

Dateline: Kentucky

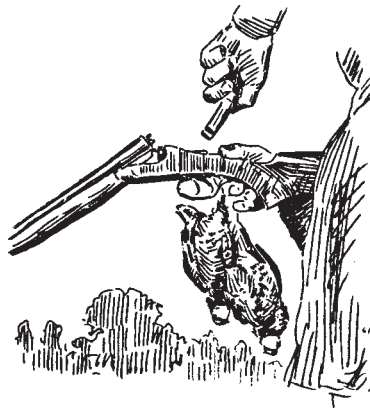
Revisiting Deer Creek Lodge

- **Timetable:** October to mid-March
- **Accommodations:** New lodge
- **Food:** Country cuisine
- **Hunt:** Easy to moderate

Native Americans once called the area near Sebree, Ky., the “Happy Hunting Grounds.” With an abundance of wildlife, including white-tailed deer, turkey and upland bird species, this little piece of God’s country has certainly lived up to its name. **And smack dab in the middle of this wildlife rich area sits the Deer Creek Lodge.**

Initially, the lodge was known for its famed hill-country whitetail hunting, but it quickly attracted the attention of wing shooters and outdoor enthusiasts from around the globe. Word of this family-friendly lodge quickly spread and

helped Deer Creek Lodge earn the coveted *Orvis Wing shooting Lodge of the Year* title in 2006-2007. **In addition to the family-friendly atmosphere, solo**



female wing shooters will also enjoy a professional and safe hunting experience at Deer Creek.

Located a few miles’ drive on pic-

turesque country roads off U.S. Highway 41, the lodge is an easy 30-minute drive south of Evansville, Ind., and two hours north of Nashville, Tenn.

The main lodge at Deer Creek masterfully mixes rustic appeal with modern elements. Consisting of nearly 10,000 square feet and eight private bedroom suites, which can comfortably accommodate up to 26 guests, this lodge is ideal for large groups of hunters. Wooden gun lockers, floor-to-ceiling fireplaces, big screen TVs and a fully stocked gentleman’s bar are just some of the amenities found at Deer Creek. The massive deck, complete with an open fire pit, easily affirms the lodge’s five-star status. Not only is the lodge aesthetically pleasing to the eye, but also the view from its perch atop a hill overlooks a perfect sportsman’s paradise. For the hunter who

(continued on page 2)

Dateline: New Zealand

Overview of Upland and Waterfowl Game Bird Options

- **Timetable:** May to July waterfowl; May to August upland game birds
- **Accommodations:** Mostly motel or hotel, preserve lodges
- **Food:** Restaurant, hotel or lodge meals: cooked by guide if based on hunting site
- **Hunts:** Easy to moderate

The main waterfowl and upland game bird hunting seasons in New Zealand run from the first weekend in May to the end of August. **There is a one-month difference between water**

and land hunting, with the waterfowl season ending at the end of July. The New Zealand Fish & Game Council and the 12 regional Fish & Game Councils (collectively known as Fish & Game New Zealand) have a statutory responsibility to promote game bird hunting, and hunters may buy seasonal licenses from them or hunting shops that allow them to hunt anywhere within defined hunting areas.

In addition to the \$80 NZD hunting license, game bird hunting in New Zealand will require the use of a shotgun (10-gauge or smaller) and evidence of a firearms license. Over water, non-toxic steel shot must be used, while on land 200 meters or more from water lead shot

is still permitted. This latter point is good news for paradise duck hunters who often set up stands in pasture or grain fields.

(continued on page 3)

Inside:

Florida	p.4
Argentina	p.5
Briefly Noted	p.6
Texas	p.7
California	p.8
Outfitter Critiques	p.8
Canada	p.9
Illinois	p.10
Georgia	p.10

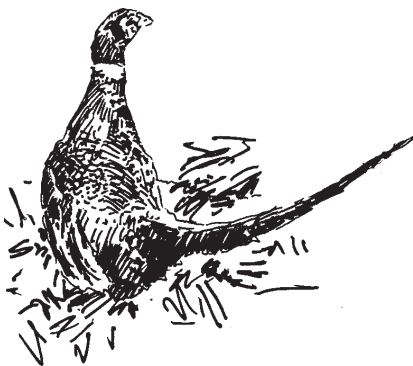
Kentucky ... (from page 1)

wishes to have a little more privacy or who would like to be closer to the dog kennel, DCL offers up the historic Auxiliary Lodge just down the road from the main lodge. Originally built in the 1800s, this smaller, more intimate lodge has a beauty and uniqueness all its own. Additionally, the lodge culinary experts create mouth-watering, classic country dishes, perfect after a long day in the field. With a little advance notice, any special dietary needs of guests can be met.

Despite the comfortable accommodations, this place offers what wing shooters want the most: a healthy population of hard-flying birds. Deer Creek offers the classic style of upland hunts on 5,300 acres, nearly 2,000 of which surround the lodge, providing hunters with more time hunting and less time in transit to the field. Deer Creek is happy to cater each hunt to best suit the needs of the individual hunter, from gentle terrain that is a relatively easy walk, to steeper hills that offer the hunter more of a challenge. Regardless of terrain, the thick, native, warm season grasses, briar thickets and wooded areas provide perfect habitat for game birds to thrive in.

Several options for upland hunting are available. The most popular is the "no limits" one-fee approach on birds. This format provides hunters with the opportunity to slow down and savor every aspect of traditional style upland hunting without worrying about keeping count of the number of birds they've bagged.

Our hunt was conducted in typical upland fashion with an ample amount of walking involved. A well-worn pair of boots is recommended, preferably a higher profile waterproof style which might suit the hunter better during the wet season, as some of the low lying fields were wet and muddy. Traditional brush pants are suggested, as there was a fair share of rugged, brushy areas, but dealing with a few briars in exchange for hunting large coveys was well worth



the trade-off. I saw some of the largest coveys of quails of my life at DCL. Hunting these naturally nervous birds provided plenty of thrilling opportunities in the field.

Deer Creek Lodge had all its bases covered including a large selection of properly trained dogs, mainly pointers, setters and Labradors with an occasional English cocker or German shorthair in the mix. The four-legged crew worked as hard to please us hunters as the two-legged crew did, proving that watching a well-trained bird dog work is worth the price of admission.

After a full day of hunting pheasants, quail and chukars, the lodge provides, at no additional charge, the service of cleaning, packaging and flash freezing the game birds for the trip home. It is worth noting that I have been to a few places that offer this service, only to arrive home to find a cooler full of half cleaned, poorly packaged birds. Not the case with Deer Creek. In fact, I can tell you that my birds were carefully cleaned and neatly packaged, then flash frozen and vacuum packed ready for the freezer.

Additional activities offered at this lodge include a five-stand shooting area, which affords the hunter the opportunity to check his or her firearm before heading out into the field. DCL also offers mallard duck hunting in the fall and winter months and trophy bass fishing in the spring and summer on the lodge's private refuge lake. Horseback riding is another popular activity at Deer Creek, with plenty of well-trained horses to choose from and miles and miles of scenic trails.

Deer Creek offers upland hunting from October until late March. But with so many other activities to choose from and beautiful country to look at, plus easy access to the lodge and field, there is really no bad time to visit DCL. October and November provide good upland opportunity as the birds are still out in the open feeding and preparing for the winter months. During the months of



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December, January and February, the birds are more concentrated, providing hunters with spectacular flushes of birds. Do not overlook the month of March, for the birds tend to be more mobile as they look for cover and good food sources. This often forces them into areas that create challenging shooting opportunities.

Traditional guided upland hunts start at \$795 per person for a two-day, two-person hunt, which includes a 16-bird limit/per person/per day. For the same two-day hunt for two people, the special

“no limit” Traditional Quail hunts cost \$1,295 per hunter. Special corporate event packages can also be arranged.

The lodge offers a pro shop stocked with top brands for the discriminating hunter. The lodge keeps an assortment of Beretta Silver Pigeons 12- and 20-gauge shotguns available for rent at a daily rate of \$50.

Hunters will need to wear blaze orange hats, coats or vests while in the field in addition to eye and ear protection. Small game licenses are required

and are available online or may be purchased over the counter.

Deer Creek Lodge, David Krawczynski, 888-875-3000, www.deercreeklodge.net.

For licenses: **Kentucky Dept. of Fish & Game, 877-598-2401, www.kdfwr.state.ky.us.**

—Lisa Metheny

(Ed. note: BHR last reported on Deer Creek Lodge three years ago when we went along for a duck hunt there.)

New Zealand ... (from page 1)

During the main hunting season licensed hunters may harvest the following game birds: mallard, gray and shovel-er ducks; paradise shelduck; pukeko (like a coot); black swan; Canada goose; pheasant; Californian, brown and bobwhite quail; red-legged partridge and chukar. **Turkey, feral geese and pigeon and peacock do not require a game bird license**, and neither do small game such as rabbit, hare and wallaby. Bag limits vary from region to region, with the South Island, particularly Central and North Canterbury, having the largest bags. **In Central South Island it is 50 ducks per gun a day, and in North Canterbury it is 25 ducks.** Most ducks harvested will be mallards, both hens and drakes.

The two main upland game birds hunted in New Zealand are pheasant and Californian quail. The best pheasant populations are within preserves, mostly in the North Island, while the greatest quail populations are the Central Otago wild coveys found in the South Island. There is an estimated 14 or so registered pheasant preserves now operating in New Zealand, several also offering limited hunting of red-legged partridges. Birds have been raised and released to provide hunting opportunities for paying clients. Unlike public hunting, where bag limits are low and only cock birds may be shot, preserve bag limits are high and both sexes are harvested.

The shooting is based around the English style of pheasant shooting where for safety and tradition only double-barreled guns are allowed. Typically, hunters turn up, suitably attired, get a welcome and safety talk from the shoot host,

and are generally on the first drive by about 9:30 a.m. The shooters (guns) are then assigned a position for each drive where the birds are flushed out over the guns by the “beaters.” The birds are then retrieved by the dog handlers and “picker uppers” and put on the game cart.

One of the best-known preserves is Equine Estate, a 283-hectare parkland located between Te Puke and Rotorua in the North Island. It releases about 6,000 birds each year and limits hunting to 12 days of the year.

Quail hunting occurs mostly on pri-



ivate land where hunter access has been granted. Guides charge clients a daily guiding fee. This same situation occurs when waterfowl hunting. There is no bird fee imposed on clients because in New Zealand game birds belong to the nation, not to any one person. A license allows the individual to hunt, but he cannot sell birds harvested to any other party, such as to a restaurant.

For this reason no guides base their hunting business solely on guiding bird hunters, but some have

become quite skilled in this form of hunting. **The best guide to hunt Californian quail in New Zealand is Otago-based outfitter Steve Dougherty**, who runs Doctari Safaris from his base near Ranfurly. Clients hunt over gun dogs across rough and undulating terrain. Most clients hunt waterfowl and turkey at the same time as quail. Quail coveys traditionally number 15 to 40 birds, and three or four coveys may be encountered a day. Large numbers of rabbits inhabit the same range. Clients may also hunt deer, pigs and goats if they wish.

Waterfowl hunters coming to New Zealand are generally targeting two species, mallard duck and paradise shelduck. Canada geese are a third attraction but only in limited regions. Hunting is traditionally from hides, called mai-mais in New Zealand, where feeding or roosting ducks are enticed from air to pond, lake, paddock, river or stream, through quality duck calling and large spreads of decoys. Ducks in New Zealand are not following migratory paths, just flyways, so a guide is useful in putting the client on such highways through his local knowledge and experience and his access network of contacts. As mentioned earlier, Central South Island, and North Canterbury have the highest duck populations so these are good areas to target. **In Central South Island, Brendon Matthews of Matthews Trophy Hunting, can be recommended as can James Gray of Hunting & Fishing New Zealand in North Canterbury.** Both can be contacted through their consultancy office.

New Zealand has experienced a dairy-farming boom in recent years and the acceleration in grass production and ponds has helped both mallard and paradise duck experience a similar boom in numbers.

For specific details about **Equine**

Estate: www.equinesportingclaybirds.co.nz.

Doctari Safaris, Steve Dougherty, [www.freerangehuntingnz.com/](http://www.freerangehuntingnz.com/doc@freerangehuntingnz.com), doc@freerangehuntingnz.com.

Booking agent for **Matthews Trophy Hunting and Hunting & Fishing New**

Zealand: www.bestnzhunting.com.

Other well-known preserves:

Titoki Pheasants www.titokipheasants.co.nz.

Treetops www.treetops.co.nz.

Harakeke www.partridgeshooting.co.nz.

—Greg Morton

Do-It-Yourself in the St. Johns Marshes

- **Timetable:** Early November through late January
- **Accommodations:** Hotels in nearby towns
- **Food:** Restaurants in nearby towns
- **Hunt:** Moderate to extremely difficult

An oddity for North American rivers, the St. Johns River begins as a collection of springs rising in the marshes near Fellsmere in southeastern Florida and flows north, emptying into the Atlantic Ocean near Jacksonville.

The longest river in Florida and one of the slowest rivers in the world, the St. Johns drops less than 30 feet over the course of its 310-mile journey to the sea. The watershed covers more than 1,888 square miles with more than 400,000 acres of the upper basin spread mostly through Osceola, Brevard, Okeechobee, Indian River, Orange and Seminole counties of eastern Florida.

The upper St. Johns Basin south of Highway 46 between Geneva and Fellsmere largely consists of freshwater marshes, cypress swamps, hardwood bottomlands and shallow natural lakes interconnected by a maze of natural and manmade waterways. **These wetlands traditionally attract blue- and green-winged teal, pintail, wigeon, gadwall, ring-necked ducks, canvasbacks and mergansers with a smattering of bluebills, mallards and other species. The marshes also hold good numbers of non-migratory mottled ducks.**

"The marshes on the St. Johns River offer very good duck hunting for Florida," said Byron Hennecy of Osceola Outback Adventures in St. Cloud. "All along the St. Johns River south of High-

way 46, people can find good duck hunting after just a short boat ride from almost any ramp, but much depends upon the weather farther north. If we get cold weather north of Florida, we have good duck hunting down here."

One of the few waterfowl guides who operate in this area, Hennecy hunts public lands along the river. **Since the waterways belong to the public, sportsmen can hunt just about any non-posted honey hole they can find.** However, some areas in



parks or preserves remain closed. In other areas, local regulations may prohibit hunting or discharging firearms. In addition, some federal lands offer hunting, but season dates and other regulations may differ from the statewide laws so check the local rules before setting up a blind.

With so much public land available, do-it-yourself sportsmen can usually find a good place to throw decoys. Hennecy scouts the area in his specially rigged boat, which converts into a portable blind. When he finds a concentration of birds, he erects the blind and tosses out a few dozen decoys. At other times, he wades in the water and hides in thick vegetation.

"We get a lot of people who want to hunt in a layout boat," Hennecy said. "They take the big boat close to where they want to hunt and then paddle the rest of the way. Many people get out of their boats and walk to their areas in chest waders. Most of the waters are less than waist deep. **In some places, they**

can find some higher ground or levees where they can sit on a stool and get out of the water. Most of the areas we hunt have hard bottoms with lots of vegetation where people can hide."

The Upper St. Johns Marsh Wildlife Management Area contains about 124,623 acres of wetlands and waterways along the river in Brevard and Indian River counties. Containing Lakes Winder, Poinsett and Washington plus associated streams, **this section offers some of the best public waterfowl hunting in Florida.** Sportsmen normally bag blue- or green-winged teal, ring-necked ducks or a few wigeons, pintails and mottled ducks. The marshes also hold a number of mergansers and coots.

The T. M. Goodwin Waterfowl Management Area consists of about 3,870 acres of restored wetlands near Fellsmere. The associated Broadmoor Marsh Unit offers another 2,400 acres. Intensively managed to provide quality habitat for waterfowl, these two areas include about 3,000 acres of impoundments with the remaining acreage consisting of marshes. Teal and divers typically comprised the bulk of the harvest.

Last season, Hennecy hunted on the St. Johns River near Fellsmere and did really well. "We mostly shot ringnecks, blue-winged teal, green-winged teal and a few gadwalls. On that first Monday, we hunted West Lake Tohopekaliga and shot some mallards and a mottled duck. Lake Winder and Puzzle Lake also offer good duck hunting."

Although technically not exactly part of the upper St. Johns system, **Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge near Titusville consists of 140,000 acres of salt marshes, estuaries and freshwater impoundments along the Atlantic Ocean.** Established as a buffer zone for the nearby John F. Kennedy Space Center, it traditionally holds good concentrations of teal,

mottled ducks and divers. The refuge allows limited hunting on certain days in designated areas by permit.

These vast marshes offer few conveniences, but they could provide good shooting and outstanding scenery. Even when the ducks don't fly, sportsmen should see an uncountable number of birds and animals. **Visiting sportsmen need to keep two resident creatures foremost in mind – mosquitoes and alligators.** Even during late season, mild winters in the semi-tropical environment can bring swarming mosquitoes on warm,

humid mornings so keep a large supply of repellent or a bug-proof suit handy.

Moreover, warm weather might bring out alligators, even in late season. The big reptiles commonly lurk around the blinds, but they usually don't bother people. However, they love slurping any dead or wounded birds that hit the water. **Because of the gators, many Florida sportsmen leave their prize retrievers home. A big gator can take down an adult Labrador with little trouble.**

Moreover, since so many waterways course through this area, one stream can

look almost identical to another, especially in the darkness. What might look like a wide main channel can actually leave a boat stranded on a mudflat. Bring a map and a cell phone.

For more information: **Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, www.myfwc.com.**

Merritt Island NWR, www.fws.gov/merrittisland.

Osceola Outback Adventures, Byron Hennecy, 407-908-3216 or 407-892-6266; www.osceolaoutback.com.

—John N. Felsher

Dateline: Cordoba, Argentina

Dove Hunting with J.J.

- **Timetable:** Year round
- **Accommodations:** Modern lodge
- **Food:** Outstanding, especially for the beef lover
- **Hunt:** Easy

For decades the Cordoba area of Argentina has been well known for its dove shooting. Many lodges have surfaced here that cater to USA-based wing shooters, and I have shot at quite a few of them. **One of the best is Sierra Brava Lodge.** The lodge owner is Juan Jose Sala, former assistant prosecuting district attorney in the city of Cordoba. It was obvious during my recent visit that he enjoys catering to wing shooters a lot more than he did “lawyer-ing.” Called “J.J.,” Sala is at the lodge and travels with the hunters on almost every shoot. **This personal attention, as any traveler has found over the years, is very important to maintaining a top-notch rating with clients.**

In the main lodge there are four double rooms. In an adjoining lodge there are two additional double rooms, so the lodge is full with 12 people. During most of the Sierra Brava shoots there are probably about six to eight shooters. Right in front of this latter lodge is a beautiful swimming pool, so bring trunks. If there are six shooters, Sala might set them up in individual rooms. However, some shooters do want to share a room with a buddy, and that can be arranged, too. All the rooms are clean, each with a private bath, and guests will not feel crowded. Meals are

served at both the lodges.

The vehicles that take gunners to the hunting areas are large mini-buses with four rows of seats behind the driver. Shooting with a party of seven there was plenty of room. One of the important features of Sierra Brava is the short drives to the hunting fields from June through February. This is because **J.J.'s lodge is**



adjacent to a major dove roost that holds millions of birds. Through his hunting leases nearby where countless acres of small grains are grown, many of these drives are only a few minutes. As one might guess, doves using the adjacent roost fly to these nearby fields.

In April and May, the doves at this roost fly to the north. This probably has to do with crop harvest, but these are the only months that drives to the shooting area are 45–60 minutes. During this time period, clients enjoy an Argentinean barbecue or “asado” in the field, but J. J. has plans to build a small lodge in this more northerly area, probably two rooms to start with, so up to four hunters can stay right

in this productive shooting area during the few months the doves migrate north.

Sala's clients enjoy serious high-volume shooting if they want. Such shooters can certainly be accommodated. As an example, the first day our party of seven shooters shot over 12,000 doves. One shooter shot over 3,000, another shooter shot over 2,000. Since I've shot doves in South America so many times, I am no longer so figuratively mad at them. I shot fewer than 1,000 birds and was definitely low man on the figurative totem pole. That evening, as dinner was winding down, the group was surprised by two singer/entertainers who put on a great, great show for the group — J.J.'s special touch — and a perfect ending to a perfect day.

Anyone shooting South America for doves is going to have an interesting bird boy. One of my bird boys, Diego, had three years in working on his B.A. in psychology. Some of the bird boys are great shooters. One American gunner needed a break, so he offered his bird boy his gun and use of his shells, commenting, “Shoot until you miss, and then I'll take over.” The bird boy shot over 50 times without a miss. I was told this youngster was encouraged to come to the U.S. by another American wing shooter to train in Colorado and, eventually, to compete in the Olympics. The bird boy was that good, but that fellow is still in South America guiding American-based wing shooters.

Many of those who travel to South America these days, especially those who have shot in Argentina one or more

times previously, want really high doves. **On more than one shoot our group was presented with many super high birds.** Most of us were shooting 20- and 28-gauge guns, and it is amazing how far the small gauges will reach out and up to kill a dove stone dead in midair. In my experience **there's little doubt that more and more wing shooters want these high birds.**

While 15 to 20 years ago in South America a small percentage of wing shooters rented guns, just the opposite is true today. A full 80 percent of those traveling to the Cordoba area are now renting guns from the outfitters. Typically, the cost is \$50 a day. Sala has good 12- and 20 gauge Beretta and Benelli semi-autos with a few over-unders also available, including a few 28-gauge guns. The Argentine 12-, 20- and 28-gauge shot shells are excellent.

There's no need to arise at the crack of dawn, whether hunting close to the lodge or driving the 45–60 minutes to the field. Shooters will find birds awaiting them no matter when they arrive, and their shoulders will be wanting a reprieve even before lunch is ready. Typically shooters leave the lodge from 8:00–8:30 each morning.

No matter where one shoots in the Cordoba area, he or she should expect top-notch food, and this is especially true for those who love beef. Of course, Argentina is well known for its beef, and everyone is pleased with how much flavor it has. **Expect beef prepared in many ways at Sierra Brava.** Also, when a diner thinks the meal is over and is awaiting dessert, that's when the main entrée comes, so be willing to push back on

some of the courses. Red Argentinean wine is always served. At almost every meal doves are also served, but one never tastes the same dove recipe twice. **The Sierra Brava chef is very innovative with these wild birds, and everyone**



raves about their preparation and their taste.

But it's the eared dove that so many shooters come to the Cordoba area for, and there is little doubt that the small grain fields surrounding Cordoba hold more doves than anywhere in the world. The habitat is ideal, plus most of these fields were once brush or pasture and not all that long ago. Once the land was cleared and small grains were planted the dove population exploded, and the birds are still exploding. The temperature is very temperate, and some fields are always nearing harvest, being harvested or just harvested. Because the birds have the endless food supply, as well as huge, huge roosting areas for nesting and resting, a rare phenomenon among wildlife has occurred. It is documented that these eared doves can produce young of their own at only three months. Many outfitters around

Cordoba say that the populations are still expanding despite plenty of U.S.-based wing shooters doing all they can to help the local farmers.

Reaching Cordoba is relatively easy, flying overnight from Dallas, Miami or Atlanta to Santiago, Chile, and connecting with a late morning flight to Cordoba. This flight gets clients into Cordoba in time for an afternoon hunt that day of arrival. Most hunt packages are for a half-day hunt on arrival, two full days of shooting, a morning hunt the last day and then a late afternoon departure from Cordoba to Santiago to connect with the overnight flight back to the States.

The two half-day/two full-day shooting package has been recently reduced to \$1140 plus the hunting license of \$65 per day and tips for bird boys and the lodge staff. Shells are currently \$10.75 a box.

The Bird Hunting Report has featured more than one report about dove lodges around Cordoba and will doubtless publish more, but **Sierra Brava is a very special place for many reasons**, most of which have already been covered. Couple intense high-volume shooting and short drives to the gunning fields during most months of the year with a lodge owner who goes right into the field with his shooters, dines with them at breakfast, lunch and supper, and it's a combination that works.

To book a trip to Sierra Brava: **Detail Company Adventures, Jeri Booth, 3220 Audley, Houston, TX 77098; 800-292-2213; www.detailcompany.com; info@detailcompany.com.**

—Nick Sisley

Briefly Noted

Things to Do, Places to Go, New Developments

Texas — New Policies for Dove/ Other Upland Opportunities to Consider

By Mike Leggett, *statesman.com*:

Texas Parks and Wildlife commissioners approved a Wildlife Division plan to request **an expansion of dove hunting days to the maximum of 70 per year and an increase in the bag limit for Central and South Zone hunters from 12 to 15 birds.**

Federal officials still must sign off on the plan, but state wildlife employees said there's little on the horizon that could derail the proposal.

The most amazing thing about the changes is that they come at a time when most of the backroom talk was about federal plans down the road to reduce season lengths and bag limits, possibly to 10 or even eight birds per day. More opportunity in the form of extra days and doves wasn't expected.

The new plan will allow for a late-season split of hunting days in the North Zone and for expanded bags in the Central and South zones.

The season dates for the various zones break down this way: North Zone, Sept. 1-Oct. 25 and Dec. 26-Jan. 9; Central Zone, Sept. 1-Oct. 25 and Dec. 26-Jan. 9; South Zone, Sept. 18-Nov. 3 and Dec. 26-Jan. 17.

The South Zone opener typically is delayed until at least Sept. 20 by federal

ruling because of nesting doves, but fewer than 11 percent of doves begin nesting after Sept. 1 in the South, and biologists believe federal officials will allow the earlier opener. The new proposed opening date for the South Zone will be the Friday closest to Sept. 20 but no earlier than Sept. 17.

In the South Zone, commissioners pushed for late-season dates that will help hunters take advantage of as many holiday weekends as possible.

Federal officials will hold meetings in June with the 14 member states, including Texas, which make up the Central Flyway. The early season proposals for doves would be approved at that time, and Texas would be able to move forward with plans for the coming season.

By Ray Sasser, *dallasnews.com*:

Guide Mike Pritchard is a lifelong resident of Santa Anna in Coleman County, three hours southwest of Dallas. He and his wife, Mary, raise and train Brittany bird dogs.

His sideline business is raising quail in huge flight pens that are segregated from people. Pritchard raised about 20,000 birds this year, selling most but releasing about 4,000 for his hunting service.

A lifelong wild bird hunter, Pritchard works hard to make his hunt as close as possible to the real deal.

Pritchard's friends Paul and Gay Martin run a comfortable hunting lodge, M-Bar-H Lodge, on the outskirts of Santa Anna. The Martins handle the lodging and meals and Pritchard handles the guiding for any game that's available in Coleman County.

For more info: **M-Bar-H Lodge, 325-348-8255 or 325-348-3391, www.mbarh.com.**

By Luke Clayton, *ntxe-news.com*:

Sixty miles northwest of Fort Worth lies 15,000 acres of pristine prairie and creek bottoms that, for about the past 144 years, has been known as the Richards Ranch.

Back in 1998, the ranch opened its gates to commercial hunting. Deer, turkey, quail, dove and of course, wild hogs were present in large numbers.

Nowadays, the buildings and amenities are new but the "feel" of the old working cattle ranch is still there.

Wes Winget, who has spent a lifetime guiding hunters and fishermen, heads up the guiding operation on the Richards.

The quail there were plentiful and the shooting, good. And the chukars, native to the grasslands of southern Eurasia, are about three times as big as quail and fly just as fast. They're a very sporting bird, almost as large as a pheasant



ant that have become very popular on upland hunting operations in the U.S.

The Richards Ranch has seen its long-time plan come to fruition. The old cattle ranch has now become a destination for hunters from all across the country.

Richards Ranch, 940-567-5607 www.richardsranchtexas.com.

From *victoriaadvocate.com*:

The Geronimo Creek Ranch in Hondo offers visitors a chance to hunt pheasants, chukar and quail. Glynn King, the ranch manager is also the dog handler for Geronimo Creek.

The ranch has a beautiful stucco style hacienda whose the back patio offers a view of the natural landscaping of the country. Geronimo Creek Ranch is 1,350 acres and it consist of both thick South Texas brush, which is great habitat for white-tailed deer and other exotics, but they have also worked with Mother Nature by landscaping **400 acres of pastures that make ideal habitat for upland bird hunting.**

One of the other key elements to the property is the availability of water. You will find ponds and well driven watering spots scattered all across the ranch. Of these numerous ponds, 13 of them, ranging in size from a quarter to five acres, are stocked with bass, crappie, catfish, bream, and bluegill, which opens up the opportunity to have a great family weekend.

Another huge benefit of all these ponds is the number of ducks that come

into these water holes. **Through the excitement in his voice alone, Glynn clearly conveys how fantastic the duck hunting is on this property.**

Geronimo Creek Ranch offers two different upland game hunting packages. The first consists of the opportunity to shoot 20 quail, four chukar, and four pheasants for \$425. The next package consists of 15 quail, two chukar, and two pheasants for \$325.

The guys at Geronimo Creek work real hard for hunters to get their shot opportunities, which is one of the reasons they have waterholes strategically set up for their dogs. This ensures that they are cool and hydrated so they will be able to go that extra mile to make the hunt the best possible.

If you would like to add a meal to the hunt, no problem, let them know how many are in your party and they will put something together for you based on your taste or budget. An example of this is a brisket dinner for four at a cost of about \$40 dollars, or \$10 per plate. This includes all the fixings and drinks, but does not include adult beverages. Again, this price varies depending on the personal tastes of the hunting party.

Geronimo Creek Ranch, 830-426-4384, www.geronimocreekranch.com.

(continued on page 8)

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 and Wayne Latta.**

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.

Bad Economy? Don't Blame Waterfowlers!

According to a new report issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in 2006 **waterfowl hunters spent \$900 million** on a variety of goods and services from food, transportation, guns and decoys to hunting dogs, clothing and other incidental expenses. These trip and equipment-related expenditures **generated more than \$2.3 billion in total economic output for 2006**, which resulted in \$157 million in federal and state tax revenues, supported more than 27,000 jobs, and generated more than \$8.5 million in employment income.

"The financial support provided to conservation, and the economy as a whole, is significant," said Rowan Gould, acting Director of the Service. **"Waterfowlers, like many other sportsmen, have a proven track record in their contributions to the U.S. economy, and that's certainly something to take comfort in during these tough economic times."**

The report, *The Economic Impact of Waterfowl Hunting in the United States*, is an addendum to the 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation. According to the report, waterfowl hunters tend to be younger, have higher educational achievements, and are more affluent compared to all hunters. The majority (74 percent) of waterfowl hunters live in the South and the Midwest.

The National Survey, conducted every five years, since 1955, is one of the nation's most definitive sources of information concerning wildlife-dependant recreation. The U.S. Census Bureau conducted the survey in two phases. First, a screening interview identified wildlife-related recreationists. The sec-

ond phase consisted of multiple interviews to collect detailed information on participation and expenditures for U.S. residents 16 years of age and older.

The waterfowl hunting report in addition to the detailed National Survey report, state reports, and other addenda can be downloaded at: [http://](http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/NationalSurvey/reports2006.html)



wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/NationalSurvey/reports2006.html.

• • •

California — Despite Name Change, It's Still About Quail

By Peter Ottesen, *recordnet.com*

There's something timeless about Red Bank Ale & Quail Game Bird Club, with its Southern-style bobwhite quail hunting set against the steep cliffs of Red Bank Creek and vistas of snow-capped Mount Lassen in the distance.

The air is crisp on a spring morning, the oak forest is in bloom and wildflowers dot the vast plateaus and edges of ponds. It's that spectacular.

But time doesn't stand still on these wild lands west of Red Bluff.

Owner Brian Riley, 46, won't tolerate the status quo.

"We made our name on quality, Southern-style bobwhite hunts. However, so many people are wanting to go wild pig hunting that we couldn't ignore

them," he said. "They perceive hogs as dangerous game, and the allure of downing a big tusker is very appealing to hunters. Many guys would rather fire a single shot at a trophy boar than shooting two or three boxes of shotgun shells, attempting to hit a 20-bird limit of quail."

Riley, who began working at Red Bank Ranch as a teenager just out of high school, has come full circle. He and his wife, Shellie — she keeps the books, oversees the lodge and meals and schedules hunts — have expanded the original 5,000-acre ranch by acquiring the rights to close to 11,000 acres. They've expanded their hunting venue as well, and **might be the most complete outfitters in northern California, offering mountain and valley quail, black-tailed deer, wild turkeys, pheasants and chukar and black bear hunts.**

He's changed the name to Red Bank Outfitters to reflect the variety of hunts he provides.

With a single call, people can plan a single or combination hunt for upland birds and big game. They also can take part in sporting clays and 5-stand target shooting, as well as black bass fishing. All of the hunting and outdoors activities are within 15 minutes of the home ranch.

During our quail hunt, the ranch was so large that it seemed we were the only hunters afield and couldn't hear another shot.

Hunters are privileged to take 20 bobwhite during a morning and afternoon shoot, if they can hit them. **The shooting is perfect for smaller gauge shotguns, preferably 20- or 28-gauge.**

Red Bank Ranch can provide these kinds of experiences during the hunting seasons, September through May.

Red Bank Outfitters, 530-529-9435, redbankhunting.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.

Tom Van Handel, a subscriber from Appleton, Wis., does not recommend Big Grass Outfitters in Manitoba, Canada. He visited there for a waterfowl hunt in late September 2008.

He rates the equipment, cuisine and guide's knowledge of the hunt area as "Excellent," the accommodations and communications as "Fair" and the guide's hunting ability and attitude as "Poor."

Although he found snow geese, ducks and Canada geese to be "Abundant," Van Handel maintains the "outfitter had one scout for two groups of snow goose hunters. While there were lots of birds around, the outfitter did not get us on any birds. Poor.

"He did not go to the birds but stayed close to camp."

Van Havel does not recommend this hunt because of a "lack of effort by outfitter."

•

We tried five times to contact Big Grass Outfitters using the email address provided at its website. Our emails were returned as "undeliverable."

•••

Ed Rogan of Jacksonville, Fla., was critical of an item that appeared in the "Briefly Noted" section of the February 2009 *Bird Hunting Report*. The headline for the brief was "Louisiana—Luxurious Lodge/Double Dippin". It came from *guardsonline.com*.

Rogan wrote that his friend and he "beg to disagree with the following statement" that appeared in the news brief:

"**Grosse Savanne Lodge** caters especially to corporate getaways and group award trips, but they also work with solo hunters, pairs or couples and other small groups."

Rogan continues, "We have hunted Grosse Savanne four times, all successfully, *but they do not* work with small groups (emphases his).

Here are his complaints.

"1. We have never seen a corporate group at Grosse Savanne *ever* during our annual five-day January duck hunts. There is daily turnover. At five hunts, we were acknowledged as "permanent residents" by the staff.

"2. Olin Menard and Karl Zimmerman are fine men, fishing guides



and hunters that are customer oriented *except* for their bull-stubborn belief that the corporate group will show up. Why should it, they are south of Lake Charles for God sakes.

"3. I have a letter signed by Olin Menard that returned my check for \$5,000. It was dated July 1. Olin wrote that 'corporate groups are pending and we cannot confirm your reservations at this time.' Well, Olin, how does airfare fit into that model? I organized a four-man corporate hunt with Gary (from California), a Baltimore hunter and a Boston hunter. If four of 18 beds is inconsequential and not corporate to you, I don't know what is. We ended up paying about \$225 each above the airfare had Olin extended us a firm reservation in July.

"4. In fact, 'solo hunters, pairs and other small groups' are used as fillers of their beds. We met many day-hunters from Lake Charles during our four hunts there, including a friend of Karl's dad.

"5. The last time, 2006, we hunted Grosse Savanne, Gary and I noted that there were corporate types there ... all retired, hardly fitting any category. It seems that these hunters go to the shows and tell Karl that they are with major corporations. *Were* is more like it.

"6. And the group in #5 (complained) constantly about their two-day hunt as only 70+ year-olds can.

"7. We were actually *evicted* from Grosse Savanne when Governor Blanco's husband decided to duck hunt there. That's right, thrown out on the gravel road, in spite of our reservations.

"8. Louisiana is all politics. The oil company that owns Grosse Savanne is part of the political infrastructure and as such keeps Olin on a short leash. We suspect that Olin has created the 'corporate' getaways and award trips' to cover his butt.

"*But* that isn't the way it is.

"These guys need to be more transparent with their reservations system. But with all their oil and gas riches, I doubt that they will change. *Caveat emptor!*"

•

From Grosse Savanne, we received the following reply signed by **General Manager Olin Menard and Karl Zimmermann, Marketing Manager.**

"Thank you for sharing the letter you received from Ed Rogan in response to your published article about Grosse Savanne.

"We are quite familiar with Mr. Rogan since, as he stated, he has frequented our lodge several times. The letter was at best entertaining, but unfortunately non-factual in most respects and a misrepresentation of how Grosse Savanne operates.

"As an Orvis-endorsed wing shooting lodge, one of the stipulations of our Orvis contract is that we have a detailed reservation system in place. In the summer of 2007, Mr. Rogan mailed us a deposit check with a note stating what dates he intended to lodge and hunt with us in January of 2008. This is not how our reservation system works. Had Mr. Rogan contacted us to check the availability of those dates prior to mailing his check, we would have informed him that his requested dates were already booked. His deposit check was returned with a letter stating this and advising him to contact us for alternative open dates, which were available. There was no mention at all in this letter we sent to Mr. Rogan referencing 'corporate groups are pending and we cannot confirm your reservations at this time.' We do not recommend any customer book flight arrangements prior to receiving a booking confirmation in writing from Grosse Savanne.

"Allow us to give you a brief history of the progress of our lodge in the last three years. In 2006, our lodge was expanded to twice its original size and

was completely renovated, partly due to planned expansion and the rest due to the flooding of the lodge thanks to Hurricane Rita in September of 2005. This expansion allowed us to lodge 18 guests versus our previous capacity of nine guests, thereby allowing us to accommodate the larger corporate groups wishing to book exclusive use of the lodge and who we were sometimes unable to accommodate prior to our expansion.

"We do, however, offer to smaller groups any open dates that are not booked exclusively by corporate groups. We have had a waiting list of hundreds of customers for available dates each waterfowl season since 2006 — most of these requests being from corporate groups requesting exclusive use. It is sometimes hard for those smaller groups of customers who mostly had their 'pick of dates' each year prior to our expansion to understand the growth of Grosse Savanne in the last few years. Our intent is to accommodate both corporate groups and smaller groups, and we feel we are successful in doing so.

We have never, ever evicted any customer from our facility to accommodate another guest. We have not ever catered to 'Governor Blanco's husband' any different than we do to other customers. In fact, he has never booked a waterfowl hunt or fishing trip with us. He has always come on an invite by other paying customers.

"Grosse Savanne prides itself in offering the finest in accommodations, food, beverages, guide services and customer service in general, not to mention access to a paradise of available property for both hunters and fishermen to enjoy. To proudly quote one of our regular customers from this past year and to sum up what Grosse Savanne represents, 'To the excellent meals that are served by the kitchen staff, to the professional guides and equipment that GSL has that spoil us hunters and fishermen, to the management that makes sure that every stay is seamless, to the properties that so naturally lend themselves to the best of the outdoors, to the lodge itself that seems to be the focal point that allows all experiences come together in an unparalleled setting, we *thank you!*'"

•

While we here at *The Bird Hunting Report* don't usually join in the discussion about subscribers' reports and outfitters' responses, we are compelled in this case to do so.

With his complaint about being evicted from Grosse Savanne, Mr. Rogan included a mention to *BHR*: "How do you feel now about recommending Grosse Savanne to your readership, which counts on you to protect our investments of time and money?"

We would hope readers realize that when we provide information about hunting opportunities we are neither endorsing them nor suggesting that all readers will find all lodges/outfitters to their liking. What we do suggest is that



readers follow Mr. Rogan's advice: *caveat emptor*.

On another note, while researching Mr. Rogan's complaint, we learned that the report about Grosse Savanne we had included in our "Briefly Noted" section — though delivered to us as "news" — was actually more than four years old. When we tried to contact *guardsonline.com*, we learned that it apparently has gone out of business and the domain name is for sale.

Therefore, we, too, have complaints about that news item. But ours are different from Mr. Rogan's.

•••

Bob Matsko, a subscriber from Dover, Del., recommends a hunt he says was "very well done."

He visited **Dog 'N Duck Outfitting in Sherwood Park, Alberta, Canada**, for a two-day hunt in September 2008.

Hunting near Edmonton, he found the ducks and geese to be "Abundant." He and his guide employed two tech-

niques, "blinds and standing in the grass."

Matsko was so pleased with his experience, he gave every rating category on his "Hunt Report Form" an "Excellent," and rated the service of Northwest Airlines a 10.

Dog 'N Duck Outfitting, Bob Clark, 89 Courtenay Terrace, Sherwood Park, AB T8A 5S6; 780-913-1337; <http://dognduck.ca>; clarkrd@shaw.ca.

•••

Subscriber David J. Swanson recommends a goose hunt with **Porter's Guide Service of McHenry, Ill.**

During a December hunt, near Huntley, Ill., found the geese to be "Average" in number. Except for cuisine, which he left blank, he rates every other category both in "Outfitter/Operator" and in "Personal Guide" as "Excellent."

He commends Porter's for its "professional service," even though his hunt did not go off as he had expected.

"Two days prior to the hunt, we received 10 to 12 inches of snow. Hunting was tough. Many flocks of migrators passed over very high. We did bring a few local birds in and harvested one goose per hunter."

He mentions his group's guide, Boyd Jensen, "called and flagged the entire legal hunting hours. The pits are comfortable with dog hides, and Boyd also provides a heater."

The cost of the one-day hunt in 2006 was \$600, which translated into \$150 for each of the four hunters in Swanson's group.

Porter's Guide Service, Matt Porter, 703 Holdridge Ave., Winthrop Harbor, IL 60096; 800-345-0259; www.portersoutdoors.com; matt@portersoutdoors.com.

•••

David Sefton, of Austin, Texas, reports he would recommend a hunt at **Barrel Springs Hunt Club** on Dec. 12 to 14, 2008.

At this club in **Tribune, in the western part of Kansas**, Sefton hunted for pheasant behind dogs with his personal guide David Woelk.

He found the pheasant to be "Abundant," and he rates all categories of his personal guide as "Excellent." He rates the outfitter as "Excellent" in everything except the accommodations, which he gives a "Good."

Barrel Springs Hunt Club, 416 Railroad, Tribune, KS 67879; 620-376-2701; www.barrelspringshunt.com.

•••

Jim Kelly recommends a hunt at **Boggy Pond Plantation in Moultrie, Ga.**

He visited there over the last couple days of November and first couple in December 2008. He and his group walked up quail behind dogs. Kelly found the quail to be "Abundant," and he rates his guide, Mackey Dekel, as "Excellent" in all categories. He also rates all aspects of the "Outfitter/Operator" as excellent.

Among his other comments: "Home cooking was excellent. Four hunters shot 525 birds in 2.5 days. In the evenings, we shot a wobble trap over a pond. What a blast! Dogs were excellent."

Cost of the trip was \$2,019 per person and included shells.

Boggy Pond Plantation, 1084 Lanier Rd., Moultrie, GA 31788; 229-8914-5687; www.boggypond.com.

•••

From **Houston, Texas**, subscriber **John Brouillette** recommends the "outstanding hunter service" of **BT Hunting (San Fernando).**

During a trip covering Jan. 25 to 29, 2009, Brouillette's group hunted the areas around **Laguna Madre and San Fernando, Mexico.** They hunted walk up-style with dogs for quail and from brushed blinds for ducks. He found both species to be "Abundant."

He rates his personal guide as "Excellent" in all aspects and the outfitter as "Excellent" in everything but the dog work, which he gives a "Good."

What impressed him about BT Hunting was "it has some of the best food I've encountered. They use locally caught dishes, speckled trout/quail to make for memorable meals and hunts."

Brouillette had no real problems to report, but wanted to warn potential guests that "the quail hunting requires a lot of walking; also there's not much down time between hunts."

The cost for the trip was \$2,850. Shells cost \$12/box.

BT Hunting (San Fernando), 11271 Kornegay Rd., San Benito, TX 78586; 800-248-5773; www.bthunting.com.

•••

Once again, after first taking his lead from a report published in *BHR*, subscriber **Robert D. Graves of Addison, Maine**, engaged the services of **James Gray Hunting & Fishing New Zealand.**

He visited New Zealand from Feb.



25 to March 15, 2009.

He hunted in the North Canterbury Fish and Game Region, Area B, South Island, near Christchurch. This is the Waiau River area, where he hunted waterfowl from blinds the hunters would build where the birds were feeding. He found the paradise shelducks to be "Abundant," and the Canada geese to be "Average."

He rates as "Excellent" all aspects of the "Personal Guide" and all of the "Outfitter/Operator" except for the dog work, since no dogs were used.

He expands on his report:

"Based upon a New Zealand article in *BHR* dated May 2007 by Greg Morton, I contacted James Gray and arranged for a seven-day waterfowl hunt in late February 2008. My wife and I booked basically the same hunt again for the same period in 2009, and we just returned from a very successful hunt and holiday.

"We went for an entire month, but I only hunted for seven straight days. **The rest of the time we toured the country, which is simply beautiful.** It was late summer in New Zealand, and the weather was great. Even though my wife was a nonhunter, she had a great time while James and I were hunting, plus she went with us one morning while we were hunting Canada geese.

"We stayed on a large sheep and beef farm in a separate cabin while we were hunting. The cabin had full facilities, so we cooked three nights and ate at the farm household three

nights. One day, my wife had to go to Kiakoura, about an hour's drive, as James had traded some venison back straps for fresh fish and crayfish. Kiakoura, which is located on the coast, is a great tourist area, plus Christchurch was only an hour and a half from where we were hunting. We met a lady at one of the farmhouse dinners, and the next day my wife went with her on a four-wheeler rounding up sheep and cattle in the high country. The lady had four well-trained dogs that she could send anywhere to bring down either cattle or sheep. Before we left New Zealand, we booked a similar trip with James Gray for 2010.

"The North Canterbury Fish and Game Region has a special season that ran this year from Jan. 31 through March 31. The limit is 20 paradise shelducks. While waterfowl hunting, you have to use steel over water, but you can use lead in fields where we did most of our hunting. There is no limit on Canada geese, which is open at the same time. New Zealand considers both the ducks and geese to be pests, as they do considerable crop damage. I limited out on the ducks five days out of seven, plus I got 16 Canada geese. One morning, we limited out on the ducks by 7:30 a.m.

"The hunting is easy to moderate. A hunting license is \$80 NZD for a year. A firearms license to bring shotguns into the country is \$25 NZD.

"The country is spectacular, and there seems to be very little poverty. We had a lot of fun touring the country. Most of the farms are sheep, dairy and beef. There has been major expansion in the dairying, and the northern part of South Island has many beautiful vineyards and wineries. **This is a great trip and many tourists visit New Zealand at this time of year.**

Cost of the trip was \$450 US/day including meals and lodging. Costs for ammunition, three-inch shells, were \$14 US for lead and \$19 for steel.

James Gray Hunting & Fishing New Zealand, 149 Flaxton Rd., RD#1, Kalapoi, South Island, NZ; 011-6433137928 or 011-0274368372; www.jamesgrayhunting.com; james.gray@xtra.co.nz.

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

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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)

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 _____

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