

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

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Dove-hunting opportunities

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Beginning Sept. 1, Lower Laguna Madre saltwater fishermen will have to conform to regional limits on one of the state's most popular gamefish — spotted seatrout.

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Hunting the Coues whitetail is a great challenge for hunters who want to get out of their blinds and away from feeders. Hunters hike far to find open areas that might yield a glimpse and maybe even a shot at the now-you-see-him-now-you-don't deer.

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A permit to hunt a Desert Bighorn Sheep in west Texas will highlight the auction at the Oct. 5 EXPO Banquet & Conservation Hall of Fame Celebration at the Hyatt Lost Pines Resort near Austin.

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Two North Carolina state records for the small Kokanee salmon were broken within a day of each other.

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Bass in summer ways

Fish 'holding in tight groups'

BY CRAIG NYHUS

The summer heat has arrived in full force in most of the state, causing many bass fishermen to put up their poles. But some anglers are still finding large-mouths despite the high water and high water temperatures.

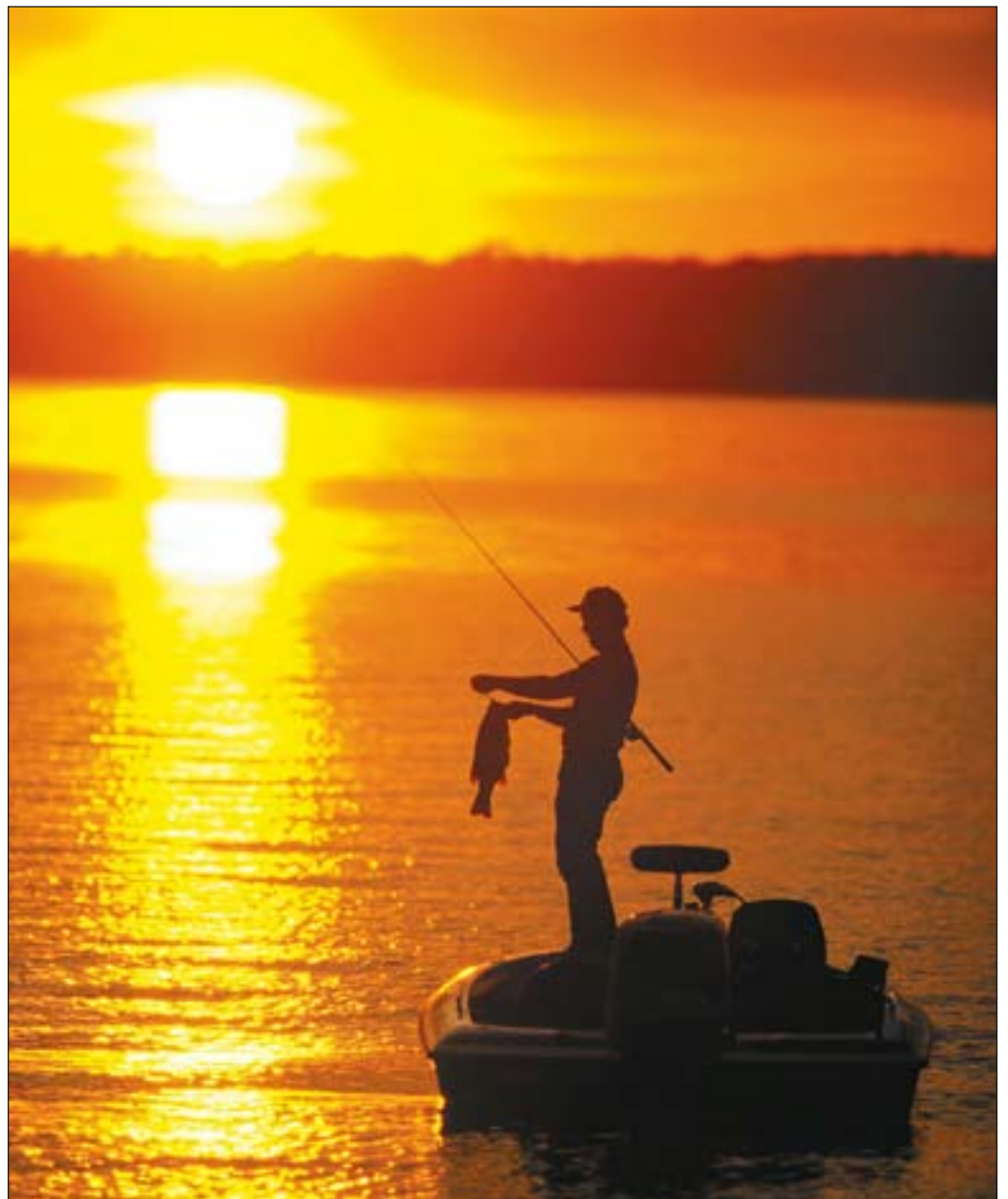
"It's not too bad if you can stand the heat," said John Tanner, a Lake Fork guide and FLW Tour pro. "The fish are in a typical summer pattern. You can catch them anywhere from 24 to 28 feet off the sides of the ridges and points."

Tanner said the fish are schooling. "They are holding in tight groups, and you need to find them with the electronics and be right on top of them," he said.

The best times have been late in the evening and in the early morning, and soft plastics have worked the best. "We're using Carolina-rigged lizards and brush hogs or Texas-rigged 10-inch worms," Tanner said. "And when the fish are suspended, we've been catching them on big spoons."

Fishing has been mixed at Lake Amistad, said guide Stan Gerzsenyi. "There has been a lot of schooling of

See SUMMER, Page 22



BACK TO SCHOOL: Locating summer schools of fish is a key to hot-weather fishing success. Photo by David J. Sams.



SILENCE OVER SPEED: Lighter arrows, although slower, are more quiet when fired, reducing the risk of the deer reacting to the shot.

SILENCE OF THE STRINGS

Deer react to slightest bow sound to avoid archer's shot

BY BILL MILLER

"Jumping the string" is when a whitetail buck proves that he is, in fact, faster than a speeding broadhead.

Novice bowhunters experience it when they let fly a well-aimed shot, only to see their target duck under the arrow's path.

But that wouldn't happen if the buck wasn't warned by the rattle of the bow or the twang of its string.

"People call it jumping the string, but he doesn't know where that sound is coming from," said author Jim Hamm of Goldthwaite. "It's just an odd sound and he's reacting to it."

Hamm has written extensively on hunting with traditional wooden bows but, he said, it's important to silence any archery setup, whether it's made from aluminum or hickory.

A traditional longbow, Hamm explained, launches an arrow at 150 feet per second, and a compound bow

See BOWS, Page 18

Cedar Bayou concerns put project on hold

BY DAVID SIKES

The one thing proponents of reopening Cedar Bayou didn't think they needed was additional environmental studies.

They were wrong. Rockport's Lynn Edwards, the

leader of Save Cedar Bayou Inc., recently suffered an unexpected setback to her longtime effort to dredge the shallow pass that separates Matagorda and San Jose islands and her plan to remove the manmade dam that plugs nearby Vinson Slough.

See BAYOU, Page 22

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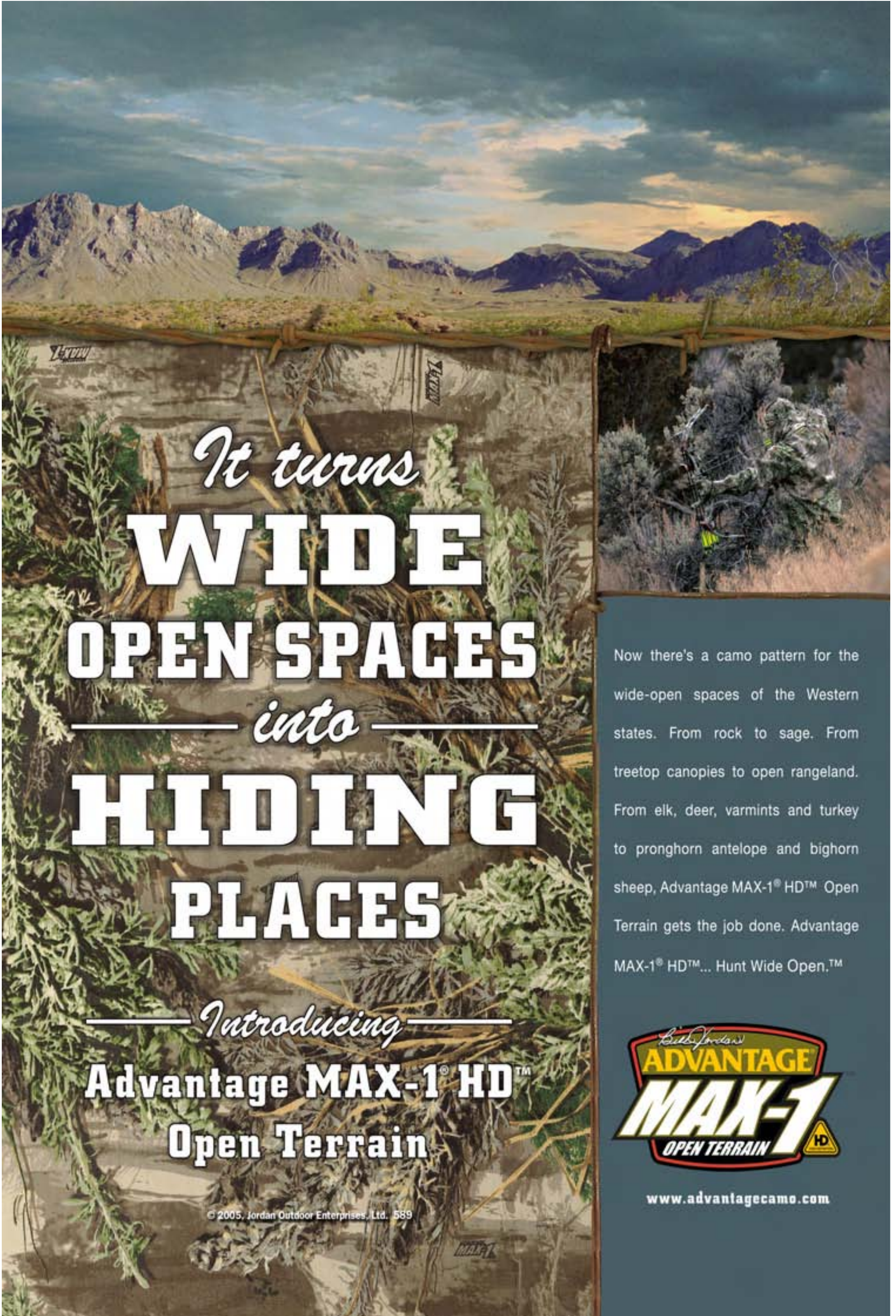
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CONSERVATION

Desert Bighorn Sheep permit offered at EXPO banquet auction

A permit to hunt a Desert Bighorn Sheep in West Texas will highlight the auction at the Oct. 5 EXPO Banquet & Conservation Hall of Fame Celebration at the Hyatt Lost Pines Resort near Austin.

Hosted by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Foundation, the official non-profit partner of Texas Parks and Wildlife, the event also features the induction of the Hall of Fame's first class — the late Perry R. Bass and the Desert Bighorn Society.

Depending on results of the

annual August sheep survey conducted by the Department, the winning bidder will be allowed to hunt a trophy ram immediately or on a next-available permit basis.

The hunt will be conducted on one of the state's premier wildlife management areas — Elephant Mountain, Sierra Diablo or Black Gap.

While this is by no means a guaranteed hunt, the hunter success ratio is very high. The last two similar permits resulted in 180-plus class rams.

The hunt is for up to 10 days in the field with expert guides provided by TPW.

First-class meals and camp will be provided by the Foundation. One non-hunting companion may also participate.

The Foundation hopes this permit will set revenue records by surpassing \$102,000, with permit proceeds going into the Desert Bighorn Sheep program. Persons wishing to bid may do so in person or by telephone.

A Texas Parks & Wildlife Foundation report.

New way to buy Federal Duck Stamps: The E-Duck Stamp

Waterfowl hunters in Texas will have the option of purchasing a Federal Duck Stamp electronically this year, as part of a three-year joint effort between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and nine state fish and wildlife agencies, including Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Hunters who buy the Federal Duck Stamp from license retailers this year will be issued the actual stamp at the time of purchase and pay the face value of \$15.

However, purchases of the Federal Duck Stamp at TPW locations — game warden offices, state parks and other sites that sell licenses — as well as online and phone transactions, will consist of an electronic authorization. The actual stamp will be mailed separately.

These locations will only sell the

new electronic Federal Duck Stamp, which costs \$17, reflecting additional shipping and handling fees.

To hunt any migratory game bird in Texas, hunters must have a valid Texas hunting license, HIP (Harvest Information Program) certification and a Texas Migratory Game Bird Stamp (\$7).

Along with this state stamp, they must also have a Federal Duck Stamp (\$15 hard copy or \$17 electronic) to hunt ducks or geese.

The new electronic Federal Duck Stamp program allows the fish and wildlife agencies of Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, Texas and Wisconsin to sell stamps electronically through their individual automated licensing systems, providing a special receipt as

proof of purchase.

This proof of purchase — a unique code given to the purchaser instantly — will be accepted as evidence of a Federal Duck Stamp purchase for 45 days — time enough for the printed stamp to arrive in the mail.

Funds from Federal Duck Stamp sales are a vital tool for wetland conservation, with 98 cents of every dollar generated used to purchase or lease wetland habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Since the stamp's inception in 1934, more than \$700 million has been raised to acquire more than 5.2 million acres of waterfowl habitat. In 2005, more than 1.6 million Federal Duck Stamps were sold.

A Texas Parks and Wildlife report.

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HUNTING

Stalking the 'Gray Ghost'

Bantam Coues whitetail deer elusive, agile

BY BILL MILLER

A whitetail buck scoring 135 Boone and Crockett might be a respectable deer in Texas, but by no means a record-breaker.

Not so in the desert Southwest and parts of northern Mexico.

The non-typical Coues whitetail from Sonora, Mexico that James Schacherl of Waelder shot in 2005 scored 134 4/8. It was the top trophy in its class during the recent Boone and Crockett Club's awards banquet in Fort Worth.

That's because the average Coues buck is a bantam that dresses out at about 80 pounds. His rack frequently scores below 120.

Amanda Moors, a wildlife biologist from Globe, Ariz., said she loves the species for its grace and beauty, but this elusive deer is tough and agile, too.

"The terrain is so rugged and they seem so at home in it," she said. "Everyone calls them the 'Gray Ghost' because they seem to disappear in open country."

Hunting this deer is a great challenge, Moors said, for Texans who want to get out of their blinds and away from feeders.

But, the Lone Star hunter might ask, with a deer that small, where's the sport?

Successful Coues hunters endure arid country that's studied with cactus, cat claw and jagged rock. They hike far to find open areas that might yield a glimpse and maybe even a shot at the now-you-see-him-now-you-don't deer.

To survive among bobcats and mountain lions, the Coues buck likes to survey his world from craggy hilltops. Consequently,

good hunters learn to spot the deer from as far away as 1,000 yards, Moors said.

Then they stalk to within range of a flat-shooting rifle; of course, the challenge is tougher for bow hunters.

Remember, this is a whitetail, no different from his cousin, the Texas Hill Country buck. Both flee odd noises, but while the Texas deer bolts for cover, the Coues quietly sneaks back into the brush.

So be prepared to take long shot at a small target.

Moors said her caliber of choice is pretty common among Coues hunters - a .270 tipped with a 130-grain bullet.

She limits her shots to about 300 yards. She added, however, that some serious trophy hunters use rifles chambered for .300 Winchester Magnums or larger to deliver a fatal pop at 500 yards or more.

They also pack big optics, and not just on their rifle scopes. Large 15-by-56-power binoculars, mounted on tripods help spot far-off targets in the brush.

These glasses cause less eye fatigue than a spotting scope, but Moors said some hunters pack both because the scope is good for judging a potential trophy rack.

A good-size pack is needed to tote all the gear, along with ample water to avoid dehydration.

This all might sound like a lot of trouble, but Coues fans say there are bonuses for hunters who appreciate all wildlife.

"Arizona is an amazing place to be out glassing and glassing," Moors said. "You're not going to find just Coues, but also mule deer and maybe even javalina."

"To me, any day out Coues hunting is a good day."



HARD TO SPOT: The Coues whitetail, although small, presents a unique hunting challenge. Photo by Arizona Game and Fish Department.

If you go ... the Coues deer, at a glance

The elusive Coues whitetail deer inhabits rugged terrain on both sides of the southwestern border with Mexico, where he has earned a reputation stoked with colorful adjectives.

"Diminutive," "bantam-sized," "handsome" and "sly" are a few.

The moniker "Gray Ghost" refers to this deer's ability to evade predators by seemingly blending into the landscape.

Its official name, however, comes

from the frontier army officer, Elliott Coues, who first identified this subspecies of whitetail in the 1860s. His name is pronounced "cowz," but most everyone pronounces it "coos."

Gun deer seasons in southwestern states start in late October, and tags are issued through draws. But there are some interesting exceptions. For example, Arizona archery tags are available over the counter in December and January.

For information on season dates and draw deadlines, see: Arizona Game & Fish, www.gf.state.az.us; and New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, www.wildlife.state.nm.us.

For more information, go to www.coueswhitetail.com, a comprehensive Web site, complete with hunting tips, game recipes, a guide directory and even poetry. It's maintained by biologist Amanda Moors of Globe, Ariz.



ZEROING IN: Alexis Hendricks, of Lewisville, takes aim at a target at the Dallas Safari Club S.A.F.E.T.Y. Extravaganza. Dallas Safari Club is a sponsor of the National Archery in Schools Program.

Archery program targets youth

10,000 students participate in Texas

BY HAL BROWN

There's a youth movement afoot in archery. Young bowmen are picking up the sport, buying new equipment and, probably, moving into hunting leases.

Much of the credit goes to the National Archery in Schools Program (NASP), begun in Kentucky in 2002.

Real numbers on youth participation are difficult to come up with, but Texas has almost 80 schools and organizations using the program in physical education classes or after-school programs. Steve Hall, director of hunter education for Texas Parks and Wildlife, said more than 100 schools will probably be using the program by the end of 2007. TPW has trained more than 260 instructors. The department hired Burnie Kessner to coordinate the program full-time.

The program was piloted in Texas in 2004 and launched officially in 2006. Texas was the 16th state to adopt the program nationally. Now there are programs in every state but Rhode Island, which is in the process of instituting it, as well as Australia and Canada.

"We look for it to grow pretty big in the next five years because it's brand new in Texas," Kessner said.

"It's pretty much statewide, urban schools, rural schools, even home schools are using it," he said.

Kessner estimates around 10,000 students have participated in the program in Texas. Almost 398 of them from 43 schools showed up in Temple in February for the second annual Texas Archery in School Program Championship. Numbers more than tripled last year's first state championships, which drew 126 students.

Students shot 30 arrows from 10 yards at standard 80cm Olympic bull's-eye targets, using a standard compound bow with no sights. This year's competition was won by Kevin Brewer, a elementary student at the University of Houston Charter School, who shot 280 points out of a possible 300. Middle school and high school winners shot 279 to win their divisions.

The format is Olympic style scoring and competition. The bow is the Mathews Genesis, a compound bow where the draw weight is constant (10 to 20 pounds) after the first 15 inches. That means no matter how long the draw length, every shooter has the same weight.

National Archery in Schools Program statistics show 29 percent of the participants purchase archery equipment. The surge in youthful interest in archery isn't being ignored by equipment manufacturers, either. They're tailoring hunting bows to the younger, smaller end of the market, too.

"There used to be a void in low-poundage (draw weight) bows that

had enough to shoot a big animal," said Cooper Knight, an archery technician at Cabela's in Buda. "Draw length was a big drawback. Now days they're starting to have these bows for women and children that are light weight, not real big but that still pack a pretty good punch."

Knight said many archery manufacturers are now offering programs that let youngsters trade in their bows, upgrading them as they grow up.

"Bows are pretty expensive, \$300 to \$400 for a good setup," he said. "You can actually trade up for about \$50. They move up and go from a 20-to-30 pound bow and take it to a 30-to-40 pound bow, and again from 40 to 50. After you get to 50 pounds, you're into the bigger bows."

Hall said excise taxes on archery equipment sales directly support the TASP program.

Jon Gauthier, with the Archery Trade Association archery in schools program, said while the program is focused on target archery, it spins off into more hunters, too.

"Minnesota has reported 2,000 more bow hunting license sales since last year," Gauthier said. "They opened the NASP program about three or four years ago and they haven't extended their programs or done anything differently. NASP is the only new program they've offered in the last five or six years. They only thing they can attribute it to is the NASP program."

Waterfowl season dates proposed

Texas Parks and Wildlife has proposed dates for the 2007-08 waterfowl seasons. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has approved a liberal season package, permitting season length and bag limits to be similar to last year.

As of press time, the following season dates and bag limits have been recommended.

North and South Zones — Youth-only season from Oct. 27–28, and the regular season from Nov. 3–25 and Dec. 8–Jan. 27. This season format will provide a two-week split giving hunters and ducks a rest, while maximizing opportunity during peak historic migrations. It will also provide hunting opportunities until the end of the permitted season framework, something many hunters have requested.

High Plains Mallard Management Unit — Youth-only season from Oct. 20–21, and regular season from Oct. 26–Jan. 27.

The proposed daily bag limit for all ducks is five and may include no more than two red-heads, two scaup, two wood ducks and one aggregate duck.

Texas, along with four other states in the Central Flyway, will be in the second year of an experimental Hunter's Choice bag limit during the 2007-08 seasons.

The Hunter's Choice allows hunters to shoot five ducks daily, but only one in the aggregate of certain species. In the aggregate category of less abundant ducks, that one bird could be either a pintail, or a canvas-back, or a "dusky duck" (mottled, black duck or Mexican-like duck) or a hen mallard.

For geese, a season similar to last year has been proposed, except for an increase in the Canada goose bag limit for the Western Goose Zone.

Eastern Goose Zone — White-fronted geese from Nov. 3–Jan. 13, and Canada and light geese from Nov. 3–Jan. 27. The daily bag limit is three Canada, two white-fronted and 20 light geese.



Western Goose Zone — Nov. 3–Feb. 5 with a daily bag limit of five dark geese, of which four may be Canada geese and one white-fronted. The bag limit on light geese is 20 per day.

The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit for Canada and white-fronted geese and there is no possession limit for "light geese."

The Light Goose Conservation Order will start at the close of the regular goose seasons and run through March 30 in both zones. This allows relaxed regulations to hunt through various atypical means in order to control light goose overpopulation that damaged its Canadian habitat.

Confirm the approved season dates, expected to be finalized on Aug. 23, at www.tpwd.state.tx.us.

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FISHING

Anglers set to hook up with new trout limits

5-fish bag to begin in Lower Laguna Madre

BY DANNO WISE

Saturday, Sept. 1 will be a historic day in Texas. That is the first day saltwater fishermen will have to conform to regional limits on one of the state's most popular gamefish — spotted seatrout.

As most anglers are aware, seatrout stocks in the Lower Laguna Madre — from the land-cut south — will now be subject to a 5-fish bag limit, as opposed to the 10-fish bag that is in effect for the remainder of the state's coastal waters.

As may be expected, the new regulation is somewhat of a hot topic in South Texas. Throughout Texas Parks and Wildlife's public scoping process, opinions varied among anglers and guides. With the launch date for the new limit looming, few, if any, of those opinions have changed.

Although the TPW Commission approved the change, not everyone in the Lower Laguna Madre area was in favor of it. Several fishermen and guides spoke out against the change during the scoping meetings.

Some remain dissatisfied — for various reasons — that it passed, although the vast majority of dissenters seem to be fishing guides. Two prominent Lower Laguna Madre fishing guides who were

interviewed, but declined to allow their names to be used, said they felt the change would hurt their business in the future, saying anglers would opt to go elsewhere, where they could still keep 10 trout.

Others disagreed not with the new limit, but with the way it was implemented.

"I think this was a good step forward for conservation, but a bad step for fisheries management," said Port Isabel guide Capt. Carlos Garcia. "Conservation of our natural resources is very important, that is the only way that my kids and your kids will have fish to catch in the future. But if we really want to make an impact, it should be done statewide. I don't believe one small area should be singled out."

Of course, the vast majority of those who favored the move from the outset are excited and fully embrace the change.

"I think it's a great move," said South Padre Island angler Shane Wilson. "With the ever-increasing fishing pressure we're seeing, this will help ensure we have plenty of fish to catch in the future."

Yet others are trying to turn what some see as a slight into an opportunity.

"You know, when all this first came up, I didn't know what to think," said Laguna Vista guide Capt. Eddie Curry. "So, I went to



FEWER FILLETS: Kayak anglers are not known for keeping big boxes of trout, but now all anglers in the Lower Laguna Madre may only keep five.

all the meetings and heard what everybody had to say. Now that it's happening, I think it's going to be a good thing. I'm excited to see what difference it can make.

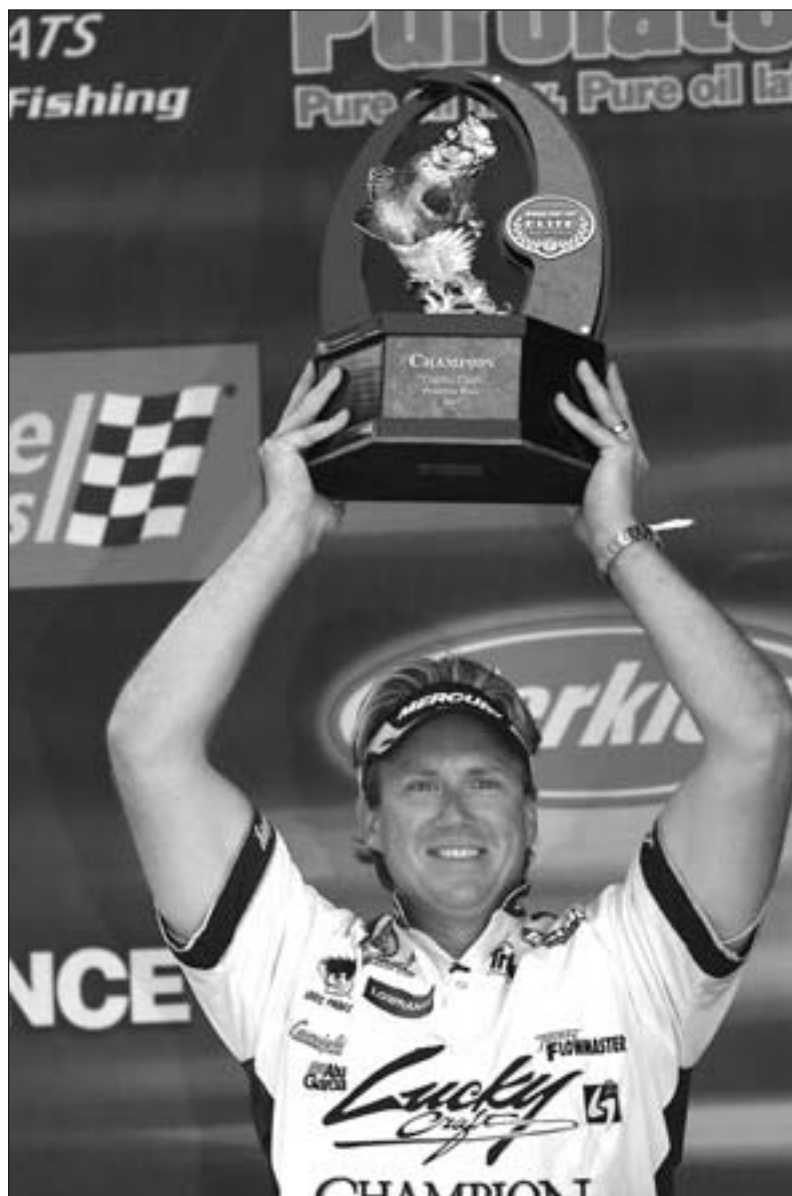
"I also look at it this way: It gives us a chance to show off all the

other species we have down here. I mean, besides trout, we have redfish, snook, mangrove snapper, flounder, tarpon — all kinds of stuff to fish for."

"If you're not from here, I'd say don't let the lower limit keep you

from coming," Curry concluded. "If you don't think 5 trout are enough, 5 more really wouldn't make that much of a difference. And, we've got a lot of other opportunities that they don't have in those 10 trout bays."

California angler takes Bassmaster Elite event



CROWNING MOMENT: Skeet Reese hopes his Capitol Clash victory will lead to an Angler of the Year title. Photo by BASS.

Texan Kelly Jordan captures 2nd place

Skeet Reese of Auburn, Calif., went wire to wire at the Capitol Clash presented by Advance Auto Parts on the Potomac River, scoring his third BASS victory by more than 8 pounds over Kelly Jordon of Mineola.

With the victory, Reese, who totaled 66 pounds over four days, now holds a sizable lead in the season-long Toyota Tundra Bassmaster Angler of the Year Race.

Using a strategy he ran in 2006, Reese regularly made long runs to an area of the Potomac called Nanjemoy Creek. Reese methodically worked every single piece of cover with a Green Pumpkin Berkley Power Hawg with a 3/8-ounce Tru-Tungsten weight, with an occasional pass with a Lucky Craft BDS-2 crankbait.

"Never in a million years after the practice I had this week would I have expected to be holding this trophy," said Reese, who, with the \$100,000 first-place prize, has now amassed more than \$1 million in career BASS earnings. "I am so relieved. Finally, after all those close calls, I am bringing a trophy home."

It was the first victory for Reese in Elite Series competition. With only one event remaining, the seven-time Bassmaster Classic qualifier opened up a more than 100-point advantage in the Angler of the Year race over Michigan's Kevin VanDam, a three-time AOY winner.



BIG PUSH: Defending Capitol Clash champion Kelly Jordan of Mineola moved from eighth place to second on the final day. Photo by BASS.

"It has been a phenomenal year thus far," Reese said. "I consider the AOY the crown jewel of bass fishing and to win would solidify what I have been working on for all these years."

The 2006 Capitol Clash champion, Jordan, was happy with second place after moving up from eighth. He could not overcome Saturday's disappointing haul of 7 pounds, 7 ounces, and missed the chance to earn his fifth BASS win. Jordan took home \$30,000 with the finish and inches closer, with \$990,000 in career BASS earnings, to the \$1 million mark.

The 36-year-old primarily flipped tubes to mats of grass

throughout the tournament. Like Reese, he brought back a strategy he used in 2006.

"It's always disappointing to finish second," said Jordan, who caught the biggest limit, 17 pounds, 2 ounces, of the final day. "But I am thrilled that I was able to move up after a frustrating Saturday."

More than 1 pound behind Jordan was Matt Reed of Madisonville, who moved from fifth to third with 56 pounds, 2 ounces. In fourth was Randy Howell of Springville, Ala., with 55 pounds, 5 ounces. Rounding out the top five was Chris Lane of Winter Haven, Fla., with 54 pounds, 12 ounces.

A BASS Communications report.

'Heat advisory' issued for farm pond fish

Rising temperatures often result in large-scale die-offs from lack of oxygen

Humans and their domestic pets aren't alone in being at risk from triple-digit summer heat, according to a Texas Cooperative Extension wildlife and fisheries specialist.

"When summer temperatures climb, I start getting calls saying 'my fish are dying,'" said Dr. Billy Higginbotham.

July was one of the wettest months on record, and most of the estimated 1 million farm ponds in Texas are full to overflowing, he said.

But though high-water levels lessen the risk, they're no guarantee against large-scale fish die-offs from oxygen depletion this time of year, Higginbotham said.

However, pond owners can take preventive measures if they are aware of the danger of oxygen depletion and understand why it happens, he said.

The oxygen in water comes from two main sources, Higginbotham said. Aquatic plants, mostly single-celled algae, produce enough oxygen as a byproduct of photosynthesis to maintain oxygen levels in ponds. Wind also helps to aerate the water with oxygen from the atmosphere.

Hot weather throws these natural processes out of whack in two ways, he said. First, warm water holds less oxygen than cool water. Secondly, because fish are cold-blooded animals, their metabolic rate rises with warmer water temperatures.

"So hot weather means the fish need more oxygen at the same time less oxygen may be available," Higginbotham said.

And if hot weather is accompanied by cloud cover, the problem is worsened. With less sunlight, pho-



SUMMER HEAT: Catfish are the most likely to die from oxygen depletion in small ponds, especially in overpopulated waters. Photo by Texas Cooperative Extension.

tosynthesis is slowed and aquatic plants produce less oxygen.

As long as the stocking rates of fish are relatively low and pond volumes are up, pond owners may not see fish die-offs.

But if ponds are home to too many pounds of fish, then it's almost a sure bet there will be die-offs, he said.

"Because catfish ponds are most likely to be overstocked and intensively managed, that's where we see the most fish die-offs from oxygen depletion in hot weather," Higginbotham said. "If the total

pounds of fish exceeds 1,000 per surface acre — that's only 100 pounds of fish in a tenth-acre pond — then your pond is a prime candidate to suffer an oxygen depletion problem before the summer is over."

Higginbotham recommends simple steps to determine pounds of fish per surface area of pond.

Begin by estimating the pond's surface area in acres. If the pond is more or less rectangular, the simplest way to determine its size is to measure the length and width in feet, then multiply these numbers

to get surface area in square feet. Divide this number by 44,000, which is roughly the number of square feet in an acre. For example, a pond 200-feet wide by 200-feet long will have 40,000 square feet of surface area, or about 1 acre.

Next, determine the pounds of fish in the pond. One way to do this is by knowing how many fish were originally stocked, and how many fish have been taken since stocking. Another way is to catch a few fish and weigh them.

"Take the difference between the number stocked and

removed, and multiply by the average weight of the fish caught to estimate the poundage," he said.

Usually, though the pond owner won't need to do anything to diagnose oxygen depletion. Oxygen-starved fish will be seen gasping at the surface or swimming weakly to the edge of the pond. Oxygen depletion affects the larger fish first, Higginbotham said.

Because photosynthesis shuts down during the night, oxygen levels will lowest at daybreak. Gasping fish will first be noticed in the early to mid-morning hours, he said.

By the time that happens, it's too late to do much about reducing the stocking rate, but pond owners who have a boat with an outboard motor can remedy the problem. Backing the boat trailer into shallow water until the outboard's propellor is submerged and leaving the motor running in gear, churning the water, will help the fish recover.

Pumps can also be used to increase oxygen, but their intakes should be set within 2 or 3 feet below the pond surface.

"Pulling water from the near pond bottom only compounds the problem because that water layer is already low in oxygen," Higginbotham said.

Using either a boat or a pump is only a temporary solution, he said.

"If the real problem is too many fish present, it's time to go fishing and significantly lower the fish population," he said.

A Texas Cooperative Extension report.

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GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

RIGHT FAX, WRONG TIME

•While Game Warden Jeff Hill was checking fishing licenses on Lake Buchanan, he made contact with a young man who said his fishing license was back at the cabin. Hill issued him a citation at 4:35 p.m.

and told him to contact the judge and present his license for dismissal. At 6:22 p.m., the man purchased a one-day fishing license from a store more than 60 miles away and later contacted the judge to fax his fish-

ing license for dismissal. Upon faxing the license, he realized the later time so he changed the time to 6:22 a.m. and sent in a second fax. The judge, with two copies in hand, rendered her decision.

been "killing everything he could find," especially owls and hawks. According to the source, the man had feet from numerous owls and hawks hanging in a shed behind his house. The wardens arrived and interviewed the man's wife, who said her husband was in the woods behind the house squirrel hunting (during closed season). As the wardens waited, Spacek spotted the man nearby and the man fled on foot. Spacek caught the man, and he was arrested without incident. In addition to hunting squirrels in closed season, he had class B warrants outstanding, 58 raptor feet hanging in his shed and a live wood duck in a cage. Multiple Class C charges pending.

DIDN'T SEEM TO HAVE A FISHING LICENSE

•Tarrant County Game Warden Clint Borchardt, while patrolling Eagle Mountain Lake for fishing violations, approached a boat that was in a group of about 10 boats whose occupants were fishing. The occupant of the boat could not produce a fishing license. He also had an expired boat registration and possessed 34 sand bass in his live well. Cases pending.

THE ALLIGATOR WAS A NUISANCE

•A call was received concerning an alligator that had been killed on a private lake in Cherokee County. After receiving photos from an anonymous source of the father and son proudly displaying their kill, Game Warden Brian Bearden was able to locate the alligator carcass on the 200-acre property. The father and son said the alligator was killed because it was a nuisance. Cases and civil restitution on the 8-foot alligator are pending.

WARDEN STAYS BUSY DAY AND NIGHT

•While working the Toledo Bend Spillway, Newton County Game Warden Landon Spacek cited a Louisiana man for possession of four undersized black bass, and eight fish over the bag limit. Later that same night, he cited a Newton County resident for possession of deer in closed season. Cases pending.

FUN AND GAMES ENDS UP WITH THREE INJURED

•Dickens County Game Warden Lacy Loudermilk was patrolling White River Lake when he was notified of a boating accident. A female with a passenger was operating a PWC and decided to splash her sister operating another PWC.

The two collided, injuring all three riders. The sister was flown by helicopter to Lubbock UMC with severe head injuries while the others were transported by ambulance to Lubbock UMC with less severe injuries.

10,400 MARIJUANA PLANTS DISCOVERED

•Dallas County game wardens assisted Grand Prairie Police Dept., Dallas Police Narcotics Division and DEA agents with the disposal of more than 10,400 marijuana plants that were discovered in a location near Joe Pool Dam area in South Dallas County.

ACTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILDREN?

•While patrolling the San Jacinto River, Harris County Game Warden Susan Webb noticed a man had an infant PFD attached to the waistband of his swim shorts while being towed in a ski tube. Contact with the boat revealed the boat to be occupied by a man and two small children. There were no other PFDs onboard the boat. The man in the ski tube said he had taken the small PFD off the smallest child to attach to himself for safety reasons. He said his actions were in the best interest of the children. Citations issued.

TRUCKLOAD OF TROUBLE

•Harrison County Game Warden Jarrod Bryant and Javier Fuentes pulled into Brandy Branch Lake boat ramp late in the evening and observed a man getting a beer out of his truck. The man was questioned regarding his age. Bryant noticed a bag containing marijuana inside the vehicle in plain view. A passenger in the same vehicle was wanted for assault. Cases pending.

MUDDY HUNTERS CAN'T "WASH OFF" CITATIONS

•Travis County Wardens Cody Jones and Josh Koenig responded to a call about illegal hunting in a new subdivision in Austin. Austin Police responded as well, and three men ran when they saw the police. The wardens arrived and began to search the area and found hunting clothes with 28 doves in them. The men left their vehicle in the area, and after a search the wardens found a .22 rifle; a knife with blood on it; and a photo (processed two days earlier) of two men standing next to a dead buck deer still in velvet. While this investigation was going on, a vehicle entered the area, saw the officers, and turned around. The wardens did a vehicle stop, and the men in the vehicle said they were just riding around and had entered the road inadvertently. The wardens followed them

out of the area, and upon returning found three men covered in mud walking back up the road to the subdivision. The men admitted killing the doves and running when they saw the police cars. They led the wardens to where they had stashed their guns, which were pellet rifles. The investigation continues regarding the deer in the photo. Citations were issued for taking doves out of season and illegal means and methods as well as restitution. The incident took place on property across from TPW Headquarters in Austin.

"LOOKING FOR ARROWHEADS" LEADS TO DRUG VIOLATIONS

•Newton County Game Wardens Landon Spacek and Ellis Powell were patrolling county roads, and came upon a man standing next to his truck with a flashlight. Upon contact, the man reported he was "looking for arrowheads." The wardens got consent to search the truck and found scales, \$638, a pipe and 4.0 grams of meth. First-degree felony charges of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance are pending.

OFF-SEASON SQUIRREL HUNTING LEADS TO MULTIPLE CHARGES

•Newton County Game Wardens Ellis Powell and Landon Spacek responded to a tip that a man had

MINORS CAUGHT WITH LIVE WELL FULL OF ICED-DOWN BEER

•Harrison County Game Warden Javier Fuentes filed two Minor in Possession cases at Brandy Branch Lake. The minors said they did not have any fish in the live well. Fuentes verified that the live well had no fish, but it was full of iced-down beer.

NO WONDER BOATER WAS IN A HURRY

•Cameron County Warden Billy Lucio boarded an inbound sport fishing boat on the Arroyo Colorado. The operator claimed to be returning from an unsuccessful fishing evening out on the Lower Laguna Madre with no fish. The man also claimed he was having engine overheating problems and was in a hurry to get to the boat ramp. Lucio lifted the lid to the ice chest, and hidden in the boats receptacles were five large black drum, and four oversized and untagged red drum ranging from 35 to 40 inches.

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MOSSBERG MAVERICK SHOTGUN
 • Available in 12-ga. 28-in. barrel or 20-ga. 26-in. barrel
 • Chambers: 2 3/4 and 3-in. shells
 • Choke: modified
 • Stock: synthetic

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 • Gauges: 12 or 20
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 • Choke: modified
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REMINGTON HEAVY DOVE LOAD
 • Gauges: 12 or 20
 • Shot sizes: 6, 7 1/2 or 8

REMINGTON EXPRESS SHOTGUN SHELLS
 • 12-ga., 2 3/4 in.
 • Available in #7 1/2, #6 or #4

MOSSBERG MAVERICK HOME DEFENSE PUMP SHOTGUN
 • Gauge: 12
 • Barrel length: 18 1/2 in.
 • Chambers: 2 3/4 or 3-in. shells

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REMINGTON 870 EXPRESS SUPER MAG SHOTGUN
 3 1/2-IN. MAG
 • Gauge: 12
 • Shoots: 12-ga. 2 3/4, 3 or 3 1/2-in. shells
 • Choke: modified • Barrel length: 26 or 28 in.
 • Stock: synthetic

249⁹⁹*

*After mfg. mail-in rebate

Remington

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WINCHESTER SUPER TARGET SHOTGUN SHELLS
 • 12 or 20 ga.
 • Shot sizes: 7 1/2 or 8

WINCHESTER AA SHOTGUN SHELLS
 • 12 or 20 ga.
 • Shot sizes: 7 1/2, 8 or 9

MOSSBERG 835 REALTREE BROWN SHOTGUN
 • Gauge: 12 • Barrel length: 28 in.
 • Shoot: 12-ga. 2 3/4-in., 3-in. or 3 1/2-in. shotshells
 • Positive steel-to-steel bolt-to-barrel lock-up

268⁰⁰

EXCLUSIVE

BENELLI NOVA 12 OR 20-GA. PUMP SHOTGUN
 • 28-in. barrel
 • Chambers: 2 3/4, 3, 3 1/2-in. shotgun shells
 • Choke: F, M, IC

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Benelli

STOEGER P-350 PUMP SHOTGUN
 • Barrel length: 28 in. • Gauge: 12
 • Stock: synthetic • Overall length: 49 3/4 in.
 • Average weight: 6.9 lbs.
 • Choke: C, IC, M, IM, XF, and wrench

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 • Gauge: 12 or 20 • Chamber: 3 in.
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 • Stock: walnut
 • Single-selective trigger
 • Auto-selective ejectors

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 • Anvil-style cutter
 • Uses contractor grade utility knife blades
 • Length: 8 1/4 in.
 • Contoured rubber grip handle
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10⁹⁹ **GERBER 8-IN. GAME SHEARS**
 • Handle separates for easy cleaning
 • Dishwasher safe
 • Non-slip grip
 • Stainless steel blades
 • Sheath included
 • #46001

LEGACY ESCORT YOUTH SHOTGUN
 • Gauge: 20
 • Chamber: 3 in.
 • Barrel length: 22 in.
 • Stock: walnut
 • Weight: 6.8 lbs.

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LEGACY

BROWNING SILVER HUNTER SHOTGUN
 • Gauge: 12 • Chamber: 3 in.
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 • Stock: walnut • Stainless receiver

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24⁹⁹ **GERBER DELUXE HUNTERS' PRUNING COMBO**
 • Lightweight
 • Double-cut saw tooth design
 • Ratcheting pruner
 • Nylon sheath included
 • #46902

5⁹⁹ **GAME WINNER CAMO DOVE STOOL**
 • Large zippered storage bag
 • Powder-coated steel frame
 • #BC009

MOSSY OAK BREAKUP

17⁸⁷ **GAME WINNER CAMO LEAN-TO DOVE STOOL**
 • Slanted seat for quick gun mounts
 • Easy-access shell pouch
 • Built-in beverage cooler
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Bushnell

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 • 2-L capacity
 • #B1702A

MOSSY OAK BREAKUP

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 • Easy to set up
 • No batteries, chargers or heavy mechanisms
 • Requires 3/8-in. stake, sold separately
 • #B1318-8

EXPEDITE

9⁷⁹ **GAME WINNER ARM CHAIR**
 • High-strength steel tubing
 • Dual built-in cup holders
 • Carry bag included
 • #HU2003-010665RT
 • #HU2003-011012RT

MOSSY OAK BREAKUP

8⁸⁶ **GAME WINNER MOSSY OAK GAME AND SHELL BAG**
 • Three large oversized pockets
 • Quick-release belt
 • #B1073

GAME WINNER SHELL BAG...8.86

MOSSY OAK BREAKUP

19⁹⁹ **MEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT SHORT-SLEEVE SHIRT**
 • Sizes: M-2XL
 • #WLC005-STD-RAGN

24⁹⁹ **MEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT PANTS**
 • Sizes: M-2XL
 • #WLC007-STD-RAGN

19⁹⁹ **GAME WINNER DELUXE GAME VEST**
 • #APP-509BU

WINCHESTER

MOSSY OAK BREAKUP

11⁸³ **SIX-PACK GAME WINNER DOVE DECOYS**
 • Six decoys
 • Soft, lifelike dove decoys
 • The most realistic decoys available
 • Easy to use
 • #LF-DOD-1008

MOSSY OAK BREAKUP

22⁹⁹ **GAME WINNER BIG-BOY MESH CHAIR**
 • High-strength steel tubing
 • Dual built-in cupholders
 • Mesh fabric on seat and backrest for increased ventilation
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MOSSY OAK BREAKUP

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 • Assorted camo patterns
 • Cover included
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Shotgun start of dove season nears

BY BINK GRIMES

Though temperatures are as hot as August, or even hotter, it doesn't matter — it's September, time to hunt.

If you haven't already made preparations for the North and Central Zone dove opener, better do it now. The Sept. 1 shotgun start of the 2007-08 hunting season is only a few sunrises away; and, with the buckets of rain that fell this summer, habitat and food plots have never been better.

If you haven't found a prime piece of dirt to hunt, keep trying. What makes Texas great is its vast acreage, home to millions of mourners and white wings. If prospects for a solid shoot still baffle you, here are a few tips to maximize your efforts and find that perfect flyway.

Foremost, be in compliance of the law. A valid Texas Hunting License with a Migratory Bird Stamp is required, along with Harvest Information Program (HIP) certification, which is done at the time of purchase. Also, if you were born after Sept. 2, 1971, you are required to take a hunter education course and have the appropriate card with you while hunting.

Know the regulations and bag limits of the zone you are hunting. Dove season in the North Zone is set for Sept. 1-Oct. 30, with a 15-bird bag and not more than two white-tipped doves; the Central Zone runs Sept. 1-Oct. 30 and reopens Dec. 26-Jan. 4, with a 12-bird bag and not more than two white-tipped doves; and the South Zone is set for Sept. 21-Nov. 11, reopening Dec. 26-Jan. 12 with a 12-bird bag and not more than two white-tipped doves. Possession limit is twice the daily bag.

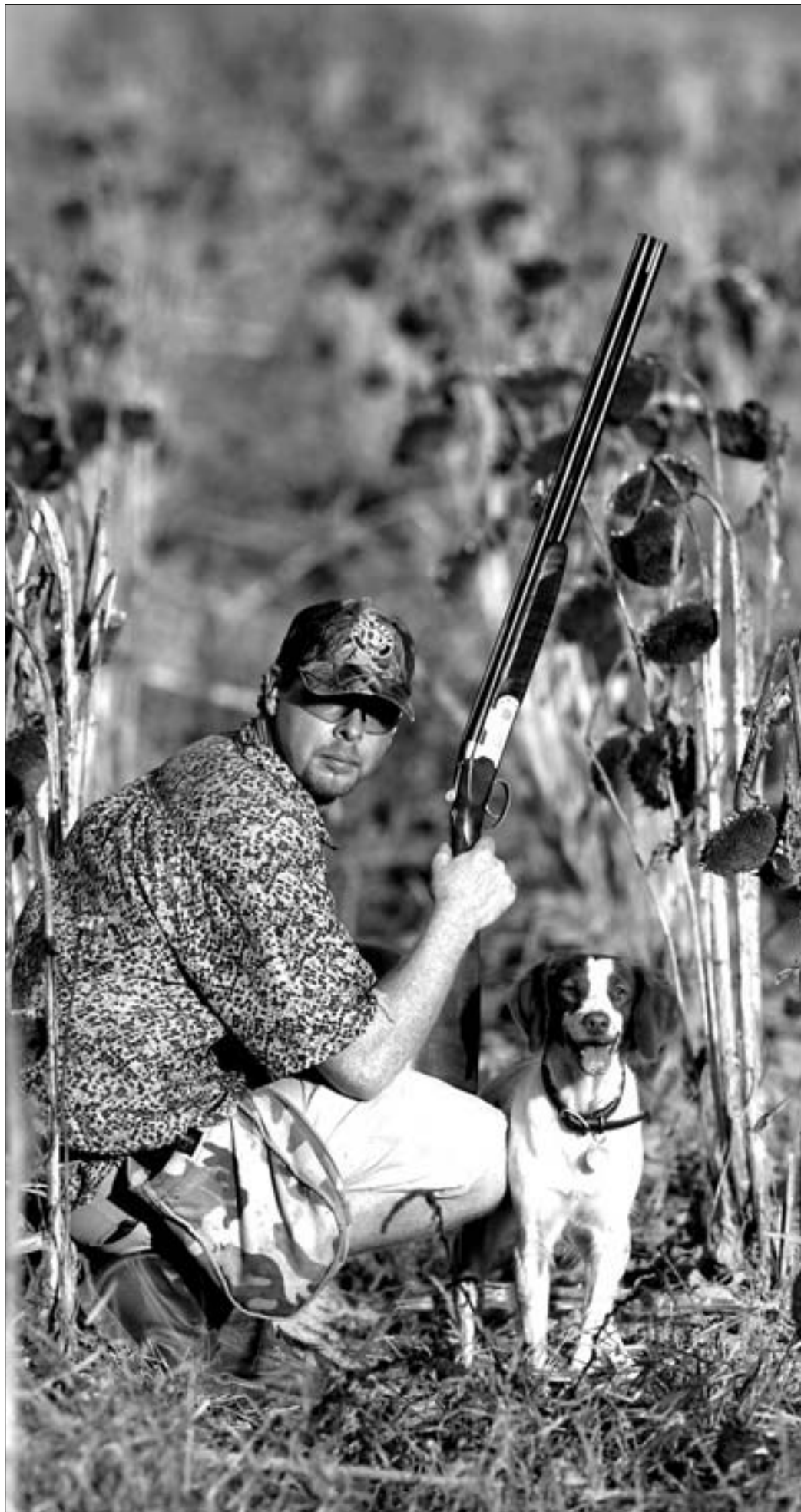
The Special South Texas Whitewing Zone, which now encompasses land west of Interstate 35 and south of U. S. Highway 90, is open to white-winged dove afternoon-only (noon to sunset) hunting the first two Saturdays and Sundays in September. The daily bag limit is 12 birds, not more than four (4) mourning doves and two (2) white-tipped doves.

If you are hunting private property or have leased land, make a couple of trips at sunrise and sunset to get a lay of the land and learn which path the birds like to fly. Pay close attention to watering holes and tree lines.

If you are looking to day-hunt with an outfitter, make several calls to various services and ask questions until you find one that suits your needs. Questions like: How many hunters do you put in a field? What kind of terrain will we hunt? What kind of crops do you hunt? Can I hunt my dog? Do you process birds, or will we need to make arrangements? Can you guarantee me a safe field? Do we have a realistic shot at seeing doves? How much?

Prepare yourself for the heat. Hydration starts days before the hunt with adequate water consumption. Bring a cooler full of water or sports drinks and keep it handy. If you are hunting your retriever, remember, if you are hot, the dog is probably hotter. Keep a bowl of water readily available for the dog, and keep careful watch to avoid a heat illness. Many retrievers haven't hunted or seen physical activity like a hunt setting brings in several months. Pushing them too hard could kill them. Hunt early and hunt late, and find a place with shade.

If it gets too hot, slow down and take it easy. Dove season runs about two months, don't kill yourself or your dog on opening day.



A NEW SEASON: A hunter and dog await a flight of doves last year in a South Texas sunflower field.

Dove Hunting Info and Outfitters

West Texas

Copper Breaks
Loren Myers
(817) 894-9220

Texas Best Outfitters
Roy Wilson
(325) 773-2457

Winters Chamber of Commerce
(325) 754-5210

Central Texas

Brownwood Chamber of Commerce
(325) 646-9535

Hamilton County Chamber of Commerce
(254) 386-3216

H.O.T. Guided Hunts
Allen Morehouse
(254) 717-2946

Executive Outfitters, Inc.
(325) 625-4111

Flying P Outdoors
(254) 796-4034

Southeast Texas

Circle H Outfitters – Alvin
Scott Hickman
(281) 535-1930

Jim West – High Island
(409) 996-3054

Web & Fin Guide Service – Chambers County
Mark Hooker
(281) 782-9034

South Texas

Rocking L Outfitters
Chris Lee
(832) 476-8498

Hondo Chamber of Commerce
(830) 426-3037

Pearsall Chamber of Commerce
(830) 334-9414

Texas Dove and Waterfowl – San Antonio Area
Robert Trotti
(866) 514-6160

Ultimate Hunts, LLC – Bexar, Medina, Karnes Counties
(210) 260-3355

Uvalde Chamber of Commerce
(830) 278-3361

Dove Hunting Zones in Texas

North Zone

That portion of the state north of a line beginning at the International Bridge south of Fort Hancock; then north along FM 1088 to State Highway 20; then west along State Highway 20 to State Highway 148; then north along State Highway 148 to Interstate 10 at Fort Hancock; then east along I-10 to I-20; then northeast along I-20 to I-30 at Fort Worth; then northeast along I-30 to the Texas-Arkansas state line.

Central Zone

That portion of the state between the North Zone and the South Zone.

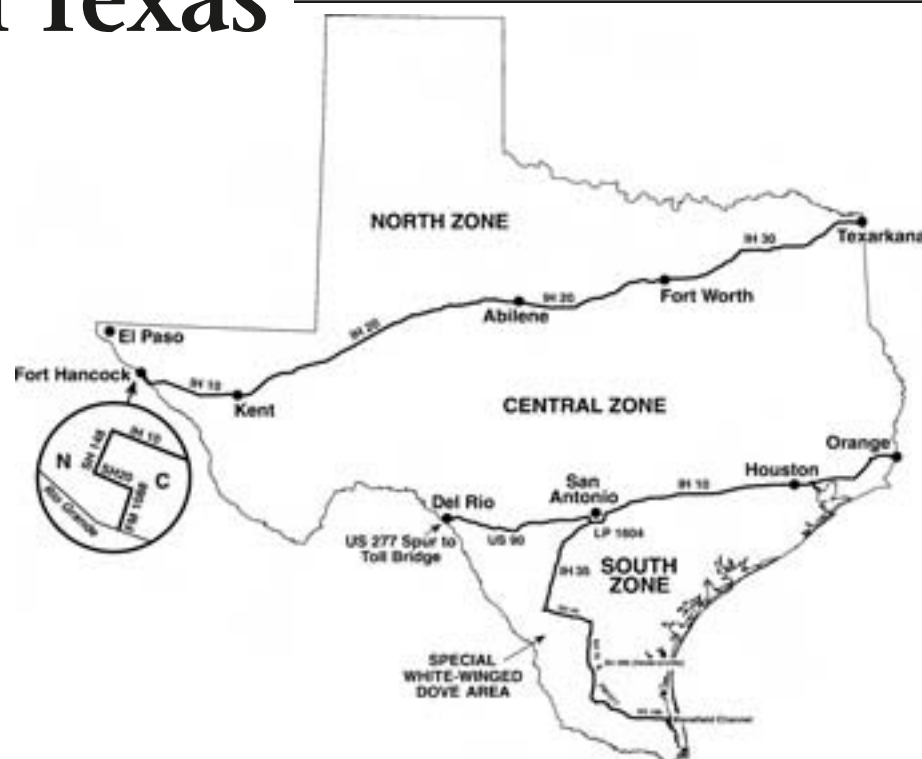
South Zone

That portion of the state south of a line beginning at the International Toll Bridge in Del Rio; then northeast along U.S. Highway 277 Spur to U.S. Highway 90 in Del Rio; then east along U.S. Highway 90 to State Loop 1604; then following Loop

1604 south and east, then north, to I-10; then east along I-10 to the Texas-Louisiana Line.

Special white-winged dove area

That portion of the state south and west of a line beginning at the International Toll Bridge in Del Rio; then northeast along U.S. Highway 277 Spur to U.S. Highway 90 in Del Rio; then east along U.S. Highway 90 to State Loop 1604; then south and east along Loop 1604 to I-35; then south along I-35 to State Highway 44; then east along State Highway 44 to State Highway 16 at Freer; then south along State Highway 16 to State Highway 285 at Hebronville; then east along State Highway 285 to FM 1017 to State Highway 186 at Linn; then east along State Highway 186 to the Mansfield Channel at Port Mansfield; then east along the Mansfield Channel to the Gulf of Mexico.



NATIONAL

29 captured bighorn sheep released along Dry Cimarron

New Mexico has a new Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep herd near Terrero, following the release of 29 sheep captured Friday in the Pecos Wilderness.

Trap crews from the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, the U.S. Forest Service, and Taos Pueblo used drop nets baited with salt blocks to capture the sheep sent to State Land Office property along the Dry Cimarron in northeastern New Mexico.

Helicopters were used to transfer the sheep from their high-altitude wilderness homes to crews and trans-

port vehicles at Terrero.

Trapping will continue with approximately 20 sheep destined for the Rio Grande Gorge near Taos to augment a population of Rocky Mountain bighorn now using land owned by Taos Pueblo and federal property managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

Bighorn sheep restoration began in New Mexico in the 1930s, but struggled until the animals were moved to the Pecos Wilderness in the 1960s.

That herd is now the source for many transplant operations, and the statewide total is approximately 1,000

Rocky Mountain bighorn. Moving the animals helps keep the population within the limits of the available alpine habitat.

Funding for the traps and transplanting operations comes from the New Mexico Chapter of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep and the Federal Aid program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This year the New Mexico National Guard assisted by using Blackhawk helicopters to move trap gear into the wilderness.

A New Mexico Department of Game and Fish report.



RECORD BREAKER: Levi Towery, 9, holds up his 2.68-pound, record-breaking Kokanee salmon. Photo by North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

Kokanee Salmon record broken twice in a weekend

Two North Carolina state records for the small Kokanee salmon were broken within a day of each other.

Mark Swann of Black Mountain reeled in a 2.48-pound Kokanee on Aug. 3 while fishing Nantahala Lake. The next day, 9-year-old Levi Towery of Forest City brought in a salmon from Nantahala that topped Swann's by two-tenths of a pound.

Towery caught his 2.68-pounder, which measured 18.4 inches in length, using a Doctor Spoon lure.

Nantahala Lake is the only spot in North Carolina where Kokanee salmon are found.

The fish, which is native to the western United States, was stocked in Nantahala Lake in the mid-1960s in an attempt to establish the species as a forage fish for other predator fishes in the lake. This stock has remained and become a favorite target for anglers.

Kokanee salmon do not grow very large, generally less than 20 inches in length, which is the reason they were stocked as a forage species.

They feed almost exclusively on plankton and on small aquatic organisms.

A North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission report.

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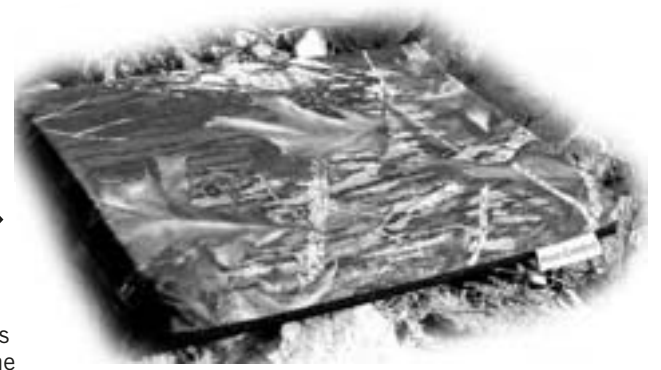
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boast "Ion Assisted" lens coating for optimum light transmission plus half-pentagonal and Schmidt roof prisms for brilliant color definition and crisp edge-to-edge image clarity. The waterproof and fog-proof high-performance binoculars are housed in an ergonomically designed aluminum-alloy body that is protected by rubber armor. Other features include twist-up eyecups and an oversized center focus wheel with an integrated adjustable diopter for one-handed focusing. Available at Cabela's stores (www.cabelas.com) for about \$800 (for the 12x42s) or about \$900 (for the 12x50s).



SITTING PRETTY: Hunt Comfort's versatile new Topper

will make the waiting (while sitting) less painful. The one-pound seat top offers a pressure-relief gel formula that distributes and reduces seating pressure. At 10x14x1 inches, the Topper is easy to roll up and tote in a hunting jacket. The cushion features waterproof Comfort-TEX fabric, which reduces shear effects on the skin, and a Toughtek bottom for durability. It costs about \$27. For information, call (888) 757-3232 or visit www.huntcomfort.com.



100 PERCENT BOW ACTION: Nocked 'N Loaded, a new DVD by **Realtree**, takes viewers into the field with bow hunters Travis "T-Bone" Turner, Lee Lakosky, Bill Winke and Kyle Wieter. In addition to some amazing hunts by some of the biggest names in the world of archery, the 115-minute DVD features plenty of bonus features. It costs \$16 at www.realtree.com.



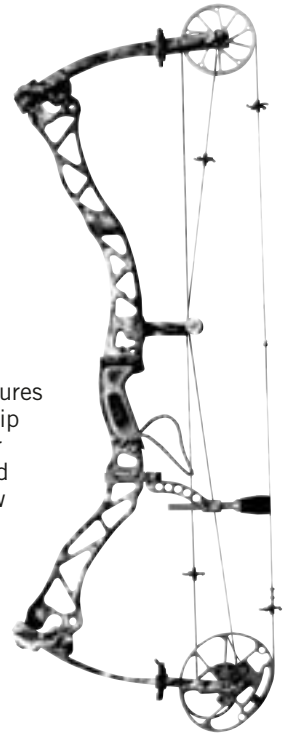
ICAST 2007'S BEST KIDS' TACKLE: Outdoor Adventure Kids, Inc. has introduced its **Miss Fisherman** line of fishing rod combos especially for girls. Available in a 4.5-foot length (for girls ages 10 to 14) and a 3.5-foot length (for girls 6 to 9), the fiberglass rods feature smaller handle grips plus a lightweight spincast reel with four ball bearings for easier casting. The rod combos are offered in purple and green with pink coming soon. They cost about \$25 and \$30. To order, visit www.outdooradventurekids.com or call the Canadian company at (519) 488-1483 for more information.



NEW VERSION OF A CLASSIC: Ranger Boat's iconic TR series has been reissued in honor of the boat maker's 40th anniversary. The **177TR**, a new version of a classic design, is built with today's technology and features. The 17-foot, 7-inch single-console fishing boat is rated for a maximum 115 horsepower and comes standard with Lowrance or Humminbird electronics, a 12-volt Minn Kota trolling motor, space for multiple 7-foot rods in the center, and port rod lockers. The boat also offers a large starboard-side storage locker on the front deck and two storage lockers under the back deck. Its snub-nose design and total performance hull deliver a smooth, dry ride. The fishing boat sells for about \$23,400, with a 115 hp Evinrude E-Tec engine. For dealers or additional specs, visit www.rangerboats.com. Dealer information also is available by calling (800) 373-2628.



STRAIGHT SHOOTER: The TechHunter Elite Bow by **Gander Mountain** promises the latest technology in speed, vibration damping, accuracy and consistent shooting. The 33 and 5/8-inch-long bow features a string suppression technology that, the company says, virtually "grabs" the string after each shot, eliminating string noise and vibration. Other features include a one-piece wooden grip designed with a high throat for consistent hand placement and reduced vertical torque; a draw stop that allows the hunter to adjust the "back wall," at the end of their draw cycle; plus more. The bow costs about \$700. For store locator, visit www.gandermountain.com.



A COOL NEW GLOVE: The Comfortemp Flexor shooting glove by **Swany** will keep hunters warm when it's cold and cool when it's hot. The adaptive insulation features temperature-balancing microspheres that absorb excess body heat; when the body temperature drops, the microspheres release the stored heat to provide warmth. Hunters also will appreciate the waterproof hunting gloves' flexible finger joints for easier shooting. The gloves are available in medium, large and extra large and cost about \$40. For retailers, visit www.swanyhunting.com or call (800) 877-9269.



ICAST 2007'S BEST BOATING ACCESSORY: This track system from **Bert's Custom Tackle** offers electronic mounts, a five-position ratcheting rod holder and a tool holder. It is available in a "Buff Brite" and "Smooth Satin" finish and costs about \$60. For more information, visit www.bertscustomtackle.com or www.teclausa.com.



ICAST 2007'S BEST SOFT LURE: Gulp! Alive! by **Berkley** is a biodegradable bait that comes floating in a fish-attracting "Magic Gravy." To "recharge" the baits, just put them back in the pint or quart buckets, where the lures will absorb more attractant. The Gulp! Alive! comes in several lure types, including minnows (shown) and shrimp. It costs about \$40 for the quart size of the 3-inch shrimp.

OUTDOOR DATEBOOK

HAVE AN EVENT?

E-mail it to
editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com

May 26-Sept. 3:

The CCA Texas STAR tournament will take place along the Texas coast. Twelve divisions with \$1 million in scholarships and prizes. Register online at ccatexas.org or call (800) 626-4222 for information.



Aug. 25-26:

Cabela's in Buda will hold Hunting Outfitter weekend as part of its Fall Great Outdoor Days. Hunting outfitters will be on hand and conducting seminars all weekend. For information, call the store at (512) 295-1100 or visit www.cabelas.com.



Aug. 26-26 and Sept. 1-2: Cabela's in Fort Worth will host the Fall Great Outdoor Days. Seminars by pro-staffers, vendor exhibits, prizes and more. For information, call (817) 337-2400 or visit www.cabelas.com.

Aug. 28: The Wimberley DU dinner will

be held at the Wimberley Community Center. For information, call John Hollingsworth at (512) 847-2555.

Aug. 29-30: The South Texas Wildlife Conference will be held at the A.B. Alexander Convention Center in Cotulla. For information, contact Jenny Sanders at (361) 279-7287 or jsanders@tw-mail.org.

Aug. 30: The Johnson County DU dinner will be held at the Cleburne Civic Center. Contact Tim Trammel at (817) 287-9728 or tim@sroutdoors.com for information.

Aug. 30: The Winnie Delta Waterfowl dinner will be held at the Winnie Community Center. Call Brian or Sandra Fischer at (409) 656-5765 for information.



Aug. 30: The Alamo Area Quail Unlimited banquet will be held at the Alzafar Shrine Temple in San Antonio. For information, contact Helen Holdsworth at (210) 826-2904, ext. 120 or h_holdsworth@texas-wildlife.org.

Aug. 31: The Scattered Longbeards NWF banquet will be held at the Yoakum Community Center in Yoakum. For information, contact Wesley Mikulenska



at (361) 293-8012 or w.mikulenska@sbcglobal.net.

Sept. 1-2: The Dallas Safari Club annual dove hunt will be held at the Hailey Ranch near Abilene (members only). To register, call (972) 980-9800.



Sept. 5: The East Bernard Delta Waterfowl banquet will be held at Riverside Hall on Hwy. 90. Call Richard Barber at (979) 335-6575 for information.

Sept. 6: The 4 Corners CCA banquet will be held at the Midlothian Community Center. Call (800) 626-4222 for information.

Sept. 6: The Lake Lewisville DU banquet will be held at Marine Max in Lewisville. Contact Ron Tate at (972) 888-9500 or ron.tate@tdindustries.com.

Sept. 6: The Spring/North Houston Metro Delta Waterfowl dinner will be held at Tumbleweed Texas. Call Dan Rathe at (281) 797-5754 for information.

Sept. 7-8: The 4th Annual Children's Miracle Network Legends Dove Hunt will be held at several ranches near Abilene. For information or to sign up, e-mail mrogers@ehendrick.org or visit www.legenddovehunt.com.

Sept. 8: The Panhandle Texas Big Game Awards will be held at Fair Park Auditorium in Childress. For information, call (210) 836-2904 or visit www.texasbiggameawards.com.

Sept. 8: The Shelby County DU dinner will be held at Center Country Club in Center. Contact Ed Johnson at (936) 598-5688 for information.

Sept. 9: The Canadian DU banquet will be held at Canadian Town Hall. Contact Milton Cooke at (806) 787-3997 or Milton@cookya.com for information.



Sept. 10: The Dallas Orvis store at 8300 Preston Road will host Beretta Master Engraver Luca Casari from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information, call the store at (214) 265-1600.

Sept. 11-13: A Hunter's Safety Education class will be held at the Corisicana Gander Mountain store. For information, call the store at (903) 874-2500.

Sept. 11: The Stephenville DU dinner will be held at City Limites. Call Richard Cook at (254) 965-7680 for information.

Sept. 13: The Dallas Safari Club Hill Country Meeting will be held in Kerrville. For information, call (972) 980-9800.

Sept. 13: The Garland/Mesquite DU banquet will be held at The Atrium in Garland. Contact John Lane at (214) 677-7405 or garlanddu@yahoo.com.

Sept. 13: The FM 1960/Tomball DU dinner will be held at the Tomball VFW Hall. Contact Sherri Emory at (832) 467-7603 or Craig Weeden at (281) 507-6516 for information.

Sept. 15: The Whitesboro DU dinner will be held at Don's Bar-B-Que. Contact Kyle Maynard at (903) 564-6012 or kmaynard204@hotmail.com for information.

Sept. 19: The LaGrange DU dinner will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in LaGrange. Call Debra Byler at (979) 968-9547 for information.

Sept. 20: The Beeville/Redfish Bay CCA banquet will be held at the High 5 Ranch in Beeville. For information, call (800) 626-4222.

Sept. 21: A hunter education class will be held at the Beaumont Gander Mountain store. For information, call the store at (409) 347-3055.



Sept. 21: The Cuervo Brothers DU dinner will be held in Uvalde. Call Rogers Hoyt at (830) 278-3833 for information.

CCA State of Texas Angler's Rodeo (STAR)

LEADERS AS OF: 8-20-07

Upper Coast Speckled Trout

Robert Wardlaw of Texarkana, Ark.
8 lbs. 7 ozs.

Middle Coast Speckled Trout

Norman Frankum of Sweeney
9 lbs.

Lower Coast Speckled Trout

Bryan R. Tucker II of Corpus Christi
8 lbs. 14 ozs.

OFFSHORE DIVISION

Kingfish
Rodney McWhorter of Angleton
55 lbs. 9 ozs.

Dorado

Alan Latham of Rockport
46 lbs. 10 ozs.

Ling (Cobia)

Chris Jacobs of Sweeney
75 lbs. 3 ozs.

INSHORE DIVISION

Flounder
Jason Wardrup of LaMarque
7 lbs. 14 ozs.

Sheepshead

Jeff Nouis of Deer Park
8 lbs. 3 ozs.

Gafftop

Micahel Ray Darder of Beaumont
8 lbs. 8 ozs.

STARKIDS DIVISION (AGES 6-10)

Flounder

Sam Wittman, 7, of Houston
3 lbs. 14 ozs.

Sheepshead

Emily Ibarra, 10, of Baytown
7 lbs. 12 ozs.

Gafftop

Jarren Mahon, 8, of Winnie
7 lbs. 6 ozs.

STARTEENS TROUT & INSHORE DIVISIONS (AGES 11-17)

Upper Coast Speckled Trout
Britney Halewyn, 17, of Alvin
7 lbs. 3 ozs.

Middle Coast Speckled Trout
Travis Corporon, 17, of Palacios
7 lbs. 9 ozs.

Lower Coast Speckled Trout
Nicholas Joiner, 17, of Robstown
8 lbs. 3 ozs.

Flounder

Cory Gagliano, 11, of Portland
6 lbs. 5 ozs.

Sheepshead

Jordan Ward, 15, of Santa Fe
7 lbs. 4 ozs.

Gafftop

Lance Knox, 11, of Rosenberg
7 lbs. 11 ozs.

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About the artist, Luca Casari

Master Engraver Luca Casari was born in Brescia, Italy in 1967 and grew up in Gardone Val Trompia, a small town at the top of the Trompia Valley, near Brescia where he still lives with his wife and children. At the age of 15, Luca was admitted to the "Bottega Incisioni Giovanelli" (Giovanelli Engraving School). There, he worked for four years under Master Engraver Giulio Timpini from Beretta, to learn masterful engraving techniques. In 1987, Luca began working with his father Gianni - also known for his engraving talents. By 1996, Luca

put his special gift to use in the engraving laboratory at the Beretta factory, where he continues to work today. While at Beretta, Luca was able to further his engraving skills, once more under the guidance of Master Engraver Timpini. Throughout his career, Luca has successfully absorbed the cultural evolution and the engraving techniques that have advanced over time. In 2003, he earned the title of "Master Engraver" and soon after started to travel the world, including the United States, England, the Netherlands, Finland, Denmark, Portugal and Greece. The sole purpose of these engraving tours is to present his experience, talent and skills to people across the globe.



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BOWS

Continued from Page 1

is twice as fast.

The actual speed of sound, however, is about 1,100 feet per second, Hamm said.

So, if a bowstring has too much twang, or if the sight and quiver screws on compound bow aren't backed with lock washers, there will be noisy vibrations easily heard at close archery ranges.

And a whitetail buck makes good use of the warning; he's light and agile, and packed with powerful muscles, well-suited for clearing fences and making quick getaways.

This is not an issue, Hamm said, for competitive archers; 3D targets, after all, are inanimate objects.

And large game animals like elk and moose can't react as fast as a whitetail, Hamm said.

"Whitetails are so hair-trigger, you want to use every advantage," he said. "There's no way you can be faster than a deer's reflexes when you're

hunting with a longbow or a recurve. "I'd rather get off a quiet shot that a deer didn't hear, rather than a fast shot."

Edward Vargas, archery coach and owner of SureShot Archery in Humble, said most archers mistakenly go for speed and don't consider noise. "They want the fastest arrow," he said. "But they are noisier. It's better to match the arrow to the bow, which often means lighter — and slightly slower — arrows."

Veteran bowhunters also recommend string "silencers" that arrest

vibration, such as "cat whiskers" made from the tiny rubber strips used on bass lures.

Traditional archers also like the classic look of silencers made from tufts of fur from otter, beaver or muskrat. Hamm noted compound bow shooters like that look, too.

Using heavy arrows also cuts noise, Hamm said, because the weight, measured in grains, absorbs extra energy from the bow. He suggested using arrows weighing 500 grains.

Also, eliminate loose parts on your compound bow. A small piece of

inner tube rubber makes a fine lock washer, according to some veterans.

And be sure that your arrow rest is lined with moleskin or some other light padding so that there's no "clink" when you snap your arrow in place.

Taking steps to silence a bow may seem obsessive, but veterans say that's just part of the journey from novice archer to a successful bowhunter.

"The learning curve is real steep," Hamm said. "But after you get busted by a deer a few times, you learn."

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YVONNE DE LA ROSA shows a 45-inch redfish she caught fishing off the jetties of Port Aransas with guide **CHARLIE HUTCHINS**.



BRENT PROPST helps hold a 43 3/4-inch redfish his son **KEIL, 7**, caught and released while fishing in Mitchell's Cut near Port O'Connor.



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JOE DE LA ROSA shows a 41-inch redfish he caught off the jetties in Port Aransas.



KELLI SELLERS with her New Zealand Arapawa Ram shot at 224 yards with a .270. She was hunting with the Dallas Safari Club 2006 Outfitter of the Year, **SHANE JOHNSTON**, owner of New Zealand Four Season Safaris.

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Summer

Continued from Page 1

smaller fish early in the morning," he said. "But the better fish are being caught on the outside edge of the deep grass line starting at about 28 feet deep on jigs, Carolina- and Texas-rigs."

At Houston County Lake near Crockett, nighttime fishermen beat the heat and have reported some good catches. "They have been doing pretty well on crankbaits on the rocks and with tequila sunrise and cotton candy plastics," said Robert at the Crockett Family Resort. "No one is fishing during the middle of the day, the water is so hot."

At Sam Rayburn, fish are being caught early and late, but "it's fair at best," said guide Roger Bacon of Roger Bacon Outdoors. "Some great local fishermen were zeroed at the recent Bass 'N Bucks tournament," Bacon said. "The lake is two feet above pool, which doesn't sound like a lot, but it's usually four to five

feet below pool this time of year, and the water temperature is 91 degrees."

The high water has hurt the success of the weekend anglers. "It's tough for the regular angler to find the grass beds since you can't see them from the surface," Bacon said. "They are having some luck on the outside edges of the hydrilla in 14 to 18 feet using Carolina-rigged baby brush hogs and lizards in dark colors, and flipping a heavy jig vertically."

Bacon, who guides crappie fishermen as well, targets his numerous brush piles. "If you have brush piles, you can drop-shot them and do fairly well."

Reports from Lake Haven Marina on Lake Brownwood and Elm Creek Marina on O.H. Ivie Lake say the bass have shut down. "We haven't had much luck since we got six feet of fresh water from the rains at the end of June," said Jerry Hunter at Elm Creek Marina. "Someone is reporting they are catching them here, but I sure haven't heard or seen anything."

Bayou

Continued from Page 1

A host of state and federal agencies, responding to Edwards' permit application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, listed dozens of environmental and engineering concerns, placing the project on temporary hold and possibly jeopardizing funding sources.

Edwards estimates that addressing these concerns could delay the project slightly and cost an additional \$200,000 or more to hire an environmental team to redesign certain aspects of the project and to rework the permit application.

The effort has received support from such angling and conservation organizations as Coastal Conservation Association-Texas (CCA), Saltwater-Fisheries Enhancement Association (SEA) and the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program. Each has sanctioned the project by contributing thousands of dollars toward research and design.

And the Texas General Land Office, through the grants it administers, has considered the project a good idea.

Edwards said the unexpected negative comments reflect either a deep ignorance of the Cedar Bayou's history or something more sinister such as politics.

She said the agencies, which include the Environmental

Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, seem to ignore the environmental evidence that justified previous Cedar Bayou openings as well as other pass projects along the Texas coast.

"What's changed?" Edwards asks. "If this was a good idea before, then why isn't it a good idea today?"

The mouth of Cedar Bayou and the mouth of the nearby slough, which feeds the pass, were covered at the hands of government work crews years ago. The pass was intentionally blocked in 1979 to prevent contamination of Mesquite and Aransas bays after an oil spill in the Gulf. Nobody seems to know why the mouth of Vinson Slough was covered with dredge material in 1995, the last time TPW dredged the pass.

Historically, the hydraulic energy provided by Vinson Slough was essential to the flow of this historic fish pass between Aransas Bay and the Gulf of Mexico, according to Hugo Bermudez with Coast and Harbor Engineering, the firm that designed the proposed dredge project for Save Cedar Bayou. Bermudez said his preferred plan would incorporate this essential dynamic for a viable channel.

There is no way to predict

with complete certainty whether the pass would remain open, Bermudez said. But the last time TPW dredged it, the pass stayed open for at least 15 years with minimal maintenance.

Biologists say an open pass would benefit the surrounding estuary system in countless ways, improving water quality and providing much-needed Gulf access to myriad marine species, including shrimp and redfish, not to mention the blue crabs that are essential to the diet of endangered whooping cranes, which winter nearby.

Comments sent to the Corps of Engineers list possible negative repercussions on seagrasses, shallow marshes, bird habitat and such.

Edwards, who considers most of the concerns bureaucratic debris and void of reason, said her goal is to return the area to pre-1995 conditions and by doing so revive a bay system that has been denied by unnatural means its access to life-giving Gulf waters.

And yet, each of the agencies is recommending that current conditions near Cedar Bayou be preserved or considered above the more natural conditions that previously existed before the area was altered by man.

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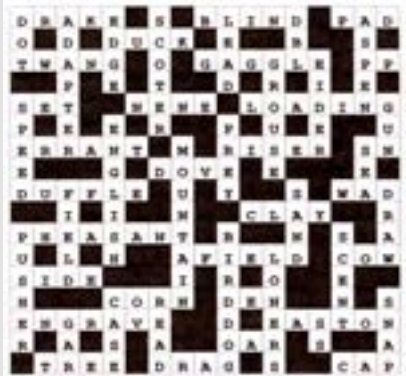




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