

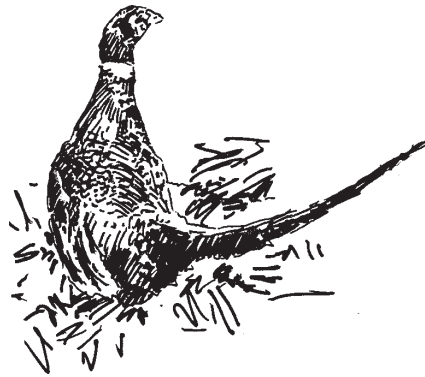
## Dateline: Colorado

### West Side of State Cast and Blast Opportunities

- **Timetable:** Pheasant, chukar and quail, Sept. 1 – Mar. 31; doves, Sept. 1 – Oct. 31; waterfowl, Oct. 4 – Jan. 25; trout fishing, year round.
- **Accommodations:** Comfortable homestyle lodge
- **Food:** Gourmet comfort food with a local-grown emphasis
- **Hunt:** Easy to moderate

The North Rim Hunt Club is an upland bird hunting, fishing and big game hunting lodge **perched on the breathtakingly beautiful Scenic Mesa just above the small Western Colorado town of Hotchkiss in the North Fork Valley.** The terrain boasts excellent cover for pheasant, chukar and Gambel's quail, but it's the variety of hunting,

shooting and fishing opportunities that make the North Rim Hunt Club a unique destination. **The outfit is co-owned and operated by Al DeGrange, who also**



**owns Gunnison River Expeditions,** through which he offers fly fishing trips, cast and blasts and family float trips.

The lodge is 3,000 square feet with

six bedrooms and four baths. It sleeps 12 comfortably but can accommodate up to 20. The great room is adorned with trophy mounts for a rustic feel and outdoorsman appeal. The weather was too cold during our January stay to enjoy the deck, but it seemed a great place to sip a cocktail on mild summer or fall evenings. Behind the lodge is a new five-stand course for hunters to practice their shooting skills. Perks include laundry and wireless Internet for those who need to bring their work. Frills are minimal, yet everything in the lodge is well maintained, clean and comfortable.

A top-notch kitchen staff serves up delicious meals based on the Slow Food movement; that is, food that is locally grown and purchased, healthy and home-cooked. Most of the meat served at the lodge—such as elk, buffalo, pheasant,

*(continued on page 2)*

## Dateline: Nicaragua

### Ducks and Doves in Shirt Sleeves

- **Timetable:** November to March
- **Accommodations:** Hotel
- **Food:** Excellent local fare
- **Hunt:** Easy

Over the years, **Nicaragua** has evolved into one of the top destinations for duck and dove hunting in the Americas. In 1979, the Sandinistas took control and for more than a decade the country was ravaged by war, and visits by Americans came to an end. Democratic rule finally prevailed and the country was reopened to foreigners in 1990.

**Marvin and Richard Townsend have offered duck and dove hunts in Nicaragua since 1995.** I've had the pleasure of shooting with them on three occasions, the most recent this past January. **Their longest running hunt is based in Chinandega about 80 miles northwest of Managua.** Clients are met at the airport and shotguns are cleared through customs. Then it's about a two-hour drive in an air-conditioned van to the hotel.

The next morning the wake-up call comes early at 3:30. After breakfast it's a 30-minute drive to the jumping off point for the airboats followed by a five-minute walk, then a 10 to

15-minute boat ride.

The hunting is from dry blinds and with 40,000 acres of marsh available,

*(continued on page 3)*

### Inside:

Georgia .....	p.4
Oregon .....	p.5
Mexico .....	p.6
Briefly Noted .....	p.7
South Dakota .....	p.8
Iowa .....	p.9
Minnesota .....	p.10
Outfitter Critiques .....	p.10
Canada .....	p.11

## Colorado ... (from page 1)

ostrich and a variety of game sausages—is either locally raised or harvested. During our stay we enjoyed large, bone-in steaks from grass-fed cattle. **Seasonal produce from the local North Fork Valley, such as peaches, cherries, apples, melons and assorted vegetables may complement meals as availability permits.** Beer, wine or liquor is BYO.

The North Rim Hunt Club offers a variety of cover to hunt game birds. A **patchwork of farmland, cropland, grassland, piñon and juniper stands, sagebrush, cottonwood groves, willow thickets and sumac bushes comprises the 4,000 acres available to hunt.** On our January trip, the dogs found single birds scattered throughout and coveys of four to six pheasants in thick cover and unexpectedly in open fields. Small coveys of quick flying chukar offered a sporting hunt. Rolling terrain, through draws and sloughs, is fairly easy to navigate on foot and creates good cover for the dogs to work. A network of irrigation ditches and ponds holds birds in the hotter months.

**The club specializes in professional guided hunts with the guides' dogs.** The dogs may be English pointers, German shorthaired pointers or Labrador retrievers, and hunters may specify if they have a preference between pointing or flushing dogs. The club will allow hunters to bring their own dogs too if they prefer that. The guides will carry, clean and pack birds for the guests.

The club has corn and sunflower fields that are dove hot spots. Dove season in Colorado begins the first day of September. Call well in advance if you are interested in a dove hunt as reservations are very popular at the start of the season.

**The crown jewel of the North Rim Hunt Club is its location near the Gunnison River, which allows visitors exciting cast and blast opportunities seldom offered at other upland hunting destinations.** The North Rim Hunt Club, as

part of DeGrange's Gunnison River Expeditions, is permitted to run **day and overnight trips in the gorge for fly-fishing or combo cast and blast trips.** The river is a flyway for ducks and geese in the colder months. Chukar are drawn to the rocky walls of the gorge and offer exciting shooting on the river from September through November. The river is home to year-round gold medal trout fishing.

The setting of the North Rim Hunt Club offers quiet seclusion away from the hustle and bustle of busier parts of Colorado. **The closest town, Hotchkiss, has a small population of 1,000** and an economy based on ranching, fruit growing, coal mining and farming. The booming Colorado resort towns of Aspen and Telluride, however, are both within 100 miles, and Crested



Butte is a quick 80 miles away. Commercial air service is offered in Montrose or Grand Junction airports, 45 and 65 miles away, respectively. Private airstrips can be found in the nearby towns of Paonia or Crawford. The lodge offers shuttle service, upon request, in its two 15-passenger Suburbans, which are also available to transport hunters while on their stay.

The North Fork Valley has a semi-arid, high desert climate. The start of the bird hunting season can continue to see some hot, dry days, but also some very beautiful and comfortably cool fall weather. Some snow accumulates in the winter months, but for the most part it remains comparatively mild and huntable throughout the upland season. Nighttime temperatures are always notably cooler on the mesa.

The lodge and the upland hunting are at an elevation of about 5,500 feet. While the terrain is easy to moderate to navigate, some flat-landers might feel the effects of the elevation. **It's a good idea to drink a lot of water and to go easy on the libations, especially in the first few days of the trip.** Sunscreen, sunglasses and long-



### For Bird Shooters & Waterfowlers

**Publisher and Editor**  
Tod Sedgwick

**Managing Editor**  
Tom Carney  
tom-bhr@hughes.net

**Senior Editor**  
John Gosselin  
john@uplandalmanac.com

**Senior Correspondent**  
Gary Kramer

**Consulting Editor**  
Don Causey

**Production/Advertising Manager**  
Kathy Thorne

**Illustrations**  
Gordon Allen

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

**Contributors**  
Steve Carpenteri      Nick Sisley  
Tom Huggler            Patricia Stockdill  
Gary Lewis             Mel Toponce  
Greg Morton            Scott Winston

Sedgwick Publishing Co.

Copyright ©2009

*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 recommendations contained herein are based on the best information available at press time. A one-year subscription costs \$49. Single copies cost \$5. Back issues cost \$5.50. 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 Sedgwick Publishing Co.

*The Bird Hunting Report* USPS (1084-8789) is published monthly by Sedgwick Publishing Co, PO Box 328, Boyds MD 20841. A one-year subscription costs \$49. Periodicals postage paid at Boyds, MD and at additional mailing offices. **Postmaster send address changes to: *The Bird Hunting Report*, Sedgwick Publishing Co., PO Box 328, Boyds MD 20841.**

Enter my subscription to **The Bird Hunting Report**  
[ ] One-year subscription — \$49

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.

sleeved shirts are also recommended while hunting and fishing.

Because North Rim augments the wild bird populations with supplemental plantings, it is considered a private game preserve; therefore, licenses for upland hunting are unnecessary. Hunters going after geese, ducks or other mi-

gratory birds will need to possess a Colorado small game license and the appropriate stamps. Likewise, anglers will need a Colorado fishing permit. The small game license can be purchased at the Hotchkiss City Market grocery store or online from the Colorado Dept. of Wildlife.

**North Rim Hunt Club and Gunnison River Expeditions, Al DeGrange; 970-778-8431 or 970-874-8184; [www.gunnisonriverexpeditions.com](http://www.gunnisonriverexpeditions.com); [gre@sopris.net](mailto:gre@sopris.net).**

**Colorado Dept. of Wildlife, [wildlife.state.co.us](http://wildlife.state.co.us).**

—Sue Melus

## Nicaragua... (from page 1)

the hunting locations are unlimited. The shooting is over decoys and each hunter has a bird boy. Because airboats are used to transport hunters and the blinds are all dry, this a hunt that almost all people, regardless of their physical condition, can enjoy. The most difficult part is the five-minute walk from the van to the airboats!

The duck hunts take place in both the morning and afternoon. Each hunter is allotted four boxes of shells per half-day shoot. Once the four boxes are gone or the 25-bird limit is reached, whichever comes first, the hunt is over. Most hunts lasted less than two hours and virtually everyone bagged limits. About 90 percent of the birds were blue-winged teal along with some fulvous and black-bellied whistling ducks and a few wigeon, shoveler and pintail.

One afternoon, we took an airboat tour of the massive wetland. In the span of 30 minutes, I saw an estimated 60,000 ducks, mostly blue-winged teal and whistling ducks. And as a wildlife biologist by trade, **I was equally impressed with the number of other birds including egrets, herons, ibis, shorebirds and others that were using the area.** My time in the marsh became a study in ornithology as well as a hunting trip.

Doves are hunted near roosts or feeding areas, and the bag depends on the area hunted. In some areas it is primarily white-winged doves while in others it can be mostly mourning doves. During my recent stay, the bag was dominated by the larger white-winged doves along with a few red-billed pigeons (often called blue rock pigeons). The limit is 75 doves and the average shooter will fire five to six boxes of shells on most half-day hunts.

The dove fields are 15 minutes to an hour's drive from the hotel.

Each day hunters return to the hotel for lunch and a siesta before going out again in the afternoon. Hunters are housed in the **Villas del Cortijo**, a very comfortable hotel with spacious air-conditioned rooms (all single occupancy) each with a bath. Meals are provided in a private dining room, and the food is very good with a nice mix



of local dishes, beef, pork and seafood.

The five-day/four-night/three hunting day Chinandega trip costs \$3,095 from Miami and includes international airfare, ground transportation, hunting services, accommodations and food. The standard trip includes four half-day duck hunts and two half-day dove shoots.

**The second hunt, based in Managua, has been offered for the past three seasons.** Here, clients stay at the four-star **Camino Real Hotel** near the airport. The duck hunting takes place in freshwater ponds about an hour's drive from the hotel. Decoys and bird boys are used and hunters access the blinds by airboat or Mud Buddy boats. The drives to the dove hunting fields average 30 minutes. This hunt is tailor made

for hunters who want to be close to the restaurants, shopping and night life of Managua or those who bring their significant others and want a night on the town. The Managua hunt, the same duration and including the same services as the Chinandega trip, is priced at \$3,295.

**The final offering is a helicopter hunt. Upon arrival in Managua, clients are transferred to a helicopter for the 45-minute flight to the five-star Marina Hotel on the northwest coast.** Each day, hunters are transported by a four-passenger Robertson helicopter to the same massive wetland the Chinandega clients shoot. The hunting is the same: air boats, dry blinds, bird boys and decoys. After the hunt, clients jump in the chopper for the 15-minute flight back to the hotel. Down time can be spent on the beach, by the pool or just relaxing. The same routine occurs on the dove hunts. Hunters are transported by helicopter to the dove fields where they meet the bird boys, and the shoot commences. The helicopter trip is the same duration as the others and is priced at \$6,995.

**All three trips are offered from early November to early March and each trip is limited to a maximum of 12 hunters.** Dove loads are \$12/box and duck loads are \$14/box. Hunters may bring their own shotguns or use Beretta semi-autos provided by the outfitter.

**Bring plenty of sunscreen, bug spray and a good hat along with light camo clothing and a light jacket for the airboat ride.** Temperatures are generally 85 to 90 degrees during the day and around 70 degrees at night.

For info: **Trek International Safaris, 800-654-9915, [www.treksafaris.com](http://www.treksafaris.com).**

—Gary Kramer

## Dateline: Georgia

### A Top Choice for Southern Quail

- **Timetable:** Oct. 15 through March 31
- **Accommodations:** Contemporary Lodge
- **Food:** Fine regional cuisine; game specialties
- **Hunt:** Easy to moderate

Before discussing wing shooting details, **this report must pay tribute to Quail Country Plantation's light, double-battered, deep-fried quail. It was amazing, period.** We requested it every day and the kitchen staff, champions of hospitality, graciously complied. They'd barely place the platters on the table before we pounced time and time again.

Located in Arlington, Ga., just over a half-hour's drive from Albany, Quail Country's 13,700 square-foot lodge sits in front of a 75-acre flooded timber lake, exquisite when the sunrise silhouettes Spanish moss dangling from tall cypress trees. Surrounding the lodge are 3,500 acres of well-developed bobwhite quail habitat providing reliable food and cover for the combination of early release, supplemental release and savvy wild coveys.

**What sets the hunts at Quail Country apart from many others is the variety.** Some courses concentrate on foot plots, others range through broad, brushy fields. Live oak landmarks, pine stands and tall wiregrass offer a change in scenery for each outing. Other than the first afternoon, which was bedeviled by heavy wind and rain, **the birds flew well and presented exciting shooting opportunities.**

Hunters at Quail Country ride into the field in specially outfitted Jeeps. These are walking hunts, shooters following the dogs and taking turns at the covey rises. Typically, two guns are put on each point of the dogs. Experienced guides match the pace and course not only to the hunters and their abilities, but also to the style and abilities of the dogs. Longer ranging

pointers hunt the bigger courses; younger dogs are put in closer, more predictable covers. **In every case, consideration is given to safety, wind direction and terrain.**

With this planning, running one of my hunting partners' English pointers with my German shorthair was a highlight. The two dogs, one hailing from the Alaskan tundra, the other a



Vermont north woods grouse dog, would lope through a wide field of sedge grass and longleaf pine, criss-crossing their quarters, matching their rhythm and range. Covey located, they'd lock staunch, one backing the other in turns. **Clichés are unavoidable: it just doesn't get any better.**

For those hunting at Quail Country without their own dogs, the plantation and its guides have well-trained pointers, setters and shorthairs as well as English cockers and springers for flushing and retrieving. The state-of-the-art kennels alone are worth a visit.

Quail Country's history is one of commitment to the property. **In 1960, Tommy Newberry received the third commercial hunting preserve license ever issued in Georgia after developing the plantation his family had settled in nearly 60 years earlier.** Several years later, his three children took over the operation, and, in 1992, daughter Kay and her husband Dr. Paschal Brooks ("Doc") took the helm. Since then, they built the new lodge and kennels. Plantation manager Bill Bowles joined Quail Country in 2007, and many of the most recent improvements, not to mention the plantation's smooth operations, are attributable to his 18 years of previous experience.

Put simply, an enormous investment of time, money and knowledge has paid off in quality throughout.

The new lodge has 14 handsome guest rooms, each with two full-size extra-long beds and a private bath. The living and dining rooms are spacious yet inviting. A full bar is set up every evening and the menu delighted us with sumptuous southern cooking, including a complete roast hog one night displayed intact before Doc carved it for the hungry hunters.

The plantation also offers fishing, sporting clays, five-stand, custom gun fitting and conference facilities. **The gunroom features Caesar Guerini shotguns to rent or purchase.**

Final mention must be made of the staff's exceptional hospitality. Storms prevented us from flying in when we had planned, but throughout that day and the following morning until we arrived, the Quail Country staff remained in constant phone communication with us to make sure we were okay and to make sure an airport pick-up would be available the moment we could get in. Similarly, two of the hunters in our party got turned around trying to drive in during those storms and, again, Bill and his staff made every effort possible to stay in contact with and to get them to the plantation safely. With genuine attentiveness and care, the staff met our slightest requests, from borrowing a dog bowl to re-arranging our hunting party several times. They cleaned our guns daily, and the bird processing was immaculate.

Quail Country Plantation is 180 miles from Atlanta and 35 miles from Albany. Full-day hunts with a 15-bird limit cost \$595 per hunter; half-day hunts cost \$375. Lodging with breakfast and dinner is \$165 per night, double occupancy. Lunch and the preserve license are included with the hunts. The weather during the season ranges from 50s to 70s during the day, with lows generally in the 30s and 40s.

**Quail Country Plantation, 229-725-4645, [www.quailcountry.com](http://www.quailcountry.com).**

—Nancy Anisfield

## Dateline: Oregon

### DIY National Forest Mountain Quail

- **Timetable:** Sept. 1 through Jan. 31
- **Accommodations:** Hotel or camp
- **Food:** Café, grocery store or restaurants
- **Hunt:** Moderate

A jewel set in a glacier-scoured valley between Mt. Thielsen and Mt. Bailey, Diamond Lake was named for John Diamond, who discovered it in 1852. For the fishermen who have sampled its waters, it sparkles in memory, but **for the bird hunter the real treasure can be found in the foothills to the west: ruffed grouse and some of the highest concentrations of mountain quail in the state.**

Diamond Lake sits at an elevation of 5,183 feet above sea level. To the west, the mountains slope away toward the valleys of the Umpqua and Rogue rivers.

Two paved highways intersect at Diamond Lake, bringing travelers from Medford, Roseburg, Bend, Klamath Falls and beyond.

Highway 138 heads to Roseburg and Highway 230 points to Medford. Both of these arteries are intersected by gravel roads. These in turn, are joined by secondary ribbons that take hunters deeper into the hills, through active logging areas and along small freestone creeks.

At higher elevations, pines, firs and alders dominate. Drop closer to 3,000 feet and it's oaks.

I knew I had made a mistake when I flushed two grouse at the edge of a clearing on the first day of our elk hunt. For the next two days, we saw dozens of mountain quail and several groups of grouse. My 20-gauge was home in the safe.

When I returned home to re-supply, I brought back my 20-ga. and a box of No. 8s. My preparations paid off on a narrow trail when I found grouse and a covey of close to 20 quail. For the next hour, they provided good sport among the head-high rhododendrons.

West of Diamond Lake, toward Steamboat on the north, Trail on the south, and Tiller in the middle on Highway 227, mountain quail can be found at elevations down to 2,000 feet. **The birds live along brushy edges of conifer forests and streams.** They eat berries, clover, and seeds of weeds and

grasses; the quail roost under heavy brush or in small trees. Home territories take in large areas. When snow falls, they head to lower elevations, following the snowline down to avoid severe weather.

Few upland game birds are as difficult to hunt. They run at the sight of a



hunter. Coveys are likely to move ahead of the dogs, but once they flush from the rhododendrons and conifers, a pointing dog can find singles holding tight.

**To locate quail and grouse, drive forest roads where the birds seek gravel for their crops.** Birds are likely to be found close to water and food sources. Because of recent logging activity, the roads are well maintained, but deeper in the mountains, a hunter might encounter washouts and downed trees. A high-clearance 4x4 is a good choice of vehicle for these roads.

Groups of quail generally number seven to nine birds. They do not form large coveys, but hunters sometimes see loose groups of birds feeding in the same area.

Listen for the call anytime of day, but pay close attention in the evening, as feeding birds reassemble near water prior to roosting.

The nearest airport is Rogue Valley-International Medford Airport. The hunting area is only an hour's drive to the east on highways 62 and 230.

Campgrounds and primitive campsites are easy to find along either highway and in the forests. Diamond Lake Resort makes a good base camp for mobile hunters. Accommodations range from primitive campsites to a motel and vintage cabins.

In October and November, the daytime highs range from 30 to 65 degrees. Rainfall

is more common than snow, but visitors to the area should be prepared for both.

A three-day nonresident hunting license (\$21.50) allows hunters to pursue upland birds and migratory waterfowl. Licenses are available at sporting goods stores. The bag limit is 10 mountain quail with 20 in possession.

The season runs Sept. 1 through Jan. 31. Because of seasonal migrations, October and November offer the best opportunities to find quail. With a few days to spend in the field, the upland hunter should be able to find birds among the rhododendrons, manzanita and blackberries. This section of Oregon's Cascades is primarily public land or timber company ground, open to public access.

For BLM and Forest Service maps: **Bend Mapping at 541-389-7440 or visit [www.bendmapping.com](http://www.bendmapping.com).**

For license information or to request regulations: **800-720-6339 or visit [www.dfw.state.or.us](http://www.dfw.state.or.us).**

For accommodations: **Diamond Lake Resort, 350 Resort Dr., Diamond Lake, OR 97731; 800-733-7593; [www.diamondlake.net](http://www.diamondlake.net).**

For visitor info: **Medford Visitors and Convention Bureau, 800-469-6307, [www.visitmedford.org](http://www.visitmedford.org).**

—Gary Lewis

## 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.

Current team members include, **Curt Frisbie, Azam Khan, Wayne Latta, Tom Sweeny and Michael Tancredi.**

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](mailto:support@pnmsi.com).

Subscriber Field Notes

Candy and Codorniz in Mexico

Candy was a brown-eyed yellow lab. She rode expectantly in one of the dog cages on our quail rig, knowing that she would be released as soon as we needed her. The fields where we hunted were thick with what appeared to be buffleggrass, a plant so dense when laid over, it was virtually impossible to find a wounded bird that hunkered down and hid in that foliage. That was when Candy was needed.

Once the pointers gave up looking, and once the hunters and dog handlers gave up looking, the whistle was sounded and Candy literally flew out of her cage headed to the spot where the codorniz was last seen. She ran aggressively, leaping over rocks and bounding high to be able to see in the tall grass. Upon reaching the handlers and being told to “*Hunnnt Deaaad,*” Candy’s nose started to work energetically. She would circle the spot, find a faint smell leading in another direction and follow it, zigging and zagging with no apparent purpose. Suddenly Candy stopped and stuck her nose under the thick, matted grass, lifting her head to move the grass aside, and with a sudden swoop forward she caught the hapless codorniz in her mouth and proudly brought it back to us. **It would have been impossible to find that bird, or many others we encountered on our three-day quail trip at Rancho Caracol, without Candy, the wonder-dog retriever. It was worth the price of the whole trip just to watch Candy work.**

John Sample, Mike Richardson and I started out for **Rancho Caracol** on Dec. 17, 2008, by flying John’s Bonanza from Dallas into Harlingen. The Rancho Caracol personnel were there to greet us and take our bags within minutes. Our van pointed itself south with a cooler full of beer, water and soft drinks, and we headed across the border for our three-hour trip to **Tamaulipas**. The last time I had been there was in 2004.

As usual when we arrived, a waiter was standing right outside the van door

to hand us whatever drink we had ordered in advance. While our bags were being collected and sent to our rooms, we took a tour. A lot of major changes had taken place in the intervening four years: the pool was completely changed so that it now had a swim-up bar and a large hot tub that would accommodate at least eight people. A new wing across from the Lodge added three new, spacious rooms



that held three beds each. A huge gunroom was new. It held about 60 guns, mostly Berettas, automatics and over/unders, sufficient that you could easily find one that fit you. Next door to the gun room were two new massage rooms; outside that area a large aboveground fire pit waited for the evening crowd and drinks and storytelling.

Perhaps the most startling change was the addition of a second story above the main lodge. That second story held the bar, a pool table, a video shooting game, multiple TVs including one with a 120-inch screen, and it led out to an extension of the upstairs porch, which made a perfect dining location for the evening meals. The gift shop had been enlarged and took up most of the place where the old living room was. This lodge was, in my opinion, an A++ lodge when I visited four years ago; now it was clearly the definition of what a four-star lodge would look like.

After a hearty breakfast the first morning, we went to our quail rig waiting outside the front door before first light. We met our head guide, Jose

Angel, and his two helpers, Humberto Roque and Ivan “Grasshopper” Barrientos. The pointers were in their cages, Candy sharing space with one of them. The drive was long — they always seem long the first morning — at one hour 15 minutes, but that was the longest drive we had the whole trip. Upon arriving at the ranch, we got out of the trucks, got our shotguns out and put them in holsters provided at the top of the rigs and let two pointers out to do their stuff, following along closely behind in thick grass. **Rainfall had been good earlier in the year, promising plenty of codorniz.** It was not long before the lead dog locked up, and the second dog honored the point and froze in its tracks. We quickly walked up to and through the dogs until the familiar whirring sound of feathers and wings trying to make their escape assaulted our ears. Each of our eyes strained to pick out one bird on each of our sides, and then shots rang out. **Four birds on the ground. A great start on what was to turn out to be another spectacular trip.**

Place after place in the early morning with the dew on the ground and a misty low sky, the dogs would find covey after covey. For us, this was paradise: hunting all wild birds in places where we could expect eight to 12 birds per covey. The ground was occasionally thick with knee-high buffleggrass making walking difficult, but more often the ground was reasonably clear and the walking was not demanding.

We all wore snake protection. We did not need to test if it worked against a rattlesnake bite, but Jose did spot one rattler lurking in the weeds under a fence we were traveling by, and Jose decided to stop long enough to dispatch the four-foot long creature.

We broke for lunch at a quiet spot along a broad, clear river with tall trees providing plenty of shade for our after-lunch naps. Chacho came from the lodge and already had our steaks and K-bob meals on the grill when we arrived.

Lounge chairs appeared from nowhere to make our napping more comfortable. But, this too, had to end and we had to get back to “work” finding the codorniz.

The afternoon sun dried out the grass and made it more difficult for the dogs to smell and do their job. At certain points it became obvious that the lack of moisture was making it impossible for the dogs to smell anything. At that point, Jose told Humberto and Grasshopper to get out and walk parallel to the truck on the other side of fencerows, using sticks to thrash at the brush and make noise. More often than not, they would spot the quail on the ground ahead of us and we would get out and flush the quail ourselves. If the quail were not spotted ahead of time, the walkers would flush them and then mark with their eyes where they set down so that we could follow. This is a great method of locating birds on a really hot day when the dogs could not be very effective. The day ended with 25 coveys having taken to the air, and we had 45 birds in our bag. Not the best of averages, I must admit, but we were the ones missing the shots and we had no one to blame but ourselves.

Each day was a repeat of the first.

The drives from the lodge were shorter, and the number of coveys were fairly consistent with 26 coveys the second day and 21 on the third. On the second day we asked Jose how many birds were the most he had seen taken on a single day hunt, and he said 60. We noted that we had taken 45 birds the first day and 50 the second day, so our goal on the third day was 61. Jose took the challenge, and we wasted no time getting after the birds, each of us hoping for improved shooting (although we were not doing so badly as it was).

When it was close to 5 p.m. on that last day, we had gone through a long dry spell and knew it was going to get dark before long. A covey was spotted on the ground and we got out and spread out behind them and started moving slowly forward, without any dogs. Here, the ground was covered in cactus, thorns seemed to be on every bush, and the going was very slow. I guess this worked to our advantage as one flushed on the right, headed high to the left right in front of me, and I dropped him. Whoever was on the right flank flushed another with an identical ending. A couple more were taken, one on the right

and one in front of us. Miraculously, two more whizzed by going right to left and high, and I got them both. Jose said that the last one was number 61 and it was time to call it a day, a really good day!

It turns out that we counted wrong on that last day and actually shot 62 birds. More than enough for the 15 each we could take back to the States with us. We calculated that we each shot between 2 and 2 1/2 boxes of shells each day.

Three days was just enough for this trip. It was cold and windy back in Dallas this week before Christmas, and we were enjoying 80-plus degree weather. We saw great countryside, a red fox, some javelina, a group of 18 turkeys, one possum and a coyote.

The cost per hunter was \$3,495 for four nights/six shoots.

I have said many times that I think **Rancho Caracol is the best quail hunting operation in the world**, and once again Rancho Caracol fulfilled all my expectations. Try it, you will love it! And you will fall in love with Candy who is sure to find your lost codorniz.

For more information: [www.rancho-caracol.com](http://www.rancho-caracol.com).

—Curt Frisbie

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

#### Argentina — Hunt Opportunity

From Gustavo Gimenez:

**Farm San Huberto-Santiago del Estero** province has concessions in seven provinces of Argentina (Buenos Aires, La Pampa, Cordoba, Entre Rios, Chaco, Rio Negro and Santa Fe).

**This ranch was especially built for hunting, and it is surrounded by 41,000 acres of completely wild bush.** It is located in an area known as “The Impenetrable.” And as you can infer from the name, it is a very thick forest with an ideal habitat for all the native species of big game. San Huberto also has a large fenced area for exotic animals

For wing shooting, the two different species allowed to be hunted are the golden dove and the pigeon (torcaza). Just for you to have a better idea of the volume of birds we have here, we can tell you that they are considered to be a

plague in this province. These birds, especially the pigeon, cause tremendous damage to farmers’ crops estimated to be around 30 percent. That is why, based on this data, we guarantee you can shoot as many shells as you wish, even more than 1,000 shots a day per hunter.



There are three species of partridges: the small partridge, the montaraz partridge and the martineta copetona. However, according to local regulations, you can only shoot 10 small ones, 10 montaraz and three martinetas per day per

hunter, all of them in different fields, since they are different species.

We use pointing dogs for this kind of hunt.

In Santiago del Estero we also have several large swamps, which are habitat for more than 14 different species of ducks. It is, of course, a paradise for collectors from all over the world. This hunt is regulated as well, and the limit is 20 ducks a day per hunter.

Wing shooting seasons — doves and pigeons: year round; ducks and partridges: May 1 through Aug. 20.

For more info: [Gustavo Gimenez, tartahunter@hotmail.com](mailto:Gustavo.Gimenez@tartahunter@hotmail.com).

• • •

### Pheasants Forever — Winter Conditions Update

From *Outdoor Wire*:

To date, the winter of 2008-2009 has been harsher than recent years in many places across the pheasant range. Upland bird numbers fluctuate from

year-to-year due to two main factors: the amount of quality habitat and weather.

“Our first thought might be, ‘Those pheasants are going to starve if I don’t feed them,’” said Jesse Beckers, Pheasants Forever Regional Wildlife Biologist in North Dakota, a state hit particularly hard this winter. “But is this the limiting factor when it comes to pheasants surviving harsh winter conditions? The answer is ‘No.’ **It all comes down to habitat, namely good winter cover. A pheasant that starves to death is rare, and most will die of exposure or predators long before starvation.**”

Unfortunately, this winter has come at a time when quantity and quality of habitat is suffering. Over 7.5 million acres have expired from the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in recent years, and most have been converted for row crop production. **(South Dakota will have lost the equivalent of a one-mile wide strip of land from Sioux Falls, SD, to Pittsburgh, PA, in habitat from 2007-2009.)**

### State-by-State Update

**South Dakota** — In recent years, South Dakota has experienced very mild winters, which have helped produce record pheasant populations. To date, the 2008-2009 winter has brought an end to this mild spell as constant cold fronts carrying snow, arctic temperatures and strong winds (up to 70 mph in some areas) have passed across the entire state. This bombardment has taken its toll as habitat conditions continue to grow worse. Blowing snow has begun to fill up much of the winter cover provided by farmstead shelterbelts, field windbreaks, cattail sloughs and other CRP grasses.

“**Pheasant losses this winter have been minimal,**” said Chad Switzer, Senior Upland Game Biologist for the South Dakota Dept. of Game, Fish and Parks. “But if the current weather patterns persist through the remainder of the winter, conditions may become difficult for pheasants and other residential wildlife.” **An increase in winter mortality for pheasants is expected this season when compared to previous years;** however, early observations from South Dakota’s winter sex ratio study indicates there is a higher than expected surplus of roosters remaining from the

2008-2009 hunting season.

**Iowa** — “**We could use a break and so far we are not getting it,**” stated Todd Bogenschutz, Wildlife Biologist with the Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources, after last winter’s record-setting snow and devastating floods. Unfortunately,



the snow has been falling again in Iowa since early December.

To date, winter snowfall has averaged 15-30 inches across the northern half of Iowa with less than 15 inches across the southern half. This has caused the good habitat in the northern portion of the state to begin drifting in. If this continues through the month of March at the rate of snow seen in December and early January, Iowa will likely see lower pheasant populations for the second consecutive year, according to Bogenschutz. **Iowa DNR data shows an average loss of 3 percent of the hen population for every week the ground has snow or ice cover from Dec. 1 to March 31.** In a normal winter the state sees around seven weeks of snow cover; Iowa already has about four weeks of cover. An inadequate amount of habitat for winter conditions and nesting is the largest limiting factor for pheasants in Iowa.

**North Dakota** — The 2008-2009 winter weather **conditions have been brutal in North Dakota.** Winter started early this year and hasn’t let up yet. At present, there is roughly 30+ inches of snow in the central part of the state with all of the prominent pheasant areas having an estimated 24+ inches. Freezing rain, ice and strong winds have also added to the rough season. Luckily there is still a fair amount of CRP land available for many birds to find shelter.

“As of right now, it sure looks like this winter is going to have a negative effect on future pheasant populations,” said Stan Kohn, Upland Game Supervi-

sor for the North Dakota Game and Fish Dept., “but we’ll just have to wait and see when the snow recedes.”

**Minnesota** — Since early to mid-December, **Minnesota’s pheasant range has been experiencing well below normal temperatures** (with wind chills as low as -44 degrees) and consistent snow cover of over six inches. This has made it difficult for the local pheasant population since a majority of the grass habitat is now full of snow and the smaller wetlands are beginning to give in to the weight of snowdrifts. Fortunately, the larger cattail wetlands and shelterbelts are still providing adequate winter cover in most areas. Said Kurt Haroldson, Wildlife Research Biologist with the Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources: “If this severe weather persists, then hen survival will decrease, and the 2009 pheasant population will be lower than in previous years.”

It should also be noted that in northwestern Minnesota — where they have received in excess of 20 inches of snow — **the Winter Severity Index was already higher in January than it has been in the past two years overall.**

**Montana** — The rolling prairies found north of Montana’s Hi-Line have been experiencing a full-blown winter while other portions of the state have varied considerably. Following a 2008 pheasant season that was very good in some areas and extremely mediocre in others, many Montana residents are happy to hear that **habitat found along the Milk River and lower Missouri River are in good condition with abundant winter cover being found adjacent to feed plots or grain stubble.** The concern for Montana pheasants gets progressively worse along the Hi-Line going from west to east. “Unless conditions moderate and snow cover bares off, we expect above average winter kill in the northeast corner of Montana with more variable mortality rates elsewhere,” stated Rick Northrup, Game Bird Coordinator with the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

This news is especially unfortunate since the northeast corner of the state - extending south to Glendive and Miles City - appeared to have the greatest hunter success this past season.

**Kansas** — According to Randy Rodgers, Wildlife Biologist with the Kansas Dept. of Wildlife & Parks, with the exception of a two-week period in December, **Kansas' pheasant range has experienced relatively mild conditions.** Following the phenomenal pheasant season of 2007, this year saw a somewhat smaller pheasant take due to a later crop harvest giving the roosters plenty of cover to hide in. "Lack of snow has probably hurt us a little in terms of hunting success, but it sure hasn't hurt the birds," explained Rodgers. Even though there will always be some degree of habitat degradation during the winter, the minimal amount of snow has even allowed some weaker-stemmed grasses to remain upright. **"It's unlikely this winter will have a significant negative effect on our pheasant population,"** said Rodgers.

•

**Nebraska** — Although Nebraska has been experiencing a very cold winter season, the amount of precipitation has been less than in previous years. "Much of the snow that has been received throughout the state has been short-lived and usually began melting within a few days," said Dr. Jeffrey Lusk, Upland Game Program Manager for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. This is good news for the pheasant population since the dry summer conditions Nebraska sustained caused some of the pheasant habitat to suffer. Having survived half of the winter season fairly unscathed, Nebraska should anticipate good pheasant carryover for spring reproduction — as long as February and March don't bring severe snow or ice storms.

• • •

### **Iowa — Update: Highland Hideaway**

(Ed. note: For a complete report on this locale, please see the December 2006 issue of BHR.)

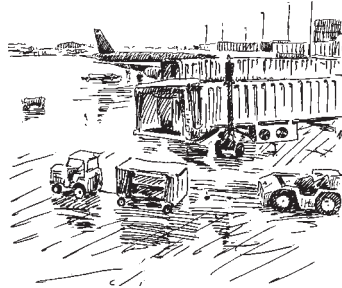
From [www.press-citizen.com](http://www.press-citizen.com):

For the pheasant hunter looking for a quality experience without paying the premium preserve fees of South Dakota and Nebraska, **Highland Hideaway in Riverside, Iowa, is a hunter's wish come true.**

The hunting is of the highest quality hard flying birds in wide-open country, a far cry from the smaller preserve operations in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. The habitat is typical of the Iowa

pheasant belt, with rolling hills, native bluestem switch grass and strategically placed food strips. And, the accommodations of Highland lodge and staff couldn't be, well, more accommodating.

**The 5,000 square foot lodge will sleep up to 18 hunters with a large dining and entertainment area.** There's a



full kitchen and meal service, TV, wireless Internet and plenty of room to spread out and feel right at home.

"We cater to the hunter's hunter," said manager Ryan Giannini. "We provide the same hunt as the Orvis-endorsed lodges in South Dakota, but we do it without the hype and expense.

"We have a lot of hunters come here who have hunted in the Dakotas and tell us there's really little difference, except for the price. We'll give you quality birds, quality guide service with quality dog work, and quality service and lodging afterwards."

He wasn't kidding. A half-day hunt at Hideaway on a Sunday morning provided just what the brochure promised. You never hunt adjacent to another party of hunters, there were plenty of birds and the habitat was ideal.

Guide Blake Boyer's German short-hair pointers were diligent, disciplined and enthusiastic to hunt the nearly 300 acres we covered from 8 a.m. until noon. Our party of four harvested 12 birds, could have taken more and came away with the satisfaction of your best wild-bird hunting experience.

"We're different from a lot of preserves you'd find," said Giannini. "We don't 'plant' birds; we do a free release well ahead of a party showing up to hunt. By the time hunters walk in the field, the birds have spread out and acclimated themselves. It provides as close as possible a wild-bird hunting experience.

"We do have some wild birds, but the majority of what we offer are birds we're licensed to raise here on the farm.

"We're really busy from September through December, but **for hunters who want to come after the busy season we have plenty of birds and opportunity right up to the end of March.**"

A half-day hunt for three roosters and lunch provided costs \$165. A full-day hunt with a five-bird limit is just \$230. If you want to shoot additional birds, you may, at a reasonable rate per bird. Aside from the cost of birds and guide service, it costs you just \$50 per night to stay in Highland's clean, comfortable and convenient lodge.

In a day of diminishing opportunities and habitat on privately owned farmland in Iowa, Ron Rath's operation stands out as the best combination of the old days and future of upland bird hunting. **It's the best-kept secret in pheasant hunting!**

For more info: **Highland Hideaway, 319-648-5065, [www.highlandhunting.com](http://www.highlandhunting.com).**

• • •

### **Georgia — Area Opened for Special Spring Turkey Hunts**

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

The U.S. Corps of Engineers Savannah District has announced the **opening of Bussey Point Management Area, a 3,000-acre wildlife area on Lake Thurmond, for spring-season turkey hunting.**

A primitive weapons turkey hunt will be conducted March 27-28, and a parent-youth hunt is scheduled for the following Saturday, April 4. Corps officials define a primitive weapon as a muzzleloader or bow and arrow. Space is limited to 10 hunters per day who will be selected in random drawings held prior to each hunt. Hunters selected may bring a guide or guest; however, the guest will not be allowed to carry a weapon, according to the statement.

Primitive weapons or shotguns also will be allowed for the special parent/youth hunt in April, according to Boyd. Participating young people must be 15 years old or younger, and the accompanying adult must be licensed in accordance with Georgia hunting regulations and will not be allowed to carry a weapon. All applicable Georgia hunting regulations apply, and South Carolina residents will need to purchase \$50 Georgia non-resident turkey stamps to participate, he said.

For more information: **Ken Boyd, Thurmond Project Office, 800-533-3478, ext. 1159 or 864-333-1159.**

• • •

### Minnesota — New Boundaries Drawn for Ashby State Goose Refuge

From *FergusFallsJournal.com*:

The Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) will modify the boundaries of the Ashby State Goose Refuge in Grant County, according to game refuge order 461. **The refuge will be made smaller**, as requested by local citizens, after the proposal was heard at a public hearing last September.

The Ashby refuge, as originally created by the DNR in 1971, was intended to help re-establish Canada geese and

encompassed 3,170 acres. The new boundaries will reduce the size of the



refuge to 1,450 acres, but will still include the wetlands most important to geese.

The vacated portions of the refuge, which include both Sumstad and Pelican Creek waterfowl productions areas, will be open to goose hunting in 2009 during established seasons. The remainder of the vacated refuge is privately owned. The Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Trespass Law requires that hunters obtain landowner permission before hunting on any private property.

For more information about Canada geese, state goose or waterfowl refuges or wildlife management: [www.mndnr.gov](http://www.mndnr.gov).

Questions regarding the Ashby State Goose Refuge may be directed to **Kevin Kotts, DNR Glenwood area wildlife supervisor, 320-634-0342.**

## 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.*

### Reactions

**BHR's Senior Correspondent Gary Kramer** is also a reader. He sent

us the following:

"While looking over **Michael Halleran's *Caza Fantastica* story on Rio Grande Rancho in the December issue**, I noticed an incorrect statement.

"On page 3: 'the lodge's 40,000 acres of prime Mexican brush offer blue, scaled and bobwhite quail in astonishing numbers.' For the record, **"blue" and "scaled" quail are the same species (*Callipepla squamata*)** not two different species as indicated in the story. As a biologist those things jump out at me.

"Also the story says 'Hunters may gun from the shooting seats mounted on the truck.' **Shooting from a vehicle is illegal in many places and unethical in most."**

•  
**Writer Michael Halleran** responds:

"A.) Blue/Scaled

"**An honest mistake.** Although I have always referred to them as *scaled* quail, I had meant to call them *blues* throughout the entire story, as that's what our Mexican guide called them. *Blues* had more of a Mexican feel to me so I used it.

"**Seems I switched horses in mid-stream and missed that occurrence of *scaled*.** I apologize and thank Gary for pointing it out.

"B. Hunting from Vehicles

"**Just reporting the facts;** apparently it is both legal and ethical in Mexico. You will note that in the story the participants do not from the vehicle, and although the guides would have rather ridden we made 'em walk. **I mainly included that information for people with disabilities who might like to take advantage of the service."**

• • •

Subscriber **Edward W. Marron, Jr. of Ho-Ho-Kus, N.J.**, has sent in a negative hunt report about the **Miramichi Inn in New Brunswick.**

On the Hunt Report Form, under the "Personal Guide" column, Marron circled the ratings for "Communication" and "Personality/Attitude," drew an arrow to "Owner/Operator" and rated the **Miramichi's André Godin as "Poor."**

There are **no hunt details to deliver**, for Marron's chief complaint is that Godin canceled his group out of a hunt less than two weeks before they were scheduled to arrive in October 2008. Part of Marron's report includes four more pages detailing his side of what he and his friends have gone through.

To summarize that information: Two weeks before the scheduled hunt, Godin

canceled, saying he “had lost his guides and that he could not honor” the reservations for Marron and his group, “although he could accommodate” them at a later date. The group members could not reschedule their trip. After being canceled by Godin, the group made arrangements to hunt with another outfitter and requested a refund of the full payment he had required, \$8,000+ for four hunters.

Marron claims that Godin refused to pay them back. In one emailed attempt to rectify the situation, Marron complains about what Godin did regarding the trip and says, “You now refuse to return calls and messages.”

Mr. Marron and his group members have tried to enlist the help of the Minister of Tourism and Parks and the New Brunswick Outfitters Association. Apparently even these two entities have been unsuccessful in mediating the dispute.

Marron adds in his letter, “Having hunted in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia for the past 35 years, I never seen (*sic*) or heard of anything like this and felt that your readers should be made aware of what has occurred.”

•

We were surprised to hear the details of this complaint, but we have to report that we have received the same silent treatment from Godin, as has Marron. We have submitted requests for a response from Godin using the email address provided by Marron and via the “E-mail” link at the Miramichi Inn’s website, the e-address for which is the same. We normally offer a 30-day time period for outfitters to respond, but based on the seriousness of these allegations, we extended the deadline for Mr. Godin an additional 30 days. As of press time, we have received no comment from Mr. Godin.

• • •

**Subscriber Peter MacGaffin of Bear, Del.** reports on a hunt he would recommend to others.

He spent the final three days of July 2008 at **Four Seasons Adventures in Buenos Aires, Argentina.**

Everything seems to have gone well except for the fact that his flight out of Buenos Aires on United Airlines was six hours late. Other than that, MacGaffin reports it was “an excellent hunt.”

The hunt took place in the **Monte Laguna area of Buenos Aires Province.**

MacGaffin and his guide **Cano Antonin** used the traditional method of sitting on stools in the marsh as they hunted for ducks, geese and doves, all of which, he rates, were “Abundant” in their numbers.



MacGaffin gives an “Excellent” rating to all qualities in the “Personal Guide” category as well as to all concerns in the “Outfitter/Operator” category of the Hunt Report Form except for “Dog Work.” He leaves that line blank.

As for his summary remarks, MacGaffin says, the “duck hunting was super! Room and lodge excellent! Cano and his staff did a great job!”

Cost of the trip without airfare was \$3,500. Shells cost \$14/box. Airfare on United was \$1,250.

For info: **Four Seasons Adventures, 011-54-911-6444-2380, www.4seasons.com.ar.**

MacGaffin booked his trip through **Gage, 800-888-1601.**

• • •

**Tom Van Handel**, a subscriber from **Appleton, Wis.**, had a wonderful hunt at a place run by “**a nice young couple who try hard and communicate well,**” **Anthony and Tracy Stadnyk of Borderland Waterfowl in southeast Manitoba.**

He hunted there the final week of September 2008 and found the ducks to be scarce but the Canada geese to be abundant.

“They told us ducks were scarce and offered to cancel the hunt,” says Van Handel. “Told us before we booked the area had no snow geese. Told us before we booked it was early for Canadas in his area.

“Lots of effort on outfitter’s part.”

For all of his effort, Stadnyk earned “Excellent” ratings from Van Handel in all areas of concern with the exception of “Dog work,” which was left blank.

Cost of the trip was \$1,417.

For more info: **Borderland Waterfowl, 866-847-0241, www.borderlandwaterfowl.com, borderlandwaterfowl@hotmail.com.**

• • •

From **Morgan Hill, Calif.**, subscriber **Rich Max** sends a report on a hunt he would recommend. From Aug. 10-15, 2008, he hunted the **Villa de Dolores area of Cordoba, Argentina**, with the folks from **Cordoba Wing Shooting.**

Members of his group hunting from dry blinds in fields for doves and pigeons, both species of which he found to be abundant.

He rates the equipment there as “Excellent” and adds, “**We used their guns, 20-ga. Beretta semi-autos.**” He gives a rating of “Good” to the accommodations and cuisine and no rating to dog work.

As far as his personal guide Martin Badra goes, Max rates him as “Excellent” in all areas except for the “Good” he gives for communications.

In fact, that’s the only slight problem he noted, and adds it “**would be helpful to speak a little Spanish to communicate with the personal guides.**” Each hunter had his own guide.”

Max adds some other field notes:

“The outfitter is very accommodating. The birds were everywhere! **Our hunters shot an average of 40 boxes a day and about 1,500 birds each.** There were plenty of birds to use more shells on, but our shoulders could not handle more! We shot from 8 a.m. to noon, and then after lunch from 2 to 6, depending on birds’ flight and your endurance.

“Excellent guns/shells. There were no gun problems. We were glad we used their guns.

“Very good meals, especially out in the field (lunch).”

Max found just about every aspect of the trip made it one he would recommend: “excellent service/equipment, very good accommodations, lots of birds.”

The cost of the trip exclusive of airfare was \$1,875. Shells cost \$10/box with **the first 2,000 rounds free.**

For info: **Cordoba Wing Shooting, 786-8754, 786-252-8084; argentina huntingtrips.com.**

## 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

### 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](http://www.backfortywi.com)

### Bird Hunters Africa – since 1986

South Africa, Mozambique & Botswana  
 Now taking bookings for 2009. We offer the most varied wingshooting in the world.  
 April / May – Hot barrel doves and pigeons

June, July & August – Duck, Geese, Guineafowl, Francolin, Pigeons, Doves & Snipe.

September – Waterfowl collectors hunts  
 16 species.

September / October – Sandgrouse

**Email – gamehunt@sai.co.za**

[www.birdhuntersafrica.com](http://www.birdhuntersafrica.com)

### America's Best Wild Bird Hunt Flying Double F Ranch, Vale, Oregon

Hunt five different species of game birds including pheasants, huns, chukars, valley and Bob white quail. There are covays of hundreds and hundreds of valley quail. See latest TV show on website.

**For more information please**

**call (301) 870-2158 or**

**visit website [www.flyingdoublef.com](http://www.flyingdoublef.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](http://www.uplandalmanac.com)

**E-mail: [info@uplandalmanac.com](mailto:info@uplandalmanac.com)**

### SOUTH DAKOTA PHEASANTS

Granite Springs Lodge

Full Service Hunts Include:

- Professionally Trained Bird Dogs
  - Sporting Clays
  - Lodging
- Meals Prepared by a Professional Chef
  - Trout Fishing on a Private Spring Fed Lake
  - Bird Cleaning

Spouses and Children stay for free.

Self Guided Hunts Available

**Call: 605-999-0463 / 605-239-4404**

[www.GraniteSpringsSD.com](http://www.GraniteSpringsSD.com)

### SOUTH DAKOTA PHEASANT HUNTS

Guided hunts for wild birds on thousands of acres. Guides, dogs, lodging, meals and bird cleaning included.  
 Ask about canceled hunts.

**Tel: 208-358-0697**

[www.HuntSouthDakotaPheasants.com](http://www.HuntSouthDakotaPheasants.com)

### WILD QUAIL/DOVES IN SOUTH TEXAS

La Media Lodge

**Tel. 956-845-6600**

[lamedialodge.com](http://lamedialodge.com)

**Argentina, doves - \$2,199**  
 Includes 2,500 rounds ammo.

**Argentina Combos - \$3,700**  
 Includes 1,500 rounds ammo.  
 Doves, ducks, geese, pigeons.

**Mexico - Hermosillo - \$1,950**  
 Doves, ducks, quail.

**Canada, Saskatchewan - \$2,100**  
 Ducks, geese.

**Hawaii - \$2,500 per couple**  
 Upland birds, big game.

**Costa Rica - \$1,800**  
 Marlin, sails, etc.

**Neal's for 20 years**  
**Tel. 209-605-1911**

**Details and more - check web site**  
**[www.nealsbirdhunting.com](http://www.nealsbirdhunting.com)**

### ARGENTINA

#### WILD WING SHOOTING

World-class shooting with Miguel Medus.  
 Shoot ducks, doves, pigeons and perdiz all from one estancia.

Enjoy four-star accommodations, food and service at three estancias.

Dove special \$300 per day.

Year round. Three-day minimum with minimum six hunters, transfers extra.

**Call:**

**Roger Anderson, Parana River Ltd**

**Tel. 804-693-3774 Fax: 804-693-7916**

**E-mail: [wingsarg@aol.com](mailto:wingsarg@aol.com)**

**Int'l: 011-54-3327481-383 Tel./Fax**

**[mmedus@fibertel.com.ar](mailto:mmedus@fibertel.com.ar)**

[www.argentinawildwingshooting.com](http://www.argentinawildwingshooting.com)

### Yustega Plantation

*The Southeast's Finest Quail Hunts*

**229-263-9498**

[www.YustegaPlantation.com](http://www.YustegaPlantation.com)

### North Lake Kennels

*The Best Field Dogs in North America*

[www.northlakekennels.com](http://www.northlakekennels.com)

**229.263.9498**

### South America Wing-Shooting

Dove, Pigeon, Duck

Salta, Cordoba, Entre Rios, Bolivia

Contact us today for a hunt of a lifetime!

**[sales@southernoutfittingcompany.com](mailto:sales@southernoutfittingcompany.com)**

[www.southernoutfittingcompany.com](http://www.southernoutfittingcompany.com)

**Tel.: 704-905-2608**

### SHANE JOHANSON'S SPORTING ADVENTURES

Argentina – Uruguay – Mexico

Texas Quail – Deer Hunts

"Year Round Shooting"

**Shane Johanson**

**Tel: 361-786-2769**

[www.sportingadventures.com](http://www.sportingadventures.com)

### UMDENDE LIFESTYLE SAFARIS SOUTH AFRICA

World class Wing shooting on 10 species, Trophy Hunting and in-house Wellness Spa – Where "Wildlife meets Wellness" means the whole family can enjoy a true safari in South Africa.

[www.umdende.com](http://www.umdende.com)

**Tel (S.A.) +27 34 9816411**

**Tel (USA) 972-769-8866**

[umdende@umdende.co.za](mailto:umdende@umdende.co.za)

### Under The African Sky Safaris.

Enjoy some of Southern Africa's most varied & challenging shotgunning.

- Hunt abundant flocks of ducks and geese over which are just as difficult to hit as their brethren the world over and come face to face with our most imposing waterbird: the twenty pound Spur-winged goose.

- Experience the electrifying flushes of driven quineafowl and hunt for Francolin and Quail, over trained pointing and retrieving dogs. Excellent sport that will kick-start the pulse of even the most seasoned shotgunner.

- Unnerving, high volume shotgunning for one of the fastest flying gamebirds, the Rock Pigeon. Shoots that rivals some of the best in the world.

- Even safaris for collector's favorites are offered.

<http://>

[www.undertheafricanskysafaris.com](http://www.undertheafricanskysafaris.com)

[info@undertheafricanskysafaris.com](mailto:info@undertheafricanskysafaris.com)

"Argentina bird hunts" with Paco Riestra

Tel: 305-247-3833

[www.argentinabirdhunts.com](http://www.argentinabirdhunts.com)

### WORLD CLASS WATERFOWLING

Serving you in Texas and Saskatchewan.

**Bay Prairie Outfitters & Lodge**

**Tel: 800-242-1374**

[www.bayprairie.com](http://www.bayprairie.com)

## 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