolina rigs and drop-shot rigs. White bass are fair on slabs and topwaters. Hybrid striper are fair on large slabs and Rat-L-Traps. Crappie are slow.

SAM RAYBURN: Water stained; 82 degrees; 5.01' low. Black bass are good on watermelon red and tequila sunrise soft plastic worms. White bass are good on minnows and white/gold spoons. Crappie are good on live minnows. Bream are good on nightcrawlers. Catfish are good on live bait, shrimp and punchbait.

STILLHOUSE: Water stained; 79 degrees; 0.82' low. White bass are very good on white and chartreuse little roadrunners and minnows. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are good.

TAWAKONI: Water fairly clear; 69-72 degrees; 0.98' low. Black bass are good on spinnerbaits, jigs and Texas rigs in 2-7 feet. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs over brush piles. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers and cheese bait. White bass are fair on Humdingers and slabs. Striper and hybrid striper are fair on live shad and slabs.

TEXOMA: Water off-color; 69-73 degrees; 0.41' low. Black bass are fair to good on topwaters early, midday switching to Texas rigs, Carolina rigs and medium to deep diving crankbaits. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs around bridges and over brush piles. Striped bass are fair to good on slabs and topwaters (follow the birds). Catfish are fair to good on cut shad.

TOLEDO BEND: Water stained; 81 degrees; 3.40' low. Black bass are good on watermelon/blue flake Finesse and redbug soft plastic worms. Striped bass are slow. White bass are fair on minnows and silver spoons. Crappie are fair on live minnows. Bream are good on crickets and nightcrawlers. Channel and blue catfish are good but small on punchbait.

TRAVIS: Water stained; 81 degrees; 50.54' low. Striped bass are slow. White bass are slow. Crappie are fair.

WALTER E. LONG: Water clear; 81 degrees. Black bass are slow. Hybrid striper are good on live bait. White bass to 2 pounds are good on crankbaits and spinnerbaits. Crappie are good on minnows. Channel and blue catfish are good on stinkbait and shrimp.

WHITNEY: Water stained; 11.25' low. Black bass are good on pumpkinseed/white Rat-L-Traps, spinnerbaits and crankbaits on main lake points and flats.

HOT SPOT



Freeport

Sand trout and sheepshead are good on live shrimp on the reefs. Bull redfish are good in Cold Pass and San Luis pass on cracked blue crabs.

plastics. Hybrid striper are fair on live minnows. Crappie are fair on minnows and white/red tube jigs. Catfish are good on shrimp and minnows.

CONROE: Water stained; 1.19' low. Striped bass are fair on live minnows and chartreuse striper jigs. Crappie are good on minnows. Catfish are fair on stinkbait, live bait and nightcrawlers.

COOPER: Water lightly stained; 68-72 degrees; 0.67' high. Black bass are good on buzzbaits early, later switching to Texas rigs and chartreuse/white chatterbaits. Crappie are fair to good on jigs and minnows over brush piles.

FALCON: Water clear; 80 degrees. Black bass are good on crankbaits, buzzbaits and topwaters. Striped bass are slow. Crappie are good on minnows.

FAYETTE: Water clear; 82 degrees. Black bass are slow to fair on spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Red ear perch are good on worms in 2-5 feet. Channel and blue catfish are slow.

FORK: Water lightly stained; 68-73 degrees; 0.43' high. Black bass are fair on buzzbaits and Yellow Magics early, midday switching to DD22s, Carolina rigs and 3/4-ounce jigs with trailers. Crappie are fair to good on live minnows and jigs around structure. Catfish are good on cut shad and nightcrawlers.

GRANBURY: Water clear; 1.85' low. Black bass are fair on pumpkinseed spinnerbaits, crankbaits and Rat-L-Traps. Striped bass are fair on live bait. White bass are good on perch colored spinnerbaits and minnows. Crappie are good on minnows and pink tube jigs. Catfish are good on bait.

GRANGER: Water stained; 78 degrees; 0.72' low. Black bass are fair on white spinnerbaits. White bass are fair on slab spoons. Blue catfish are good on

SALTWATER SCENE

NORTH SABINE: Trout are fair to good under the birds when the wind allows on soft plastics and good in the river on live shad. Redfish are good in the marsh on small topwaters and Stanley Ribbits.

SOUTH SABINE: Bull redfish are good at the jetty on crabs. Sheepshead and black drum are good at the jetty on live shrimp. Trout are fair around the Reef on live shrimp.

BOLIVAR: Trout are fair to good on the south shoreline on soft plastics and plugs. Black drum and redfish are good at Rollover Pass.

TRINITY BAY: Trout are good for drifters working pods of shad and mullet on Bass Assassins, Trout Killers and Sand Eels. Redfish are good at the spillway on crabs and mullet. Blue catfish are good in the marsh on shrimp.

EAST GALVESTON BAY: Trout are fair to good on the south shoreline on topwaters and soft plastics. Whiting and sand trout are good on the edge of the Intracoastal on fresh shrimp. Gulf trout have been caught in the channel on shrimp.

WEST GALVESTON BAY: Waders have taken trout in the mud and shell on topwaters and Corkies. Sheepshead, redfish and black drum are good at the jetty on shrimp and crabs.

EAST MATAGORDA BAY: Trout are fair for drifters on live shrimp over humps and scattered shell. Redfish are fair to good on the edge of the Intracoastal on crabs and mullet.

WEST MATAGORDA BAY: Redfish are fair to good in Oyster Lake on shrimp. Trout are fair on shell and grass on soft plastics. Flounder are fair to good on soft plastics over muddy bottoms.

PORT O'CONNOR: Trout and redfish are fair on topwaters over soft mud in waist-deep water in San Antonio Bay. Trout and redfish are fair for drifters working the back lakes with live shrimp and topwaters.

ROCKPORT: Bull redfish are good in the Lydia Ann Channel on crabs. Trout are fair over grass while drifting with live shrimp. Redfish are fair to good on the Estes Flats on mullet and shrimp.

PORT ARANSAS: Bull redfish are good in the Shrimpboat Channel and at the jetty on crabs and finger mullet. Redfish are fair to good on the East Flats on topwaters and Gulp.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Redfish are fair to good around Shamrock Cove on small topwaters and spoons. Redfish are good in the Humble Channel on crabs and table shrimp.

BAFFIN BAY: Trout are fair to good in mud and grass on Corkies and topwaters. Redfish are good in the Land Cut on natural baits.

PORT MANSFIELD: Trout are fair to good on topwaters around sand and grass holes. Redfish are fair to good while drifting pot holes and sight-casting to the shallows. Bull redfish are good at East Cut.

SOUTH PADRE: Trout and redfish are fair to good on the edge of the Intracoastal on DOA Shrimp. Tarpon and redfish have been caught at the jetty on live shad.

PORT ISABEL: Snook are fair in the Brownsville Ship Channel on free-lined shrimp and on the flats on topwaters. Trout and redfish are fair to good in South Bay on live shrimp.

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Ammo

Continued from Page 6

tailers said, were also brisk for handguns and tactical rifles.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation, which hosts the industry's annual SHOT Show, reports that firearm and ammunition manufacturers paid more than \$109.8 million in excise taxes during the first quarter of 2009 — up 43 percent over the same time period last year.

Ted Novin, NSSF spokesman, said that increase followed "11 straight months of increased FBI background checks — another strong indicator of firearm sales."

"Gun owners, not easily fooled, recognize this reality and have responded accordingly," Novin said.

The availability of guns and ammo improved somewhat by October as manufacturers ramped up production.

But it has also been a classic supply-and-demand situation, resulting in higher prices that still existed in the fall for all calibers of ammo, Novin said.

An example was offered by Timothy Wallace, promotions manager at Dury's Gun Shop in Austin. He said a 20-round box of .270-caliber ammo in his store was about \$19 one year ago, but now it's \$23.

National chain stores generally have cheaper prices than the specialty shops. But the same box of .270 that cost \$16 a couple years ago now sells for about \$18 to \$19 at those stores.

Ammo shortages, however, are not new. Two years ago, police departments struggled to restock their ammo supplies.

Some observers blamed government contracts related to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A deeper look, however, showed that the availability of ammo components — metals

— were also tight, but for other reasons. At that time, China and India were buying up metals on the world market to fuel their rapidly growing economies.

Demand was especially high for copper — a major component of many bullets.

"Two years it was more of an issue — not so much now," Novin said.

Gun owners are concerned, he insisted, because members of the Obama administration "have a long history of supporting anti-gun legislation."

Gun advocates point out that Attorney General Eric Holder has favored a renewal of the Clinton-era assault weapons ban that expired in 2004.

Obama, however, told reporters traveling with him last spring in Mexico that he didn't believe reinstating the ban was politically possible.

He favored "existing laws" instead.

But that was last spring, and worries continued along with the ammo-buying frenzy.

"It's hard to think that there's no political reason for this," Carter said.

"People in the administration have a history of being anti-gun, and I'm afraid that hasn't changed."

Alice Tripp, lobbyist for the Texas State Rifle Association, said she is unaware of any legislation, state or federal, aimed at curtailing ammo purchases or gun ownership.

But, she added, that could change. "If time ticks on," she said, "and health care is resolved or not, and other issues on the agenda don't pan out ... they will get around to us."

Gun dealers, meanwhile, do find some humor in the situation.

Wallace said that a common joke among retailers is that Obama would be shocked to learn he is, because of his views, responsible for more gun sales than any dealer in the business.

Ammo indicators

Key economic indicators of soaring sales of guns and ammo, according to the National Shooting Sports Foundation, include:

- Firearms and ammunition excise tax receipts at **\$109.8 million** in first quarter of 2009 — **up 43 percent** over a year ago.

- FBI's instant criminal background checks on gun buyers in September 2009 amounted to **1,093,230** — a **12 percent increase** over the 973,003 checks reported in September 2008.

- Ammunition manufacturers have **ramped up production** to meet demand, working shifts around the clock, said Ted Novin, spokesman for the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

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Meat eaters

Continued from Page 6

have a stomach like a bear.”

Thurston told *Lone Star Outdoor News* he doesn't disagree that deer aren't "well-equipped" to eat meat.

"Except the study showed they're very opportunistic," he said. "They'll take protein any way they can get it."

Research participants in the study were hunters who put out meat and trail cameras and relayed the information obtained to Thurston and Squibb. One participant in Texas "got a great shot of a deer walking around with a turkey leg in its mouth," Thurston said.

"We're just saying here's an odd behavior that no one recognized," he said. "Now, no one questions it happens. The only question is why and its significance."

Cain said he is not surprised that deer occasionally eat meat, but he likens it to "kids who will put 50 different things in their mouth."

Mitch Lockwood, TPW's white-tailed deer program leader, said deer have been known to eat bird eggs and nestlings. That does not translate into

such items being their preferred food, he said.

"There have been lots of food habit studies done on white-tailed deer," Lockwood said. "Meat doesn't appear as data in any of those studies. I don't doubt that deer will eat meat. At the Air Force bases along the coast, they've been documented to eat spent shells. I know three or four documented cases where they completely consumed parachute cords. They eat a lot of strange things."

ESPNOuthdoors.com notes there have been other documented cases of deer eating meat. For instance, when looking for wild cougars on the Monongahela National Forest and the Land Between The Lakes in Kentucky, researchers from the Eastern Cougar Foundation noted that whitetail deer were the most numerous species to visit camera traps baited with meat and scent.

That led writer Don Mulligan to joke, "Sometimes deer prefer corn, apples, acorns or clover, and sometimes they just want a nice steak."

To Cain, however, the whole idea of deer being omnivores is a joke. He

points to the deer's elongated snout, which allows them to be "selective browsers" and their incisors, which aid in the chewing of plants. Canine teeth are uncommon in whitetails.

"Deer may nibble at a piece of meat lying there," Cain said. "I don't doubt it. Maybe they're interested in the salt from the blood or they're curious or any of a hundred different reasons. But if you told any group of wildlife professionals that we need to be looking at reclassifying deer as omnivores, you'd probably get laughed right out of the room."

While acknowledging his hypothesis is controversial, Thurston said the study's findings should be sufficient to capture the attention of hunters in the Midwest and North, its intended targets. There, deer are subject to transmittable diseases such as chronic wasting disease. The authors hope the study instigates a discussion of whether gut piles in such places should be made unappetizing to deer, Thurston said.

"Like all good studies it concludes that we need more such studies — and someone please fund me," Thurston said.



TASTY TREAT: A deer nibbles on a turkey bone in Texas in one of the photographs gathered in a study on deer diet.



LSONews.com
See more photos online
of deer eating meat.

Records

Continued from Page 8

ting the limit at 1 pound, a standard used by the International Game Fish Association. IGFA maintains angling records worldwide.

Gray decided against the 1-pound limit because it would exclude one of fly anglers' favorite targets.

"A pound would eliminate some of the sunfish," Gray said.

Beaches

Continued from Page 8

seaward shore of the Gulf of Mexico ... extending from the line of mean low tide to the line of vegetation bordering on the Gulf of Mexico." The TOBA ensures that private property owners may not build or construct any type of barrier, or deterrents, that does not allow the public access to Gulf shoreline beaches.

"It is the right of every Texas fisherman, surfer, shell-collector, sunbather or tourist to enjoy the same beach as the next person," said Rob Nixon, Surf Rider Foundation's South Texas Chapter chairman. "Proposition 9 takes the core of the TOBA and simply makes sure this right is constitutionally guaranteed."

Opponents to Proposition 9 say it is a private property issue. Private property rights are not mentioned in the amendment, only the expressed intent of free and unimpeded access to public beaches.

Texans for Financial Responsibility, a group that advocates for financial conservatism in government, opposes the proposition.

On its Web site, www.empower-texans.com, a list of recommendations for how to vote offers this reasoning for why voters should oppose Prop 9: "By stating that the public has a protected 'right' of ingress to, and egress from, beaches, it opens the door to possible abuses to the rights of bordering property owners."

A representative of TFR did not return phone calls seeking comment.

Another supporter, Ellis Pickett, Gulf Restoration Network's Texas campaign organizer, said his group "fully supports" the proposition.

"This just makes sense," Pickett said.

The vast majority of legislators last spring supported placing Prop 9 on the ballot. The House voted this spring to place the proposition on the ballot 140-1, and the Senate voted 29-2 in favor.

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One-on-one with Rick Perry

Lone Star Outdoor News' Thomas Phillips spent a few minutes with Gov. Rick Perry after Perry's speech to the Dallas Safari Club and talked conservation and politics.

Thomas Phillips: Sarah Palin's coming to Texas to campaign for you. Are you going to take her deer hunting?

Gov. Rick Perry: I don't know when she's coming. If she wants to, I'll go. Here's our problem, we're probably not going to have time. I was waiting for her to invite me to come moose hunting. That's a better deal.

Phillips: On matters of conservation, just one political question, how are you different from Kay Bailey Hutchison?

Perry: Well, I think when you get down to, for instance, you know she's got some questionable positions on the Second Amendment. ... On assault weapons, for instance, she's had some positions that were counter to those of us who the Second Amendment's the Second Amendment. It's our right to bear arms, and that's all arms, not just some arms, not just some that Washington, D.C., want us to have. That's all arms, and you know she hasn't been as pure on the Second Amendment as I think most of the people that belong to the Dallas Safari Club and most outdoor people in the state of Texas can be comfortable with. My instinct is that the vast majority of the NRA members of the state will support us over her and you know I certainly hope the NRA gives us their endorsement.

Phillips: And again on wildlife management, if you are re-elected, what are a couple of things that you have on your agenda as far as how Texas fish and game are managed?

Perry: We need to continue listening to the people out there that are engaged on the management side, on the hunting side and find a good balance. There's always good points that they all make, but having a governor who actually is actively out there hunting and fishing and being engaged in the activities I think gives a lot of comfort to the people who are either owning the land and managing the resources or the hunters and fishermen and the other conservationists that are out there. They know for a fact that I'm going to listen to them, that I've been out there, that I've seen how the managed land permits work. I've been for 25 years either in the Texas Legislature or the ag commissioner or governor or lieutenant governor, so I've been here in this state for 25 years dealing firsthand with all the issues. And you know often they're not easy issues, but I think that the people of the state of Texas will be very comfortable with my long years of experience and it's not lost on anyone out there that, where I'd rather be right now is out hunting and fishing than here talking with you even.



WARM RECEPTION: Gov. Rick Perry, right, speaks with Steve and Libby Maus at the Dallas Safari Club's monthly meeting. Perry greeted visitors and ate dinner before delivering a speech about conservation and property rights. Photo by Thomas Phillips, Lone Star Outdoor News.

Perry

Continued from Page 1

Adventures Program, Perry told about his daughter, Sydney's, first deer hunt.

As a 10-year-old, Sydney harvested a 10-point buck whitetail with about a 20-inch spread in South Texas. Perry, who was to go bowhunting the weekend after the speech, talked of remembering his daughter's smile and relishing their time together.

"It's those types of experiences that forever make what we do worthwhile," Perry said. "And it's those experiences of sharing that with the next generations that are priceless moments, and they give our life a richness that the sedentary and technology-driven (and) obsessed will never know.

Perry also took a few moments during his speech to campaign. His words were not fo-

cused, however, on his primary fight against U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison for the Republican nomination.

Perry instead spoke in favor of Proposition 11, a measure on the Nov. 3 ballot that seeks to amend the state constitution.

Proposition 11 would prohibit the state and local governments from taking property for private uses under their eminent domain power. The proposition stems from a court case, Kelo vs. the city of New London, Conn., where the city took land from one private owner and gave it to another. The impetus for the seizure was to boost the local economy.

Prop 11 would specifically bar the seizure of private land for economic development.

"That's a powerful protection in our constitution to keep what happened in the Kelo case from happening in Texas," Perry said.

Perry and Hutchison share a similar position on Prop 11. One difference is in their supporters. Hutchison recently won the endorsement of the Texas Farm Bureau for opposing the Trans-Texas Corridor. The transportation project, which Perry supported, would have required the state to seize vast amounts of private land to develop a north-south transportation system running through the center of the state. Plans for the Trans-Texas Corridor fell through, but it would have been a public, not private, project and probably permissible under Prop 11.

In supporting Prop 11, Perry said it is necessary for preserving "the Texas values that we respect, that we grew up with, that are important to us and making sure that land ownership remains one of the most powerful rights not just in Texas but in the United States."

Proposition 11

Texans will vote Nov. 3 on a proposed constitutional amendment that would restrict eminent domain powers in Texas. The ballot wording is below:

"The constitutional amendment to prohibit the taking, damaging, or destroying of private property for public use unless the action is for the ownership, use, and enjoyment of the property by the State, a political subdivision of the State, the public at large, or entities granted the power of eminent domain under law or for the elimination of urban blight on a particular parcel of property, but not for certain economic development or enhancement of tax revenue purposes, and to limit the legislature's authority to grant the power of eminent domain to an entity."



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Continued from Page 8

"We have recorded juvenile tarpon in gill net surveys as far as 26 miles up the Aransas River," said David McKee, a former Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist who teaches marine biology for Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. He also added that he believes that the small tarpon found in the Aransas River were reared from fish that had spawned in Copano Bay.

When asked if he thought that the small tarpon that have been found up the rivers were resident fish and not annual migrants from Mexico, he said it was possible some

fish could remain from year to year.

"The tarpon are definitely returning and becoming more predictable," he said.

For Moore, catching the tarpon was a dream come true. Sort of.

"Catching a tarpon has been at the top of my fish wish list for a very long time," he said. "I just never thought I'd catch it on a Zebco 33 and in my backyard! What a great place to live.

"And what makes the story even funnier is that I had actually hooked and fought a slightly larger one a few weeks back and nobody believed me. It wasn't until I had a photo of the one that I did land that people started believing."

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2009 Hunting Season Dates

DOVE		
North Zone and Central Zone		Sept. 1-Oct. 25, Dec. 26-Jan. 9
South Zone		Sept. 18-Nov. 3, Dec. 26-Jan. 17
		Bag limit: 15 birds and not more than two white-tipped doves.
Special White-winged Dove Area		Sept. 5, 6, 12-13, Sept. 18-Nov. 3, Dec. 26-Jan. 13
		The daily bag limit in the SWWDA is 15 birds, not more than four mourning doves during the first two week-end splits and two white-tipped doves. Once the general season opens, the aggregate bag limit will be 15.
WHITE-TAILED DEER		
Archery-Only Season	Oct. 3-Nov. 6	
Special Youth Season*	Oct. 31-Nov. 1, Jan. 4-17	
General Season		
North Texas (206 counties)	Nov. 7-Jan. 3	
South Texas (30 counties)	Nov. 7-Jan. 17	
Late Antlerless and Spike		
Edwards Plateau (39 counties)	Jan. 4-17	
South Texas (30 counties)	Jan. 18-31	
Muzzleloader (57 counties)	Jan. 4-17	
PHEASANT		
Panhandle (37 counties)	Dec. 5-Jan. 3	
Chambers, Jefferson and Liberty	Oct. 31-Feb. 28	
SQUIRREL		
Special Youth Season**	Sept. 26-27	
East Texas (51 counties)	Oct. 1-Feb. 7, May 1-31	
Other Open counties	Sept. 1-Aug. 31	
MULE DEER		
Archery-Only Season		Oct. 3-Nov. 6
General Season		
Panhandle (38 counties)		Nov. 21-Dec. 6
SW Panhandle (10 counties)		Nov. 21-29
Trans-Pecos (19 counties)		Nov. 28-Dec. 13
QUAIL		
Statewide (all counties)		Oct. 31-Feb. 28
RIO GRANDE TURKEY		
Archery-Only Season		Oct. 3-Nov. 6
Fall Season		
Youth Season*	Oct. 31-Nov. 1, Jan. 16-17	
North Zone (122 counties)		Nov. 7-Jan. 3
South Zone (26 counties)		Nov. 7-Jan. 17
Brooks, Kenedy, Kleberg, Willacy		Nov. 7-Feb. 28

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This is a family oriented event and everyone is welcome. This year we plan to include a **Mini-Hunting Expo** in the afternoon from 1 PM to 5:30 PM on the grounds of the Cole Stevenson Center. Admission will be free. So, make plans to come on out to Junction Texas and meet internationally recognized hunter/author **Larry Weishuhn "Mr. Whitetail"** on November 28th. He will have some of his books for sale and will even sign them for you. And I bet you can get at least one good hunting story from him, too! For more information, go to www.junctiontexas.net or call the Chamber 1/325-446-3190.

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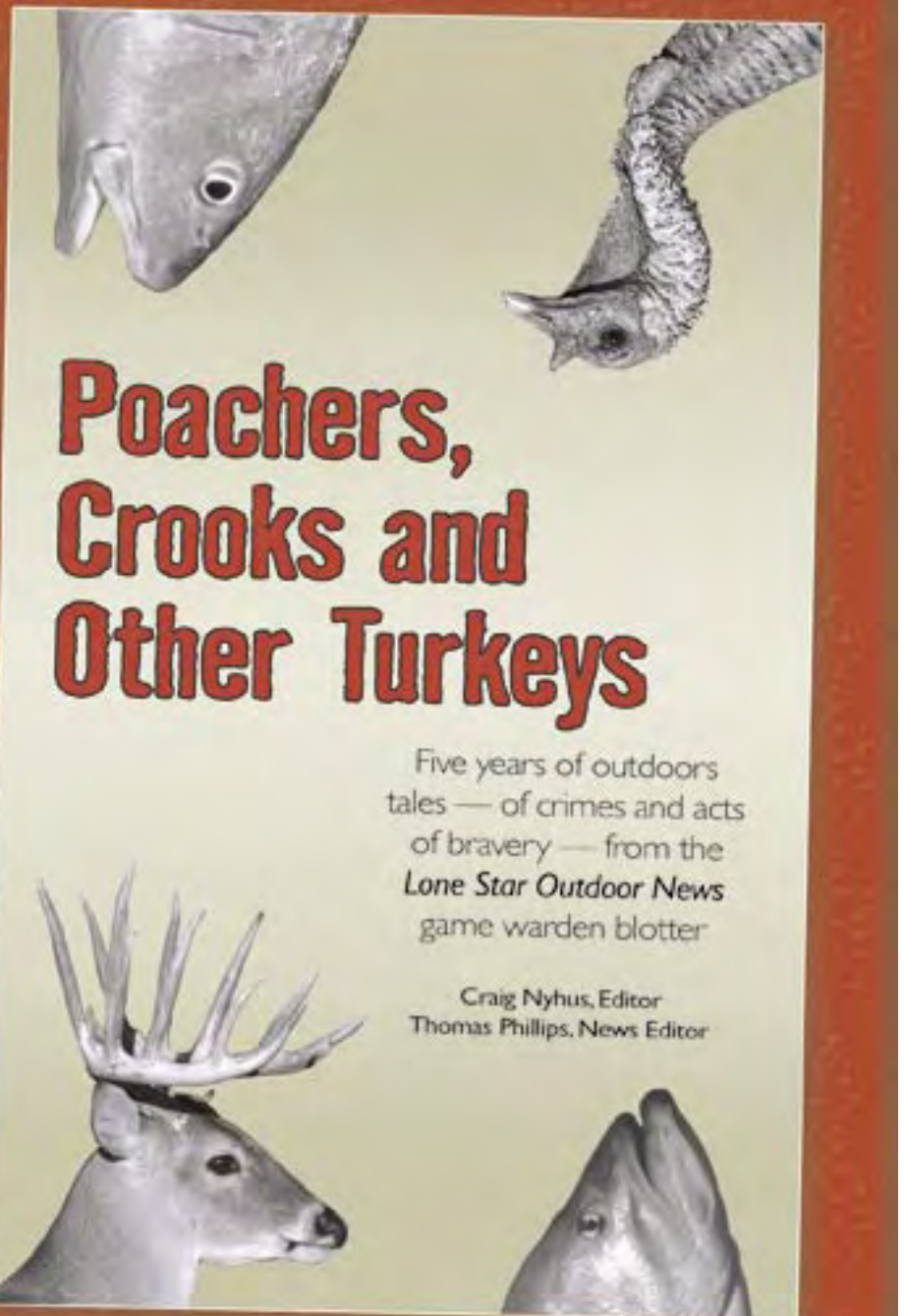
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Dove start strong but affected by weather

Some areas of state still holding high numbers

By Thomas Phillips
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Rain and cold fronts mid-season scattered birds and lowered the take after a strong start, hunters and outfitters said recently.

Buddy Smith of San Antonio found white-winged doves around Hondo early in the season.

"There were quite a few birds there," Smith said.

Smith was finding them over sunflower fields, but they did not stick around.

"Then the rains came when the season opened in the South Zone and scattered things around," Smith said.

Smith also hunted at the Bigfoot Turf Farms outside San Antonio. The grass farm is irrigated and held high numbers of birds, though the numbers were off after the first round of storms.

"We were seeing birds but nothing like we had been before the rains," Smith said.

The rain and changes in barometric pressure turned the birds off, said Jim Shepherd, who manages hunts at Bigfoot Turf Farms.

"It messed up the weekends and the weeks," Shepherd said.

Still, the weather didn't wreck the rest of the season, Shepherd said.

"Better than three-quarters of our hunters got their limits," he said.

As of Oct. 19, birds were still migrating through the area, Shepherd said, and the hunting was consistent, with no droughts of birds.

The season has been different this year, Shepherd said, marked by the



SKY WATCH: Jim Wheeler used multiple Mojo decoys to entice dove near Pleasanton in early October. "It is effective one day and th

limits. Photo by David J. Sams, Lone Star Outdoor News.

high number of Eurasian collared dove visiting the farms. The number was about four times higher than normal, Shepherd said.

Shepherd said the hunting for white-winged dove was average for South Texas this year, although reports from the Brownsville and McAllen areas were excellent.

For Chris Keller, who organizes hunts for Nooner Ranch near Hondo, the season started well.

"The season in September was tremendous," Keller said while scouting for dove. "Lot of large groups of whitewings."

Then the weather changed in mid-September, as it did in much of

Texas.

"(It was) not so much the rains that pushed them but the north wind that sent the birds packing," Keller said.

But Keller's hunts stayed hot, he said. His hunts were over sunflowers, which birds could sit on while feeding. That way, they were out of the mud, Keller said.

"The rain doesn't really hurt us," Keller said. "These flowers are up off the ground. What hurts us is the north wind."

This late in the season, the hunt has "slowed down to a crawl," Keller said. Late in the season, hunters were no longer taking quick limits. They were scoring fewer than half a dozen

birds each.

As for mourning doves, this season has been peculiar, Keller said.

"Mourning doves, forget it," he said. "I can't even tell you what's going on with mourning doves. They're here one day and gone the next."

Hunting around San Antonio in the Central and South Zones, outfitter Dario Abrego had a similar experience to other hunters.

The first three weeks of the season were average or above average, Abrego said.

"Once the small fronts started pushing through, it started to affect things," he said.

Abrego had one lease in the South

Zone that was especially good, he said. Birds were roosting on the property, he said.

"They kind of stayed there a little longer," he said.

For Abrego, 2009 has had average or above average bird hunting, he said. It could have been better if the weather had cooperated, he said.

"I think if the fronts had held off a little longer, I think it would have been extended a little more," he said.

What didn't hold up this year was the demand for hunts, Abrego said.

"I didn't have the interest I did last year, but we still did fairly good," he said.

Ben Koonce, a guide based in Throckmorton, experienced a similar situation with his clients.

"We were down considerably," he said.

Koonce has had a good showing of birds all season, he said.

"We consistently had hunters in the field the whole month of September," Koonce said. "And those hunters that were shooters did well the whole month of September."

Morning hunters were usually better early in the season, and the pattern shifted as the season progressed, Koonce said, who put his hunters over sunflowers and milo.

The birds are still around, Koonce said Oct. 19, but hunters were not.

"I think we had more birds this year," Koonce said. "The hunting this year has been tremendous for us, for our outfitting group."

Another player on the scene made a big impression this year. Koonce saw some whitewings, but he saw many Eurasian collared dove.

"Actually more Eurasians than whitewings," he said.

Dove season ends Oct. 25 in the North and Central Zones and Nov. 3 in the South Zone. The second split begins Dec. 26.

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Puzzle solution from Page 20

S	T	R	I	P	E	R	C	U	T	H	R	O	A	T
P	I	A	A	O	Y	E	U							
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S	P	U	R	S		G	O	A	T		W		N	D

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DATEBOOK

Oct. 27
Palestine Ducks Unlimited
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Oct. 28
Beaumont Ducks Unlimited
 Fundraiser
 MCM Elegante' Grand Ballroom
 (409) 835-7943

Oct. 29
Houston Ducks Unlimited
 Fundraiser
 Crowne Plaza Hotel Houston
 (281) 556-1307

Corpus Christi Ducks Unlimited
 Fundraiser
 American Bank Center
 (361) 885-6209

Oct. 30
Texins Archery Club
 Halloween Spooky Shoot
 Dallas, Texins Archery Range

Nov. 3
Lubbock Ducks Unlimited
 Fundraiser
 Lubbock Civic Center
 (806) 783-9149

Nov. 4
Houston Safari Club
 Monthly meeting
 HESS Club
 (713) 623-8844
 info@houston
 safariclub.org



Brush Country Coastal Conservation Association
 Fundraiser
 Alice, Knights of Columbus Hall
 (361) 592-0282

Nov. 5
Dallas Safari Club
 Trophy Room Tour
 (972) 980-9800



Marlin Ducks Unlimited
 Fundraiser
 Booker T. Washington Alumni Center
 (254) 883-2551

Nov. 6
Hunters BBQ and Outdoor Exposition
 Bandera, Mansfield Park
 (830) 796-3280

Nov. 7
Eldorado Game Dinner
 Fundraiser
 Schleicher County Civic Center
 (325) 277-9823

On Target for a Cure
 Sporting Clays shoot
 Elm Fork Shotgun Sports
 (972) 996-5912

East Texas Coastal Conservation Association
 Fishing tournament
 Galveston Bay
 (936) 554-3165



Nov. 10
Harlingen Ducks Unlimited
 Fundraiser
 Longhorn Cattle Company
 (956) 428-4001

Texarkana Delta Waterfowl
 Four States Fairgrounds
 (903) 826-4084

Nov. 11
Midland Ducks Unlimited
 Fundraiser
 GreenTree Country Club
 (432) 694-9374

Nov. 12
Dallas Safari Club
 East Texas Regional meeting
 (972) 980-9800

Waco Ducks Unlimited
 Fundraiser
 Lions Den
 (254) 235-9191

Dallas Woods and Waters Club
 Monthly meeting
 Sheraton North Dallas Hotel
 (214) 570-8700



Beaumont Delta Waterfowl
 Fundraiser
 Big Rich Couville's
 (409) 718-8280



Nov. 12
Guadalupe Valley Coastal Conservation Association
 Fundraiser
 Cuervo VFW Hall
 (361) 275-2311

Nov. 13
Erath County National Wild Turkey Federation
 Fundraiser
 City Limits
 davidprobasco@yahoo.com



Nov. 14
North Texas Outdoor Expo
 Dallas, Elm Fork Shooting Sports
 www.startcaring.org

Nov. 17
Tyler Ducks Unlimited
 Fundraiser
 Harvey Hall
 (903) 780-7645

Nov. 19
Lake Fork Delta Waterfowl
 AJ Fish House
 (903) 497-6903

Dallas Safari Club
 Monthly meeting with Carter Smith
 Sheraton Dallas North Hotel
 (972) 980-9800
 www.biggame.org

Nov. 28
Annual Kimble County Wild Game Dinner
 Junction, Stevenson Memorial Center
 junctiontx@cebridge.net
 (325) 446-3190
 www.junctiontexas.net

For hunting season dates, see Page 26.
 For waterfowl season dates, see Page 7.

Quail

Continued from Page 6

Until the recent rainfall, most areas of the state were being written off as a complete loss for the 100,000 or so quail hunters who participate in the sport each year.

"We've had some rain, but it may be too late for another hatch down here," said Dan Walker, a wildlife biologist at the Chaparral Wildlife Management Area near Artesia Wells.

"We only observed one group of chicks come to our water trough this summer, and we don't think they made it. Because of the drought, we just didn't have any grasshoppers, and the chicks need grasshoppers to survive," he said.

Hunters at the 15,200-acre facility

harvested about 1,000 birds last year, but this season the number is expected to be closer to the 2007 harvest of 37 birds, Walker said.

The state has been conducting roadway surveys to monitor quail populations since 1978, and this year most of those surveys in most areas of the state have found few birds.

The cause of the low counts can be directly attributed to a lack of rainfall that has inhibited the growth of late winter and early spring greenery and the production of insects such as grasshoppers that are a prime food source for growing chicks.

Officials have estimated that the average life span of a quail is about eight months, with an average bird loss of about 70 percent each year because the birds are a favorite prey of numerous predators.

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