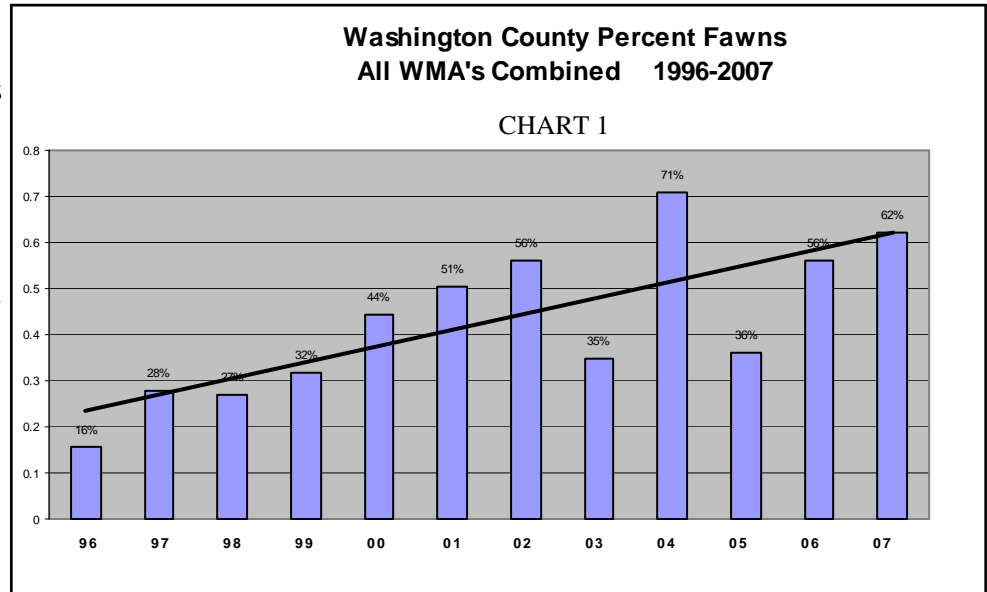




## Deer Survey Report

Robert Lehmann, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Biologist

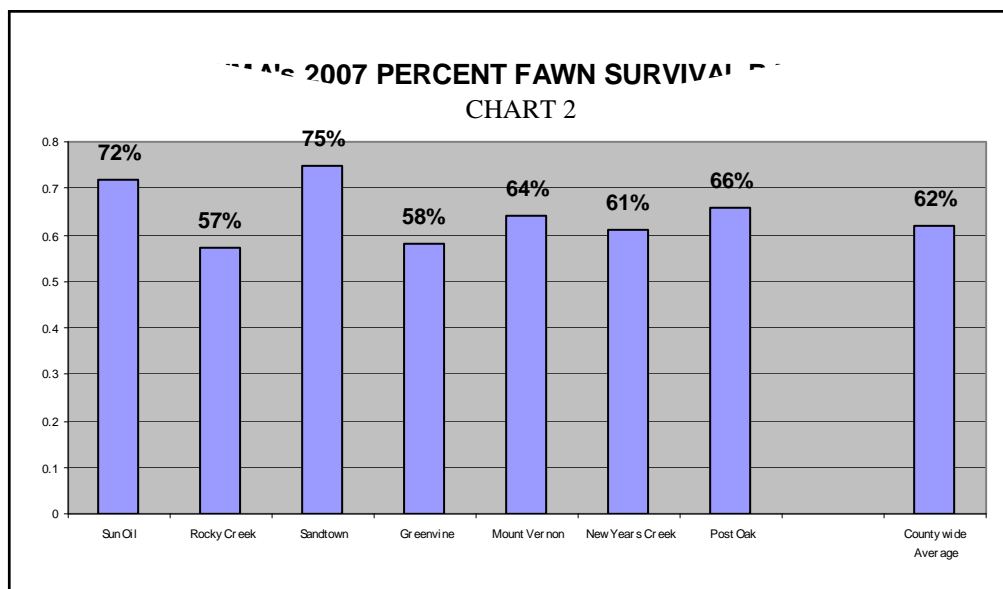
In a recent survey, co-op members recorded daytime deer sightings to estimate the ratio of bucks, does and fawns in the herd. This year co-op members identified and recorded a total of 923 deer resulting in 165 bucks, 469 does, and 289 fawns. This calculates to an amazing 1 buck per 2.8 does and a county average of 62% fawn survival rate. The 62% fawn survival rate is the highest recorded since 1996. As seen in CHART 1 the fawn survival rate has been on a steady increase since co-op members first started recording sightings in 1996. Sandtown WMA reported the highest rate within the county with 75% of their fawns surviving this year as seen in CHART 2



The results of this survey demonstrate that efforts of co-op members and others are having a positive impact on the deer herd. There is a direct correlation between high fawn survival rates and the deer population increasing within the county. Without replacement fawns a deer population will not increase. It is very important to provide adequate fawning cover and proper nutrition during the fawning period to keep the fawn survival rates up.

I want to say a special thanks to the members who sent in daytime sightings, this valuable data can reflect the overall health of the herd and assist in making recommendations to benefit the deer population within the county.

Keep up the good work and feel free to call me if you have any questions: Robert Lehmann, TPWD Wildlife Division, (979) 277-6297 .



WASHINGTON COUNTY

# Wildlife Society

## **OFFICERS:**

Sara Byman, Society President, (979) 830-8555  
Ronald Perry, Society Vice President, (979) 289-2234  
Dave Redden, Society Treasurer, (936) 878-1988  
Jennifer Mohr, Society Secretary, (979) 278-3394

## **WMA DIRECTORS:**

### **Greenvine WMA**

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melodyhillranch@earthlink.net

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### **Sandtown WMA**

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### **Mt. Vernon WMA**

Greg Schomburg, Director, (979) 836-2568

### **New Years Creek WMA**

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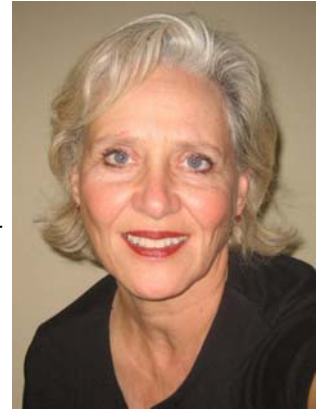
## **RESOURCE CONTACTS:**

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Ann Thames, WCWS Office Secretary  
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## President's Remarks

Dear fellow wildlife enthusiasts!

The 2007 Deer Survey Report is now complete. We appreciate your participation in this survey and other census sponsored by the Wildlife Society. Sometimes these surveys may seem trivial but keeping a Census count is part of a good Wildlife Management Plan.



We encourage you to attend your Fall Co-Op meetings. Each Director and Vice-Director works hard to provide educational programs which help you provide the best habitat you can for the wildlife on your property. Watch for the brown post card in the mail and make plans to attend your next Co-op meeting.

Thanks to all who attended the August Semi-annual WCWS meeting held at Miracle Farm! I have been very pleased with the quality of programs and speakers we have had and hope you learned something about Toxic Plants from Dr. Catherine Barr. If you were unable to attend this meeting, Dr. Barr's presentation is available on our website, [www.wcwildlife.org](http://www.wcwildlife.org).

Our **Annual meeting** will be held on **January 25, 2008** at the **Washington County Event Center** so mark this date on your calendar! You WCWS Board is currently discussing topics and speakers for this and other upcoming meetings. If you have an idea for a good program, your input would be very welcomed. Call me at 979 830-8555 or contact your Co-op Directors with your ideas or suggestions.

I hope to see you in January at the WCWS Annual Meeting or before!

*Sara Byman*  
President

# Wildlife and Fish Management Calendar for Texas: A Diary Makes it Easier

Larry Pierce, Washington County Extension Agent-Agriculture and Natural Resources

The number of people buying and managing rural property for wildlife recreation is increasing at an exponential rate – and so is the need for information on managing ponds or land. A new calendar, "Wildlife and Fish Management Calendar for Texas and the South-east," may help meet that need.

The calendar, produced by Texas Cooperative Extension, is designed specifically to assist land and water managers to attract and maintain wildlife and fish resources. The calendar offers management recommendations each month geared to specific wildlife and fish species. The calendar is not printed for a particular year, so a land manager could begin using it at any time. Space is provided for notes which will help compare management done over years. The idea was to pack the essential need-to-know management information and the timing of application of those techniques in a user-friendly calendar format. Through one year's cycle, calendar users will become better at managing a variety of fish in ponds, deer, ducks, quail, mourning doves, squirrels and other wildlife species.

No two species have exactly the same habitat requirements at exactly the same time because of direct competition. The savvy wildlife manager will create a mosaic of interconnected habitats to target featured species they are interested in managing their habitats to produce. The key is knowing what type of habitat each wildlife species favors and what can be done to create those favorable habitat conditions.

In March, the calendar reader is told, squirrels may need nest boxes placed 20 feet above the ground in trees that are at least 10 inches in diameter, if there are not enough mature cavity trees available. Quail, the

calendar notes in June, need 50 or more clumps of prickly pear or bunch grass per 300-foot transect for abundance nesting cover. Pond owners are told in September not to start stocking fish unless the weather has cooled. And turkeys might benefit from supplemental feeding in December, according to the calendar.

Anyone interested in improving wildlife and fish habitat on their property will benefit from this publication. Space on the calendar provides for notes which the landowner can refer back to and track progress toward management goals.

In addition to the 12-month calendar section, the publication has extra information in the back such as a fish management section that describes how to properly collect and interpret angler catch data, how to handle and release caught fish, and the top 10 mistakes pond owners make.

A deer management section depicts white-tail bucks from six months to 7-1/2 years old to help hunters and managers determine age – an important criteria when selecting bucks for harvest. This section also describes how to conduct a deer population census using spotlight counts and remote –sensing camera counts.

A partial listing of supplemental forages concludes the calendar with a breakdown of which wildlife species benefit from which plants.

The wildlife and fish management calendar is available for \$7.95 plus tax and shipping from Texas Cooperative Extension Bookstore, <http://tcebookstore.org/pubinfo.cfm?pubid=2422>, or by calling toll free 888-900-2577. Orders of 50 or more are sold for \$3.50 each plus tax and shipping.

## Call for Volunteers

The The Washington County Wildlife Society, the Washington County Peace Officers Association and the Texas Parks and Wildlife will host a Youth Shooting and Safety Event on Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at Nails Creek State Park. Students involved in wildlife and agriculture classes from Brenham and Burton high schools will attend this fun, safe, hands-on educational opportunity.

The objective of the event is to educate students about hunter ethics and safety. Each student will receive one-on-one instructions on: hunter and boater safety, hunter ethics, archery, shotgun, 22 pistols, 22 rifles, black powder rifle, and center-fire rifle. A noon meal will be provided by volunteers of the Washington County Wildlife Society and student instructions will be provided by officers from the Washington County Peace Officers Association, Wildlife Biologist, Game Wardens, and the Corp of Engineer Rangers. Anyone interested in helping with this event please be at Nails Creek State Park at 8:30 am on the 25<sup>th</sup> or contact Robert Lehmann for more details.



## Washington County Bird Watch

Darrell Vollert

We are in the midst of a transition with the birdlife here in the Central Brazos Valley. Neotropical migrants which nested here this summer are departing for the tropics to spend the winter season. A number of species native to North America are heading south from Canada and the northern states to our area to spend the winter season. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers are being replaced on the power lines and fence posts by American Kestrels. Brown Thrashers are filling the niche (thick underbrush) being vacated by White-eyed Vireos.

There will be a period in October and November that seed-eating birds will vacate feeding stations in area yards.

Not to worry. This is an annual occurrence. Our native birds will be consuming natural foods such as the seeds on ragweed and the berries on peppervine. Northern Cardinals and Carolina Chickadees will return to feeding stations the latter half of November. These year-round

residents will be joined at bird feeders by Chipping Sparrows, White-throated Sparrows, and American Goldfinches, which have migrated down from the north. Black-oil sunflower seed is the most favored seed for winter birds. Millet seed is favored by doves and sparrows. This seed can be broadcast on the ground or place in a platform feeder. Suet cakes are favored by woodpeckers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Orange-crowned and Pine Warblers. It is best to wait until the temperatures cool down, as suet will melt in warm temperatures.

You may have heard that leaving hummingbird feeders up into the fall season will keep hummingbirds from migrating south. This is not true. Hummingbird species such as Black-chinned Hummingbird and Rufous Hummingbird have the ability to lower their body temperature at night in order to survive cold nights. This is known as torpor. Leave hummingbird feeders up until Christmas. You may attract a Black-chinned or Rufous Hummingbird or maybe even an Anna's or a Buff-bellied Hummingbird. Wouldn't that be a treat! If hummingbirds are not present in your yard in late December, feeders can be taken in until early March.



*Young male Black-headed Grosbeak and an American Goldfinch at a sunflower seed feeder in Chappell Hill several winters ago.*

On Saturday November 11th, Darrell will be leading a bird banding workshop near Chappell Hill.

On Saturday, November 18, Darrell will lead a birding tour around Lake Somerville.

Darrell also conducts bird surveys for landowners.

Please contact Darrell by phone at 979-251-4986 or via e-mail at [darrellv@computexas.net](mailto:darrellv@computexas.net), or visit his website at: [www.DarrellVollertNatureTours.com](http://www.DarrellVollertNatureTours.com).

*Darrell Vollert is a native of Washington County. He leads private birding tours in Texas, and assists with the coordination of birding field trips for the Texas Ornithological Society in south-east Texas.*