

Dateline: Colorado

Excellent Five Species Bird Hunting

- **Timetable:** Sept. 1 to March 31
- **Accommodations:** Upscale luxury lodge, private cabins, “Out of Africa” tents
- **Food:** European and Southwestern
- **Hunt:** Easy to Moderate

Since the **BHR’s** most recent report on the **High Lonesome Ranch** in January 2008, the wing shooting program has been completely overhauled and tremendously expanded. Serious bird hunters can expect these enhancements to significantly improve their hunts as well as their overall ranch experiences. In short, there are nearly eight times as many bird dogs, two full-time dog trainers, a year-round dog training program, more species of birds to hunt, improved lodging, educated instructors, new clays games and a fresh take on culinary mastery.

In the previous report, the ranch hunted six dogs, which were a split between pointing and flushing Labs. **Now, the kennel consists of 46 dogs**



across four breeds: English pointers, pointing Labs, flushing Labs, and golden retrievers. The wing shooting guides at the ranch still offer the pointer/

flusher combination in the field, but now hunters will get to see a variety of excellent dogs work the coverts. The kennel is a state-of-the-art indoor facility with air conditioning, a necessity given the summer’s 110-degree, dry heat. English pointers are a natural fit for warm weather patterns on Colorado’s Western Slope, and they’re particularly well suited for covering a lot of ground to find birds.

Brett and Robbie Arnold, the father/son team who founded Montrose, Colorado’s High Country Sporting Dogs, have joined the High Lonesome team to handle the entire dog training and wing shooting programs. They offer their expertise in working with the ranch dogs and also accept private dogs for boarding and training. The Arnolds train both pointers and flushers alike, and with the incredible number of

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Special Report

Duck Numbers Hold Steady Across North America

According to Ducks Unlimited, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s preliminary report on mid-continent breeding ducks and habitats says North American ducks are holding their own. Based on surveys conducted in May, the report estimates the total duck population to be nearly 41 million, which is similar to last year’s estimate and 21 percent above the long-term average.

“These are encouraging numbers as we see most species are at or

above their long-term averages,” said Dale Humburg, Ducks Unlimited chief biologist. “The habitat conditions in many regions should support a good breeding effort.”

Habitat conditions across the U.S. and Canadian prairies and parklands were generally good. **However, further north, wetland conditions in boreal regions of Alaska and northern Canada were only fair at the time of the survey.** During the survey and into early summer, many regions important to breeding ducks received significant precipitation, which could increase later breeding efforts and ensure brood survival. If these wet conditions con-

tinue, prospects going into the winter and possibly into spring 2011 could be favorable as well.

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coverts and the large resident and hold-over bird populations, their dogs always get a lot of contacts. The father and son are among the most sought after guides at the ranch. Dog training is open to the public by the month for puppies or for seasoned dogs in need of extra work.

At last report, three species of birds were hunted at the High Lonesome Ranch: pheasant, chukars and Hungarian partridge. **In 2008, the ranch staff began an early release program for scaled and Gamble's quail that has turned into an excellent addition.**

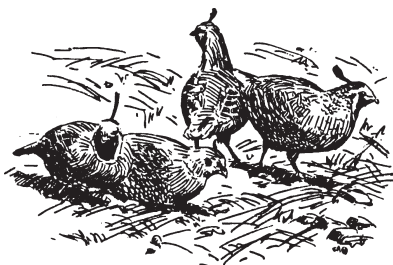
According to the staff, holdover birds as well as several dozen breeding pairs were found on the ranch in 2009, and prospects for 2010 are encouraging. **Hunting for these five species of birds is exciting, particularly when gunners encounter the combination of singles and pairs with the frequent covey rises.**

Wild blue grouse hunting is not currently offered for 2010. Conservation and habitat enhancements are underway for improving breeding leks. If populations show signs of improvement in 2011 and beyond, the program might be reopened.

Several improvements have been made to the ranch's lodging, and hunters have their choice of several different options. First, guests have an option of their rooms. At the top end, luxury guest suites with commanding views and private baths have been added to both the Guest House and the Pond House. In the middle price point, suites with private baths are available, and economically-priced rooms with shared baths are available as well. For guests desiring a truly private stay, two cabins, Forshay and Homestead, have been remodeled and serve as options for small groups. Homestead Cabin overlooks two trout ponds in the front yard. As if that's not enough, there are nearly a dozen canvas "Out of Africa" style tents at the Kimball Creek section. Each tent is fully furnished with beds,

furniture, and a wood-burning stove. The tent city is fun and elaborate, and terrific bird cover is in proximity to the ranch.

Instructors and clays have improved as well. All instructors are now NSCA Level 1 certified. Target presentation in the 5-stand has been changed to offer a series of instructional stations for new and beginning shooters, and some of the flight patterns are more challenging to keep intermediate to advanced shooters engaged. The Pheasant Walk takes shooters into a hunting-scenario where they walk through cover as clays are launched in flight patterns similar to what they will see during their hunt. New for 2009 was the Flurry Course, reminiscent of an English driven hunt. Between 20 and 60 clays per minute are thrown from the top of a ridge. Gunners are



positioned in a series of shooting butts/pegs at the bottom. The incoming targets fly at a variety of heights, with some being closer to the butts/pegs than others. The Flurry is fast, furious and fun. Predicated on the popularity of this station, the ranch is examining a driven-pheasant hunt for 2011-2012.

Chef Jordan Asher, of Houston, Texas, is new to the ranch since the previous report. This 20-something is far more experienced than his age accounts for, having run his own catering company while working at Houston's noteworthy Ibiza Food and Wine Bar. **Asher breaks traditions and dazzles guests by mixing European with Southwestern ingredients and tastes to produce a Modern American style** that focuses on a local/regional "food to the table" approach. What Asher particularly likes is growing his own fruits, vegetables, and herbs. His is an instinctive cooking of sorts, and he often combines hot with cold, dense with airy, crispy with chewy, and spicy with refreshing. The end result is an appetizer, entrée and desert that absolutely burst with flavor and taste. You're guaranteed to leave the dinner table refreshed and encouraged to try some of his techniques when you return home.



For Bird Shooters & Waterfowlers

Publisher
Stuart Brunson

Managing Editor
Tom Carney
tom-bhr@hughes.net

Senior Editor
John Gosselin
john@uplandalmanac.com

Senior Correspondent
Gary Kramer

Publisher Emeritus
Tod Sedgwick

Production/Advertising Manager
Kathy Thorne

Illustrations
Gordon Allen

Circulation 301-528-0011

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

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High Lonesome caters to groups by offering activities that augment the wing shooting program. The cast and blast (trout fishing/bird hunting) just improved with the addition of a new ranch, the historic K-T. Hunters who want to take a break from the birds find 7.1 miles of the White River and three spring creeks nearby. Or they can fly fish any of the 18 spring-fed ponds for brown, rainbow, brook, and cuttbow trout or spin fish for largemouth bass and

panfish. **The Cook-What-You-Caught program is for any nonsporting spouse or for any sportsman looking to learn a few new techniques.** Participants spend four hours with the ranch's executive chef learning how to prepare the trout they had caught or the birds they'd shot, and then they enjoy them for dinner that evening.

Reciprocal golf packages can be arranged through one of three area courses. One very popular package is a

four night/three day wing shooting, fishing, and golfing outing. Add horseback riding, hiking, mountain biking, among other activities to the mix and your family or business colleagues can find an activity to do while you hunt.

High Lonesome Ranch, 970-283-9420, www.thehighlonesomeranch.com, info@thehighlonesomeranch.com.

—Tom Keer

Duck Numbers for North America (from page 1)

Mallards, gadwalls, green-winged teal, northern shovelers and redheads mirrored last year's numbers, and all remained above their long-term averages. Canvasback and American wigeon numbers were similar to last year's, as were pintail and scaup numbers, although populations of these two species remain below their long-term averages.

2010 Estimates of May Ponds and Breeding Ducks (in millions)				
Species	2009	2010	% change From 2009	% Change from Long-term Avg.
May Ponds (U.S. & CAN)	6.434	6.665	4%	34%
Total Ducks	42.005	40.893	-3%	21%
Mallard	85.12	8.43	-1%	12%
Gadwell	3.054	2.977	-3%	67%
American wigeon	2.469	2.425	-2%	-7%
Green-winged teal	3.444	3.476	1%	78%
Blue-winged teal	7.384	6.329	-14%	36%
Northern shoveler	4.376	4.059	-7%	76%
Northern pintail	3.225	3.509	9%	-13%
Redhead	1.044	1.064	2%	63%
Canvasback	0.662	0.585	-12%	3%
Scaup	4.172	4.244	2%	-16%

*indicates significant differences

"It's great to hear the report of steady duck populations, but habitat loss continues to be a significant threat to North America's waterfowl," said Dale Hall, DU CEO. "For most species,

this year's numbers are encouraging, but DU must remain dedicated to its mission of long-term, landscape-level habitat conservation if we are to meet the life-cycle needs of the continent's

waterfowl."

"I would expect to see a fall flight similar to last year's," Humburg says. "But everyone must keep in mind that weather and habitat strongly influence the timing and distribution of ducks in the fall flight, and these factors are very dynamic. Although I'm optimistic about the 2010 fall flight, it's several months before the season opens, and a lot could happen to migration and wintering habitat before then."

Learn more about the USFWS survey: <http://www.ducks.org/Conservation/Habitat/4994/WaterfowlBreedingandHabitatSurveys.html>.

Dateline: Eastern Maine

Down East Grouse and Woodcock

- **Timetable:** October – November
- **Accommodations:** Modern cabins (camping available too)
- **Food:** Regional home cooking
- **Hunt:** Moderate

The Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife had declared **grouse and woodcock an under-utilized resource**, and coincidentally the same year a story came out regarding the ex-

pansion of logging in lower Maine. This sounded like the perfect storm for grouse and woodcock hunting! **Combined with the picturesque changing of the seasons in the coastal area of Maine just north of Machias in the Edmunds Township, expectations ran high.**

I found **Bill Robinson of Denny's River Guide Service** through a series of local inquiries. A third-generation registered Maine guide, Bill and his family have spent generations living right in the area where the hunting takes place. Operated as a separate business from the

guide service, **Robinson's Cabins, owned by Bill's parents, is where the accommodations were arranged in fully outfitted modern cabins surrounding a private lake.** The price was extremely reasonable and helped overcome the temptation to accept their offer to set up a tent camp for the rustic setting in fresh air and scenery. **You may bring your own dogs but there are no kennels available. They are welcome inside the cabins as long as you act responsibly with them.** If you do not bring your own dogs you will be hunting be-

hind Bill's experience pointer or setter and, depending on your preferences, his Labrador.

Bill explained that just prior to our arrival, he had scouted some areas within the 20,000+ acres of paper company property and private lands he has access to. This paid dividends when each spot we hunted produced some birds. Low hunting pressure and limited access to other hunters contributed to the outstanding number of grouse flushes we experienced. Recent timber harvest and good water levels in the lakes and streams in conjunc-

tion with good timing showed us enough woodcock to take a three-bird limit each day.

We opted to hunt two and a half days. **The rates were \$200 for a full day with \$100 for each additional person, up to three hunters total.** On a full-day's hunt be prepared to spend eight to 12 hours hiking through dense undergrowth and heavily wooded areas. The truck ride between spots is a welcome break. Robinson provides a tailgate lunch of assorted local foods that he prepares in his own kitchen as if he were making lunch

for himself and friends. The half-day rate is \$125 for one person and \$75 for each additional person. The hunt will last from four to six hours and does not include lunch.

There is a possibility of adding duck and goose hunting, fishing or a canoe trip on the Denny's River. Bill also guides deer and bear hunts during the respective seasons.

Bill Robinson, Denny's River Guide Service, 207-726-5579, www.dennysriverguide.com, info@dennysriverguide.com.

—Josef Riekers

Park Falls: "Ruffed Grouse Capital of the World"

- **Timetable:** Ruffed grouse: Sept. 18 to Jan. 31; Woodcock: Sept. 25 to Nov. 8
- **Accommodations:** Resorts, cabins, motels, bed & breakfasts, bunkhouse, campgrounds
- **Food:** Cook your own, local restaurants, chains
- **Hunt:** Easy to difficult

Park Falls is a hunter-friendly little town in northern Wisconsin surrounded by more than a million acres of national, state and county forests. **This huge expanse of public land contains the largest amount of extensively managed ruffed grouse habitat in North America.** Park Falls has all the credentials to rightfully earn its self-applied nickname, "The Ruffed Grouse Capital of the World."

Recent drumming counts by the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources reveal the Park Falls area has increasing bird numbers this year compared to a general downswing statewide. As Pat Beringer, DNR wildlife biologist in Park Falls says, "We always have birds."

Park Falls is known for the great abundance of public lands available to bird hunters. For a first timer, hiring a guide can be the best way to find birds and get a feeling for the enormity of the place. Sue Holm, executive director of the **Park Falls Chamber of Commerce,**

recommends three guiding services in the Park Falls area: Ides Guides, Flambeau Sport Outfitters and Hilgart's Oasis Guide Service. All these guides have dogs, or hunters can bring their own.



Guide rates range around \$200 a day per gun for two hunters. Flambeau Sports Outfitters throws in bunkhouse lodging as part of the deal.

Guided or not, hunters need maps here. They are free and important. The right map reveals bird habitat, hunter walking trails and ATV trails. ATV trails get shot up fast and get busier every year. **Ruffed Grouse Society regional wildlife biologist Gary Zimmer recommends contacting the U.S. Forest Service in the Chequamegon National Forest.** Maps are available online and at the Park Falls office. **Maps show hunter walking trails closed to motorized traffic, aspen age classes and backwoods areas with grouse cover not visible from main roads.**

The Price County Forestry Dept. offers hunter walking trail maps online

and at its office in Phillips. Its maps also illustrate other public lands in the county along with private land open to hunting under the managed forest law program.

The Wisconsin DNR has developed about 15 miles of trails in the Hay Creek-Hoffman Lake Wildlife Area just northeast of Park Falls. A number of trails are also maintained in the Flambeau River State Forest just southeast of Park Falls.

Sand and gravel roads throughout the national, state and county forests are legally huntable roads and can be good hunting but like ATV trails, generally get shot up early.

It's always wise to carry maps and to have along both a compass and a GPS. The compass comes in handy when GPS batteries die or it gets lost. **This is big country, easy to get lost in, and it offers no place to spend the night!**

The ruffed grouse season opens in mid-September when hunting conditions can be warm and muggy, mosquito-infested in the heavy leaf cover and birdy. At these times, hunters are best advised to stay on roads and trails. **Grouse are still covered up in September, and multiple flushes are fairly common, but good shooting opportunities are rare in thick leaf cover.**

Autumn weather in the north woods is normally fairly dry. Late September nights usually get a dose of light frost, and the days see temperatures in the 60s. Average October weather has heavy frost at night

with 50s, maybe 60s during the day.

Early October begins prime time. The leaves are falling, the weather is cooler, the woodcock are migrating through and flushed birds are visible long enough to get a shot. Prime time lasts until mid-November, up until the deer season begins on the third week-end of the month.

Park Falls is a lake and river tourist destination in summer and lodging opportunities are abundant. From the smallest motel to well-complemented lodges, most places are hunter and dog friendly.

A couple good dog-friendly B&Bs with wireless Internet include the Munroe Manor and Deer Haven Lodge for around \$100/night. In town, there's a **Super 8** with wireless Internet, the only chain, for less than \$70/night. The other five motels in town are mom and pop kinds of places run by hunter- and dog-friendly people and range from \$35 to \$70/night total for two hunters. Almost all have Internet access.

Lakeside resorts and vacation rental cottages and cabins are common around Park Falls and offer cabins for two to four hunters with prices ranging from \$60/night to \$800/week to more than \$2,000/week for a high-end log cabin retreat set up for eight people. Most cabins do not offer Internet access but main lodges do.

Flambeau Sports offers some unique north woods lodging in its four-man bunkhouses for \$20/night total with some amenities like hot showers, refrigerator, utensils, cook stove, oven, wood heat (wood provided), bunks, mattresses (bring sleeping bag & pillow) and dogs are welcome. **Guides' clients can stay here for free.** Flambeau also offers an isolated hand-hewn log cabin for four hunters on 10 acres near a trout stream. The cabin has gaslights, gas cook stove, wood heat, loft and a privy for \$45/night total, and dogs are welcome.

Campgrounds are plentiful and almost empty during bird season all around Park Falls on county, state and federal forest lands.

Lodging in Park Falls is best found at the user-friendly Chamber of Commerce website. Lodging is listed by B&Bs, motels, resorts and campgrounds with direct links to each for more info. **Hunters can avail themselves of a unique service**

from a local realty company. They can contact Hilgart Realty with the number of hunters and dogs that are coming, and Hilgart will present a list of lodging options and prices.

The chamber's website lists area dining opportunities by "Bar & Grill," "Family Restaurants" and "Supper Clubs." Park Falls may be small and



remote, but it's a tourist destination year round and has everything from Big Macs to T-bone steaks.

Hunters should take note of two important considerations.

First, the Park Falls area is wolf country. Wolves normally avoid people and are less likely to approach dogs accompanied by humans. Research shows dogs used for bird hunting are rarely attacked. Although several bear dogs were killed last year, the good news is in 2009 during the grouse season, no wolf attacks on bird dogs were reported although encounters occurred. If wolves are sighted, hunters should their leash dogs and leave the area.

Also, deer ticks, the kind that transmit Lyme disease, can be thick in the Park Falls area, and dogs should be protected with some form of vet-approved repellent. Ticks can be abundant in some places yet rare a few miles away, and their occurrence varies from year to year. Deer ticks are extremely small and hard to see. Lyme vaccinations are recommended for dogs, and hunters should examine themselves daily. **Vet care is available at the North Country Veterinary Clinic located 1 1/2 miles south of Park Falls just off of Hwy. 13.**

Nonresident seasonal hunting licenses are \$85; a five-day license is \$55. A Wisconsin resident seasonal license costs \$18.

Park Falls also offers some extra benefits to bird hunters needing a break from the long marches. There is high quality musky and walleye fishing in the area, and the same guides that offer bird hunts will take hunters fishing. **One of Wisconsin's best fishing adventures can be drift fishing the wild Flambeau River with guides from the Midway Bar.** The river and guides are legendary. Nonresident seasonal fishing licenses are \$55; a four-day license is \$24. A resident seasonal license is \$20.

On the second weekend of each October, during the peak of the bird hunting season, Park Falls celebrates its **Ruffed Grouse Fall Festival.** Local agencies and businesses set up educational and product displays with special offers and information for outdoor oriented men and women. An arts and crafts fair occurs all weekend and on Saturday night a hunters' dinner of outdoor grilled T-Bone steaks is offered. **This year the Ruffed Grouse Fall Festival occurs on the weekend of October 9.**

Motels and guides around Park Falls fill up fast, and it's not too early to make reservations now. If Park Falls proper is booked up, try checking the nearby towns of Fifield and Phillips.

For more information:

Park Falls Chamber of Commerce, www.parkfalls.com

Hilgart Realty, 800-236-8792.

Guides: **Ides Guides, www.idesguides.com; Flambeau Sport Outfitters www.flambeausports.com; Hilgart's Oasis Guide Service, rhilgarts@centurytel.net; Midway Bar, <http://midwayflambeauriver.com/info-c.htm>.**

Licenses and wolf info: Wisconsin DNR, www.dnr.state.wi.us.

Maps: www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf/; www.co.price.wi.us/government/ForestryDepartment/Non%20Motorized%20Trails.htm; http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/wildlife_areas/hayhoffman.htm; <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/StateForests/SF-Flambeau>.

North Country Veterinary Clinic; 715-762-2079; emergency number (24 hours a day, seven days a week), 715-661-0718.

—Doug Stamm

Briefly Noted

Things to Do, Places to Go, New Developments

Argentina —World-class Dove Hunting in Cordoba

Ralph Brendle writes that River Bend will be leading a trip to **Estancia Los Chanares in September**.

River Bend will make all the necessary reservations, including air travel.

Shooters can expect “high volume” dove hunting with more than 20 million doves on the property at any given time.

Trip highlights: Five-star resort setting, best beef and cigars in Argentina, guaranteed action-packed hunting, most roosts no more than a five minute-drive away.

For more info: **River Bend Sportsman’s Resort, Ralph Brendle, 800-516-9606, www.rvrhend.com, ralph@rvrbend.com.**

...

BP Oil Spill — Two Items Probable Effects on Waterfowl Hunting in Louisiana

From nola.com, by Bob Marshall, The Times-Picayune:

There’s a lot of panic going on right now among Louisiana’s coastal waterfowlers. **It’s not just the threat BP’s oil poses to the marshes and deltas that are the wintering habitat for ducks and geese. It’s also plans some federal agencies have to slow the migration to those endangered habitats.**

Maybe the best way to explore these worries is with some basic Q and A.

How does oil threaten waterfowl?

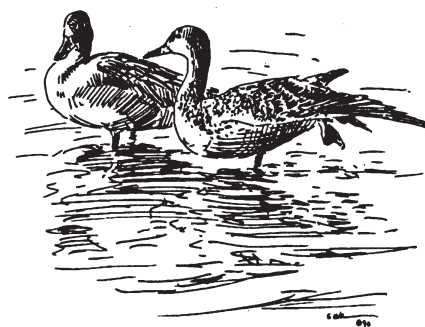
Ducks, like all birds, face two main threats from oil: poison and hypothermia. Oiled feathers reduce flight potential but also lose their ability to protect a bird from cold and heat. **Birds that become heavily oiled during the colder winter months will certainly die**, said Larry Reynolds, waterfowl study leader for the Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries.

But birds understand that threat, which is why they are meticulous about keeping clean. When a feather gets oiled, a bird will immediately try to clean itself, a process called preening, using

its bill and tongue to remove the oil. **And that leads to another threat: The bird can ingest toxins resulting in damage to internal organs and death.**

Which species face the greatest threat?

Ducks are divided in two major categories: Divers swim in deeper lakes,



bays and coastal waters, and include species such as scaup (dos gris), redheads and canvasbacks. Dabblers or “puddle ducks” spend their time in the shallow interior marshes and include species like teal, gadwall (grays), widgeon, pintail and mallard.

Divers face the gravest threat for obvious reasons: By the time they arrive in the fall, more than 300 million gallons of oil will have spewed into the Gulf. Divers will be swimming in water where oil could be on the surface or diving in areas where oil might be suspended in the water column.

It’s hard to judge what the threat will be to puddle ducks, which are most of the ducks that winter in our area. Currently, little oil has reached interior marshes, where these species will be looking for food and roosting sites. But there is oil along the shorelines of bays on the southern end of the estuaries, and more is expected to come ashore. Puddle ducks foraging in these areas could become oiled.

There is also the fear that tropical storm surges could push waves of oil into interior marshes. If that happens, the risk increases for puddle ducks, but how serious that threat would be no one can say for sure. Will the ducks stay in oiled areas looking for food, or will they visit

briefly, then leave? Will each successive migration caused by cold fronts expose new birds to being oiled?

Are the feds planning to short-stop birds to keep them from the oiled areas?

Yes — but it won’t be as bad as that sounds. Two things are going on here: **The Natural Resources Conservation Service (part of the Dept. of Agriculture), working with Ducks Unlimited, has \$20 million to pay landowners in eight states to flood fields in the hope they can prevent some birds from ending up in oiled coastal marshes or at least slow their arrival here.**

That program is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which has regulatory responsibility for migratory waterfowl. The Service is looking at its own program — an effort to expand waterfowl feeding areas on some of its refuges and close others north of the coast to hunting.

Although this has been billed in some areas as an attempt to change the migration, few waterfowl biologists — in government or at private groups —

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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 **Curtis L. Frisbie, Gary Sanden and Mark Rousseau.**

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.

think it will come near that mark. **At best, they're hoping to keep some of the 13 million waterfowl that pass through our coastal areas each year from getting oiled.**

"We think we can make a difference in localized areas," said Paul Schmidt, USFWS assistant director for migratory birds.

In fact, while some southern hunters were up in arms about "short-stopping" the migration, Schmidt was more concerned about disappointing hopes that many ducks could be kept from the coast.

"Frankly, weather and (daylight periods) is what moves most ducks, and there's nothing we can do to control that. We don't want to get people's hopes up, but at the same time we can't just sit back and not do anything, because the potential (for harm) is there."

Reynolds also is not concerned the projects will stop large numbers of ducks from reaching south Louisiana.

"Most of these projects will be within 50 to 100 miles of the coast," he said. "DU has drawn a line from Texas to Alabama, which it will not work above. So, while some of this might stop some birds short of the coast, they'll still be in south Louisiana."

What about the projects that are planned for further up the flyway — in Mississippi's delta country and even southern Missouri?

No one is really sure, but the science shows it probably won't work. Besides, the Service is legally charged with protecting migratory birds from unregulated dangers. Schmidt worries about this worst case scenario: a tropical storm season that floods interior marshes with oil, followed by an early and hard winter up north that drives bird toward those marshes.

Is there a chance hunting season could be reduced or cancelled if the oil gets bad?

Yes, the Service and the state have that authority. But in all likelihood, the oil will have a self-regulating impact on hunters' effort: Who will want to take boats, gear and dogs into an oiled marsh — and oiled birds won't be flying.

What should hunters be doing now?

Don't panic. Keep careful watch of what is happening in the Gulf and along

the coast, pray that BP finally stops its disaster, and that the hurricane season turns out to be lame.

Get ready to hunt, but be prepared to look for blinds in other areas of the state and region.

Report Banded Birds to Help Scientific Research

A large percentage of birds captured because of the oil spill are being successfully treated and released back into



the wild. These birds are being fitted with leg bands that provide identifying information to assist scientists in studying these birds after release. Among other information, scientists will learn the extent to which released birds return to their original habitat.

Birds from the BP oil spill are banded with metal federal leg bands with a unique ID number. In addition, brown pelicans also receive a large color leg band. Three colors of leg bands are being used: **Orange bands** with no identification numbers or letters, **red bands** with identifying numbers and letters and **pink bands** with identifying numbers and letters.

People who see the birds are asked to report sightings to: **National Bird Banding Lab** <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/default.htm>.

Texas — Violence in Mexico Helps Stateside Outfitters

From caller.com:

Violence in Mexico may result in a resurgence of the Rio Grande Valley whitewing tradition.

When white-winged doves first flourished in the Rio Grande Valley, thousands of wing shooters from faraway would gather there for a taste of the exotic.

Those two blazing hot weekends

offered hunters in the 1970s their only shot at the elusive game bird within the United States.

But the novelty faded somewhat as the Texas population of white-winged doves spread northward and became common in fields around most urban centers. But still the Rio Grande Valley holds an abundant population of birds.

But back then more and more hunters began crossing into Mexico where liberal bag limits and convenient lodging provide a superior wing shooting experience with all the hospitality extras. Competition among Mexico dove outfitters resulted in a range of comfort levels and prices. Business was improving south of the border, while mostly only the best Rio Grande Valley outfitters survived.

Then Mexico's illegal drug trade and the ensuing violence changed everything. Sensational publicity and misconceptions regarding the whereabouts of violence further eroded the sense of safety travelers felt. **Mexico's bookings have dropped dramatically.**

Then arguably the finest wing shooting lodge in Mexico, Rancho Caracol, announced it was canceling its whitewing season. Owner Dean Putegnat of Brownsville said he is tentatively planning to reopen for the quail and mourning dove seasons in November, when he will reexamine the situation regarding safety.

In the relatively safe Mexico state of Coahuila, Rio Grande Rancho's manager said he's booked fewer than 40 hunts for the coming whitewing season in August. He usually books that many for opening weekend.

Double Eagle Outfitters is suffering too. Double Eagle owner Humberto Gomez also offers hunts in Coahuila, near Peidras Negras just across the border from Eagle Pass. He's seen about a 60 percent decline in business, which he attributes to a poor economy and safety concerns.

Meanwhile some dove outfitters in the Rio Grande Valley have taken advantage of these concerns by marketing themselves as a safe almost-Mexico experience.

Bobby Settles, with Palm Valley Outfitters (txlodge.com), handles lodging, hunting and fishing on both sides

of the border. Guests who might be wary of Mexico have been opting for one of his Rio Grande Valley trips.

Settles is suggesting that for the first two weekends in September, the Special Whitewing Zone's noontime shooting time is perfect for a morning of bay fishing. Tens of thousands of acres are available throughout the Valley for dove hunting. Settles alone has access to about 5,000 acres of sunflower fields from Brownsville to the Weslaco area.

"They figure, why risk it?" Settles said. "The hospitality is the same. The food is just as good. And so is the dove hunting. We can offer north of the border safety with a south of the border flare."

Dove Hunting Opportunities

Whitewing Zone (Sept. 4-5 & 11-12)

White Wing Ranch & Casa Arroyo City — www.txlodge.com; jeff@txlodge.com; 800-533-7299 or 956-428-5666.

Rancho Viejo Whitewing Outfitters (Brownsville and northward with lodging available) — 956-789-8355; ortizhunts@gmail.com.

Mathers Ranch (Brownsville area) — 956-542-2223; www.texasdovehunt.com.

Luther Young — 361-296-4151.

Los Vicinos Lodge (Uvalde/Sabinal whitewing zone and south/central zones) — 830-278-4005.

Outdoor Destinations (Mexico white-winged hunts and Texas dove hunts) — 956-380-2303.

Cris Perez (Whitewing and South Zone) — 956-423-8991; rgvdovehunts@att.net.

Les Tisdale (Hidalgo County whitewing & mourning dove) — 956-702-7676.

South & Central Zones

John Borntrager (Bee County) — 361-362-1408.

Los Vicinos Lodge (Uvalde/Sabinal) — 830-278-4005.

White Wing Ranch (South Zone) — www.txlodge.com; jeff@txlodge.com; 800-533-7299.

Ultimate Hunts (Central Zone) — 210-260-3355.

Huntmasters of Texas (South & Central) — 210-643-6660; huntmastersoftexas.com.

oftexas.com.

Dan Moore (George West area) — 361-813-6303.

Brooks Ranch (Swinney Switch) — 361-881-8975.

Poco Loco Lodge (Falfurrias) — 361-325-4551; pocolocolodge.com.

Ronald Rychetsky (Orange Grove) — 361-387-1491.

Larry Ebest (South Zone) — 361-548-5829 or bayfish@usawide.net.

Mike Miles (Freer) — 210-347-



0173 or miles1868@hotmail.com.

Campbell Hunting (South & Central) — 361-438-3306; campbellhunting@aol.com.

Knolle Farm and Guest Ranch (Sandia) — 361-547-2546; www.knolle.com.

Luther Young (Valley and Kingsville area) — 361-296-4151.

Mark Katzsey (George West area) — 361-449-1151.

Wild Horse Lodge (Riviera) — 361-584-3098.

Shane Johanson — 361-786-2769.

Las Palomas WMA — 956-383-8982.

2-B Ranch (George West area) — 361-649-0787.

Casa Monte Lodge (Carizo Springs) — 830-876-2271.

Mexico Hunts

Double Eagle Expeditions (Coahuila) — 830-255-4443; www.doubleeagle.com.mx.

Rio Grande Rancho (Coahuila) — Bob Carter 512-695-0123; www.riogranderancho.com.

Rancho Caracol (whitewing season cancelled) — 888-246-3164 or ranchocaracol.com.

Las Palomas de Loma Colorado (Tamaulipas) — 800-331-8919; staff@thefishhawk.com.

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Close-Up on Canada — Two Reports

Hunting Season Extended to Control Population Explosion

Canada's namesake bird has been making a nuisance of itself and it looks like it's time to pay — dearly.

The Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada has extended the hunting season for Canada geese in an attempt to prevent a population explosion, said Martin Raillard, manager of population conservation for the Atlantic region.

Nova Scotia has two populations of Canada geese. There are the migratory birds that visit the province briefly every spring and fall on their way to and from their Arctic breeding grounds and then there are a group of homebodies who never go anywhere.

"Maybe they're smarter and just don't want to do all that flying," Raillard said.

But the lazy birds have been causing problems for some landowners.

Raillard knows of a population that was being troublesome around Sandy Bottom Lake in Annapolis County and he has heard of a group that ate most of the crop at a Nova Scotia cranberry farm.

There are about 6,600 non-migratory Canada geese in the province, but the numbers have been rapidly increasing.

Raillard speculated that the group likely started from a pair or two that weren't able to fly any farther during the migration, stopped in the province and managed to survive the winter. Once those geese had offspring, their families would have been imprinted to believe Nova Scotia was home, he said.

And, it turns out, Nova Scotia is a great place for geese to live, Raillard said. **The average mom and pop produce five goslings a year and most of those offspring will survive, he said. Geese can live up to 20 years and are mature enough to reproduce by their third year.**

And then they keep going until they drop, Raillard said.

Last fall, the wildlife service approached the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture and proposed the goose cull.

It is legal to hunt Canada geese in season, but that season has now been

increased by six to 11 days in various areas of the province.

The extension is intended to target local birds and will be held before the migratory geese usually start touching down in the province, Raillard said.

The extended hunt is also limited to farm fields.

Hunters must obtain a migratory-bird hunting permit and are limited to eight birds a day and a maximum of 16, Raillard said.

As well, hunters have to get permission from landowners before hunting on farm fields, Melvin said.

“It gives (farmers) peace of mind that hunters aren’t going to be charging around their field randomly shooting,” Melvin said.

Southern Ontario has also been battling a burgeoning population of geese and that province has also created an early hunt. New Brunswick and Quebec also recently extended their hunts, Raillard said.

From Coast to Coast, This Place Holds Promise for Waterfowlers

By Brad Fenson, wildfowlmag.com:

Canada has a vast and diverse array of wetlands that provide nesting, rearing and staging water for an incredible number of waterfowl species. **It’s a virtual cornucopia of adventure for traveling waterfowl hunters.**

The northern territories are vast wilderness — home to many species of ducks and geese. It is the production factory for the small Canada geese often referred to as cacklers, as well as snow geese, specklebellies and Ross’s geese. All four flyways are fed by geese, dabblers, divers and sea ducks raised in this region that spans the width of North America.

Unique opportunities exist along the coast of the Arctic Ocean from east to west. The Northwest Territories has incredible gunning along the large staging lakes. Hunters setting up on the Canadian Shield will feel like they’re hunting sea ducks, but without the tides and salt water. Nunavut includes a vast number of islands that reach to the top of the world. **Liberal limits and unique opportunities are available as early as Aug. 15.** Eiders, scoters and oldsquaws

nest and congregate before migrating. In the Yukon, birds concentrate and funnel through major river corridors and areas such as Nisutlin River Delta.

Outfitters serve many areas of the north, but in some cases, hunting is set



up through local hunter and trapper organizations.

Pacific Coast

British Columbia is well known for its Rocky Mountains that were recently displayed to the world during the 2010 Winter Olympics. It might not come across as a waterfowl Mecca, but the Pacific Flyway offers unique waterfowl hunting, including species such as brant and harlequin ducks. **The coast sees large migrations of birds and the agricultural communities in the north-eastern portion of the province offer duck and goose hunting that rivals the rest of the Prairie Provinces.** The lower mainland winters large numbers of dabblers, divers and geese.

Late goose seasons extend into March, and ducks seasons run into January. Pacific brant are a highly sought species by waterfowl collectors. A 10-day brant season in early March features a two-bird limit with four in possession.

Prairie/Parkland

The Canadian prairie is well known for incredible mallard and honker hunts. **But the region has incredible waterfowl diversity, with a multitude of divers and dabblers.**

Manitoba is known for divers on historic waters like Delta Marsh, but the other two provinces offer great staging numbers of canvasbacks, redheads, goldeneyes and bluebills. **Goose fanatics know the snow geese numbers are unbelievable.** Alberta and Saskatchewan offer some of the best specklebelly and Ross’s goose hunting on the continent.

Canada goose populations are 500 percent to more than 2,000 percent over

the long-term average, so the area has become a well-known destination for honkers. Specklebellies show up in late August, and hunting peaks in early October. Although mallards are the main draw, hunters can target an incredible diversity of dabblers that stage in good numbers in September and early October.

Southern Alberta provides good late-season hunting, with seasons extending to late December. Saskatchewan, in the heart of the prairies and the parkland lakes, stages unbelievable numbers of all waterfowl. Manitoba has unique destinations such as the Whiteshell region for hunting bluebills, and Oak Hammock Marsh, which stages thousands of geese and ducks.

Ontario

Ontario stretches across central Canada and is the northern border to most of the Great Lakes. Most of the province is Canadian Shield, with deep lakes better known for outstanding fishing. Southern Ontario has a well-established agricultural community, and the ducks and geese know where to take advantage of the feed. Mallards, black ducks, ring-necked ducks and wood ducks account for much of the kill.

The province provides outstanding Canada goose hunting. **Waterfowl from the central and eastern Arctic migrate through Ontario, providing great diversity.**

Quebec

Quebec borders the St. Lawrence Seaway, a hotspot for waterfowl. Most of this large province is made up of large lakes and rocky outcroppings across the Canadian Shield.

The region is better known among caribou hunters, but **birds hatched in this part of the world stage in southern Quebec, where they find the first agricultural fields to feed on high-protein crops.** Lakes, marshes, rivers and bays on larger water bodies all provide opportunity. It doesn’t matter whether you like teal, black ducks or snow geese, you’ll be able to find them in Quebec. The Seaway attracts sea duck species such as oldsquaws, eiders and scoters.

Atlantic Maritimes

The Bay of Fundy, in Nova Scotia, is world renowned for incredible tides that surge and pull from the Atlantic Ocean, but **waterfowl enthusiasts rec-**

ognize the region as one of the best sea duck destinations anywhere. The productive area draws staging birds and is a highlight just to visit. The Atlantic coast is also part of Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, which all offer sea duck seasons and liberal limits.

Organized outfitters can help plan a successful hunt around historic migrations.

Eastern Canadian provinces also offer good gunning for a number of smaller dabblers, as well as the popular mallard and American black duck. Merganser seasons are popular with locals and offer unique opportunities for hunters looking for something new.

The potato fields of Prince Edward Island offer awesome Canada goose hunting — further proof these birds are highly adaptable to a wide array of agricultural practices.

•••

“Open Fields” — Multiple Groups Share Credit

Ducks Unlimited: Ducks Unlimited’s support for a new federal program is starting to pay off with more opportunities for hunters, which will help maintain the country’s hunting traditions. Under a recently launched U.S. Dept. of Agriculture initiative called “Open Fields,” landowners can receive a financial incentive in exchange for opening lands to the public for outdoor recreation.

“Open Fields gives landowners one more incentive to share with hunters the habitat they’re conserving and encourages landowners to use best-management practices for maintaining that habitat,” said Dr. Scott Stephens, DU director of conservation planning for Ducks Unlimited’s Great Plains Region.

Approved in the 2008 Farm Bill, Open Fields will provide \$50 million for states to create or expand voluntary hunter-access programs on private lands. DU worked with partners in the wildlife community to support the measure in Congress and obtain funding for it. **Estimates are Open Fields could open more than 4 million new acres of private land to public hunting and fishing annually.**

States with public access and walk-in programs have significantly smaller hunter decline numbers than those without. “Any way to turn around the trend

of declining numbers of hunters is also good news for conservation,” Stephens said. “Hunters consistently invest the most dollars in conservation, so any program that will make it easier to hunt is good for maintaining waterfowl habitat.”

Stephens stressed that Open Fields will also bring new dollars into rural economies. “Hunters bring a big boost to local communities each fall,” he said. “Landowners who receive the incentives will also have money to invest locally.”

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Union Sportsmen’s Alliance: Support from America’s labor unions that helped pass “Open Fields” legislation soon will pay off.

In March 2007, two union presidents, William Hite of the Plumbers and



Pipefitters and Kinsey Robinson of the Roofers, testified before the United States Congress regarding the importance of Open Fields legislation to rank and file members of all the nation’s unions, leaving little doubt that union sportsmen wanted the legislation passed. Likewise, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka led the charge on Open Fields to members of Congress and the union community, even penning an Op-Ed on Open Fields for the *Des Moines Register* in the heart of America’s farm country.

“America’s union sportsmen, led by AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, endorsed the Open Fields hunter-access program,” said TRCP President and CEO Whit Fosburgh. “Many national unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO joined together to push for Open Fields, as did scores of rank-and-file union members from across the country. They have seen the declines in sporting opportunities in their backyards and did something about it.”

“When Open Fields legislation was

introduced, the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance (USA), as a program of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, did its part to organize support for the bill among its trade unions partners,” said USA Executive Director Fred Myers. “Now a stand-alone organization, the USA will continue to support the TRCP in its efforts to see that Open Fields is fully funded and effectively implemented to improve access to quality places to hunt and fish for all sportsmen and –women.”

Open Fields legislation was drafted in 2002 by biologist Terry Riley working in partnership with the TRCP. Over the next six years, the TRCP worked to refine, rewrite and reintroduce the bill.

Open Fields was authorized by Congress for the first time in the 2008 Farm Bill thanks, in part, to the Union Sportsmen’s Alliance and the backing of the AFL-CIO and many of its affiliated unions, their leaders and rank and file union members.

•••

Nevada — Nevada Fall Turkey Hunt Closed for 2010

From Outdoor Wire:

Due to declines in turkey population numbers, low hunter success, and based on the recommendation of the Nevada Dept. of Wildlife (NDOW), the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners closed the 2010 fall turkey season at its meeting in Ely on Saturday.

“Turkey populations in areas that have traditionally had a fall hunt have experienced declines,” said Shawn Espinosa, game biologist at NDOW. “Additionally, success during the fall hunt was relatively low last season (20-30 percent), and the number of hens being harvested is typically high for these hunts. In order to conserve adult hens and aid in population recovery, the closure of fall seasons was recommended.”

The fall turkey season was started in 1991 and has usually run from early October through early November. The annual spring turkey season will still be held beginning in late March and running through early May.

Espinosa reports that the closure is not permanent and believes the hunt will be reinstated once the population numbers rebound.

“We make evaluations each year. If

we see enough of a population increase and harvest numbers respond during the spring, then a fall hunt in 2011 may be possible,” said Espinosa. “I would suspect that recovery may take a couple of years though and largely depends on weather and habitat conditions. A fall hunt in 2012 is probably more likely if we see a decent response in turkey populations.”

• • •

North Dakota — North Dakota Pheasant Crowing Counts Down Again

By Curt Wells, wahpetondailnews.com:

North Dakota’s pheasant season in 2009 was the first in **what could be a string of consecutive declines in pheasant numbers.**

A difficult winter in 2008-09 took a toll on birds and reproduction wasn’t optimum.

Those factors lead to a subsequent decline in the number of hunters and in the number of roosters harvested in the fall of 2009. **Last season the number of resident hunters declined 20 percent to a total of 59,700 and the number of nonresident hunters dropped 15 percent to 28,700.**

The pheasant harvest was 651,700 roosters compared to 776,700 in 2008. The peak in recent years was in 2007 when the harvest reached 907,434 roosters.

If the spring crowing counts just completed are any indication, and they may not be, the decline in the quality of the pheasant season in North Dakota may continue in 2010.

The annual spring count conducted by the N.D. Game and Fish Dept. shows a statewide decline of 6 percent with some areas worse off.

The northwest was down 16 percent and the northeast was off 10 percent. Fortunately, the southwest and southeast regions showed numbers similar to those counted in 2009.

“This past winter did not appear to have a role in the lower crowing counts,” said Stan Kohn, upland game management supervisor. **“It is probably the result of a lower number of adult birds surviving the winter of 2008-09, coupled with poor production in spring 2009 because of cool, wet weather at the time of the hatch, resulting in chick mortality and fewer young entering the population last fall.”**

Even though the crowing counts were down, it doesn’t tell the whole story, according to Kohn.

“Hens are the segment of the population that determines the fall popula-



tion,” he said. “In spring 2009, field personnel noted the low number of hens with roosters (one to two hens per rooster) indicating the hen population might be smaller than usual. This spring there were no such observations reported.”

Another reason for optimism is the lush habitat in North Dakota this year.

Good moisture means plenty of cover for the young broods and lots of insects, especially grasshoppers, for the chicks to feed on.

All those factors contribute to the real dynamic that determines the quality of the fall hunt — reproduction.

The vast majority of the roosters bagged each year are young-of-the-year birds so if reproduction is good, so is the hunting.

Brood surveys are conducted from mid-July through September and the results of that effort will tell us just how good the pheasant hunting could be this fall.

The future of pheasant hunting also depends on how many Conservation Reserve Program acres are lost. North Dakota has already lost 700,000 acres and could lose a million more in the coming years.

There’s no doubt the current boom in pheasant populations, as well as many other species of wildlife, game and non-game, is a direct result of CRP.

If you’re intent on doing some scouting for the 2010 pheasant season, it might help you to know that the top counties for resident hunter pheasant harvest were Hettinger, Burleigh, Morton, McLean and Stark.

For nonresidents the best counties were Hettinger, Bowman, Emmons, McIntosh and Dickey. Last year pheas-

ant hunters spent an average of 4.4 days in the field and bagged an average of 7.4 roosters.

• • •

California — Lead Shot Ban Defeated

From <http://bit.ly/cbqSdw>:

A bill that would have banned hunters from using lead shot on state wildlife areas has been killed in committee.

Assembly Bill 2223 was defeated by a 4-3 vote in the Senate Natural Resources Committee on June 29, 2010. There are 667,000 acres in the Dept. of Fish and Game-managed network of wildlife areas, including a handful in the north state. At most of the state’s wildlife areas, including a handful in the north state, **hunters are currently allowed to use lead shot to hunt small game like rabbit, quail, turkey, dove and pheasant.**

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Georgia/Alabama — New Hunting Preserve

From Outdoor Wire:

The Southeast’s newest hunting preserve, Twisted Pine Hunting Preserve, will open for business Saturday, Sept. 4, the first day of dove season.

The preserve features over 2,100 acres of prime hunting land in east central Alabama and western Georgia. **Properties include 1,700 acres in Chambers County, Ala., for quality deer and turkey hunts and a 45-acre dove field in Harris County, Ga.**

Three and four day hunting packages, which include accommodations in comfortable cabins at Southern Harbor Marina on beautiful West Point Lake, are available for turkey and deer hunting, respectively. **Dove hunts are single day events.** Hunt packages also include access to all the options of West Point Lake.

The preserve is close enough to Atlanta, Columbus, Montgomery, Huntsville and Chattanooga to appeal to a wide range of hunting enthusiasts who want to hunt in a new location.

The property is intensively managed. Controlled burns, supplemental feed, mineral stations, food plots, predator control and selective harvests insure long-term success in providing quality, mature bucks, gobblers and dove for avid sport hunters.

For reservations: **706-643-5888, www.TwistedPineHuntingPreserve.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 _____

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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 _____

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

voice 301-528-0011 • fax 240-599-7679