

OUTDOORS DIGEST

Of The Outdoors | Gary Howey

# New For The Outdoorsman

## Neb. Bald Eagles Break Nest Record In 2014

LINCOLN, Neb. — A record 146 bald eagle nests were surveyed in 2014 by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and its partners, with 111 of the nests being active.

Bald eagles were on federal and state endangered species lists as late as 2007 and 2008, respectively. In less than a quarter century the species has gone from a nonexistent breeding species in the state to one that is relatively numerous, according to Joel Jorgensen, Game and Parks' nongame bird program manager.

In the early 1980s, when federal recovery plans were written to save populations in the lower 48 states, the recovery goal for Nebraska was set at 10 breeding pairs. In 1991, Nebraska recorded its first active and successful bald eagle nest in approximately a century. In 2007, the number of nests had grown to 54 active nests. In 2014, there were 111 active nests.

The most common source of nest failure in Nebraska is the nest tree blowing down, usually from winds associated with a severe thunderstorm. Unlike other species, bald eagles will not re-nest in the same year if their nest fails.

Jorgensen said the increase of nesting bald eagles in Nebraska has occurred over a time period when other species and natural communities have declined. He said other species have been added to the list of endangered species and others are being considered.

## Nonresident Waterfowl License Work Group Holds Second Meeting

PIERRE — The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks' (GFP) Nonresident Waterfowl License Work Group held its second meeting on Feb. 2, 2015, to continue discussions about the future of license allocations for nonresident waterfowl hunters in South Dakota.

Discussions at the second meeting focused on unit boundaries and the number of licenses that should be allocated for each of the units. The committee also discussed the distribution of hunting pressure across the state and the possibility of issuing youth licenses to nonresidents.

Efforts from the work group will conclude with assisting the Department in formulating recommendations that will be presented to the GFP Commission for their consideration.

The results of the work group discussions can be viewed in the meeting notes. Meeting notes, dates, maps, presentations as well as additional information can be found online at <http://gfp.sd.gov/hunting/waterfowl/nonresidentwaterfowlworkgroup.aspx>.

To provide suggestions or comments on the structure of nonresident waterfowl license allocations and unit boundaries discussed by the work group, please send an email to [NRWaterfowlLicense@state.sd.us](mailto:NRWaterfowlLicense@state.sd.us) and include your full name and mailing address.

## No Spring Canada Goose Program For 2015

PIERRE — The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) will not implement the Spring Canada Goose program for 2015. For the past two years, this experimental program utilized authorized volunteers to harvest resident Canada geese during the month of April through a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service permit.

The GFP Commission continues to take steps to reduce resident Canada goose populations through liberal hunting opportunities in the August Management Take and Early Fall September goose seasons. GFP also continues to provide Canada goose damage abatement assistance to landowners who experience crop damage from the birds.

For more information, please contact your local GFP Division of Wildlife office <http://gfp.sd.gov/agency/contacts/contact-wildlife-offices.aspx>.

BY GARY HOWEY  
Hartington, Neb.

We just returned from spending three days at the Shooting Hunting and Outdoor Technology (SHOT) Show in Las Vegas held at the Sands Convention Center. This is a huge event bringing together manufacturers, hunters, shooters, press, military, police, mass merchandisers, gun shop owners, sporting goods store owners and celebrities, those of us that live and breathe the shooting sports. At the show, thousands of exhibitors display some of the latest's and greatest products coming to market in 2015.

If you are looking for anything to do with shooting, this is where all the new products are introduced.

In our next two columns, we will highlight some of those products that should make your next trip to the field and range much more enjoyable and successful.



Gary HOWEY

## Lucky Duck Flapper Canada Goose Decoy With Remote

Over the years, our Team has hunted over hundreds of decoy spreads all over the U.S. These spreads have drawn brought ducks and geese in, with those with decoy movement involved bringing the waterfowl in quicker, getting them to commit, bringing them in, wings set, and feet down, right out in front of our hunters.

This last season one of the hunters we hunt with brought the Lucky Duck Flapper Canada Goose Decoy with a Remote, which increased the number of geese coming to our decoys tremendously.

It is a life size Canada Goose Decoy with a Flocked Head, featuring durable flapping magnetic EVA wings, which makes for easy setup.

The unit comes with a remote control, twelve-volt battery, charger and metal tripod base. It runs continuous or intermittent-3 seconds on, and then 10 seconds off with variable speeds.

The head of the decoy is thirty-six inches off the ground with a wingspan of forty-three inches. The remote will work out to 100 yard from the decoy, running up to 9 hours continuous on one charge.

More information on this and other Lucky Duck decoys available at [www.luckyduck.com/Lucky-Flapper-Canada-Goose-with-Remote\\_p\\_232.html](http://www.luckyduck.com/Lucky-Flapper-Canada-Goose-with-Remote_p_232.html)

## Winchester Deer Season XP Ammunition

Deer hunting is a popular sport in North America with over 10 million hunters who wait for the deer season in hopes of tagging one of the estimated 26 million deer found in the United States.

There is not a lot of ammunition made specifically for deer hunting, the majority of the deer hunters out



SUBMITTED PHOTO  
The new ICOTec GC 500 is a programmable caller with 24 calls that can be programmed for up to 200 calls.

there have been using ammunition built for a variety of animals, with much of the available ammo, overbuilt for hunting a thin-skinned animal such as the deer. Those bullets have done a good job over the years, what Winchester was looking for was a bullet made specifically for deer hunters.

Their Deer Season XP has went through testing this past year, with excellent results dropping deer in their tracks.

Nothing is worse than to have to blood trail an wounded deer and possibly losing it, with Winchester's new Extreme Point bullet in Deer Season XP it has the ability to efficiently dump all its energy in that 200 to 250 pound animal.

The secret to its knockdown power is what Winchester calls Maximum Impact Diameter. Their Extreme Point bullet features a larger polymer tip extending farther back into the bullet and the sledgehammer like face results in more rapid expansion and greater trauma during the first five to six inches of penetration.

Winchester is offering Deer Season XP in a single bullet weight for each of the eight popular deer cartridges in the line—which includes .243, .270, .270WSM, 7mm Magnum, .308, .30-06, .300 Magnum and .300 WSM. The Winchester Deer Season XP Ammunition will be available in late April. More information on the what bullet weights are available can be found at [www.winchester.com/Products/rifle-ammunition/Performance/Deer-Season-XP/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.winchester.com/Products/rifle-ammunition/Performance/Deer-Season-XP/Pages/default.aspx)

## ICOTec GC500 Electronic Game Call

If you have not had the opportunity to do some predator calling, you do not know what you are missing as calling in any animal especially a predator is an exciting sport. It is not very hard to do, especially when using an electronic call.

New this season for predator callers, light goose hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts is the ICOTec GC500 Programmable Electronic Game Call. Coyotes and other predators are having a growing impact on the whitetail deer herds across America and are in need of control, giving outdoorsmen and women another hunting opportunity.

The GC500 comes with twenty-four calls and offers an outstanding remote technology with up to 300 yards with no line of sight required to activate the main speaker unit.



SUBMITTED PHOTO  
Winchester Deer Season XP Ammunition is made specifically for deer hunters, features the Extreme Point Bullet that has the knockdown power to drop a deer in its tracks.

Hunters, using the remote, can also activate an electronic decoy that can plug into the main speaker unit.

You no longer have to worry about programming or long number sequences that need to be memorized in order to play a high quality audio call, just simply press one button and the call does the work for you. Once the call has played, the unit pauses for 30 seconds and then replays the sequence, continuing until you press the stop button. If you want to record your calls using a mouth call, it is easy with the new GC500. All calls are loaded and played directly from a standard size SD Media Card. Any custom call you make is saved as an .mp3 or a .wav (16 bit or less) file format. There is no limit to the length of time the GC500 will play, if the call is 30-minutes long, the unit will play a 30-minute call sequence, pause for 30-seconds and then repeat the call for 30-minutes. The ICOTec GC 500 is an easy to use programmable call that will make your next trip to the field more successful.

More information on all of the ICOTec products can be found at [www.icotec.com](http://www.icotec.com)

## Wood N' Stream Boots With Odor Control Technology

If you hunt big game, you know how keen their sense of smell is. This is why; two companies have teamed up to offer the footwear industry's newest odor-control technology. The Weinbrenner Shoe Company and 3M have partnered together to use 3M Platinum odor control insulation technology in a selection of their 2015 Wood N' Stream boot collection. These boots are built to withstand the harshest weather conditions. Available in the fall 2015 in a variety of Wood N' Stream boots, including their Instigator, Gunners, Maniac, Navigator, and Endeavor Extreme series. In addition to the 3M Platinum technology in the boots mentioned above, Wood N' Stream will release more American-made styles to include eight different lines of high-quality footwear in 2015.

More information on Wood N' Stream boots can be found on line at [www.weinbrennerusa.com/dspNav-Category.cfm?rootid=124](http://www.weinbrennerusa.com/dspNav-Category.cfm?rootid=124)

## Hunter's Specialties Hen Decoy

Hunters Specialties is adding to their Snood's Decoy line this season, with their new Penny Snood Feeding Hen Turkey Decoy, which depicts a wild turkey hen in a natural relaxed feeding position.

I have used the Snood decoys this last season, they allow me to set up quickly and when I am ready to head for my next set up, quickly deflate them, stash them in my vest and head down the road

The lightweight Snood decoys are incredibly lifelike with highly realistic head and feather detail. Painted with specially formulated no-flake paint for lasting durability season after season, the built-in air valve allows the decoys to be quickly inflated and set up. The decoy, constructed with a durable expanded rubber that resists creases and dents and folded for easy transport.

Works all season long, especially in late season when hens are off by themselves. This decoy is exceptionally lifelike with its iridescent no-flake paint. Made of expanded rubber to prevent creases and dents which allows me to fold up the decoy for easy transport. Included is the dual position Strut Stake allowing you to place the decoy high or low. More information on the Snood decoys is found at [www.hunterspec.com/content/snood-s-turkey-decoys](http://www.hunterspec.com/content/snood-s-turkey-decoys)

Gary Howey, Hartington, Nebraska, is a former tournament angler, fishing and hunting guide. He is the Producer/Host of the award winning *Outdoorsmen Adventures television series*, seen in the Yankton area on local channels 2 & 98 Saturday at 6:30 pm and Sunday at 7:00, on KTTM/KTTW-TV Fox-Sioux Falls and Huron at 6:30 am Saturdays and on the MIDCO Sports Network Thursday at 5:30 pm and Sunday at 10:00 am. He and Simon Fuller Co-Host the *Outdoor Adventures radio program on Classic Hits 106.3, ESPN Sports Radio 1570 in Southeastern South Dakota and Northeast Nebraska. In Northwest Iowa, it airs on KCHE 92.1 FM. If you are looking for more outdoor information, check out www.outdoorsmenadventures.com.*

## Lancers

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pitcher (Kyle Nickolite) had some good stuff, and sometimes you just have to tip your hat to a pitcher."

Mount Marty senior center fielder and leadoff hitter Zac Hollenback wasn't just happy with the victories, but in how the Lancers earned them.

"These were what we needed. They weren't just wins, we won as a team," he said. "It wasn't a one-guy thing. When you see 11 hits on the board (which MMC had in the third game), you know it is a collective effort.

"If we can stay as a team, we can do something special."

MMC's next scheduled games are against Mayville State and Clarke on Feb. 28 and March 1 in Sabetha, Kansas, but the Lancers may add a home game to the schedule if the weather cooperates as it did on Friday.

### Game 1: MMC 5, PC 0

Kyle Nickolite tossed six shutout innings as the Lancers opened the 2015 season with a 5-0 victory.

Hollenback and Derek Blumenstock had doubles for MMC. Jared Nelson had a pinch-hit two-run single. Riley Stack, Derrik Nelson and Jared Schmidt also had this in the victory.

Ryan Baldonado, Jesse Spangler, Curtis Summers and Josh Youngchild had hits for Presentation.

Nickolite struck out four in the victory. A.J. Griffith pitched an inning of perfect relief. Baldonado took the loss.

"Nickolite came out and looked good," Bernatow said. "We were able to get A.J. (whose 2014 season was cut short by injury) out there. Now we will get to see how he bounces back."

Ground-rule doubles by Hollenback and Blumenstock each brought in a run

for MMC in the third. A bases-loaded walk to Schmidt and Jared Nelson's two-run single in the fifth iced the victory.

### Game 2: MMC 5, PC 4

MMC answered Presentation's first two rallies, then took the lead for good with a two-run fifth to claim a 5-4 victory.

Hollenback and Bryton Carlson had doubles for MMC. Ryan Buck, Derrik Nelson, Blumenstock, Schmidt and Jared Nelson also had hits for the Lancers.

Baldonado had two hits, including a two-run home run in the first, for Presentation. Drew Sanders had a pair of hits, and Johnnie Morris, Spangler, Stephen Yant, Youngchild and Lane Hovde also had hits.

Michael Sadler pitched two innings of perfect relief, striking out one, for the win in relief of Alex Mogensen. Carlson allowed a run in the seventh but earned the save. John Glove took the loss, also in relief.

"Sadler has done a good job in practice, and looked great today," Bernatow said. "We were able to get Carlson in a closer situation. It was good for him to get the jitters out."

Baldonado's blast gave the Saints a 2-0 edge in the top of the first, but MMC answered with a two-run double by Carlson. After Presentation regained the lead on a Hovde single, but MMC tied the game at 3-3 on a Schmidt run-scoring single.

The Lancers took the lead for good in the fifth on a sacrifice fly by Blumenstock. Another run scored when the Saints overthrew third base as MMC's Derrik Nelson tried to advance from second to third on the play.

Presentation scored in the seventh on a Sanders single, but MMC got out of the jam.

### Game 3: MMC 10, PC 1

Mount Marty scored five runs in the first and four more in the third to put the game out of reach.

Stack doubled and singled, and Kaden Skinner and Collin Peterson each had two hits for MMC, which pounded out 11 hits in the contest. Justin Miller tripled, Carlson doubled, and Hollenback, Blumenstock and Alex Mueller each had hits for the Lancers.

Spangler homered and singled, and Hovde doubled to lead Presentation. Youngchild and Albert Castro also had hits.

Dustin Haffeman pitched four innings, allowing one run, for the win. Josh Te-



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D  
Mount Marty third baseman Jared Schmidt fires the ball to first base during the first game of the Lancers' baseball opener with Presentation on Friday.

ichrow, Dakota Kirkman and Derrik Nelson each pitched an inning of scoreless relief. Jake Bunjovac, who allowed the first five runs, took the loss.

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at [twitter.com/JCimburek](http://twitter.com/JCimburek). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net)

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## Clay Target Shooting Teams Spike In Minnesota Schools

ST. CLOUD, Minn. (AP) — Participation in clay target shooting is booming at Minnesota schools.

The *St. Cloud Times* reports 185 teams competed last year in the Minnesota State High School Clay Target League. That's up from 13 teams in 2010.

League vice president John Nelson said more than 40 additional teams have signed up for 2015. School districts new to clay shooting this year include Rocori, Sauk Rapids-Rice and Sartell-St. Stephen. Luke Lutterman, activities director at Sauk Rapids-Rice, said he expects 30 to 40 kids to sign up for the new team.

Many of those kids don't play other sports, Lutterman said.

"It's important to us that we have extracurricular options that engage a wide variety of students," Lutterman said.

Rocori Superintendent Scott Staska says students won't be allowed to bring

firearms to campus, following state law. Practices and competitions take place away from schools. And Staska said participation only on weekends will help keep students from accidentally bringing guns to school.

The Rocori school board voted unanimously to form the clay target shooting team, according to Staska. Two students were shot and killed at Rocori High School in 2003, but Staska said no opposition to the team rose because of it.

Students must also get firearm safety certification before participating in the state league, Staska said. Nelson said the league has not seen an injury since it began in 2001.

"Parents don't have to worry about concussions," Nelson said. "It's an injury-free sport."

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