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The Decay of Central Texas Deduced from the Increase in Feral Cats

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The Decay of Central Texas Deduced from the Increase in Feral Cats

by Peter Hanke

Last night the drought moved on.
My rain gauge holds five inches.
Jays chase doves from the pole feeder.
The window feeder rocks with finches.

Oak saplings and black rose canes
Rest after the wind's rages.
I see through the eave drip sun
Glisten on the tomato cages.

My soaked yard is brown.
Austin's parks have lost their sheen.
Tree leaves are brittle. Only
Golf courses are fat green.

Now recovery begins.
We're used to it, people cope,
Drought cannot rule a city.
But pull out your telescope:

Lakes and aquifers shrunk, crops dead,
Wells dry, cattle sold for hay
For cattle: farms, ranches, dreams
Ruin to rust and clay

As starving barn cats stray.

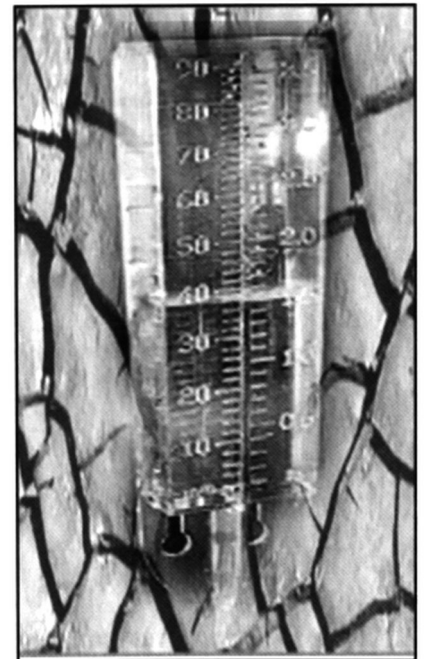


Photo (detail) by Joel Kendall

