

Missouri Turkey Hunt
By: Antler Al Mears

Howdie Folks,

If you are looking for a great place to turkey hunt—then you have found it. My hunting partner Jason Mears and I came here for the first time in the spring of 2005. We both work for Rub-Lines whitetail magazine and are Pro-Staff Members (Team Indiana) for Xtreme Outdoors. We went to Backwood's Outfitter to try and hunt some Missouri turkeys. Not only hunt but also to try and lay down some video footage.

The first morning out, we heard over 25 birds gobbling. We knew Missouri was a good turkey state but this was way beyond our hopes. As we were trying to hunt with a bow, the task proved a little difficult. We had several birds within gun range and got all kinds of footage with the camera during the first two days of the hut. Then we switched to a ML and should have had a kill but a misfire took care of that chance. I guess that is why they call it hunting instead of killing. The weather was cold and windy but we were still covered up with birds.

We didn't take a bird that first year but we knew we were coming back. Jason was a good guide who knows how to call, knows his hunting grounds and is a good Christian man to be around.

As spring of 2006 rolled around, we found ourselves heading for North-eastern Missouri-Knox County-home of the big mouthed and big-bodied turkeys. This time, we brought along "old faithful" a 3 ½ 10 gauge shotgun that can reach out and touch!

Again the first two mornings we had plenty of birds and action-just couldn't get that kill shot. However, we did find a ridge that was loaded with turkey sign. We decided to set up along a field edge at the base of it for the last mornings hunt and that turned out to be a good decision.

As daybreak drew near, a couple of the local owls cut loose with the hoots and to wake up the turkeys. 1,2,4,6,10. No less than 11 Toms cut loose with gobbles-all within 200 yards of us. We had a set of 'BREEDING TURKEY' decoys about 12 yards in front of us and softly threw out a calls of our own. Within minutes we had a couple hens in front of us being pestered by a couple Jakes. Then two long beards entered the field, chased off the jakes and saw our decoy set-up. That's all it took. They turned and literally ran across the field towards our setup. The camera was rolling as the first Tom hit the decoys at a run, bending the metal rod that stakes them into the ground. Jason wasted no time in pulling the trigger and anchoring the big bird to the ground right beside the decoys. The second Tom saw his partner go down and began flogging it. Jason and I began to switch Camera and gun. The Tom caught the flicker of motion and started to move off but some hard loud calling kept him within range. Yes, I dropped the other bird at 35 yards—we got a double! And what a double it was. Jason's bird was pounds My Tom had a double beard measuring and spurs. They weighed & respectfully. Both were beautiful birds and needless to say – we were Happy Hunters!!

If you would like to see this hunt and many other deer, bear and turkey hunts, contact Antler Al Mears at 765-585-0289 or e-mail antleral@yahoo.com for information on our new "Hoosier Hunting Adventures" DVD being released in April of 2007.

Also, if you are a deer hunter and have a story to tell and would like to see it in a National published magazine –contact Antler Al or go to www.rublines.com for more information. And if you want to see some of the best deer hunting DVD's on the market, go to www.xtremeoutdoorspro.com.

Backwoods Outfitters is a marvelous place to go Turkey Hunting. If you have ever dreamed of a hunting location that is loaded with birds for a reasonable price-give Jason a call # 573-478-3105, you won't be disappointed!!