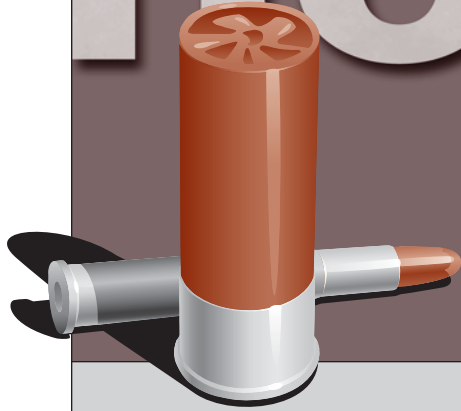


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Thanks are due to Anheuser-Busch, Inc. for funding this customer newsletter, without having to use any state funds for printing. Anheuser-Busch has sponsored this newsletter for four years, and their financial support of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation has resulted in millions of dollars of funding for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department conservation and outreach programs.

Anheuser-Busch has been a proud sponsor of many programs, including the Budweiser ShareLunker program, Flat Out Fishing, Public Dove Hunting program and the Coastal Bay Fishing Team. Big Time Texas Hunts (see enclosed brochure) is also sponsored by Anheuser-Busch.

The Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo also depends on the support of Anheuser-Busch, who has been a top sponsor for the past 12 years. The long-standing support of Anheuser-Busch provides much-needed dollars to the department in order to accomplish the mission of keeping Texas a great place to hunt, fish and enjoy the outdoors.

ANHEUSER  BUSCH

Renew your Super Combo Aug. 15th!

**Purchase licenses online at:
www.tpwd.state.tx.us**



Just as summer's heat begins its long but certain bow toward the fall, hunters and anglers from across the state look forward to rewarding themselves with another year of bountiful outdoor experiences.

That's why the Super Combo license has become such a popular Texas tradition. The "all-in-one" license package remains a great value and still includes a Resident Hunting License, Resident Fishing License and all five state stamp endorsements. Purchased separately, those items would cost \$87. Purchased as a Super Combo, the catch-all license of \$64 punches a ready-anytime, first-class ticket to limitless outdoor opportunities.

Perhaps most importantly, revenue from Super Combo sales is by law dedicated

exclusively to fisheries and wildlife conservation. Millions of fish are stocked into Texas waters each year thanks to Super Combo license buyers. Funds from this popular license are also used to manage habitat for deer, turkey, dove and other game, and to support law enforcement efforts.

And snaring a coveted Super Combo license has never been easier. The license, which goes on sale August 15th, can be purchased online at www.tpwd.state.tx.us or at one of more than 2,000 locations throughout the state. For more information, call (800) TX LIC 4 U (1-800-895-4248).

For those of you who do renew your Super Combo license, thanks for helping keep another great Texas tradition alive.

Super Combo Promotion, Stamp Changes Coming This Fall

This newsletter is for you Super Combo license buyers, people who do it all in the outdoors and care about the future of hunting and fishing and our natural world. Folks like you are important to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and I'd like to share a few things we're doing to earn your continued support.

First off, we're doing something special for Super Combo customers this fall. Anyone who buys a Super Combo Aug. 15 through the end of December will be automatically entered into a drawing to win a \$1,000 outdoor gear shopping spree at Academy and a free Texas State Parks Pass. We'll be giving away 10 of these great prizes every two weeks throughout the fall, and once you buy a Super Combo you're in the running for all drawings that follow, so the earlier you buy the better your chances. See the enclosed insert and visit our Web site to learn more about this special promotion.

Another thing I'd like to share with you is how and why game bird stamps have been reorganized. Super Combo holders automatically get all needed stamps, so you're covered, but explaining what's happening here showcases some important conservation issues, how needs change, and how we need to be able to change to meet them.

The Texas Legislature this year passed bills that consolidated the three existing game bird stamps into two, effective Sept. 1, 2005. We now have a \$7 Migratory Game Bird Stamp covering all migratory game birds, including ducks, geese, all hunted dove species and sandhill cranes and a \$7 Upland Game Bird Stamp covering wild turkeys, quail and pheasants as the key species.

This change was supported by organizations representing game bird hunters, including Texas chapters of Ducks Unlimited, Quail Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, Dove Sportsman's Society and Audubon. These groups sent letters of endorsement and appeared at legislative hearings to testify in favor of the bills.

Game bird stamps have helped make Texas bird hunting some of the best in the world by funding habitat acquisition and enhancement, species research and other items such as equipment for wildlife management areas. Stamp funds are dedicated to game birds and cannot be used for state parks or other purposes. However, situations have changed since these stamps were created decades ago. A broader suite of game birds need special support, so more flexibility is needed to fund projects that will do the most good for all game birds.

A case in point is the White-Winged Dove Stamp, created in 1971 to acquire and protect whitewing habitat in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. As a result of these efforts, the whitewing population has grown and spread from the Valley across Texas and beyond. Today, the mourning dove population in Texas is in need of the same efforts throughout their range. Unfortunately, the old system did not allow our agency to spend whitewing funds on other dove species.

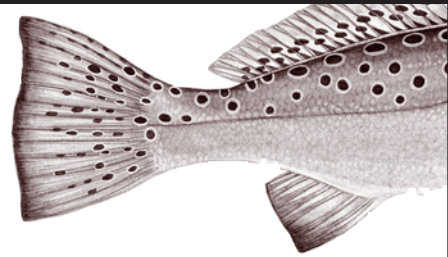
A key point here is that we can accomplish more by working at the landscape habitat level. Any habitat project, whether funded by turkey stamp funds or dove funds, benefits more than one species.

Indications are this fall will be another good hunting season. I hope you get out and enjoy it. When you do, please know that your license dollars are helping to keep hunting great in Texas.



Robert L. Cook, TPWD Executive Director

Catch These Upcoming Events



Want to improve your angling skills or learn more about our saltwater ecosystems? Several coastal fishing events from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department are being conducted along the coast to enhance angling skills and knowledge, as well as helping biologists gather brood stocks for hatchery use.



Two Coastal Fisheries Bay Team tournaments were held on the Lower Laguna Madre and out of Corpus Christi to help marine hatchery biologists collect brood stocks of spotted seatrout.

"Of the brood stock we use each year, we turn over about 25 percent and to maintain the genetic integrity of our seatrout stocks we need to have a mix," said Robert Adami, a TPWD biologist at the CCA/CPL Marine Development Center and event coordinator. "Getting the public to help collect fish allows us to keep our biologists in the field and the office."

Two lucky anglers who contributed fish during the tournaments were winners of lifetime fishing licenses. Heath Schley from LaFeria won the drawing in the Valley event and Leo Elizondo of Corpus Christi claimed the other. Elizondo also participated in the Corpus Christi event, bringing two other teams from the Valley with him. Other participants received fishing gear prizes and every team member received a T-shirt. The prizes, equipment and program are made possible through support from Anheuser-Busch, Inc.

Since TPWD began enlisting anglers to help catch fish for hatcheries at special tournaments eight years ago, more than 1,200 people have helped catch more than 1,500 fish.

Southern flounder will be the target species during the following upcoming tournaments Oct. 29 at Sabine Lake, S.A.L.T. Club and Nov. 12 in Texas City, Texas City Dike. Next year's event schedule will be expanded to include a tournament out of Port O'Connor.

Anglers interested in becoming a member of the Coastal Fisheries Bay Team can contact Robert Adami at the CCA/CPL Marine Development Center at robert.adami@tpwd.state.tx.us or (361) 939-7784.



The department's Flat Out Fishing events held this spring at Port Aransas and Galveston offered a day of seminars on flats fishing. The programs focused on ethical fishing habits. Similar events are planned for the future, possibly as early as late winter 2005-2006. Interested anglers in attending Flat Out Fishing, can contact Art Morris at the Corpus Christi Field Station at art.morris@tpwd.state.tx.us or (361) 825-3356.

Congratulations to Big Time Texas Hunts Winners

Each year this program raises hundreds of thousands of dollars for wildlife conservation and to provide more hunting opportunities. Please see the enclosed brochure for all the details on this year's great hunts.

Winners of last year's Big Time Texas Hunts were selected through a random computer drawing of applicants. Here are last year's winners:

Grand Slam Ron Marsh of Lakeside

Whitetail Bonanza Gary V. Alvis of Lucas
Ronald L. Cooper of Tomball
James M. Deckelman of Lubbock
Brad C. Hardin of Fredericksburg
Gary L. Miller of Ennis
Weldon R. Owen of San Antonio
Michael R. Pillely of Marble Falls
Thomas K. Roughton of Austin
Gregory R. Schaller of Deer Park
Glenn A. Uecker of Boerne

Exotic Safari John W. Phipps of Arlington
William E. Neslage of Fredericksburg

Premium Buck Hunt Reginald G. Cornelius of Marshall

Waterfowl Adventures Charles A. Gray of Plano

Big Time Bird Hunt Tommy G. Hallford of Mount Pleasant

Gator Hunt Robert F. Sliva of Wharton

Check Your TV Listings

The following programs are scheduled to air on PBS this fall on the Emmy award-winning *Texas Parks & Wildlife* TV Show. Complete listings and showtimes are available online at: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/tv



Also: White Bass Fishing, Tree Stand Safety, Dove Hunting, Animal Calls and a whole lot more.

Internet Resources

The TPWD Web site has a wealth of information. Here are a few links that you may not know about:

Find out ways to earn potential income for Texas landowners through public hunting leases: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/hunt

Big fish story? Check out our Angler Recognition page, you may hold an official state and/or water body record. Find out how to get the credit you deserve: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fish/infish/records/

Need a new license plate for your boat trailer? TPWD's specialty plate with a beautiful largemouth bass on it is the only one in the state available for trailers. Order yours today: www.conservation-plate.org

Texas Quail Conservation Initiative

A Proactive Approach to Restoring Quail

Despite reports of a great quail season in South Texas and the Rolling Plains, bobwhite and scaled quail, and about 25 other species of birds that use similar habitat, are in trouble. Since 1980, bobwhites in Texas have declined at a rate of about 5.6 percent annually – a 75 percent loss during our generation. We've lost two-thirds of our scaled quail population during that time period.

The fundamental reason for declining quail numbers is loss of habitat. Reduction of habitat through changes in agricultural practices, fragmentation, urban sprawl and conversion of rangelands to exotic grasses like Bermuda has greatly reduced the amount of space available for quail. Many other reasons are cited, including fire ants, predation and weather, but wildlife officials say there is little evidence to support these claims.

If this trend continues, everyone loses. These animals rely on the same types of habitats and environmental processes that provide Texans with revenue, places to live and recreate, water to drink and clean air to breathe. Simply stated, maintaining a healthy Texas lifestyle means maintaining healthy wildlife habitats.

Actions are needed to halt, and hopefully reverse the declines in quail and associated grassland bird species. The Texas Quail Initiative is a strategy for managing habitat and restoring quail populations in Texas. The initiative takes a proactive approach that fosters partnership and cooperation among various state, federal and private entities to initially halt, and then reverse scaled quail and bobwhite declines within areas of remaining habitat.

So what can the average person do to contribute to such a huge undertaking? The plan calls for Texans to pull together as hunters, landowners, conservation groups, agencies, and researchers to identify, modify, and adapt practices and mindsets that will preserve Texas' quail legacy for future generations.

A 20-page report, "Where Have All The Quail Gone," outlines a proactive approach to reversing those trends and restoring quail populations in Texas by improving wildlife habitat.

The plight of the quail also has the attention of Texas leadership, and legislation from the recent session that reorganized the state's dedicated bird hunting stamp programs (see Robert L. Cook's column).

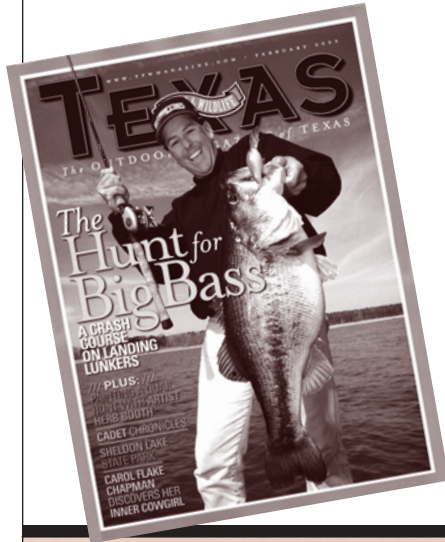
More information on quail conservation, including a downloadable copy of the quail plan, is available on the Web at: www.tpwd.state.tx.us



TEXAS QUAIL INITIATIVE
Texans Improving Habitat for Native Wildlife

Super Combo Deal!

12 issues for only \$12.95



TEXAS

The OUTDOOR MAGAZINE of TEXAS



Don't miss these great upcoming issues:

- **September:** Annual Hunting Forecast, Nighttime Smallmouth Bass Fishing
- **October:** Hunting Deer from Tree Stands, Striped Bass
- **November:** High Plains Pheasants, Stalking Redfish

Call (800) 937-9393 today!

Give operator Key Code: **SC58**. Offer expires 12/31/05.

2005-2006 Hunting Calendar

Cut out on dotted line, fold in half, laminate and carry for convenience. Folding in half again will make it wallet size.

Proposed 2005-2006 Hunting Seasons		Squirrel (continued)	Other Open counties (see County Listings in Outdoor Annual)
Dove (Please report leg bands to 1-800-327-BAND)	North Zone	Sept. 1-Oct. 30	Sept. 1-Aug. 31
	Central Zone	Sept. 1-Oct. 30, Dec. 26-Jan. 4	
	South Zone	Sept. 23-Nov. 10, Dec. 26-Jan. 15	
	Special South Texas Zone	Sept. 3, 4, 10 & 11, Sept. 23-Nov. 10, Dec. 26-Jan. 11	
Early Teal-Only	Statewide (all counties) see Important Notice		
Alligator	by permit only	Sept. 10-30	
Pronghorn Antelope	by permit only	Oct. 1-9	
White-tailed deer	Archery	Oct. 1-30	
	General:		
	*Special Youth Season	Oct. 29-30, Jan. 21-22	
	North Texas (200 counties)	Nov. 5-Jan. 1	
	Panhandle (6 counties)	Nov. 19-Dec. 4	
	South Texas (30 counties)	Nov. 5-Jan. 15	
	Edwards Plateau (39 counties)		
	Late Antlerless and Spike	Jan. 2-15	
	South Texas (30 counties)		
	Late Antlerless and Spike	Jan. 16-29	
	Muzzleloader (23 counties)		
	Late Antlerless and Spike	Jan. 7-15	
Mule deer	Archery	Oct. 1-30	
	General:		
	Panhandle (36 counties)	Nov. 19-Dec. 4	
	SW Panhandle (7 counties)	Nov. 19-27	
	Trans-Pecos (19 counties)	Nov. 26-Dec. 11	
Javelina	(Approximately 43 counties)	Oct. 1-Feb. 26	
	(Approximately 50 counties)	Sept. 1-Aug. 31	
Squirrel	%Special Youth Season	Sept. 24-25	
	East Texas (51 counties)	Oct. 1-Feb. 5, May 1-31	
			Panhandle (8 counties) by permit only
			Chambers, Jefferson & Liberty counties
			Panhandle (37 counties)
			Statewide (all counties)
			Archery:
			Fall Season:
			*Special Youth Season
			Oct. 29-30, Jan. 21-22
			Nov. 5-Jan. 1
			Nov. 5-Jan. 15
			North Texas (123 counties)
			South Texas (26 counties)
			Brooks, Kenedy, Kleberg & Willacy counties
			Nov. 5-Feb. 26
			Spring Season:
			4-Turkey counties (153 counties)
			*Special Youth Season
			Apr. 1-May 4
			Mar. 25-26,
			May 20, 21
			Apr. 1-30
			1-Turkey counties (11 counties)
			No Special Youth Season
			Spring Season Only
			East Texas (43 counties)
			Apr. 1-30
			Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr & Willacy counties
			Oct. 29-Feb. 26
			No closed season.
			+Eastern Turkey
			Chachalaca
			Rabbits and Hares
			* In all counties that have an open season for those species.
			% In all counties that have a Oct. 1-Feb. 5 and May 1-31 Open Squirrel Season.
			+ Rio Grande and Eastern Turkey may be hunted in these counties.
			Important Notice: The dates for a 9-day season are Sept. 17-25, 2005; however, there is a possibility that federal action could result in a 16-day season. If that is the case, the season would begin one week earlier and run from Sept. 10-25, 2005. TPWD will make every reasonable effort to notify the public when the final teal season dates are known. After July 25, contact the department for final teal season dates by calling (800) 792-1112 or visiting the TPWD Web site at: http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/hunt/regs/2005/animal_listing/



TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT
 "To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations."

FOR MORE INFORMATION
 All inquiries: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744, telephone (800) 792-1112 toll free, or (512) 389-4800 or visit our Web site for detailed information about TPWD programs:
www.tpwd.state.tx.us

NEED-TO-KNOW NEWS FOR SUPER COMBO HUNTERS AND ANGLERS