

## Dateline: Idaho

### Authentic UK-style Driven Pheasant and Red-legged Partridge Shoot

- **Timetable:** September to mid-November
- **Accommodations:** Elegant lodge
- **Food:** Gourmet-style meals
- **Hunt:** Easy

**Blixt & Company President and Founder Lars Magnusson calls Lazy Triple Creek Ranch in Idaho “a perfect location for UK-style driven shooting.”** Indeed, when one sees the flat-topped mesas there, ideal for planting corn, barley, sunflower and other crops known to attract and hold game birds, along with the steep drop-offs and meandering ravines below, perfect locations for shooting pegs, one would have to agree completely. It is as if this land was carved out eons ago by natural

forces in anticipation that such an operation would eventually be created there. **Furthermore, this is the first operation exclusively offering authen-**



**tic UK-style driven shooting of this magnitude in North America.**

About one hour northeast of Idaho

Falls, Idaho, and one and a half hours west of Jackson Hole, Wyo., Lazy Triple Creek Ranch is located just outside of a tiny, rural town of Newdale amidst rolling hills and farmland. **The lodge building is of magnificently design log walls, post and beam interior with rustic yet tasteful appointments, and art adorning the walls.**

The typical shoot spans two full days, two half days and three nights at the lodge. The first day, after arrival, guests are treated to pre-shoot warm-up five-stand shooting amidst a beautiful backdrop of natural scenery. The next two days are comprised of driven shooting, and the fourth morning will feature a walk-up hunt. Each of the two days of driven begin with a safety talk given by Lars out on the lodge patio. Pegs are then drawn to determine each shooter’s starting position. A “people carrier,” which is a trailer pulled behind a

*(continued on page 2)*

## Dateline: Argentina

### A New Frontier

- **Timetable:** May through September
- **Accommodations:** Country lodge
- **Food:** Regional fine dining
- **Hunt:** Easy to moderate

With large populations of game birds, Argentina is paradise for the traveling bird hunter. Most hunters visit the central provinces of Cordoba and Buenos Aries, but today, **due to the efforts of Rance Rathie, a young, enthusiastic entrepreneur from Montana, wing shooters have the opportunity to experience an entirely new destination located in Northwestern Argentina.**

At the crossroads of the Provinces of Tucuman, Santiago del Estero and Catamarca, this new area holds vast populations of eared doves, a tropical game bird closely related to the North American mourning dove. Estimating the eared dove numbers is impossible, but **it is clear this new frontier has as many, if not more doves than any other place in Argentina.** Awakening with a continuous roar of thundering wings as the sun warms the landscape, one roost alone measured an astonishing 20 square kilometers. Exceptional numbers of spot-winged pigeons, perdiz and charatas, ancient, turkey-like game birds living in the Chaco forest and hunted in

the same manner one would hunt ruffed grouse or woodcock in Maine or Vermont, are also present.

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4-wheel drive vehicle, looks like a small troop carrier with zippered plastic windows and stair-stepped entry and exit, that transports shooters to and from the varied peg lines offered there. Two driven shoots at two locations will occur between the hours of 9 and 11 a.m. Guests are then transported to a veranda with a scenic overlook to be served late-morning snacks, to include cold drinks, warm consommé, cheeses, sausage slices and other various snacks. Then it's off to one more driven shoot location.

The group returns for a delightful lunch, usually served on the patio of the lodge, weather permitting. At 2 p.m., it's off to the pegs for two more driven shoots before returning to the lodge for cocktails and dinner. Indeed, it is a full day.

**The shooting can at times be "hot barreled" action, so shooting gloves are recommended for all in addition to leather barrel sleeves for side-by-sides.** Loaders are assigned to each shooter. Ideally, as in the UK and other driven shooting operations in Europe, it is best to be shooting two matched guns or at least two double guns of the same gauge. However, one gun will do if necessary. **Double guns only are allowed.** Loaders will carry the clients' guns and ammo to and from the field, do the loading, spot for the fast flying birds, offer shooting pointers when asked for, and will clean and put away the guns at the end of the day.

The birds all are typically released in August to acclimate to the area and become as "wild" as possible. The pheasants are fast flyers, especially when they have launched themselves off the top of the steep drop-offs, and the red-legged partridges offer even faster, smaller and more challenging targets. **Again, to find red-legged partridge shooting anywhere in North America is most unusual.**

For those who have never participated in a driven shoot, it is an amazing thing to behold. This is a highly labor intensive operation. Literally, there are an average

of seven ground personnel for every shooter. The support staff consists of beaters, who march through the crops "snapping" orange plastic flags on sticks, with the resulting sound and motions herding and making the birds fly, all moving toward the edges of the drop-offs and into the range of the waiting guns. All of this is coordinated by the skillful gamekeepers with the precision of a well-planned and executed military operation. Then there are the loaders, one per gun. Behind the shooting line, dog handlers with fine retrievers will await the birds and gather them all up after the conclusion of the drive. Each drive is overseen by the watchful eyes of Lars, the "Field General."



**Two French-trained Swedish chefs provide the elegant meals.** The dinners at Lazy Triple Creek are

always multi-course, elegantly presented meals. Here are two typical dinner presentations one might be able to expect:

Lobster with ginger carrot crème and cauliflower; salad with avocado, croutons and onion; fillet of beef with pommes Dauphinaise, corn and truffle; crème brûlée with watermelon, pineapple and cucumber.

Goat cheese cream with glazed beef and hazelnut bread; salad with bacon, tomato and chourizo; lamb with Brussels sprouts, fondant and lemon jus; chocolate fudge mousse sorbet with pear flambé.

**The term "gourmet style meals" somehow does not do justice to the superb quality of the dining to be had at Lazy Creek Ranch!**

Guests can arrange to take home frozen birds. All other birds never go to waste. **Lars and his wife Jen, who jointly run the operation, have made arrangements so that all unclaimed birds are sent off for distribution to various charities that run soup kitchens.**

Commencing in 2012, there will be a separate shooting area just 10 minutes from the Lazy Triple Creek Lodge that will offer driven red-legged partridge shooting exclusively. That property will



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consist of an additional 620 acres. **Once again, this will be a North American first, offering an area stocked only with these European imports, rocket-like birds that are a real challenge to shoot.**

Idaho hunting licenses are provided at the lodge.

As Magnusson says, "Why go overseas to participate in driven shooting when you can get the real thing here in Idaho, USA?"

For more information: **Lars Magnusson, 307-413-5450, [www.blixtco.com](http://www.blixtco.com).**

To check out the other operations across the world with which Blixt & Co. has partnered to offer the finest driven shooting and amenities: **[www.onpeg.com](http://www.onpeg.com).**

—Conrad LaPierre

## Argentina... (from page 1)

After three years of tedious legal and preparatory work, **Rance, in partnership with Mr. Adolfo Alonso, founded Argentina Doves Unlimited (ADU) in June of 2010.** I visited ADU's operation in late August 2011.

Hunters traveling to this new destination will be greeted at Ezeiza International Airport in Buenos Aires by ADU's representative, Ms. Gaia Macchiavello. From Buenos Aires, ADU's guests may fly into Catamarca, Santiago del Estero or San Miguel de Tucuman, where through scenic and lush countryside, they will be driven to ADU's headquarters located in the small farm town of Alijilan. **The drive to "Posada del Cazador" or the Hunter's Lodge is no more than two hours from any one of these three cities.** With frequent cancellations and schedule changes, booking flights on domestic airlines can be challenging, and Gaia is able to effectively handle the logistical plans of all guests ensuring prompt service and a hassle-free travel experience.

"Posada del Cazador" is a first-class, carefully designed, country lodge offering clean and spacious double and single rooms. Electric heaters warm the rooms, while cable TV, Internet and cell phone connections make global communication possible. Homemade cooking delights the hearts of visitors and includes fine local beef, pork, chicken, vegetables, fruits and rich wines. Special diets are available upon request. Along with Rance and his staff, **the actual lodge owners, Omar and Emi, are very pleasant people, organizing additional tours to nearby towns, setting up indoor and outdoor barbecues, and organizing special cultural and folklore events creating camaraderie and unforgettable moments.** For the 2012 season, Rance would like to keep hunting groups small, roughly six to eight people. However, the lodge can comfortably sleep 20 guests.

Nonhunters accompanying wing shooters are encouraged and welcomed.

Hunting days begin with discussions on licenses, bird limits and gun safety, and the characteristics and logistics of the specific shooting areas. Before going afield, rented guns are fitted to match the clients' physical characteristics. **In addition, new shooters can request one-on-**



**one shooting lessons at no extra charge.**

During this trip, Rance spent an entire day with one novice guest and not only improved his shooting skills but also increased his excitement for the sport.

In general, all hunting areas are inside a one-hour drive. New Toyota HILUX trucks and vans transport all guests in comfort. Local farmers welcome all shooters, explaining that eared doves and spot-winged pigeons often destroy entire new plantations of soybeans by eating the tender sprouts, while also eating wheat, sorghum and sunflower directly off the stock. It is important to note that precise hunting limits, and sometimes seasons, are determined annually by provincial authorities, with the exception of the eared doves. Considered a national plague for agriculture, these birds can be hunted year round with no limit restriction.

**Good and continuous scouting allows ADU's well-trained and well-mannered guides to place hunters in the right**

**places at the right time.** The locations for morning hunts of eared doves are constantly changing, as they are based on the birds' feeding patterns. Afternoon hunts are normally closer to the roosts and offer continuous shooting from every conceivable angle. **On request, guides will spot doves and load guns during the hunt.** Hunters will have a chance to shoot 1,000 shells in a four-hour shooting session and more if desired. Shooting percentages are calculated for both morning and afternoon hunts. Birds are picked up after every session and given to the needy. Spent shells and surplus blind material are also picked up and properly disposed.

Spot-winged pigeons over decoys are a special treat. Pigeons, much like ducks, can't seem to resist a good set of decoys. ADU provides both still and moving decoys, as well as blinds for the hunt. Diving and bobbing before setting their wings, pigeons offer an amazing shooting experience, provided the shooter is well camouflaged and refrains from jumping up too soon. Spot-winged pigeons make for great eating.

**ADU plans to offer perdiz and charata hunts early in 2012.** Dogs are now being trained for two distinct species of perdiz: the lesser and greater tinamou. **The charata offers wing shooters a truly unique experience.** Finding this bird is not too difficult because of the constant and loud cackling of the male, but shooting them as they flush behind limbs, branches and vines can be.

Snakes are common to the Chaco Forests; thus, snake boots are mandatory.

Bringing guns to Argentina is possible, but can at times be a bit cumbersome. Beretta Urika 391, 20-gauge semi-automatic shotguns can be rented at the Lodge for \$75 a day. Shells in all gauges are available on advance notice at \$13 a box. ADU also provides clients with insect repellent and cold and warm

drinks during the hunt. Wing shooters should bring sunglasses, ear protection, additional shoulder pads, shooting gloves and shell vests or shell bags. Visiting in the winter months means warm clothes are needed for the morning hunts, while afternoon sporting excursions call for less layered clothing.

Introductory hunting fees currently being offered are as follows: Three nights with 2 1/2 days of hunting cost \$1,495 per person. A four-night package with 3 1/2 days hunting is priced at \$1,995. Finally, a five-night experience with 4 1/

2 days of hunting costs \$ 2,495. A 50 percent deposit is required within 10 days of the booking. Prices include double accommodations, all meals, drinks including house wine, beer and domestic liquor, local transportation, local airport shuttle, professional guide, hunting license, guide and private ranch fees. There is a \$150 per night surcharge for single accommodations. Laundry service is available but not included. **A \$200 daily surcharge is placed on all wild pigeon, perdiz and charata hunts.** Hotel fees in Buenos Aires are not included.

A customized hunt meeting clients' special needs and desires is just one more of the great features offered by ADU. Rance is also the owner and operator of Patagonia River Guides; therefore, **combining fly-fishing with hunting expeditions is possible and encouraged.**

For detailed information on the hunts, gun imports and gear: **Rance Rathie, (54).9.2945.548353, [www.argentinadovesunlimited.com](http://www.argentinadovesunlimited.com), [argentinadovesunlimited@gmail.com](mailto:argentinadovesunlimited@gmail.com) or Skype: rancerathie.**

—Charles B. Kenny Jordan

## Dateline: New York

### Spring Snow Goose Hunting: High Success Ratio

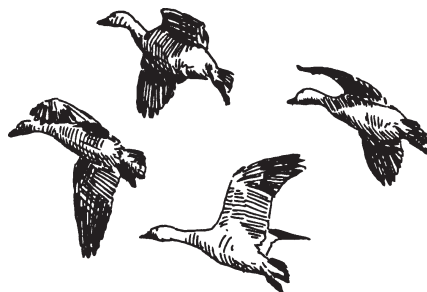
- **Timetable:** March
- **Accommodations:** Local motels in Auburn
- **Food:** Diner lunch — delivered
- **Hunt:** Easy

Corned beef and cabbage delivered to the door of the blind! Our host, Big Jay, said this hunt was going to be first-rate but I didn't expect this. It was March 17, St. Patrick's Day, and the Be Happy Cafe had just dropped off our Irish feast. The weather was warm for March in central New York, and the greater snow geese migration was in full swing here in the Atlantic flyway. The snows were riding the first mild south winds of spring over the New York's Finger Lakes Region to their breeding grounds in northern Canada.

Killing snow geese with consistency in the heart of the Empire State is not a common occurrence. Fair numbers of snows are harvested in the coastal areas of New York but not here, smack dab in the middle of the state.

On the day of my hunt, I met our guides for a leisurely breakfast in the town of Union Springs on the east shore of Cayuga Lake. From there it was a 10-minute drive to the small cut cornfield that harbored their massive decoy spread. It was an hour after shooting time when we arrived, and our hosts weren't the least bit concerned. They informed me that in most cases the snow geese don't show up until mid-morning. **Guides Jay Barnes of Frontenac Fowlers in Union Springs,**

**N.Y., and his partner Joe Austin of D.O.A. Outfitters out of Mardela Springs, Md., team up to hit these migrating greater snow geese hard for a two- to three-week window in mid-March.** Austin chases the snow goose migration. He pursues the snows strong in Maryland and Delaware in February and then follows the birds north where he partners up with Barnes. **Here they get together to put out a monster spread of 1,900 snow goose decoys.** The duo has a nice mix of motion decoys,



windsocks and solid bodies. They primarily hunt one field. This gives them the huge advantage of being able to leave out their massive number of decoys for weeks, saving a great deal of work. **The beauty is they can't burn out the spot because the snows they are killing are highflying migrating flocks moving through the area.** The white geese rarely roost in the vicinity and wouldn't even slow their migration if these guys didn't invite them down with their enormous decoy rig.

But their true ace in the hole is their ultra realistic electronic digital calling system. They incorporate four speakers in each corner of the decoy spread and the snow goose sounds they utilize are exclu-

sive. To capture the actual sound of greater snow geese feeding, Austin actually set up a digital recorder in the middle of a field he knew would soon be covered in feeding greater snow geese. Greater snows have a much different sound than the commercial snow goose recordings on the market today. Those snow goose recordings are usually lesser snow geese and have a much higher pitch to it, sounding like hundreds of yipping Chihuahuas. **Austin's recordings of greater snows are a much deeper guttural sound, and the birds know the difference.** This gives Barnes and Austin a much higher success ratio than other guides in the area.

This top-notch set-up gives these outfitters the ability to get their clients plenty of shooting. Another unique convenience they offer is a farm lane that splits their decoy spread. **The road runs within feet of the their spacious 32-ft. blind, making it easy to drive your vehicle right to the door of the blind, unload your gear, and go park out of sight.** No layout blinds here!. **This hunt is a perfect opportunity for elderly or handicapped hunters.**

On my hunt the flock sizes varied from 100 to 500 birds. These geese were traveling so high, most flocks took a good five minutes to descend into shooting range, swinging at least a half dozen times in the process. Barnes has snows on video that took 12 minutes to tornado down into range. The day I hunted, the geese would come out of the stratosphere but would only get so low before figuring out something was up. **We were forced to take most shots in the 40- to 50-yard range.**

Austin said that this could vary depending on the day.

“Some days the birds decoy right in your face, but the majority of the time shots are in the 40-yard range. The number of juveniles in the flock usually determines how close they will decoy.”

Tight chokes with BB or no. 1 shot are the best recipe for these yardages. Barnes had warned me to bring at least two boxes of shells, and he was right. I went though the first box before I figured out the lead on these highflying targets. We had six guns that harvested 25 birds in an all-day hunt.

Migrating snows are unpredictable, and a flock could show at any time during the course of day. Earlier in that week Barnes and Austin, along with their hunt-

ing party, harvested 102 geese in an all-day hunt, but those triple-digit kill numbers are rare. **Most waterfowlers in the northeast never get a chance to shoot at a snow goose, let alone to shoot two boxes of shells. These dudes can remedy that.**

The two outfitters are adjusting their rate for the 2012 season and had not determined their rate as of press time. Their rates will include a delivered lunch. Come prepared for an all-day hunt. The boys can accommodate up to 10 hunters per day in their roomy blinds. They also offer discounts for youth hunters.

New York snow goose season runs until April 15, but the shooting here drops right off by the end of March as all the migrating snows have moved

though the area.

Union Springs is an hour's drive from Syracuse to the east, an hour and half from Rochester to the west, and is 30 miles from exit 41 of the New York State thruway. Syracuse is the nearest airport.

New York's nonresident small game license is \$80.

This is an extremely easy hunt, and if you can get there when the migration is on, fun will be had by all!

Contacts: **Frontenac Fowlers, Big Jay Barnes, 315-406-4763, [www.frontenacfowlers.com](http://www.frontenacfowlers.com); D.O.A. Outfitters, Joe Austin, 410-603-1400, [www.doaoutfitters.com](http://www.doaoutfitters.com).**

For license info: [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov).

—T.R. Hendrick

### DIY: Turkey Hunting on Pushmataha Wildlife Management Area

- **Timetable:** Spring
- **Accommodations:** Camping or local hotels
- **Food:** Bring your own or local restaurants
- **Hunt:** Challenging

Most of Oklahoma holds Rio Grand turkeys, the plains bird, but eastern Oklahoma holds good populations of eastern wild turkeys, the forest bird. **The Pushmataha Wildlife Management Area (WMA) located in southeastern Oklahoma offers public spring turkey hunting for eastern wild turkey.** Pushmataha offers a great opportunity for do-it-yourself turkey hunting on 19,247 acres, over 29 miles to use your favorite call to locate that gobbling tom.

Located in northern Pushmataha County in southeastern Oklahoma, the WMA is on the western edge of the Ouachita Mountain range. Pushmataha is a Choctaw word meaning “sprout completed” and was also the name of a famous Choctaw chief who lived in the area from 1764 to 1824. During that time, most of Oklahoma was grasslands and the southeast part of Oklahoma had lots of “sprouts completed” or trees that make up the Ouachita forest. **The rugged for-**

**est terrain makes great habitat for the eastern wild turkey today** but was actually purchased in 1947 by the Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) to be used as a deer refuge. Extensive habitat management techniques applied over the years by ODWC have created prime eastern wild turkey habitat, which makes the Pushmataha WMA a great place for a spring turkey hunt.

Spring turkey season will be shorter



in the southeastern counties of Oklahoma for the 2012 season in an attempt by the ODWC to strengthen the eastern wild turkey populations in the southeastern part of the state and includes Pushmataha County and the Pushmataha WMA. Beginning in 2012, the shotgun-only spring turkey season in southeastern Oklahoma will start on April 23, the Monday following the third Saturday in April and run through May 6. The Oklahoma spring sea-

son limit is one tom turkey from the eight designated southeastern counties. Toms are defined as any bearded turkey, regardless of sex, but bearded hens are not that common, but can be seen on occasion. An annual nonresident small game hunting license is required for nonresidents 14 years of age or older at a cost of \$142, plus a \$10 turkey tag for each turkey harvested. Residents are required to purchase a resident hunting license and \$10 turkey tag. Turkeys taken east of I-35 and from the Pushmataha WMA must be checked in at the nearest open hunter check station available in the town of Clayton or online at [www.wildlifedepartment.com](http://www.wildlifedepartment.com) within 24 hours of leaving the hunt site.

Clayton offers lodging at modest local hotels. It also offers places to eat but with limited dining in the early morning and late evening hours.

Hunters also have the option of camping and cooking out at one of the two designated primitive camping areas located on Pushmataha WMA and open during spring turkey hunting season but closed to all nonhunting activity during the hunting seasons.

**Turkey and hunting opportunities exist over most of the property.** You never know where the birds are hanging out with the thick forest terrain that limits its ability to see even short distances. The key is finding the responsive toms.

Thick forests also mean that insect protection is a must as ticks and mos-

quitos are usually a factor.

For more information including interactive and customizable maps of all

the WMAs: ODWC, [www.wildlife.dept.wy.gov](http://www.wildlife.dept.wy.gov).

For additional information: Jack

Waymire, 918-569-4329.

—James Dietsch

### Dateline: Wyoming

#### DIY: Pioneer Trail Sage Grouse

- **Timetable:** Last two weeks of September
- **Accommodations:** B&B, motel or camping
- **Food:** Small town cafes and restaurants or cook it yourself
- **Hunt:** Moderate

With a wet spring, lots of bugs and an excellent hatch, Wyoming sage grouse hunting during the two-week 2011 season was the best it has been in several years. Barring a major natural weather disaster, high bird populations should be the rule in 2012. Sage grouse are much longer-lived than pheasants (often living over six years) with high overwinter survival. As always in the bird world, there will be pockets with depressed populations and others where there seem to be coveys at every waterhole, but **for overall consistency, it would be difficult to find better hunting than that available on public land in Wyoming Game Management Areas (GMA) 65 and 117, generally part of Unit 1, and more specifically in the expansive sagebrush desert south of Lander near the town of Atlantic City lying along what is known as the Pioneer Trail.** The season is closed in southeast Wyoming, extreme northeast Wyoming and the Jackson area.

Some of the finest hunting is along the Pioneer Trail area of Unit 1, a rolling sage corridor rife with history. The Oregon Trail, the Mormon Trail and the short-lived Pony Express route followed the same general path through this part of Wyoming — visible wagon wheel ruts in the fragile desert testify to this long-ago activity. On my most recent trip in September 2011, I camped near a dilapidated log Pony Express Station that I fancied had once seen a young rider later known as “Buffalo Bill Cody.” The square, hand-forged nails and old buffalo horn I found while hunting further aroused visions of hard, glorious times in the Old West.

**In my opinion, the best way to hunt sage grouse is to camp on the desert.** Take lots of water and a cooler of ice and whatever groceries will provide easy sustenance and give you the most time to hunt. I prefer to stay away from a lot



of cooking, (though fried, young sage grouse is delicious) and rely instead on finger food like jerky, nutrition bars, fruit (dried and fresh), nuts and electrolyte-replenishing bottled drinks. Milk and cereal will do me fine for breakfast.

**If camping isn't your bag, Lander, Wyo., with its many motels and restaurants is only an hour away, and the little town of Atlantic City sits much closer.** The Gannett Grill in Lander has excellent pizza and man-sized burgers, and there are some delightful specialty spots like the Chinese Garden on 6th Street. It's hard to beat the breakfast menu at the Maverick, which is connected to a motel of the same name. Another nice, pet-friendly motel is the Silver Spur, a small mom-and-pop operation.

The business area of Atlantic City is about a block long with no service station. It boasts two mercantile/cafes but only one bed and breakfast, the Miner's Delight Inn. Breakfast is served from 8-9 a.m., at least an hour later than some of the best morning hunting time. Reservations are needed. A plus, however, is their somewhat famous event called “Second Saturday Scotch Sipping at Six.” The assortment of single-malt scotches numbers

around 70. This is a once-a-month affair in the Two-Bit Cowboy Saloon. Another nice feature is a kitchen where guests are allowed to put together their own lunches.

**For a game bird that has recently been considered for the “threatened” listing, Wyoming sage grouse are doing well.** Wyoming Game and Fish recognizes the most significant threats to sage grouse are changes to sagebrush habitats and the effects of human disturbance — not necessarily hunting. **In its March 2010 listing decision, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said the greater sage grouse is not threatened by “overutilization” and a conservative hunting season does not have a detrimental impact on most sage grouse populations in Wyoming.**

Dogs are not needed to hunt sage grouse. Any shotgunner willing to wear out some boot leather and use up a lot of oxygen (elevation is 7,466 feet above sea level) can find Pioneer Trail birds without them. **The land is flat to rolling, and it would be easy walking except the grouse are in the tall sage near water and not along the edges in the grass or where the sage thins.** Sometimes, there is a cattle trail meandering through the middle of a patch, and this allows the hunter to walk without high stepping. The high elevation takes some getting used to, making frequent wind sprints after running birds exhausting at first and unlikely after a few attempts.

Sunrise and sunset are the best times for finding birds as they are generally near water then, and hunters can intercept them on their comings and goings by paralleling green ribbons of grass in the desert. Typically, a flock, sometimes as large as 30, will flush out of range but fly less than 50 yards. Hunters with dogs will want to keep them close and get on the birds quickly, for the next flush will usually take them to the horizon. Sage grouse are not particularly difficult to hit or anchor. Shot sizes 4-6 are adequate. The limit is two per day with four in possession.

There are numerous airports in Wyoming, but only one major one — in Casper, which is about 180 miles east of Atlantic City. The other important airports closer to Atlantic City are at Big Piney, Rock Springs and Rawlins. Rock Springs is about 100 miles from Atlantic City. Vehicles can be rented there.

To hunt sage grouse in Wyoming, you'll need a conservation stamp, which

is \$12.50 for nonresidents and also a nonresident game bird/small game license, which is \$20, a day or \$72 for the season. Take good leather hiking boots, some hunter's orange, and prepare for temperatures ranging from 15 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Light snow is not unheard of in mid-September.

For more information: **Wyoming Dept. of Game and Fish, 5400 Bishop**

**Blvd., Cheyenne, WY 82006; 307-777-4600.**

Hotels: Silver Spur, 307-332-5189; Rodeway Hotel, 307-332-3940; The Maverick, 307-332-2300; Miner's Delight Inn, 307-332-0248. Established campgrounds with tables and toilets and water along the Pioneer Trail: **Sweetwater Station and Rock Creek Station.**

—Alan Liere

## Subscriber Field Notes

### A Trip Not Worth Repeating

Anyone who would go on a Tim Bouchard hunt is a fool.

**Tim Bouchard markets himself as "Captain Tim" who owns and operates Alaska Duck Hunting Guide Service in Adak, Alaska.** He has a beautiful website ([www.akduckhunts.com](http://www.akduckhunts.com)) on which he offers comfortable living, legendary food, and trophy hunts "to the highest standards our clients have come to expect." With such wonderful promises and beautiful photographs splayed all over the website, it looked exactly like what we four duck hunters were looking for when we signed up and sent in our money for a January 2011 duck hunting trip to Adak. What follows is an account of reality laid beside Capt. Tim's cyber promises.

**Transportation** — Capt. Tim and one other guide met us (four grown men) at the Adak airport with a circa 1990 Jeep Cherokee (with black plastic garbage bag seat covers) and a Yamaha Rhino UTV. **Given the bags and guns, it was impossible to get everyone away from the airport without one of the paying guests riding the Rhino in sub-freezing weather to the "lodge."** The next day (*a.k.a.* "the first day of the hunt"), the Rhino was unavailable for use because the muffler had managed to fall off during the trip from the airport. The first order of business that day was to have the paying guests drive the Jeep to the gas station because Capt. Tim had forgotten to gas up prior to our arrival. After the Jeep was gassed up, it was soon discovered that this Cherokee was a "4X4" in name only. It only had two-wheel drive; a fact that became apparent when it got stuck, on a

dirt road, requiring the paying guests to push it out.

**Lodging** — The "comfortable living" consisted of one-half of one duplex of abandoned government housing in Adak, Alaska. Two men were each assigned to a bedroom about the size of a good walk-in closet. Of course, everyone had brought a week's worth of gear and guns, but there was no place to stow the gear except on the floor of the bedroom because the closet



space in the bedrooms was already being utilized by the permanent owner of the duplex. **There was one shower for six men.** There was one TV (that could only be operated with a screwdriver as an on/off switch) located in a den that could only accommodate all six men if foldout card table chairs were utilized. This den also typically served as the bedroom for one of the two guides as well as serving as Capt. Tim's personal junk room.

**Food** — Capt. Tim's website touts his "legendary Hoagies," and there is good reason for their legendary status. At noon on the first day of the "hunt," Capt. Tim left the paying guests at the lodge (so that he could go and search for his boat) with the helpful suggestion that "There are cold cuts in the refrigerator."

**You can call it a Hoagie; I call it processed turkey on white bread.** The remainder of the weeklong menu consisted primarily of warmed up trays of lasagna and meatloaf, not the prime rib and halibut touted on the website. Breakfast was the best. Pancakes that had the consistency of a Frisbee were one of Capt. Tim's favorites. In fairness, the food got much, much better the second week of the hunt but more about that later.

**Equipment** — When you remember that Capt. Tim advertises "trophy hunts" for sea ducks, it is hard to reconcile that kind of advertising with the one dilapidated ski boat that was only able to get out onto the open ocean on two days and was only capable of carrying two hunters at a time. For the remainder of the "hunt," the ski boat stayed in the harbor because it just wasn't capable of getting to where the ducks were. It was just as well — for some reason the ducks tended to flare from the metallic silver auxiliary engine. Lay-out boat? What layout boat? I never saw it used. Zodiac? I saw it used one morning to put out decoys (and then to pick them up.) **The camouflage pattern for the Zodiac was apparently designed to be unique to the Aleutians. It was bright red.** The ducks seemed to notice even if Capt. Tim did not.

**The Hunt** — It is, after all, all about the hunt. And hunt for ducks we did, because there were so few ducks to be found, trophy or otherwise. Again in fairness, we each got our limit of harlequin on our first day of hunting, but we were then shut out from shooting any more of this particular species, which was the only duck in any abundance. King eiders?

Never saw one. Common eiders? We killed the only three that we shot at/saw. And because we only had the one ski boat that could only accommodate two hunters, most of our time on Adak was spent hunting for “puddlers” and the ever-elusive trophy ptarmigan that Capt. Tim was so strangely fixated on.

Here is where Capt. Tim’s penchant for the paucity of planning was most apparent: **There were no prepared blinds and there was no scouting to determine where the ducks were congregating.** The “trophy hunt” largely consisted of riding around in the Jeep Cherokee, trying to spot ptarmigan close to the road or walking up to a pond and jump shooting teal. There were three days that we didn’t even pull a trigger on any duck, trophy or otherwise.

**The Guide** — As guides go, Capt. Tim is an excellent website designer, which is what he did in Fairbanks, Alaska, before he began to lead guided hunts in Adak. **In Adak, rather than preparing for the next day’s hunt, Capt. Tim spent most of his time sitting at the kitchen table, sending and receiving email, working on various web designs, and generally leaving the paying guests to fend for themselves.**

Although this was our first visit to Adak, Capt. Tim would typically ask us where we would like to go and hunt on the island. Unfortunately, it did little good

to say “where the ducks are” because **our guide did not know where the ducks were and was not prepared to assist us in hunting them even if he had known where the ducks were congregating.** The last day of the hunt ended exactly as the first day of the hunt — without us even pulling a trigger because our guide didn’t have the



equipment, the transportation, or the know-how to put us onto any ducks.

Ah, but all that was past was prologue. **What could be better than one week in Adak with Capt. Tim?** It would be a second week, which we were treated to because the return plane to Anchorage cancelled (twice) and Adak only has flight service two days out of each week.

Now, hunting season was closed. Capt. Tim continued to manage his web design company from the kitchen table. The guests were left completely to fend

for themselves including purchasing food and drink, preparing food and drink, cleaning up the food and drink, stepping around and over the junk that Capt. Tim continued to pile up in the den, and trying to figure out what to do until the next plane came in. Again to be fair, **Capt. Tim would tear himself away from his web design efforts long enough to eat and to drink what the guests had bought and paid for, prepared, and put on the table.**

If there had been any thought given and if there had been any effort made by a qualified duck guide, the Adak hunt could have been successful. The problem, of course, was that the hunt was instead led by a gifted website designer whose cyber promises were so far removed from reality as to make them unrecognizable. **Calling the two weeks we spent on Adak as “up to the highest standards our clients have come to expect” is laughable.** Don’t waste your time or your money.

—Robert Moore

*(Editor’s Note: Rather than taking us to “Alaska Duck Hunting Guide Service,” the URL Robert Moore provides opened the homepage of “Alaska Wildfowl Adventures.” We emailed Moore to ask if he had gotten the names confused. We received no reply by press time.*

*Also, as is our practice, we offered guide Tim Bouchard a chance to respond to Moore’s report but received no reply.)*

## Briefly Noted

### Things to Do, Places to Go,

#### New Developments

#### Beretta Trident Program Announces New Affiliate

Guayascate, The Lodge in Cordoba, Argentina is **the first three-Trident rated Affiliate of the Beretta Trident Program.** The Beretta Trident Program is a unique quality-rating system that provides an objective assessment of the complete guest experience at exceptional shooting sports venues. Affiliates of the program must share Beretta’s commitment to providing a remarkable hunting and shooting sports experience. The Beretta Trident Program, along with the commitment of its affiliates, guarantees the highest levels of quality for the hunting and shooting enthusiast. **Guayascate was recently awarded a three-Trident rating for**

#### excellence in upland bird hunting.

The property was built from the ground up and envisioned from the start as offering the very best dove shooting experience in Cordoba. This type of shooting from this level of accommodation is truly exceptional and a must visit for all traveling wing shooters. Guayascate has a commitment to providing its guests with an outstanding dove hunting experience from shooting to accommodations. Located in the northern hills of the finest areas in Argentina **allows Guayascate to offer excellent dove shooting eight months of the year.** The property is managed by brothers Ezequiel and Alex Hayes.

**A hunt report on the property will appear in the January 2012 issue of *The Bird Hunting Report.***

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#### Arkansas — Drew County Wetland Restoration Project Completed

From Ducks Unlimited:

Ducks Unlimited and its partners recently completed a wetlands restoration project on the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) **Cut-Off Creek Wildlife Management Area.**

“Southeast Arkansas is known for its incredible waterfowling tradition,” DU Manager of Conservation Programs Craig Hilburn said. “And DU is proud to help the AGFC continue to provide quality public hunting opportunities through projects like this one.”

In a proactive effort to improve management capabilities and to ensure the continued availability of public waterfowl hunting habitat on the Cut-Off Creek

Wildlife Management Area in Drew County, DU designed and constructed a new water-control structure that replaced several older water-control structures in service since the early 1990s.

"The new water-control structure and associated spillway provide the Region III Wildlife Management staff the ability to more efficiently manage more than 2,500 acres of bottomland hardwood forest habitat for waterfowl and waterfowl hunters," AGFC Regional Wildlife Management Supervisor Mark Hooks said. "DU and AGFC have a well-established partnership, and this project is just one more tangible result of our mutual long-term commitment to improving wetland habitat throughout Arkansas."

• • •

### Iowa — Many Take Part in First Dove Hunt Since 1918

From CBS4qc.com:

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) - The Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources says the state's first dove hunting season in nearly a century attracted about 22,000 hunters.

The 70-day season began Sept. 1 and ended Wednesday, Nov. 9.

Dove hunting had been outlawed in Iowa since 1918 but was legalized by the Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Terry Branstad this year.

Efforts to allow the hunting of doves have been emotional in past years, and in 2001 then Gov. Tom Vilsack vetoed a measure approved by the Legislature because he said most Iowans opposed the change.

The DNR says it will conduct a survey of the more than 22,000 people who registered as hunters to determine how many actually took part in the hunt and how many doves they killed.

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### Indiana — Late Fall Pheasant Prospects

From Indianagameandfish.com:

There are several public lands open during the statewide season that have populations of wild pheasants, but hunting them is no easy chore. Hunters might want to target some of the public lands located in or near the best of the traditional pheasant range. A few places to consider include **Pigeon River Fish and Wildlife Area (FWA) in LaGrange and Steuben counties, Kingsbury FWA in LaPorte County**

**or LaSalle FWA in Newton County, Willow Slough FWA, also in Newton County,** consistently ranks near the top as a favorite with area pheasant hunters.

**Indiana also holds numerous put-and-take hunts throughout the course of the season.** These hunts are one of the best opportunities available for Hoosiers,



even though the hunt isn't for wild birds. The IDFW releases several thousand pen-reared pheasants each year and those hunters who take advantage of the program typically have pretty good luck.

**There are seven properties available for put-and-take hunting.** They include the previously mentioned **Willow Slough FWA and Pigeon River FWA. The remaining properties are Atterbury FWA in Johnson County, Glendale FWA in Daviess County, Tri-County FWA in Kosciusko and Noble counties, Winamac FWA in Pulaski County, and the J. Edward Roush Reservoir (also known as Huntington Lake) property in Huntington and Wells counties.**

The hunts take place during the week of Thanksgiving, usually starting the Saturday before Thanksgiving and running for about nine days. Unlike the draw hunts, applicants may select the date, property and location on the property to hunt. The cost for these hunts is \$15 per person.

For more information on all available pheasant opportunities in Indiana: **317-232-4200, www.indianaoutdoor.in.gov.**

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### Kentucky - Applications for Sandhill Crane Hunt Begin Nov. 15

From Outdoor Wire:

FRANKFORT, Ky. Kentucky's first sandhill crane hunting season will open soon, and hunters may begin applying for permits Nov. 15 through Nov. 30. The drawing is scheduled for Dec. 5.

Applications are only available online at the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources website,

[www.fw.ky.gov](http://www.fw.ky.gov). Each application costs \$3 and a hunter may only apply once.

The department will use a random computer drawing to select up to 400 hunters. Applicants must have a valid Kentucky hunting license or be license-exempt at the time of application. Results will be available to individual applicants online following the drawing.

The hunting season for sandhill cranes will begin Dec. 17 and continue through Jan. 15, 2012, or until hunters take 400 cranes, whichever comes first.

Successful applicants must complete and pass an online identification exam before receiving a permit. Each permitted hunter may take up to two sandhill cranes. Hunters must use the departments Telecheck system to register each crane on the day the bird is taken.

Hunters will also be required to monitor the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website daily for notices of season closure and notifications of the presence of whooping cranes in Kentucky. For additional information, visit the department website, or call the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Information Center at 1-800-858-1549 during normal weekday working hours.

(continued on page 10)

## 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 **Robert Moore, Curtis Frisbee, John Hattner, Joseph S. String, Brad Watts 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](mailto:support@pnmsi.com).

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### Oklahoma — Hackberry Flat WMA Is Prime Spot

From heralddemocrat.com:

**It might be one of the best kept waterfowl hunting secrets in the southern Great Plains**, the duck and goose shooting to be found at the 7,120-acre Hackberry Flat Wildlife Management Area located near Frederick, Okla.

The key to good late season hunting at Hackberry WMA is two-fold according to Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation biologist Rod Smith.

The first key is good habitat at the WMA.

The second key is frigid winter weather.

“Up in Nebraska and the Dakotas, if they’re open, the birds aren’t going to come down,” Smith said. “They’ve got to be closed down for us to have good hunting.”

But do keep in mind that the restored wetland area isn’t one of the easiest places that a waterfowler can choose to hunt.

“It can be a real difficult place to hunt,” Smith said. “It’s a prairie wetland, and that means there is not any flooded timber or anything. And as far as getting out in the water and getting hidden, that can be difficult since the mud can be pretty tight and sticky.”

### How does a late season duck hunter find a good spot to hunt at Hackberry?

Simple: by scouting the WMA thoroughly enough to locate the ducks’ preferred flyways, feeding areas and loafing areas.

The latter is a necessary chore made easy enough by the road system that exists at Hackberry, an adequate resource that generally allows hunters to get within half a mile of where they want to hunt.

“The whole wetland basin is open to hunting, so I’d suggest that you come out the day before your hunt and scout the areas where you think you might want to be,” Smith said. “Then come back the next day and hunt during the morning hours, since afternoon hunting for waterfowl is closed here.”

If successfully hunting Hackberry seems like a lot of hard work, that’s certainly true.

**“This is not a place for the faint of heart,” Smith agreed. “There is some work involved to good duck hunting here, which tends to limit hunter num-**

**bers to those who are pretty avid and able to get out and do it.”**

For more information on waterfowl hunting at Hackberry WMA: [www.wildlifedepartment.com/hackberryflat.htm](http://www.wildlifedepartment.com/hackberryflat.htm).

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### Kansas — U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Issues Guidelines, Warning

From saljournal.com:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) reminds all hunters and landowners of federal waterfowl hunting regulations concerning crop manipulation (baiting). **Farm producers who use their land for hunting or lease the hunting rights on their land need to make sure they are following federal waterfowl hunting regulations concerning baiting.**



“With the drought and heat conditions in Kansas this year and the failed corn crops in parts of Kansas, farmers are looking to manipulate some crops to prepare the fields for next year,” says Kenny Kessler, USFWS special agent.

“As a waterfowl hunter or land manager, it is your responsibility to know and obey all federal and state laws that govern the sport. **While it is permissible to manipulate a crop for dove hunting, the only legal hunting that can occur for waterfowl is if, under these circumstances, the crop is ‘normally’ harvested,” Kessler explains. “Rotary mowing of a corn crop, for example, would not be a ‘normal’ harvest, and therefore, hunting waterfowl would not be allowed on or near the areas manipulated.”**

Hunters should avoid hunting waterfowl over unharvested crops that have been trampled by livestock or subjected to other types of manipulations, such as disked down crops where grain has better scattered or exposed. **Areas**

**where grain is present and stored, such as grain elevators and grain bins, are illegal to hunt waterfowl over, as are areas where grain is present for the purpose of feeding livestock.** Additionally, hunting over freshly planted wildlife food plots that contain exposed grain is illegal. Finally, it’s illegal to hunt croplands where a crop has been harvested and the removed grain is redistributed or “added back” onto the area where grown.

On the other hand, waterfowl hunting is allowed in fields of unharvested standing crops, including over standing crops that have been flooded. It’s also permissible to flood fields after crops are harvested and use these areas for waterfowl hunting. It’s advisable for landowners to follow normal harvesting timelines if cornfields are planned to be used for hunting waterfowl.

For additional information, see “Waterfowl Hunting and Baiting” and “Dove Hunting and Baiting” on the USFWS website, [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov) or contact Kessler at 785-232-5149 or Wichita, Kan., at 316-788-4474.

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### Dove Fact Sheet 2011

From [www.ussportsmen.org](http://www.ussportsmen.org):

Here are a few facts that will help you better understand doves — and why they are America’s Number One Game Bird.

1) The mourning dove is one of the most widespread bird species in North America, and hunters shoot an estimated 20 to 40 million doves each hunting season. The North America population of doves is estimated to be 400 million-plus strong.

2) Mourning doves are hunted in 40 states. Most states without seasons are in the northeast and do not have a viable population to hunt. Scientific studies have proven that hunting has little effect on dove populations.

3) Doves are prolific breeders, and a pair can breed up to six times each summer. With an average of two birds (squabs) in each nest, that’s 12 birds added per nesting pair each year. That means two birds create nearly a limit for one hunter in one summer period.

4) Mourning doves have been known to live more than 10 years in the wild although the average life span is much less. The natural mortality rate for mourning doves is high with approxi-

mately six out of 10 birds not surviving from one year to the next.

5) While many doves are migratory, more and more doves are staying near where they were born and survive the winter locally thanks to the increase in backyard bird feeders and some changes in farming practices.

6) Mourning doves have been spotted as far north as Alaska and were introduced in Hawaii where they are common today. **In fact, the island of Hawaii now has a dove hunting season.**

7) The average mourning dove weighs about 5 ounces and has thousands of mostly gray feathers covering its body and wings. A mourning dove's feet and legs are generally pink.

8) While fields of corn, sunflowers, millet and wheat will attract doves, so will ponds and water sources, plus open areas with small gravel.

9) Doves are most active at feeding and flying periods after dawn and before dusk, and spend the midday resting in trees and digesting foods, such as seeds, that have been consumed. A mourning dove's diet is about 99 percent seeds, but they will also occasionally eat snails and small insects.

10) Mourning doves are prey for many animals including hawks, crows, grackles and feral and domestic cats that can kill and eat young squabs in the nest.

• • •

### Utah — Get a Free Upland Game Guidebook

From Outdoor Wire:

**Utah's Upland Game and Turkey Guidebook for the 2011-2012 hunting season is now available.**

In addition to sporting goods stores and the DWR's website ([wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks](http://wildlife.utah.gov/guidebooks)), the free guide is also available at your nearest DWR office.

• • •

### More States Make Right to Hunt "Bulletproof"

From Associated Press:

More states are enshrining hunting and fishing rights in their state constitutions, even though supporters acknowledge there is no organized effort to stop people from bagging a deer or hooking a trout.

**Thirteen states now guarantee the right to hunt and fish in their constitutions. Arkansas, South Carolina and Tennessee added the language last year.**

Pro-hunting measures were introduced in at least 14 state legislatures last year. Some state legislatures were preoccupied with budget problems and didn't complete action on the issue.

Some groups claim the efforts are only intended to build membership in hunting organizations, but **supporters insist sportsmen need protection as the population becomes more urban and**

**fewer hunters and anglers take to the forests, fields and streams.**

• • •

### Ohio — Nonresident Landowners Now Required to Purchase Nonresident Licenses and Permits

From Outdoor Wire:

The Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources (ODNR), Div. of Wildlife reminds nonresident landowners that they are legally required to purchase nonresident licenses to hunt, trap or fish in Ohio.

The new law went into effect on July 1, 2011, and requires a nonresident owner of land in Ohio and the owner's children and grandchildren, if applicable, to purchase a nonresident hunting license, deer or wild turkey permit, fur taker permit or nonresident fishing license.

Landowner license exemptions will only apply to Ohio residents.

**This change in Ohio law nullifies a reciprocal agreement with Indiana, which means that Ohio residents with land holdings in Indiana are required to purchase a nonresident hunting license, deer or wild turkey permit, fur taker permit, or nonresident fishing license.** Similarly, children and grandchildren of a nonresident landowner must purchase hunting, fishing and trapping licenses and permits.

For questions or clarification contact: **Div. of Wildlife, 800-WILDLIFE, [www.wildohio.com](http://www.wildohio.com).**

## 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.*

Subscriber **C. Allen Foster of Washington, D.C.**, recommends a hunt he took from Aug. 12–20, 2011. He hunted with **Tino Romero near San Martin, Chaco Province, Argentina.**

Using a variety of methods for a variety of species, they hunted for perdiz, ducks, pigeon and doves, all of which he found to be "abundant." He rates his personal guide as "excellent in all categories except communications, which he rates as "fair." He says the equipment and accommodations were "fair," the cuisine, "good, and the dog work, "excellent."

Foster adds:

"My son Chick, and I took another trip to Argentina to hunt perdiz, our favorite game bird. We returned to hunt with Tino, a local geography teacher who is just getting started in the outfitting business. **Tino has the best perdiz dog I have ever seen,** a GSP with the

## Serving The Hunter Who Travels

“A typical day would be an early morning pigeon and dove shoot, followed by a perdiz hunt (the birds don't go into the fields until about 10 a.m.), then lunch, then ducks or perdiz or pigeons/doves in the afternoon. **The duck hunts were invariably followed by exciting and hilarious evening hunts for foxes and other vermin.**

“A typical day's bag would be **150 doves, 15-20 pigeons, 40 perdiz, 30-60 ducks and several foxes.** Of course, those totals would vary depending upon the type of the afternoon hunt. And you can, if you want, hunt doves and pigeons all day and experience the full, 'hot barrel shoot' for which Argentina is so justly famous. For that, count on shooting 2,000-plus shells per day.

“But the reason I go on this hunt every year is that **it is simply the best perdiz hunting I've had anywhere in Argentina** — plentiful birds, easy hunting conditions (flat pastures), fabulous

dog work. In addition, **Tino is energetic, affable, a consummate bird hunter and eager to please you.**

“**The hunt is not, however, for those who want to be waited on in luxurious surroundings.** You must make your own plane reservations from the U.S. to Argentina and from Buenos Aires to Resistencia or Corrientes, and return. You have to navigate between the international and domestic airports in Buenos Aires, and you must get your own Argentinean gun registration. But this is very easy for anyone who is willing to go to the information desk and ask. Outside Buenos Aires, very few people speak English well, so if, like me, you don't speak Spanish, you have to make do with accumulated years of 'hunting Spanish.'

“San Martin is a typical rural town in a very undeveloped province, with only two hotels, both of which have comfortable and clean but spartan rooms. The

restaurants are what you would expect in a rural agricultural town — lots of meat and potatoes, vegetables only on request. There is, however, a new restaurant, Cheesecake, that has **an innovative chef who serves up delightfully different dishes and is more than willing to cook the game you kill and the fish you buy at the local fish market — wonderful fish from the Parana River. He will also do your steaks and more.**

“Thus, if you're sufficiently passionate about perdiz hunting and like the variety of being able to shoot ducks, pigeons and doves as well, don't mind a little adventure (just build in enough time in your schedule to take into account that you're doing your own travel and outfitting details) and enjoy an authentic foreign experience at a very reasonable price, this is the trip for you.”

Cost per person is \$250 per day, including lodging and meals. Foster says the cost of shells was \$1,700.

● ●

**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**

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For rates, information, references, and details, plus a copy of the review in the July 2011 issue of this report, please contact us at:  
**info@matacolodge.com**  
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## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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## Hunt Report Form

### Self-Guided Hunt

(please see other side for outfitted hunt)

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

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