

(Continued)

in any publication, media production or other informational material it produces. With a stricken title, the measure passed with a vote of 5 to 1.

HB2349, by Shurden, authorizes the Wildlife Conservation Commission to establish a special use permit required by all persons who hunt or fish on private land leased by the Department. It also establishes a maximum fee of \$25 for the license. The measure passed with a vote of 6 to 0.

HB2351, by Shurden, states that general unrestricted hunting licenses shall not be issued to those hunters whose home states do not allow Oklahomans to do the same. The measure passed with a vote of 6 to 0.

HB2637, by Rep. Bill Smith, D-Ringling, extends and renames former programs, outlines hunting license fees, and donation designation requirements. The measure passed with a vote of 6 to 0.

HB2293, by Shurden, provides authority for Wildlife Conservation Commission to enter into contracts and agreements for food, lodging, and other authorized expenses necessary to host, conduct, sponsor or participate in conferences, meetings or training sessions. The measure passed with a vote of 6 to 0.

FROM: BRANDON BEARD

DATE: 03/25/96

DROUGHT HAS NOT EFFECTED WILDLIFE POPULATIONS AS OF YET

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Wildlife biologists with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation do not believe the current drought has harmed wildlife population, but they caution that if drought conditions persist through spring, wildlife could suffer.

"Late winter and early-spring are the most critical periods for wildlife," said Mike Shaw, wildlife research supervisor for the Wildlife Department.

Shaw said fresh, green growth and insect availability are vital to bird growth and survival during spring. Since birds rely on these two items for almost all of their nutritional requirements during the early spring months, reduced rainfall could mean reduced growth of green plant material and decreased numbers of insects.

"Mammals also depend on fresh, spring growth for much of their nutritional requirements so persistent drought could result in decreased health of adults and reduced birth weights for offspring born in late-spring and early-summer. Low birth weights put the young at risk because they can't escape predators as easily," said Shaw.

Wildlife biologists can't predict what Oklahoma's springtime weather holds in store, but they can predict what might happen to wildlife if the rains don't return.

FROM: OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

DATE: 03/25/96

WILDLIFE WATCHING DATES AND SCHEDULES

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Oklahomans will have more opportunities than ever to view wildlife and learn about the outdoors at this spring's watchable wildlife weekends, which will be held at 44 sites state wide.

"This is the sixth year of the spring Watchable Wildlife Weekends, which were created to give people a chance to see wildlife in its natural habitat," said Jeremy Garrett, natural resources information specialist for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

Because the weekend activities stretch into May, wildlife enthusiasts will have a better chance to participate in programs at a site near them.

FROM: OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

DATE: 03/25/96