



WIND AND WILDLIFE

Wind Power and Wildlife - two things of which Texas has plenty. Texas leads the nation in energy generated by wind power, and more wind turbines are being built as we speak. Approximately 5,580 MW of wind power is currently being generated in the US, and there's 1-2,000 MW under construction. If residential wind power is included, over 20,000 MW is being generated now. In 2007, there was a 20% increase in energy from wind power, and 45% of that increase came from Texas.

The Department of Energy has said getting 20% of the nation's power to be generated by wind power by 2030 is an ambitious, but feasible goal. It would reduce carbon dioxide emissions from electricity generation by 25%, reduce natural gas use by 11%, and reduce water consumption associated with electricity generation by 4 trillion gallons by 2030, a 17% reduction.

To get that 20% by 2030, a very large number of turbines and transmission lines will have to be built. The habitat disturbance resulting from this infrastructure could be significant, and some think the transmission lines may have a greater affect than the turbines. Turbines need to be located in areas of high wind, but these are often flight corridors for birds. The wildlife profession will need to ensure that the disturbance is minimized and mitigated properly.

Wind turbines help reduce air pollution, but there are complaints of visual and sound pollution. We don't

want to live next door to a coal-power generation plant, but very few want giant turbines in their backyard either. Like most things in life, wind power has its good and bad points.

On February 26-28, 2009, the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society will have its annual meeting in Lubbock, Texas. *How Green? The Complex World of Wind Power Development and Wildlife* is the title of the plenary session, and we'll be talking about the good and bad of wind power generation.

Hope to see you there!



TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE
WILDLIFE SOCIETY

WWW.TCTWS.ORG

EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT, *Ruben Cantu*

PRESIDENT ELECT, *Bart Ballard*

VICE PRESIDENT, *Louis Harveson*

SECRETARY, *Brian Hays*

BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE,

Michelle Haggerty

TREASURER, *Terry Blankenship*

ARCHIVIST, *Jon Purvis*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, *Vacant*

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

JON PURVIS

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

4200 SMITH SCHOOL ROAD

AUSTIN, TX 78744

JON.PURVIS@TPWD.STATE.TX.US

512-389-8193

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

WWW.TCTWS.ORG.....1

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: *Fall Is Here*.....2

SW SECTION HIGHLIGHTS....3

CHAPTER BUSINESS.....4

UPCOMING MEETINGS.....9

Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society Newsletter is published in January, April, July, and October. Contributions on any topic pertaining to wildlife, announcements of interest to members, or Chapter business are welcome and should be submitted to the Editor by the 15th of the preceding month. Change of address should be sent to the Treasurer (Terry Blankenship, tblankenship@welderwildlife.org). Membership in the Chapter is \$10/yr for students and \$15/yr for regular members, payable to the Treasurer.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope that all of you had a very Merry Christmas and celebrated the coming of the New Year in a great way. During last Christmas vacation my son took his first deer and just a week after this most recent Christmas my daughter took her first deer. I pray and hope this is something they will continue as a tradition, i.e. a hunting tradition. And speaking of traditions, as is typical of a new year tradition, like starting January 1 with at least a spoonful of black-eyed peas, I'm sure many of you have made New Year resolutions...mine always tend to repeat themselves, i.e. don't kick the kids, hug the dog more...I don't make good relations with my family but my dog really likes me...maybe I've got something backwards here. It is not too late to make one and please allow me to offer up one for all TCTWC members and that is to become more active in your Texas Chapter. This works for student members as well as regular professional members.



Before I get much further in this piece, I hope to see each and every one of you at our annual meeting in Lubbock. Mark the time and place on your calendars, i.e. February 26-28 at the Holiday Inn Park Plaza in Lubbock. The theme for this upcoming annual meeting is "*How Green? The Complex World of Wind Power Development and Wildlife*". If you didn't attend either of the two Wind and Wildlife Seminars in Abilene and Amarillo held this past year you are getting a great opportunity to hear from folks about this complex issue many of us are facing today. In conjunction with the meeting there will be an Occupancy Modeling workshop scheduled earlier in the week. Participant numbers are limited. See the web page and the contents of this newsletter for more details and registration information.

Committee chairs have been working hard this year spending countless hours in planning and preparation for the annual meeting as well as those committees with other assignments and responsibilities. I cannot thank these folks and their committee members enough for all they do. It is the efforts that are made by these fine folks that make the Texas Chapter what it is...the best.

When I started in this role as President, I challenged you, especially you students, to get involved. I know you get involved in the student chapters but I hope you also had some opportunities to get involved in Chapter business. I'm sure there will be some opportunity to get involved at the annual meeting...look around, ask what you can do to help. I know some

continued on page 11

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SW SECTION REPRESENTATIVE TO TWS COUNCIL BRUCE THOMPSON

Since my last communication through state chapter newsletters in the Southwest Section, TWS had a very successful 15th Annual Conference in Miami, Florida. While in Miami, TWS Council spent more than 2 days engaged in a variety of TWS business. This update primarily summarizes what happened there and some of the carry-over actions to request of members. Some of the Council highlights that I think all of you should be aware of include:

- action to encourage stronger affiliation by Chapter members in national TWS
- increased efforts to engage students in TWS activities at all levels
- approved a Hunting Heritage Action Plan
- approved a TWS budget for 2009 of \$2.26 million, which indicates growth in our actions and potential
- approved drafting, retention, and/or revision of 22 TWS position statements; watch for forthcoming information about the draft statement regarding lead ammunition and fishing tackle
- heard many exciting ideas from Darryl Walter, new TWS Conferences and Membership Director
- interacted extensively with TWS Leadership Institute participants, including 2 from SW Section (Mayra Moreno from AZ and Rachael Ranft from TX)

TWS is a vital and growing organization with respect to conservation position development and policy influences to benefit wildlife and habitat management. TWS policy efforts in 2009 will focus on federal budgets, energy development, Farm Bill implementation, Teaming with Wildlife, ESA reauthorization, climate change effects on wildlife, wetlands conservation, federal employee ethics law constraints, federal

agency science policy, federal land management, baiting and feeding of wildlife, wildlife diseases, North American Model and Public Trust Doctrine, and lead in the environment. If you are specifically interested in assisting with any of these topics, contact Laura Bies at TWS headquarters.

Now, a call to action. TWS continually recognizes the strength that comes from its section and chapter members. Some of that strength can be demonstrated by helping to recognize significant efforts of members and partners doing our wildlife conservation and management work. Please consider taking some time individually or in a small group to identify those worthy of national TWS award recognition and prepare the necessary award nomination forms. Information about all national TWS awards and recognition can be obtained on the TWS website www.wildlife.org. I especially ask your help to identify prospective nominees for TWS Group Achievement Award, TWS Fellows, and TWS Honorary Members, but all categories are open with deadlines approaching in mid-February 2009 or soon after. Please contact me (bcthompson@zianet.com) if you have prospective nominees in mind so I can be aware and assist you if needed.

TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

HOLIDAY INN PARK PLAZA, LUBBOCK, TX

FEBRUARY 26 - 28, 2009

CHAPTER BUSINESS

ANNUAL MEETING STUDENT ACTIVITIES

This is a friendly reminder that TCTWS has a host of activities and competitions that we want you and your student chapter to participate in at the upcoming Lubbock Meeting. Many of these require advanced planning and preparation:

Undergraduate Student Poster Competition: Serve as an intern recently? Or have you been involved in a research project? If so, please consider presenting a poster in Lubbock. More information on the poster competition can be found in this newsletter (call for papers/posters).

Student Chapter of the Year Award: Texas boasts some of the most active and resourceful student chapter in the nation. Last year's competition was very close. Which student chapter will emerge as this year's winner?

Wildlife Quiz Bowl: Tarleton State University won the competition in San Antonio. Can someone dethrone them? Bring your game and come have some fun answering wildlife trivia.

Outstanding Wildlife Student Recognition: Who is the backbone of your club? Who volunteers for every opportunity? Who keeps you club on track? Well, the TCTWS membership wants to know who they are and what they've done for your club. We would like to acknowledge your Outstanding Wildlife Student at the Banquet.

Other activities in Lubbock to be looking for: We are also planning to have a student-mentor social immediately following the quiz bowl and prior to the social. We need students and mentors to sign up for this growing program (see the registration form in the upcoming TCTWS Newsletter). Additionally, the TCTWS officers have invited all student members to a breakfast on Friday morning in Beaumont. Students make up a tremendous proportion of the TCTWS membership.

For further information on any of these items, please contact Warren Conway, Chair of TCTWS Student Affairs Committee (wconway@sfasu.edu; Box 6109, SFA Station, Nacogdoches, TX 75962-6109; 936-468-2090).

TEXAS CHAPTER PLANT ID CONTEST

Knowledge of plants is one of the fundamentals of wildlife ecology and one of the marks of a skilled wildlife professional. Texas Chapter members will have the opportunity to participate in a Plant Identification Contest at the annual meeting in Lubbock. It will be a chance for some friendly competition, bragging rights, as well as a chance to learn a few new plants.

The contest is open to anyone, including students, and will be held on Thursday afternoon from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m., February 26, at the host hotel. The contest will feature common and/or important plants of the Texas Panhandle including the High Plains and Rolling Plains. The contest will include a diversity of plant types from uplands and wetlands. Freshly collected specimens will be used as much as possible. This will add a degree of difficulty to the contest since wintertime plant ID is more challenging. The contest may also include

a few seed or fruit important to wildlife.

There will be three categories of competition: Students (currently enrolled undergraduates); Regional Professionals (those who have work experience in the High Plains or Rolling Plains; Cross-State Professionals (those who have never worked in the High Plains or Rolling Plains.)

Participants may use common names or scientific names or a combination of both; any recognized common name will count (at the discretion of the judges). In the case of ties, preference will be given to those who use the proper scientific names. Plant identification books will be awarded to winners.

If you have questions, contact steve.nelle@tx.usda.gov.

CHAPTER BUSINESS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee is seeking donations for the Raffle and Silent Auction. The annual meeting is our sole fundraiser! We are in need of quality items, so if any might exist that you can think of, please let us know. You can forward those ideas or contacts to Scott Summers at ssummers@tnc.org, or call 254-288-2028.

Please consider folks who may be willing to donate an item, or ideas you have for items that TCTWS members would be willing to purchase in our auction or win in a raffle.

Past items that have helped and are being sought again this year include: hunts, hunting gear, optics, collector's edition wildlife books, fishing trips, fishing gear, birding trips, prints, framed art, sculptures, GPS units or other technological gadgets, guns, archery equipment, jewelry, gift certificates, and anything else that you might be willing to donate or you think would be worth a try.

PHOTO, ART, AND VIDEO CONTEST

Grab your camera or sketch pad and head out into the wilds, or even to your local zoo. It is time to start thinking about the Texas Chapter's Annual Photo and Art Contest which will be held at the 44th Annual Meeting at Lubbock on Feb 26-28, 2009.

Photo Contest:

- All contestants must be members of the Texas Chapter, TWS.
- Photography categories will be 1) wildlife – not including

captive animals, 2) plants and scenery, 3) humor, 4) work related and a new category 5) Wildlife conservation – captive animal photography of species of conservation concern.

- Photographs should be a standard size (3" x 5" up to 11" x 14"), unmatted, and unframed; cardboard backing is permitted. Please note: Slides will not be accepted.
- Contestants are requested to submit an electronic copy of photographs, if possible, to be used at the Awards Banquet.
- Art may include original drawings, paintings, carvings, sculpture, poetry, etc. All entries compete in one category.
- Contestants will be limited to 5 entries per category. To help defray the cost of awards, there will be an entry fee of \$1.00 per item.

Winners will be selected by ballot of members attending the Annual Meeting and announced during the Friday Evening Awards Banquet. Provided there are at least 5 entries, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places will be awarded in each category, and there will be a Best of Show award. If there are < 5 entries in a category, only 1st place will be awarded.

Video Contest:

Video submissions must be submitted to the committee chair by December 1, 2008 to be judged by the Photo, Art, and Video Contest Committee. Winning submissions will be announced at the Awards Banquet. Provided there are at least 5 entries, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places will be awarded. If there are < 5 entries, only 1st place will be awarded.

For more information regarding the contest, rules, etc., please contact:

Dana Wright
dana.wright@tpwd.state.tx.us

74TH NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE & NATURAL RESOURCES CONFERENCE

MARRIOTT CRYSTAL GATEWAY, ARLINGTON, VA

MARCH 16 - 21, 2009

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM
44TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
FEBRUARY 26TH-28TH, 2009
HOLIDAY INN PARK PLAZA, LUBBOCK, TEXAS

Please Print Name (as it will appear on tag): _____

Affiliation / Student Chapter: _____

Address: _____

City State Zip Code
Phone (day): _____ Phone (mobile): _____ Email: _____

I would like to participate in the Student/Mentor Program as a: Student _____ Mentor _____

****BECAUSE OF SEATING SPACE LIMITATIONS, ADMISSION TO AWARDS BANQUET IS LIMITED TO THE FIRST 500 REGISTRANTS****

	<u>Pre-Registration</u> (received by February 1 st)	<u>Late-Registration</u> (After February 1 st register at meeting)	<u>Amount \$</u>
<u>Meeting Fees</u>			
Regular, Life, & Honorary Life Members	\$135.00	\$160.00	_____
Non-member	\$160.00	\$185.00	_____
Student Member	\$ 75.00	\$ 95.00	_____
Student Non-member	\$ 85.00	\$105.00	_____

For catering purposes, please mark the following:

President's Reception (included in registration) Yes ___ No ___
Awards Banquet (included in registration) Yes ___ No ___
Meat Selection* (if attending Awards Banquet) Beef ___ Fish ___
Student Breakfast (included in registration) Yes ___ No ___
Past President's Luncheon (Past Presidents only) Yes ___ No ___

*meat selection only guaranteed for pre-registrants

Guest Tickets:

Name(s) _____

<u>Guest Fees</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Number</u>	
President's Reception	\$25	_____	_____
Awards Banquet	\$30	_____	_____
Technical Sessions	\$25	_____	_____

<u>Chapter Dues</u>	<u>Cost</u>	
Regular Member	\$15	_____
Student Member	\$10	_____
Life Member	\$350	_____

Total \$ Enclosed _____

Please make check or money order payable to "Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society" and mail to: TCTWS Meeting Registration, Department of Natural Resources Management, Texas Tech University, Box 42125, Lubbock, Texas, 79409-2125. Sorry, no credit cards accepted for mail-in registration. For registration inquiries, please contact Brad Dabbert at (806) 742-1983. You may also register online with a credit card at <http://site.tctws.org/xs.php?page=registration&siteid=268>.

TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

44TH ANNUAL MEETING

“HOW GREEN? THE COMPLEX WORLD OF WIND POWER DEVELOPMENT AND WILDLIFE”

Thursday, 26 February 2009

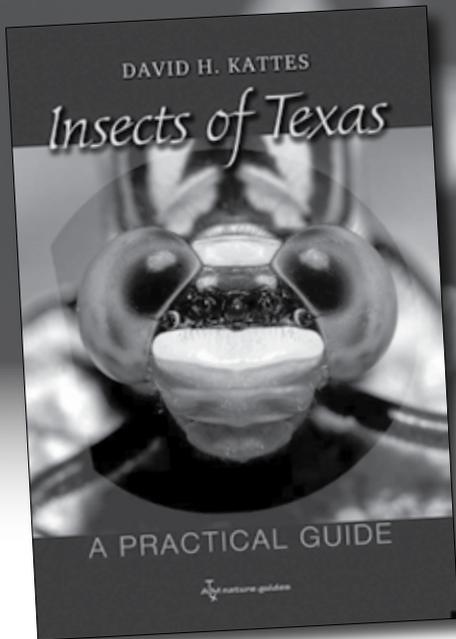
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm	Executive Board Meeting	Cypress Room
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Exhibitor Set-up	Mesquite Room
2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Exhibitor Displays	Mesquite Room
2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Registration	Atrium Foyer
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Photo Contest Submissions	Atrium Foyer
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Business Meeting	Magnolia Room
2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Plant ID Competition	Hickory Room
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Raffle/Silent Auction	Atrium Foyer
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Texas Quiz Bowl	Redwood Room
7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	President’s Reception	Mahogany/Sycamore Rooms

Friday, 27 February 2009

6:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.	Student Breakfast	Pool Terrace
7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration	Atrium Foyer
7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Photo Contest Submission	Mesquite Room
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Photo Contest Judging	Mesquite Room
7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Exhibitor Displays	Mesquite Room
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Poster Setup	Aspen Room
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Raffle/Silent Auction	Atrium Foyer
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Plenary Session	Mahogany/Sycamore Rooms
12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Lunch	On your own.
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Past Presidents’ Luncheon	Maple Room
1:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Cottam Award Papers	Mahogany/Sycamore Rooms
4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Concurrent Technical Session A	Mahogany/Sycamore Rooms
1:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Concurrent Technical Session C	Magnolia Room
1:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Concurrent Technical Session D	Redwood Room
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Poster Presentations	Aspen Room
6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	Awards Banquet	Atrium

Saturday, 28 February 2009

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Fellowship of Christian Conservationists	Hickory Room
7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Board and Committee Chairs	Maple Room
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Concurrent Technical Session A	Mahogany Room
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Concurrent Technical Session B	Sycamore Room
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Concurrent Technical Session C	Magnolia Room
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Concurrent Technical Session D	Redwood Room
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Concurrent Technical Session E	Aspen Room
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Poster Presentations	Cypress
7:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Exhibitor Displays	Mesquite Room
12:00 noon	Exhibitor Take-down	Mesquite Room
12:00 noon	Adjourn 44th Annual Meeting	



INSECTS OF TEXAS

A Practical Guide

David H. Kattes

This practical, non-technical introduction to insect classification offers a well illustrated, straight-forward primer in entomology. 486 color photos. 11 tables. \$27.00 flexbound with flaps

BRUSH AND WEEDS OF TEXAS RANGELANDS

Charles R. Hart, Barron Rector, C. Wayne Hanselka, Robert K. Lyons, and Allan McGinty

This easy-to-use field guide includes plant descriptions, identifying characteristics, geographic distribution, and habitat descriptions, along with range maps and multiple color photos for weed and brush species. 97 maps. 406 color photos. \$25.00 paper

New in paperback

THE EASTERN SCREECH OWL

Life History, Ecology and Behavior in the Suburbs and Countryside

Frederick R. Gehlbach

"Owl lovers will rejoice at the publication of this classic 25-year study of suburban and rural screech owls."—*Bird Watchers Digest*
2 color, 36 b&w photos. \$24.95 paper

New in paperback

HUMMINGBIRDS OF TEXAS WITH THEIR NEW MEXICO AND ARIZONA RANGES

Clifford E. Shackelford, Madge M. Lindsay, and C. Mark Klym

Photographs by Sid and Shirley Rucker

Illustrations by Clemente Guzman III

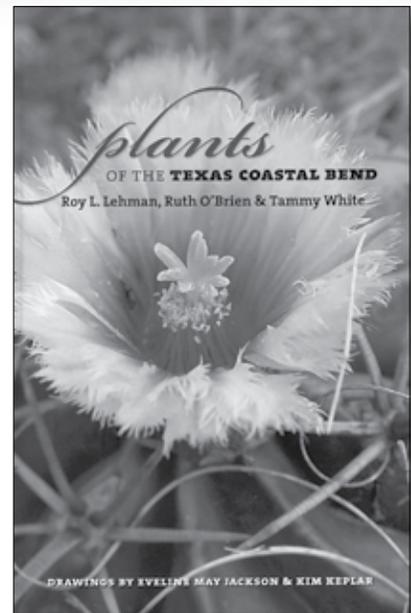
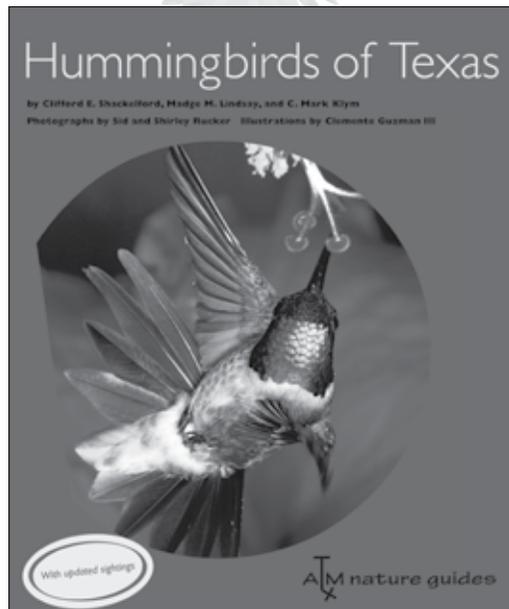
Foreword by Greg W. Lasley

87 color photos. 47 color illus. 20 color maps.

\$19.95 flexbound with flaps

"Hummingbird enthusiasts, particularly those in Texas and its surrounding states, will love this book."

—*The Quarterly Review of Biology*



New in paperback with photo CD

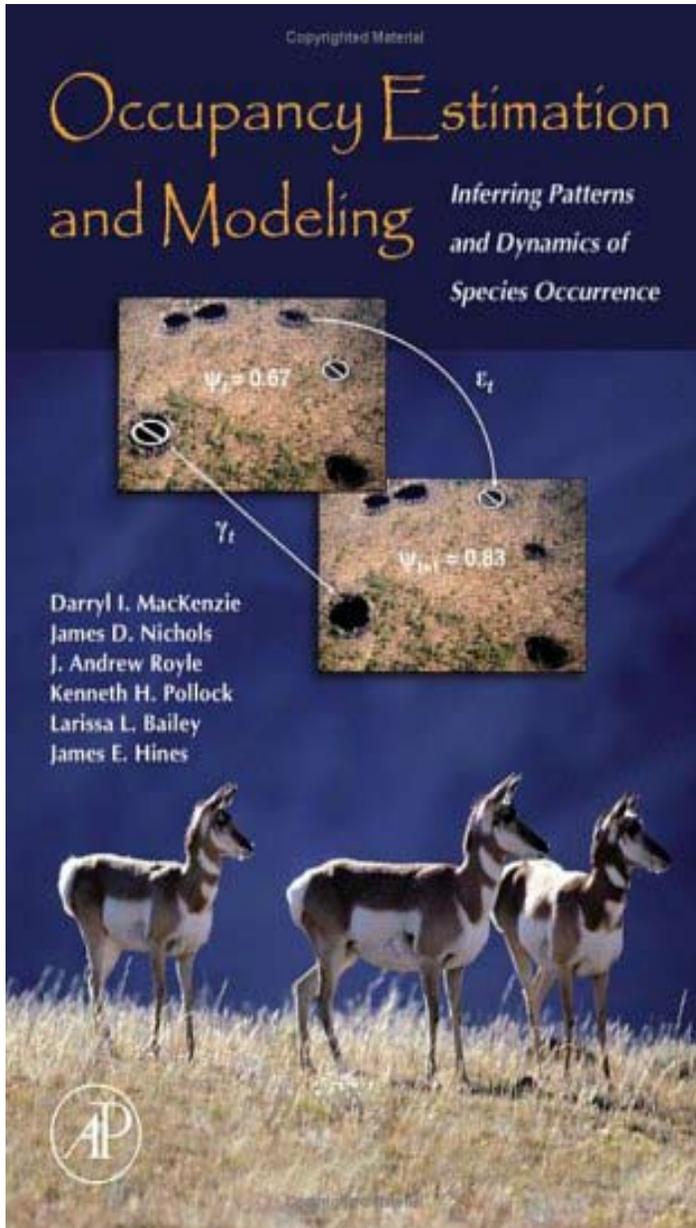
PLANTS OF THE TEXAS COASTAL BEND

Roy L. Lehman, Ruth O'Brien, and Tammy White

For everyone who studies or simply enjoys the impressive variety of wild plants that grow in the counties of Texas' coastal bend, here is an authoritative, user-friendly book that will make an excellent reference. 65 line drawings. 1 b&w photo. Companion CD with 650 color photos. \$29.95 paper



UPCOMING MEETINGS



AN INTRODUCTION TO OCCUPANCY ESTIMATION AND MODELING

When: 24–26 February 2009, in conjunction with the TCTWS Annual Meeting

Where: Holiday Inn Park Plaza, Lubbock, Texas

To register for the workshop, contact Robert Perez (830-779-5309; robert.perez@tpwd.state.tx.us)

The workshop will be taught by Darryl MacKenzie. Darryl is a young biometrician with a growing international reputation. He has over 30 publications including the book *Occupancy Estimation and Modeling: inferring patterns and dynamics of species occurrence*. Hailing from Dunedin, New Zealand, Darryl studied at the University of Otago, graduating with a B.S. in 1995, then a Ph.D. in Statistics in 2002. During 2000–01 he worked at USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. It was during his time at Patuxent that his involvement with problems of nondetection in species occurrence applications began. Upon returning to New Zealand in late 2001, he co-founded Proteus Wildlife Research Consultants with David Fletcher and has worked privately ever since. While he has expertise in many areas of wildlife and ecological statistics, it has been his work on occupancy modeling that has been most noteworthy to date. Since 2004 he has conducted 20 workshops on occupancy modeling in 8 different countries.

This is an excellent opportunity for members of the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society to continue their education and learn about this new and exciting technique for estimating species occurrence, without having to travel out-of-state and pay for a high priced workshop!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

8TH ZACC CONFERENCE

The 8th Zoos and Aquariums Committing to Conservation Conference will be held January 23 - 26, 2009, at the Houston Zoo, Houston, Texas. ZACC promotes the role of zoos and aquariums in supporting conservation activities worldwide, both at their institutions and in the field. Conference participants include representatives from zoological institutions, international conservation organizations, local non-governmental organizations, government agencies, funding agencies and, most importantly, field biologists and conservationists. Bringing together individuals from different countries and disciplines, ZACC conferences help to build a stronger and more effective global network for wildlife and habitat conservation, and to establish direct links to zoos, aquariums, and their constituencies. For registration, hotel and other information, please go to <http://www.houstonzoo.org/zacc/>.

DISTINGUISHED LECTURESHIP IN QUAIL MANAGEMENT

The 2nd Annual Distinguished Lectureship in Quail Management will be held in Roby, Texas on January 30, 2009. The program will be of interest to all "students of quail", whether they be landowners, hunters, or biologists.

This year's featured speaker is Dr. Fidel Hernandez, a research scientist with the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute in Kingsville, and past-president of TCTWS. The theme for the conference is "*Quail Management: a Fresh, Bold Perspective.*" In addition to Hernandez' discussions, there will also be updates on various research and educational efforts conducted at the nearby Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch. The new research ranch, a 4,700-acre property located in western Fisher County, serves as a laboratory and classroom for those interested in sustaining quail populations in west Texas. The program is sponsored by Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch, Texas Agrilife Research, Texas Agrilife Extension Service's Quail Decline

Initiative, and Quail Unlimited.

Registration (which includes lunch and refreshments) for the meeting is \$15 by January 16, and \$25 thereafter and at the door. Seating is limited to 100 people. Two CEUs are available for those holding Private Applicator's licenses. Registration information and additional details can be found at <http://teamquail.tamu.edu> or calling 325-653-4576.

44TH TCTWS ANNUAL MEETING

The 44th Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society will be held February 26 - 28, 2009, at the Holiday Inn Park Plaza, Lubock, Texas. Please note this is one week later than the meeting has traditionally been held. The theme of this year's meeting is Wind and Wildlife.

The Holiday Inn Park Plaza is adjacent to Loop 289 and Interstate 27, For more information about the hotel, go to <http://www.holidayinn.com/h/d/hi/1/en/hotel/lbbtx>. You may reserve rooms online, or by calling 1-806-797-3241.

Hotel room cost will be \$85 per night. Hotel reservations need to be made by January 28, 2009 to guarantee availability and the contract price of \$85/night. We do ask that you stay at the host hotel in order for us to meet our contractual obligations.

Pre-registration must be received by February 1, 2009. You may pre-register by mailing in the form in this newsletter, or by registering online at <http://site.tctws.org/xs.php?page=registration&siteid=268>.

The Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society newsletter is supported by your membership fees and by a generous contribution from Ray Telfair.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

112TH TEXAS ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

The 112th Annual meeting of the Texas Academy of Science will be held at Texas Tech University Center in Junction, Texas, on March 5th through 7th, 2009. More information on the The Llano Field station can be found at <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/hillcountry/research/index.php>.

The abstracts and final program will be available online at <http://www.texasacademyofscience.org> prior to the meeting. Hard copies of the conference abstracts will be distributed for a fee of \$5 to conference participants who choose to pay for a printed copy when they pre-register.

QUAILMASTERS 2009

QuailMasters 2009 is a series of four, 2-day shortcourses for serious students of quail management. The theme for the workshop series is "Understanding the Quail Equation."

The workshops will be of interest to landowners interested in quail management, quail hunters, Master Naturalists, realtors, and college students seeking up to date information on quail. The course has been approved for three hours of graduate

credit through Texas A&M University. These workshops aren't designed for the fainthearted, passive student. If you sign up, come prepared to be challenged. The course will be taught with hands-on exercises, and a mix of lecture and field trips. Participants will learn to recognize a minimum of 50 plants important to quail in their region of the state, key seeds in the diets of quail, habitat management strategies, how to measure quail response to various land management practices, leadership skills, and much more. Tours will be held on ranches managed aggressively for quail.

Participants must attend all four workshops. The dates are:

March 29-31, Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch, Roby;
May 3-5, Location TBA;
August 23-25, Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch;
October 25-27, Kingsville.

Tuition for the workshops is \$450, which includes several meals, materials, and a shirt. College credit (3 hours of graduate credit) is available for additional cost through Texas A&M University's Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences Department. Students will have three textbooks: (1) Texas Quails: Ecology and Management, (2) On Bobwhites, and (3) A Sand County Almanac. For more information, see http://www.texas-wildlife.org/PDFs/2009_QuailMasters_Flyer.pdf for a brochure and registration form. Only 40 students will be accepted.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER - *continued from page 2*

of our committee chairs may be in need of some assistance with things during the course of the meeting, search them out...become involved.

Recently, our parent society, The Wildlife Society, sent us a copy of a draft position statement to review in regard to lead in ammunition and fishing tackle. I can tell you this struck a lot of nerves....some good, some bad. Your executive board and a few others are in the stages of gathering comments which will be compiled and sent back to the parent society. I'm proud of our folks...the bottom line I'm hearing is that

whatever comes out of this it will be based on good science and that is the way it should be.

Well I'm about done with my rambling's and about done serving as your President. It has been an honor and a privilege to do so. The best part of it has been the opportunity to make new friends and work with a great number of fine folks that I otherwise would not have had the chance to do so under normal conditions. Thank you all. I'll be seeing you in Lubbock.