

## Dateline: Argentina

### Ducks and Doves on the Outskirts of Buenos Aires

- **Timetable:** May through July
- **Accommodations:** Historic and modern estancias
- **Food:** Local fare
- **Hunt:** Easy to moderate

While Argentina is probably best known as a dove hunting destination, goose hunting was the primary draw when wing shooting was first discovered by American hunters in the early 1970s. Later, duck concentrations were discovered that included a spectacular array of species, and Argentina became a true waterfowlers' Mecca.

Last June I traveled to Argentina and enjoyed six days of outstanding duck hunting in Buenos Aires Province. **Because the hunting areas are only one**

**and a half to three hours' drive from the international airport, clients arriving in Buenos Aires on a morning flight are at the estancia in time for lunch**



**before the afternoon hunt.**

I hunted at two estancias during my stay. **Estancia La Palegaria is located**

**on the outskirts of Chascomus, about an hour and a half from the international airport.** In its second year of operation, the hunting program is run by **Brian Heywood, a transplanted Texan, and his Argentine partner Maxi Dominquez.** The estancia is leased for exclusive use by Brian's clients during the hunting season. La Palegaria can accommodate up to eight hunters in four single rooms with queen beds and two double rooms. Six hunters are preferred, and every client has a single room. The food was first-class and included grass-fed beef and savory chicken and pork dishes with all the trimmings. **Quality Argentine wines accompanied every meal.**

While Brian has been running La Palegaria for only two seasons, he has been involved in Argentine hunting for 11 years. Previously, Brian worked at Burt

*(continued on page 2)*

## Dateline: North Carolina

### Great Plains Habitat in the Mid-Atlantic

- **Timetable:** November through February
- **Accommodations:** Local lodging
- **Food:** Local fine dining
- **Hunt:** Moderate

Let me start by saying this was not my first trip to Foxwood Plantation or my first acquaintance with Mike Hester. I've known Mike for over 20 years, which includes the time frame when he became the operations manager for Foxwood Plantation. I know Mike through the

field trial circuit where he is a well-known and respected professional bird dog trainer. His impressive résumé includes futurity and National Championship placements and wins, including high-profile dogs like Therapy and Roll's Black Bart. **Foxwood Plantation is owned by a corporation while Mike runs the place and is onsite.**

I first visited Foxwood in 2000 just after the State of North Carolina and the USDA finished their property management assessment. Back then the vast acreage of milo, sorghum, soybeans, millet and other agriculture could easily be mistaken for a slice of Kansas, Nebraska or even South Dakota. **Now it is even better! The habi-**

**tat is so good that dozens of coveys of quail can be found on any given day.** Certain areas are set aside for hunting wild

*(continued on page 3)*

### Inside:

South Dakota .....	p.4
Wisconsin .....	p.5
Briefly Noted .....	p.6
Minnesota .....	p.7
Louisiana .....	p.8
Missouri .....	p.8
California .....	p. 9
Kansas .....	p.10
Outfitter Critiques .....	p.11

## Argentina... (from page 1)

Pine Plantation in Georgia as a hunting guide. He met his wife Vanessa at Burnt Pine, where she worked in the hospitality end of the business. They later married and now live full-time in Argentina.

**Not only is La Palegaria close to Buenos Aires, the hunting areas are close — only 15 to 20 minutes and seldom more than a 40-minute drive.** The hunting is over decoys, and every group of two hunters is accompanied by a guide. Duck hunts are available both mornings and afternoons. During a typical day, hunters will fire three to four boxes of shells in the morning and two to three in the afternoon. **In addition to high volume shooting, another interesting aspect is the diversity of duck species available.**



During my stay, we shot rosy-billed pochard; yellow-billed and white-cheeked pintail; silver, ringed and speckled teal; red shoveler; Chiloe wigeon and white-faced whistling duck.

While duck hunting is the primary focus at La Palegaria, perdiz hunting also is available. While I did not hunt perdiz, other hunters enjoyed good success and returned to the estancia with 10-bird limits or near limits. The hunting is over Labs and German shorthaired pointers. The drives to the perdiz fields are generally 30 minutes or less.

The daily rate at La Palegaria is \$899 and includes all transportation in Argentina, accommodations, food and hunting services. Shotguns can be rented for \$70/day and shells are \$14/box.

Brian can easily arrange combination trips with three days at La Palegaria for ducks and three days dove shooting at either Estancia Posta del Norte or La Agauda, both near Cordoba. The six-day itinerary is \$4,595 and includes everything but shotgun rental, shells, tips and the flight to Cordoba (about \$300).

The other location visited was Estancia San Juan in Buenos Aires Province, about 200 miles west of and a three-hour drive from the Buenos Aires air-

port. At the airport, we were met by Andres (Cane) St. Antonin of Four Seasons Adventures, a company that offers bird shooting, big game hunting and fishing throughout Argentina.

San Juan is a classic estancia built in 1886 on an operating cattle ranch. **It has all the modern conveniences but still maintains the “feel” of an historic Argentine estancia.** There are seven double rooms, two private bathrooms and two shared bathrooms. The preferred group size is eight with 10 maximum.

One of the advantages of hunting from San Juan is the drives to the shooting areas are short — 30 minutes or less. **Four Seasons has 22,000 acres leased, with about 50 percent of that total wetlands.** The balance is used for cattle grazing and the cultivation

of corn, soybeans, sorghum and wheat. This combination of marsh and agriculture provide excellent habitats for a wide variety of ducks and other water birds.

The first day, we arrived just before dinner and after hors d'oeuvres and cocktails and sat down to a sumptuous meal of tender beef, fresh-baked breads, vegetables, fried potatoes and a glass of red wine. The final course was one of my favorite desserts: flan with dulce de leche accompanied by a glass of port.

The next morning we were up early and after breakfast headed to the marshes. We met our bird boy in the field, and before long the decoys were set. We used natural cover for a blind and while walking in knee-deep water was required, it was only moderately strenuous. The first birds in were rosy-billed pochards, and we dispatched the pair as they hovered 30 yards above the decoys. My hunting partner was out of the blind in a flash and quickly returned with the birds. This was his first trip to Argentina, and he was anxious to take a closer look at the pochards. Rosy-bills are about the size of a mallard and are technically diving ducks. However, they behave more



### For Bird Shooters & Waterfowlers

**Publisher**

Stuart Brunson

**Managing Editor**

Tom Carney  
tom-bhr@hughes.net

**Senior Editor**

John Gosselin  
john@uplandalmanac.com

**Senior Correspondent**

Gary Kramer

**Publisher Emeritus**

Tod Sedgwick

**Production/Advertising Manager**

Kathy Thorne

**Illustrations**

Gordon Allen

**Circulation** ..... 301-528-0011

**Contributors**

Steve Carpenteri	Greg Morton
Tom Huggler	Josef A. Riekers
Tom Keer	Nick Sisley
Gary Lewis	Doug Stamm

**Brunson Publishing Co.**

**Copyright ©2011**

*The Bird Hunting Report* (ISSN: 1084-8789) is a newsletter for the active hunter/conservationist who travels in search of the world's best birdshooting and waterfowling, and is deeply involved in efforts to save that wingshooting for future generations. *The Bird Hunting Report* is not a booking agent, nor is it affiliated with any booking agent, outfitter or guide. All reports contained herein are based on the best information available at press time. A one-year print subscription costs \$59 plus shipping. Single copies cost \$6. Back issues cost \$5.50. In the US add \$4.95 In Canada and Mexico add \$6/year. Overseas subscribers add \$21/year and send payment via major credit card or US bank draft. Material herein may not be reproduced without permission of Brunson Publishing Co.

*The Bird Hunting Report* USPS (1084-8789) is published monthly by Brunson Publishing Co., PO Box 328, Boyds MD 20841. A one-year subscription costs \$59. Periodicals postage paid at Boyds, MD and at additional mailing offices. **Postmaster send address changes to: *The Bird Hunting Report*, Brunson Publishing Co., PO Box 328, Boyds MD 20841.**

Enter my subscription to **The Bird Hunting Report**  
 One-year subscription — \$59 plus Shipping

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Visa/MC/Amex No. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: The Bird Hunting Report**, PO Box 328, Boyds MD 20841, e-mail: support@pnmsi.com or call 301-528-0011 or www.birdhuntingreport.com for complete pricing.

## Serving The Hunter Who Travels

like puddle ducks, generally feeding in rice fields and shallow marshes. Drakes are handsome birds, sporting an unmistakable bright red bill with a swollen knob at the base. **They are considered the finest eating of the South American ducks and that evening we were to find out just how good “pato picasso” was when marinated and grilled.**

As the sky brightened, the birds began to fly in earnest. Some, like yellow-billed pintails, circled warily before coming to the decoys. Others, including speckled teal, came in small flocks and pairs straight to the decoys as if they were looking for their long lost amigos. White-faced whistling ducks never really decoyed but often passed low enough for a shot.

Three hunting-day packages at Estancia San Juan that include transportation in Argentina, accommodations, food and hunting services are \$2,295. A five-day package is \$3,695. Shotguns can be rented for \$50/day and shells are \$15/box.

**In August 2010, Four Seasons opened a new dove lodge in Entre Rios Province northwest of Buenos Aires about a four-hour drive from Estancia San Juan.** The shooting at Bolacua Lodge is classic high volume dove with hunting in fields and at roosts where firing two cases of shells a day and a bagging up to 3,000 doves are realistic possibilities. The proximity of the two properties makes it possible to hunt ducks in

the morning followed by a midday transfer and an afternoon dove shoot. A hunting trip that includes three days of duck hunting and two and half days of dove shooting is \$3,595. Included are the same services as the duck hunting only packages. Shells are \$12/box.

For more info on Estancia La Palegaria contact Burnt Pine Travel, [www.burntpine-travel.com](http://www.burntpine-travel.com), 404-457-6581.

For more info: **Four Seasons Adventures, +(54) 911-6444-2379, [www.4seasons.com.ar](http://www.4seasons.com.ar), [info@4seasons.com.ar](mailto:info@4seasons.com.ar) or Gage Outdoor Expeditions, 800-888-1601, [www.gageoutdoor.com](http://www.gageoutdoor.com).**

—Gary Kramer

## North Carolina... (from page 1)

birds, but the pressure and limits are strictly regulated. Other parts of the property are continuously enhanced with released birds through Mike's dog training regimen and the hunts that are offered. Any bird dog lover will be mystified with the impeccable performance of the pointers, setters and other breeds that will be working to find birds. Hunters are welcome to bring their own dogs, and kennels with running water are available for their housing. **This is a great opportunity to have Mike make some suggestions about your dog handling if you are working with a younger, unfinished prospect.**

The hunting requires moderate effort because a lot of walking through vegetation can occur. This isn't true for all the hunts as they are dependent on the birds' whereabouts. **Horseback hunts and ATV hunts can be arranged for an additional charge if you require easier travel throughout the plantation or if you just want to spice it up a notch.** As you might expect, the horses' manners are impeccable too since they are used to work dogs daily and frequent field trials as well. In order to prepare dogs for the Pheasant Futurity and other trials where pheasant are encountered, Mike has areas where they can be pursued by hunting clients. The pheasants are usually released the same morning of the hunt. **These pheasants are high quality fliers.** Since poor flying birds are detrimental to a bird dog's training progression, Mike

does not tolerate them and acquires only the best available. There were no chukars at the time I was there, but they are occasionally available too.

Hunters must wear at least a blaze



orange cap and no more than three hunters per group are permitted.

On this trip we flew into Greensboro and rented a car for the short trip to Mebane where Mike lives. The plantation grounds are a few miles farther in Burlington. Raleigh-Durham Airport is a viable option at a mere hour and a half away. The plantation had an old farmhouse for lodging accommodations when I was there 10 years ago, but on this trip Mike said lodging arrangements were being revisited by the corporation and would be offered in the future. In the meantime, Mike has an apartment attached to his house that he offers to guests for an extremely reasonable rate. The only concern about this arrangement that some might have is that the tempera-

ture in the apartment is set at 68 degrees and there is no control accessible within the unit. If that is out of the range of your comfort zone I suggest taking that up with Mike upon arrival so he can adjust it to your desire. Mike took us to local dining establishments with an emphasis on Southern cuisine for lunches and dinner varied from one fine dining restaurant to Chinese buffet. There is quite a variety nearby, and Mike let us decide among the choices offered each day. While the lodging and food were not fancy but acceptable, they were definitely offset by the hunting environment, dog work and birds that I rate an A+. **The habitat and bird populations create a little slice of bird hunting heaven right in the middle of North Carolina.** Mike offers bird dog training for field trials or hunting as well as deer and turkey hunting according to the state seasons. He is also available for habitat consultation if you are looking to improve your own quail hunting property.

Foxwood Plantation offers day hunts and annual membership packages. A visit to Foxwood Plantation offers a chance to experience world-class quail shooting while learning about quail, dogs, horses and habitat from one of the industry's most knowledgeable people.

**Mike Hester, 336-269-0296** (before 8 p.m.), **336-421-3379** (after 8 p.m.), [www.foxwoodplantation.com](http://www.foxwoodplantation.com), [info@foxwoodplantation.com](mailto:info@foxwoodplantation.com).

—Josef A. Riekers

## Dateline: South Dakota

### Aberdeen Area Lodge Rich with Offerings

- **Timetable:** Sept. 15 through Dec. 31
- **Accommodations:** Family style lodge
- **Food:** Traditional American-style cuisine served family style
- **Hunt:** Easy to moderate

Daybreak Lodge is located in Frederick, S.D., 30 miles northwest of Aberdeen in Brown County. Despite the fact that 2010 marked the inaugural season for Daybreak Lodge, the owners are veterans in the business and run a first-class pheasant hunting lodge on this large, beautiful property in the northeast corner of South Dakota.

**Owner Mark Haglin is also the owner of Pine Shadows Kennels in Brainerd, Minn.** In 1970, Mark's wife Sophie gave him his first English springer spaniel. Since then the family has built the largest English springer spaniel kennel in the country. In fact, Pine Shadows was one of the first kennels to receive endorsement from Orvis for its hunting dog breeding and training program. **These well trained, lively springers are champion flushers and retrievers and a joy watch in the field.**

Morgan Haglin, Mark's son, is the head dog trainer and guide at Pine Shadows-Daybreak Lodge. Morgan started running the dogs in field trials when he was 10 years old. In 2003, Morgan qualified to run in the National Amateur, prior to becoming a professional trainer at Pine Shadows. He has since qualified to run in the Nationals every year. In 2009, Mark placed fourth in the Nationals with a dog named Pine Shadows Wallace. At the age of 28, Morgan became the youngest trainer to place in the Nationals.

**The beautiful Elm River meanders through the 6,000 contiguous acres of secluded private hunting grounds, offering a variety of terrain for everyone:** moderate valleys and sloughs, as well as flat, easy walking. The cover is exceptionally rich with managed grasses, sorghum, corn, cat-tails, dry marshes, hedgerows and CRP.

Mark Haglin has worked closely with Pheasants Forever biologists on game habitat improvement projects. He also founded the Brainerd, Minn., Ruffed Grouse Society chapter back in 1986.

The Daybreak guides will provide transportation to and from the field in a four-wheel-drive Mule or the Daybreak Lodge Hunt Bus — a converted four-wheel-drive short bus perfect for a group of hunters. The guides know the terrain and are experienced hunters and dog handlers. **Depending on the cover, some hunts offered scattered single birds, while others produce large bouquets of wild**



**roosters and hens.** There might be an occasional sharp-tailed grouse flush, but higher sharptail numbers can be found a short drive to the west of Daybreak. **Overall, roosters and shooting opportunities are plentiful at Daybreak Lodge.** Everyone in our group saw excellent action and went home with packaged frozen birds and complimentary pheasant recipes.

**The site of the Daybreak Lodge is rich with history.** The property was the 19th century site of the Campbell Fur Post — the southernmost point of the Hudson Bay Trading Company. It was also the site of one of the original Chinese ringneck pheasant releases into the United States over 100 years ago.

Three of the historic Hudson Bay Trading Company buildings still sit on the property: the Campbell House, the Hudson House and the Katy House. The buildings have been modernized and can comfortably accommodate a total of 26 hunters. The main building, the Campbell House, sleeps about nine guests. It features a large dining room and kitchen, four bedrooms with twin beds, three private and shared bath-

rooms, wall-to-wall carpeting, large cushy couches and recliners and a large flat screen with DirecTV.

In traditional South Dakota style, there was plenty of time to enjoy a satisfying breakfast. Breakfast typically included coffee, eggs; French toast, pancakes or homemade cinnamon rolls; bacon and sausage and an assortment of fruits, juices and yogurt.

Lunches included soups, sandwiches and chips, and were commonly served in the Post — an adjacent meeting building equipped with tables and chairs, a pool table and a bar. Happy hours in the Post included delicious homemade venison sausages, cheese and small hors d'oeuvre pickles and a selection of beers and sodas.

Dinners were always served family style in the dining room. After a long day, hunters welcomed the savory American-style fare. Dinners included pork loin and glazed carrots, chicken Kiev with rice and veggies or steak and potatoes cooked to perfection. Locally homemade cakes and pies wrapped up an already superb day. Our hosts made sure that no one went hungry, and the kitchen

## BHR Field Staff

The *Bird Hunting Report* is always looking for people to join its Field Staff, subscribers who go above and beyond the call by filing extensive reports on great places to hunt (or to avoid). These subscribers who file the reports found in our "Field Notes" section remain "on staff" for a year and receive a special *BHR* cap.

Our current team members include **Mark Rousseau, Woods Weathersby, Curtis L. Frisbie and Gary Sanden.**

Reports need to be honest and balanced, indicating the bad as well as the good. So instead of just filing the usual "Hunt Report Form," why not join our Field Staff by submitting a complete account for "Field Notes" at *The Bird Hunting Report*, PO Box 328, Boyds, MD 20841; 240-599-7679 (fax); support@pnmsi.com.

was always open to build your own mid-night snack.

**Hunters are welcome to bring their own dogs; however, depending on the size of the groups and the dogs, the lodge owners generally prefer that the dogs do not come in the houses.** Insulated dog crate covers are recommended for dogs that stay outside in a vehicle at night.

The closest airport is in Aberdeen, less than 30 miles away, served by Delta/Northwest airlines. A three-day hunt at the Daybreak Lodge includes transportation to and from the Aberdeen airport. Otherwise, it is a two and half hour drive

to the airport in Fargo, N.D. Those wishing to use the Fargo airport should rent a car and drive to Daybreak Lodge.

An all-inclusive three-day package at Daybreak is \$2,000 per person, based on a group of six to eight people. This includes three full days of hunting and four nights of lodging and almost everything you'll need. All meals, snacks, field transportation, Aberdeen airport shuttle, shells and clay pigeons are included. The Haglins will even provide a gun if needed.

The only additional expense is hunting licenses and gratuities. Nonresi-

dent licenses are \$110 plus a \$4 fee and can easily be purchased online. A typical gratuity to the lodge is 15 percent.

The staff at Pine Shadows-Daybreak Lodge is extremely personable and experienced. Combined with top-notch hunting cover, excellent dog work and comfortable accommodations, Daybreak is sure to create a memorable trip with good hunting, good fellowship and good sportsmanship.

For more info: **Mark Haglin, 218-821-1295 or 218-829-4736, Mark@pineshadows.com.**

—Sue Melus

## Dateline: Wisconsin

### Northern Range Ruffed Grouse

- **Timetable:** Mid-September through January
- **Accommodations:** Local establishments, from basic to expansive
- **Food:** Local restaurants, variety of styles
- **Hunt:** Easy to difficult

Northern Wisconsin is prime ruffed grouse country, with Park Falls proclaiming itself as being the **“Ruffed Grouse Capital of the World.”**

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest provides 1,530,647 acres of aspen, alder, fir and tamarack cover. The area is logged by successive clear-cutting, which provides perfect habitat for ruffed grouse as the forest regenerates. Bogs, streams and lakes pepper the region providing beautiful ever-changing views and hunting possibilities. The forest is crisscrossed with county roads, logging trails and service trails. The county roads are heavily hunted by locals, and many “Fool’s Hens” are quickly harvested. **More energetic hunters can find out why ruffed grouse are called the “King of Game Birds” by walking the logging trails or regenerated clear-cuts.** Ruffed grouse have an uncanny knack of placing every tree in the forest between themselves and the hunter when they flush. Hunting can be even more challenging at times because of the nature of the terrain from clear-cutting. **However the more difficult the**

**area is to hunt, the less pressure the grouse will have seen, and the more rewarding the experience will be when a bird is bagged.**

During early season hunts, dog owners need to watch and listen for the baying of hounds. The hunting of black bear with hounds is allowed in season and may cause conflicts between the canine members of both parties if their paths cross.

Additional hunting opportunities are on the horizon. The National Forest Service, with support from the Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS), is proposing grouse habitat improvement on 5,585



acres. Timber harvest, shear-cutting alder growth and upland opening maintenance are included in the plan. This plan will assure continued improvement in grouse propagation and provide valuable feeding areas for American woodcock as they migrate.

In addition to the public lands, little known private grouse hunting areas are available to RGS members.

Hiring a knowledgeable guide shortens the learning curve to finding prime grouse and woodcock hunting grounds. **Recently, I used the outfitters Classic Bird Hunts (CBH) located near Clam Lake in the center of a 400,000-acre block of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.**

The guides of CBH love bird hunting, and it shows in the amount of effort they put in before a client even books a hunt. **Guide and biologist Randy Matis spends 30 to 40 days in the woods prior to grouse season scouting and determining brood success.** This scouting helps him know the woods intimately. The CBH tailors hunts to match its clients’ physical abilities, knowing that the more miles walked means the more grouse flushed. Clients often move three to four birds per hour, and my hunt was no exception. During the day’s hunt, we flushed 25 to 30 birds.

CBH retains multiple Brittanys, rotating them during the day to keep them rested and fresh. As highly trained as the dogs are, it is hard to imagine that some of them are “rescued” dogs that came from abusive homes.

Safety is paramount at CBH, and a strict set of rules is in place to protect dogs and clients. Shooting birds on the ground is unsportsmanlike, dangerous for the dogs and not allowed. Carrying a gun with the safety not engaged or fin-

ger on the trigger is taboo. Deviation from these rules can result in a cancelled hunt. **These precautions, coupled with the guides' knowledge and experience, create a quality hunt, and CBH has many repeat clients as a result.**

Lunch comes with the hunt and is usually served at the "Brittany Coast," the CBH lodge that overlooks Lower Clam Lake. When conditions are right, a signature meal includes wild mushrooms. **Head guide Mark Nissen is also both a mycologist (an expert in fungi) and a chef, a combination of skills and experience that makes for an unforgettable meal.**

In addition to bird hunting, CBH offers trophy smallmouth and muskie fishing trips. The Clam Lake area also has a herd of elk that can often be seen feeding along the road.

Hunters bring their own firearms, ammunition, hunter orange hat and vest. Hunters are required to carry a small

game license that can be purchased at any licensing agent. CBH provides the guide, dogs, lunch and beverages.

Lodging is not included with the guiding fee. A full range of accommodations is found in and around Clam



Lake starting at \$70/night for a clean, pet-friendly hotel room to \$400/night for five-bedroom lake homes. Local dining will satisfy most tastes with choices from café style to fine dining.

The season runs from mid-September through the end of January. Hunting early in the season, before the leaves have fallen, can be very challenging. American woodcock season runs during the early part of ruffed grouse season making for additional hunting opportunities.

After grouse season in Wisconsin, CBH moves to the plains of Kansas for pheasant hunting, then to southern Arizona for winter quail hunting.

**Classic Bird Hunts, Mark Nissen, 414-915-9072 or 715-798-2477, [www.classicbirdhunts.com](http://www.classicbirdhunts.com), [hg@classicbirdhunts.com](mailto:hg@classicbirdhunts.com).**

For tourism information: [www.clamlakewi.com](http://www.clamlakewi.com).

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest map sales: [www.nationalforeststore.com](http://www.nationalforeststore.com).

Ruffed Grouse Society: [www.ruffedgrousesociety.org](http://www.ruffedgrousesociety.org).

—Alan J. Garbers

## Briefly Noted

### Things to Do, Places to Go, New Developments

#### D.U. iPhone Application

Want to know the location of a Ducks Unlimited event in your area or an area you plan to visit? Ducks Unlimited has an app for that.

Want to identify waterfowl in the field through photos and sounds they make? DU has an app for that.

Need hunting and cooking tips, including more than 360 DU videos, along with science-based conservation information about wetlands and waterfowl? DU has an app for that too.

Ducks Unlimited's official iPhone app features an extensive waterfowl **ID gallery of photos and sounds for the most popular species of waterfowl in North America.** The app also allows DU members to browse a state-by-state listing of all DU events across the country and provides a link for event details and contact information.

"With the ever-expanding mobile smart phone market, Ducks Unlimited has a unique opportunity to leverage this channel as a new way to communicate and engage with the waterfowl hunting commu-

nity," Anthony Jones, DU's web director, said. "The DU iPhone app is a valuable tool for waterfowl hunters. It also provides a way for our members — and thousands of potential members — to stay connected with the organization. We're really excited about the benefits it will offer subscribers."

The DU iPhone app can be purchased through iTunes for \$1.99. Proceeds from app sales will help fund DU's mission.

**For more information: [www.ducks.org/iphoneapp](http://www.ducks.org/iphoneapp).**

• • •

#### New Cookbook for Hunters

From [mcherald.com](http://mcherald.com):

Wild game and hunting club cookbooks aren't new, but one with quite possibly the most intriguing title just hit the market. **Even more interesting is the fact that it contains recipes, duck hunting tales and photographs.**

*Wild Abundance*, billed as "a cookbook anthology that celebrates ritual, revelry and recipes of the south's finest hunting clubs camps," is part coffee table book, part keepsake cookbook. Through the voices and recipes of some of the South's most renowned chefs, **the book provides a glimpse into nine private**

#### hunting clubs on the Mississippi Flyway.

Celebrity chefs that include Derek Emerson, chef of Madison's Local 463, share the kitchen and the spotlight with traditional camp cooks offering recipes and wisdom. *Wild Abundance* pays homage to the efforts of these often untrained cooks who make meals at duck hunting camp an adventure almost as memorable as the hunt itself.

Madison County photographer Will Smith documented the Ward Lake chapter of *Wild Abundance*. In addition, many members of the Swamp Witches of Ward Lake and Fighting Bayou in Leflore County are Madison Countians, said editor Susan Schadt.

Each of the nine celebrity chefs penned the chapter on his host hunting club. Memories of being brought back home, to the comforts of grandmothers houses, uncles, hunting trips of their youth, and the warmth of friendships flow throughout the book. They discuss the lessons learned from visits to the hunting clubs, including a new technique or recipe, friendships and cherished memories.

The enthusiasm for their stories is

further illustrated vivid photographs by Lisa Buser capturing the beauty of the landscape, the food prepared by chefs and cooks and the camaraderie of the clubs.

**Wild Abundance is on sale for \$45 at bookstores or at [www.wildabundancecookbook.com](http://www.wildabundancecookbook.com).**

The book was created through the collaborative efforts of ArtsMemphis & Ducks Unlimited as the organization celebrated its fourth weeklong celebration, Conservation Through Art, to support the arts and conservation.

• • •

### Minnesota — Turkey Permit Deadline Extended/Canada Geese Head to State

From [thefarmer.com](http://thefarmer.com):

Turkey hunters have more time this year than they have traditionally had in the past to apply for this spring's hunt, either electronically or by telephone. The deadline to apply for the 2011 spring season has been extended by about two weeks. **Applications are now being accepted through Friday, Jan. 14, wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold and online at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/hunting/turkey/index.html>.**

"The spring turkey application deadline tends to sneak up on hunters," said Bill Penning, DNR farmland wildlife program leader. "Although we've allowed additional time this year, we still encourage hunters to apply early and avoid the last-minute rush."

This spring's hunt will consist of six five-day and two seven-day seasons. **All resident and nonresident wild turkey hunters interested in hunting this spring must apply electronically via the Internet or by telephone toll-free at 888-665-4236 (MNLICENSE).** Resident hunters must pay a nonrefundable \$3 application fee at the time of application while nonresidents must pay a nonrefundable \$3.50 transaction fee.

Key changes include:

- Licenses for the last two time periods will be sold over-the-counter only.
- Hunters no longer must indicate a second choice of season on the application.

**"Hunters are strongly encouraged to read the application materials before applying for the lottery,"**

**Penning said. "We want them to be aware of all the changes made to the application process."**

Hunters who are successful for in the drawing and choose not to purchase a tag will lose the current year's preference point for future drawings but not accumulated preference from past years. Hunters who were not successful in the drawing will be eligible to purchase surplus turkey permits. These are sold, on a first-come, first-served basis in mid-March.

Archery spring turkey licenses will once again be available for residents and nonresidents and may be purchased for the last two time periods only.

**All wild turkey hunters seeking to hunt in spring 2011 may obtain an application information sheet at DNR license agents or view hunt information at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/hunting/turkey/index.html>.** Hunt information materials include a map of wild turkey



permit areas, permit quotas, dates and information on changes.

For more information: **DNR Information Center at 651-296-6157 or toll-free in greater Minnesota at 888-646-6367.**

From [bellinghamherald.com](http://bellinghamherald.com):

Welcome to western Minnesota, where the largest concentration of Canada geese in the state gathers late each year at the Lac qui Parle and Big Stone refuges before migrating south for the winter. In early December, about 93,000 geese were in the area, offering goose hunters some prime late-season waterfowling and some stunning scenes.

There's a new twist this year: Hunters here got an 85-day goose season, the longest ever for an area that long has had restricted, short goose seasons. **And for the first time in 40 years, hunters can hunt geese well into December. The goose season lasts through Dec. 25.**

"A lot of our hunters are excited,"

said Dave Trauba, Dept. of Natural Resources area manager at the Lac qui Parle wildlife area, long a goose hunting Mecca. "We could become a big destination for December goose hunting. But we'll have to learn how to hunt geese in December."

As of mid-December, there were 81,000 geese on the Lac qui Parle refuge and 12,000 on nearby Big Stone refuge.

The changes this fall are huge. The former West Central Goose Zone, an area from roughly Montevideo to Ortonville, had the most restricted goose season in the state. Last year, the season was only 41 days, with a two-bird daily limit. This year, that zone was abolished, giving hunters 85 days and a three-bird bag. And the former West Goose Zone, which covered a much larger area from Moorhead to Worthington (which had a nearly 60-day season last year), also was abolished, giving hunters there a longer season and a three-bird daily bag.

**It's the first time since 1941 that Minnesota has offered a three-bird Canada goose limit during the regular waterfowl season.**

What happened?

For decades, hunting restrictions were imposed because of concern over the Eastern Prairie Population (EPP) of Canada geese, a smaller subspecies that nests along the west shores of Hudson Bay. Wildlife officials long feared that population was declining, and those birds migrate into western Minnesota, especially around the Lac qui Parle area.

So the DNR has used special regulations, including goose zones, quotas, smaller bag limits and shorter seasons, to minimize harvest of those geese.

But several factors have changed everything: The EPP goose population is as high as it's ever been. Meanwhile, the population of giant Canada geese continues to grow. So more than 90 percent of the state's harvest is giant Canada geese.

Thus the relaxed regulations.

The changes could revive the Lac qui Parle area as a goose-hunting destination. Decades ago, thousands of hunters descended there. It was the place to hunt Canada geese.

Many lined up to hunt in some of the 100 or so public hunting blinds at the Lac qui Parle wildlife management area that rimmed the parameter of the goose refuge.

But that all changed as the goose population expanded all over the state. There was less reason for hunters to drive to the Lac qui Parle area, especially because bag limits and seasons there were limited. Hunter numbers fell dramatically.

"We may see a second coming now with this December hunting," Trauba said. "We'll see. We're in uncharted territory."

• • •

### Louisiana — Two Possible Hunt Opportunities

Located in South Central Louisiana, Shallow Lake offers guided quail, pheasant and chukar hunts. Shallow Lake has great hunting terrain with grassy fields and tree lines all on sloping ground.

Hunts are half-day hunts. The preserve offers only one hunt a day so there is no rushing. After the hunt, hunters are treated to a good home cooked meal, and use of the lodge is theirs for the whole day.

**Dog training at Shallow Lake is all about training a dog to enhance your hunting experience.** A well-trained dog for duck or dove hunting, or upland game like quail or pheasant hunting, can only make your hunting experience many times more enjoyable. Located in Louisiana where the weather is favorable to train year round and with 35 years of training experience, Shallow Lake is committed to training a loyal hunting companion.

**Shallow Lake Hunting Preserve, Vernon Fuselier, 242 Sonny Ln., Eunice, LA 70535; 337-224-5128; www.shallowlake.net; shallowlake@excite.com.**

•

From louisianasportsman.com:

LaCroix's Hunting Lodge is a unique waterfowl camp providing clients with a fun and memorable outdoor experience. **The lodge offers hunting in flooded rice and soybean fields with very experienced guides.** This area is famous for speckle-bellied goose hunting along with mallards, pintail, wigeon, teal and grays. You can expect unsurpassed service and a first-rate hunt. The pit blinds there accommodate two customers along with one guide.

**While you are with LaCroix, you will enjoy a first-class waterfowl experience, coupled with great Cajun cooking and true southern hospitality.** The camp

offers the finest Cajun cuisine with accommodations for 14 and LaCroix will go out of its way to insure your comfort during your stay. The hunting package includes an excellent evening meal prepared by local Cajun chefs, "before the hunt" snacks and a full hearty brunch after your return from the morning hunt. Satellite TV is provided for your enjoyment.

**LaCroix's Hunting Lodge, Mark Privat, 290 Shots Rd., Gueydan, LA 70542; 337-774-5553; www.lacroixshuntinglodge.com; info!@lacroixshuntinglodge.com.**

• • •

### Missouri — Head to the Bootheel for Waterfowl

From missourigameandfish.com:

Missouri has long been known as



the home of some of the best waterfowl hunting in the nation.

Once Old Man Winter finally hits the Show Me State, waterfowling freezes over in the north and much of the middle region, leaving diehard waterfowlers to their own devices. For late-season hunting, the southeastern section of the state is second to none — especially those counties that make up the Bootheel.

### Why does the Bootheel draw so many waterfowl so late in the year?

Aside from being on the Mississippi Flyway, the Bootheel is centered between two national refuges — one on each side of the Mississippi River. On the Missouri side is the 21,592-acre Mingo National Wildlife Refuge where records show some 125,000 mallards migrate or winter there.

A few wing flaps away on the other side of the river is the 10,428-acre Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge where an estimated 400,000 mallards have been recorded to spend their winters. Sandwiched in between lies the Bootheel, with its snaking sloughs laden with bald cypress and water tupelo mixed with lowland hardwood forests.

**This is truly waterfowl country.**

**Technically, the counties of Dunklin, New Madrid, and Pemiscot comprise the Bootheel; however, other neighboring counties usually lay claim to its geographical description.**

**Otter Slough** is located in Stoddard County, west of Dexter. It is one of the state's most popular MDC-managed areas to hunt waterfowl. There are 12 blinds available, including one handicapped accessible, as well as walk-in areas. All are assigned through the draw system, so plan to arrive early. The HQ building is located west of Dexter on Highway 60, then 10 miles south on Route ZZ to County Road 675. Turn west on 675 and travel two miles to the area entrance. The area allows waterfowling until 1 p.m. daily.

**Duck Creek** is located in Stoddard, Bollinger and Wayne counties. Headquarters is nine miles north of Puxico on Highway 51. The MDC-managed area consists of 2,400 acres of wetlands and offers 1,800 acres of lakes and ponds. It boasts 40 blinds and four goose pits. The area also has five walk-in areas. All hunts are on the draw system. Some parts of Duck Creek close hunting at 1 p.m.

**Ten Mile Pond Conservation Area** is located in Mississippi County, east of East Prairie on Highway 80, then five miles south on Highway 102. To reach area headquarters, from Highway 102 turn east on the gravel county road 518, continue 2.5 miles and turn north on Highway VV. Go 2.5 miles north on VV to the headquarters on the west side of the road. Statewide shooting hours are in effect. Ten Mile Pond is closed on Christmas Day.

• • •

### Maine — Hunting Opportunity

From boston.com:

For 120 years, the Libby family has been operating hunting camps near the Oxbow in the North Woods. Today, Matt Libby, great-grandson of the original owners, runs **Libby Camps** with his wife, Ellen, their grown children, a staff of 10 or more and a team of guides.

The main camp is a collection of guest cabins and guide cabins, a boat-house, an ice shack and a grand lodge built of native spruce logs — **all on the sandy, driftwood strewn shore of Millinocket Lake.**

Libby Camps is a long, seven-hour drive north of Boston. For those who want to skip a few roads, Libby will fly his floatplane to just about any lake in Maine, for a fee. Or it might be convenient to fly commercial to Presque Isle, a couple of hours' drive from the camp (Libby can fly there too).

But by car, it's a pleasant adventure. Past Bangor, the drone of the peopled landscape fades to wilderness. Off the highway, it's a couple of hours through rolling farmland with views of Mount Katahdin. Eventually the empty roads lead to the Oxbow gate where a \$30 fee grants access to the vast dirt road and big woods and clear-cut kingdom that is most of northern Maine.

Another hour of dirt road driving leads to the camp. Dinner is at six in the main lodge. The dining room is decorated with generations of North Woods taxidermy; no creature left unstuffed. Seating is communal. Booze is bring your own.

The food is served family style, all at once: giant steaks, baked potatoes, an iceberg lettuce salad with bacon and cheese, soft and sweet homemade bread, apple pie for dessert.

After dinner a guide leads the way through the drizzly night to a cabin in the woods with a big view of the lake. Inside, the old iron woodstove clicks away, heating the room to sauna temperature. Cluster flies buzz around the oil lamps.

**Breakfast is served big and early.** Strong coffee, blueberry pancakes with maple syrup, eggs any style, bacon, sausages, homemade bread.

After breakfast, dogs and guests pile into four-wheel-drive motorcades to this bog or that cover. Libby takes his group to a wild river about 10 miles away.

The men trudge through the alders. Libby leads the charge, chopping away at the thickest branches, clearing as he goes, dropping more tangle for future grouse and woodcock.

"Walking like this, I might just bump one," he says. And he does. A ruffed grouse explodes from the forest floor in a flurry of beating wings.

The bumped grouse flies high and fast but the men are good snap shots, and they all fire at once and the bird falls.

"Dead bird, dead bird," says Libby. Ike, the young Brittany, fetches the grouse. Libby tucks the bird into the

game pouch in the back of his coat.

Everyone eats lunch by the river. Squash soup, meat sandwiches, plenty of hot coffee, packed in the kitchen. It's good ballast for an afternoon of hunting, which turns out to be wet and not very productive.

The dates for bird hunting in Maine differ from species to species and from year to year. Generally, the best hunting takes place between early October and mid-November. Libby Camps is open from April until late November. Spaces fill up fast.

For more info: **Libby Camps, 207-435-8274, [www.libbycamps.com](http://www.libbycamps.com).**

• • •

### California — Central Valley Waterfowl Hotspots



From [californiagameandfish.com](http://californiagameandfish.com): California winter brings to mind images of lolling on sunny beaches, listening to surfer boys doing dude-talk, "oohing" and "aahing" at the New Year's Eve fireworks at Disneyland and watching the Rose Bowl. To be sure, California is all that. **But there's so much more, especially for waterfowl hunters who target the Central Valley. And there is a lot to target.**

The Central Valley, 500 miles long — north to south — running from Redding to Bakersfield, is divided into two river drainages. The Sacramento River in the north and the San Joaquin River in the south meet in the Sacramento-San Joaquin river delta, a fertile stretch of marshes, sloughs, canals, streambeds and peat islands. Toss into the mix some 500,000 acres of rice fields within 100 miles of Sacramento, about 40 percent of which are flooded each winter to create wetland habitat. Add the wheat fields of the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys that produce 75 percent of the wheat grown in the state. Moisten the mix with many smaller rivers running through the area and it becomes

apparent why **10-12 million ducks come to the Central Valley every year.**

The mix of ducks runs the gamut: mallard, gadwall, pintail, teal (both cinnamon and green-wing), wood, wigeon, northern shoveler and more. Some areas are known to put out more of one variety than the others. **If you want species-specific hunting, a great source of information is the California Dept. of Fish and Game (CDFG) Waterfowl Hunt Reports.** The information is broken down for each state-operated hunting unit.

**Sixty percent of all Pacific Flyway waterfowl migrate through or winter in the Central Valley, according to Ducks Unlimited. Merced County, the heart of the San Joaquin, is thought to be the second-leading county in the nation in numbers of waterfowl showing up in the Harvest Information Program.**

A couple of general observations about Central Valley hunter success: Water is a key in most refuges, especially early in the year. As the season progresses, more areas within the refuges get flooded. **Also, as the season progresses, the birds coming down from the north have already been hunted through Canada, Washington and Oregon. They are better able to detect fraud in calling, in blind construction and in hunter camouflage.** Take care to properly set your decoys, take care to construct your blind and take care to manage the little things like picking up your expended shotshells. Avoid simple mistakes and the success ratio will increase. There is also thought that the concentrations of birds gradually move south from the upper Central Valley as the season progresses. A shift in hunter focus should follow.

#### Federal Refuges

The Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex lies at the head of the Central Valley. It consists of five National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) that allow hunting, and three Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) that are closed to the public. The Butte Sink WMA is said to support more waterfowl per acre than any other spot in the world. Before lamenting that no hunting is allowed, take heed — the closed areas still provide significant hunter benefit as they

draw more birds into the general area. More birds in the area mean more shooting opportunities as those ducks arrive from the north and depart for their final nesting grounds.

**The Sacramento NWR (wigeon, green-winged teal, pintails and gadwall) offers 56 concrete pit, pad or assigned ponds.** Three are designated for disabled hunters. The others require walking up 1.3 miles from the parking area. As in many other things, walking has its benefits. Shooting usually improves the farther the hunter walks from the parking areas.

**Delevan NWR (mallard and teal) has 30 hunt sites,** three of which are set aside for disabled hunters. Able-bodied waterfowlers can get more exercise at Delevan as the longest walk is 1.7 miles. This is a traditional hotspot with both the blinds and free roam areas producing good numbers of birds.

**Colusa and Sutter NWRs (both mallards) have a combination of assigned areas (ponds, pools and tracts) as well as free roam tracts and pools.** For a complete description of each assigned area, go to the Sacramento NWR website and click on “Wildlife-dependant recreation,” then “Hunting” and follow the prompts through to each area.

The Sacramento River NWR offers a different — some might say “primitive” — hunting experience. Composed of 29 units along 77 miles of river, the refuge offers islands, gravel bars, sloughs and other waterfowl habitat. There are no hunting fees or hunter quotas. **Access to all areas is by boat only, except for Drumheller Slough and Sul Norte units that also allow foot traffic.** No bicycles or other conveyances are allowed. No fires are allowed though camping stoves can be used on gravel bars. The area has limited day-use hours, except camping for up to seven days is permissible on the gravel bars. The area website warns that mountain lions have been spotted and requests that any additional sightings be reported to CDFG.

Unit maps, regulations and other information hunters need to know is available online at the Refuge Complex website and the individual refuge websites. Hunters who plan to bring a travel trailer should confirm that the selected refuge allows trailers.

South of Sacramento, **Stone Lakes**

**NWR hunters can take a whack at resident wood ducks and mallards, with teal added later in the season.** Stone Lakes offers walk-in and boat-in blinds. For the latter, boats are provided, though hunters must bring their own PFDs.

Stone Lakes is unique among the federal refuges. It was a former duck club “that retains the feel of a high quality hunt,” according to Amy Hopperstad, hunt manager. Located near a major metropolitan area, the refuge offers local hunters an opportunity to hunt on a federal refuge without having to drive for hours. It also reserves two blinds for youth hunters on Saturday, making it “a great place to bring kids,” says Hopperstad.



**Farther south lies the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Complex.** Headquartered in Merced and running south towards Los Banos, this is teal country at its finest. San Luis features seven hunting units, each with its own set of hunting regulations. Some are open Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday only; some are open every day with different regulations for Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. Some have an afternoon shooting session. Some are boat-access only. It's critical to read the regulations before leaving home. All the regulations for each hunting unit are posted on the San Luis NWR Complex website under the “Hunt Program” tab.

**North and South Freitas units have in the past produced some the best success numbers in the state with hunters reporting more than six birds per hunter.**

### State Wildlife Areas

**Perhaps the best-known wildlife areas in the Sacramento Valley are Grey Lodge and Upper Butte Basin. Each of these areas has abundant numbers of greenheads, gadwalls and pintails.** Both are Type A areas requiring reservations and area passes. Each area operates a morning hunt with an after-

noon refill, but leave your 10-gauge at home if hunting Upper Butte Basin. (Check out the specific area regulations at [www.dfg.wa.gov/land.wa/region2](http://www.dfg.wa.gov/land.wa/region2).)

**Down south, the North Grasslands area features three units — Salt Slough, China Island and Gadwall.** Grasslands hunters will get plenty of bird identification practice as these units feature green-winged teal, shovelers, mallards and wigeon. Other popular Merced County wildlife areas are Volta and Los Banos. Further south is the Mendota area. For a complete list of state wildlife areas, go to [www.dfg.ca.gov/lands/wa](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/lands/wa), then select the region of interest.

### River Hunting

If you have a boat but are aced out of the reservation system, there can be wonderful jump shooting on a river. **Try the Sacramento from Anderson all the way past Colusa.** There are boat ramps in Anderson, Red Bluff, Los Molinos, Corning, Hamilton City, Butte City, Princeton and Colusa. **The Feather River between Oroville and Nicolaus is another float and shoot opportunity.** Small boats can be launched from either the Feather River or Oroville Wildlife areas that border the river.

**The San Joaquin River system boasts the highest concentration of wood ducks in the state.** Focus on the river between Modesto and the Mendota Wildlife Area.

The Central Valley is a duck hunter's paradise. It's filled with birds all season long and the federal and state refuges offer a multitude of public hunting options. Your tax dollars at work are your invitation to play.

•••

### Kansas — Quail Hunt at Fort Riley

From [kansascity.com](http://kansascity.com)

Tanks rumble across the rugged landscape in the distance. The boom of artillery fire shakes the ground. And the crisp sound of gunfire cuts through the cold fall air.

Welcome to Fort Riley, the army base that is the home of the Big Red One — and some of the best quail hunting in the nation.

One thing is certain: Fort Riley has no shortage of good cover. **About 71,000 of the base's 101,000 acres are open to hunting.**

Military training takes precedence, of course. The areas that are open to hunt-

ing change with the Army's schedule.

Hunters also have to purchase a special Fort Riley hunting permit, in addition to having a Kansas small game license. And firearms have to be registered before they can be brought onto the base.

For hunters, that opens the door to a unique experience. They see troops out running with their platoons as they drive through the developed part of the base. But in just a short distance, they are in a different world.

**Remote fields filled with prairie grasses, brush and timber stretch for as far as the eye can see. There also are crop fields, ponds and food plots scattered throughout the grounds.**

Wildlife biologists on base manage part of the land for wildlife, and it shows.

Fort Riley has an abundant population of quail, deer, turkeys, prairie chickens, waterfowl and even elk. It also has pheasants, though not nearly as many as it once did.

But it's the quail that often attract the biggest following. With all of the national attention focusing on the quail's decline, Fort Riley stands out as a place that is bucking that trend.

Fort Riley hunting:

- What/Where: Fort Riley is an army base located 125 miles west of Kansas City off Interstate 70.

- Hunting: It has excellent populations of quail, turkeys and deer. It also has pheasants, prairie chickens, waterfowl, elk and small game.

- Access: The hunting at Fort Riley

is open to the public, though there are restrictions and special rules and regulations.

- Open Areas: The areas open to recreational use are updated each Monday and Thursday, but can change on short notice. The areas are posted on the 24-hour hotline (785-239-6669).

- Permits: Hunters ages 16 to 64 are required to have a Fort Riley hunting permit, in addition to appropriate state hunting permits and tags (and federal stamps for waterfowl). The Fort Riley permit costs \$25.

- Other Requirements: Firearms must be registered with Fort Riley before bring brought onto the base. Hunters must register at one of 10 check stations on base before going out.

### Outfitter Critiques: the Good, the Bad, the Ugly

*This section of The Bird Hunting Report is based entirely on subscriber-written Bird Hunting Report forms received by our offices. It is designed to provide first-hand opinions on what is happening in the field. Our policy at The Bird Hunting Report is as follows: We publish excerpts in the newsletter of Bird Hunting Reports as received, except in cases when booking agents or outfitters submit reports on hunts in which they have a financial stake or when we have reason to question whether there are ulterior financial or personal motives on the part of the person submitting the report. It goes without saying that a single report in this section should not be taken as the final word on an outfitter's competence. Many elements of a hunt are subjective. What is wrong for one hunter might be right for another. Moreover, personality conflicts often occur on hunts. It is obvious that hunters, as well as outfitters, can be the cause of a ruined hunt. We think all seasoned hunters can sort this out and make proper use of our Bird Hunting Report Program. Our pages are open for a rebuttal of equal length by any affected party.*

Hey, here's another country heard from! From Oct. 28 to Nov. 6, 2010, subscriber **Finton P. Cordell of Lutherville,**

**Md., visited Slovakia** to hunt driven pheasants. He booked his trip through Trek Safaris International/Shooting in Slovakia, and according to his comments had a simply wonderful time. He sums things up succinctly by saying he'd recommend the trip to a friend because **it was "first class in all aspects."**

He says the pheasants were abundant. He rates as "excellent" all aspects of the outfitter/operator. His personal guides were Milton and Cara Hanburry as well as Ben Meckie. Cordell also rates them as "excellent" in all categories. Plus he was able to give Austrian Airlines a 9 for its service.

He reports, this was a "couple's trip. **The hotel accommodations were all five star!** The restaurants and tours were superb. All personnel encountered were friendly, knowledgeable and courteous. Hunts were well managed and timely. We never felt rushed."

Cordell offers this additional bit of travel advice to anyone considering the same trip: "Take time to go through the Budapest airport. Arrive early."

The trip cost \$15,275 per couple plus airfare. His party found airplane tickets for \$1,118 per person.

**Trek Safaris International/Shooting in Slovakia; P.O. Box 1305, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32004; 904-273-7800.**

•••

From May 2-6, 2010, **subscriber Paul Dickson chased wild turkeys in Campeche, Yucatan, Mexico.** He booked his trip through Shane Smith at Wingshooter Safaris and is satisfied enough to be able to recommend it to a friend, mainly because **the trip offers "good value for the price (low)."**

On this hunt, Dickson called and stalked birds, which he found to be abundant. He rates the outfitter/operator as "excellent" in the condition of the equipment category and "good" in the accommodations and cuisine columns. His guide Manuel earned "good" ratings in knowledge of the hunt area, hunting ability and communications, and a "fair" for personality/attitude.

Among the highlights, Dickson says, there were "enough singing males to call one in. Many were call-shy due to our being the last group. The calling method is well understood here."

As far as problems go, Dickson says there were "not enough roads cleared. The outfitter admittedly is using only 10 percent of his concession. More access is needed to reach un hunted birds at the end of the season."

Cost of the trip was \$3,200. Airfare on Continental Airlines, whose service Dickson rates with an 8, was \$700.

## Serving The Hunter Who Travels

Advertise in the "Back of the Book." Call Kathy 301-528-0011 or fax 240-599-7679 or e-mail: support@pnmsi.com.  
 Ads are \$2.00/word. They are published as a reader service. All items in this section are paid advertisements

### Argentina Wild Wings

"Specializing in the finest wingshooting and big game hunting Argentina has to offer"  
 American owned and operated  
 Spacious accommodations, gourmet meals, very competitive pricing  
**Toll free 1-877-294-2622**  
**www.argentinawildwings.com**

### Under The African Sky Safaris

Exclusive bird hunting and photographic safaris to South Africa, Namibia and Kenya.  
**info@undertheafricanskysafaris.com**  
**www.undertheafricanskysafaris.com**

### THE UPLAND ALMANAC

For the Bird Hunting Enthusiast  
 A glossy, colorful quarterly publication featuring expanded North American as well as overseas destinations, regular columns on fine shotguns, culinary secrets, dog handling and much more!  
 Contact us for a Free Trial Copy!  
**PO Box 70, Fairfax, VT 05454 USA**  
**Tel. 802-849-9000**  
**www.uplandalmanac.com**  
**E-mail: info@uplandalmanac.com**

### World Class Ruffed Grouse/Woodcock Hunting

Guided hunts over dogs. Includes lodging, meals, game care and in House Wellness Center in Northern Wisconsin.  
**715-339-2823**  
**www.backfortywi.com**

Remember you still have time to order a gift subscription for your hunting buddy! Simply call us with the names and addresses of the people you want to send *The Bird Hunting Report*®  
 We'll send a gift card.

### PEACE RIVER ALBERTA

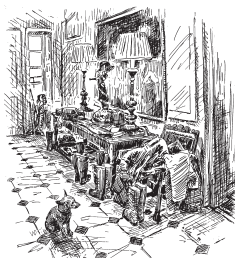
We live on the X where the birds want to be. Hundreds of Thousands of New Naive Migrating Birds all hunting season!  
 Top of the line equipment.  
 5 star accommodations.  
 Great Dining and Amenities.  
 Read our Bird hunt report in December 2010 BHR issue  
**780-324-2080**  
**Blueskyoutfitting.com**

### Bird Hunters Africa – since 1986

South Africa, Mozambique & Botswana  
 Now taking bookings for 2010. We offer the most varied wingshooting in the world.  
 April / May – Hot barrel doves and pigeons  
 June, July & August – Duck, Geese, Guinea fowl, Francolin, Pigeons, Doves & Snipe.  
 September – Waterfowl collectors hunts 16 species.  
 September / October – Sandgrouse  
**Email – gamehunt@sai.co.za**  
**www.birdhuntersafrica.com**

### DAVID DENIES WINGSHOOTING A favorite among long time clients: Cordoba Pigeon & Dove Combo

Warm up at the historic Montaraz Estancia with exciting decoyed pigeons and then move on to the world famous high volume dove program at Pica Zuro or La Dormida - no extra flights, just a short drive in between lodges.  
 Special rate for 4 nights: USD 2600 per gun  
 \*\* Min 4 guns – Valid from May to Jul 2011  
 Call now to reserve your spot!!  
**Toll Free 877-260-4332 –**  
**Santiago@daviddenies.com.**



### THE ORIGINAL SINCE 1976 Argentina Wild Wing Shooting SRL

Miguel Medus  
 Ranked company **Top 78** in the world - SCI  
 As always offering the **highest Volume of Ducks/Doves/Perdiz**  
 At Entre Rios Province  
 2-3-4 hr. drive from Buenos Aires Airport  
**www.argentina.wildwingshooting.com**  
**mmedus@argentinawildwingshooting.com**  
**Cell- Miguel Medus:**  
**011(54-9-3444) 620-641**  
**US Direct Lines in Argentina:**  
**949-467-1967/301-533-8227**

### "Virginia Snow Goose Special"

Electric calls, unplugged guns, extended hours, no limit on Greater Snows through February.  
**888-231-4868**

### "Argentina bird hunts" with Paco Riestra

Tel: 305-247-3833  
**www.argentinabirdhunts.com**

### Experience Saskatchewan PRO STAFF OUTDOORS

Many have called it the best goose and duck guide service they have ever hunted with!  
 Feel like your right at home.  
 First class lodging, meals and some of the best waterfowl hunting in North America!  
 11 different Species  
**Call: 306-445-4129 or 306-445-2050**  
**www.saskgoosehunting.com**

**Free E-Report** on the "Best Time to Hunt Dove in Argentina."  
**www.DoveHunting.info**

**Free E-Report** on the "Best Time to Hunt Ducks in Argentina."  
**www.DuckHunting-Argentina.com**

### UMDENDE LIFESTYLE SAFARIS SOUTH AFRICA

World class Wing shooting on 10 species, Trophy Hunting, luxurious accommodation and in-house Spa - Where the whole family will enjoy a true safari in South Africa.  
**www.umdende.com**  
**Tel (S.A.) +27 34 9816411**  
**Tel (USA) +1 972 769 8866**  
**Tel (Germany) +49 89 6415151**  
**umdende@umdende.co.za**

### AIM ADVENTURES

Offering the finest in Worldwide Wingshooting,  
 Big Game and Fishing Opportunities  
**Contact us Toll Free: 877-374-4868 or**  
**email - aimhunts@pacbell.net**

Mail in a new hunt report and we'll extend your subscription by one month!  
 Share your experiences with your fellow readers!

### ULTIMATE WING SHOOTING ARGENTINA

Grand slam shoots from our 4 star lodge 3 hours drive North of Buenos Aires.  
 Dove special Sep.- Apr. 3 days 2000 shells plus license included \$2200.  
**Web: southparanaoutfitters.com**  
**Contact; wingsarg@earthlink.net**  
**Tel: 804-694-6110**

## Hunt Report Form

**Outfitted or Guided Hunt**  
(please see other side for self-guided hunt)

*Dear Subscriber: The Bird Hunting Report gets the word out on both good and bad hunts. Please share your recent experiences in the field by filling out this form. Your report is invaluable to fellow subscribers; it will help them decide where to hunt and with whom. If you want to order other subscribers' reports to plan your hunts, see the Hunt Report Service Box in your newsletter. Thank you!*

Date of trip \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_

Outfitter or Lodge/Preserve Operator \_\_\_\_\_

Address (please fill out completely, or give name/telephone number of booking agent – see below)

Street or box number \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Web site \_\_\_\_\_

Personal guide (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

Booking agent (if any) \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Place you hunted (State/Province/Country) \_\_\_\_\_

Specific area(s) \_\_\_\_\_  Abundant  Average  Scarce

Species sought \_\_\_\_\_  Abundant  Average  Scarce

\_\_\_\_\_  Abundant  Average  Scarce

\_\_\_\_\_  Abundant  Average  Scarce

Type of hunt (walk up, pit blind, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

### RATINGS

	<i>Outfitter/Operator</i>					<i>Personal Guide</i>			
Equipment condition	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	Knowledge of hunt area	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor
Accommodations	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	Hunting ability	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor
Cuisine	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor
Dog work	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	Personality/Attitude	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor

Airline \_\_\_\_\_ Please rate overall service, 1 to 10 (10 is highest) \_\_\_\_\_

### YOUR SUMMARY REMARKS

Hunt highlights/special features \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Problems (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Would you recommend this trip to a friend? \_\_\_\_\_ Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

Cost of trip excluding air fare \_\_\_\_\_ Air fare \_\_\_\_\_

Cost of shells \_\_\_\_\_

### PERSONAL DATA

Your name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of report \_\_\_\_\_

Your address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to The Bird Hunting Report, PO Box 328, Boyds, MD 20841**

voice 301-528-0011 • fax 240-599-7679

## Hunt Report Form

### Self-Guided Hunt

(please see other side for outfitted hunt)

*Dear Subscriber: The Bird Hunting Report gets the word out on both good and bad hunts. Please share your recent experiences in the field by filling out this form. Your report is invaluable to fellow subscribers; it will help them decide where to hunt and with whom. If you want to order other subscribers' reports to plan your hunts, see the Hunt Report Service Box in your newsletter. Thank you!*

Date of trip \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_

Place you hunted (State/Province/Country) \_\_\_\_\_

Specific area(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Abundant	<input type="checkbox"/> Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Scarce
Species sought _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Abundant	<input type="checkbox"/> Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Scarce
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Abundant	<input type="checkbox"/> Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Scarce
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Abundant	<input type="checkbox"/> Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Scarce

Type of hunt (walk up, pit blind, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Permits, licenses, etc., required \_\_\_\_\_

How obtained \_\_\_\_\_

Special gear needed (decoys, waders, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Dog requirement (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Where you stayed \_\_\_\_\_

Address (Street or box #) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Transportation in area \_\_\_\_\_

How and where arranged \_\_\_\_\_

Airline used (if any) \_\_\_\_\_ Please rate overall service, 1 to 10 (10 is highest) \_\_\_\_\_

Comment \_\_\_\_\_

Whom to contact to set up this hunt and phone number if available) \_\_\_\_\_

### YOUR SUMMARY REMARKS

Hunt highlights/special features \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Problems (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Would you recommend this trip to a friend? \_\_\_\_\_ Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

Cost of trip excluding air fare \_\_\_\_\_ Air fare \_\_\_\_\_

### PERSONAL DATA

Your name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of report \_\_\_\_\_

Your address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to The Bird Hunting Report, PO Box 328, Boyds, MD 20841**

voice 301-528-0011 • fax 240-599-7679