



**FIND LOCAL AUTOS FAST.**  
CLICK HERE

Spend less time banking and more time running your business.  
www.mandtbank.com

ANYTIME, ANYWHERE  
**M&T WebBanking for Business**

**NEW** NEWSPAPER SEARCH  Enter Keyword(s) **GO** || **FIND A BUSINESS**  Enter Category **GO**

- Home
- News+Biz
- Local
- Sports
- Forums+Chat
- Cams+Radio
- Living
- Entertainment

**CLASSIFIEDS**  
*Get The Best Local...*  
[Jobs](#) | [Autos](#) | [Real Estate](#)  
[All Classifieds](#) | [Place An Ad](#)

# SPORTS

## The Post-Standard

Click here to subscribe!

» [More From The Post-Standard](#)

### Sports News

#### INSIDE Sports

- » [Pro](#)
- » [College](#)
- » [High School](#)
- » [More](#)

» [SEND THIS PAGE](#)

» [PRINT THIS PAGE](#)

- » [Rant + Rave in the Sports Talk Forum!](#)  
» [More Forums](#)
- » [Log On to ChatXtra!](#)

- » [Get free sports e-mail updates!](#)  
» [More Newsletters](#)

» Win Syracuse Crunch Family Four Pack!

### CNY Business

- » [DestiNY USA Updates](#)
- » [DestiNY USA Forum](#)
- » [Mortgage Rates](#)
- » [Stock Market Report](#)
- » [CNY Business Forum](#)

## Bird rivalry just a myth

December 12, 2002

J. MICHAEL KELLY  
OUTDOORS WRITER

One of the more persistent canards about wildlife involves the allegedly adversarial relationship between ruffed grouse and wild turkeys.

At a recent cocktail party, I heard an avid grouse hunter declare his suspicions about turkeys. The way he saw it, the fact that New York's gobblers have made a big comeback while the grouse population is in decline must be more than a coincidence. I decided to ask a couple of experts about the subject after a day of deer hunting that was marked by three explosive grouse flushes, a close encounter with a turkey flock and not a single whitetail sighting.

▼ From Our Advertiser

**What are you doing this Winter?**



**Toggenberg Mountain**

"There's an old saw about turkeys destroying grouse nests, but it's pure mythology," said Bill Porter, a prominent wild-turkey researcher at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Turkeys don't compete with grouse for food, either, Porter said. Most of the time, they're eating different things.

"This time of year, for instance, turkeys are feeding primarily on the ground, but the grouse are up in the trees and subsisting primarily on buds."

A former colleague of Porter's, retired SUNY-ESF professor Bob

**NO INTEREST PAYMENTS THE 2004 HOLIDAY HOT BUYS**  
Savings on Living Rooms, Bedrooms, Dining Rooms and More!

at the new **China Towne Furniture**

**FREE PAIR OF LAMPS**  
SOFA \$399

Reclining Sofa \$699

Secretary \$499

Free pair of lamps with purchase of 5 piece room package (\$149 Value)

"You Know Our Low Prices. Come See Our Quality and Selection."

Chambers, concurs that there's no evidence of an inherent conflict between turkeys and grouse. "I'm more inclined to blame low grouse numbers on the maturation of our forests," said Chambers, who is a dedicated member of the Ruffed Grouse Society. "That's made poor grouse habitat."

Grouse thrive in young or regenerating forests, old apple orchards and similar cover. Such places are full of buds and berries and also provide a thick curtain of leaves and branches to screen chicks from owls and other predators.

Turkeys, on the other hand, really shine in mature woods with sparse ground cover. Big hardwood stands serve up an ample menu of nuts, mushrooms and bugs, and that open terrain lets turkeys take advantage of their remarkable eyesight.

**Both the** Grouse Society and the National Wild Turkey Federation have spent thousands of dollars in Central New York to improve habitat for their favorite birds, and in some cases, one hand has washed the other.

At the Tioughnioga Wildlife Management Area in Madison County, for example, a \$5,800 Turkey Federation grant was used to make a series of small clearcuts and prune away the brush that was keeping the sun from a grove of wild apple trees.

Clearcuts make good display areas for mating turkeys, but grouse also like to hang around the edges of such openings. No doubt both species will appreciate all those extra apples, too.

© 2002 The Post-Standard. Used with permission.

» [Send This Page](#) | » [Print This Page](#)

MORE SPORTS NEWS

- » [SU schedules lacrosse heavyweights for the Dome](#)
- » [Crunch slams door on Ducks](#)
- » [Proper Power-Sledding](#)

[More Stories](#) | [14-Day Archive](#) | [Complete Sports Index](#)

MORE FROM THE POST-STANDARD

[Post-Standard Links & Archives](#)

[About Us](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Help/Feedback](#) | [Advertise With Us](#)

© 2002 Syracuse.com. All Rights Reserved.



>> [M & T Bank - All the Bank You'll Ever Need](#)  
>> [Medical Positions Await you – Apply Now](#)

» **Advertise With Us**

**WAER jazz 88**