



## Region 6 Continued

# Climbed a Tree Lately?

By Sr. Agent Jason Romero

On Dec. 29, 2006, Sgt. Dusty Rhodes, Cadet Jason Marks and I were working along the coastal marshes of Iberia Parish. The area we were working included several ponds that were baited with Rice, Corn and Milo. There was a hunting camp approximately 500 yards away from the baited ponds. In order to get a better look, we each climbed a tree and began to set up surveillance. At this time, we were approximately ½ mile from our target. We looked like three buzzards in a tree staring at road kill.

About one hour later, we noticed a subject on the camp porch putting on camouflage clothing. I commented, "He has to be going duck hunting." The subject then began going in the direction of the ponds, riding a four-wheeler. He made several stops around the

ponds, which made it difficult to tell exactly what he was doing. Once he reached one of the many duck blinds that were in our view, he began putting brush around it. We all kept saying "Is he going to hunt? You think he is going to hunt?" Then, we noticed that he had a shotgun on his shoulder. I remember Dusty saying, "Let's go boys, we're burning daylight".

Jason stayed in the tree to watch every move the subject made, while Dusty and I began making our way to the ponds through the marsh. Dusty and I finally made it to the location. By this time, ducks were literally pouring into the pond but he could not seem to kill any. He was a bad shot! He had only killed four ducks, which he started looking for right away. Lucky for him, he could only find one duck. The subject had begun walk-

ing to his four-wheeler, when Dusty and I began running toward him. He didn't notice us until we were 50 yards from him. You should have seen the look on his face! Just think, two Louisiana Game Wardens running toward you, full of mud, in the middle of the marsh, meanwhile one is yelling, "Game Warden", and the other yelling "Put the gun down."

The subject admitted

to feeding several hundred pounds of Corn, Rice and Milo, throughout the duck season. He also admitted to putting 100 ponds of Milo out that day. Jason made it to our location where the subject was issued citations for Federal: Placing bait to take MGB and Hunting MGB over baited area or by aid of baiting. Only one Gadwall Duck was seized.

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