

# SQUIRRELS: Hunters should sit quietly and listen close

## FROM PAGE 31

as quietly as possible through the forest. Every few steps stop to look around and listen. Watch for anything unusual, such as odd shapes on tree trunks, moving branches or objects falling.

Periodically, find a fallen log, stump or comfortable tree base to sit quietly, listen and scan the trees. Squirrel hunters frequently hear activity long before they see anything. Listen for claws scratching bark, nut fragments hitting fallen leaves or squirrels barking. A good pair of binoculars can help sportsmen spot the “ghosts of autumn” hiding in nooks of big trees.

For hunting rabbits, find places with abundant briar thickets, overgrown fencerows, brush piles and other cover. Every predator in the woods from hawks to coyotes wants to eat rabbits, so the long-eared critters never stray far from their hiding places.

“A rabbit is hunted day and night from all kinds of predators on land and in the air,” explained James Sealy, Jr., a rabbit hunter from Citronelle. “They are constantly trying to avoid



Photo by John N. Felsher

Steve Byrd and James Sealy Jr. of Citronelle admire some rabbits they killed.

predators much more skilled than human hunters. They can see a person and disappear without the person ever knowing it.”

Most people hunt rabbits with beagles. The dogs enter thick cover to flush

the rabbits into the open. Although the season open in September, many rabbit hunters don’t even let their dogs out of the kennels until cooler weather hits

See **SQUIRRELS**, 33



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