

One of the best things about the weeks of Christmas and New Yearâ€™s is the opportunity many people have to take time away from work and spend it with family â€“ especially if they can spend that family time in the great outdoors. Waterfowl hunting is in full swing, as is upland hunting for quail, pheasant and rabbit. Lots of rain lately and warmer-than-usual weather is the story for waterfowl hunting right now. For better hunting conditions we really need a good push of cold weather from the north to bring in more birds. Unfortunately, the migration is just coming in fits and starts with mild weather dominating the country. Some mallards have moved in recently, but other birds have moved on. With plenty of sheet water in agriculture fields and relatively high water in reservoirs, the birds we do have are spread out. Hunting is spotty and requires homework to put your hunting party â€œon the X,â€• but there are plenty of â€œXsâ€• out there to be found. Upland hunting reports on quail have been great across the state, northeast to northwest. The same goes for pheasants, especially in north-central Oklahoma. With more wet weather â€“ and possibly snow â€“ forecast for quail country this weekend, those birds could be grouped up tight and conditions could be ideal for finding some fast-flushing cocks and coveys. Rabbit hunting in Oklahoma is a long-held winter tradition with a lot of people and is great game for starting young hunters with a .410 shotgun or a .22 rifle. With all the rain and water coming up, some of the bunnies may be concentrated on the higher ground and a little easier to find. Hogs and coyotes also are an option this time of year and trapping season is open as well to include hunting for other predators such as raccoons and bobcats. Whatever your quarry, hereâ€™s hoping you have a chance to get outside with family and enjoy some Oklahoma hunting this holiday season.