

Turkey Hunting Notes

Dear Turkey Hunters:

Just a few notes to be thinking about prior to your upcoming turkey hunt. First you will need to download your turkey licenses and habitat stamp through the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission at www.OutdoorNebraska.org. Although you can purchase three licenses (3 birds), I would suggest to only purchase two licenses each, and if a second bird is shot, you can run into the town of Bassett, NE just 20 miles away and purchase the third license or we can order in on-line at the Bed and Breakfast. Reason I note this is that anyone whom 'hits' a bird and that bird is not retrieved, this bird will be considered one of your three birds shot. On that note, I obviously wouldn't have you cutting a tag on your license, but if you had three licenses, I wouldn't allow for the third tag to be used.

Weather this time of year can be very unpredictable. I have seen full tilt blizzards to very warm days. So you will need to plan to dress in layers. Most mornings begin about 30 F and run up to 50-60F. But again, I have seen plenty of days in the high teens.

If you are flying, the closest airports are Pierre, South Dakota (2.5), Sioux City, Iowa (3), and Omaha, Nebraska at 4 hours. Most persons fly into Omaha as it generally is the cheapest flight. From there you would rent a vehicle and drive up.

The more you practice the better off you'll be, especially from inside a blind. It is different from inside a blind, and the better the shooting, the less we will harass a particular group of turkeys on each property. If you have time, do try to watch videos or you-tube scenarios to notice where the shot placement is best on a turkey. I can go over this further in camp, but anything you watch ahead of time is helpful.

If you are driving, do plan to bring at least one large cooler to transport birds back home. Those that are flying and want to take the birds, I can package into a rubber-maid tote, and if anyone wants to leave their birds with the folks that own the bed and breakfast, you are more than welcome to do this as well.

Typical day will have us up very early with a light breakfast of cereal, oatmeal, cinnamon rolls and coffee and OJ before heading out. I will pack lunches and thermos for everyone. We generally hunt until 10am-noon, returning back to the bed and breakfast for a late brunch and generally to clean a bird or two. After that, we will head back out for mid-afternoon until dark for the afternoon hunt, where the lunches will hold us over until supper.

On the final morning, we will do a morning hunt until I basically see that the show is over with, which will be typically around 9am, where we will head back and you can shower, pack and head out. My next group of hunters generally shows by early afternoon in time for an afternoon hunt if it works out.

Truly this is a great and fun hunt. Laid back, relaxing in the regards that spring is returning everything back to life, and a peaceful part of the US, where the nearest Wal-Mart is 2 1/2 hours away. There is something nice about that.

Look forward to seeing everyone.

Jason Lambley

Turkey Hunting Equipment List

- * Black face mask
- * Black gloves
- * Insulated glove/mittens
- * Black shirt, jacket or coat (if you don't have black upper clothing, camouflage will work)
- * Bow
- * Dozen arrows
- * Quiver (preferably that holds a minimum of four to six arrows)
- * Dozen broad heads, with preference to a larger style expanding head; ex. rage, grim reaper, wasp jack-hammer. For those shooting a lighter poundage bow, shoot a fixed three blade.
- * Warm jacket, pants, or bibs; weather can fluctuate from 15 degrees to 80 degrees!
- * Light pants and jacket
- * Long underwear, top and bottom
- * Hiking shoes/boots
- * Warm insulated boots or insulated muck boots for colder days
- * Lodge shoes for back at the bed and breakfast
- * Heat packs; ideal for those chilly mornings
- * Medium size back-pack; needed to pack extra clothing, lunch and thermos
- * Small flashlight/head lamp
- * Reading material:magazines, small paperbacks for inside the blind

Practice 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 yard shots. Most practicing should be done between 15-20 yards from a sitting or kneeling position and preferably out of a blind.

Practice shooting your broadheads—know how they fly compared to your field tips.

Watch any video possible on where to hit a turkey. My advice is to follow the legs up. If you hit them high, you are into their guts and we are going to make the retrieve; if its low, its through the birds' drumstick and we will make the retrieve as well. It is the shots into the front of the breast that we will lose.

**Please note, that the more you practice the better off we will be. Too often because this is a cheaper paid hunt, often times hunters don't prepare shooting enough in advance. The real problem comes as the more that we hunt each property the more we educate the birds.

Driving directions. Roger and Edith Wentworth, Big Canyon Inn, 402-497-3170. If you are coming up from the south, get yourself to Bassett, NE. Go north on highway 7; you don't need to pay attention to mile markers, but roughly 15 miles north you will go over the Niobrara River. Once you go over the river you will go up a very long valley eventually cresting this huge river valley (roughly 2 miles). Once you crest the valley, there will be a yellow/grey house on the right side of the road with a big shed—this is the Big Canyon Inn.

Coming from the north, you will head south out of Springview, NE. Just two miles south of Springview, you will turn left onto HWY 7 and go roughly 8 miles, again you don't need to pay attention to mile markers, as the highway is going to eventually turn to the right and begin heading south. Once it turns back to the south, roughly one mile and on the left-left-hand side will be the house of Roger and Edith Wentworth.