



# Region 4

## REGION UPDATE

By Sgt. Russ Kiser



**SGT. RUSS KISER**

As I sit down to write this update we have already ushered out the first split of dove season, which produced some very good cases this year from over the limit to baiting violations. The vast corn crop harvested this past season had most of the doves scattered but most hunters were still able to have a productive dove season. The teal season was slow this year with the exception of the Catahoula Lake area, which attracted several hundred hunters and several bag limits. I would like to congratulate Lt. Hedrick, Sgt. McDowell and Sr. Agent Merrill on their over limit teal case which nabbed five guys with 45 teal, good job guys.

Agents are now full speed ahead into deer season, which has already produced several night hunting complaints. We are anticipating a large hunter turnout on our state wildlife management areas this year, which seem to be attracting more and more hunters every year. There is approximately 70,000

acres of wildlife management areas in the parish I work that keep fellow agents and myself busy throughout the winter months. We encourage everyone to come and bring their friends and families to hunt, fish, and enjoy the wildlife on our WMA's. But stress to follow the rules and regulations of the particular WMA in which you visit to ensure the enjoyment and equal

opportunity of the others whom visit the area.

As a farewell note I would like to say congratulations to Joe Chandler on his recent promotion to Sergeant in Madison Parish. I would like to wish everyone a safe and productive hunting season and remember the easiest way to make sure your season is productive is to introduce a child to the sport.

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## Region 4 Continued

# I Couldn't Hit Anything Today

By Sgt. Scott Watson

Anybody that hunts or lives in Northeast Louisiana, or anybody that reads this magazine regularly, remembers the over limit dove case that was made in Madison Parish last year. I wasn't in on the case, but it was made by some of the guys in my district that I work with. Cases like that one do not come along everyday, but when they do, it really makes you feel like you've done your job

well. Let's face it anybody that will violate the limit laws in that fashion is nothing short of a GAME HOG!!!!

Opening day of dove season for this year (2007) found Sgt. Joe Chandler, Agent Leya Grover and myself making our way to a concentration of doves that we had found a couple of days earlier. We met up that morning to discuss how we would set up on the field, observation points, how far we

would have to travel on ATV and walk, and when we would try and walk onto the field. And just as importantly, we had to help ourselves to full days worth of pancakes and sausage, since we knew it would be after dark before we found ourselves near any place that cooked. Not to mention I am kind of fond of eating at the Waverly truck stop (huh JC?).

After gorging ourselves, we got set up on

the dove field around 10:00 a.m. We were in good shape, because we were well hidden and would have shade for most of the day. The field was nothing but a cut corn field, in front of someone's house. It just happened to be wrapped up in doves. Well, at 12:30 a guy came out of the house and set up about 300 yards in front of his house and went to work on the doves. The

*Continued on page 92*



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# I Couldn't Hit Anything Today!!!

*Continued from page 91*

shooting was slow at first, but we hoped it would get better. We could hear shooting in the distance, in every direction, and here we were watching this one guy shoot doves. It's hard to sit still and watch one person shoot doves in his front yard when there is shooting all around you, but that's what we were committed to this year.

The guy shot steady all day long, and we were just as steady about counting every bird that he picked up. Anytime he would get close to having his daily limit (which is 12) he would

get on his ATV and ride to a portable building near his house. He would go in, come right back out and go back to hunting. I'll give you three guesses what he was going to the building for. Later that evening a friend came over and started hunting with him, but the friend could not shoot nearly as well. We only had to make a few marks in our book to keep up with how many birds the friend picked up.

At about 5:30 we decided to bust the little party up, so we made our way over to the two men. By the time they

saw us, we were practically in their pocket. Would you believe that the good shooter only had seven doves on him and his friend only had three? Well, that's exactly what they had on them. When asked about the mountain of empty shell hulls that he was standing in, he said that he just couldn't hit anything today. This was the part where his face got

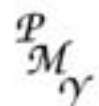
really long. We told him that we would also need to count the doves that he had been putting in the building all afternoon. He was pretty cooperative, and we all went to the building and got the birds out. When it was all said and done, the one man that was hunting in front of his house had 42 doves. Yes


*Continued on page 93*



*3.5 daily limits of dove taken by one man on opening day.*

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## I Couldn't Hit Anything Today!!!

*Continued from page 92*

that's just a little bit over the limit!!!

In a small community word about something like this travels like wildfire and in no time at all, you start getting tons of public opinion and scrutiny, about how you handled the case. Some people say that we should have stopped him sooner, instead of letting him shoot so many birds. My guess is that if we had stopped him at say 15, those same people would be saying that he was only a few over, and we should have let him slide. People are always

going to give their expert opinion, even though they were nowhere near when it all happens. I do not claim to be all knowing or anything like that, and I know it's kind of a crazy idea, but wouldn't the easiest thing be to quit shooting when you've got your limit. I know it sounds crazy, but I'm certain that would be the best of all choices, especially for someone who can't seem to hit anything.

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## Region 4 Continued

### Smart Teal Hunters

*By Sr. Agent Joey Merrill*

On the day before opening morning of teal season, Sgt. Brian McDowell and I went to check out a small lake that I received a complaint on last year for killing over the limit teal. As we were walking out two of the guys that hunt the lake drove up on us. We talked to them for a minute and told them that we were just walking around hunting arrowheads. We noticed that they were going to the lake to brush their blind up by all the tree limbs that were in the back of the truck. We just told them to have a nice day and walked on off.

We got caught; at least that's what we thought. I had just about decided to go work somewhere else the next morning but Brian and I thought about it and said we would go ahead and at least go listen the next morning. So the next morning Lt. Hedrick met us in Nebo and we went in to listen.

Brian went in on one side of the lake and Lt.



Hedrick and I went in on the camp side where they launched their boat. We hid outside of the gate that went down to their camp and listened for shots. Sure enough, the shooting started so Lt. Hedrick and I

*Continued on page 96*

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## Smart Teal Hunters

*Continued from page 95*

headed toward their camp. When we got to the gate on our four wheelers I had a key that worked the day before and tried to open it but they had changed the lock. That was supposed to keep us out that day but we just made a trail around the gate. We got to their camp and sat there till they came out.

Brian was on the other side of the lake watching the blind. He could see every move they made including the three trips that were made to the burlap sack hanging on a tree limb. Whenever they would kill several ducks one of the guys would go pick the ducks up in the boat and just take them over to the sack and drop them in it. It seemed to work pretty good last year.

After about three hours of hunting, four of the five

guys came out with one under their limit, which was 15. I got one of the guys to take me back to their blind to check the other guy out and he had killed one more since they had left him out there. He said that was the only one that he had. I then asked the guy if he would take me to pick my partner Brian up I got him to take us to that sack that was on the tree that they knew nothing about. After we all got back to the bank we dumped all the teal on the ground. There were 45 all together. All five men were cited with over the limit that day and we later went back.

Whenever U.S. Fish and Wildlife got a hold of it, they charged them with failure to maintain field possession. Two of the guys we caught were the same two that caught us the day before.



*Sr. Agent Joey Merrill with teal sieezed on a over limit case in LaSalle Parish.*

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### The Long Haul

By Sgt. Joe Chandler

Occasionally, while working, you run across something truly interesting. Such was the case with two men who are students at the University of Minnesota, and decided to spend their last summer in school traveling the Mississippi River from its mouth to its end. The paddle said "2,320". That's how long the trip was. They began their trip in Minnesota, and the entire voyage was taken in a canoe.

The guys said they would travel in the canoe until they ran out of supplies, at which time they would land it, restock (and take a hot shower) and go again, camping along the way. It's an interesting (and demanding) way to spend a summer. I know how tired I am after a day working on the river, and that's in a big boat with a motor.

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