

Texas Parks Department Gives Bird Migration Basic Information

Why is there an interest in migratory birds in Texas?

Of the 338 species that are listed as Nearctic-Neotropical migrants in North America, north of Mexico, 333 of them or 98.5 percent have been recorded in Texas.

This means that of the 629 species of birds documented in Texas, 53 percent of them are Nearctic-Neotropical migratory birds.

Texas is important to these migrants, and these migrants are important to Texas.

These species are collectively known by a host of other names.

The species that comprise this group basically breed in temperate latitudes (i.e., U.S. and Canada), but leave for the winter for tropical latitudes farther south (i.e., Central and South America).

Their migratory habits are part of their lives and heritage.

What Is Migration?

Migration is the cyclic or periodic travel of an animal as it returns eventually to its original place of departure.

Migration is often annual and is closely linked with the cyclic pattern of the seasons.

It is most evident among birds, which have a highly efficient means for traveling swiftly over long distances.

The migration of most birds is a yearly cycle.

Do All Birds Migrate?

Not all birds migrate. The more severe the climate of an area, the greater percentage of nesting birds migrate.

Two-thirds of bird species

found in the United States migrate, some only short distances to more southern states.

Those that do migrate have adaptations.

tions not seen in their non-migratory relatives.

Migratory birds can build fat stores as an energy source for long flights.

Migratory birds usually have longer, more pointed wings and weigh less than related non-migratory birds.

Why Do Birds Migrate? There are a number of explanations for migration.

Birds migrate to areas where food is more abundant, there is less competition for nesting space, the climate is milder and/or the daylight hours are longer.

These enhance the chances of survival of a bird and its brood.

Most birds require a rich, abundant supply of food at frequent intervals because of their high metabolic rate.

Adequate food is not available throughout the year in most regions.

North American birds must endure the hazards of winter or migrate to more friendly climates. In winter they migrate to the

warmer, southern regions of the United States, Caribbean, Mexico, Central America and South America where food is abundant.

In the spring, these birds fly north to habitats where spring and summer provide more food production and less competition for food and nesting sites than in their winter habitat.

Summertime at northern latitudes also means more daylight hours to seek food for themselves and their nestlings.

Where Do Migrating Birds Go?

Many nesting birds in Canada and the northern United States fly south to the tier of states along the Gulf of Mexico where the winter climate is more favorable and food is abundant. More than 330 species of birds that nest in the United States and Canada migrate to the West Indies or Central and South America.

The principal wintering area for Neotropical Migrants extends through Mexico and Central America to Panama.

It has the highest density of winter bird residents in the world.

How Well Can Birds Navigate?

Migrants often return to breed in the same locality where they were hatched.

This journey may cover thousands of miles over many types of terrain and through extremes of weather.

Birds show an amazing ability to orient themselves and hone in on their destinations. Migrating birds have many potential cues for orientation and navigation between summer and winter habitats.

They do not depend on any single navigational cue.

This article covers just a few of the many questions on bird migration.

For more answers, please see the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department publication on migration at http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/pwdpubs/media/pwd_bk_w7000_0511.pdf.

Shiner Area Big Buck Standings Given

Below are the Shiner Area Big Buck Contest Current Standings as of Nov. 3.

Gonzales County

1. Johnnie Wulf of Flatonia, 12-pointer, 17 3/4-inch spread, 12-inch longest tine, 4 7/8-inch right antler circumference, 46 5/8 total points.

2. Harvey Pohler Sr. of Shiner, 10-pointer, 20 1/8-inch spread, 9 1/2-inch longest tine, 4 5/8-inch right antler circumference, 44 1/4 total points.

3. Greg Rudolph of Sugarland, 8-pointer, 20 1/2-inch spread, 9 5/8-inch longest tine, 4 5/8-inch right antler circumference, 42 3/4 total points.

4. Gary Orsak of El Maton, 11-pointer, 16 7/8-inch spread, 8 7/8-inch longest tine, 4 5/8-inch right antler circumference, 41 3/8 total points.

5. Ted Behrens of Gonzales, 9-pointer, 17 7/8-inch spread, 10-inch longest tine, 4 1/2-inch right antler circumference, 41 3/8 total points.

Colorado County

1. Ronnie Stock of Weimar, 10-pointer, 17 1/2-inch spread, 10-inch longest tine, 4 1/4-inch right antler circumference, 41 3/4 total points.

DeWitt County

1. Kenneth Tam Jr. of Yorktown, 12-pointer, 17 5/8-inch spread, 12 3/4-inch longest tine, 4 1/2-inch right antler circumference, 46 7/8 total points.

2. Virgil Brown of Cuero, 10-pointer, 20 1/4-inch spread, 10 3/8-inch longest tine, 3 7/8-inch right antler circumference, 44 1/2

total points.

3. Larry Teague of Victoria, 14-pointer, 17 5/8-inch spread, 7 5/8-inch longest tine, 3 3/4-inch right antler circumference, 43 total points.

4. Rebecca Biehunko of Yoakum, 7-pointer, 21 1/2-inch spread, 10 1/2-inch longest



tine, 3 3/4-inch right antler circumference, 42 3/4 total points.

5. Greg Hybner of Shiner, 8-pointer, 16 7/8-inch spread, 9 1/4-inch longest tine, 3 3/4-inch right antler circumference, 37 7/8

total points.

Lavaca County

1. James J. Helwig of Seguin, 11-pointer, 17 7/8-inch spread, 8 1/2-inch longest tine, 3 3/4-inch right antler circumference, 41 1/8 total points.

2. George Cervenka of Hallettsville, 11-pointer, 15 3/4-inch spread, 9 5/8-inch longest tine, 4-inch right antler circumference, 40 3/8 total points.

3. John Kloppenburg of Hallettsville, 9-pointer, 15 1/8-inch spread, 5 3/4-inch longest tine, 4-inch right antler circumference, 33 7/8 total points.

Fayette County

No entries.

Best Of The Rest

1. Ben Hisey of Gonzales, 10-pointer, 18 1/4-inch spread, 8 7/8-inch longest tine, 4 1/4-inch right antler circumference, 41 3/8 total points.

2. Ed (Stanley) Fuchs of Cuero, 8-pointer, 17 3/8-inch spread, 11 1/2-inch longest tine, 4-inch right antler circumference, 40 7/8 total points.

3. Doug Nevlud of Shiner, 8-pointer, 17 1/4-inch spread, 10 7/8-inch longest tine, 4 3/8-inch right antler circumference, 40 1/2

total points.

4. Daniel Flores of Houston, 10-pointer, 16 1/2-inch spread, 7 1/4-inch longest tine, 3 3/4-inch right antler circumference, 37 1/2 total points.

5. Calvin Roensch of Cat Springs, 8-pointer, 16 5/8-inch spread, 8 1/8-inch longest tine, 4-inch right antler circumference, 36 3/4 total points.

6. Scott Witte of Yoakum, 10-pointer, 16 3/8-inch spread, 6 1/4-inch longest tine, 3 1/2-inch right antler circumference, 36 1/8 total points.

7. Clinton Jansky of Hallettsville, 8-pointer, 15 7/8-inch spread, 7 1/8-inch longest tine, 3 1/2-inch right antler circumference, 34 1/2 total points.

Texas Open - North Zone

No entries.

Texas Open - South Zone

No entries.

17 & Under Youth Division

1. Colton Blackwell of Cuero, 10-pointer, 17 1/4-inch spread, 13 5/8-inch longest tine, 4-inch right antler circumference, 44 7/8 total points.

2. Zane Ponder of Flatonia, 4-pointer, 16 1/2-inch spread, 7 3/4-inch longest tine, 3 7/8-inch right antler circumference, 36 1/8 total points.

Monthly Oil and Gas Statistics

September Permits to Drill

The Commission issued a total of 2,335 original drilling permits in September 2008 compared to 1,430 in September 2007.

The September total included 2,032 permits to drill new oil and gas wells, 69 to re-enter existing well bores and 234 for re-completions.

Permits issued in September 2008 included 426 oil, 517 gas,

1,316 oil and gas, 57 injection, one service and 18 other permits.

August Crude Oil Production

Texas preliminary August 2008 crude oil production averaged 883,871 barrels daily, up from the 833,372 barrels daily average of August 2007.

The preliminary Texas crude oil production figure for August 2008 is 27,400,019 barrels, an

increase from 27,384,527 barrels reported during August 2007.

September Oil and Gas Completions

In September 2008, operators reported 384 oil, 704 gas, 55 injection and one other completion, compared to 303 oil, 686 gas, 10 injection and zero other completions during September 2007.

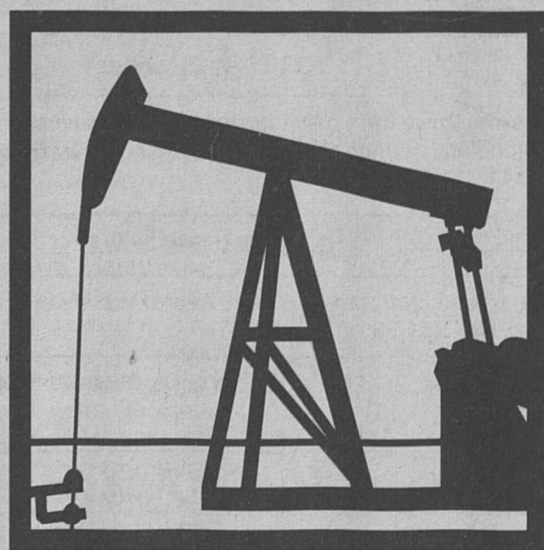
Total well completions for 2008 year to date are 11,542, up from 10,460 recorded during the same period in 2007.

Operators reported 529 holes plugged and two dry holes in September 2008, compared to 637 holes plugged and three dry holes in September 2007.

August Natural Gas Production

Texas oil and gas wells produced 536,499,569 Mcf (thousand cubic feet) of gas based upon preliminary production figures for August 2008, up from the August 2007 preliminary gas production total of 493,582,988 Mcf.

Texas production in August 2008 came from 137,420 oil and 82,300 gas wells.



Railroad Commission Oil Stats

The Texas average rig count as of Oct. 17 was 918, representing about 49 percent of all active land rigs in the United States.

In the last 12 months, total Texas reported production was 342 million barrels of oil and 7 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

Texas natural gas production represents approximately 29 percent of total U.S. natural gas demand.

The Commission's estimated final production for August 2008 is 29,233,080 barrels of crude oil and 579,488,249 Mcf (thousand cubic feet) of gas well gas.

The Commission derives final production numbers by multiplying the preliminary August 2008 production totals of 27,400,019

barrels of crude oil and 473,825,224 Mcf of gas well gas by a production adjustment factor of 1.0669 for crude oil and 1.2230 for gas well gas.

These production totals do not include casinghead gas or condensate.

Texas natural gas reported by the Commission for September 2008 is 291,204,471 Mcf compared to 362,515,895 in September 2007.

The October 2008 gas storage estimate is 308,632,020.

The Texas Railroad Commis-

sion's Oil and Gas Division set initial November 2008 natural gas production allowances for prorated fields in the state to meet market demand of 18,171,242 Mcf.

In setting the initial November 2008 allowances, the Commission used historical production figures from previous months and producers' demand forecasts for the coming month and adjusted the figures based on well capability.

These initial allowances will be adjusted after actual production for November 2008 is reported.

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Old Skool Organization

Will be selling chicken dinners
Friday, Nov. 7 starting at 10 a.m.

Dinner will consists of 3 chicken (wings), green beans, salad, bread and a dessert
Delivery available if you order in advance

For additional information contact Jerome McAfee at 979-531-9070 or Jimmy Foster at 979-257-3467.



*Happy
30th
Birthday
Natalie,
Nov. 5*

*From Dad, Dawn-Dawn, PoPo and Grandma,
Sarah and Ernest, Yazmine, Izack, "Mud Cat"
and the Rest of the Family*

The Medicare Advantage Program

The clinic and the hospital have experienced a surge in patients switching from traditional Medicare to Medicare alternative insurance programs. Patients need to check with their health care providers to make sure they accept these new programs. Some of these include the new Medicare Advantage Program, Sterling, Today's Options, Humana Choice, Humana Gold, Texan Plus, and Care Improvement Plus.

If you look at these programs from the perspective of the rural health clinic, it is a decided disadvantage. Why? Because when a person on

Medicare signs up for an advantage program he/she is no longer a Medicare patient per the Medicare regulators. Thus, the clinic gets paid less than cost for the advantage patient's care. Why is this important?

This all has to do with volume. In a large community there is enough volume to support a physician and hospital practice due to the number of people that use the facilities. However, in rural areas such as ours there are not enough people using the facility each day to support the facility. Thus, the program for rural health clinics and critical access hospitals was created to help allow rural areas access to good medical care within the community. Since the advantage program is not considered a part of the Medicare program you will be unable to use this coverage at the local clinic or hospital. The communities of Eagle Lake and Columbus do not accept these programs.

Another disadvantage to this program is the patient's share of the cost of services. At the onset of the program it appears to be cheaper. In some cases it is. However, if you have any major expense you may find yourself paying more than you would have paid under Medicare. Do not believe the salesperson until you have done your own research and determined that what you are being told is correct. Remember, sales people get paid based on the number of sales they achieve.

If you have questions and would like help in getting out of a Medicare alternative program, please feel free to call us at Rice Medical Associates at 979-234-2551 and ask for the clinic manager; she will be happy to help you understand what you are buying or have bought. The true advantage is the program that works best for you over the long term.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you.

Administration
Rice Medical Associates