

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

Status of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker in Texas, 1985-1987

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The Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) was once a common species across the Southeastern United States. The species is specialized to live in old growth, open, park-like stands of pine. As the virgin pine forests in Texas were harvested, Red-cockaded Woodpecker populations declined (Hooper et al. 1980).

In 1968, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department began monitoring the species because it was recognized as being scarce. Reports were available from only nine of the 40 counties of its original range in Texas (Lay 1969). In 1970 it was listed as an endangered species in the United States. Since then, much research has been conducted on this species in Texas and across the Southeast (Conner and Locke 1979, 1982, 1983; Hooper et al. 1980; Jackson 1971, 1978; Jackson et al. 1978, 1986; Johnson 1971; Kroll et al. 1980; Lay and Russell 1970; Lay et al. 1971; Lay and Swepston 1975; Lennartz et al. 1983a, b; Lennartz and Henry 1985; Ligon et al. 1986; Locke 1980; Locke et al. 1983; Shaw 1971; Thompson and Baker 1971; Thompson 1976).

By 1975, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department personnel located 31 Red-cockaded Woodpecker colonies on private land. During 1985, 1986, and 1987, these colonies were resurveyed to determine their status as viable breeding colonies. As time permitted new reports of active colonies were investigated and verified. During 1985 and 1986, intensive surveys were conducted in two of three state forests and three of four national forests known to contain Red-cockaded Woodpecker colonies. All active colonies located by this effort are listed as confirmed in Table 1. Reputable reports of active colonies in forests not personally surveyed by us are listed as unconfirmed.

We located 79 active Red-cockaded Woodpecker colonies. Reputable reports indicated that there are an additional 133 active colonies in Texas for a total of 212 colonies (Table 1). These colonies are distributed over 13 counties in south-

Table 1. Active Red-cockaded Woodpecker colonies in Texas, 1985-1987.

County	Ownership	Confirmed	Unconfirmed	Total
Angelina	Private	0	1	1
	State	0	0	0
	Federal	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{0}{1}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
		1	1	2

Table 1. Continued.

County	Ownership	Confirmed	Unconfirmed	Total
Cherokee	Private	0	0	0
	State	7	0	7
	Federal	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
		7	0	7
Hardin	Private	0	1	1
	State	0	0	0
	Federal	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
		0	1	1
Houston	Private	0	0	0
	State	0	0	0
	Federal	<u>25</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>25</u>
		25	0	25
Jasper	Private	4	0	4
	State	0	0	0
	Federal	<u>14</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>14</u>
		18	0	18
Montgomery- Walker	Private	0	1	1
	State	0	10	10
	Federal	<u>0</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>85</u>
		0	96	96
Newton	Private	8	0	8
	State	0	0	0
	Federal	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
		8	0	8
Polk	Private	1	1	2
	State	0	0	0
	Federal	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
		2	1	3
Sabine	Private	0	0	0
	State	1	0	1
	Federal	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>
		7	0	7
San Augustine	Private	0	0	0
	State	0	0	0
	Federal	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7</u>
		7	0	7
San Jacinto	Private	0	0	0
	State	0	0	0
	Federal	<u>0</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>27</u>
		0	27	27
Shelby	Private	0	0	0
	State	0	0	0
	Federal	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
		1	0	1
Trinity	Private	1	7	8
	State	0	0	0
	Federal	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>
		3	7	10
Grand total	Private	14	11	25
	State	8	10	18
	Federal	<u>57</u>	<u>112</u>	<u>169</u>
		79	133	212

eastern Texas. Three counties (Montgomery, San Jacinto and Walker) contain 58 percent of the colonies.

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