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



Gary **HOWEY**

sons 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 dis-

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

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, Ne.b who have been counting the days till the opener, will head out to try their luck at early season pheasant hunting.

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

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 out-

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

OUTDOORS DIGEST

S.D. State Park Entrance Licenses Available For 2014

PIERRE — The 2014 annual park entrance license for South Dakota's state parks and recreation areas will be available for purchase Oct. 1.

The 2014 park entrance license is valid from Oct. 1, 2013, through May 17, 2015. An annual park entrance license is \$30. Purchasers of one license can also buy a second at half price.

The license is required for entrance into designated state parks, recreation areas and lakeside use areas, although it does not cover camping costs or addi-

Entrance licenses can be purchased online at www.campsd.com, at local state park offices or by calling the SD Division of Parks and Recreation at 605-773-

The 2014 annual entrance license features a tent camped at Lake Thompson Recreation Area.

Family Rendezvous And Muzzleloader Sight-In Oct. 13

LINCOLN, Neb. - The Family Rendezvous and Muzzleloader Sight-In will be Oct. 13 at the Roger G. Sykes Outdoor Heritage Education Complex at Platte River State Park near Louisville.

The shooting range will be open to the public from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. for free. Visitors may try out a variety of primitive weapons: hatchets, atlatl, tomahawks, longbows and muzzleloaders. Visitors may sight in their muzzleloaders for \$5

An addition to the event this year is the Buffalo Run 5K and 1 mile youth run. Adults will complete three outdoor challenges during the run and children will compete one. Registration is limited to 50 adults and 25 children. Pre-registration is required. Visit: https://shopoutdoorne-

A park entry permit is required.

AppleJack Art Show Set

For Sept. 21-22 LINCOLN, Neb. — The AppleJack Art Show is scheduled for Sept. 21-22 at Arbor Lodge State Historical Park in Nebraska City. The event runs from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sept. 21 and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on

The art show is a celebration of art and features artists from Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota.

A park entry permit is required. The art show is one of many events scheduled for the annual AppleJack Festival in Nebraska City.

Neb. G&P Urges Hunters To Use Approved Stand Equipment

LINCOLN, Neb. — Tree stand use by hunters in Nebraska is on the rise. So is the number of injuries from the use of tree

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission encourages people who hunt from an elevated stand to use a full body harness/fall-arrest system approved by the Treestand Manufacturers Association Injuries can occur when a hunter falls

out of a tree stand or slips while climbing into or out of one. Mike Streeter, hunter education coordinator for Game and Parks, says those injuries can be prevented by using a full body harness/fallarrest system. He says those systems have improved over the years

Public outreach on the use of full body harness/fall-arrest systems comes in sev-

- Volunteer hunter education instructors are trained in the use of this equipment. They teach tree stand safety in every hunter education course.

Signs informing hunters of the proper use of full body harness/fall-arrest systems are being posted at the parking areas of wildlife management areas and at state parks and state recreation areas where hunting is allowed.

-- TMA has a free online course on tree stand safety at http://www.tmas-

Coyotes

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

Before conference, getting this win would be huge

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 Lumberbacks and Covotes, 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 chaneng cally referenced USD's head

"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 touch-

downs 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, 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 depth chart at one cornerwith sophomore quarterback back spot, pointed to USD's Nyreii Poe - tnougn 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 experience as key for its ince 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

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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

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) CENTERVILLE (0-7) ...

Waterproofing & Repair

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 Rastede had 15 digs and Ellie Ar-

assists, Carlotte Rastede Had 15 digs and Ellie Arduser had 12 digs in the victory.

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

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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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