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FIFTEEN CENTS

Hey turkey!

How to lure a gobbler: world's champ talks turkey at Mini-Sports Show.



Bob Clark, left, and Rob Keck, right, demonstrate how to call a wild turkey.

Donegal High was packed with 400 sportsmen last weekend when the Fly-tying Club held its 12th annual Mini-Sports Show last weekend.

A highlight of the show was an exhibition of turkey calling by the 1976 world champion, Rob Keck of Perry County, Pa. Rob, the first world champion turkey caller from north of the Mason-Dixon line, won his title by demonstrating 5 turkey calls before a panel of judges at the championship in Mobile, Alabama.

Rob told the *Susquehanna Times*, "In Perry County, if a male child is born up there, and he is unable to call turkeys by the time he is two weeks old, they drown him."

"He's just kidding," said Bob Clark, head of the Pennsylvania Wild Turkey Federation.

"The only trouble with calling turkeys," said the

champ, "is that after a while you start to think like a turkey. Finally, you start to look like a turkey. A

friend of mine was shot while calling wild turkeys.

After he got out of the hospital, he met the guy who shot him. The man explained that he had mistaken my friend's face for a wild turkey."

At that point, Bob Clark took over the conversation. "You know, Pennsylvania has become 3rd in total turkey population of the United States," he said. "The comeback is due mainly to improved timber management, improved public attitude, and the 'trap and transfer' stocking program."

For our readers who like wild turkey (the bird, not the booze) here are Rob Keck's tips for spring turkey hunters:

The 4 keys to a successful hunt are: 1. pre-season scouting, 2. being properly camouflaged, 3. learning to use a calling device and 4. patience.

"You don't have to be a champion caller to get a bird," Rob says. "You just have to be adequate. The best time for hearing a wild bird is the first hour after daylight. Try to get within 200 yards, but don't get too close. Turkey eyes have 10 times the resolving power of human eyes."



Scott Smith looks at small trout raised by the Donegal Fish and Conservation Association to stock local streams. The Association plans to raise 10,000 fish next year. Scott got a close look at some of those small fry at the Mini-Sports Show.



Daisy and Ed Sweigart holding cracked eggs in the kitchen of their farm

Wild in the barnyard

"They practice cannibalism. Sometimes they all go crazy at once and start tearing into each other, and they'd kill themselves if we didn't keep an eye on them. The males aren't satisfied if they have less than ten females at their disposal, but the females

just wander around from one to another."

Ed Sweigart wasn't talking about the latest cult from California. The group he was discussing lives near Mount Joy, at Ed's place. To prevent them from escaping, he keeps them in a cage.

Local citizens need not worry that the group will get loose. They are too stupid to break out. They are, literally, a flock of bird-brains.

Ed runs the D & E Pheasantry, raising birds for both hunting and dressing. With two small barns and three acres under wire, he produces 10,000 pheasants a year. While Ed has the ordinary production problems experienced by a chicken farmer, he also must deal with the birds' sometimes bizarre psychological reactions to captivity.

Pheasants can't be raised in individual indoor cages. They must be exposed to weather or their plumage will grow dull, thus destroying their value as game birds. Ed keeps them in

open cages containing several hundred birds each.

"We give them 50 square feet a piece," says Ed, who runs the business with his wife Daisy ("D & E" stands for "Daisy and Ed"). "but they still get edgy." Like people in New York City, pheasants become violent when cramped. Especially during the hot summer months, a single peck can escalate into a free-for-all which leaves hundreds of blood-stained feathers on the ground. No one wants a bird with damaged plumage.

To prevent this, Ed periodically rotates the birds from pen to pen. "They're inquisitive creatures," he explains, "and moving decreases their boredom. They have to explore the new area, and are less likely to fight."

If a fight does erupt, nothing will stop it. All the pheasants' beaks must be immediately trimmed to prevent disaster. By the time the beaks grow back (about four weeks) the birds have cooled off.

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