



These two massive bucks were photographed on the 700 Springs Ranch.

... Turkeys

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 you're just looking to harvest a bird, jakes are the ticket since they usually are more vocal and easy to lure in than gobblers or even hens.

It's a good bet more turkeys are harvested with deer rifles than shotguns each year, but there are things to account for should you attempt a shot with a high-velocity bullet instead of scattergun pellets. The easiest thing to do is put the crosshairs or sights dead on the middle of the bird and pull the trigger. However, that ends up with a whole lots of flying feathers — and wasted meat.

On birds I've taken with a rifle, I stuck the scope on the bird right at the base of the neck and squeezed off a round. Each time I've come back with all of the same meat that I did when I harvested a bird with a shotgun and place the open sights just below the turkey's

head.

Hunting turkeys in the fall also lends itself to being able to stay out all day. During the spring, especially in the South Texas brush country, temperatures often can rise into the 90s or even hotter, which means early and late hunting if you're doing much moving to find birds. When you're hunting in the fall the temperatures likely are half that regardless of what part of Texas you're in.

And that's one of the biggest hurdles to successful turkey hunting — the more time you put in the better the results. It always has worked that way.

**Texas Parks & Wildlife
 Game Warden
 Field Notes
 Divided by 8
 Equals Zero**

Webb County game wardens on patrol encountered eight hunters who seemed to be having great success based on the

amount of shooting that they were doing. Upon contacting the individuals, one of the wardens walked into the field and immediately noticed large amounts of milo scattered throughout the field. Baiting fields to attract migratory game birds during hunting season is illegal, as is hunting dove over bait. An inspection of one hunter's vehicle revealed two empty bags of milo feed in the truck bed. After speaking with all eight hunters, they admitted to knowingly hunting the baited area, as well as placing the bait the previous day. The wardens subsequently seized approximately 360 mourning and white-winged dove and cited eight hunters for various hunting and baiting violations. Civil restitution is pending. All edible resources were donated.

Good Catch

A Morris County game warden observed two people fishing on Big Cypress Creek

and made contact to check for compliance. Neither subject had a fishing license. An ID check revealed a warrant against one of the individuals for organized crime out of Upshur County. While getting the warrant confirmed, a Lone Star police officer arrived on scene for backup. While being patted down for the officer's safety, one subject was in possession of five grams of methamphetamine and prescription drugs in his pocket. Both subjects were transported to the county jail. Inventory was conducted on the vehicle and an additional 20 grams of methamphetamine was found along with a digital scale. The citations and charges are pending.

Fetch Him Up Rex!

While checking fishermen at a local community lake near Greenville late one afternoon, a Hunt County game warden approached an individual who suddenly dropped his equipment and fled into the nearby brush. Rather than pursue the man into the brush in total darkness, the warden called the Greenville Police Department and requested K-9 assistance. A K-9 officer arrived shortly accompanied by his dog, Rex, who shortly after picking up a scent trail convinced the fugitive to come out of hiding. An investigation revealed the man was heavily intoxicated, and was in possession of syringes and other drug paraphernalia. He had also been fishing without a license and driving on a suspended license. An arrest was made and the cases are pending.

Bagging Buzzards

Game wardens were working South Zone dove hunters near El Campo when they received a call from a local hunter claiming that he had seen several subjects in an

adjacent field who had shot and killed vultures. The wardens made contact with three individuals who initially denied shooting anything but dove. After a brief interview, and several lies later, the suspects finally confessed to shooting and killing two vultures and revealed the birds' location. Citations for killing protected non-game birds were issued and restitution is pending.

Caught and Released

A Williamson County game warden was patrolling the Overlook Park on Lake Georgetown following several complaints that people were taking undersized striped bass. The warden found one individual who didn't have a valid fishing license and was in possession of three striped bass measuring 17, 18, and 19 inches. The warden confiscated the fish and was able to release two of them back into the water alive. The other striped bass was donated to a needy family. The fisherman was issued citations for not having a fishing license and possession of undersized striped bass. Civil restitution is pending.

After the Storm

Willacy County game wardens wasted no time patrolling the county upon returning from Hurricane Harvey disaster relief operations in Woodsboro and Rockport. During opening weekend of dove season, the wardens seized at least 80 mourning dove from various groups for violations ranging from no hunting license, to over daily bag limit and unplugged shotgun. They also even made time to surprise a couple of gill netters as they were retrieving their nets and catch out of the water. Over 30 citations were issued. The cases and restitution are pending.

STC
SURETY TITLE COMPANY
 3 E. 6th Street
 PO Box 69
 Robert Lee, Texas 76945
 Office - (325) 453-2049
 Fax - (325) 453-2345

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