

# Outdoor Oklahoma

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OUR  
**75**<sup>TH</sup>  
YEAR

In This Issue:

## 2021 Wildlife Calendar

One Avid Hunter's  
Bobwhite Bounty

From the Past: Deer  
Hunter's Handbook



A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

# Panoramas

**Y**ou've probably seen us telling everyone who'll listen that the Outdoors Are Always Open, even during this pandemic. People must have received the message, because a record number of Oklahomans have bought a fishing license this year. Now that the fall hunting seasons are upon us, I expect we will see a record number of hunting licenses sold this year, also.

Before buying a hunting license in Oklahoma, most people are required to take a hunter education class. With the pandemic causing some in-person hunter education classes to be canceled and with many Oklahomans choosing to avoid public gatherings, it might seem that new hunters are out of luck this year. Not so! Thanks to the free, online hunter education course we offer through a partnership with the National Rifle Association, getting hunter education certification is easier than ever.

Oklahoma moved to a completely online hunter education course several years ago. Whether because of the pandemic or simply because of time and transportation issues, thousands of Oklahomans have chosen to get their hunter education certification using the online course. With no increase in hunting accidents, the online course has been determined to be as effective as in-person hunter education classes in providing students with the knowledge and skills they need to be a safe and ethical hunter.

The course was designed by hunters for hunters with the help of one of the nation's best online instruction providers. It covers everything a hunter needs to know to be safe and ethical in the field. It can be done in the comfort of your home and at your own pace. Take it in one sitting, or come back as many times as you need until you complete it. It isn't just limited to your computer; it is also available on your mobile device.

While there is no doubt that the requirement for hunter education has improved the safety and ethics of hunters in the field, it remains only one step in the path for the educated hunter. This path usually has a clear beginning, but it has no clear ending because hunters continue to learn the rest of their lives. Just as it has for many generations, hunting remains a skill passed down from seasoned hunters to new hunters. While parents and other mentors have always been invited to be a part of the hunter education course, the online course presents a unique opportunity.

I've taught many live courses. I love to see students show up to a class with a mentor. One thing I can predict with near certainty is that those students will pass the test and very likely make a high score on the test. I'm not sure exactly why this is, but it shows that each of those new hunters has the support of an experienced hunter. Mentors know that a hunter's path includes many things, and that a hunter education course is an important step.

This pandemic has taken a lot from us. But it has presented an opportunity for parents and other mentors to be a bigger part of one of the most important steps of becoming a hunter. So, sign up your new hunters for the course. Sit down with them and take the course, too. Help them with it. It's not cheating, it's showing them that you think their training is important. It will be something they will remember. And, you might be surprised to find that you learn something, as well. See you in the field!



**Lance Meek**

*Lance Meek*

Lance Meek, Hunter Education Coordinator



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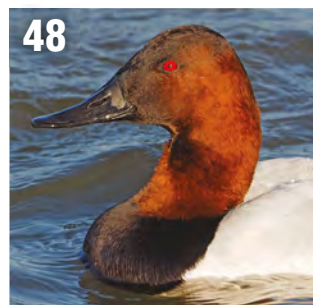
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**ON THE COVER:** This remarkable image of a snow goose (blue morph) is featured in the 2021 Wildlife Calendar, a special pullout section inside this issue.  
(Photo by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

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**Micah Holmes**, Managing Editor  
**Kelly Adams**, Managing Editor  
**Don P. Brown**, Associate Editor

**CONTRIBUTING STAFF**  
Kelly Adams, Jena Donnell, Gary Emmons,  
Lance Meek, Kyle Johnson, Justin Veach,  
RosaLee Walker.

Outdoor Oklahoma editorial offices:  
P.O. Box 53465, Oklahoma City, OK 73152

**PHONE**  
(405) 521-3856

**WEBSITE**  
[www.wildlifedepartment.com](http://www.wildlifedepartment.com)

**E-MAIL**  
[donald.brown@odwc.ok.gov](mailto:donald.brown@odwc.ok.gov)

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# Off the Beaten Path

NOTES ON WILDLIFE • OUTDOOR TIPS • READERS' LETTERS • ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS  
COMPILED BY DON P. BROWN

## NEW RULES AIM TO BOOST ANTLERLESS DEER HARVEST

New regulations are in place for this year's deer seasons that allow more open days for hunting and more liberal bag limits for antlerless white-tailed deer.

With the antlerless deer harvest trending downward in recent years, Wildlife Department biologists proposed the changes that they hope will result in a more balanced buck-to-doe ratio in the state's deer population. It's again time for "Hunters in the Know ... Take a Doe!"

For harvest of bucks, or antlered deer, the regulations and bag limits haven't changed from 2019-20. Also, the total bag for all seasons combined remains six deer, with no more than two antlered deer.

However, hunters who participate in the Holiday Antlerless Deer Gun Season may harvest two bonus antlerless deer that do not count toward the seasonal bag limit. This gives hunters the opportunity to take eight deer total in the various seasons combined across most of the state. And in locations where deer overpopulation is an issue, landowners can request special harvest permits from the Wildlife Department, which are also bonus deer and do not count toward the seasonal bag limit of six.

Antlerless harvest as a percentage of total deer harvest declined from 42 percent in 2014 to 36 percent in 2018. Biologists' goal for



WAYNE D. LEWIS/COURTESY

*Deer hunters in Oklahoma have increased opportunities to harvest antlerless deer this year during the various hunting seasons. Biologists hope the more liberal rules will increase antlerless harvest and improve the overall buck-to-doe ratio throughout the state.*

antlerless harvest is between 40 percent and 45 percent. There are several benefits to more antlerless deer harvest, and the most notable is a more even buck-to-doe ratio. Healthier deer, better hunting and better antler development all begin with a more even buck-to-doe ratio.

The new regulations affect antlerless harvest in all 10 of the state's antlerless deer management zones. Here is a summary of the changes by zone:

- Zone 1: Increases the number of antlerless harvest days to 16 for deer gun season.
- Zones 2, 7 and 8: Increases antlerless deer bag limit to four for deer gun and deer muzzleloader seasons; increases Holiday Antlerless Deer Gun Season to 14 days; increases antlerless deer bag limit to two for Holiday Antlerless Deer Gun Season.
- Zones 3, 4, 5, 6 and 9: Increases antlerless deer bag limit to two for deer gun and deer muzzleloader seasons; increases Holiday Antlerless Deer Gun Season to 14 days; increases antlerless deer bag limit to two for Holiday Antlerless Deer Gun Season.
- Zone 10: Increases the number of antlerless harvest days to 16 for deer gun season. ♦♦♦



## HUNTERS IN THE KNOW... TAKE A DOE!

SMART HUNTERS KNOW ANTLERLESS HARVEST MEANS BETTER WILDLIFE CONSERVATION





DON P. BROWN/ODWC

## HQ BUILDING NAMED IN HONOR OF JOHN D. GROENDYKE

Oct. 5 was a special day at the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation's recently renovated headquarters in Oklahoma City. Employees, colleagues, state officials, friends, and family members gathered to witness the official naming of the building as the John D. Groendyke Wildlife Conservation Building.

Groendyke, of Enid, was first appointed to the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission by Gov. David Boren in 1976, where he served 44 years, making him the longest-serving Oklahoma

board commissioner and quite possibly in the entire nation.

Last summer, he decided to step down from the Wildlife Commission's District 8 seat, which is now held by D. Chad Dillingham of Enid.

Department Director J.D. Strong lauded Groendyke's accomplishments during his introduction. He said the former commissioner leaves a lasting legacy. He's been involved in negotiating and acquiring more than 200,000 acres of Oklahoma's 1.5 million acres of public land. He also spent years as the chairman of the finance and retirement committee. Strong said Groendyke is leaving the Department on a high note. It's in strong financial standing, and it's also seen a big jump in hunting and fishing license sales.

Groendyke said he's honored the Commission voted to put his name the building, but he gives Department employees credit for success over the years.

"We're one of the few states that has a growing number of people that are participating in outdoor activities," he said. "I think the Department has done an excellent job with youth programs, the fishing programs, the shotgun in the schools program, the STEP program, and other programs that gives everybody the opportunity to learn about the outdoors and enjoy it. I'm proud of that.

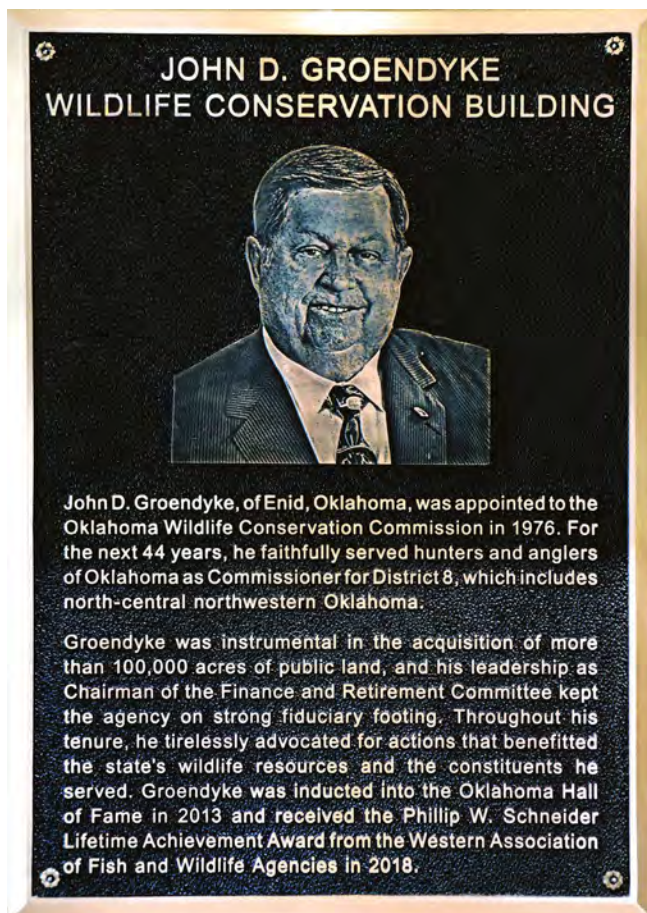
"This has been one of my true loves in life, conservation and the Wildlife Department. And I'm pleased and have a lot of pride in the work they have done over the years, and the passion the employees have shown toward the projects we have had and all. And it's just been a great, great experience," he said.

Groendyke will still remain close to the Wildlife Department, as he will continue to serve on the board of directors of the new Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation. \*\*X



John Groendyke smiles as he's introduced.

DON P. BROWN/ODWC





# Game Warden's Journal

**ACCOUNTS FROM THE FIELD BY THE PUBLIC  
SERVANTS WHO ENFORCE THE FISH AND  
WILDLIFE LAWS OF OKLAHOMA**



## WARDENS ENFORCING FISH, WILDLIFE LAWS FACE THE UNKNOWN

**By Jena Donnell, Wildlife Diversity  
Information Specialist**

When a Lincoln County landowner noticed an unfamiliar car partly hidden in a wooded fenceline of his hayfield last November, he suspected someone was hunting without permission and called his local Game Warden. But the routine call took a complicated turn shortly after Game Warden Gary Emmons arrived on the scene.

"We respond to a lot of calls throughout the year, and while most involve hunting or fishing violations, we never really know what we'll encounter in the field," Emmons said.

In this case, the call turned into a dangerous evening filled with stolen vehicles, drugs and loaded weapons.

"I found the reported car at dusk and had been waiting to see if anyone would return when I heard a single rifle shot about a half mile from my location. Suspecting the vehicle and gunshot were related, I called the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office to advise them of the situation and found that the vehicle had been reported as stolen."

More than an hour later, a pickup drove into the nearby hayfield coming from a wooded area in the same direction as the earlier gunshot. The driver spun a doughnut in the field, and the vehicle inadvertently stopped with its headlights shining almost directly where Emmons waited in the fence line.

After approaching the pickup and announcing himself to the four individuals inside, Emmons had the driver step from the vehicle. As the driver stepped out, one passenger grabbed something from the floorboard and jumped out of the pickup, crouched down and ran to the rear of the pickup where he knelt by the passenger side rear tire. Emmons heard him fumbling with something that sounded metallic. Another passenger in the rear seat leaned over and grabbed something, but Emmons was unable to see his hands. Unbeknownst to Emmons, the male near the rear tire was trying to load a 9mm carbine but he luckily broke off the charging handle. The rear-seat passenger had been manipulating an AR-15 rifle. After a few tense minutes, one passenger fled



**Game Warden Gary Emmons**

on foot while another jumped into the driver's seat and drove the truck at high speed through the dark hayfield.

Emmons was able to secure the person originally driving the truck, while another Game Warden based in a nearby county arrived and apprehended the passenger who fled on foot.

The remaining two individuals were found that night by the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office. The rear-seat male was found unresponsive from an apparent overdose. The male had camouflaged himself with grass and appeared to have set up an ambush for the trackers. Deputies were able to revive him with naloxone. Multiple loaded guns and enough drugs for drug trafficking

charges were found on the suspects along with another stolen vehicle. The pickup the suspects had been driving was also reported as stolen.

"This case is a prime example of why officer safety is such a high training priority for Game Wardens. I was there at the request of the landowner to look into a potential case of hunting without permission and got involved in something completely unrelated. It was a very intense night and could have ended badly."

While the case was not connected to a hunting or wildlife violation, Emmons was able to make an arrest because every Game Warden is a fully certified Oklahoma law enforcement officer.

"Our agency is funded primarily through the sale of hunting and fishing licenses along with grant revenue generated by the sale of hunting and fishing equipment. Because of that, a Game Warden's primary focus is enforcing our state's fish and wildlife laws. But we have to be prepared for anything in this job."

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Aspects of this case are still being processed through the court system. Emmons has since been promoted to Law Enforcement District 5 Captain. A list of current Game Wardens, their county assignments and contact information can be found at [wildlifedepartment.com](http://wildlifedepartment.com) or in the most recent Oklahoma Hunting and Fishing Regulations Guide.



## Rescue Instead of Recovery

About 5 p.m. Sept. 26, Game Warden Stephen Paul, based in Noble County, received a call from a county sheriff's deputy. A 911 call had reported a potential drowning in progress on Sooner Lake.

Paul contacted Game Warden Spencer Grace, based in Kay County, asking for a second search boat. Paul and the Noble County undersheriff boated to a disabled boat near the dam where the reporting party was anchored.

An angler said the boat ran out of fuel. His brother was trying to refuel the boat when he dropped their only fuel container in the lake. The brother jumped into the water without a personal flotation device to try to retrieve the fuel.

It was windy, and waves were 3 feet or more. The boat quickly drifted away from the brother in the water. The angler said his brother was last seen clinging to the half-full fuel container. The two officers began searching.


They spotted a red fuel can in the lake. Then they saw the brother grasping the fuel container and struggling to keep his head above water. The officers pulled the man into the boat.

Pawnee County EMS and Ponca City EMS were waiting at the boat ramp, where they began treating the brother for chemical burns on his face and hands from splashing fuel.

A huge thank-you goes to the agencies involved. The quick response was instrumental in making this situation a rescue instead of a recovery!

(Report from the Oklahoma Game Wardens Facebook page.)

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Please help make a difference! When violators break the law, they steal fish and wildlife from you! Report violations anonymously by calling Operation Game Thief at (800) 522-8039. You could earn a cash reward.



# Game Bag

**A COLLECTION OF LETTERS TO THE WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT**  
*We'd like to hear from you! Send your letters to Outdoor Oklahoma Letters, P.O. Box 53465, Oklahoma City, OK 73152, or send e-mail to [donald.brown@odwc.ok.gov](mailto:donald.brown@odwc.ok.gov).*

## Dear Wildlife Department,

I just wanted to drop all of you a quick note to say "thanks" for having the duck blind drawings this year.

It has been a challenging year for all public events, and I was glad (as well as the waterfowl hunters I spoke with at the drawings) that the Department was able to come up with a system to hold the drawings while taking steps to protect Department personnel and hunters from Covid-19.

Even with the new registration system and Covid-19 issues, there was still lots of interest in the drawings. The Fort Gibson drawing had 103 hunters registered, and Webbers Falls had 91 hunters registered. It looks like this new system of online pre-registration and electronic Google Earth maps worked pretty well. There are probably a few tweaks that could be made, but overall the Wildlife Division field personnel did a great job. Thanks.

Craig Endicott

## Outdoor Calendar

FOR NEW UPDATES TO THE OUTDOOR CALENDAR,  
PLEASE VISIT THE DEPARTMENT'S  
WEBSITE: [WWW.WILDLIFEDEPARTMENT.COM/CALENDAR](http://WWW.WILDLIFEDEPARTMENT.COM/CALENDAR)

**NOTICE:** Events listed were still scheduled at press time; events are subject to cancellation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### NOVEMBER 2020

1	"Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA. Daylight Saving Time ends.
7	Hunter Education Class in Dibble/Blanchard; register at license. <a href="http://GoOutdoorsOklahoma.com/events.aspx">GoOutdoorsOklahoma.com/events.aspx</a> .
8	"Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.
11	Veterans Day (state offices closed).
14	Hunter Education Class in Omega; register at license. <a href="http://GoOutdoorsOklahoma.com/events.aspx">GoOutdoorsOklahoma.com/events.aspx</a> .
15	"Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.
17	Okla. Striped Bass Assn. meeting, 7 p.m., Zebco, Tulsa, (918) 639-8114. Ask an Angler: Virtual Fishing Course (Trout), 1-3 p.m., register at license. <a href="http://GoOutdoorsOklahoma.com/events.aspx">GoOutdoorsOklahoma.com/events.aspx</a> .
22	"Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.
26	Thanksgiving Day (state offices closed Nov. 26-27).
29	"Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.

- **Ducks Unlimited** events set in Grove, Nov. 10; Durant, Nov. 12; Fairview, Nov. 12; Eufaula, Nov. 19. Info: [www.ducks.org/Oklahoma/events](http://www.ducks.org/Oklahoma/events).
- **Friends of NRA** event set in Altus, Nov. 13. Info: [www.FriendsOfNRA.org](http://www.FriendsOfNRA.org).
- **National Wild Turkey Federation** events in Vian (WITO), Nov. 5; Duncan, Nov. 10. Info: [www.nwtf.org/events](http://www.nwtf.org/events).

### DECEMBER 2020

6	"Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.
7	Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission meeting, 9 a.m., Oklahoma City.
8	Ask an Angler: Virtual Fishing Course (Winter Catfish), 1-3 p.m., register at license. <a href="http://GoOutdoorsOklahoma.com/events.aspx">GoOutdoorsOklahoma.com/events.aspx</a> .
13	"Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.
15	Okla. Striped Bass Assn. meeting, 7 p.m., Zebco, Tulsa, (918) 639-8114.
20	"Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.
25	Christmas Day (state offices closed Dec. 24-25).
27	"Outdoor Oklahoma" TV, 8 a.m., OETA.

- **Ducks Unlimited** events info: [www.ducks.org/Oklahoma/events](http://www.ducks.org/Oklahoma/events).
- **Friends of NRA** event set in McAlester, Dec. 5. Info: [www.FriendsOfNRA.org](http://www.FriendsOfNRA.org).
- **National Wild Turkey Federation** events info: [www.nwtf.org/events](http://www.nwtf.org/events).

**\*\* FOR HUNTING SEASON DATES, GO TO  
[www.wildlifedepartment.com/hunting/seasons](http://www.wildlifedepartment.com/hunting/seasons) \*\***



# 4,322 & Counting

## Hunter Tracks Bobwhite Bounty Over 45 Years

By Don P. Brown, Information and Education Specialist





It was the last day of quail season — Feb. 15, 2019 — when a note showed up in my computer inbox at the Wildlife Department. Another suggestion for a “great Outdoor Oklahoma story.” I get several dozen of these notes every year.

As I began thinking of a nice “no promises” reply, something in the message flagged me. Maybe I need to look at this again.

“We hate to see Feb. 15 come to an end,” wrote Jeremy Johnson, referring to the day that quail season closes each year. “My 73-year-old dad bagged his 4,322nd bird today (in) his quail hunting career. Makes the 1,500 quail I’ve killed seem like a drop in the bucket,” Jeremy wrote.

“He’s the real deal, a wonderful dad, and a wonderful quail hunter. ... He’s a little slower these days but quite excited for November this year!”

Now, I’ve heard all sorts of stories about how passionate this hunter or that angler is. But here’s a man who can prove his passion, because he’s spent nearly five decades keeping a record of every quail he’s harvested. With quail hunting taking such a dip in recent decades, I knew I wanted to meet this “old-time bird hunter” who never gave up. So, it was time for a trip to rural Osage County to pay a friendly visit to Jim Johnson.

## No Place Like Home

The morning I drove into the gravel driveway of the Johnson’s quaint country house, I first noticed three dogs trotting out to greet me. Bird dogs, sure enough. Following closely behind was a smiling older gentleman. “Welcome. I’m Jim Johnson,” he said with a big smile. “Come on in and meet my wife, Jan.” I learned they have been married 52 years and have three sons and a daughter, all of their names beginning with the letter J.



*Jim and Jan Johnson have welcomed folks to their rural Osage County home for nearly 50 years.*

So, we began to visit. Jim went into the Army after high school, and that’s when he and Jan met in Texas. “I told her, before we were married, ‘Now listen, I hunt.’ And she said that’s no problem.” Turns out Jan grew up 10 miles out in the country, just as Jim had, so she knew all about a hunter’s lifestyle. She agreed she’s no hunter but was great at staying home and raising kids. “And she’s an excellent quail cook; they’re just so delicious,” Jim said.

He told me that he retired about six years ago from a longtime career as a public schoolteacher, principal and administrator with Barnsdall, Wynona, Prue and Fairfax. And for 12 years, he’s pastored the Nazarene church in Barnsdall. He’d started out married life with a teaching job, but saw an opportunity to earn more pay and joined an oil company as a safety man. That job took the couple to western Oklahoma for a couple of years, but Jim always wanted to return to his old stomping grounds in Osage County, where he was raised. When his company wanted to send him out of state, Jim decided to make a change.

## Hunting Began Early

Jim chose to fall back on his education degree from Northeastern Oklahoma State University, move back east, and take a sizable pay cut to teach school. The couple moved into the house in which Jim was raised.



*Jim Johnson holds quail No. 4,000 in this photo taken Dec. 23, 2016.*





Avid bird hunter Jim Johnson, 74, began keeping his hunting journal in 1975. He's scored more than 4,300 quail so far, and he doesn't plan to slow down anytime soon.

They have lived in his childhood home for almost a half-century. Jim has plenty of great memories growing up in the country.

"When I hunted here in those days, it was completely different.

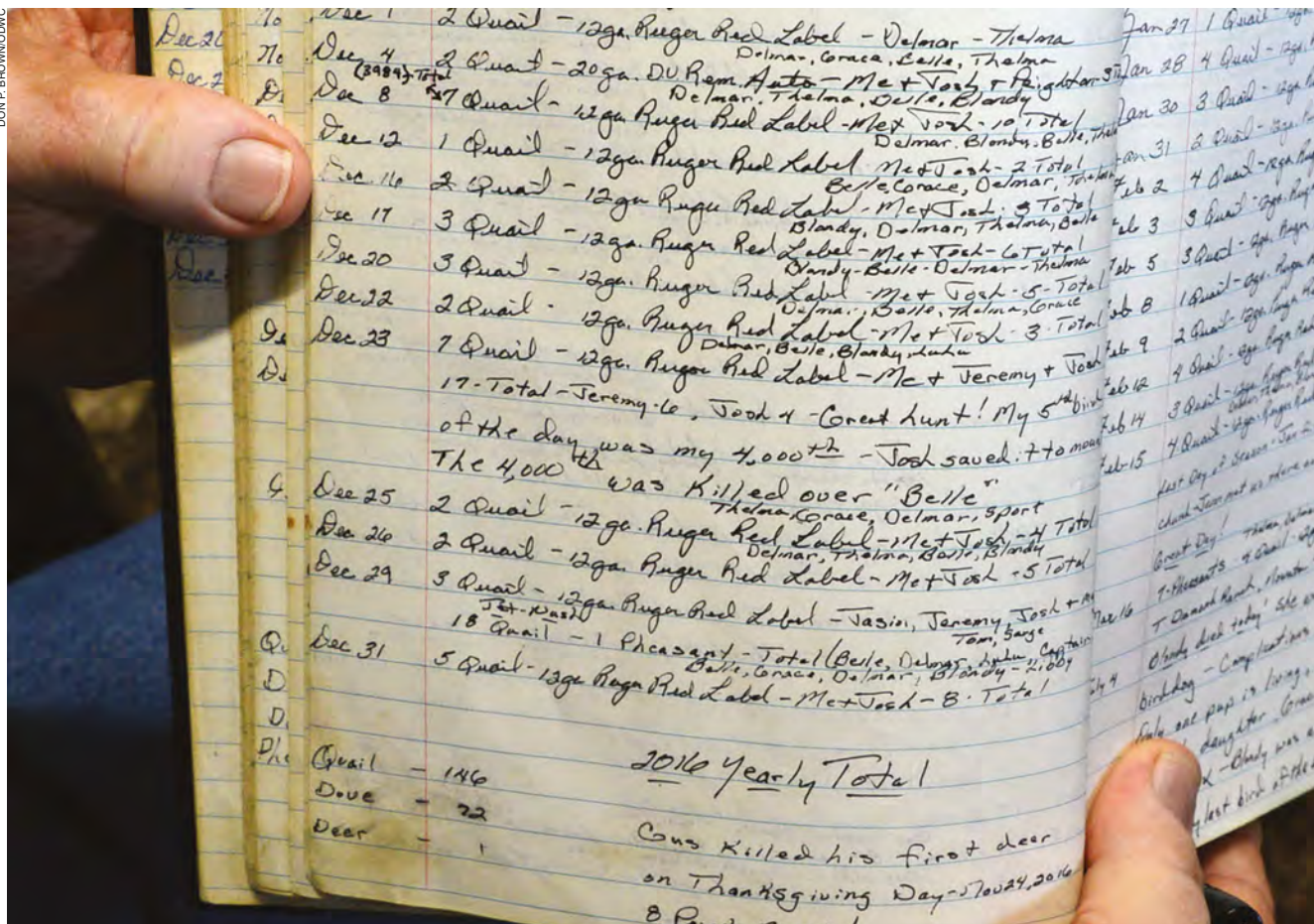
"When I was a boy, I'd walk out on the porch with my shotgun, I'd call my dogs. ... I'd walk in any direction and they would let a kid go hunting." While the habitat near his place hasn't changed much, he said nowadays hunting permission is mainly limited to those who can afford to lease private land.

Now, Jim has created his own "he shed" outside the house, where a lifetime of hunting and ranching memorabilia is neatly arranged, and where he enjoys some quiet time reading and daydreaming. And passing the time until the next bird season.

## Writing to Remember

It was 1975 when the avid quail hunter began to emerge in Jim Johnson. He was teaching at Prue when a student gifted him a bird dog. Before then, Jim said he maybe had bagged 200 quail total in his life. It wouldn't be long before he would be getting that many birds in just one season. That's a fact, because 1975 was also the year Jim began keeping his hunting journal.

"When I got that first bird dog, I always loved it," he said, referring to quail hunting. "It got to be that's what



The journal entry logging Jim Johnson's 4,000th quail harvested on Dec. 23, 2016. For the year, he took 146 quail.



I was thinking of all the time."

"I love to watch the dogs work. The dogs enjoy it, and I enjoy it.

"I don't drink, I don't smoke, I don't do a lot of socializing. But quail hunting to me was almost a religious experience. I can't explain it."

Jim picked up a hardbound, fabric-covered book and began thumbing through the lined pages. "I've got 45 years of my living right in this one little old, worn-out-looking journal." He began reading aloud. "This year, I shot five birds. Then 114, 171, 238 and so on." He keeps his score by years, not seasons.

Each journal entry begins with the date. "January 30th: five quail, 12-gauge Ruger red label, hunted over Gracie, John and Delmar."

He logs the number of quail he bagged, and the total number taken by all the hunters he was with. He said he's a private man. Normally he prefers to hunt only with his three sons. "Hunting just came naturally to all of them. When Dad went hunting, they were welcome to go along."

And Dad went hunting a lot, and he still does, for the most part in Osage County. Last January, he logged 17 hunting trips, for an average of about four hunts per week. His harvest for January and half of February was 61 quail.

## Lifetime of Knowledge

"The birds here have never been like they are out west," Jim said. "When I would find a covey here, I'd find three or four out there." In Osage County back in the day, he said he would be lucky to find two coveys in a morning, and lucky again to find two more in the afternoon. He would hunt sunup to sundown, and he would wear blue jeans. He hunted so much that those blue jeans ended up rubbing his legs bare of any hair.

Jim's learned many things over the years about quail hunting. "The old hunters that I knew growing up when I was a boy told me to never shoot a covey down to less than five or six birds. You see, that's enough to leave at least one breeding pair," so the covey could regenerate for the next season. They also taught Jim that leaving five or six birds will allow the covey to produce enough body heat to survive extreme winter weather.

His favored shotgun has an improved cylinder choke. And his choice of shot size depends on the time of the season: early on, he uses No. 8 shot, but switches to 7 1/2 later in the season because the birds have thicker feathers, they flush farther out, and the heavier shot carries farther.

Bird dogs: They either have the instinct to hunt, or they don't. He doesn't believe in penning a dogs, saying they must be able to roam and learn about hunting. And he shared something he learned from an old book: When a dog won't release a retrieved bird, grab the dog on its flank and lift up abruptly, and the dog will spit out the bird. Jim said it works every time.



*Jim Johnson takes aim after a covey rise.*



*Jim Johnson considers a harvest of one or two birds a good hunt these days.*



*The quail-hunting father and sons of the Johnson family: Joshua, Jeremy, Jim and Jasin.*



Every quail hunter has opinions about what's happening to the bird population. Biologists point to the bobwhite's natural boom-and-bust cycles that are very much dependent on weather and habitat. Jim says the habitat in his area isn't much different from when quail numbers were better. He seems to believe that more herbicides being used by farmers are killing more forbs, which serve as a quail food source.

Now, quail hunters have become sparse in Osage County. Jim said in the past two years while he's been in the field, he's heard only two volleys of distant gunshots that he thought were from quail hunters. He said deer hunting has taken over his area, and it's understandable. "You can hunt deer on 25 acres, and you can kill a deer. It takes thousands of acres to kill numbers of quail."

All the serious quail hunters he knows are older; Jim's youngest son is an avid bird hunter at age 37. He feels there isn't a younger segment coming along to continue the bird hunting tradition. "It's just a lot of work and not much reward these days."

## Thinking Differently

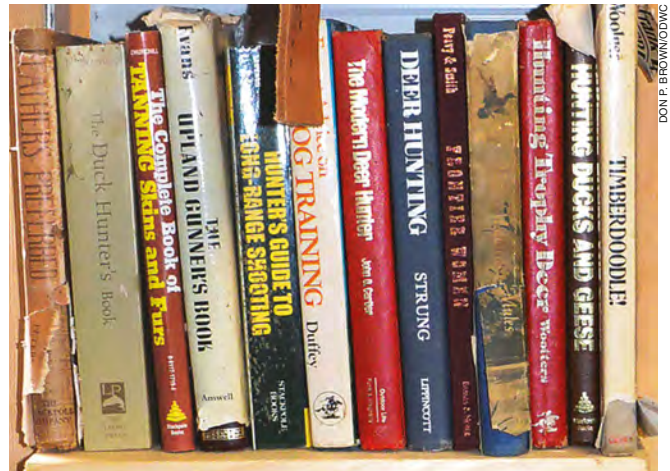
But the rewards of bird hunting continue for Jim — if not in numbers harvested, in memories made.

At age 64, Jim had some health issues and decided it was time to quit hunting. For a year or two around 2008, his journal has no entries.

"I had really quit. My son was working for a ranch over here, and he was encouraging me. And he brought me a bird dog puppy."

That was the medicine that restarted Jim's passion. "Here in 2013, I killed 27."

Just three years later came a remarkable milestone. In part, the journal entry reads "December 23: seven quail. Great hunt! My fifth bird of the day was my 4,000th. Josh saved it to mount." That was in 2016, and going into this



Reading books from his "hunting library" occupies much of Jim Johnson's time outside of quail hunting season.

year his score is 4,322.

"The numbers are more important to the boys. They'd like me to reach 5,000." But Jim said he's not so sure that will happen. But what has happened, he said, is how his mind-set has changed just recently.

"I always liked to kill a limit," he said. But these days, it's more about being in the field, with his dogs, making memories. "If I get one bird, I'm happy."

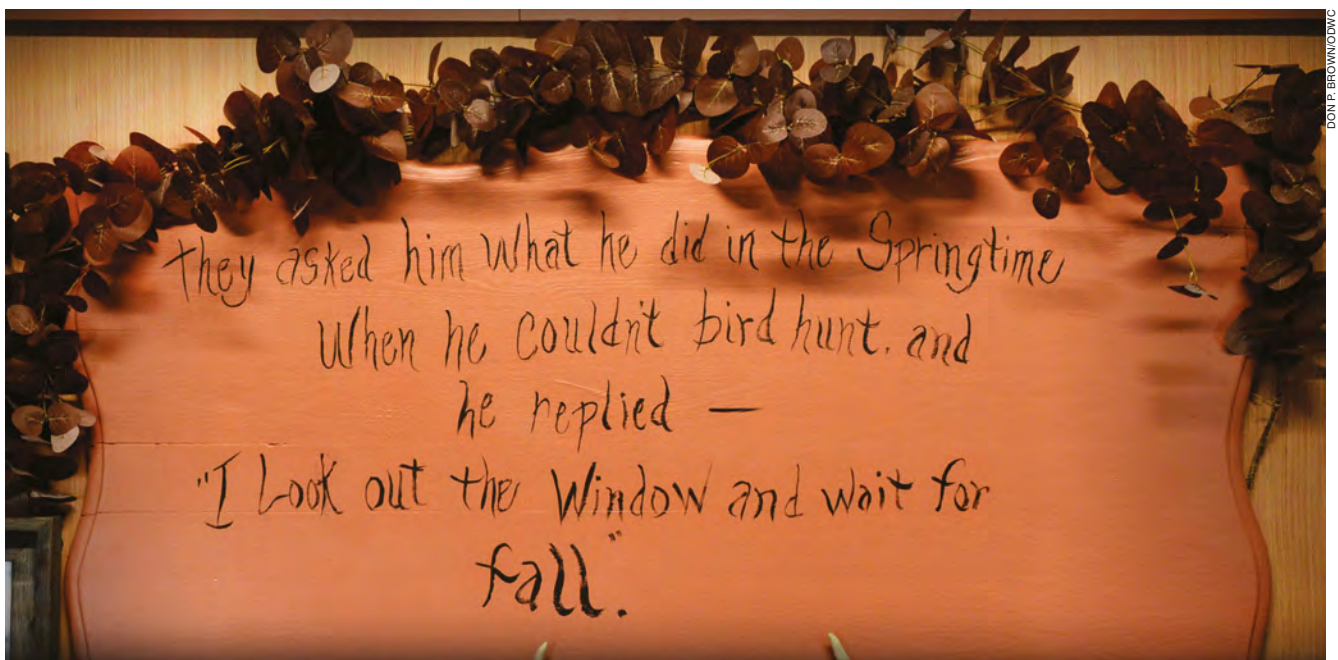
That's how it was last year. "This may have been my most enjoyable year ever. I got to spend a lot of time hunting with my sons. It was an unforgettable year."

Inevitably, Feb. 15 rolls around. "When the season closes, I mourn for about two weeks."

And he starts spending lots of time in his place of solitude. "I come in here and read — cowboys and hunting."

And he stares out the window, daydreaming and anticipating the next chance he and his dogs and his sons will have to hunt for that next covey.

"I think I've been blessed." 🌿





# 2021 Oklahoma Wildlife Habitat Management Calendar



Outdoor  
Oklahoma



SPECIAL PULLOUT SECTION









Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*)



# January 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Operation Game Thief:</b> Anonymously report game and fish law violations by calling toll-free (800) 522-8039.						
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 	<b>7</b>	New Year's Day <b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b>						

December 2020

S M T W T F S

1 2 3 4 5

6 7 8 9 10 11 12

13 14 15 16 17 18 19

20 21 22 23 24 25 26

27 28 29 30 31

February 2021

S M T W T F S

1 2 3 4 5 6

7 8 9 10 11 12 13

14 15 16 17 18 19 20

21 22 23 24 25 26 27

28



The Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) is aimed at intensively managing deer herds on private lands. It is designed to give cooperators — whether landowners, hunt clubs or lease operators — extra assistance in managing deer. Under the program, cooperators set their own management goals ranging from producing maximum numbers of harvestable deer to producing trophy bucks. For DMAP to work effectively a recommended minimum of 1,000 acres is required. For more information on DMAP, call Dallas Barber at (405) 385-1791.

## JANUARY HABITAT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Strip disk to encourage native food resources.
- Prepare ground for tree/shrub plantings for wildlife cover.
- Mow to remove brush encroachment as needed.
- Half-cut trees for loafing cover as needed for small game species.

## JANUARY POND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Consider a winter drawdown to control excessive aquatic vegetation.
- Check pond overflow pipe to make sure it is clear of debris.





Snow Goose, Blue Morph (*Anser caerulescens*)







# February 2021

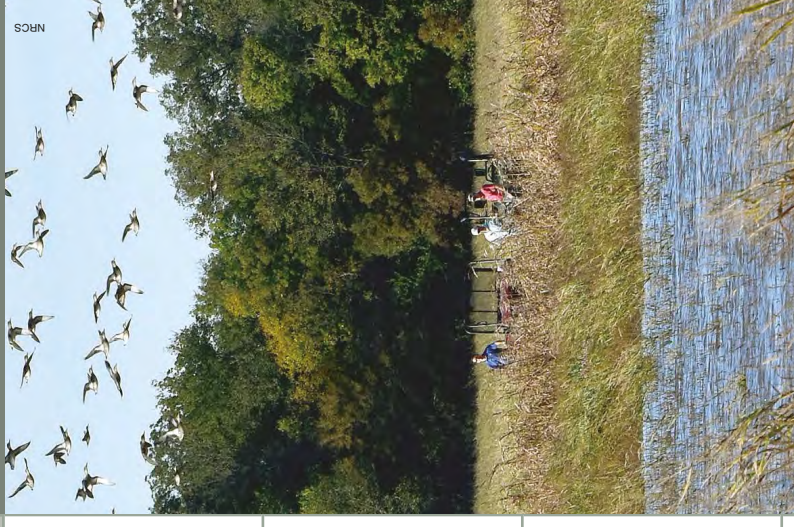
January 2020

March 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							1	2	3	4	5	6	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9							
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Groundhog Day	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Valentine's Day	<b>15</b> President's Day	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 



Waterfowl are flushed during a follow-up technical assistance visit to a wetland restoration project in Noble County. NRCs provides technical assistance and designs to people interested in restoring impacted wetlands. This project is among 261 properties enrolled in NRCs's Wetland Reserve Easement program in Oklahoma that aims to provide wildlife habitat, improve water quality and store floodwater, along with numerous other environmental benefits.

## FEBRUARY HABITAT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Strip disking is a great way to set back succession or reduce the dominance of grasses. While native grass is an important component of wildlife habitat, especially for ground-nesting birds, mature stands often have a limited amount of forbs and little bare ground. Grass stands unmanaged for three or more years are the best candidate areas for strip disking.





White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*)





# March 2021

February 2021  
S M T W T F S  
1 2 3 4 5 6  
7 8 9 10 11 12 13  
14 15 16 17 18 19 20  
21 22 23 24 25 26 27  
28

April 2021  
S M T W T F S  
1 2 3  
4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
11 12 13 14 15 16 17  
18 19 20 21 22 23 24  
25 26 27 28 29 30

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

	1	2	3	4	5 	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 
14 Daylight Saving Time Begins	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20
21 	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 	29	30	31			



Bruce Reynolds and Xerces biologist Ray Moranz inspect areas where Reynolds has cleared cedar and burned to restore rangeland health and improve monarch butterfly habitat. Reynolds' work with his local NRCS field office through the Working Lands for Wildlife - Monarch Initiative was highlighted on PBS' "This American Land" episode 701 ([tinyurl.com/monarchTV](http://tinyurl.com/monarchTV)).

## MARCH HABITAT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Prescribed burning is an important tool a landowner can use for habitat improvement. Prescribed burns help promote desirable vegetation that wildlife can use as food and cover. The Oklahoma Prescribed Burn Association is an excellent resource available for landowners who want to learn more about conducting prescribed burns. If you are interested in using prescribed fire on your property, you can contact your regional Private Lands Wildlife Biologist:

Northwest Region: Brett Cooper, (405) 740-9830.  
Southwest Region: Lauren Johnson, (405) 397-1599.  
Central Region: Kyle Johnson, (405) 590-2584.  
Northeast Region: RosaLee Walker, (918) 607-1518.  
Southwest Region: Leah Lowe, (405) 206-7720.





Rio Grande Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo intermedia*)



# April 2021

April 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Easter 4☾	5	6	7	8	9	10
11●	12	13	14	15Tax Day	16	17
18	19	20☾	21	22	23	24
25	26○	27	28	29	30	

March 2021

SMTWTFS

12345678910111213141516171819202122232425262728293031

May 2021

SMTWTFS

12345678910111213141516171819202122232425262728293031

A red sign for the Oklahoma Land Access Program (OLAP) stands in a grassy field. The sign lists rules for hunting, archery, and shooting, and provides contact information for Jeff Tibbits at ODWC.

The Oklahoma Land Access Program (OLAP) provides financial incentives to landowners who allow public access for hunting, fishing, stream access and wildlife viewing opportunities on private lands. OLAP is designed to increase walk-in access. This goal compliments a main tenet of the North American Conservation Model, that every citizen has an opportunity, under the law, to hunt and fish. The democratic foundation of this conservation model has made it the most successful in the world. For additional information on OLAP, call Jeff Tibbits at (405) 535-7382.

**APRIL HABITAT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

- If conditions permit, disk wetland areas to promote moist-soil plants as needed.
- Plant native grasses, forbs or legumes.

**APRIL POND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

- Start harvesting undersized bass and bluegill and keep records (continue all season)
- If aquatic vegetation is a problem, initiate a control program; either chemical or biological (grass carp).
- Inspect the dam and spillway for washes and fill them with suitable material and compact it thoroughly.
- Create and sink artificial structure for fish attractors.









American Bison (*Bison bison*)



# May 2021

April 2021  
S M T W T F S  
1 2 3 4 5  
6 7 8 9 10  
11 12 13 14 15 16 17  
18 19 20 21 22 23 24  
25 26 27 28 29 30

June 2021  
S M T W T F S  
1 2 3 4 5  
6 7 8 9 10 11 12  
13 14 15 16 17 18 19  
20 21 22 23 24 25 26  
27 28 29 30

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
Mother's Day	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	Memorial Day <b>31</b>					



This is a property in Woodward County, where improving riparian area habitat is important for the landowner. This riparian area was infested with eastern redcedar. The landowner has been using the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program to receive cost-share assistance to mechanically remove the cedars. If you are interested in improving your riparian area, contact the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program staff.

## MAY HABITAT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Monitor livestock grazing to prevent overgrazing and to help ensure nesting cover for grassland birds. Without adequate nesting cover, grassland birds struggle to repopulate, and populations of many of these species are in decline. For more information on proper grazing and nesting cover, contact your regional Private Lands Wildlife Biologist:

Northwest Region: Brett Cooper, (405) 740-9830.

Southwest Region: Lauren Johnson, (405) 397-1599.

Central Region: Kyle Johnson, (405) 590-2584.

Northeast Region: RosaLee Walker, (918) 607-1518.

Southwest Region: Leah Lowe, (405) 206-7720.







# June 2021

May 2021  
S M T W T F S  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

July 2021  
S M T W T F S  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> ☾	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Free Fishing Day
Free Fishing Day <b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> ●	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	Flag Day <b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> ☾	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
Father's Day Summer Begins <b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> ○	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>			



By using timber thinning practices through the Wildlife Department's Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP), landowners can improve the quality of wildlife habitat on their properties. This hardwood forest floor once was comprised of leaf litter and scattered brush, but now it is beginning to re-vegetate with native grasses and forbs. The grasses and forbs will provide beneficial cover and nutritious food for many wildlife species.

## JUNE HABITAT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Controlling cattails is best done during June through September. It is best to spray when the cattails are at least 3 feet high and use a surfactant to keep the chemical on the leaves for as long as possible. For more information about controlling cattails, contact your regional Private Lands Wildlife Biologist:

Northwest Region: Brett Cooper, (405) 740-9830.

Southwest Region: Lauren Johnson, (405) 397-1599.

Central Region: Kyle Johnson, (405) 590-2584.

Northeast Region: RosaLee Walker, (918) 607-1518.

Southwest Region: Leah Lowe, (405) 206-7720.





American Bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*)








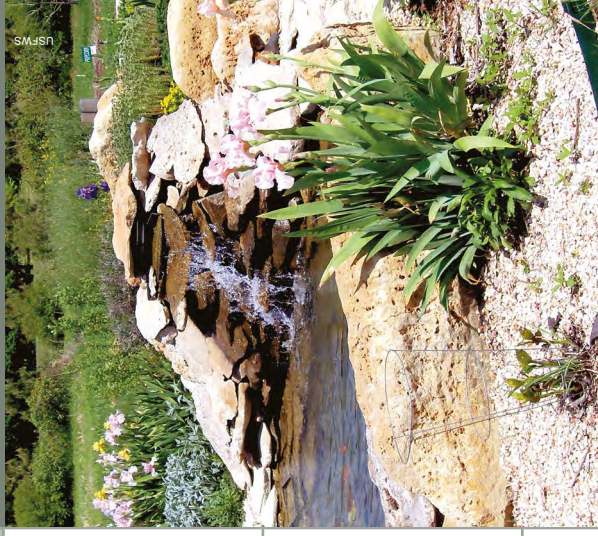
# July 2021

June 2021 August 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
			1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30					29	30	31				

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

						<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
Independence Day	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 	<b>32</b>	<b>33</b>



This is Kay County Conservation District's Outdoor Classroom. It is heavily used by local schools for conservation educational opportunities. All outdoor classroom projects contain a water feature to help educate students on wetlands. Anyone knowing of a local school that would be interested in an Outdoor Classroom may contact the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program staff.

## JULY HABITAT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Conducting a growing-season or summer burn on your property has several benefits such as increasing your annual available burn days, increasing plant diversity by promoting growth of beneficial forbs and legumes, and knocking down encroaching woody plants in native range fields. July through early October are ideal months for conducting summer burns. For more information, contact your regional Private Lands Wildlife Biologist:

Northwest Region: Brett Cooper, (405) 740-9830.

Southwest Region: Lauren Johnson, (405) 397-1599.

Central Region: Kyle Johnson, (405) 590-2584.

Northeast Region: Rosalee Walker, (918) 607-1518.

Southwest Region: Leah Lowe, (405) 206-7720.









Eastern Spotted Skunk (*Spilogale putorius*)



# August 2021

July 2021  
S M T W T F S  
1 2 3  
4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
11 12 13 14 15 16 17  
18 19 20 21 22 23 24  
25 26 27 28 29 30 31

September 2021  
S M T W T F S  
1 2 3 4  
5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
12 13 14 15 16 17 18  
19 20 21 22 23 24 25  
26 27 28 29 30

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 	31				



Greg and Linda Meyers are restoring her family's farm back to how she remembers it as a child. They are ridding the place of cedars, thinning some upland oaks and using prescribed fire to restore oak woodland and savanna habitat through NRCS' Cross-Timbers Initiative. NRCS county field offices provide conservation technical assistance to private landowners throughout Oklahoma.

**AUGUST HABITAT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.**  
The practice of timber thinning can be used by landowners to convert closed-canopy forests to more desirable open-canopy forests. The open canopy will allow sunlight to reach the forest floor, which will promote the growth of herbaceous vegetation. The herbaceous vegetation will be used by wildlife for food and cover.

NRCS





Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*)



# September 2021

August 2021							October 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7							
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30	31					24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Free Hunting Day <b>5</b>	Labor Day <b>6</b> ●	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	Free Hunting Day <b>4</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> ●	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> ○	<b>21</b>	Autumn Begins <b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> ☾	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		



ROSALIE WALKER/ADW

Sericea lespeedeza is a highly invasive, non-native species that degrades wildlife habitat by outcompeting much more desirable native grasses and forbs. One highly effective management practice to get rid of sericea lespeedeza is to conduct prescribed burns in September and early October. This will kill the seeds before it has time to reproduce and will set back the growth of residual plants. For more information, contact the Wildlife Department's Biologist who serves the area.

## SEPTEMBER HABITAT

### MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Begin to flood wetland areas. Many water control structures require "boards" to be installed to prevent water from draining.
- Prepare ground and plant winter food plots if needed.
- Cut and remove eastern redcedar trees.

### SEPTEMBER POND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Spray cattails along pond banks now, before the first freeze.
- If feeding catfish, discontinue feeding when water temperatures fall below 65°F.
- Start fall drawdown if crowded bluegill conditions exist or summer vegetation problems occur.





White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)



# October 2021

September 2021  
S M T W T F S  
1 2 3 4  
5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
12 13 14 15 16 17 18  
19 20 21 22 23 24 25  
26 27 28 29 30

November 2021  
S M T W T F S  
1 2 3 4 5 6  
7 8 9 10 11 12 13  
14 15 16 17 18 19 20  
21 22 23 24 25 26 27  
28 29 30

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> ●	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Columbus Day	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> ●	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> ○	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> ☾	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

Halloween

**31**



NRCS

Shelly Oliphant, NRCS District Conservationist, discusses grass production with Tim Ohm and son, Telson. The Ohms have used NRCS' technical and financial assistance to control cedars and restore a treeless prairie landscape under the Working for Wildlife – Lesser Prairie Chicken Initiative. NRCS provides conservation technical assistance to private landowners through 77 county field offices.

## OCTOBER HABITAT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Getting rid of eastern redcedar trees will greatly improve the quality of habitat on your property. Since cedars do not re-sprout like hardwoods do, they can be cut without spraying herbicide. To get more information on removing eastern redcedars from your property, contact your regional Private Lands Wildlife Biologist:

Northwest Region: Brett Cooper, (405) 740-9830.  
Southwest Region: Lauren Johnson, (405) 397-1599.  
Central Region: Kyle Johnson, (405) 590-2584.  
Northeast Region: RosaLee Walker, (918) 607-1518.  
Southwest Region: Leah Lowe, (405) 206-7720.









Elk (*Cervus canadensis*)



# November 2021

October 2021							December 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16		5	6	7	8	9	10
17	18	19	20	21	22	23		12	13	14	15	16	17
24	25	26	27	28	29	30		19	20	21	22	23	24
								26	27	28	29	30	31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
--------	--------	---------	-----------	----------	--------	----------

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Election Day	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Daylight Saving Time Ends	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Veteran's Day 	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	Thanksgiving <b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				



This is an upland habitat project that was restored by the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife program. Cost share assistance was provided to remove eastern redcedars in the upland habitat sites. This project is in Woodward County and is improving habitat for the lesser prairie-chicken and many other wildlife species. The upland acres were followed up by a prescribed fire and the vegetation has returned to what it looked like 40 years ago. Anyone interested in improving upland areas may contact the Partners for Fish and Wildlife staff.

**NOVEMBER HABITAT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**  
Inspecting your firebreaks and evaluating areas needing prescribed burn treatment should be done this month. To conduct prescribed burns safely, a good plan that has been established well ahead of burn time is needed. For help creating a burn plan and more information on prescribed burning, contact your regional Private Lands Wildlife Biologist:

Northwest Region: Brett Cooper, (405) 740-9830.  
Southwest Region: Lauren Johnson, (405) 397-1599.  
Central Region: Kyle Johnson, (405) 590-2584.  
Northeast Region: RosaLee Walker, (918) 607-1518.  
Southwest Region: Leah Lowe, (405) 206-7720.





Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)



# December 2021

November 2021

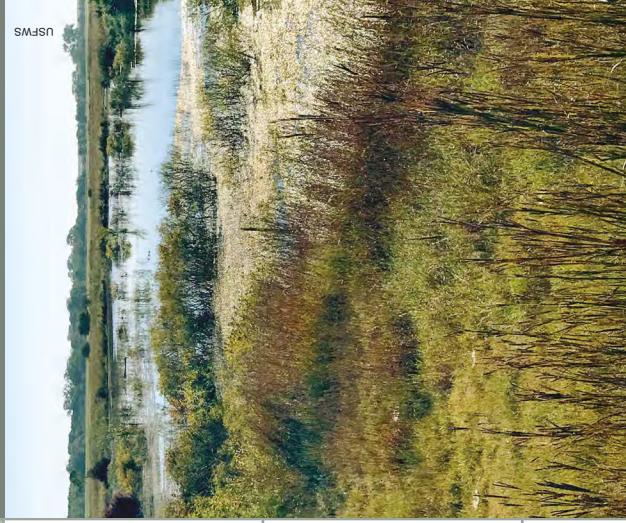
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January 2022

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SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

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19 ○	20 Winter Begins	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day
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This wetland restoration project is on a property in Washington County. The landowner has been working with the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program for several years to receive technical and cost share assistance to restore this wetland complex. Anyone interested in restoring wetlands may contact the Partners for Fish and Wildlife staff for more information.

## DECEMBER HABITAT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

This is a good month to plant trees and shrubs that will aid in improving wildlife habitat on your property. Native trees and shrubs can provide food and shelter for many wildlife species. The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry offers native tree and shrub seedlings for sale to landowners. For more information, contact your regional Private Lands Wildlife Biologist:

Northwest Region: Brett Cooper, (405) 740-9830.  
Southwest Region: Lauren Johnson, (405) 397-1599.  
Central Region: Kyle Johnson, (405) 590-2584.  
Northeast Region: RosaLee Walker, (918) 607-1518.  
Southwest Region: Leah Lowe, (405) 206-7720.



# Trepper Farms Wins Landowner Honor for 2020

By Kyle Johnson, Private Lands Biologist

Many Oklahomans do a great job enhancing and maintaining habitat for wildlife, and Trepper Farms is certainly among the elite of those that go above and beyond for wildlife and for youth. The owners' dedication has made them Oklahoma's 2020 Landowner Conservationists of the Year.

Trepper Farms, established in 2015, is owned and managed by Troy Flax and Pepper Martin, both of Norman. The 320-acre Pottawatomie County property is home to an abundance of wildlife, including white-tailed deer, wild turkey, bobwhite, mourning dove and waterfowl. But this hasn't always been the case.

Dense forest cover and degraded grasslands were more of the norm before 2015. Since then, the vision and passion shared by each owner has led to a consistent commitment to restore, enhance, maintain, and even create habitats desirable to many game and nongame species.

One of the first calls Flax made was to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. Private lands biologists helped create a habitat management plan for the property and provided technical assistance through the Department's cost-share Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP). Establishing a prescribed burning program, thinning dense forests, and removing cedar tree cover were some of the projects that began to take shape.

Trepper Farms has also received invaluable guidance from Oklahoma Forestry Services, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Noble Research Institute, either by in-person visits or through field days or online resources.

A large project immediately undertaken was to repair a washed-out pond dam. But the work didn't stop with a quick repair. Instead, the half-acre pond was enlarged to nearly three acres. Fish structure was added in the form of sunken trees and gravel beds, and the pond was enhanced through seeding and planting. Today, previously erodible areas are covered in vegetation, and water clarity is excellent.



*The owners have addressed issues with ponds and wetlands.*



*Prescribed fire is part of the management plan for Trepper Farms.*



*Many game and nongame species benefit from the habitat work at Trepper Farms.*



Among the great achievements is the presence of several coveys of wild bobwhite. In general, dense tree cover intermixed with degraded grassland habitats spells disaster for quail numbers. But Cross Timbers habitat can attract and provide what quail require if managed properly, and that is exactly what Trepper Farms has provided through a combination of prescribed burning, hardwood thinning, cedar clearing, disking, and planting.

Sharing the resource and providing opportunities for youths are also a true passion for each owner. Trepper Farms is open to family and friends for hunting, fishing, and many other recreational events. More than 10 youth events are held annually at Trepper Farms. Each owner believes that youths should have a place to go, learn, and enjoy what Oklahoma's outdoors has to offer.

No "one size fits all" management strategy applies to every property. But starting with a vision and growing a passion are great starting points. Trepper Farms offers a great example of what a little vision and passion can do for wildlife and for those who enjoy the outdoors. 🌿





# This Year's Duck Season Brings Changes

Oklahoma's 15,000 waterfowl hunters will notice some changes in this year's season dates and zones. For the first time since the main body of the state was split into different waterfowl hunting zones in the 1970s, the season dates for ducks, mergansers and coots will be the same.

Duck season in zones 1 and 2, which includes all of Oklahoma except the three Panhandle counties, will run from Nov. 14-29 and Dec. 5 to Jan. 31, 2021.

In addition, the midseason split will be just five days long this season. For dozens of years, the split has run for 12 days. The shorter split was made possible by opening the duck season a week later than it has opened in previous years.

Another change this year will allow more duck hunting opportunities for active-duty military members and military veterans. People in those groups will now be able to hunt on the two special "youth only" waterfowl days Nov. 7 and Feb. 6.

Goose hunting in Zones 1 and 2 will open Nov. 7, a week earlier than duck season opener. For dark geese, the season will be Nov. 7-29 and Dec. 5-Feb. 14, 2021, statewide, and the daily limit is eight. For light geese, the season will be Nov. 7-29 and Dec. 5-Feb. 14, 2021, statewide, and the daily limit is 50. For white-fronted (specklebelly) geese, the season will be Nov. 7-29 and Dec. 5-Feb. 7, 2021, statewide, and the daily limit is two.

The changes this year are the result

of opinions expressed by more than 5,600 waterfowl hunters in a comprehensive survey conducted in late 2018. The survey showed that many hunters were in favor of opening duck season later than in previous years, and they wanted more weekend days along with the Thanksgiving holiday to be included in duck season.

Cutting the midseason split to just five days added two additional weekend days for hunting ducks and geese, and also allowed duck season to open a week later.

Waterfowl seasons are set by the states within a framework determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Oklahoma may have a 74-day duck season within a period of about 130 days ending Jan. 31. Bag limits are specified by USFWS, but the states are permitted to establish more restrictive limits and season dates.

Oklahoma's daily duck bag limit is six ducks combined, with no more than five mallards (two hens only); three wood ducks; two redheads; two canvasbacks; one scaup; and one pintail.

Duck hunting in the Panhandle opened Oct. 10 and will run to Jan. 6, 2021. A special waterfowl hunting day for youths, veterans and active military members will be Feb. 6, 2021. 🦆



## Duck Hunting Zones



# Alliance Planning 2 Trap



## By Kelly Adams, Information Supervisor

When parents consider sending a child to an outdoor camp, they probably don't envision a camp in the dead of winter, where the main activity is trapping furbearers. But the Oklahoma Fur Bearers Alliance (OFBA) holds just such a camp each year that educates youths about one of Oklahoma's oldest traditions.

Dedicated to teaching youths how to conserve and protect Oklahoma's wildlife heritage through trapping, the Alliance has announced the continuation of the youth camp this year.

OFBA is dedicated to teaching and passing on the best, most ethical practices when it comes to wildlife management. Its roots go back over 60 years, and its focus has always been helping conserve and protect Oklahoma's wildlife heritage.

"Last year, we hosted two trapping camps, one in December and one in January, and are excited to provide those opportunities again this year," said RC Edgar, OFBA secretary and treasurer.

Each camp is open to the first 35 youths who apply.

The first camp will be Dec. 18-20 at Lake Carl Blackwell near Stillwater. The second camp will be Jan. 1-3, 2021, at Waurika Lake. For more information, contact Shannon Sheffert at [OKSHEFFERTS@hotmail.com](mailto:OKSHEFFERTS@hotmail.com) or (405) 742-7884.

The camps offer three days of hands-on learning where students explore a variety of tools and techniques and learn about Oklahoma's furbearers and their habitats. While in the field, students will identify animal tracks, game trails and make their own trap sets. The camp is completed with a final lesson on skinning, preparing and caring for different animal hides.

Oklahoma's furbearer season runs Dec. 1 to Feb. 28, 2021. In addition to beaver, nutria, raccoon, striped skunk and coyote (open year-round), trappers are allowed to trap bobcat, gray fox, red fox, river otter, badger, mink, muskrat, opossum and weasel during furbearer season. Check the Oklahoma Hunting and Fishing Regulations Guide for license requirements, legal traps and season bag limits. 🐾



# ping Camps for Youths



*Youths, parents and instructors gather for a group photo at one of last year's trapping camps conducted by the Oklahoma Fur Bearers Alliance.*



*This youth shows off one of his traps.*



*These young trappers hold a beaver harvested during camp.*



# Pages From the Past

Outdoor Oklahoma magazine is 75 years old this year! Many memorable items have graced the pages of nearly 650 issues printed since 1945. Here, we look back at a few of those items, just to reminisce. From the October 1988 issue, this Deer Hunter's Handbook provides plenty of information and advice, and most of it remains relevant and factual today.

## Deer Hunter's Handbook

### *Natural History and Management*



- Most Oklahoma whitetails are born in May or June, about 200 days after the fall breeding season.
- Fawns are born with spotted coats which help them blend into the dappled shade of woodland thickets, a useful aid for hiding from enemies.
- Fawns lose their spotted coats during September, when they shed into the bluish-gray winter coat of the adult. Fawns are not weaned until about 60 days after birth.
- Does can become sexually mature as early as seven or eight months. Bucks may be sexually mature as fawns, but usually don't breed until their second fall.
- Bucks in Oklahoma begin growing antlers in late April or early May, when increased day length stimulates changes in the male hormone levels in the blood, which causes antler growth.
- Growing antlers are covered by velvet, a living tissue containing a network of blood vessels which nourish the antlers from the outside. This is one way antlers differ from horns, which are nourished by blood vessels from the inside.
- In the fall, a sudden increase in male hormone levels in the blood cause the velvet to shed, starting at the tips and ending at the base of the antler.
- In early fall, bucks with polished antlers enter the rut, or mating condition, a period marked by increased aggression as bucks establish their dominance.
- In Oklahoma, the rut peaks in mid-November, with hunting seasons set so the majority of bucks taken are harvested after peak mating.
- By the end of winter, the buck's antlers are dropped and does and bucks are both shedding their thick winter coats in favor of thinner, reddish summer coats.
- Diminishing amounts of land suitable for deer and the success of Oklahoma's deer management program have created a situation which early Oklahomans would have thought unlikely — in some regions deer populations can no longer be permitted to increase and, in some cases, must be reduced to avoid destruction of deer food sources from overbrowsing.
- Because some parts of Oklahoma's deer range are now holding as many deer as the land can support in a healthy condition, the state's deer management program must be modified to meet new problems. Thus, while bucks-only hunting was a useful technique when rapid herd growth was desired, bucks-only hunting will not control the deer population enough to keep the animals from surpassing the ability of the land to feed them.
- Contrary to the belief of many hunters, up to a third of the harvest can be composed of does each year and the herd will still continue to increase if food sources are adequate. A harvest consisting of more than 45 percent does is needed before herds will be reduced.





## Preparing for the Hunt

The consistently successful deer hunter is one who begins preparation well in advance of the hunt. Through this effort he greatly increases his chances for filling his tag. Finding a good place to hunt, adequate scouting, choosing the right firearms or bow and refining both its accuracy and the ability to use it are only a few of the requirements to be met. While time consuming and demanding, pre-season preparation is just as necessary to successful hunting as are the abilities needed during the actual hunt.

Here are some suggestions to help you become fully prepared:

- Become as familiar as possible with the natural history and habits of the whitetail.
- Study season rules and regulations and be sure to adhere to conservation laws.
- Visit with knowledgeable deer hunters and do all the research you can to locate good deer hunting areas.
- Recognize that hunting is a privilege, not a right. Although deer and all other wildlife are owned by the public, 95 percent of Oklahoma is privately owned and hunting on private land requires permission.
- Before season opens, get to know landowners in the areas you hope to hunt.
- Once granted permission to hunt on private land, follow instructions closely while scouting or hunting, and use extreme care in dealing with livestock, fences, gates, buildings and machinery.
- If damage occurs to private property while you hunt, assume responsibility and offer to replace items or repair damage.
- Report damage such as downed fences, stray livestock or illegal trespass to landowners and offer assistance in correcting these problems.
- Offer to share your venison with the landowner and stop and visit or offer to help him during the off-season, not just when you want to hunt.
- As a token of your appreciation, send a letter of thanks, a Christmas card, or even a small present to those on whose land you hunt.
- Investigate opportunities for hunting on public land. Although only about five percent of the state is publicly owned, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation manages nearly 900,000 acres for wildlife, much of it inhabited by deer.
- Fifty-two wildlife management areas are scattered around the state, many of them intensively managed for deer.
- Deer hunting on some WMAs is restricted and controlled through the use of a permit drawing system, but the majority are open to general hunting.
- Obtain regulations and instructions prior to each new calendar deer season for open lands, and participate in the special hunts permit system.
- The publication "Public Hunting Lands of Oklahoma" is available from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and can be of great benefit to the deer hunter. The atlas, consisting of maps and area descriptions, is available at a cost of \$2 by mail, or \$1 if picked up at the Department's Oklahoma City or Tulsa offices.

## Scouting

- Select several different locations for potential hunting spots and scout as many as possible to narrow your choices as the season approaches.
- Scout hunting areas as often as possible, both in early morning and late afternoon.
- Intensify your scouting as the season nears. Deer often change their habits, so scouting information two weeks old may no longer be valid.
- While scouting, look for deer sign around well-used trails, feeding and bedding areas.
- Check for deer hair caught on barbed wire at deer crossings and try to locate special feed areas.



- After considering all the information gathered by scouting, select the exact location or locations in which you plan to hunt.
- More than one possible hunting site is desirable to allow last minute changes based on wind direction or other environmental conditions on the day of the hunt.
- Different morning and evening locations may also be desirable to take advantage of the route deer take during various times of day when feeding, rutting or bedding.
- Decide on appropriate routes to your stand to avoid leaving unnecessary human scent in the area from which you expect deer to come.

## Equipment and Clothing

- The successful deer hunter must be properly equipped on the day of the hunt, and choosing an appropriate firearm or bow is of primary importance.
- While there is no "all-around deer gun," the following calibers are popular and effective: In wide-open spaces, fast and flat shooting rifles like the .270, 30.06, .308, .243 or .300 Winchester magnum; in short-range situations, 30-30, .44 magnum, muzzle-loading rifles and slug shooting shotguns, are popular.
- Check the legality of the firearm and load for the particular area of the state in which you plan to hunt.
- Compounds and recurve bows with minimum draw weights of 40 pounds are popular among the legal choices for bowhunters.
- For the most efficient performance, adequate testing should be made before the season to match the appropriate load or broadhead to your firearm or bow.
- Practice your shooting. After all your scouting and preparation, an errant shot may not only cripple the deer, but ruin your enjoyment of the hunt.
- Practice shooting at the distances at which you plan to hunt, and become familiar with the trajectory of your load or arrows.
- Knives with good quality blades about four inches long are adequate for field dressing your deer. Anything larger just adds to excessive and unnecessary weight.
- Other important items to remember include: Binoculars, compass, maps, ropes and first-aid equipment.
- To be fully prepared for the hunt, make a checklist of necessary items.
- Making sure you have the correct clothing for the day of the hunt is also of great importance. Outer garments should meet legal safety color requirements in addition to those of comfort.
- If garments are worn in layers they not only keep in warmth, but can be easily removed for comfort as the day warms up.
- Proper footwear is also of great importance. Choose boots which will not only keep feet warm, but that will give needed support for a long day's hunt.
- Take the time to complete a hunter-safety training course and urge all those with whom you plan to hunt to attend. It is time well spent and it could save your life!

## The Hunt

After all the pre-season effort for finding a place to hunt, scouting, fine-tuning your equipment, planning and packing, the time most hunters spend pursuing their quarry, is but a fraction of the total invested. Once in the woods, though, the hunter must be able to cope with ever-changing variables, applying his talents and knowledge to their fullest in the short time available to hunt.

There are often many choices to be made dur-

ing the course of a hunt, and most of these decisions will be reached while using one of two basic hunting methods -- still or stand hunting. Still hunting is the art of moving as slowly and quietly as possible while looking for deer. Stand hunting involves hiding in a well-concealed area or erecting a blind or a tree stand near a deer trail or crossing and remaining undetected as deer walk within range.





## Still Hunting

- Still hunting, depending on weather and other environmental conditions, is a popular technique on areas of low hunting pressures where deer are unalarmed and may more easily be stalked.
- Steady wind and quiet footing are often essential to successful still hunting.
- Walk into a crosswind or headwind when still hunting to prevent your odor from revealing your position.
- When still hunting move very slowly a few steps at a time, then stop and observe for two or three times as long as you have walked.
- Look over new fields of view carefully while exposing as little of yourself as possible.
- Hunt feed areas in early morning and late evening, bedding or loitering areas in the middle of the day.
- Look for parts of animals when trying to spot them in the woods, since you will rarely see the whole deer.
- Look for movement, a patch of white or flicker of an ear, as these will most likely be the first signs by which deer will reveal themselves.
- Take advantage of cover -- trees, bushes, high grass, etc.
- Watch wind direction and change your direction of movement as the wind changes.

## Stand Hunting

- Harvest records show that stand hunting is the most successful deer hunting technique used in Oklahoma.
- Stand hunting is a preferred technique in areas of heavy hunting pressure. Other hunters move deer down runways and into the range of well-positioned stand hunters.
- Select a spot near a heavy-use area, keeping in mind the direction of the wind.
- Trails are ideal locations, especially where two or more well-used trails cross.
- During late November, when deer should be in the peak of rut, areas containing rubs and scrapes are good hunting sites.
- Rubs and scrapes are often found on high ridges or saddles, knolls, terraced hillside benches, small brushy clearings or just inside or along the edge of a woodlot.
- Odds can be increased in your favor by using a tree stand or by locating yourself above the area you are watching. This not only helps in concealment, but also keeps human odor above deer.
- Use a counter odorant (e.g. skunk) to mask your own, placing the skunk scent 10 yards downwind in two or more places.
- Remain patient and stay as motionless as possible while on a stand and you will increase your chances for success.

## Where to Hit the Deer

Several vital shots can be made on a deer, but before shooting three other decisions must be made:

- 1) Make absolutely sure the animal in your sights is a deer -- there is no room for error.
- 2) Make sure it is the deer you want to shoot and that it meets the requirements of your tag.
- 3) Pick the best time to shoot and don't rush your shot. You may needlessly miss or wound your deer.

- The best spot for the average deer hunter to choose is the lung area. The goal is a fast, clean kill, and this is the largest vital area on the deer.
- Other areas such as heart, neck, brain and spine will produce kills, but these areas are much, much smaller and, under hunting conditions, much harder for even the best shots to reliably hit.
- Don't shoot at the entire deer. Force yourself to concentrate on the exact spot you intend to hit.



## Trailing the Deer



- Deer hit in vital locations with a rifle or shotgun should go down within viewing range. Those which escape your vision, as do most deer hit by the bowhunter, will require trailing.
- Check for signs of a hit after all shots.
- Wait at least 15-30 minutes for the deer to lie down. Don't rush the deer as this will push it further away and increase your chances of losing the trail.
- Mark the spot at which both you and the deer stood when you shot.
- Use surveyors tape or a similar material and mark each spot or pool of blood or broken twig found along the trail.
- Don't talk after hitting a deer. Your voice may spook it further away.
- Look for blood on leaves, grass, brush, branches and rocks.
- Tiny bubbles in bright red blood found along the trail often indicate a lung hit.
- Wounded deer often go downhill and toward water.

## After the Kill

- Before approaching a downed animal, be sure it is dead.
- Be sure to attach tag to the animal.
- Field dressing a deer can be done quickly, easily and properly if a few basic steps are followed.
- Two main considerations are to be kept in mind while removing the deer from the field: Ease of movement and minimizing the bruising of the meat.
- Attach a rope around the neck or antlers and put the line over your shoulder.
- Place some padding on your shoulder and pull down on the rope as you drag. This enables you to lift the head of the deer off the ground making the body easier to drag.
- Tying the front feet to the head helps keep them from catching on brush and other obstacles.
- Rest often while moving your kill and be careful not to overexert yourself. If possible, get help.
- To avoid being shot, never carry a deer over your shoulders.
- Consult your compass and map and take the easiest and most direct route to possible transportation.
- Remove extra clothing as needed to avoid overheating.
- Once at your vehicle, take your deer to the nearest check station. Checking the deer enables Wildlife Department officials to record valuable biological information.





Cut through hide along center line of belly from brisket to vent. Deepen cut through belly muscles using fingers to guide knife and avoid cutting intestines.



Cut deeply around anus. Remove it with intestines. Separate hind quarters by splitting pelvis bone with sharp, heavy knife or handaxe.



Open chest cavity, front to back, through breast bone. Split muscle (diaphragm) separating chest from stomach cavity.



Sever gullet and windpipe as far forward as possible. Pull heart, liver, lungs, paunch and intestines out on the ground.



Prop body cavity open with sticks and cool quickly by hanging, head up, in a shady, airy place. Let it hang this way for about an hour before moving it to camp or car.



# The Outdoor Store

OUTDOOR STORE items are sold in person at the Oklahoma City headquarters, 1801 N. Lincoln Blvd. or online at [license.GoOutdoorsOklahoma.com](https://www.GoOutdoorsOklahoma.com). Create or sign into your account, or just click on "Shop."



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## Oklahoma Habitat Donor Window Decals

Show your support of the Wildlife Department's Land Acquisition Fund with these striking window decals. All proceeds are earmarked to help provide hunting and fishing access to the public. — \$10 each



## Outdoor Oklahoma Caps

These sharp, colorful fabric caps feature the "Outdoor Oklahoma" logo. Available selections may vary from those shown here (subject to availability). — \$20



## Oklahoma Waterfowl Hunting Stamp

Oklahoma "duck stamps" are always popular with collectors and hunters. While each year's stamp features a different handsome design sure to add appeal to any stamp collection, funds from stamp sales are used for many kinds of waterfowl management projects. Specify year when ordering. — \$10

*\*\*Prices listed on these pages do not include \$3 online ordering convenience fee.*





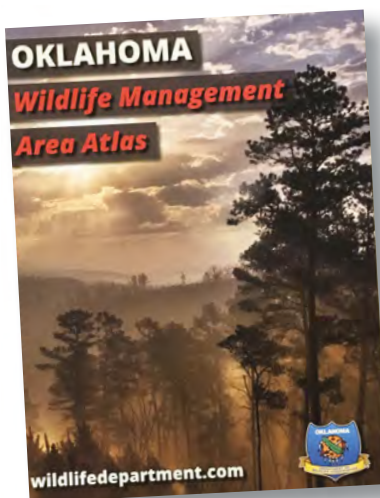
## Wildlife License Plates

Dress up your vehicle while showing your support of our great state's wildlife resources by getting a wildlife license plate. Nine Wildlife Conservation Plates are available to serve as your regular, rear-bumper license plate. The plates cost just \$40 (original or replacement) or \$36.55 (renewals) above your regular annual registration fee with proceeds going to Oklahoma's Wildlife Diversity Program. The forms are available at local tag agencies, or online at [tinyurl.com/WildTags](http://tinyurl.com/WildTags).



## Habitat Donor Caps

Top-quality, American-made caps display the Habitat Donor Patch of your choice, which designates you as a contributor to the Department's Land Acquisition Fund. Wearing this hat means you care about future generations and the great hunting and fishing tradition. Specify hat style on order form. — \$20



## Oklahoma Wildlife Management Area Atlas

This updated edition has topographical maps of Wildlife Management Areas and now includes Department-owned fishing lakes across Oklahoma. At almost 100 pages, the atlas presents maps showing where to access areas, adds lands that have been acquired since 2010, and shows special features at each area such as parking sites, camping areas and food plots.

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# Watchable Wildlife

## THE CANVASBACK DUCK

BY JUSTIN VEACH, EDUCATION INTERN

Sometimes referred to as “the king of ducks,” the canvasback is a sought-after prize by many serious waterfowl hunters. The canvasback is the largest species of diving duck found in North America, with a wingspan that can reach up to 3 feet and an average weight of about 2.5 pounds.

One of the distinctive features of this duck is its gradually sloping forehead that flows smoothly into its long black bill. The adult male has a chestnut-red head with a red eye, a thick neck, blueish-gray legs and feet, a black breast and a light gray or white back. The white, canvas-like color of the male's back led early European settlers of America to begin calling this bird a canvasback.

The adult female has a grayish-brown body with a brown head and neck. It also has a long, sloping black bill. A juvenile canvasback is similar in appearance to an adult female canvasback.

The canvasback's diet normally consists of plants.

In fact, the bird's scientific name, *Aythya valisineria*, is partially derived from its favorite food, wild celery (*Vallisneria americana*). These ducks will also feed on invertebrates such as snails, mussels, insects, and insect larva. As a member of the diving duck family, the canvasback can swim 15 feet underwater for 10-20 seconds to capture its food.

The canvasback prefers to build its nest around slow-moving water, including lakes or ponds that are surrounded by vegetation such as bulrushes and cattails for nest cover. They will usually pair up with a new mate each year, near the end of winter in Alaska and northwestern Canada. Clutch sizes

usually range from five to 11 eggs, and the incubation period is a little less than a month.

One interesting fact about the canvasback is that the female sometimes will lay an egg or two in another female's nest, and other birds such as redhead ducks will also lay their eggs in a canvasback's nest. Once the eggs hatch, the female will lead the ducklings into the water, where the young will learn to gather food. The young will stay with the mother until it is time to migrate south for winter.

Diving ducks tend to have larger bodies with smaller wings, therefore they stay on the water nearly all the time. To become airborne, they need to run across the top of the water to build up enough speed for their wings to lift them up. While in flight, canvasbacks line up into a V-shaped formation.

Because of their larger bodies and smaller wings, canvasbacks are fast fliers.

One has been clocked going 72 mph in level flight, while most other ducks travel about 40 mph.

A fair number of canvasbacks make their way down the Central Flyway during fall migration. When passing through Oklahoma, they prefer to rest on large expanses of open water, but they will congregate in shallower areas to feed. Waterfowl hunters in Oklahoma are usually allowed to harvest canvasbacks during the hunting season, but bag limits for these birds vary from year to year. Some years, the hunting season has been closed on canvasbacks based on population surveys. For the 2020-21 waterfowl season in Oklahoma, the daily bag limit for canvasbacks is two. 🦆

*The canvasback's diet normally consists of plants. In fact, the bird's scientific name, *Aythya valisineria*, is partially derived from its favorite food, wild celery (*Vallisneria americana*).*









ERIC BROWN/2019 READERS' PHOTO SHOWCASE



Oklahoma's duck hunters were recently asked for suggestions on simplifying zones and season dates, which resulted in some notable changes for this year's waterfowl season. Get HIP to all the details inside this issue of Outdoor Oklahoma.

# Outdoor Oklahoma

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

