



Saturday morning I decided to set up in the blind behind our home with my crossbow since I had photographed 4 longbeards on Thursday morning. The birds started gobbling at 7:05 and then 4 gobblers appeared at 8:05 and gobbled and strutted their way in front of my decoys, 10 yards away (wish I had a videographer for this one) and they pecked on my stuffed jake decoy, demonstrated the mating dance and generally were excited. I shot the second gobbler with the crossbow and he walked to the side while his brothers continued to strut, gobble and then amble away but they came back 2 more times to the decoys. T

he wounded bird walked slowly to the woods on the south west part of our property but the others continued to gobble till 11 am when I decided to go get Charlie to see if he could help find the bird. When Charlie and I came back down to the bottom at 11:45 (75 yds from the screen porch) the turkeys were still gobbling in the woods not far away.

I sent Charlie into the woods and he quartered back and forth and within 10 minutes I saw the turkey take flight and Charlie was lunging thru the air. Things got quiet and then Charlie emerged with a very still, wounded gobbler that had an 11 inch beard and 1" curved spurs, and brought the bird to me.

What a dog! I know he was not trained in Ireland to retrieve wild turkeys but I must say he is a true champion. This was the most unusual hunt of my life.

I am attaching a few photos of the Wildrose turkey dog.

Steve Reynolds