

### Fish Kill Affects Roy Lake

LAKE CITY — Many dead carp have been reported on Roy Lake in northeast South Dakota. Roy Lake State Park personnel are picking up fish daily and keeping swimming beaches within the park clear of fish. Throughout the rest of the lake, lake users will find fish along the shoreline. “We believe the fish kill stems from some condition unique to carp, in combination with the hot weather after their spawning period,” said Mark Ermer, Regional Fisheries Manager for the state Department of Game, Fish and Parks. “No other fish species have been found dead.” Water samples have been taken, and the Department of Health is testing to determine whether there is any health risk. The beaches will be closed Wednesday, July 4, if testing indicates a health problem.

A burial pit has been created on Four Mile Game Production Area (GPA) for the disposal of dead fish. The public can access the pit by going three miles east of Lake City on Highway 10 and then turning south at the Six Mile Lake Access road. Continue southfor three-fourths of a mile and turn west. Public will need to go through the gated entrance of the GPA and follow signs to the pit.

Roy Lake State Park is organizing a fish cleanup effort for Friday, July 6. Contact Roy Lake State Park at 605-448-5701 for more information. For more information about the fish kill, contact Regional Fisheries Manager Mark Ermer at 605-345-3381.

### Pierre Man Guilty Of Killing Hawks On His Property

PIERRE (AP) — A Pierre man has been found guilty of four counts of unlawfully taking migratory birds. U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson says 69-year-old Charles M. Ross has been convicted following a federal court trial in Pierre. Prosecutors say Ross told employees at his lodge to shoot any hawks they saw in an effort to protect the pheasants released on his property and hunted by commercial clients. Ross faces six months in prison and a \$15,000 fine.

### Paddlefish Applications Accepted Through July 31

LINCOLN, Neb. — The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission is accepting paddlefish snagging applications through July 31. There will be a drawing for the permits in mid-August. Applicants must be at least 12 years old by Oct. 1. Individuals age 16 or older need a 2012 Nebraska fishing permit in addition to a paddlefish snagging permit to snag paddlefish. Paddlefish permits are \$20 for residents and \$40 for nonresidents, not including issuing fees. In the event the supply of permits exceeds demand, remaining permits will be available on a first-come basis Aug. 15-31. Successful applicants will receive their permits in September. When two applicants apply as “buddies,” the forms and full fee must be submitted together, rather than as separate payments. Buddies both must be residents or nonresidents. Applicants whose names are not drawn will have their paddlefish permit fees returned and receive one preference point. A person may have no more than two snagging permits for one season. Each permit allows the harvest of one paddlefish. Paddlefish snagging is permitted only in a prescribed section of the Missouri River during the Oct. 1-31 season. To apply for a paddlefish snagging permit, visit OutdoorNebraska.org or Game and Parks offices

# Prairie Dog Hunting In S.D.

BY GARY HOWEY  
Hartington, Neb.

Prairie Dogs or Barking Squirrels as Lewis & Clark and their Corps of Discovery called them when they came up the Missouri River in 1804, are rodents that’s devastating much of the grasslands, are hosts for disease carrying fleas, and create mounds hazardous to horses and cattle grazing the grasslands. Found throughout western states as well as the Dakotas, they live in colonies known as “towns” which can extend hundreds of miles.

There are just a few ways to control them, Mother Natures way, which is a plaque that takes some of them out, while man has to resort to two other methods, one to poison them, which works fairly

well, but also affects other wildlife species, especially the endangered black footed ferret that’s been introduced into some of these areas.

The other method is to shoot them, which is a financial boost to the communities the dog towns are located near and giving shooters the opportunity to brush up on their shooting skills.

South central South Dakota is one of the premier destinations for serious shooters as well as shooters like ourselves who, enjoy helping eliminate these destructive little rodents.

The reason the Winner area is so well known to prairie dog hunters is there are thousands of acres of prairie dog towns located on both private and tribal ground in that area.

Several years ago early in the season we’d filmed a prairie dog hunt on the Rosebud Reservation with Team Outdoorsmen Adventures Member Ben Bearshield and had some excellent shooting.



Columnist Gary Howey is pictured spotting for a shooter on a 160-acre prairie dog town located near Winner.

This year, our plan was to film a shoot near Winner, South Dakota early season in late May or early June, before they’d gotten too much shooting pressure and when the population would be at it’s highest because of the new young of the year.

Unfortunately, the excellent fishing going on throughout the area, had kept us busy filming fishing shows, making it impossible to make the trip until later when we knew most of the towns would have been hit pretty hard. Just last week Team Outdoorsmen Adventures Member Larry Myhre and I finally found time to head to Winner to shoot prairie dogs and film one of our Outdoorsmen Adventures television shows.

A good friend had lined up a couple of places for us to shoot, so we were hoping to get in at least one good day of shooting out there.

Larry would be using his Ruger 243 caliber with a 3 X 9

scope shooting 58 GR. reloads, while I’d be using my Howa 1500 22-250-caliber rifle with a bull barrel.

Topping off my rifle was an Alpen 6 X 24 X 50 scope; I’d be shooting Winchester 55 GR. Ballistic Silver Tip ammunition, which we had plenty of, as it’s nothing unusual for prairie dog hunters to shoot hundreds and hundreds of rounds in one town.

We’d all have eye and hearing protectors, to protect our eyes and so not to make our hearing any worse than it already was.

To get a steady shot, we were shooting off ground pads with both of our rifles equipped with bipods, giving us the steady rest needed for the longer shots we’d have to be making.

It didn’t take us long to realize these dogs had been educated, giving us nothing to shoot at less than 300 yards out and if one appeared closer, once they spotted us, they’d disappear before we could get the camera and our ri-

fles lined up.

One of us would set up for the shot while the other would act as the spotter. When you’re in 160 plus acre dog town, with little or no land marks, it can be tough for the spotter to bring the shooter and cameraman on target.

Larry would set up for the first volley, while I did my best to direct him on target, which went something like this.

“Larry, there’s a dog just off the light colored mound about half way up the hillside. He’s just to the right and down from of the flat pale rock, just above the yellow flower, see him?”

His reply, “What? Which light colored mound and what flat pale rock, there have to be hundreds of them out here?”

As the day progressed, we got onto a town with a fence line, allowing us to get the shooter and cameraman in the general direction where the dogs were located.

## Pelicans Near Record Numbers At ND Refuge

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Less than a decade after thousands of pelicans inexplicably died or abandoned a refuge in southern North Dakota, the giant, big-billed birds are nesting there in near record numbers, and they have been joined by an increasing number of other water bird species.

Hundreds of herons and egrets are nesting alongside the American white pelicans on a guano-rich island that serves as a rookery at the Chase Lake National Wildlife Refuge, said Neil Shook, a U.S Fish and Wildlife Service biologist and the refuge manager. About 5,000 gulls are nesting on a nearby island. “It’s truly amazing out there,” Shook said.

The pelican colony at the 4,385-acre refuge north of Medina has been the largest in North America, peaking at 35,466 birds in 2000. A preliminary count this year shows 31,534 breeding

adults, up from 20,854 in 2011, Shook said.

But in 2004, thousands of adult pelicans at the refuge abruptly left their chicks and eggs and a year later, masses of pelican chicks died, prompting another exodus of mature birds. Predators, weather, diseases and other factors were considered but biologists have never pinpointed the cause of the pelican deaths and departures.

Shook said it may have just been a natural correction. “To this day we haven’t found one single cause,” he said. “But every year since then, we’ve seen a steady increase in the birds.”

Pelicans appear healthy at the refuge this year, Shook said.

“There is no indication of anything negative with the colony at this point,” Shook said Tuesday. “But we never know for sure. It is nature.”

The white pelican is among the largest birds in North Amer-

ica. They breed once a year, and males and females take turns caring for their young. The birds have a wingspan of nearly 10 feet and live for about 25 years.

The pelicans winter mainly in the Gulf Coast states but some fly to the North Dakota nesting grounds from as far away as Florida and California.

Pelicans typically begin returning to Chase Lake in early April and stay through September, caring for their hatchlings. The lake is alkalized, free of fish and other food sources, so the pelicans feast on small fish and foot-long salamanders from prairie lakes up to 100 miles away.

Pelicans have been monitored at Chase Lake since 1905, when the birds numbered about 50. President Theodore Roosevelt designated the site as a bird refuge in 1908, when many of the birds were being killed for their feathers and for target practice.

# Meet Dr. Maska, Rheumatologist


YANKTON MEDICAL CLINIC, P.C. IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE ASSOCIATION OF **Leann Maska, M.D.**  
*Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Board Eligible in Rheumatology*


Dr. Maska is a graduate of Sanford School of Medicine of The University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD. She completed her Internal Medicine residency training, at Sanford School of Medicine of The University of South Dakota, Sioux Falls, SD; and her Rheumatology Fellowship at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE. Dr. Maska is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Board Eligible in Rheumatology.

Dr. Maska will treat arthritis, including rheumatoid, osteoarthritis and complex forms such as gout; certain autoimmune diseases, such as lupus and vasculitis; as well as musculoskeletal pain disorders such as fibromyalgia.

The Clinic is pleased to bring a Rheumatologist to our medical community as well as to the many patients she will serve.

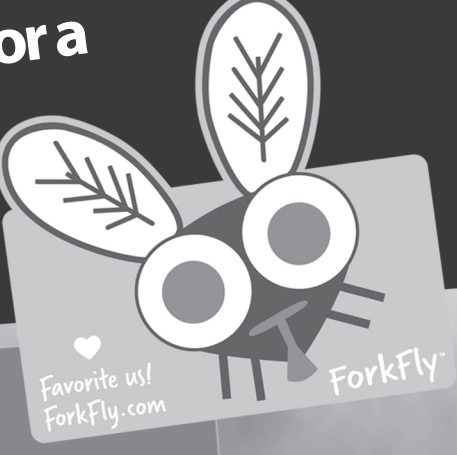
**Dr. Maska began seeing patients at the Yankton Medical Clinic on July 2, 2012.**  
**For an appointment please call 605-665-1722.**

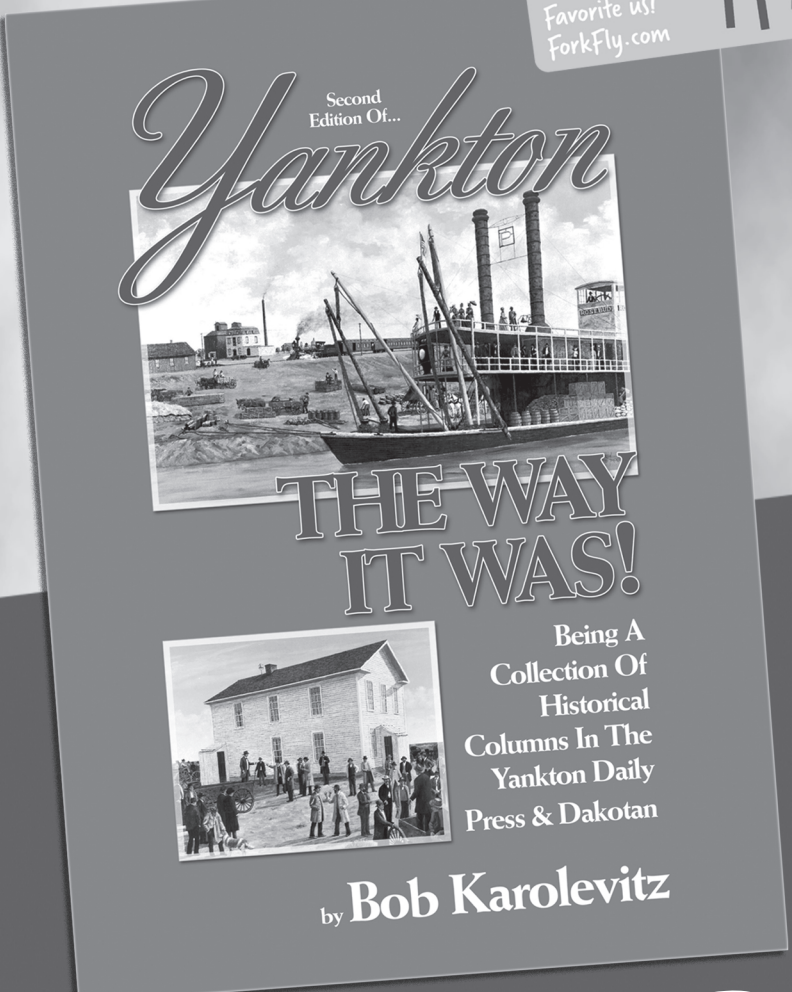

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