I Grew Up Hunting Osceola gobblers in heavy Everglades cover, rarely seeing an entire bird in the dense vegetation. So it would be a treat to hunt Florida birds near Orlando, in rolling hills of grassy pasture divided by stands of pine and cypress hammocks. Making the hunt even sweeter would be my choice of shotgun, Benelli's Vinci.

Joe Coogan, Benelli USA's brand manager, invited me to test the state-of-the-art gun on gobblers at Frazier Family Farms, which sits on top of an ancient beach known as the Lake Whales Ridge. We would hunt over Cally Morris's Hazel Creek decoys, which are as lifelike as mounts. It would be cool to take an Osceola gobbler that, for once, I could actually see approach in the open.

DECOY ABUSE
The first morning, Coogan and I set hen and jake decoys about 20 yards out, three paces apart and facing quartering away. We watched the turkeys fly down from the roost about a half-mile away on the other end of the pasture.

A pair of toms walked down the opposite tree line, until they saw the decoys and made a 200-yard beeline for them as our guide, Wayne Shelby, quit cutting on his slate.

After the birds pecked the jake decoy to shreds and pounded its remnants into the ground, we put one bird down. The second gobbler started to run, but turned back around toward the decoy. I put the Burris Fast-Fire Red Dot on the base of his neck and squeezed, and the Federal Mag-Shok High Velocity load felled the other bird.

GENTLE ON THE SHOULDER
Within three days, eight other writers had similar stories to tell, and evenings were spent discussing the Vinci's merits, including its reduced muzzle jump and recoil. We were shooting stout turkey loads, but the recoil felt about like a standard field load.

For a Florida native like myself, accustomed to hunting the jungle gobblers of the southern Everglades, it was as great to actually see a hunt unfold as it was to tag an opening-morning tom and introduce a versatile shotgun to the spring woods.