

Safari Club International - Detroit Chapter

# Trajectory

**Man Eaters of  
Zimbabwe**

By Larry Kelly

**Turducken**

Utilizing Your  
Harvest

**A YUCATAN ADVENTURE**

**For Ocellated Turkey**

By Ed Keller



**Fall 2011**

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Where have the last few months gone? I can't believe October is already here. I am now looking forward to the fall hunting seasons which have already started. Your chapter Board is currently working on organizing a tour of the Wayne Webber trophy room/museum in early November as a chapter membership social meeting followed by a get together at a nearby watering hole. A membership event flyer notice will be sent out, and you may receive it before you read this letter. This should be a fun meeting, so please plan to attend. We may have a lively discussion on the new deer baiting rules that were approved this summer for the next three Michigan deer hunting seasons. I made several phone calls to SCI chapter members here in Michigan including to members of SCI Detroit Chapter to hear their opinions on this subject. My limited poll revealed that the majority of my respondents are in favor of renewed baiting, but a few respondents do oppose baiting. However, if you are like me and do your deer hunting in the NE part of Michigan's Lower Peninsula in the bovine TB zone, there the baiting ban still remains.

At the July Board of Directors meeting I am happy to report that we approved sending \$1500 to help support the 2011 Student Hunter Apprentice Program (SHAP) youth camp that took place August 12-14 at the Salvation Army Echo Grove Camp on Lakeville Lake in Leonard, Michigan about 30 miles north of Rochester, Michigan for sixty future hunters (boys and girls ages 11 to 15) who were given MDNR Hunter Safety and International Bow Education Program (IBEP) training and certification. I express special thanks to all the instructors and counselors that put in a long weekend to help protect and insure our hunting future. Even our own Vice-President John Gornycz was one of the instructors at the camp this year.

Your BOD is currently looking at the 2012 year and feeling positive that we will be able to get back to helping fund projects such as youth hunter education, disabled vets, animal research projects in Michigan, and humanitarian issues to name just a few. Next year's fundraiser stands to be the talk of the town with a full two-day event, starting on Friday evening February 16<sup>th</sup> followed by an all-day event Saturday February 17 running from morning to 11:00 pm at night. We plan to host increased youth programs, new outdoor specialty companies and many new outfitters!

I would also like to take a moment and say "Thank You" to a special friend and great member of the SCI Detroit Chapter family. This gentleman stepped up to the plate this past February and donated some really nice items to our fundraiser to help raise money in some tough economic times. I can't say enough about the generosity of this man. He has given endless amounts of time and countless dollars over the years to the welfare of this SCI organization and the kids involved with SCI. Bob is not only a good friend to me personally, he is a good friend to all SCI members! Thanks Bob Easterbrook, Sr. for all you have done for SCI.

Regards

Ray Hollingsworth  
President, SCI Detroit Chapter



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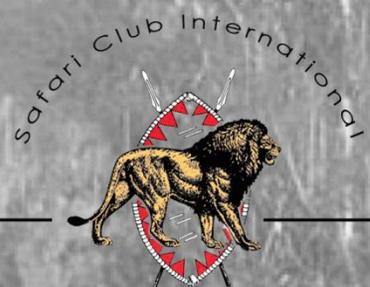
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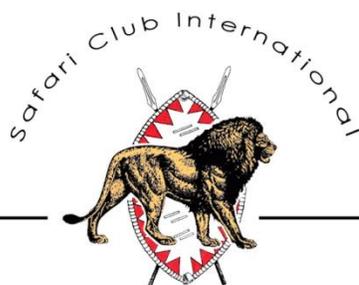
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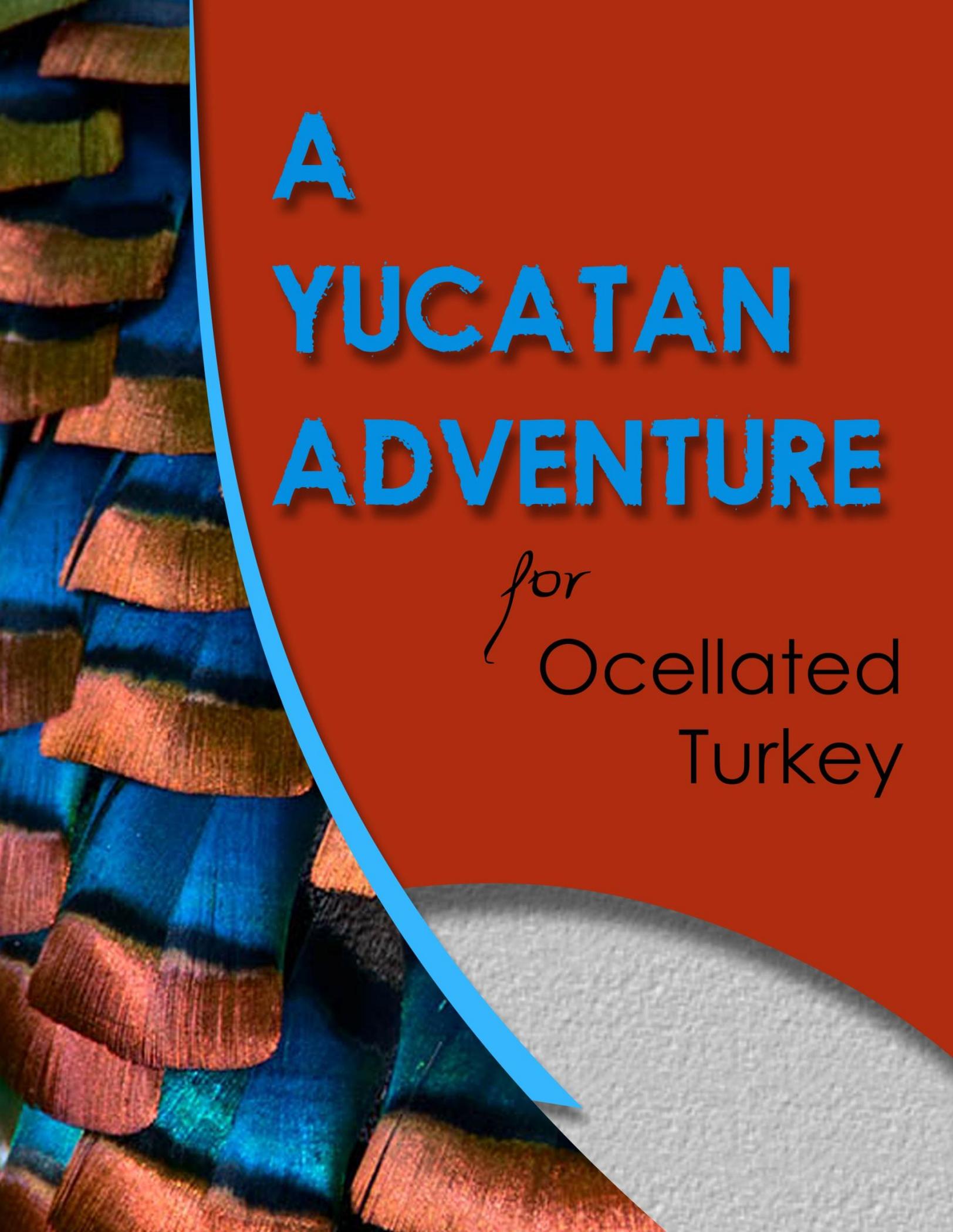
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# PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY SCI Detroit

- AWLS (American Wilderness Leadership School)
- AWLS Sports Equipment
- AWLS Tuition for Michigan Teachers
- Canadian Outdoor Heritage Alliance
- Challenged Youth Hunt
- Conservation Force
- Detroit Area Boy Scouts of America
- Detroit Area Kid's Fishing Derby
- Detroit Rescue Mission
- Disabled American Veteran Hunt
- Hunter's Defense Fund
- Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund
- Metro Wildlife Management Base
- Michigan DNR & Africa TB Research
- Michigan Dove Bill Initiative
- Michigan Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus
- Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference
- Milford High School National Honor Society
- MSU Museum Display
- MUCC (Michigan United Conservation Clubs)
- Ontario Federation of Hunters & Anglers
- Protect "The Right To Hunt"
- Quality Deer Management Association
- Sables 'Safari in a Box' Program
- Sables 30% Donations
- Salvation Army Food bank
- SCI 30% Donation
- SCI Foundation
- SCI MIC (Michigan Involvement Committee)
- SCI MIC Black Bear Study
- SCI MIC Graduate Scholarship Fund
- SCI MIC Michigan Moose
- SCI MIC Predator Prey Project
- SCI Museum's Michigan Moose Display
- SCI Northwest Chapter
- SCI Novi Chapter Sensory safari
- SCI Patriot Fund
- SCI Washington D.C. Office
- SCI Young Hunter of the Year
- Scientific Wildlife Management for Michigan
- SHAP (State Hunter Apprentice Program)
- SHAP First Aid & Survival Kits
- Sportsmen Against Hunger
- Toys for Tots
- Tracks Magazine MUCC
- U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance
- Wildlife Education Foundation
- Wildlife Legislative Fund of America
- Wyoming Chapter FNAWS
- YO Ranch Apprentice Hunter School

**Thanks to your  
generosity, donations  
total over  
\$1.3 Million Dollars!**





# A YUCATAN ADVENTURE

*for*  
Ocellated  
Turkey



By Edward L. Keller

## It was 2009. My hunting season commenced with a trip to the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico.

I had elected to accompany Rick Cassidy, president of the Detroit Chapter of SCI on a turkey hunt. Our quest would be for the ocellated turkey, one of the species required by the SCI Awards program for the Turkey Slam. Needless to say, prior to the introduction of the Turkey Slam in the SCI Awards Program, I had never heard of the ocellated turkey. I had previously shot wild turkey in Michigan, my home state, and in Tennessee and Nebraska. Of course, I had eaten the domestic butter-ball turkey on many occasions, and annually shun from carving it at Thanksgiving.

Although the SCI Awards Program fails to address the domestic butter-ball turkey, it has made me aware of the various species of wild turkeys. I now know the turkeys I collected in Michigan and Tennessee were eastern Turkeys and that I unknowingly shot the Rio and Merriam species in Nebraska. How do I know? Well, it is not easy to differentiate between some of the species. After not being satisfied with answers from several turkey hunters, I purchased a book "Wild Turkey" written by Gary Clancy, at Cabala's. The book was really helpful. It pointed out where the various species could be found and described

the body size and feather variations of the different species. The book did not, however, address the ocellated turkey.

The ocellated turkey is a creature of the jungle. It is a very beautiful bird. It is indigenous to Central America. Although it roosts in trees, it is otherwise very different from other turkey species. It does not have a beard and it does not gobble. It sings. It sings before going to sleep, and it sings for a brief period when it awakes. Its tail when spread, displays eyespots of aqua and orange, similar to those of a peacock. Its head is aqua in color and is adorned by wart like bulges of orange. The body feathers when illuminated by the sun display bright colors of copper, aquamarine and turquoise.

Plans for the Yucatan did not proceed forward without caution. Not only was it difficult to justify such a trip for a single bird, but the current political situation in the hunting area, as so often happens today, gave us reason for concern. I am sure some of my turkey hunting friends in Michigan wondered who would be the turkey – the hunter or the hunted. This being especially so since the Michigan turkey season was about to commence, and turkeys were

plentiful everywhere around home. Notwithstanding all our concerns, the desire to collect an ocellated turkey prevailed.

Our trip from Detroit to Campeche, Mexico, a historic port town where we spent the night, was uneventful. Following a nights rest, we were met by two members of Balam Hunters Expedition and Guide Service Outfitters. With them we proceeded by vehicle approximately 50 miles southeast to our hunting camp located in the Reserve De La Biospera de Calakmul near the Guatemala border. The last 50 miles proved to be an extremely taxing and time consuming journey. For the most part, we were traveling on what amounted to little more than a path through the jungle.

The jungle area was composed of the jungles of Siam Kam Calakul and the Petens of Guatemala, totaling more than 3,000,000 acres. Our camp was located in an area bordering Guatemala and the Mayan ruins of Calakmul. The specific area under control of the Balam organization was 239,000 acres. The jungle we experienced was everything I had envisioned a jungle to be as a child. It consisted of dense undergrowth mingled with small clinging and entwining vines; this, occasionally giving way to palm trees bearing beautiful wide and deep green leaves, all of which, with few exceptions, were canopied by tall trees often adorned by huge swinging type vines. The canopy, however, had some breaks in it allowing the light and air to

penetrate the otherwise dark and humid atmosphere. It was a jungle in the truest sense, almost always requiring the use of a machete to invade it. Once one's mind drifted from the purpose of being there, the heat, humidity, clinging vines, insects and snakes immediately got your attention. On a more pleasant note, there was a constant serenade by the sounds of the many beautiful birds and aroused monkeys which seemed to be claiming exclusive residence. The latter, when angered, did not hesitate to engage in feces throwing, an act that I had heard of but never experienced first-hand. The jungle floor

contained paths resembling wagon wheel spokes leading to the Mayan ruins reminding one of the long past human inhabitants. There were also zigzag scars of gum trees evidencing a bygone industry of commercial sap gathering.

The hunting camp was very simple. For cooking and dining, an open-sided thatched roof shelter was provided. Tents

were provided for sleeping. The tents were relatively new 12'x12' Coleman tents. The tents were open-sided but screened, which allowed for full enjoyment of the jungle temperature of between 95 and 100 degrees Fahrenheit. The camp-site stream was inhabited by small minnows and gar pike type fish which gathered around us when we bathed. These gar were frequently speared by the Mayan help for their entertainment and food. Generated light illuminated the camp after dinner till 9:30 to 11:30 P.M.



Each hunting day we arose at 4:30 A.M. for juice, cereal and coffee prior to the hunting departure at 5:00 A.M. Upon our return from the morning hunt around 10:30 A.M., a breakfast of either scrambled eggs or an egg omelet was served. Until one was successful on their turkey hunt, the mid-day was spent relaxing, swimming or bathing. The evening hunt commenced at 5:00 P.M. each day. Once a hunter had collected his turkey, he could pursue other available game by watching water holes located throughout the jungle. This method produced a nice white lipped



peccary for my hunting companion, "Rick". In addition to the ocellated turkey and peccary, this jungle was home to the Crested Guan

and Great Curassow as well as to the forest cougar, brocket deer, white tailed deer and jaguar, the latter being a protected species.

The traditional way of hunting the ocellated turkey is to locate its roosting place just prior to dark when it commences to sing. Then, in the morning, just prior to the light of the day, one returns and locates the singing bird in the roosting tree. Locating the bird in the tree can be very difficult until one becomes accustomed to the task. On occasion, the bird may be both located and stalked either in the morning or evening. This window of opportunity is very limited due to the brief duration of the singing period. Further, due to the density of the jungle, one's stalk to the roosting tree, often requiring the use of a machete, can be rather noisy and time consuming. Due to the dense underbrush,

the ocellated turkey is seldom sighted on the jungle floor. If lucky, one might have an opportunity to observe a feeding or strutting bird on a jungle path or so-called road. On such occasion, the bird will most likely be just out of range for a fatal shot.

My hunt commenced with a good harvest opportunity. At a very short distance from camp the first morning, our hunting vehicle came to an abrupt stop. Fernando, my guide, who speaks little or no English, motioned for me to exit. Appearing to be extremely excited, he directed me to follow him into the jungle. He t pointed to his ear and then to mine. Next he demonstrated to me for me to crunch down and follow him. We did not go far before he pointed to a tree where a sound, new to me, seemed to originate. It now seemed that I would have immediate success. Or, so, I thought.

Almost crawling, we proceeded to a position under the tree. Fernando then pointed toward the upper branches of the tree and directed me to shoot. In spite of my utmost efforts, I could see nothing. Fernando then took the gun and pointed. I could still see nothing. Finally, Fernando returned the gun to me and attempted to aim it in the direction of the turkey or the object I could not see. Whether I was supposed to shoot or not, I pulled the trigger and the turkey flew. Is did not fly far and I had an opportunity to repeat what would haunt me for the next few



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days. I again could not locate the turkey and it flew away. I was both disgusted and embarrassed. For sure, Fernando had located this bird the evening before my hunt and was confident we would have immediate success. It did not help my mental state when our ride to camp failed to show as planned. I had a five to six mile walk with no way to keep the morning experience from occupying my mind. I really felt down and could not help from wondering if the next opportunity would produce the same results.

The evening hunt commenced at 5:00 P.M. After much walking, we located a turkey for the morning hunt. When morning arrived, all went as planned, or almost so. The turkey commenced singing at the first light of day. We stalked within a few yards of the roosting tree to locate the bird. While we were trying to locate the turkey, it suddenly flew. I felt both disappointed and relieved. I was disappointed that I didn't get an opportunity to shoot and relieved that my prior day's experience would not be repeated. Upon return to camp, I learned that both my hunting companion Rick and a hunter from Ohio had been successful. This provided encouragement for day three.

The third day provided no opportunity to shoot a roosting turkey. I did have an opportunity to shoot a turkey feeding on the road. The shot was at least forty yards and all I collected was a pile of feathers. On the fourth day, I again had an opportunity to shoot at a Tom strutting on the road. By the time the tom separated from several females to present a shot, he was forty or so

yards away. He was hit but left only feathers as he flew into the jungle. I now began to think that I was going to be the turkey on this hunt, at least so, in the eyes of my Michigan friends. Yes, I began to count the remaining opportunities I would have to hunt. And too, I also began preparing myself mentally for an unsuccessful hunt. It didn't help that all others in camp had been successful and that Alberto, the camp manager's assurances that I would become successful seemed to become less convincing. No roosting turkey was located on the morning of the fifth day. We decided to return to camp around

*He was hit but left only feathers as he flew into the jungle.*

10:30 A.M. When we were within six miles from camp, a beautiful Tom excited the jungle in front of the vehicle. This time, my shot did some damage. As the turkey raised four or five feet from the ground in an attempt to fly away, I shot again.

This time the turkey dropped and lay motionless on the side of the road. Fernando was very excited and began to congratulate me. I too was very happy and relieved. As I searched for my camera, Fernando went to retrieve my turkey. As Fernando approached within a few yards of the turkey, it flopped into the jungle underbrush. Fernando, with the aid of his machete, attempted to follow. After about an hour of searching, we found no bird, so we returned to camp. Yes, again no bird, but another story to tell at lunch. While relating the story and the morning events, we noticed Fernando and several of the camp help departing camp in the camp jeep. This was of little concern as errands were always being run between the morning and evening hunts. Further, no mention had ever



been made of additional attempts to find my turkey. It was only a brief time after the jeep departed that it returned. All occupants were extremely excited, as Fernando exited the jeep proudly holding my turkey, still alive. Following congratulations and pictures, all joined in a toast of tequila, not my drink of choice, but very good on this occasion. This coupled with Rick's return with a white lipped peccary made for a great morning.

For the evening hunt, I elected to try once more for a turkey the traditional way. The decision was in part due to the fact that no arrangements had been made to hunt other available species. Fernando and I departed camp at the usual time and began checking for singing.



He also wanted to show me a Mayan ruin. On the way, a turkey crossed our path but there was no way to stalk or cut it off due to the thick underbrush. As we approached the ruin, we heard singing and decided to locate the source. To our amazement, the turkey was located about one quarter of the way up the Mayan ruin, a very high and steep earth-work of stone over-grown with huge trees and underbrush. Due to the steepness, the rolling of disturbed rocks and the underbrush, an approach was extremely difficult, especially when carrying a gun. Small steps and long delays, following the creation of disturbing noises, finally positioned us under the turkey tree. This time, I was able to locate the turkey. I shot and the rest was uneventful. The turkey rolled down the ruin and was retrieved by Fernando. He immediately labeled it the Mayan turkey. Thus my Yucatan quest for the ocellated turkey ended. ♦



# TURDUCKEN

Turducken is a great dish that will help you utilize some of the birds from this past season's harvest. Turducken is stuffing a chicken into a duck and then stuffing the duck & chicken into a turkey. What I like best about this is the bird with the most precious fat and flavor, the duck, is in the middle to help baste the meat of the dryer land birds, the turkey and chicken. I like to sear the skin side of the duck and the chicken to caramelize it just a bit. This adds some great flavor. I also like to go one step further and place a layer of zesty sausage between the birds to further add moisture and flavor.

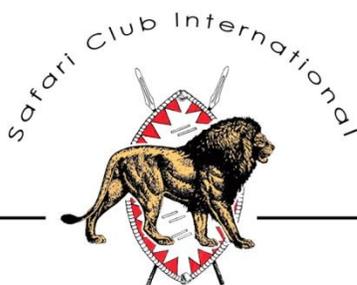
Always remember, as with any recipe, you are the cook, so you have the option to add, change or delete any ingredient you wish to prepare the meal with the flavoring that you prefer.



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## INGREDIENTS

- 3 lbs Savory Pork Sausage** ●  
(Butchers dept in local supermarket)
- 1 of 4-6 lb Duck** ●  
(no bird shot)
- 1 of 3-4 lb Chicken** ●
- 1 of 20-25 lb Turkey, whole fresh** ●
- Kosher Salt** ●
- Fresh Cracked Black Pepper** ●
- Poultry Seasoning** ●



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# PREPARATION

- I would recommend starting with the chicken first. Place the chicken with the breast side down on your cutting board. Start at the bird's neck and cut through the skin down to the back bone from neck to tail.
- Using the tip of your knife, preferably a boning knife, which is a narrow-bladed 5-6" knife, follow the bone down and around the rib cage of the chicken separating the meat from the bone and leaving it connected to the skin.
- Separate the wings from the bird, bone the leg and thigh out leaving it connected as well.
- Lightly pound the meat to create an even thickness of meat. You now should have one large piece of skin with all of the bird's meat connected. Lightly rub with oil and sear in a moderately hot skillet until golden brown only on the skin side.
- Repeat this process for the duck and then the turkey, but do not brown the turkey.
- Lay the turkey skin-side-down on your cutting board and spread a layer of the savory pork sauce over the turkey meat.
- Place the duck skin-side-down onto the savory sausage meat and then spread savory sausage over the duck meat.
- Place the chicken skin-side-down on top of the savory sausage on the duck.
- Now you are ready to roll and tie the Turducken. Carefully roll the birds together and then tie generously with butchers twine or use a butchers twine net.
- Rub the outside of the Turducken with oil and season with kosher salt, fresh cracked black pepper and poultry seasoning.
- Place in covered roaster and roast in oven at 350 degree until an internal temperature of 160 degrees F is achieved. Remove from oven and let rest for 15 minutes before carving.
- Serve with your favorite accompaniments.

# Man

OF ZIMBABWE

# Eaters

"Last Fall the world and SCI Detroit lost a great friend, Larry Kelly. I was very fortunate to have had the opportunity to sit down with Larry and his son Ken last summer on a hot afternoon to talk and listen to some of his great stories. Imagine for a second how truly lucky I was, sitting in the Handgun Hall of Fame with one of the greatest and most accomplished handgun hunters in the world. I went there to interview this remarkable man that had done more "Firsts" of anything and everything than most men could only dream about. Larry's stories rolled from one to another seamlessly from being hunted himself by a giant Alaskan Brown Bear to hunting and killing a man eating Lion. Larry gave me this story to share with all of you. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did. Take a few minutes to read, enjoy and remember our great friend Larry Kelly. These are his very own words!"

*~ Scott O'Farrell*



**By: Larry Kelly**

Vultures perched as sentinels in the trees as daylight broke in the Zambezi Valley. "Lions are at the bait," Ollie Coltman explained. "Those birds would be down feeding if there weren't lions about, keeping them away." Two males lay near the bait about 45 yards off as we crept into the ground blind. "No good," Ollie whispered. "They are full grown, but have no manes to speak of." A bird flew into the blind with us and, startled by our presence, fluttered noisily away. One of the lions heard the bird's commotion and lazily strolled toward the blind to investigate. "Don't move," Ollie whispered, as the lion ambled within five feet of our blind. My .44 magnum was on my lap, pointed toward the right. The lion was on my left, its head the size of a bushel basket. My whole body began to shake, remembering the accounts of the recent lion attacks Ollie had described, and me, here, at this moment, armed with only a handgun while face-to-face with an African lion. The lion drifted off apparently not liking what he saw, luckily, because he wasn't the trophy I wanted. We also left the blind for another several miles away as soon as that lion cleared out.

This was my third safari to Zimbabwe, formerly Rhodesia, and the second trip hunting almost exclusively with a handgun. (See *Guns + Ammo*, January 1981). Both the 1978 and 1980 hunts were very successful, but I had not taken a lion with a pistol. This time I had a lion permit. Oliver Coltman, at 35, was district game warden for the Zambezi Valley, one of only five district wardens in the country. Ollie had been employed in one capacity or another for the game department all his

adult life, working himself up through skill, knowledge and wisdom of African animals and their environment to a post of revered authority among the villagers of the bush, and respect among his peers. Tall and lean from constant rigors of the job, Coltman bore scars from numerous brushes with Africa's dangerous game including a 45-minute wrestling match with a Cape buffalo six years earlier in which he lost a lung and had to spend more than a year in a hospital.

My wife, Barbara, and I met Ollie, his wife, Sue, and their two children at their home where, over tea, we talked of past hunts and planned our trip. It was there that Ollie told us of the man eaters. "Incidences of man eaters are very rare," Ollie said, "but we have had three documented attacks over a four-week period. These incidents occurred in different places, but all in the Zambezi Valley in northern Zimbabwe bordering Zambia. Actually, lion attacks are not that uncommon. Usually they are provoked by something, but circumstances of lions actually eating their victims are very rare. Lions have a natural aversion to man. That's what makes these three incidents so interesting".

"It was April 24, 1981, Ollie said, when two African men went fishing in a waterhole near the Zambezi River at Chirundu. At dusk, the younger of the men left to go home, leaving his elderly, grey-haired friend still fishing. The next morning, when the younger man learned that his older friend had not yet returned from fishing, the younger man went back to the waterhole to look for the older man. He found a hat and a fishing pole, nothing



more. He fled and called police, who in turn called Ollie when they determined, by a grunt and a flash of amber in the brush near the waterhole, that they had a lion to deal with.

Ollie arrived about 9:30 a.m. with three assistants from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management. The hat and fishing rod were untouched. Ollie and his senior ranger stepped into the bush to investigate. Ollie carried a .470 double and, he said modestly, “hitched it a little higher on his hip” as he made for the thick brush. There was a grunt, and then a flash of tawny fur as the police had seen. That’s it. She’s gone, Ollie thought, but the lion had merely angled off at a “Z” to gain speed. Ollie suddenly heard another grunt and, whirling, saw the lioness’ shape hurtling at him, head low, intent to kill. He fired from the hip, instinctively. “It was not an aimed shot, “he said. “I hardly knew I had fired”. The lioness dropped at his feet so he drew his Smith and Wesson Model 29 and, with hands shaking, put another .44 magnum slug through its skull. But the lioness was already dead. “The rifle bullet had entered her left nostril, split her palate and tongue and lodged in the back of the brain”, Ollie said. “She was a fine, healthy lioness, clean and in peak condition. Why had she killed a man?”

They found the victim dragged into a small bush nearby, chest split open, ribs exposed, extensively fed upon. “He was an old man, and it

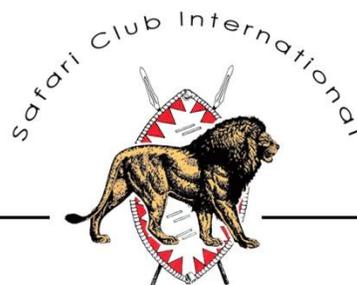
was sad that he died so violently”, Coltman said. I hope the lion killed swiftly and cleanly so that the last thing the old man knew was the beautiful African sunset and the birds singing as the day ended”. One explanation for the man-eating lions may be laid on the civil war which plagued Zimbabwe from 1972 until 1980, when black rule was instituted over a white minority government. Thousands of casualties, mostly innocent black villagers, were claimed by guerrillas and terrorist

bands roaming the bush. Those human bodies fed numerous scavengers, including lions. Human meat became acceptable fare for the animals.

Only a week after the death at the waterhole, Ollie said, another lion wreaked a night of terror at a village 300 miles away in the tribal area adjacent to Zimbabwe’s safari areas. A mother had left her four children at home while she visited friends at a nearby “kraal”, a group of huts which constitute a family home. At dusk, the eldest child, about nine years old, went to the edge of the kraal to pick

berries. A lioness, old and sick, had been seen stealing chickens and ducks nearby in recent days. This time it pounced on the child. In terror, the remaining three children ran into their hut while the lioness fed on their sister. The sobbing of the children in the hut seemed to attract the lioness, and in a few moments she broke inside the hut to

*Ollie suddenly heard another grunt and whirling. He saw the lioness’ shape hurtling at him, head low, intent to kill.*



investigate, dragging out yet another child, killing it and feeding upon the body. By this time it dawned on the fourth remaining child that his turn was likely next, the youngster bailed out of the hut and hid in the bush.

When the mother returned, unaware of the tragedy, she became the lion's fourth victim. Ollie and his men were called the next day. They set out poisoned baits, and several rangers sat in ambush for the lioness. Two days later, the lioness was found dead, poisoned by the baits. She was in rough shape, with wounds and abscesses all over her body.

The third incident of man eaters also occurred in the tribal areas. Ollie said two natives discovered a Cape buffalo freshly killed by lions. Seeing an opportunity for free fresh meat, one of the natives decided to guard the buffalo carcass while the other native went back to his kraal for knives and bowls in which to put the buffalo meat. When the man arrived back at the buffalo kill, he was dismayed to find his friend had been killed and partially eaten by the very lions they were going to steal from. "By the time we heard about the incident, it was too late to do anything about the lions," said Ollie.

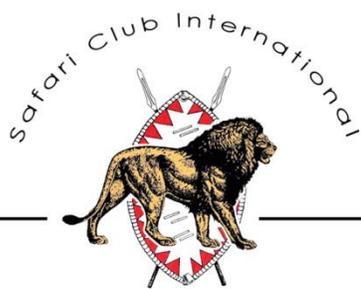
Stories of man eaters grow in the retelling. Ollie appropriately noted that local people will embellish these tragedies until they are legends and the areas become noted for their man-eaters long

after the perpetrating lions themselves are dead. "That's part of what makes Africa magical, exotic and exciting", Ollie said.

Barb and Sue left the Coltman home by truck with game scouts, skimmers and camp boys while Ollie and I went up the Zambezi River by jet boat to get started on our base operations. "It's about 125 miles to H and G camps", Ollie said over the engine roar. "There hasn't been any hunting there since the war started in 1972. There are lots of lions and they are very aggressive".

Ollie already had labor people at the camp, and it was fairly well refurbished when we arrived. Noticeable, however, were the bullet holes terrorists had pumped through the three buildings during the war. Those bullet holes and the roaring of nearby lions in the night, gave me chills yet hope as I listened to the chesty roars while trying to get some sleep. "This is going to be an easy hunt", I thought as I drifted to sleep. But it was not to be as easy as I expected.

Ollie had already ordered two baits set out and a blind built. Each day-break, for four days, we sneaked to the blind to find that no lions had discovered the baits. Ollie explained there was too much game in this area on which the lions could feed and suggested we hunt closer to G camp.



There, using my eight inch scoped Ruger Super Blackhawk with deep penetrating KTW ammo I took a trophy bull buff for bait. Ollie spent a full day fussily selecting a site and setting up a new blind. Though we lost a hunting day, we felt ready. We had both fired the prototype Sterling Arms EXP-4 single shot pistol I had brought along for the lion, and were impressed.

This was the first time I had fired the EXP-4. When the handgun arrived at my business, Mag-na-Port Arms in Mount Clemens, Michigan, I only had time to port it before I left on this hunting trip.

With a 2X Leopold scope and shooting 240 grain jacketed soft points, I found the gun pointed very well, the grips were attractive and the gun felt very good in my hands. The action closed very smoothly, but the hammer was very hard to pull back, and the trigger pull was heavy. Had I taken time at my shop, I could have solved that heavy trigger pull. These problems, however, were minor. As a backup, I also brought my old five-inch S'W Model 29, with a Thad Rybka cross draw holster I prefer when hunting. I didn't know then that I would need it.

The next morning, on our way to the new bait, we decided to take a look at one of the old baits first. That's when the lion tried to crawl in the blind with us. It wasn't more that two hours later as we crept toward the new blind that we found our way blocked by eight lions, five males and three females, which had eaten half the buff and were now just lazily strolling or lying around like a family after a Thanksgiving dinner.

Ollie pointed to one male. "It's huge", he said, "largest I've ever seen". But the lion had no mane and very little beard. Desert lions or those in zoos have very good manes. But in the brush and thorns of the Zambezi Valley, finding a well-kept mane is more difficult. I had taken a blond-manned lion with a rifle in 1978. This time I wanted one with a black or dark tone mane. Ollie said, "We'll have the scouts bring in the other half of the buff, and when the lions leave, we'll slip into the blind".

It was a good plan, working to perfection. The lions backed off as the scouts drove up, dropped

the bait from the Land Rover, and drove off. We slid into our blind and could still hear the engine of the vehicle as the lions converged again. "That's the one!" Ollie whispered excitedly as the first male approached the new bait. It was a large lion with a thick dark mane. I pulled back the hammer on the EXP-4 and poked the barrel out a hole in the blind,

using the bottom of the hole for a rest. Ollie had told me many times that my first shot had better be a good one. He was backing me up with his .470 double, but neither of us wanted a rifle bullet in this lion. I wanted him with a handgun only. Ollie would shoot only if necessary. There was no rush. I had all the time I needed. The lion was angled toward me so the bullet would enter the shoulder then the lungs. As soon as the scope was on the shoulder, I squeezed. The instant the .44 exploded, the lion was on its hind legs roaring. It spun and disappeared in the brush. I reloaded and looked at

*But the lion got up again! He spun with a roar, again facing me, ready to charge.*

Ollie. "How do you feel the shot was?" he asked. I replied, "It should be good. The squeeze was perfect".

"Let's wait a few minutes", Ollie said, so I lit a cigarette, inhaled deeply and we waited. A few minutes later, as we approached the bait, we could hear some of the lionesses nearby grunting their disapproval of us disturbing their meal. "Be very careful", Ollie cautioned unnecessarily. At the bait, there was blood all over and a blood trail that led into the brush. It was bright red, the sign of a heart shot. The blood trail led to a clump about twenty feet in diameter of small trees. "He's probably dead in there", Ollie said. But as we approached the clump of trees, we saw the trail continued on. It was then that I realized my shot had not been all I had hoped. Now we had to deal with a wounded lion. A single shot pistol is not all the gun I wanted to trail a wounded and potential killer, cat. I put the EXP-4 away and pulled out the Smith 29.

Slowly, cautiously, we followed the blood another 40 yards. Labored breathing, sounding wet and hollow, could be heard ahead, apparently from some thorn bushes about 35 yards distant. With hammers back, we stopped and listened at least five minutes. I had taken only two more steps when I was startled by the lion, lying in the grass facing me only 20 yards away. I felt certain it would charge. The sights came up under its chin as I fired. The lion took off to my left. The second shot hit him in the side, but well behind the shoulder. The third

was solid in the shoulder, anchoring the big cat in the grass facing away from me. Its chest was still in view, so I put another .44 round in its body to be sure. But the lion got up again! He spun with a roar, again facing me, ready to charge. Another shot took him under his chin and into his chest. He fell back, finally dead.

I reloaded the 29 before we approached the carcass. I'd been calm and businesslike up until now. But then I got the shakes, and it seemed to take an eternity for my chubby fingers to manipulate new cartridges into the cylinder. I was also embarrassed. I'd told Ollie I would need just one shot to take my lion and ended up using six in what could have been a prickly situation. As we examined the lion, we saw the first shot had severed its jugular vein. Had we waited a little longer, the lion would have bled to death. I felt a little better, but a neck shot is a far cry from the shoulder at a mere 50 yards. I can only speculate that I must have pulled the shot, for later tests showed the sight to be right on. The second shot, taken as the lion faced me in the grass, merely pierced the cat's right ear. "It's a good thing he didn't charge!" I thought.

We recovered three of the .44 Remington slugs. The jacketed portions of the bullets held together, but the lead at the tips had broken off. "It's a good lion, Larry", Ollie said as the Land Rover arrived. "Yes, but I didn't get him with one shot", I replied, half apologizing. "Well, let's hunt leopard", Ollie said. "You'll only need one shot for him". Beneath my breath, I muttered to myself, "I hope so..." ♦



# SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL

## Michigan Involvement Committee



*By: Joe Konwinski*

This is the first of a series of articles in the Trajectory on the Safari Club International Michigan Involvement Committee (SCI MIC). This article will define what SCI MIC is, and then it will present abstract descriptions of the Michigan Department of Natural resources (MDNR) conservation research projects MIC is helping to fund for 2011.

SCI MIC was formed in 1980 as a committee of representatives from each of the chapters of Safari Club International located within the State of Michigan to work with designated representatives of the MDNR to coordinate funding of MDNR wildlife conservation programs and MDNR wildlife research projects that otherwise might not get funded. In 1980 there were only four Michigan-based Safari Club Chapters; Michigan Chapter, Detroit Chapter, Flint Regional Chapter and Mid-Michigan Chapter, yet these four SCI Chapters were able to organize and support what has turned out to be **the most influential partnership between SCI and a state wildlife agency in the history of Safari Club International**. The first major conservation program undertaken by SCI MIC was the reintroduction of moose into Michigan's Upper Peninsula during the winters of 1985 and 1987 via the transplanting of a total of 61 animals from Ontario, Canada.

Today, SCI MIC is a Michigan non-profit corporation organized pursuant to Act 162, Public Acts of 1982, as amended, on a non-stock basis with membership composed of representatives of each of the SCI Chapters, currently eleven, located within the State of Michigan. SCI MIC is a tax exempt organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). It is also a public charity described in section 509(a)(1) of the Code. That means that individual donations to SCI MIC may be tax deductible.

The purposes of SCI MIC are the coordination of support by Safari Club International and its Michigan-based Chapters of:

- Designated activities and programs of the MDNR,
- Grants to graduate students pursuing advanced degrees in wildlife and related fields at Michigan-based institutions of higher education, and ....
- Such other wildlife conservation and education activities as may be approved by SCI MIC.



Currently SCI MIC operates on an annual budget of approximately \$40,000. Its major sources of present and future funding are:

- Voluntary contributions from constituent SCI member chapters
- Matching grants from Safari Club International Foundation (SCIF) for select contributions made by SCI MIC constituent member chapters to help fund MDNR conservation and research projects, and ....
- Voluntary donations from the general public due to the 501(c)(3) exempt status of SCI MIC. This source of funding is expected to grow in the future given that SCI MIC now has its own functioning website [www.scimic.org](http://www.scimic.org).

Funds donated by SCI MIC for MDNR major wildlife conservation and research projects receive a 3:1 match of Pittman-Robertson funds from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Thus, a \$3000 SCI chapter donation to a MIC-MDNR project can grow to \$5000 via a \$2000 SCIF matching grant, and then the \$5000 gets leveraged to \$20,000 via the 3:1 match from the Pittman-Robertson funds. The administrative submission for the Pittman-Robertson funds is done by the MDNR as part of its annual submission for these funds from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

For 2011, MIC is helping to fund four MDNR research projects:

- Predator-Prey
- Gray Wolf Population
- Southern Michigan Black Bear
- Diving Duck

The rest of this article provides the MDNR abstract descriptions of each of these research projects.

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### **Predator-Prey Project**

The impact of predators on prey populations has been the subject of numerous scientific studies and has been debated at length by the public. There is agreement in the scientific community that the relationship between predators and prey is very complex such that broad descriptive statements cannot be made. In some cases predators limit prey populations, while in other cases they do not. The relationship between predators and prey is influenced by a host of factors that can vary from place to place and over time. Factors that must be considered include the number of different prey species available, the number of different predators in the system, the relative density of predators and prey in the area, the response of predators and prey to changes in prey numbers, and the effects of weather and disease on predators and prey. Unfortunately, data from areas where predators predominately prey on white-tailed deer are limited.



White-tailed deer are an important species in Michigan providing many values, including ecological, social and economic values. Most generally, factors that can limit deer numbers include food supply, winter cover, disease, predation, weather, and hunter harvest. Deer numbers change with changes in these limiting factors. Considerable research has been conducted demonstrating the effects of winter severity on white-tailed deer condition and survival. The importance of food supply and cover, particularly during winter, has also been documented. While the role of predation on white-tailed deer survival has received some attention, many questions remain unanswered. A better understanding of the possible impact of predators on deer population dynamics requires information on the role of predation on white-tailed deer fawn survival and the extent to which predation is additive or compensatory with other causes of death. The predator-prey system is complex, so it will be important to simultaneously address the roles of various limiting factors (e.g., predator, winter weather).

To assess the role of predation on white-tailed deer fawns, we are capturing and radio-collaring newborn fawns to estimate their survival and to determine the causes of mortality. We are simultaneously assessing the direct effects of predation and winter severity on fawn recruitment while also indirectly evaluating the influence of habitat conditions on fawn recruitment.

An informative perspective from which to judge the effect of predation on white-tailed deer population dynamics is to assess the relationship between proportion of deer killed by predators and annual survival rate of the deer. If higher levels of predation reduce deer survival, then predation is additive to other sources of deer mortality and might influence deer numbers. In contrast, if deer survival remains constant despite varying levels of predation, then predation simply substitutes for other sources of mortality. To adequately assess this relationship, we will need to maintain and monitor a sample of at least 300 radio-collared deer for five years. Currently we are on track to meet that goal.

Partners: SCI MIC, SCIF, Mississippi State University, Michigan Technological University

Time Line and Budget: Major equipment purchases for this project have been made. Deer trapping was conducted during the winters of 2009 and 2010. Predator trapping occurred during May, June and July 2009 and 2010. We are accumulating an extensive dataset on predation on deer, with an emphasis on fawns, and we are also evaluating impacts of wolves, bears, coyotes, and bobcats. Expendable supplies (e.g., VHS collars, GPS collars, vaginal implant transmitters) are required each year of the study. This project is anticipated to be conducted in three snowfall zones in the UP with a total duration of approximately ten years. This project is expected to last approximately ten years. Total project costs could exceed \$3,000,000.

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### **Gray Wolf Population Project**

The gray wolf has returned to its former range in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan (UP). Wolf population growth

The gray wolf has returned to its former range in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan (UP). Wolf population growth and range expansion have been monitored since 1989. In winter 2010, we estimated there were at least 580 wolves present in the UP. Wolves have also been documented in the northern Lower Peninsula using trail cameras as late as July 2009, and a pair produced pups in Cheboygan County in the spring of 2010. As the wolf population in Michigan increased, a program of research was developed to aid in monitoring their recovery and management. Over 200 wolves have been captured and radio-collared providing important information on distribution, movements, number of packs, pack size and pack territories. This information is critical to our annual population census. Population estimates are becoming increasingly difficult as the current technique relies on identification of individuals within discreet packs. Important work has been done on evaluating alternative approaches to estimating population size and a new sampling procedure which will save us time and money has been implemented. We have also developed a model of wolf habitat use that predicts the amount and location of suitable habitat.

Despite legal challenges, The US Fish and Wildlife Service continues work toward removing the wolf from the Federal List of Threatened and Endangered Species. We strongly support delisting, and this project puts Michigan in an excellent position to defend our science-based management programs in the future.

Partners: SCI MIC, Michigan Technological University

Time Line and Budget: This project started in 1999, and it will continue for at least five years following Federal delisting. Delisting occurred in 2008, yet following legal actions, the wolf was re-listed as endangered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, so population monitoring at high levels continues. Total project costs are greater than \$800,000.

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### **Southern Michigan Black Bear Project**

Black bears are an important species in Michigan providing many values, including ecological, social and economic values. Bear populations are increasing in Michigan, and more dispersing bears are entering agricultural regions of southern Michigan resulting in increased bear-vehicle collisions and increased conflicts with agriculturalists and the general public. Through surveys, we know that humans in southern Michigan are less tolerant of bears than northern Michigan residents and are more likely to seek action from the MDNR when encountering bears. However, seventy percent of southern Michigan residents desire at least some level of bears to be present.

Managing bears involves balancing healthy bear populations that provide both viewing and hunting opportunities for the public versus excessive human-bear conflicts. Management of bears in southern Michigan requires information on the ecology and movement patterns of bears outside of the traditional northern range. These factors are likely a function of fragmented agricultural habitats and increased access to human-related



foods and agricultural crops. Unfortunately, there is very little scientific information on bear dispersal, density, and habitat influences in the southern range that the MDNR can use to develop a proactive management strategy for bears in southern Michigan.

We propose to outfit six bears during each of two years (12 bears total) with GPS tracking collars to characterize the movements and habitat use of bears in southern Michigan (generally south of a line from Muskegon to Bay City). We will trap bears in areas of frequent reports of sightings during summer. Yearlings denned with their radio-collared mothers will be outfitted with GPS collars programmed to begin collecting location fixes upon emergence in the spring. Collars will be programmed to record regular location fixes until denning the following winter. Collars with their stored data will be recovered from the bears once the bears enter hibernation. In addition to GPS electronics, each collar will carry a conventional VHF beacon transmitter to assist in the location of winter den sites and to provide verification that the animal is alive and active between collar attachment and retrieval.

Data collected from GPS collars will provide important information for formulating a management strategy for southern Michigan bears. The data collected will include:

1. Quantifying use of landscape (home ranges, foraging patterns, dispersal distances) by bears
2. An estimate of the distribution of denning dates
3. An estimate of litter sizes and cub survival
4. Identification of key characteristics of travel corridors used by bears
5. Verification of predictive spatial model(s)
6. An estimate of bear distribution

Partners: SCI MIC, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Timeline and Budget: We had anticipated starting this project in early 2009, but it was delayed due to lack of funding. We initiated the project in the spring of 2010 by collaring one female (with cubs) and one male in dens in Oceana County. This is a multi-state effort in collaboration with Wisconsin, a state that is also experiencing a southward expansion of their bear population. The fiscal year 2011 budget is \$32,000, and the project will continue for approximately five years.

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## Diving Duck Project

The Great Lakes and associated wetlands contribute to the importance of Michigan as a concentration area for

diving ducks during migrations. Fall diving duck concentrations in Michigan support a long tradition of diving duck hunting. Michigan also contains important spring migration areas for diving ducks where the birds feed to improve body condition prior to migrating to breeding areas. Lake St. Clair, Detroit River and western Lake Erie provide important habitats for migrating and wintering diving ducks, and this area is considered a site of continental significance to waterfowl. The area supports a diversity of waterfowl and wetland bird species, with canvasbacks, lesser and greater scaup, and redheads being prominent during spring and fall migrations. Declining use of this area by canvasbacks and a continental decline of scaup linked to inadequate food resources on spring migration areas highlight the need to better understand factors contributing to the distribution and abundance of diving ducks in Michigan.

A number of factors may be linked to changes in distribution of diving ducks in Michigan including: increased human disturbance, a longer ice-free period, rapid expansion and then decline of exotic zebra and quagga mussels, and changes in water clarity, chemistry, and submerged aquatic plants associated with exotic mussel invasions. There is also concern about impacts to diving ducks of proposed expansion of near-shore and onshore wind energy development in the Great Lakes. Our study involves analysis of existing information available from historic aerial diving duck surveys, and developing models of factors contributing to observed diving duck distributions so future management and policy decisions can benefit from improved understanding of diving ducks during migration.

We are conducting fall and spring diving duck surveys and testing distance sampling methods as a means to estimate abundance and to model the distribution of birds. We are testing a number of assumptions involved with these surveys and we are working with Michigan State Police Aviation Section to incorporate a nocturnal distribution survey using forward looking infrared video to identify preferred diving duck feeding areas.

Partners: SCI MIC, Upper Mississippi and Great Lakes Joint Venture, Michigan State Police Aviation Section, Michigan State University, Winous Point Marsh Conservancy

Time Line and Budget: This project started in 2010 and will continue for at least three years. We are hoping to expand the geographic scope of this study to include other important diving duck migration areas in the Great Lakes region. The current project budget is approximately \$65,000 per year. ♦



# RECORD BOOK ENTRIES

## ***GREAT NEWS!*** ***FREE RECORD BOOK ENTRIES!***

**Until further notice, the Board of Directors has waived the fee for new entries into the SCI – Detroit Chapter Record Book.**

Although chapter members are encouraged to send their score sheets signed by a Master or Official Measurer to the SCI Records Department, they are not required to submit their qualifying entries into the SCI Record Book in order to have them appear without charge in the SCI – Detroit Chapter Record Book. See the chapter's website at [www.scidetroit.com](http://www.scidetroit.com) for a list of Master and Official Measurers along with the latest edition of the chapter Record book..

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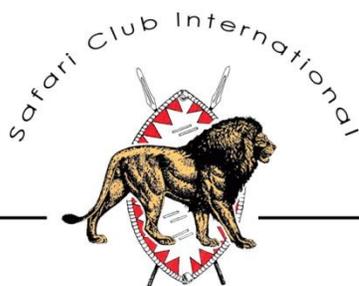
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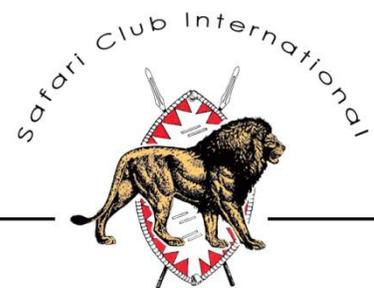
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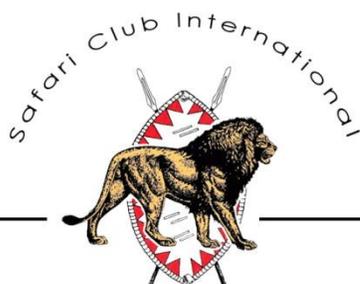
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