

HUNTING

Air guns taking a shot at mainstream hunting

By Darlene McCormick Sanchez
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Hunting with high-powered air rifles offers a novel way to take non-game animals that's similar to hunting with a muzzleloader.

Cody Monroe, a pro-staffer with Air-Force Airguns out of Burleson, has been

hunting hogs for 30 years. So when he was introduced to modern, powerful air guns, it seemed a natural fit to marry the two.

"It's a new element, and it's becoming very popular," Monroe said. "They're made right here. The quality of the gun is phenomenal."

After getting the hang of shooting

the air rifles, Monroe decided to try hog hunting with one about three years ago. Normally, he feels comfortable taking a shot with a rifle at around 150 yards. With the air rifle, he prefers to take shots within 100 yards at predators and hogs.

"Mainly our hog hunting is at night with thermal meters," he said. He also



The .45-caliber Texan air gun is gaining in popularity when hunting larger game such as this mouflon sheep taken by Cary Hoops. Photo from Cody Monroe.

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A new place for scouts to shoot



Boy Scouts in the North Texas area have a new place to learn to shoot both shotguns and rifles. Volunteer Robert Higginbotham helped Dakota Scott take one of the first shots at a new shooting sports complex built in honor of the late Gill Clements. On May 18, Circle Ten Council of the Boy Scouts of America dedicated the complex located 8 miles from downtown Dallas. Camp Wisdom serves 60,000 youth in North Texas and Oklahoma. The facility includes a new shooter education building, a trap station, a five-stand building complete with seven new Promatic machines and a 75-yard rifle range. Three other camps in Circle Ten offer shooting sports. The BSA has awarded more than two million scouts with shooting merit badges and three million wildlife conservation merit badges. The complex was made possible by gifts from the Gill Clements Foundation and Joe R. Crafton Jr. Photo by Greg Mazon.

Stuffer turkey decoy brings in first bird

By Craig Nyhus
LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Jeremy Box of Cross Plains started hunting last year with his 11-year-old son, Jaedin. Near the end of turkey season, everything came together for the father and son.

"It was our first turkey hunt," Box said. "We had gone out a few days earlier but didn't see or hear anything."

For the hunt, they had help from some friends.

"We had a borrowed call, a borrowed decoy and a borrowed shotgun," Box said.

His friend, Stan Chism of West Texas Feeder Supply, provided the call and decoy.

"He showed me how to call and told me how often to do it," Box said.

On the morning of the hunt, the pair set up in a cleared area among many cedars.

"We were out there an hour and a

half," Box said. "We were thinking about leaving and Jaedin was having trouble sitting still that long. Then I called again and we heard gobbles about 70 yards behind us."

The two hunters froze.

"They came down a little two-track road behind us and got right next to us," Box said. "We had to turn into statues. I thought they could see us, but the decoy deterred them and they headed right for it. It seemed like an hour but I know it was just a few seconds."

The decoy wasn't plastic. It was a taxidermied hen that Chism had made.

"He wanted a real live-looking decoy," Box said.

The birds were fooled.

"There were two hens and three gob-



A taxidermied hen fooled toms and hens alike during a father-son hunting trip. Photo by Stan Chism.

blers," Box said. "The hens went to the decoy first and started pecking on it. Then the toms tried to tear it up — the

Rattlesnakes preying on quail

By Ray Sasser
FOR LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Rattlers eat quail, but it's not that frequent. But this year, they appear to be on the menu more.

At Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch, the snakes have tied a record, eating four birds equipped with telemetry transmitters in just six weeks. As a comparison, four telemetry birds were eaten in the entire year of 2009.

The ranch typically has about 120 birds "on the air," wearing transmitters by nesting season. The nickel-sized devices allow researchers to track the quail.

Dale Rollins, executive director, figures quail fall victim to a snake that's hiding in cover when the bird passes within striking distance. He's seen it happen once, though the victim was a pen-raised bird being used in a quail management demonstration. The bird had been tracked and flushed once. When it was flushed a second time it flew about 30

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