

## **NATIONAL WILD TURKEY**

**Article by Kirk Bunston**

Here in the province of Alberta we currently have limited chances to hunt the Wild Turkey. If you are a Turkey hunter you should take the opportunity to hunt in the province of Ontario. No cross border hassles or Customs, just contact Darin Long at High County Guide Service! High County Guide Services is an excellent choice for both the beginner or seasoned fanatic. Darin Long is an experienced guide with amazing "turkey savvy"! Imagine harvesting a bird of a lifetime in the rolling hills of central Ontario. The species in the province are Eastern's.

I was lucky enough to experience a hunt with Darin this past spring (2004). I was in Ontario visiting family during the spring and was able to get together with Darin for one morning. We met early and made our way through the trees to the edge of a large open field. We could hear the gobbler in the distance calling, still on his roost. Darin, knowing just what to do, conversed with the Tom using a slate call until we heard him "cast" down from his roost. We never saw or heard him again. That's turkey hunting for you! We had numerous hens come into the hen decoy we were using and about half way through the morning decided to try one of Darin's many other locations. The majority of Darin's hunting area is located on private land so there is very little chance of having to compete with other hunters for the attention of that elusive Tom. While making our way back to our vehicle Darin again used his "turkey savvy" by occasionally calling on the slate as we walked. This is a method used by some experienced hunters to locate birds that may be in the area without alarming the birds to our presence. Sure enough we received an answer to one of the calls. A loud gobble, meaning the Tom was close! Little did we know but a huge Tom was making his way across an open field towards our call as we were walking out. We all dropped to the ground and I crawled to the edge of the field using brush for cover. There he was, a beautiful mature Tom still gobbling, looking for the hen he thought must be on her way to greet him. Fortunately, it was I who was there to greet him. What a bird! He weighed in at over 19 lbs, had double beards of 8-1/2" and 10-1/4" and spurs of 7/8" and 3/4". A definite trophy! We proceeded directly to the taxidermist to get a full mount done.

This is the type of hunt most people only dream about. Darin went on that season to guide all of his out of province hunters to birds. If you are looking for the thrill of the hunt and the enjoyment of getting out into the outdoors you should give Darin a call. I guarantee he will do his best to make your trip one to remember! You can reach Darin at 1-519-938-1160 or on his website at [www.high-county-guide-service.com](http://www.high-county-guide-service.com) .Happy Hunting!!

BIRD1

Kirk Bunston, President,  
Eastern Slopes Turkey Tackers,  
NWTF local chapter  
Okotoks, Alberta