



January 12, 2016

To All THC Members:



**Royce Pointsett, "Maggie," Matthew Tully, Fred Shannon, "Bo"  
Outstanding Saturday Hunt on the Nellie Pond - 33 Birds**

### **SECOND SPLIT FOURTH WEEK RESULTS - MORE BIRDS ARRIVE**

New birds continue to arrive as the Mid-west greets freezing winter weather. This past Saturday 44 guns shot 237 birds for an average of 5.5 birds/hunter. For the forth-full week of the second split of duck season 77 hunters bagged 343 birds for an average of 4.5 birds/gun/day. Last week close to 40% of our groups shot full limits of ducks at; Bear, Nellie (2), Shoveler (2), Remington, Swale, and Middle. The best hunt occurred at Nellie (photo above). Greenwings are still our top bird, but pintails are coming on strong in many of our ponds. Redheads made a surprise visit and Bluewings are still around. With only two weekends left this may be the first season we have shot bluewings continuously from the opening day of early teal season through the closing of the main duck season. Think about that, Bluewings from the beginning of September through the end of January!

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Not counting goose and marsh hunts the club has harvested a little under 3,400 birds with a 4.6 birds/gun/day average. In this offset year of surprises in water, weather, and the migration across the entire Central Flyway we are on tract to have another banner season. The keys are the careful management of the habitat and gunning pressure, limited memberships, resting the waterfowl, and a great mix of members and cooperative landowners.

### **MIGRATION UPDATE**

It appears we got a push of new birds last week; ducks, geese, and finally a few cranes. Wildlife Management Areas to the south of us are still holding and shooting good numbers of ducks meaning birds are holding in the area. Redheads were shot on many of our ponds, this never ever happens at this time of year meaning a push of them came in from up North. Cross the Stateline and you will experience the chill. Freezing wetlands will be the norm through most of the states to our north meaning another nice push of birds should ensue. I just returned from Arkansas and witnessed firsthand rivers out of their banks and endless flooded fields stretching for miles. Duck ponds the likes I have never seen anywhere in America. And on those ponds were lots and lots and lots of ducks. The "Natural State" number one duck appears to be smirking greenheads (spoonies) and not their beloved mallard. If the weather hits this area right I fully expect a push of shovelers into Louisiana and Texas, a duck that we have not seen much of lately except for spurts at Radley and Rod North, courtesy of the fish ponds to the South.



**Chad Crim & Andrew Lewis**

**3-Man Limits of Pintails & Teal - Nellie Pond Wednesday Hunt**

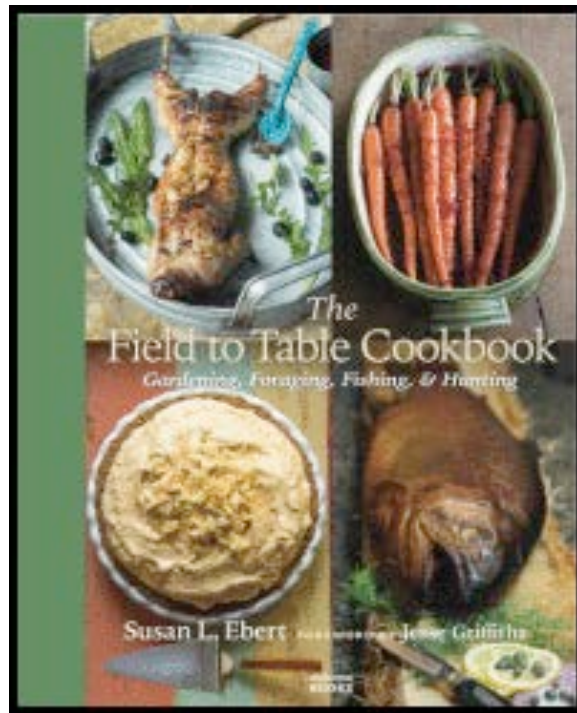
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## **FIELD TO TABLE COOKBOOK - SUSAN EBERT**

Time to get serious about this weight loss thing. As with most it all slides downhill starting around the Thanksgiving feast; fried turkeys and honey hams, sides and pies of every size and concoction, super-sized bottles of libations, and oh the leftovers - saran-wrapped heaps of mountainous food on multiple paper plates. Our waists would survive this assault, but it is only the first wave. An endless array of delicacy trays and stuffed goodie jars from relatives, neighbors, and vendors soon follows - belts are loosened at least one notch and for some a comfortable fit...two holes over. Then we get to overindulge all again; an endless carnival of Christmas gorging parties and New Year's binge celebrations.

I thought the waistline assault was over, time to count calories and resume daily trips to the "Y." But it was not to be. Along comes Susan Ebert to Thunderbird with her culinary magic and salivating dinner guests anticipating the feast. Not sure what the dish was called but I made *damn sure* there were no leftovers on the Oak Meadows crab stuffed raviolis over spinach fettuccine. Many of you luckily enough to be around the lodge at dinner know the decadent pleasure Susan brings to the taste buds. Susan now shares some of her cooking secrets in a new outdoor cooking book called *The Field to Table Cookbook*. This special cookbook brings 175 family-pleasing, nutritious, and accessible recipes to home cooks who want to increase their familiarity with procuring and cooking clean, organic meat, fish, fruits, and vegetables. The price is \$40 and will go on sale in February. We will give you details on buying the signed book direct from Susan next month. One of her recipes follows on the next page. Thanks Susan!



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### Roasted Pintail by Susan L. Ebert

Arguably the tastiest duck next to teal, the elegant pintail is well suited to a simple marinade, then roasting on a hot charcoal grill. This calls for plucked, not skinned, ducks—a cinch when you use the paraffin method to pluck (see sidebar). Keep in mind that wild ducks are marathon migrators and don't have the body fat of barnyard birds. Serve wild duck medium-rare; cook any longer than that and they'll develop a liver-y taste and be tough. A half pintail per person makes a nice presentation, and a dandy meal.



Serves 4

- ✦ 2 plucked pintails, semi-spatchcocked (keel bone and ribcage removed) and split in half
- ✦ Grated zest and juice of 1 blood orange
- ✦ Grated zest and juice of 2 Key limes
- ✦ ½ cup white champagne vinegar
- ✦ ½ cup dry rosé or white wine
- ✦ ½ cup grapeseed oil
- ✦ 2 tablespoons agave nectar
- ✦ 1 tablespoon chopped fresh rosemary
- ✦ 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- Place the duck halves on a wire rack over a drip pan (do not cover), and dry-age in the refrigerator for at least 48 hours. When you are ready to cook, place the halves in a 13 x 9-inch baking pan.
- Combine the remaining ingredients in a bowl, pour over the pintails, cover with plastic wrap, and marinate for at least 4 hours.
- Build a hot fire on one side of the grill (or just light one side, if using a gas grill) and bring your coals to a white-hot enclosed heat of 400° to 450° F.
- When you are ready to grill, place the duck halves breast side down over the coals and close the grill cover. Cook for about 4 minutes, until the skin crisps. Turn the ducks, and move them to the other side of the grill and close the cover so that they roast over indirect heat for another 5 to 6 minutes. The meat is done when the temperature at the thickest part of the breast reads 140° to 145° F, and is still springy to the touch.
- Remove from the grill, tent the breasts with foil, and let them rest for 5 minutes before serving.

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**"Janie" (Nova Scotia Tolling Retriever) with Heather Cornwell  
Limits from the Gadwall Pond**



**Bob Felinsky, Chris Billings, David Billings, & "Bayou"  
4-Man Limits on Ducks plus a Bonus Blue from the Middle Pond**

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## **LANDOWNERS**

The OM landowners will be occupying two duck blinds at Oak Meadows on Saturday, January 16. I will check on whether fishing will be allowed that weekend. The Harrison landowner will be occupying two duck blinds on his property the last day of the season, Sunday January 24.

Best regards,

Todd Steele & Paul McDonald



**Greg Petru, "Chester", Chris Cool, & Trey Nicholson  
4-Man Limits on Ducks plus another Bonus Goose from the Remington Pond**

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### **THUNDERBIRD HUNTING CLUB CALENDER**

- February 1 - Notification of yearly dues for 2016 / 2017, deposits due to hold membership
- February 20 (Saturday) - Decoy Pull / Shrimp Pull (Work applies to 2016-2017 season)
- March 1 - Club memberships open to "wait list" and guests on a first come, first serve basis, based on acceptance and deposits



**More than just a big old gray bird, perfect light reviles all the striking colors of an adult sandhill crane in breeding plumage. Bosque NWR New Mexico**

### **MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING CALENDER**

- January 19 - Closing of South Zone Dove Season (2<sup>nd</sup> split)
- January 24 - Closing of South Zone Duck Season (2<sup>nd</sup> split)
- January 24 - Closing of Zone C (THC leases) Sandhill Crane Season
- January 31 - Closing of East Zone Goose (all species)
- January 31 - Closing of Woodcock Season
- February 1 - Opening of White Goose Conservation Season
- February 14 - Closing of Snipe Season
- March 20 - Closing of White Goose Conservation Season

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