

Sheridan Lions' Stew Supper November 21 Cooperative venture to benefit wood ducks

The Sheridan Lions Club will sponsor its 24th annual Stew Supper on Saturday, Nov. 21, at the Sheridan Community Center. Serving will begin at 6 p.m. with "all you can eat" costing \$3.50 for adults and \$2.75 for children under 12 years old.

A variety of activities will follow the meal to provide entertainment throughout the evening. This will include bingo and an auction with

the high point of the evening the drawing for a \$400 grand prize and other cash prizes.

The goal of the club is to raise funds to support community activities. Everyone is invited to attend and enjoy the evening.

Christmas Craft Show

The Sheridan Lions Club will sponsor something new this year. On Saturday, September 28, the

Sheridan Community Center will be transformed into a mini-mall - a Community Christmas Craft Show. Residents from the Sheridan area will show off their talents through handicrafts that will make ideal Christmas gifts.

Everyone is invited to browse through the hall and find that one-of-a-kind gift for that special person.

Cooperative venture to benefit wood ducks

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is teaming up with a private waterfowl organization to place up to 6,000 wood duck nest boxes in suitable habitat during the next three years.

Department officials said the waterfowl habitat alliance of Texas (WHAT DUCKS) organization has agreed to provide construction materials and tools for the boxes which will be assembled by inmates at the Texas Department of Corrections. Each nest unit consists of a nest box, mounting pole and predator guard. The Texas Forestry Association has joined the program by supplying lumber for 3,000 of the boxes.

Hunters reminded of gun safety rules

Deer hunters going afield during the season which opens Nov. 8 in Texas should be aware that accidents associated with deer hunting account for more fatalities than any other type of hunting.

Hunter education officials of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. said most all hunting accidents could have been prevented if hunters would have practiced gun safety. Further information on hunter safety education may be obtained by contacting the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744, (512) 479-4999.

"Wood ducks that breed in Texas have difficulty finding suitable nesting cavities in hollow trees," said Dale Witt, migratory bird program director for the TPWD. "This probably has limited the birds' abundance and distribution." He added that nest box placement at the Engeling Wildlife Management Area and some other locations have had good utilization by wood ducks.

while swinging on game, persons hit while out of sight of the shooter and those mistaken for game.

Wildlife officials remind hunters to handle every gun as if it is loaded, and never point a gun at anything you do not intend to shoot. Always be sure of your target before pulling the trigger, and for your own protection wear blaze orange material so other hunters can identify you.

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Know Your Ducks

Flight is swift and direct; flocks are usually small. Drakes have a hoo-wett, often in flight; hens have a cr-r-ek when frightened.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL

Very early migrant; the small, compact flocks fly swiftly, often low over marshes, twisting and dodging around trees and bushes. Twittering calls in flight are easily heard. Pale-blue forewing patch is the best field mark.

Drakes have a whistling peep; hens a faint quack.

CINNAMON TEAL

Rare east of the Rocky Mountains.

Flight characteristics like blue-winged, but usually there is only one family.

They are trusting, often slow to take alarm.

Unusually silent species; drakes have a low chatter; hens a faint quack.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL

Quite hardy — some birds stay as far north as open water is found. Flight: sometimes in large flocks, always swift, erratic; all members twisting and circling as one unit.

Nests as far north as Alaska, migrates south through all four flyways.

Drakes whistle and twitter; hens have a slight quack.

BUFFLEHEAD

Drakes are conspicuous for their black and white design and small size.

Flashes straight up or patterns along on water.

Flocks are small, usually mostly hens and young drakes.

Flight is normally low; wingbeat is rapid. A late migrant, and will remain as far north as open water permits.

RUDDY DUCK

This duck often swims away or

dives rather than flushing.

Rising from the water is awkward, seemingly with great effort. Once under way, the flight is sometimes jerky, noisy, and of uneven pace.

Winter flocks are found in coastal areas, both salt and fresh water, from the Chesapeake Bay south, along the Rio Grande, and on the west coast.

These birds are silent in the fall.

RING-NECKED DUCK
Faint brown ring on neck never shows in the field; light bands at tip and base of bill are conspicuous.

Up to a dozen in a flock fly in open formation; usually come directly into landing without circling.

Hens are easily confused with female redheads; absence of dark edge of speculum helps distinguish

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from hen scaup. Drakes purr; hens are usually silent.

LESSER SCAUP
Lively and restless on the water and in the air. Late migrants, often moving south just ahead of freeze up. On local flights, closely bunched flocks move erratically, twisting and turning often.

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