

# Evidence for a Possible Sasquatch Hunting Method

## Abstract

To describe a possible method of hunting small and medium sized game, (wild turkeys in particular) by Sasquatch using thrown rocks. Possible evidence includes impact wounds on tree trunks and rounded rocks of good throwing size and weight found on top of forest floor litter. This is also evidenced by a specific incident of witnessed rock throwing with the rock causing an impact wound on a tree.



## Introduction

In the course of six years of ongoing research I have found a curious set of evidence that shows a possible method used to take smaller to medium sized game animals for food by Sasquatch. Most of this evidence consists of impact wounds

on trees and random findings of mostly rounded stones of about a half a pound in weight *on top of* the forest floor litter. The vast majority of the impact wounds are at about eighteen to twenty-four inches above the ground which is about the correct height for a wild turkeys head. A smattering of these impact wounds are more consistent with whitetail deer head heights at about three feet high. This could be a very effective way to hunt wild turkeys in particular, a head shot with a rock would leave little evidence of the kill if you were trying to be discreet. It is a common practice by turkey poachers to make head shots with a high velocity .22 caliber air rifle for this very reason.<sup>1</sup> This idea was partially confirmed by a rock throwing incident on August 3, 2013.

## Incident of August 3, 2013

The start of this incident was a brief longer range daylight sighting of an approximately six and a half foot tall auburn colored Sasquatch running east to west across the front of my position on an north to south running ridge in hardwood forest. The weather was hot and it was very windy building to thunderstorms in the late afternoon.<sup>2</sup> After I got over the initial shock of what had just occurred I cautiously moved in the direction of the sighting to investigate. When I got to the area, about one-hundred and thirty yards from my starting position, I found three fourteen inch tracks with a sixty-four inch step length, moving west, but could not continue on this trail as the ground surface here is not conducive for leaving good tracks. My suspicion was that the Sasquatch more than likely looped around to the right below the crest of the end of the ridge out of my line of sight into some thick over. I then started to back-track to locate more tracks so I could to determine the path the Sasquatch took away from the initial sighting position. To my right, east, there was a stand of white pine that was planted after some logging back in the 1930's. This stand of pine is quite mature and on the edge is very thick with undergrowth and hard to see anything in. I got a little closer to this stand of pines and a rock impacted a tree close to me. The rock hit the tree so hard it ricocheted off with a slight zinging noise. The velocity of

the rock was such that my first reaction was that I was being fired upon by a suppressed pistol. I took this as a warning that I was too close and backed off, loudly said "see you later", and made my way quickly by a roundabout path to the next ridge over to the west. I then crept up to the crest of this ridge on my belly and observed with binoculars to see if I could see any movement from the area in question. After about an hour of ob-



August 3, 2013 impact wound on the tree. The walking stick head is four inches wide

ervation nothing else was seen.

On August 10, I went back to this area to investigate this incident further and found the impact wound on the tree. This wound was forty inches up on the tree and was five inches long. It looked very much like a bullet graze but without the telltale groove through the center of the mark that a bullet would typically leave. I do not think that the rock was intended to hit me but was thrown as a warning to back off, I just got too close to one and another concealed in the pines let me know I should leave. Investigating the area in the thick cover of the edge of the pines produced one isolated sixteen inch impression without much detail lending support to my supposition.

Of note is the fact that most of these impact wounds and the rocks themselves are found in more open areas of hardwood forest. Precisely the kind of terrain that would lend itself to this method of hunting. In thicker areas there is little sign of this possible practice and in general wild turkeys stay out of heavy cover to avoid predators. Since 2012 roughly eighty-five of these stones have been observed of about the same size on top of the forest floor litter. Twenty-six possible impact wounds have been found on trees all but three of these were at eighteen to twenty-four inches, two were at thirty-four to thirty-six inches, with the one shown above at forty inches.

## Impact Wounds

What follows are a selection of photographs of impact wounds on trees from four different research areas all of which are connected by forest corridors, a river and a rail line. Woodpeckers can make similar marks on trees but will leave an obvious hole where an insect was extracted<sup>3</sup>. Of all of these



areas only one can be legally hunted and that only one day a year (shotgun



only) to cull whitetail deer in a strictly organized manner.



## Rocks

The vast majority of rocks found are about half a pound in weight and of a rounded water smoothed shape that would be comfortable to throw. All of these are found on top of the forest floor litter with little sign of being there for very long. On rare occasions there are wild turkey pin feathers, such as you would find on the head and neck area, associated with the rock. There are many rocks such as this close to the ground surface in the more westerly areas and less to the more easter-





Smooth flat rock in found position.



Rock moved to show indentation in the pine needles, note the freshness of the indentation.



Two examples of rocks kicked by deer hooves the one on the left is relatively small. The one on the right is much larger.

ly, a change in the geologic substrata occurs (metamorphic stone west to limestone karst in the east). Whitetail deer do sometimes kick up similar rocks but these are usually associated with deer tracks and are of a more random size and weight. Often you can see where the rock was kicked out of the ground by deer hooves.

## Conclusions

The consistency of the size of the stones and the fact that they are found on top of the leaves and other forest floor litter indicates a possible pattern of behavior. Using an accurately thrown rock to take turkey for food would be an efficient hunting method where turkeys are concerned, though for larger animals like whitetail deer, grabbing them from an ambush position would probably conserve more energy. Given the size of a Sasquatch as well as the



Left to right, piléated woodpecker holes, porcupine scratches and emerald ash borer damage.

fact that more than likely food is shared among a group or pair, the less energy expended to get the food the better.<sup>4</sup>

Predator to prey ratio information is difficult to get in this area as it is not tracked, at least as accessible information, by the local Department of Natural Resources. What I can glean from local sources is that the whitetail deer and wild turkey population, though large, has been declining slightly over the last few years but is very healthy and this is verified by my own direct observation. Of the major predators that are in this area most are not in high enough numbers to put a dent in the deer and turkey population. Coyotes and bobcat will take turkeys<sup>5</sup> (bobcat will kill whitetail deer if possible but this is rare in this area) if they can but there is a low population of both. There is evidence of a lone male mountain lion in the area but these research areas are at the southern extremity of its range and the local black bear are more interested in road kill or scavenging to be active hunters for the most part.<sup>6</sup> This area was subject to a commercial poaching problem fifteen years ago but this has been eliminated, and though there is still some poaching going on it is not enough to impact local game populations. The impact of legal seasonal hunting on private land and public hunting reserves around these research areas is steadily declining and this fact should lead to higher populations of both



Remains of a turkey killed and eaten by a bobcat.

whitetail deer and turkeys. Something is eating enough deer and turkeys to keep the populations stable and healthy.

Trent Carbaugh, August, 2016

## Footnotes

1. In my area (western Maryland) turkeys are usually poached with a .22 caliber rifle or with a high velocity .22 caliber air rifle. Deer are usually poached with a compound crossbow with a telescopic sight. Both a rifle and a crossbow leave unmistakable marks on trees in the event of a miss.

2. My personal belief is that it is virtually impossible to surprise a Sasquatch in most conditions, they are so completely aware of what is going on in their environment that this is almost an impossibility, except for certain times. One of those is when there are lots of leaves on the trees with high winds and sunshine, this seems to be visually confusing to them allowing a closer approach without being detected. Another is in heavy rain with fog this seems to confuse with both lowered visibility and noise.

3. Pileated and red headed woodpeckers can make large marks on trees searching for insects. Porcupines and to a lesser extent black bears can leave similar marks to impact wounds but generally these two animals will make enough of a mess to make their marks easily discernable. In eastern forests the emerald ash borer is destroying ash trees in huge numbers and between the woodpeckers feeding on the borers and the damage caused by the insect itself many ash trees can have odd looking marks on the trunk.

4. Although Sasquatch are most likely omnivorous in their eating habits, protein from animal meat will give more energy than plant based foods. The problem with this is that it takes more energy to hunt than to collect plant based food, so efficiency in hunting techniques is important. A good analogy is to compare suspected Sasquatch to known tiger hunting techniques. A tiger is larger than most prey it goes after, hunts from ambush, uses infra-sound to disorient prey, and does not chase animals very far. Sasquatch hunting behavior is similar by all accounts. Large predators have to get more out of a meal than the energy expended to get it, and if you are sharing food with others, as Sasquatch probably do, this becomes even more important. Using thrown rocks to take animals that are hard to grab, like wild turkeys, makes sense.

5. Coyotes are new to my area and have not really settled into their niche, but I find it interesting that if I find Sasquatch tracks in an area I almost never find coyote tracks. Bobcats are sparse but on the far eastern edge of my research areas there is a breeding pair.

6. Black bear make unmistakable deer kills, a bear kill is quite a mess. The deer will be ripped



Probable poacher deer kill, broken crossbow bolt in deer's body.

open and the ribs will look as if they have been opened by a pair of bolt cutters. A bear may drag a deer off in a more concealed place to eat but will not take it far. Male mountain lion ranges in low population areas can be as large as three hundred square miles (or more) though generally in the two hundred square mile range. Female mountain lion ranges are usually about one hundred fifty square miles, smaller if with cubs. In 2012 there was a female with a cub in this area but no sign has been found after.



Black bear kill of a whitetail deer, quite a mess.

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