



Region 2 (Continued)

When Pigs Fly

By Sgt. Duane Taylor

When the old phrase, "when pigs fly" is uttered, it usually follows a question of when something will likely happen. The intended meaning is that something will never happen, or will only happen in a most extreme situation, such as when a pig is actually able to take flight. However, in this case, it has a slightly different meaning.

On the morning of Jan. 5, 2007, I was going

about my normal patrol, when I received a phone call from Louisiana State Police Trooper Todd Cummins. Cummins told me that he had received information from a friend that a man had shot a turkey with a rifle in late November. The friend wanted to remain anonymous so he passed the information on to Cummins. He provided me the information of the hunter, where the turkey was killed and the taxidermist where the

turkey was located.

Since I didn't know where this case was headed or if we would have to go in separate directions, I enlisted the assistance of Senior Agent Scott Jeansonne and Agent John Volentine. Our first stop was the Rebel Hill Taxidermy, located in extreme south Ouachita Parish. We met with the owner, and asked her if she had received any turkeys lately to be mounted. She told us that just before

Christmas, she had received a turkey and she got her logbook. The name in the logbook matched the name provided to me as being the shooter of the turkey. The records indicated that the hunter wanted the fan, legs and beard mounted, and the information on the plaque was Spike Hunting Club and the year of 2006. She then told us that she had the turkey in the freezer but had not opened the bag since she

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had received it from the hunter.

She led us to the freezer, where she opened it to reveal a large black plastic garbage bag. Inside the bag was a large gobbler with an 11-inch beard. We removed the turkey and examined it. There was a hole in the breastbone that you could have rolled a golf ball through. It was an obvious exit hole from a rifle bullet. We could not locate any evidence that it was shot with a shotgun. At this time, we seized the turkey.

We went to the residence of the hunter, made contact with him and Volentine read him his Miranda Rights. The man denied shooting a turkey and even stated the fact that he was not a turkey hunter and had never killed a turkey. I invited him to look at the turkey in the back of my truck and see if it was the same one that he had taken to the taxidermist to be mounted. He looked at the turkey, then lowered his head and said it was the turkey that he had shot, but then added that it was a total accident. He told us that he was in his deer stand when several

black objects appeared in a bottom about 150 yards away. He thought it was a heard of pigs so he picked out the biggest one and shot. He knew that when the remaining "pigs" flew away that he had made a mistake. I might have believed his story if he had been hunting with a rifle with open sights, but his

7mm magnum was equipped with a 4.5 X 16 Leupold scope. Well, we seized the rifle and issued him citations for taking a turkey-closed season, taking a turkey with a rifle, hunting turkeys without a turkey stamp and civil restitution. I guess it just goes to show that sometimes "pigs" really can fly.



Sr. Agent Scott Jeanson with the illegal turkey. The turkey was a gobbler with an 11-inch beard.

Photos by Sgt. Duane Taylor





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