

OUTDOORS DIGEST

Difficult To Determine
S.D. Wildlife Losses
From Blizzard

PIERRE — The Game, Fish and Parks Department has had a few reports of wildlife losses resulting from the early October blizzard in western South Dakota, but the extent of the blizzard's impact will take time to determine.

"The focus has been on public safety and dealing with catastrophic livestock losses," Chad Switzer, GFP wildlife program administrator, said. "We have only had a scattering of reports from landowners and other individuals who are out in the fields. There is no question that the blizzard had an impact on wildlife, but we have not observed or had any reports of any wildlife losses at a level comparable to the devastating impacts this storm had on livestock."

Switzer added GFP has also received reports of pheasant loss in Perkins and Bennett counties due to the storm.

"These are vast, open areas where it is difficult to quantify precise impacts from the blizzard," Switzer said. "We will continue to monitor for losses through observations by our staff, reports from hunters and landowners."

GFP Conducting Study
of River Otter Habitat

PIERRE — The Game, Fish and Parks Department is conducting an experiment to evaluate river otter habitat in south-central South Dakota by releasing a small number of radio-marked otters.

The river otter is a state threatened species. GFP has conducted habitat evaluations and surveyed for evidence of river otters in many of the streams and rivers in the state.

No otters have been detected outside their known range, primarily east of the James River, but among the sites surveyed the Little White River was considered suitable for otters. GFP will trap up to five otters from within South Dakota, implant each animal with a radio transmitter and transfer them to state land along the Little White River.

GFP will monitor the otters to determine release success, evaluate home range size, identify characteristics of the habitats they use and document feeding habits. The transfer is for study purposes, and no further release is planned at this time.

This work is part of the river otter management plan developed by GFP in October of 2012. The plan can be viewed on the GFP website at gfp.sd.gov/wildlife/management/plans/docs/OtterPlan2012.pdf

Turn In Poachers Benefits
S.D. Wildlife

PIERRE — The Game, Fish and Parks Department is reminding citizens that the South Dakota Turn in Poachers (TIPs) program continues to be operational and callers who have knowledge of illegal hunting and fishing activity could be eligible for rewards. The program provides an important avenue for citizens to report hunting and fishing law violations, and in the process, prevent the loss of wildlife that can result from illegal actions.

"In the annual reporting period from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 the TIPs program resulted in 103 arrests of wildlife law violators," GFP law program administrator Andy Alban said. "Wildlife would have been lost and violators would have gone unpunished if citizens had not been proactive by calling the TIPs hotline and reporting violations they had observed."

During the past year, the TIPs program reported 212 investigations initiated through citizen reports, leading to 103 arrests, \$ \$19,143 in fines and \$7,300 in civil penalties.

Callers can remain anonymous, and are eligible for rewards in cases that lead to an arrest. Rewards may range up to \$300 for big game and \$100 for small game or fishing violations. Higher rewards may be offered in extreme cases. Last year \$9,000 in rewards were paid.

"The TIPs program has been going since 1984, and in that time citizens have generated over 10,000 investigations that have led to 3,500 arrests," Alban said. "We are grateful to the men and women who have cared enough about South Dakota's wildlife to report illegal activity. Each and every individual is a vital part of the work to preserve our natural resources."

Alban pointed to several violations that were investigated and successfully prosecuted this past year through the assistance of eyewitnesses including:

- The arrest of two out-of-state suspects for driving into South Dakota, trespassing and chasing down a deer with a pickup. The passenger shot a deer from a moving vehicle with archery equipment, tagged it with a license from a neighboring state, loaded the deer and quickly hauled it back to the neighboring state.
- Two out-of-state suspects who were arrested for chasing a coyote across a field with a snowmobile, running down the coyote with a snowmobile, recklessly operating a snowmobile and eluding officers.
- Two out-of-state suspects arrested for taking walleye over their limit.
- Prosecution of three out-of-state suspects for chasing snow geese with a motor vehicle and shooting from a moving motor vehicle.
- Three South Dakota residents prosecuted for shooting deer with the aid of a spotlight, chasing and running over deer with a vehicle, all during April when seasons are closed.

Of The Outdoors | Gary Howey

Hunting The November Rut

BY GARY HOWEY
Hartington, Neb.

It is hard to believe that it's November, last year at this time we already had at least three inches of snow on the ground and the long winter had begun.

November is the month that rifle deer hunters look forward to, as the rifle deer seasons will open, with the Nebraska and the South Dakota West River rifle season opening Nov. 16 and the South Dakota East River rifle season opening the following week on Nov. 23.

Most hunters would like to see some snow on the ground to make locating and tracking the deer a little easier.

Seasons in the upper Midwest are set to open about the same time as the rut or in bucks are out chasing does.

The rut is a time when even the old wise bucks throw caution to the wind and may change from their nocturnal pattern to a daytime pattern.

Hunting the rut can be very effective, especially if you understand it.

The rut can be broken down into three stages.

- The pre-rut
- The main rut
- The post-rut

The Pre-rut or false rut is one that many hunters do not understand and because of this overlook it. It generally occurs in early October and bow hunters who hunt during this time will attest to the fact that within a 24-hour period, huge numbers of fresh scrapes will appear.

In October, mature does will go into a brief estrous cycle (18-36 hours). Once the bucks discover this cycle, they start making scrapes and rubs, advertising their presents. They will do this for up to 36 hours while charging around in the woods looking for does.

Effective hunting methods during the Pre-rut include setting up near an area where these scrape lines occur and waiting for the buck to return to check the scrape. Mock scrapes and rattling will also work well during this period.

The Main-rut begins in the upper Midwest around Nov. 1, with it occurring around Nov. 17 in our area and lasting about three weeks. During the main rut, bucks do not travel together. They will not tolerate each other at this time and will engage in aggressive behavior when coming across another buck.

The majority of the does will come into estrus at this time. During the main-rut, does will check out scrapes, make scrapes of their own and run erratically through the woods looking for bucks. Does, that are getting close to going into estrus will begin to flag their tails (holding their tail in a horizontal position off to one side), letting the bucks know they will soon be in heat.

Tactics that work during the main rut include hunting off hours (10 a.m.-2 p.m.). This works because there are fewer hunters in the field at this time and the bucks will move around more looking for fresh does. This is the period when calling softly with a grunt call will work.

Scents, such as a dominant buck scent or other agitating scents will also work well during this period.

The Post-rut generally begins about 28 days from the primary rut. During this period, the does that were born late will come into estrus. With this increase in doe activity, the bucks will be off and looking for any un-bred females.

Does that have not been bred will go out looking for bucks and when several bucks can be seen chasing does.

Rattling, soft doe grunts, doe bleats and the use of estrus scents all work well and will call bucks during this period.

This is the time of the year, when using drags dipped scent in doe estrus will attract the bucks. Drags are nothing more than a piece of cloth or burlap tied to a piece of long string or bailing twine.



CHRISTENSEN FAMILY DEER CAM PHOTO

Deer hunters are all hoping a buck this size will walk past them on opening day

Dip your drag in the scent and then drag it behind you, creating a trail for the buck to follow. Tie the drag in a location that you would like the deer to approach and then wait for a trailing buck to come along the scent trail.

The rut can be an exciting time and if you have done your homework and scouting, a buck may come your way while he is moving through the woods looking for or chasing a doe.

Remember to think safety when you head for the woods, good luck this deer season.

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. The series can be seen in the Yankton area on channel 2 & 98, 6:30 pm Saturday and 7:00 am Sunday as well as Fox affiliates throughout the upper Midwest. He and Simon Fuller are the hosts of the *Outdoor Adventures* radio program Monday-Saturday on Classic Hits 106.3 and ESPN Sports Radio 1570. If you are looking for more outdoor information, check out www.outdoorsmenadventures.com.

IUPUI Hands South Dakota First Summit League Setback

INDIANAPOLIS — The IUPUI Jaguars received 18 kills from Kaitlyn Hickey to snap South Dakota volleyball's seven-match win streak and 12-match Summit League win streak with a 25-23, 16-25, 27-25, 25-17 victory in The Jungle on Friday night.

Outside of Hickey's performance, IUPUI also received 16 kills from Moriah Fair and 11 kills from Kelly Wachtel. The Jaguars (12-12, 6-2) sealed the match with 12-5 run in the final set with Wachtel leading the run

with three kills.

Despite the loss, USD (16-7, 7-1) had one more kill (58-57), one less attack error (24-25) and three more blocks (12-9) than the Jaguars. Kendall Krittenbrink and Tori Kroll both recorded double-doubles, with Krittenbrink recording 22 kills and 12 digs and Kroll tallying 46 assists and 17 digs.

Entering the match, the Coyotes had not lost a league match since a 3-2 loss at Fort Wayne on Oct. 20 of last year. The last

loss they had this season was a 3-0 decision to Creighton on Sept. 21.

South Dakota still maintains the lead in the league standings, leading Denver and IUPUI by one game. Denver (12-9, 6-2) lost to Fort Wayne 25-16, 25-17, 26-24 on Friday night.

The Coyotes will look to get back in the win column on Saturday by playing at Fort Wayne at 6 p.m.

MMC Baseball Fall Hitting Camp Begins Sunday

Mount Marty College baseball program will hold its Fall Hitting Camp at Laddie E. Cimpr Arena and the former library gym on the campus of Mount Marty College in Yankton.

Offensive drills will be provided to match each topic that has been covered. This camp segment is great to develop and polish your offensive skills during the off-season. Dates for the camp are Sunday nights: Oct. 27, Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24, Dec. 1, and 8.

Contact Andy Bernatow at abernatow@mtmc.edu or at 605-660-3589 for more information or register online at www.mmcbaseball.com.

Coyotes

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all they needed was a couple years of experience, and help turn the corner," Johnson said. "Everybody has another year together, and it makes a huge difference."

And then there's the Coyote offense.

The three key skill positions — quarterback, running back and wide receiver — are all new to the fold, and all three had big games last Saturday at Northern Iowa. Sophomore quarterback Kevin Earl passed for 370 yards and accounted for five touchdowns, redshirt freshman Trevor Bouma ran for 149 yards, and freshman receiver Riley Donovan caught nine passes for 178 yards.

Donovan, in particular, has been a surprise for the Coyotes. A month ago, he was planning to redshirt this season, but had the redshirt

label when USD needed some extra weapons. And yes, that was an adjustment, he said.

"It was huge, yeah," Donovan said this week. "I had to get my mindset different, when you think you're red-shirting, you don't even think about seeing the field."

"When you're starting, it's, 'I better go hard every play.'"

Donovan has also given Earl a third option behind Terrance Terry (27-278, 1 TD) and Bouma (22-131, 1 TD), according to Glenn.

"Riley has been a huge shot in the arm, going to the football, catching it and running with the ball," he said. "He has that knack, some guys are easy to throw to, with their style and the way they move."

"They flow to the ball, and Riley has that."

What hasn't exactly flowed for the Coyotes, though, is a consistent, four-quarter game. In four league games, USD has scored 3, 6, 7 and 7 points in the first half, and last Saturday, the Coy-

otes had to dig out of a 28-7 deficit late in the third quarter.

So yeah, the Coyotes still haven't reached their full potential, Glenn said.

"We're waiting on that; we should be there by now," he said. "To our credit, we've made adjustments in a lot of places."

One area that has continued to be a problem, though, is punt snapping. Center Cody O'Neill, the short snapper, will give long snapping a try on Saturday, Glenn said.

Another concern, the coach said, has been on field goals — "We need to knock in our layups, those short field goals."

What the Coyotes don't want, though, is a change in routine, signature win or not, Donovan said.

"It's the same week, just like last week," he said. "We don't want to change any-

thing, just stay with the routine and keep winning."

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

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Refreshments will be served.

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