

OUTDOORS DIGEST

Of The Outdoors | Gary Howey

Nebraska Turkeys Heading To Montana

CHADRON, Neb. — In the late 1950s and early 1960s, Nebraska reintroduced wild turkeys from other states to its landscape after the big birds had been extirpated decades earlier during the nation's westward expansion. The reintroduction was so successful that turkeys have again become common border-to-border and Nebraska is now able to return the favor to another state.

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission led an effort this week to trap wild turkeys on a ranch near Whiteclay in northern Sheridan County for relocation to Montana. The turkeys were held overnight Thursday and picked up by Montana state wildlife staff Friday morning for release in the Great Falls area.

A total of 91 birds were caught, 61 birds in the morning and 30 in late afternoon. The total included 13 males.

Nebraska Game and Parks lured the birds to three roughly 400-square-foot netted enclosures and closed each door with the pull of a cord. Agency staff, along with a cadre of volunteers largely consisting of Chadron State College students, then processed the birds. After each bird was chased down and caught in the enclosure it was checked by a veterinarian and placed in a cardboard box, made just for the job by the National Wild Turkey Federation. The boxes of birds were stored in a livestock trailer until the journey west.

"Although they can be tricky to catch in the enclosure, the birds usually become rather docile once caught," said Todd Nordeen, the Nebraska Game and Parks big game research manager leading the effort. "They won't fight much when hanging by their feet and they do not even try to move around much in the cardboard boxes."

Nebraska has used wildlife from other states for reintroduction efforts of a variety of species within its borders, including bighorn sheep that were captured in Montana and brought to Nebraska. Nebraska was able to return the favor to Montana by providing wild turkeys. It's just the latest example of interstate cooperation to assist the range-wide conservation of a species.

Nordeen said Montana's state wildlife division is seeking turkeys with characteristics of the Merriam's subspecies. The distinct wide white band found across the tail feathers of those birds is predominant among northwestern Nebraska's turkey population.

Pound Middle School To Host NASP Tournament In Lincoln

LINCOLN, Neb. — A statewide youth archery tournament will take place at the Nebraska Game and Parks Outdoor Education Center in Lincoln on Feb. 7.

The tournament, hosted by Pound Middle School in Lincoln, is open to any participant in the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP).

Competition flights are limited to 32 archers and will begin at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and noon. Registration is 45 minutes before each flight. The cost is \$10.

NASP is an in-school curriculum covering target archery for students in grades 4-12. In Nebraska, more than 25,000 students in more than 200 schools participate in the program.

The education center, located at 4703 N. 44th St., will be closed to public archery shooting on Feb. 7 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The archery range will be open to the public from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information, contact John Gerber at jgerber@ps.org.

Lake Mitchell To Host National Qualifying Ice Fishing Tournament

MITCHELL — Mitchell will hold South Dakota's only 2015 NAIFC (North American Ice Fishing Circuit) National Qualifying Tournament on Lake Mitchell, Jan. 23-25. Teams finishing in the top-10 at the Mitchell Qualifier automatically advance to the NAIFC North American Championship held next December in Isle Minnesota. One out of five teams receive cash payouts with another 12 places receiving product prizes.

The Mitchell Qualifier is open to the first 150 two-person teams that enter. NAIFC tournaments are competitive in nature, operating much like a Bassmaster or FLW event. Fishing boundaries are set; teams drill their own holes to locate fish. Portable fish shelters are allowed with walking, ATVs and snowmobiles the modes of transportation. Tournament fishing hours are from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. on Jan. 25 and the species will be Bluegills and Crappies. Local fishermen should take note that it has been

"Locals" not traveling teams winning over 50 percent of the NAIFC Qualifying tournaments.

On Jan. 24, a "free" Kids Ice Camp will be held at the Mitchell Cabela's from 1-3:30 p.m. The first portion of the Camp will be indoors, then the kids and parents will go out on the ice (Cabela's pond) to use equipment while receiving on the spot training first hand. All kids in attendance will receive a free fishing rod from HT Enterprises.

For more information on the NAIFC, Friday Night Seminar, Kids Ice Camp or NAIFC Qualifying Tournaments go to www.naifc.com or contact Jack Baker at jbakersports@hotmail.com. To enter a NAIFC Qualifying Tournament click on registration at www.naifc.com or call Kathy Roberts at 320-229-0106.

More Gun Control Not The Answer

BY GARY HOWEY
Hartington, Neb.

There are Americans that want more and more gun control, some want to take our Second Amendment right, "The Right to Bear Arms" away from us.

With all of the crazy things that are going on in the world, this would be exactly what terrorists, thieves and those unstable individuals would love. If the public is disarmed, it makes it a lot easier for these individuals to go about doing whatever they want.

Many of these anti-gun fanatics are those elected congressional officials in Washington, DC, the people that run our country and have no clue when it comes to guns and the thousands of gun laws we currently have.

These people are surrounded by security personnel armed to the teeth, yet preaching anti-gun rhetoric.

I hear so-called news media screaming bloody murder about the machine guns and automatic weapons readily available from gun dealers and at gun shows.

When in fact, automatic rifles have been illegal in the U.S. since 1994, with California, the state anti-gun advocate Senator Dianne Feinstein represents, from a state that banned automatic weapons back in 1989. As far as machine guns, civilians have been restricted from owning machine guns since 1934.

I'm sure most of you, outdoorsmen and women, those who read outdoor columns on a regular basis know more about guns than many of those representing us in Washington D.C. and those demanding more gun laws. Many folks out there do not know the difference between semi-automatic weapons and automatic weapons.

A semi-automatic weapon fires one bullet each time the trigger is pulled, ejecting the spent round, automatically, and then loading another bullet. In order to fire a semi-automatic weapon, the trigger has to be pulled each time.

Unlike semi-automatic weapons, an automatic weapon continues to fire as long as the trigger is depressed.

As far as gun laws, there are thousands and thousands of gun laws on



OUTDOORSMEN PRODUCTIONS PHOTO

If the anti-gun people have their way, all guns could be banned and sports such as pheasant hunting could be affected.

the books and in order to legally purchase a weapon, there is the FBI National Instant Criminal Background Check, which needs to be, done in order for an individual to purchase a weapon from any federally licensed gun dealer.

The background check is used by licensed firearms dealers to determine if a potential buyer has a criminal record, a history of serious mental illness or a history of domestic abuse, all of which prohibit gun dealers from selling to any of these individuals and buyers from legally obtaining a firearm.

The key word here is "legal", as far as these laws are concerned, they will be obeyed by those individuals that do things legally.

Some believe there are no background checks done on weapons purchased at Gun Shows, which is false as background check are completed on all gun sales.

One sports commentator made the statement that if one football player did not have a gun he and his child would be alive today. Yes, it was a terrible thing to happen, but in the state of mind he was in, he may have found other ways to commit the killings.

Those that would use guns to commit crimes are not going to legally purchase firearms, they will get them anywhere they can and when a gun is not available, they have used knives, hammers and vehicles, but you do not see anyone trying to ban them.

Because of the anti-gun politics in DC and the fear that more restrictive gun laws will be passed, restricting ownership of weapons, the legal purchases of weapons has increased dramatically. This is also true when it comes to the purchase of ammunition, with many calibers of ammunition being almost impossible to purchase.

The Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution states that a well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

Owning a weapon is our constitutional right, yet there are groups out there who are working hard to take away our right to bear arms, when the real answer is that gun laws we have now need to be enforced.

History has shown one of the first things dictators, such as Hitler, Stalin did was to ban gun ownership and confiscate guns, eliminating any opposition to the heinous crimes these dictators would commit. Today, many of the countries run by dictators such as China and North Korea do not allow citizens to have guns.

When talk turns to more gun control, hunters and shooters worry about being unable to get guns and ammunition, creating an increase in gun purchases, all of which will be run through the FBI National Instant Criminal Background Check.

I have talked with numerous gun shops and dealers' asking them about

their gun sales and they indicate that gun sales have been strong. Sales are not as strong as they were when President Obama first came into office, but are still on the increase.

Because gun sales are so high, gun and ammunition manufacturers are having a tough time keeping up."

Do we need more gun laws, I don't believe so, the thousands of gun laws we currently have need to be enforced and those criminals committing crimes need to be put away for a very long time and not let out to kill again.

When legal guns are taken away from citizens, the only ones who will have guns will be the criminals.

Gary Howey, Hartington, Neb. 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@ 7:00, on KTTM/KTTW-TV Fox-Stioux 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.*

Buxton Aims For Bounce Back, Debut With Twins Gazelles

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The fast track Byron Buxton has been on to the majors with the Minnesota Twins hit a huge speed bump last season.

Three dives in center field for fly balls led to three serious injuries.

Ranked by Baseball America magazine as the top prospect in the game when the year began, Buxton sprained his left wrist in March during spring training. He aggravated the injury in May sliding into a base with Class A Fort Myers after just five games.

Buxton was back in July and promoted in August, but he got hurt again in his first game with Double-A New Britain in a scary collision with a teammate. That was bad enough to knock him unconscious for 10 minutes and send him to the hospital with a concussion.

To top it all off, Buxton broke a finger on his left hand after 13 games in the instructional Arizona Fall League in October. Buxton said Friday at TwinsFest that he was cleared to resume full training about two weeks ago.

"Hopefully I got 'em all out last year and don't have to worry about it," said Buxton, whose budding career had been otherwise injury-free.

The hands were one frustrating matter, but the hit to the head was the most frightening event in that can't-make-it-up 2014 season.

"Come out and have a good spring and hopefully just open some eyes and see where I'm at and see what I need to improve on."

BYRON BUXTON, TWINS PROSPECT

"I couldn't move. I thought I was paralyzed for a little while, but after about three hours I started feeling my body back so that was always good," Buxton said, with typical understatement.

His goals this year are to join the Twins in the majors, of course, and to stay healthy.

"Come out and have a good spring and hopefully just open some eyes and see where I'm at and see what I need to improve on," Buxton said.

The Twins, naturally, have the same hopes.

"We've got to knock off some of the rust that's built up on him, because he hasn't played all that much," general manager Terry Ryan said. "I don't anticipate anything that went on with him last year really affecting him in a negative way. He just didn't get enough at-bats or enough playing time to say it was a developmental year. We lost basically a year with him, and that's not what you like."

Buxton is likely headed for Double-A to start, but Ryan said Friday that seeing both Buxton and third baseman

conductive to offense," Ryan said.

The upside to Buxton's injury-marred year was the bonus time spent with Sano while they rehabilitated at the team's minor league facility in Fort Myers, Florida. The two became fast friends, fishing together daily after treatments and workouts. So not only are they driven to make it soon, they want it to happen together.

"That would be awesome. I know during rehab that's basically all we talked about," Buxton said. "We watched a lot of major league games, but it'll be nothing like playing side by side with him."

Sano was at TwinsFest, too, one of about 50 players in the organization in attendance at Target Field including the majority of the major league roster.

"My arm feels better than last year," Sano said, adding: "There's nothing wrong right now."

The same goes for Buxton, and both he and the entire organization are counting on his status staying that way all season.

"You just have to say it's an aberration," Ryan said.

From Page 7

game with Aberdeen Central. "We should have all the confidence to win that one," Hale said.

Watertown won the lone sub-varsity game 36-27 behind 13 points from Mateya Walder. Yankton got nine points from Aurora Papstein, as well as seven points and four rebounds from Ashley VanMeeteren.

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

WATERTOWN (2-9)
Tatum Hemiller 1-7 1-3 3; Macy Denzer 6-12 0-2 14; Elli Stevenson 4-10 3-6 11; Madigan Moore 3-4 0-1 8; Danielle Duncan 4-8 1-1 10; Alexa Gloe 0-4 0-0 0; Katie Mastler 0-0 0-0 0; Mateya Walder 0-0 0-0 0; Jackie Tetzlaff 1-4 2-2 4. TOTALS 19-49 7-15 50.

YANKTON (3-8)
Becky Frick 5-9 3-5 13; Sophie Drotzmann 1-7 0-0 2; Josie Saylor 4-8 0-0 8; Andi Sprakel 1-3 2-3 4; Lindsey Hale 3-3 6-6 15; Madason Tessier 3-8 0-1 7; Brianna Benjamin 1-2 3-3 5; Kami Comemmann 0-2 0-0 0. TOTALS 18-42 14-18 54.

WATERTOWN 12 20 35 45 50
YANKTON 5 28 33 45 52
Three-Pointers: Watertown 5-11 (Moore 2-3, Denzer 2-3, Duncan 1-2, Hemiller 0-1, Stevenson 0-1, Gloe 0-1), Yankton 4-8 (Hale 3-3, Tessier 1-3, Sprakel 0-1, Benjamin 0-1). Total Rebounds: Watertown 32 (Denzer 9), Yankton 30 (Saylor 8). Assists: Watertown 18 (Stevenson 6), Yankton 18 (Tessier 5). Turnovers: Watertown 24, Yankton 26. Personal Fouls: Watertown 22, Yankton 15. Fouled Out: None.

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