

Airgun Hobbyist

Third Hunting Edition

Hunting
with Air
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Adventure

Third Hunting Edition

\$12.99 USD





all set in truly a very urban setting. Added to this mix . . . are the growing numbers of Florida's top invasive species, the Green Iguana. They are herbivores with a taste for eggs in their diet. I like my little burrowing owls and other birds, so that doesn't work for me, so I hunt them. They now have a predator.

Down Goes Iguana is a company I opened in 2023 to eliminate Iguanas for the homeowners and Condo Associations here on the Island. In 2023, I removed 253 Iguanas from our shores, In 2024, that number jumped to 730 with 56% being female. Note – 409 female iguanas

produce 50 eggs each = 20,450 eggs NOT laid. See the problem? As of this writing, at the end of June, 2025 I am at 620 iguanas killed in just six months, averaging just over 100 Iguanas per month and hundreds ahead of last year at this time. My numbers are up, but in reality, the Iguanas are winning.



I try to put the Iguanas to good use . . . I have a cooler with ice on my Iguana Mobile. From there, they go straight to a chest freezer to be stored for multiple recipients as follows:

High School Biology Classes – Remember the Frogs we dissected, Iguanas are Waaay cooler. Especially if they are loaded with eggs. High School kids really dig Iguanas. Mini-Dinosaurs. Note, South Florida is the ONLY place in the continental USA that has wild Iguanas. All other states and even north Florida have temperatures that drop to 32 degrees or lower – that temperature kills the cold-blooded Iguana. Hence, no Iguanas in any state except sub-tropic Hawaii. South Florida has not seen 32 degrees for many years.

Hunting . . . As air gunners, we all have desires to test ourselves. Whether it is punching paper on the range, plinking a can off of a fence post or the ultimate test, a little bit of hunting on the side. Here in South Florida, that last item on the bucket list, just became a lot more available.

You see, the south of Florida has become overrun with an invasive species, called the Green Iguana. There are no "Old-Boy" stories about back in the day with Iguanas, as they were never indigenous to Florida. In the Mid-Sixties, they were introduced to sub-tropical Florida via the pet trade, but mostly through hitching a ride on agricultural shipments from Central America and the Caribbean. Their prodigious birth rate of over 50 eggs per female per year, combined with virtually no natural predators has allowed the species to explode.

Because of their incredible population growth, massive burrowing into infrastructure and a voracious appetite for crops and gardens, not to mention their scat is laced with Salmonella, they have become the State's Fish and Wildlife Commission's public enemy #1. You can hunt these lizards with no license, no limit and no season on any and all State Park areas and private property, including urban areas with permission. Of course, safety precautions must be taken, such as no firearms in the majority of these places.

***Notice, Air Guns were NOT precluded from use.
Well, well, Let's go hunting.***

I live on Marco Island, a 4 mile by 6 mile Island on the extreme Southwest corner of mainland Florida, set against the shores of the Gulf to the West and the Everglades to the East. I have a background that started as a kid BB gun plinker, growing up on the farms and wilds of the Pacific Northwest and grew more serious from there. Marco Island is hardly the wilds, yet we have a huge population of natural land tortoises, ocean nesting turtles, protected burrowing owls, bobcats, coyotes, alligators plus a plethora of ocean birds of all types

Research – A regional research and educational center takes several coolers full for their research and educational purposes for the State.

FGCU – Our local College which has a Cultural Studies of Central America class. Iguanas are a core food in Central America – So they take 50-75 per year for a big Iguana Taco feed!

Crab Fishermen – A perfect bait – the tough skin allows the Iguana to be a great and long-lasting bait in their traps.

Taxidermist Artists – The Iguanas skin is often a beautiful combination of colors. Some artists covet this to create various items no different than other reptile skins; snakes, alligator, etc.

Food Insecurity – Since it is a core food for some groups who grew up in other places, it is great when I can provide them with a high protein food and a taste of home. Their nickname is . . . Pollo de los Arboles” Chicken of the Tree! FYI – The eggs make a mean omelet for breakfast too.

OK – Let’s Hunt – My Basic Set-Up

Iguanas grow fast – In a few months they are two feet in length – a couple of years they can be up to 3-4 feet and at full maturity, the males can be over 5 feet and 15-20 pounds of powerful lizard. They are dog-fast for short spurts and have razor sharp claws that reach from my palm to the first knuckle. They eat stuff, so they can bite. Which means, if you hunt, be careful. More than once, I have picked up a presumably dead Iguana only for it to turn its head and ask, “Is that all you got?”

So, this is what I have . . . Three Air Guns for different uses, all .25 caliber.

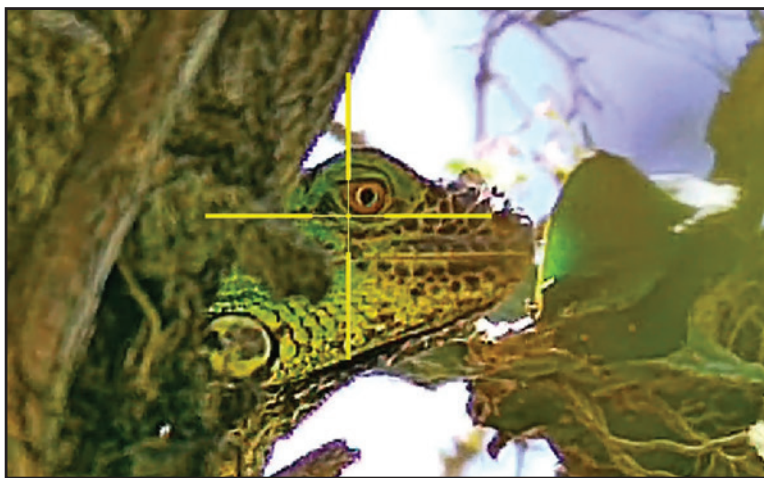
- Brocock Sniper – Medium Long Barrel – Arken Scope – 6x24x50mm – LH4 – FFP
- Brocock Atomic – Carbine – UTG BugBuster - 3x12x32 Scope – Focus to 3 Yards
- Reximex Throne Gen2 – Long Barrel – DNT Zulus LRF – 5x20 Scope – Video/Audio
- Ammo – JBS Exact King Heavy Diabolo MKII 33.95 Gr. and Predator Polymag 26 Gr.
- Kophjager K800 Carbon Fiber Tripod with Swiss Arca Ball Head Mounts
- Collapsible Camp Stool – Perfect stable height when shooting off the tripod.

I encounter distances from 10 yards to over 50 yards although my sweet spot is 20 to 35 yards in an urban environment. Here is the #1 issue when hunting iguanas: Accuracy. They are incredibly tough and body shots just won’t work. Secondly, it’s dangerous. You must know what your pellet is going to do AFTER it goes through (or misses) the iguana. Although the Island is small, there are over 100 miles



of canals on the island. Virtually every home has a seawall, a dock and a boat. Pellets ricochet off hard surfaces and skip on water. I have found that people do not like their homes and boats to be shot by an errant pellet, so great care and accuracy is vitally important. Or don’t take the shot.

The Iguana’s kill spot is about the size of a dime behind its eye and above the tympanic membrane or exterior ear. You are regulated to only the top 1/3 of the head as the lower 2/3’s is all mandible and jaws – not even close to a kill shot. So, while the actual shot is relatively short compared to some shooting scenarios, the accuracy is far more challenging than most hunting situations on a moving live prey. One should practice with real life set-ups vs a bench or sandbag arrangements.



Ammo – Without a doubt, certain guns like certain ammo. If your groupings at multiple distances are all inside of a dime, you are officially an Iguana hunter. For me, the JSB King Heavy MKII is the ammo for all of my middle to long distance shots. It is deadly accurate and at nearly 34 grains, it hits like a ton of bricks. I am here to kill, not punch paper, so my needs are slightly different than the awesome range shooters. For the Atomic Carbine, I exclusively use the Predator Polymag. I can free-hand this gun and also use the window-sill from my Jeep when I unexpectedly roll up on a front-yard Iguana when called. I never shoot this gun more than 25 yards, but it is pellet on pellet in short distances, especially once you understand the parallax hold-over on shorter distances. This pointed pellet does some damage.

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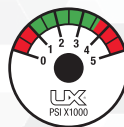
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Glass – At these shorter distances, you don't necessarily need the top dollar glass, however, it is a huge mistake to buy bargain basket low end optics that can't zoom or focus. First Focal Plane is a huge advantage, zoom and clarity is important for Iguanas as you have to hit such a small spot. If you have a break barrel or smaller gun, I love the Bug Buster. Light weight, short, clear with moa reticle dots. Another advantage is that it focuses incredibly close down to 3 yards. Plus, it has a 3x12 zoom which is all you need for these close-up shots. Affordable too.

For those of you who would like to pursue the Omaha's Wild Kingdom version of hunting, I recommend the DNT Zulus LRF – 5x20 Scope with Video and Audio. It records video of everything you see in the scope and if you put on your best Marlin Perkins voice, you can record the exact moment live as it happens. It is great for some reticle screen grabs as on the previous page. This scope also features an in-scope rangefinder and infrared for night vision hunting – Iguanas are not nocturnal, so I have not tested that option.

So, there you have it . . . If you get the opportunity to hunt Iguanas with your air rifle, do it. You will be doing both yourself and the State of Florida a favor. FYI – In the time it took me to pen this article, I had two "Iguana Help" calls which I took and bagged three more Iguanas, bringing my year-to-date total to 623. Happy hunting and Down Goes Iguana. ↪

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BAR to PSI

| BAR | PSI |
|-----|---------|
| 1 | 14.5038 |
| 50 | 725 |
| 100 | 1,450 |
| 150 | 2,176 |
| 175 | 2,538 |
| 200 | 2,901 |
| 207 | 3,000 |
| 227 | 3,300 |
| 250 | 3,625 |
| 276 | 4,000 |
| 310 | 4,500 |

PSI to BAR

| PSI | BAR |
|-------|-----------|
| 1 | 0.0689476 |
| 500 | 34 |
| 1,000 | 69 |
| 1,500 | 103 |
| 2,000 | 138 |
| 2,500 | 172 |
| 3,000 | 207 |
| 3,300 | 227 |
| 3,625 | 250 |
| 4,000 | 276 |
| 4,500 | 310 |



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