

Of The Outdoors | Gary Howey

Pheasant Hunting Tips

BY GARY HOWEY

Hartington, Neb.

The 2013 pheasant opener will be here shortly. Hunters in several states are reporting fewer birds than last season.

In conversations with the Game, Fish and Parks and DNR's, I've been given several reasons for the decrease in pheasant numbers.

First is the fact that it was a dry year and moisture, which the young chicks need, was hard to come by. Secondly was the fact that last seasons numbers were down due to an unusually wet spring and the last, but probably the most important reason is the fact that much of our CRP has disappeared.

With out the habitat, we just aren't going to see the bird numbers.

South Dakota is reporting a big decrease in their pheasant numbers, which means they will still have twice as many birds found in other states.

South Dakota has birds is simple; they realize how many dollars the pheasant brings into the economy.

They definitely have more habitat than Nebraska, and they farm for pheasants taking care of what they do have. They do a number of things to enhance the habitat, making it more attractive to wildlife.

In South Dakota, you'll see sloughs; some hold water while others are no more than muddy swamps. They plant trees specifically suited for wildlife and they leave a few rows of corn or sorghum in the field each year. These habitat additions help to assure that the birds have cover from predators flying overhead and food and cover to make it through the long winter months.

This along with the fact that birds are stocked heavily by game preserves helps to ensure good numbers of pheasant.

Many people have the misconception that pheasants can live in corn or bean fields. It doesn't work that way. Sure they will move into them to feed on waste grain, but row crops don't cut it for wildlife habitat.

Because of the dry weather, the successful hunters this season have been hunting areas adjacent to water. It doesn't have to be much, a small slough, creek, or pond.

Another tip that is worth listening to is to hunt the smallest patches of cover. The larger CRP fields and been pounded to death. As soon as one group comes out one end, another group is heading in the opposite end of the field.

Most hunters over look the small weed patches or little clumps of trees. These places can really hold good numbers of birds.

It doesn't take a roads scholar to figure it out, all the other spots are getting hammered and the birds are looking for a place to rest and relax.

You don't want to over look even the smallest patch of cover. As long as a bird can lie down in it, it's big enough to hunt.

Another thing that I've learned over the years when it comes to hunting pheasants is that hunters have a tendency to move through the field way to fast. You'll bag more birds by walking slowly, taking your time and stopping from time to time.

This is especially true in warm dry conditions when hunting with dogs as dogs need a little moisture in order to pick up a birds scent and when it's dry, it takes a dog longer to locate the bird.

Take your time when you go through a field, let the dog work the area good.

I don't know how many times, I've called my dog back, thinking I know where the birds are only to see a bird bust out of the cover after I've pulled the dog back to where I wanted to hunt.

Follow your dog; no matter how silly it looks or what direction he's going. Let him lead you to the birds.

Another problem that early season hunters are running into is that the birds are flushing way ahead of the hunters.



When the pheasant hunting opens in October, hunters like John Roost of Sioux City, Iowa and Jim Olsen of Hooper, Neb who have been counting the days till the opener, will head out to try their luck at early season pheasant hunting.

PHOTO: LARRY MYHRE

If you have an area where you can post blockers on the end, you'll solve part of your problem.

If you hunt in smaller groups, you might want to consider using a bit heavier shell.

Some hunters start the season with a 6 shot and when the birds start flushing wildly switch to a 4 shot. I've found that by using 5 shot through out the season, that my shooting improves. Not only am I shooting heavier shot, I'm shooting the same load all season. Some loads pattern different in shotguns and by

shooting the same load all season, you learn the limitations of your shotgun and become a more consistent hunter.

To me it really doesn't matter if I bag my limit, sure I like to eat pheasant, but to me it's just getting away from it all and enjoying the great outdoors.

Good luck on your next hunting trip.

Gary Howey, Hartington, Neb., is a former tournament angler, fishing and hunting guide. Howey is the Producer/Host of the award

winning *Outdoorsmen Adventures television series, which can be seen at 6:30 am Saturday on KTTM/KTTW-TV, Fox Sioux Falls/Huron, S.D. In Yankton the series also airs on local channels 2 & 98 Saturday at 6:30 pm and Sunday at 7:00 am. He and Simon Fuller are the hosts of the Outdoor Adventures radio program Monday-Saturday at 6:45 am on Classic Hits 106.3 and ESPN Sports Radio 1570. If you're looking for more outdoor information, check out www.outdoorsmenadventures.com.*

Coyotes

From Page 6

Jarrid Bryant, a transfer from Arizona State. "This is the perfect test.

"Before conference, getting this win would be huge for us."

It would be for both sides. Northern Arizona (1-1) was blanked by Arizona in its season-opening FBS game and rallied to beat UC Davis 21-10 last weekend — thanks to a pair of late defensive interceptions. Davis is the one key similarity between the Lumberjacks and Coyotes, as USD opened its season by beating the Aggies 10-7.

Saying that today's game figures to resemble a Big Sky

Conference affair, NAU head coach Jerome Souers said this week that his team expects a challenge. He specifically referenced USD's head coach.

"Joe Glenn has been a winner his entire career, and we expect to have our hands full," Souers said.

Especially on the ground. The Coyotes have a nearly 3-to-1 margin in rushing attempts (91) compared to pass attempts (35). They have, however, rushed for an average of 207 yards, with Vander Maten having scored both of the team's touchdowns on the ground.

Early successes in the rushing game have come because of the team's new read option offense, the quarterback said.

"It's getting a lot of open holes, and I don't even think

we've shown what we can really do yet," Vander Maten said. "We've only had two games with it, but so far, we're liking it."

The Lumberjacks, meanwhile, have struggled in the run game so far. Zach Bauman, the school's all-time rushing leader, has been limited to 127 yards on a 3.3 average, with no touchdowns, this fall.

"They have got to get their running game going, that guy has to light it up," Glenn said. "But we can't let him get going on us."

The Lumberjacks have also struggled through the air with sophomore quarterback Kyren Poe — though Souers continually pointed to a work in progress at offensive line.

Poe has completed 58 percent of his passes, for an average of 150.5 yards per game, but has been sacked six times and has thrown three interceptions.

That has been one area of strength for the USD defense. Its two opponents have averaged just 110 passing yards, ranking the Coyotes third in the FCS.

Bryant, second on the depth chart at one cornerback spot, pointed to USD's experience as key for its nice start on defense.

"I like playing with those secondary guys, we're holding it down," Bryant said. "You have a lot of veteran guys, and nothing you throw at us will be a surprise. It won't be the first time we've seen it."

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

Volleyball

From Page 7

sists, seven digs and four ace serves. Darby Arbach added three blocks in the victory.

For Centerville, Lindsay Stroman had six kills and Kristine Van Hearde had five kills to lead the way.

Marion, 6-3, travels to Scotland on Tuesday. Centerville travels to Viborg to face Viborg-Hurley on Tuesday.

Marion won the JV match 2-0.

MARION (6-3).....25 25 25

CENTERVILLE (0-7).....13 13 17

Laurel-Concord-Coleridge 3, Plainview 0

COLERIDGE, Neb. — Laurel-Concord-Coleridge overcame a 21-13 deficit in the third set to secure a 25-15, 25-23, 31-29 sweep of Plainview in Lewis & Clark Conference volleyball action Thursday night.

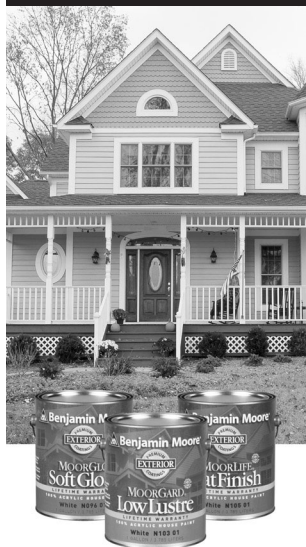
Cameron Eddie notched 16 kills, 13 assists and three ace serves to lead LCC. Kelsey Dietrich posted 10 kills and nine digs. Taylor Pigg had 25 assists, Candice Rastade had 15 digs and Ellie Arduser had 12 digs in the victory.

LCC, 5-3 overall, opens against Battle Creek in the Slant Tournament today (Saturday). Plainview hosts Elkhorn Valley on Tuesday.

PLAINVIEW (2-5).....15 23 29

LAUREL-CONCORD-COLERIDGE (5-3).....25 25 31

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Yankton Medical Clinic, P.C. is pleased to announce the association of Carrissa Pietz, MD, Board Certified Family Medicine Physician.

Dr. Pietz is originally from Lesterville, SD and completed her undergraduate degree at Mount Marty College. She is a graduate of Sanford School of Medicine of The University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD. Dr. Pietz completed her family medicine residency at Sioux Falls Family Medicine Residency, Sioux Falls, SD.

Dr. Pietz joins Drs. David Barnes, McKenzie Hanson, Scott Weber, and Certified Nurse Practitioner, Jennifer McGinnis, in providing family care.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Pietz, her husband, Aaron, and their children, Noah and Carson, to Yankton.

Dr. Pietz began seeing patients at the Yankton Medical Clinic, P.C. September 9, 2013.

Appointments can be made by calling 605-665-8910.

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