



By Bob D'Angelo Game News Senior Associte Editor

What Should I Be Doing This Month?

5EPTEMBER is a month of contrast. The beginning often has hot temperatures and humidity; the back half starts to feel like fall, with cooler temperatures and those "earthy" smells of autumn.

During the dove season opener, the cornfields are still shimmering green blocks in the distance, but toward the end of September they've turned an amber color akin to the shade of a whitetail buck's antlers stripped of velvet, which occurs about the middle of the ninth month.

I never miss a dove season opener, there's just something special about an opener of any hunting season, but for many hunters doves offer the first hunting action since the spring gobbler season closed three months prior. The best hunting of the season, though, at least in my hunting spots in York County, occurs later in September when the corn or other crops are harvested. This doesn't happen every year in late September, but when it does, look out! I'll scout areas and note when the corn has been cut, and then find spots where the birds are feeding on waste grain, and can count on the best wingshooting action of the month. My hunting journal from last year reveals that the corn at my favorite dove hunting spot was cut on September 21. My best evening of the season ("birds pouring into the cut corn, circling and trying to get back in after being shot at and missed") occurred on September 26.

By early September I really begin monitoring my trail cameras, get a good look at the bucks' racks, and adjust my plans for where I'll place my tree stands for the upcoming archery season. If you haven't been doing it, you should be shooting your bow in short sessions every day now.

September definitely offers sportsmen opportunities to fill days with a variety of action-filled scenerios. A couple of years ago a friend and I hunted geese in the morning on the Susquehanna River, fished for bass in the early afternoon, and then finished the day hunting doves. It doesn't get any better than that. And perhaps best of all—September is just the teaser to wonderful hunting opportunities to follow in October and November.

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