



## **Census Counts and Surveys for Wildlife**

**David Riley**  
**Staff Biologist**  
**Plateau Land & Wildlife Management**



- Private company, est. 1997
- Founders helped establish WMV law
- Central Texas Based
- Serving Texas Landowners
- Staff Wildlife Biologists
- Trained, dedicated field technicians
- Registered Property Tax Consultants



# BRAUN & GRESHAM

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

*Advocates for you and your land.*

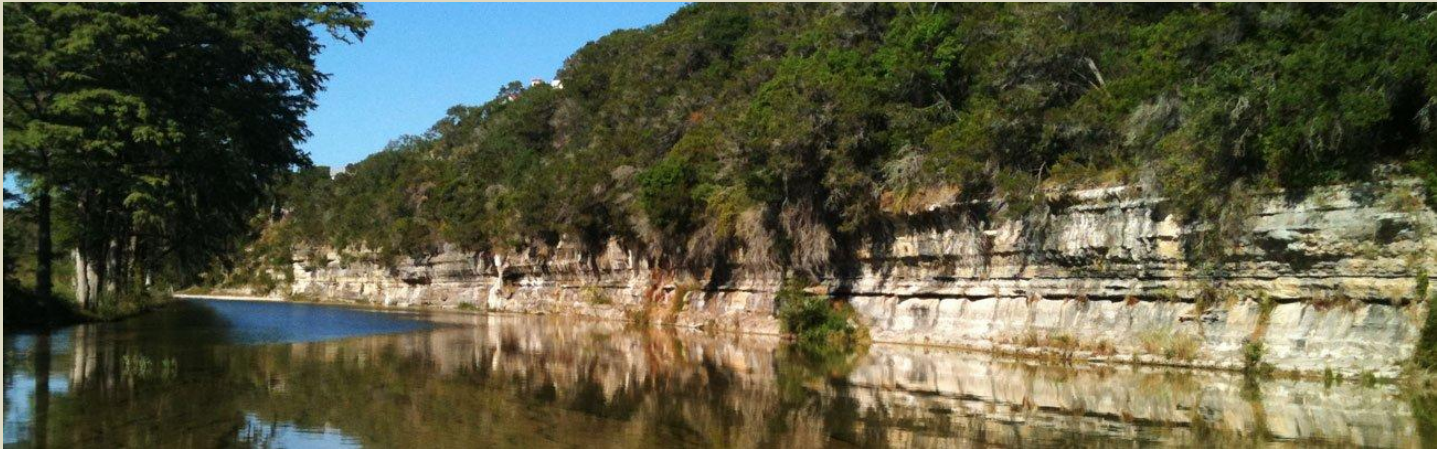


- Property Tax
- Powerline Routing
- Conservation Real Estate
- Risk Management
- Estate Planning
- Conservation Easement
- Water Rights
- Condemnation



*Rural Land.  
Real Knowledge.  
Real Value.*

- Rural Real Estate Specialists
- Knowledge of land, income and sales tax advantages
- Work with buyers and sellers



# Census Counts - TPWD

Census counts are periodic surveys and inventories to determine the number, composition or other relevant information about a wildlife population to measure if the current wildlife management practices are serving the targeted species.

# Why perform a census

- Fun
- Learn more about your property
- Establish a baseline
- Gain a better understanding of results of your management
- One of the 7 qualifying Wildlife Management activities



# Census Counts/Surveys

- Spotlight counting
- Aerial counts
- Daylight wildlife composition counts
- Harvest data collection and record keeping
- Browse utilization surveys
- Census and monitoring of endangered, threatened or protected wildlife
- Census and monitoring of non-game wildlife species
- Can be your observations or others, but needs to be useful
- Have a method or use someone who does so it will stick



# Census Counts/Surveys – In your plan

<b>7. CENSUS</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Spotlight counts</b> Targeted species: _____ Length of route: _____ Visibility of route: _____ Dates (3 required) A. _____ B. _____ C. _____ Additional Information: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Standardized incidental observations</b> Targeted species: _____ Observations from: <input type="checkbox"/> Feeders <input type="checkbox"/> Food plots <input type="checkbox"/> Blinds <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ Dates: _____ Additional Information: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Stand counts of deer</b> (5 one hour counts per stand required). Number of stands: _____ Dates: _____ Additional Information: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Aerial Counts</b> Species counted: _____ Type of survey: <input type="checkbox"/> Helicopter <input type="checkbox"/> Fixed-wing Percent of area surveyed: <input type="checkbox"/> Total <input type="checkbox"/> 50% <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ Additional Information: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Track counts:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Predators <input type="checkbox"/> Furbearers <input type="checkbox"/> Deer <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ Additional Information: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Daylight deer herd/wildlife composition counts</b> Species: <input type="checkbox"/> Deer <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey <input type="checkbox"/> Dove <input type="checkbox"/> Quail <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ Additional Information: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Harvest data collection/record keeping:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Deer <input type="checkbox"/> Game birds <input type="checkbox"/> Age <input type="checkbox"/> Weight <input type="checkbox"/> Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Antler data <input type="checkbox"/> Harvest date Additional Information: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Browse utilization surveys</b> (thirty 12-foot circular plots required) Additional Information: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Census of endangered, threatened, or protected wildlife.</b> Species: _____ Method and dates: _____ Additional Information: _____	

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<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Census and monitoring of nongame wildlife species.</b> Species: _____ Method and dates: _____ Additional Information: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Miscellaneous Counts:</b> Species being counted: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Remote detection (i.e., cameras) <input type="checkbox"/> Hahn (walking) line <input type="checkbox"/> Roost counts <input type="checkbox"/> Booming ground counts <input type="checkbox"/> Time/area counts <input type="checkbox"/> Songbird transects and counts <input type="checkbox"/> Quail call and covey counts <input type="checkbox"/> Point counts <input type="checkbox"/> Small mammal traps <input type="checkbox"/> Drift fences and pitfall traps <input type="checkbox"/> Bat departures <input type="checkbox"/> Dove call counts <input type="checkbox"/> Chachalaca counts <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey hen/poultry counts <input type="checkbox"/> Waterfowl/water bird counts <input type="checkbox"/> Alligator nest/census counts <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ Additional Information: _____	

## IX. Additional Supporting Information. (Optional)

Attach any other supporting information, such as maps or photographs that you believe to be relevant to this wildlife management plan.

I certify that the above information provided by me in this application is to the best of my knowledge and belief, true and complete.

Landowner Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

This area for use only if the wildlife management plan was prepared for the above landowner for a fee by a wildlife professional or consultant. \*

Signature of person preparing wildlife management plan. _____	Date _____
Company _____	Phone Number _____
*Signature by TPWD not required for this plan to be valid.	

Texas Parks and Wildlife does not maintain the information collected through this form. This completed form is only provided to the County Tax Appraiser. Please inquire with your County Central Appraisal District on any local laws concerning any information collected through this form.

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# Census Counts/Surveys – Annual Report

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Part V. Attach copies of supporting documentation such as receipts, maps, photos, etc. Use additional pages if necessary.

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I certify that the above information provided by me is to the best of my knowledge and belief, true and complete.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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# Deer Surveys

- Start in August - timing
- Spotlight Surveys
- Remote Camera Surveys
- Aerial Surveys
- MLDP permit time
- Organized and useful



# Spotlight Counts



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XmD3VXKZLgM>



Three nights, repeats the same  
three mile or more drive line



Conduct spotlight surveys  
in early fall  
\*Notify local game wardens



# Deer Camera Survey

- Suggest one camera per 100 acres
- Start feeder 2 weeks prior
- Run camera for minimum 7-10 days
- Use data collected to make sound harvest decisions
- Have a Plateau Biologist analyze your photos and help with those recommendations



# Deer Camera Survey



Can be done any time of year depending on your goals

For best harvest recommendations perform in early fall

Review photos each year to recognize changes in your herd

## Harvest Record + Photos

[illegible]

extension.missouri.edu > natural resources > wildlife > conservation > g9483

University of Missouri Extension



Include as much detail as you can



# Wildlife Camera Surveys

- Can be done any time of year
- Do it as often as you see fit
- How healthy is my property
- What is really going on out here
- End up with some great photos
- And a greater knowledge of your land and its wild things
- Use what you learn to drive your management
- Show that it is being done with a purpose





# Wildlife Camera Surveys



## Remote Camera Survey

# Wildlife Camera Surveys



Follow some kind of protocol  
each time



Do it any time of year and as often as  
you like



# Bird Surveys



# Spring, Winter and Season

- Spring breeding bird surveys - What birds are utilizing your property and why?
- Winter and resident bird surveys – A completely different set of birds using your property for a whole different reason. Why?
- Seasonal bird surveys – get a better understanding of overall bird diversity and how your management activities are impacting it.











# Bird Survey recap

- Very well-accepted activity from a compliance standpoint for any size property
- Done seasonally or annually to provide a good representation
- Data can be analyzed to establish trends and provide feedback on your management



# Review

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# How can Plateau help?

- We do hundreds of surveys each year
- Biologist and birders always ready to go
- Bird surveys, Deer surveys, Wildlife camera surveys, Specialized surveys
- Analysis of your survey data - recommendations
- Training and guidance





Thank You!

## **Plateau Land & Wildlife Management**

*Working with **you** to protect and enhance  
**your** land!*

**512-894-3479**

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