

The great thing about Oklahoma's outdoors is that when one thing isn't working, there are plenty of other avenues to pursue. Duck hunting near the end of December is very spotty, and if your best hunting locations happen to be in one of those "off" spots, consider letting the ducks alone for a day or two and switching gears to upland birds, predator hunting, hog hunting or even chasing cottontails. That is, if you've already filled your deer archery tag (open until Jan.

15). Rabbit hunting is an old Oklahoma staple and it is a ton of fun, especially if you know someone who runs beagles. Rabbit populations seem to be in pretty good shape this year, if the numbers I've busted from the brush are any indication. Whether you're using dogs, shotguns, an air rifle or a .22, a few rabbits are a fine day's fun and plenty good in the stewpot.

Upland hunting has been relatively good this year, and hunters on private land as well as public areas have been finding coveys of quail. You'll have to pound some boot leather, but hitting heavy cover, particularly on the edges of agricultural fields, should turn up some birds this year especially if you have a good dog or two. Fur season is open, and predator hunting for coyotes and bobcats is at its peak at the end of December and first part of January.

Even novices can have some success with electronic calls and a good piece of ground using a shotgun or a rifle. Predator hunting is the fastest growing type of hunting in the country, and with good reason. Get into the great outdoors and even if you're not finding hunting success you're sure to find a good time. Jack Morris is a professional guide with nearly 30 years' experience. Contact him at 918-691-3840, jackswildlife@cox.net or jackswildlifeoutdoors.com.