

TROPHY TALK

Do 4x4 Whitetails Make the Book?



Jack Reneau
Director
Big Game Records

The Records Office receives several calls a year from individuals who have taken a monster 4x4 typical whitetail and want to know if any such whitetails have ever made the Club's records books. Some folks don't care if there are abnormal points on the rack, while those who are "purists" ask for the score of the largest "perfect" 4x4 without any abnormal points.

The table below includes a list of the top 10, hunter-taken typical 4x4s listed in the records book. This list includes only those typical whitetails with four normal points on each antler and no abnormal points. If you were to include the highest scoring 4x4 typical bucks with one or more abnormal points, there are five deer that score higher than the top two scoring bucks in the table below. Mr. Charles H. Priess, for example, took a magnificent buck in Nuevo Leon, Mexico, in 1985 that scores 184-5/8 points. While Mr. Priess's buck is 4-2/8 points greater than

If we were to include trophies that were found dead or are of unknown origin, there are three "perfect" 4x4s that would displace three trophies on my top 10 list. The largest of the three is a spectacular buck that scores 176-7/8 points. Randy Rogers and Ray Scott purchased it in Birmingham, AL, in 1988, at a federal bankruptcy sale. The longest main beam is 30 inches long and the inside spread is 29-5/8 inches wide. Neither owner knows the origin of this spectacular buck, because it was not included in the auction information.

In addition to the trophies listed in the table, there are another 53 "perfect" 4x4 whitetails accepted in the Club's Awards Programs that score 160 points or better and another 45 bucks with a typical 4x4 frame that have one or more abnormal points.

Website Data Access Coming Soon

Every day we field phone calls from people who want to know such things as: the length of the longest main beam on an

elk; the greatest spread of an Alaska-Yukon moose; the locations of the top 10 bighorn sheep; the longest prong on a pronghorn; the longest black bear skull; etc., etc., etc. Much of this data is already listed in the records books, but it takes time to dig it out. However, much more data in our files are not published in the records books because of space limitations. I am very pleased to notify you that you will soon be able get answers to these questions and many others that I can't even think of at this time on B&C's website boone-crockett.org. Subscribers will be able to access B&C's trophy data for a nominal annual fee by mid-2003. Details will be announced in a forthcoming edition of *Fair Chase*. ■

BOOK REVIEW

THE GOLDEN AGE OF ELK HUNTING

By John Caid

Six years in the making, "The Golden Age of Elk Hunting" is a compendium of elk-hunting information that includes photos and stories collected

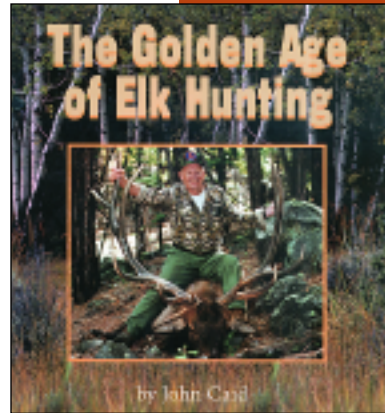
from over 250 individuals. It is a source for reference material on trophy elk hunting in 10 western states and four Canadian Provinces, as well as information on private land hunts, and Indian reservations that have produced trophy elk. Articles and essays on antler development, archery hunters, elk hunting tips and more round out the contents of this book. John Caid is

well qualified to author such a book. He is a former guide and wildlife manager of the legendary White Mountain Apache Indian Reservation. During the last 20 years, John has guided 60 elk hunters who have taken many trophy elk, including 13 that qualify for Boone and Crockett Club's all-time records book.

The hardcover edition of "The Golden Age of Hunting" is priced at \$65, plus shipping and handling, and the limited edition (750 copies) is priced at \$130, plus shipping and handling. You can order your copy by calling 928/369-3171, or by contacting the website trophyelkbook.com.

BOOK REVIEW NOTICE

There are many state, provincial and private organizations publishing local records books that use the Boone and Crockett Club's copyrighted scoring system with the express written permission of the Club. Since there is no single reference source for these books, and because there are many hunters who collect them, we will review them as time and space permit. Only those books that use the Boone and Crockett Club's copyrighted scoring system and terminology will be considered for review. However, the Boone and Crockett Club cannot vouch for the accuracy of the data contained in these publications. Many of the books include trophies that were not scored by certified Boone and Crockett Club official measurers. If there is a question about the status of a trophy listed in any of these books, the Boone and Crockett Club's records books/archives are the final reference source to settle any and all discrepancies.



TOP 10 "CLEAN" 4X4 WHITETAILS OF ALL-TIME

FINAL SCORE	LOCALITY TAKEN	HUNTER	YEAR TAKEN
180-3/8	Hand Co., SD	Vernon Winters	1965
180-3/8	Hillsdale Co., MI	Victor L. Bulliner	2001
178-2/8	Yorkton, SK	Wayde Morley	1999
176-7/8	Harrison Co., IA	Jay D. Jensen	2000
174-7/8	Burnett Co., WI	Myles T. Keller	1977
174-2/8	Cass Co., IA	Cecil Erickson	1975
174	Johnson Co., KS	Kevin M. Hancock	1996
173-1/8	Fillmore Co., MN	Gerry D. Arnold	1973
173	Caroline Co., MD	Jay Downes, Jr.	1993
172-5/8	Jackson Co., IA	Robert R. Morehead	1990

Mr. Winters' buck, it is not a "perfect" 4x4 by some folks' standards and interpretations because it has an abnormal point that is 1-3/8 inches long on the right antler.