

Prairie chicken shows response

The Attwater's prairie chicken, Texas' most endangered bird, is showing a slight increase in numbers this year, according to recent surveys, though the recovery is small and the population still fragile.

This once abundant bird, which numbered more than a million along a coastal belt across Louisiana and Texas, had declined to only 42 birds in two Texas counties last year.

The main cause for this decline, according to state wildlife biologists, is the loss of specialized coastal grassland habitat these birds require.

The good news is that census data this year shows 50 wild birds in those same two counties.

The slight recovery last year can be attributed in no small part to captive breeding efforts at five facilities across Texas.

Last year, these facilities were able to rear more than 100 birds for release in the wild. "Once released on the range, these young birds have to contend with all the same environmental concerns as other wildlife including predation, disease and harsh weather," said Mark Klym, coordinator of the Adopt-a-Prairie-Chicken program at TPW.

"Last year, we had a particularly hard drought and many of the young birds died from starvation. We held some of the captive bred birds back and released them in late winter. All things considered, the increase in numbers is promising, and it shows that captive breeding and release can have a positive effect on this population."

As with most ground-nesting birds, Klym explained, the Attwater's suffer significant losses of young each year.

The birds rely on young from areas that experience fewer losses to reinforce the existing population. The

captive-breeding program has essentially served as reinforcements.

This year, there are a number of promising signs for the Attwater's recovery effort, said Klym. A new brood facility, the Abilene Zoo, is producing eggs from its captive birds. Several of the established breeding sites are reporting good egg and chick production and for the first time in recent years, with wild chicks fledged and dispersed from nests on the release ranges. Biologists hope 150 or more young raised in captivity will be released to the wild this year. If some of the young hatched on the site also survive, numbers should increase again in the next census.

"We are still learning a lot about this bird and its environmental needs," said John Herron, TPW Wildlife Diversity program director. "Unfortunately we have to learn it quickly if we are going to save the Attwater's prairie chicken from extinction. The number of survivors is not surprising for this type of bird-in natural reproduction most of the year's hatch would be lost. When you are dealing with only 50 birds in the wild, however, losing most of the birds without a means of producing more than you lose could be catastrophic to the species."

In 1993, biologists began breeding Attwater's prairie chickens in captivity as insurance against extinction.

Captive populations now exist at several locations: Sea World San Antonio, Fossil Rim Wildlife Center near Waxahachie and the San Antonio, Abilene and Houston Zoos.

A research facility at Texas A&M University serves to provide information about diseases within the captive population of prairie chickens.

Ranchers and landowners are also working with state and federal scientists to restore the bird, Herron added.

Earlier in this decade, TPW biologists bought grazing leases on private land with prairie chicken populations near the Attwater's Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge and worked with landowners to improve habitat and gradually reintroduce grazing.

Herron said continued funding for the recovery program is crucial. "The public can help this highly endangered species," he said. "Raising these chicks is costly, and the TPW Foundation has established a program to help."

A donation of \$25 will help raise one chick to release in the wild, Herron said. Donations are used in full to support the care and feeding of Attwater's prairie chicken chicks in the captive breeding programs.

Donations payable to the TPW Foundation should be mailed to Adopt-a-Prairie-Chicken, TPW, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744.

For more information about the program, call Mark Klym, Adopt-a-Prairie-Chicken coordinator, at 512-389-4644.

COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT



COUNTY COURT CASES FILED July 14, 2000

John Henry Sims, driving while intoxicated (DWI).
Ryan Allan Torres, DWI, second offense.
Harley Franklin Waldrop, DWI, open container.
Sandy Rae Loper, possession of marijuana (PoM).
Timothy Dwayne Teague, unlawfully carrying a weapon.
Timothy Dwayne Teague, DWI.

July 17, 2000

David Raul Reyes, PoM.
Jose Daniel Navarro Jr., DWI.
Willie Miranda, PoM.
Willie Miranda, driving while license suspended (DWLS).
Paul Edward Malta, DWI.

COUNTY COURT DISPOSITIONS July 11, 2000

James Doyle Tesch, Hallettsville, DWI, 10-20-99 on US 90A, Glidden; investigated by Department of Public Safety Trooper Krueger. Sentenced to three days

in jail (credit for two served) and a \$500 fine.

Pedro Santana, Houston, DWI 10-16-99 on 90A near Eagle Lake; investigated by Colorado County Sheriff's Office Deputy Ashorn. Sentenced to 120 days in jail (probated for one year) and a \$400 fine.

Juan Estrada, DWLS, case dismissed.
Michael Lee, Weimar, assault, 1-2-97 in Weimar; investigated by Weimar Police Department (WPD) Officer Felts. Sentenced to six months in jail (all credit for time served) and a \$1000 fine, to run concurrent with Case No. 13,458.

Tony Ray Linsey, Kendleton, DWLS, case dismissed.
Marvin Lester Sims, Missouri City, assault, case dismissed.

DISTRICT COURT CASES FILED

In Re: Order of Foreclosure vs. Concerning Darius Brisco and Doris Konvicka Brisco and 314 Oak Street, Eagle Lake,

Texas; foreclosure; filed 7-13-00.

Jack H. Dixon and Loma F. Dixon vs. Magnum Producing and Operating Company, oil lease; 7-14-00.

Rob Christen, Individually, d/b/a Bob's Towing vs. Ford Motor Credit Company, wrongful sequestration; 7-17-00.

DIVORCES GRANTED July 13, 2000

Kim Lee Miller and Patricia Marie Miller.
Michael Ray Alley and Tracey Lynn Alley.

Linda C. Bubela and Charles J. Bubela.

DIVORCE FILED

Joseph G. Williams and Donna Williams; filed 7-13-00.

MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

Michael Wayne Brown and Ivonne Vargas; 7-11-00.

Curtis Patrick Glueck and Mary Ann Lewis; 7-17-00.

Brian Christopher Berger and Amber Sue McBride; 7-17-00.

LIBRARY LINES

Starting July 24, you may check out magazines for three days at the Eula and David Wintermann Library.

Beginning July 31, the library will start a total of three items per person to be checked out. Each book, audio tape, video, CD Rom and/or magazine

will be considered an item.

The Library Annment Program will be from July 31 to Aug. 12. Bring in all overdue items.

While you are in the library, "check out" Grace Cooper's collection of teddy bears on display.

Locals on Honor Roll

Douglas Blake Wied of Garwood and Jeremy Weishuhn of Eagle Lake both earned a place on the President's Honor Roll for the Spring Quarter at Texas State Technical College in Waco.

Wied is in the Electric Systems

Technology program, while Weishuhn is in the Diesel Mechanics program.

The President's Honor Roll recognizes the scholastic achievement of students with a perfect grade point average of 4.0.



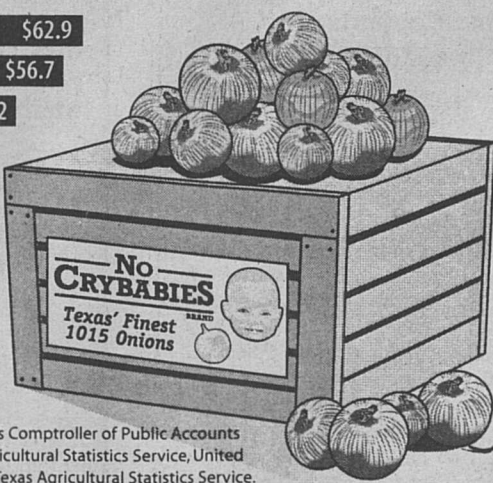
Keeping an Eye on Texas

Eat Your Veggies

Among Texas' grown vegetables, the onion runs rings around its colleagues. It's the state's top vegetable, accounting for about \$93 million, 27 percent of the state's \$335 million in vegetable sales annually.

Top Ten Vegetables Produced in Texas, 1999 (value in millions)

Spring onions	\$62.9
Cantaloupes	\$56.7
Cabbage	\$41.2
Summer onions	\$30.8
Carrots	\$30.6
Watermelons	\$29.6
Honeydew melons	\$17.1
Sweet corn	\$7.7
Spinach	\$6.7
Bell peppers	\$6.2



SOURCE: Carole Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (www.window.state.tx.us), National Agricultural Statistics Service, United States Department of Agriculture, and Texas Agricultural Statistics Service.



El bienestar de Texas

Cómasese sus verduras

Entre las verduras cultivadas en Texas, la cebolla le da cien vueltas a sus colegas. Es la verdura número 1 del estado, sumando aproximadamente \$93 millones de dólares, o sea un 27 por ciento de los \$335 millones en ventas anuales de verduras del estado.

Las 10 verduras de mayor producción en Texas en 1999 (valor en millones)

Cebollas de primavera	\$62.9
Melones	\$56.7
Repollo	\$41.2
Cebollas de verano	\$30.8
Zanahorias	\$30.6
Sandías	\$29.6
Melones elotes	\$17.1
Espina	\$7.7
Espinaca	\$6.7
Pimientos morrones	\$6.2



FUENTES: Carole Keeton Rylander, Contralora de Texas para Cuentas Públicas (www.window.state.tx.us), Servicio Nacional de Estadísticas Agrícolas Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos y el Servicio de Estadísticas Agrícolas de Texas.

KLECKA'S
Phone 335-7322 or 335-6554

FOOD market
EAST BERNARD TEXAS

**Store Hours: Mon-Sat., 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sun., 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

We Reserve the Right to Limit Quantity & Correct Printing Errors

For Extra Savings... Check Our Shelves for "Best Buy" or "As Advertised" Signs

We Have Received A Lower Cost On These Items and Are Passing the Savings On To You!

*We Sell Movie Orders & Postage Stamps

*We Accept W.I.C. Cards & The Lone Star Card

*We Have FAX Service (409-335-4390)

*We Have The Texas Lotto

*Double Coupons: See Details in Store

Regular, Diet, Caffeine Free Dr. Pepper, A&W Root Beer, A&W Cream, 7-Up, Mountain Dew, Lipton Tea, Pepsi One, Wild Cherry Pepsi or

PEPSI

12 Pk. Cans (Limit 4-12 Pks.)

2/\$5

Imperial Pure Cream

SUGAR

4 Lb. Bag (Limit 1 with \$10 or more purchase)

99¢

Bumble Bee

TUNA

6 Oz. Can
Oil or Spring Water
(Limit 6 Cans)

3/99¢

Laundry Detergent

SURF ULTRA

78 Oz. Regular; 82 Oz. with Bleach

\$3.99

Parade Reg. Cut Green Beans, Sweet Peas, Whole Kernel or Cream Style Corn

VEGETABLES

14-1/2 Oz. - 15-1/4 Oz. Cans

3/99¢

Assorted Totinos Party

PIZZAS

10.2 Oz.

99¢

Large California Red Ripe Slicing

TOMATOES

Lb. **49¢**

USDA Lean-Meaty Medium Pork

SPARE RIBS

Lb. **\$1.39**

Regular or Light

BUDWEISER BEER 12 Pk. Cans **\$6.99**

12 Pk. LN NR Bottles

COORS LIGHT BEER **\$5.99**

1/2 Gal. Blue Bell

FROZEN YOGURT, NO SUGAR ADDED OR LIGHT ICE CREAM 2 for **\$6.50**

Pre-Priced \$2.29; Assorted Corn Chips

FRITOS 10-1/2 Oz. Bag **\$1.49**

Pre-Priced \$2.29; Assorted Cheese Snacks

CHEE-TOS 10 Oz. - 11 Oz. Bag **\$1.49**

Assorted Nabisco

RITZ CRACKERS 14-1/2 Oz. - 16 Oz. Box **\$1.99**

Angel Soft

BATH TISSUE 4 Roll Pkg **88¢**

Crisco

VEGETABLE OIL Gal. **\$3.99**

Pre-Priced \$1.99; Kellogg's Cereal

RAISIN BRAN 20 Oz. Box **\$1.69**

Pre-Priced \$1.99; Kellogg's Cereal

APPLE JACKS 15 Oz. Box **\$1.69**

Oasis Spring

WATER 6 Pk. 1/2 Liter Bottles **\$1.39**

Lipton Family Size

TEA BAGS 24 Ct. Box **\$1.49**

14 Oz. - 15 Oz. Cans. Parade Mixed Vegetables, Saurkraut, Carrots, Potatoes

VEGETABLES 3 for **99¢**

Austex

BEEF STEW 15 Oz. Can **79¢**

Assorted Luncheon Meat

ARMOUR TREET 20 Oz. Can **99¢**

Assorted Aunt Jemima

PANCAKE SYRUP 24 Oz. Bottle **\$2.59**

Mardi Gras

PAPER TOWELS Roll **59¢**

Coronet

NAPKINS 275 Ct. Pkg. **\$1.59**

Assorted Arm & Hammer

AIR FRESHNERS 7 Oz. Can **88¢**

Parade

FOAM PLATES 50 Ct. Pkg. **99¢**

Lone Star Mini Chunk

DOG FOOD 18 Lb. Bag **\$3.99**

Assorted Kal Kan Whiskas

CAT FOOD 5-1/2 Oz. Cans 3 for **99¢**

Assorted Laundry Detergent

ALL LIQUID 100 Oz. Bottle **\$3.99**

Fisherboy

FISH STICKS 16 Ct. Box **99¢**

Florida or California Citrus Punch

SUNNY DELIGHT 64 Oz. Bottle **99¢**

16 Oz. Pkg. Kraft

DELUXE SLICED AMERICAN CHEESE **\$2.99**

WE STOCK A WIDE ASSORTMENT OF PRODUCE

Garden Fresh California

BROCCOLI Each **79¢**

Fresh Green

CABBAGE Lb. **29¢**

Garden Fresh Green Tip, Red Tip or Romaine

LETTUCE Each **69¢**

Juicy California

NECTARINES Lb. **79¢**

Large & Juicy Red or Black

PLUMS Lb. **99¢**

Washington State Sweet

CHERRIES Lb. **\$1.99**

Only The Best Cuts From Our In-Store Meat Market

USDA Family Pack Fresh Lean

GROUND CHUCK Lb. **\$1.59**

USDA Family Pack Boneless Beef

TEXAS BROIL Lb. **\$1.69**

Great for BBQ USDA Boneless Beef

SHORT RIBS Lb. **\$1.99**

USDA Family Pack Boneless Beef

SHOULDER STEAKS Lb. **\$1.89**

USDA Beef

BACK RIBS Lb. **99¢**

USDA Boneless Beef

TOP SIRLOIN STEAKS Lb. **\$2.89**

USDA Beef

TRIPE Lb. **69¢**

USDA Fresh Sliced

BEEF LIVER Lb. **79¢**

Decker Meat

HOT DOGS 12 Oz. Pkg. **69¢**

Decker Sliced Bologna, Salami, Spiced Luncheon

LUNCHEATS 12 Oz. Pkg. **99¢**

Assorted Owen's

BREAKFAST SAUSAGE 1 Lb. Roll **\$1.99**

Decker Sliced

BACON 12 Oz. Pkg. **\$1.99**

Assorted Oscar Mayer Fun-Pak

LUNCHABLES 10 Oz. - 13-1/2 Oz. Pkg. **\$1.99**