

My First Spring Bird

By: Steve Capizzi



Author Steve Capizzi with his 24 pound Eastern taken on April 18, 2013 on Fort Riley, Kansas

It was a cold, wet and windy Kansas April morning when my buddy Cody Cook and I decided to make another attempt at getting my first spring gobbler.

I had pursued a gobbler every chance I could get ever since the beginning of the season and as a novice hunter I had learned that pursuing a turkey and getting one is more than just a challenge it's downright hard work.

So, this cold miserable morning found us set in a wooded area adjacent to an old food plot well before daylight doing what turkey hunters do most, waiting for the dawn and hopefully a gobble.

I had recently purchased one of PRIMOS' new Bombshell calls. This is a push call which can be attached to your gun and activated by either pushing or pulling the pin inside the call.

On this morning I had it attached to my Mossberg 535 and in front of me I had place my hen decoy at about twenty yards and my Jake decoy at fifteen. At daybreak I make a few clucks and got a response. To my delight a big Tom came across the trail leading from an area known to locals as "Turkey Alley" with his

Harem of four hens. Following them was a young Jake.



One inch hooks

The old bird strutted straight for my hen decoy and began to do his dance. At that moment Cody did a little cluck on a box call and this got his attention where he spotted my Jake decoy causing him to sound off with his fighting purr and going into a mean walk which took him right for the Jake and fifteen yards from my gun.

As he got ready to fight I took aim and just like that I had him flopping on the ground. I was in such shock that I just lay my gun down and screamed in success. I could not believe that I had actually bagged my

first ever trophy gobbler.

The remaining Jake and hens flew off.



11.37 inch beard

My buddy Cody was leaving the Army the following week and so as a souvenir I gave him the beard. I wanted this memory which would be with me for the rest of my life to be with him as well.

I can hardly wait to have the spurs and fan mounted.

An examination of the old bird showed that he had been in many a fight and I don't know if he was three or four years old, he certainly was over three but I do know that he's as old as he'll ever get and I am one happy turkey hunter.



The bird scored an impressive 66.75 points on the NWTF score calculator a Trophy Bird!