Helpful hen provides assistance



A tom turkey
was gobbling
boisterously
from a large oak
on the edge of a
nearby orchard
as I snapped on
my fanny pack
and removed my
12 gauge from its
case. I had

parker and removed my 12 gauge from its case. I had received permission to hunt a farm in southern Montmorney County with the stipulation that I "stay on the property and away from the orehand, inc barns and the horses". Out my luck, "I thought, as a votion call feel loose with a foreign call feel loos with a foreign call feel loose to the bouse. It tried to ignore the enthralling chorus and headed away from the house along the edge of the barns to a stand of jack pines at the farend of the property. There were plenty of tracks and fresh signs of both birds and roading trees in that area and my plan was to intercept a tom as he came down from the roost.

Enguled in darkness, I snuck cautiously and quietly along the wooded property line. As I passed under large maple a pair of roest-

ing bens crupted into flight with the roar of a stealth jet. After regaining my breath and allowing my beart to settle back down to a normal rate I continued toward the back of the property.

I set my decoy on the top edge of a small intoil and positioned myself 20-yards away beneath a large jack pine. I could still hear the concert in the orchard which was now two hay fields and some 350-yards away. As daylight trickled through the budding trees I picked up the source of the music with my binoculars. Four toms—two in full strut — and three hens, My advendin raced like a sprinter, but common sense calmed my nervousness. "I'll never be able to call them this far, Plus, they seem pretty content in the forbidden zone,"
Still, I had to try.

I gave a few yelps and was amazed at the response. Tall feathers fanned out, necks etificated and gobbles came roaring back.

"Well, at least they run hear-

"Well, at least they can hear me," I assured myself. "Now if I

me," I assured myself. "Now if I can lure them my way.".
"Fat chance," I argued. "Tho toms were with hens."
"Yea, but maybe one of them will break away and investigate my hen on the hill," I tried to stay optimistic.

Help on the wing

Desnite the response, the small

immediately began cutting — something I hadn't tried. The tom responded immediately. "GOBBLE, GOBBLE, GOB-BLE, GOBBLE GOBBLE."

simmediately began cutting — something I hadn't tried. The tom the dego of the hay field.

As the decoy swayed in a comming breeze I offered a series of yelps.

"GOBBLE, GOBBLE, GOBB

Senior bowlers star at tourney



Masters tournament.

The event brought some of the best senior bowlers from around the area to-cather for

the area together for some fine competition. The starting field of 160 entrants was reduced to the 38 qualifiers for final head-to-head matches.

ners for han head-to-head matches. The high qualifier was Phil Herowitz of West Bloomfield with an eight-game total of 1,813. The final matches were hotly contested in a double-elimination format and Lou lyancik of Wyandotte came: through as the first Senior Matters champion.

Bowl One Lanes in Troy was the scene of the first Annual GDBA Senior

Lou carned \$1,500 for his efforts along with the trophy which he will receive at the Awards Dinner on June 24th. Hall-of-Famer Fred Vitall of Famington Hills came his seventh with the leighth aport with the history of the Hills came his seventh the Hills came his the high the Hills came his the high came his high came his high came his the high came his high came high cam

Clifton, Ward fill spring turkey tags

cance.
"I've been hunting (turkey) "I've been hunting (turkey) ever since the state started offering permits," explained the 50year-old Livonia hunter. "I've
hunted them in Cadillac, Mio,
Fariview, all over the state. I've
hunted them in the spring and
the fall, but I've never got one.
And I've never hunted them on
private land."

private land."
Until this spring that is.
Clifton and his relatives pur-

chased 40 acres of hunting land near Sand Lake last year and Clifton was at the cabin on Sun-day, April 25, the day before open-ing day of the 1993 spring turkey season setting up a blind and a counted decres

"The only problem was that I overalept Monday morning and didn's get into the woods until a quarter after seven," admitted Clifton. "As soon as I got out there I heard one gobbling so I gave a few yelps and he started to come right in."

The two-year-old tom made his way in to about 40-yards then hung up on Clifton. Finally, after some soft, but persistent yelps from his box call Clifton enticed the bird to continue in his direction.

the bird to continue in an entertion.

"He went into full strut in front
of my decoys," Clifton said.

"When he turned his back and
his head was hidden behind his
fan I raised my gun and when he
turned back around toward me I
dropped him right in his tracks."

The bird dressed-out at 174
pounds and sported an eight-inch

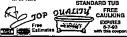
beard and ¼-inch spurs.

Jack Ward took his first tom
last Saturday morning on private
property near Clare.

Ward and his hunting partner John Parker heard a tom gobbling and set up about 100 yards away. Ward was the shooter and as Parker clucked and purred on a box call, the tom came strutting down an old railrioad grade within 35-yards of Ward.

The 35-year-old Royal Oak resident used one shot to roll a 15-pounder with an eight-inch beard.

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DATES AND EVENTS

FREE CAMPING
The Michigan Department of
Natural Resources will waive all
camping fees, reservation fees and
the state park motor vehicle permit fees at 11 designated state
parks this Saturday and Sunday,
(517) 373-1270.

M WHEELCHAIR OUTING

Members of the Four Seasons Fishing Club invite anyone con-fined to a wheelchair to be their guest at a fishing outing sched-uled for 7 a.m. 2 p.m. Saturday, June 19, at Wilcox Lake in Plym-outh. Reservations must be in by June 15, 531-5685 or 422-4376.

M DATES/DEADLINES

M FISHING CLUB MEETINGS

Bass season opens Saturday. (Check the DNR 1993 Michigan

Fishing Guide for details.)
Michigan's Free Fishing Weekend is June 12-13.

The Four Seasons Fishing Club meets 7:30 p.m. the first Wednes-day of each month at the Maple-wood Center in Garden City, 477-

Livonia Clarenceville Junior High School, 420-2233. Romeo B.A.S.S. Busters meet 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month at the Romeo Community Youth and Civic Center, 286-6469.

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