

Dateline: Idaho

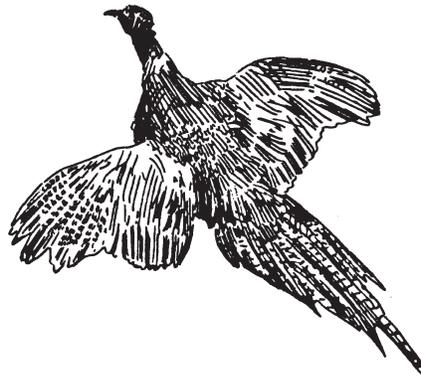
Pheasants, Chukars, Huns; also Ruffed and Blue Grouse and California Valley Quail

- **Timetable:** mid-August through mid-April
- **Accommodations:** Exquisite lodge
- **Food:** Regional fine dining
- **Hunt:** Easy to moderate, difficult if venturing onto steep terrains

Orvis Endorsed Flying B Ranch, located in north central Idaho, is a wing shooter's haven that also offers well above average amenities. **This is a very professionally run operation with the most courteous people you will find anywhere.**

Originally opened in 1986, Flying B Ranch encompasses 5,000 acres nestled in the Lawyer Creek Canyon near the town of Kamiah (pronounced kam-ee-ay), comprised of mostly

huntible terrain and game bird habitat. There are flat valley bottoms, rolling hillsides, all with native grasses, and flat tops of high ridges with dry crops



that offer food and cover as well where pheasants, chukars, Hungarian partridge and California valley quail can be found

in ample quantities. For those in prime physical condition, there are the rim rocks that circle the peaks on the property, offering classic wild chukar habitat and challenging shooting situations. There are also forested hillsides and ravines where both ruffed and blue (now called "dusky") grouse can be found. All of these species are endemic to the area, although the pheasants, chukars and Huns are understandably supplemented.

Veteran guide Courtney McLean runs well-handling setters and pointers, and birds were located for me on a regular basis. There are several other guides on staff as well, and all are knowledgeable at what they do. Gun safety is always stressed, a good thing for sure. Pheasants and chukars were most abundant followed by Huns. A mixed bag had been taken within the first hour of hunt-

(continued on page 2)

Dateline: England

Luxury Shoot for Driven Pheasant and Partridge

- **Timetable:** September to February
- **Accommodations:** Hotels and manor houses
- **Food:** Regional cuisine
- **Hunt:** Easy

Driven pheasant shoots in the West Country of England are steeped in tradition. From the country manor house accommodations and the loader that addresses you as "Sir" to the fine double guns that aren't just for show, **the rituals of the sport make this one of the**

most revered forms of wing shooting. And flying in the face of all this are the birds. First in singles and pairs, then in small flocks, all climbing for the treetops until they fill the sky. "Bird up" someone yells, and the shooting begins — high bird over, high birds right, shoot and follow through, make the second round count, pass the gun, take a second, shoulder and fire as fast as you can. Your pile of spent shells grows until the smoke clears and the gamekeeper signals the end of the drive with a horn.

The loaders case shotguns and collect the empty cartridges as the "pickers up" with their Labradors, cocker spaniels and golden retrievers go to work.

The gamekeeper likes what he sees and the gathered birds illustrate the success of the day. **A spot of tea or hot broth**

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Idaho... (from page 1)

ing, even with my poor shooting! In one instance, both chukars and Huns got up in the same flush. The pheasants were also very strong flyers. In fact, the entire area is very well populated with pheasants as we, going both to and from the Lewiston airport, saw them gathering grit along roadsides.

An interesting geographic characteristic of this region is the flat top ridges with loamy, fertile soil. Since irrigation is not practical to bring up so high, these areas typically are planted with dry crops of barley, corn and milo. These are all great food and cover crops and birds thrive in there. Guests can use the guide's dogs or may bring their own. Outdoor kennel facilities are available, although Flying B Ranch is "dog friendly" and the staff encourages guests to bring their dogs inside and be a part of the group.

Also, **Flying B Ranch has some historical significance.** It is documented that Lewis and Clark passed through this property on their way back east. Tired, in ill health and nearing starvation, they travelled along a long ridge top and came down to a spot just a few hundred yards from where the lodge now sits where they were greeted by the local Nez Perce Indians. This is where they camped for the next several weeks and were given nourishment from their kind hosts while they regained their strength and awaited warmer weather. In fact, the Ranch's 5-stand clays course now exists on the hillside that Lewis and Clark descended to camp with the Nez Perce tribe.

"Casts & Blasts" are also offered by Flying B Ranch. Accompanied by Rich Coe, expert in guiding both fishing as well as upland bird hunting, we fished the local Clearwater River during the steelhead run. The weather had turned cold and blustery and might also have been good duck hunting conditions! However, we fished, with Rich expertly "backtrolling" the drift boat.



Before long a 15-pound steelhead had been brought to the net with several other hits. For lunch, we enjoyed some of Flying B's famous and delicious baby back ribs on the riverbank.

Back at the lodge, we enjoyed some spectacularly sumptuous meals. Here are some of "Chef Ryan's" dinner offerings:

Appetizer: Bourbon Buffalo Pheasant Strips;

First Course: Raspberry Chukar Salad with bleu cheese crumbles, sugared almonds and craisins;

Entrée: Rocky Mountain Elk Osso Bucco, gnocchi, grilled zucchini; Dessert: Mixed Berry Sabayon

Appetizer: Grilled Pheasant Pizza

First Course: Spinach Salad with Poppy Seed Vinaigrette

Entree: Char-broiled Sturgeon, Three Onion Orzo, Asparagus Spears

Dessert: Chocolate Mousse

First Course: Tomato, herb, and red pepper soup with roasted Chukar

Entree: Bacon Wrapped Wagyu Beef Tenderloin, Mushroom Rissoto, Candied Carrots

Dessert: Huckleberry Creme Brulee

Typical lunches included Pheasant Pot Pie, Wild boar shoulder sandwich on homemade cheddar chive rolls with horseradish coleslaw.

The lodge is a modern log building and is exquisite yet homey. The rooms with private baths are very comfortable. The décor is typical, local western. Cocktail hour is held before dinner with a well stocked bar. Liquid refreshment is available to guests at all times with the obvious exception of alcohol while shooting.

For 2012-2013, pheasant, chukar and Hungarian partridge shooting are open on the ranch from Aug. 15 through April 15 while ruffed and dusky grouse are open from Aug. 30 to Jan. 31. California valley quail are open Sept. 15 through Jan. 31.

The closest airport is Lewiston, Idaho, about a 1 1/2 hour drive to and from the ranch. A ranch shuttle is avail-



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—John C. Gosselin

England... (from page 1)

between drives? It's hard to argue with tradition!

Driven shoots in England, like driven days throughout Europe, are as much about tradition as shooting. Tweed jackets and Wellies, ties and oilcloth coats, drawing for your position on the line and two fingers of Scotch after the guns are cased all help to define the day. The other element is the shooting — putting the birds over the line at a steady pace, letting low birds go and concentrating on the high birds.

Recently, I joined **John Duncan of Roxtons, a well-known English book-ing agency and purveyor of numerous driven shoots in the United Kingdom, for three days of pheasant and partridge shooting northeast of Bristol, England.** Located near Somerset and Devon, this region is referred to as the West Country and is home to some of the most prestigious shooting estates in Britain.

The scenery is stunning and the topography rolling, with seemingly bottomless, steep-sided valleys and ravines that provide idyllic shooting. This landscape, in combination with strong flying birds and gamekeepers at the top of their craft, has created legendary drives punctuated with challenging quarry.

During the three days, outings were scheduled at a different estate each day to experience the unique style each offered and to get a “feel” for the West Country shoots. **Our first stop was the 1,500-acre Edgcott Estate, where we were greeted by gamekeeper Robbie Eggins.** Soon the rest of the party arrived — an eclectic mix of British and American shooters. After the introductory safety remarks, the draw for shooting or “peg” positions took place. After each drive, shooters shift two peg positions so there is movement along the line during the course of the day. Depending on the drive, the best shooting might occur at the center or at the end of the line so theoretically, this movement averages out the shooting opportunities for all participants. I drew peg 5.

After the draw we were each assigned a loader then climbed aboard a Land Rover for the short transfer to the first venue. We were told to expect both pheasants and partridge. My peg was at the bottom of a draw near the center of the line. First over was a trio of red-legged partridge that passed high and to the right. I snapped the over-under to my shoulder, swung through the first target and fired. The bird crumbled and fell from towering heights. A second partridge was passing over the top. I blocked it out at the



apex of my swing and pulled the trigger. My loader said, “Good shot, sir,” as the bird crashed into the underbrush. A long-tailed pheasant was next, and I fired as it approached the line. A clean miss was followed by a second shot that connected as the ringneck passed left. Shots rang out up and down the line until a horn signaled the end of round one. When it was over, my loader turned to me and said, “Brilliant shooting, sir! You dispatched 21 birds on this drive.” What a way to start the trip! By the end of the day, which included a midmorning break and lunch served in a cozy cabin warmed by a roaring fire, the tally was 176 pheasants and 195 partridges.

The next morning was bright and clear. **We traveled to the 2,500-acre Loyton Estate,** where we met the gamekeeper and rejoined the other shooters, drew for pegs and headed to the first drive. At Loyton the birds were all pheasants. Many of the drives placed shooters at the bottom of a canyon along rushing streams,

while others saw birds coming off the top of ridges over the guns waiting on hill-sides below. The day was an overwhelming success, and after a lunch in a manor house that featured steaming bowls of soup followed by roast duck and red cabbage, the count was 364 pheasants.

Later that evening, John and I dined at the Bindon Country House where the Dover sole melted in your mouth. Bindon is one of several country hotels and manor houses that Roxtons uses to accommodate their clients in this region. As for the shooting itself, Roxtons has access to a dozen estates in the Somerset-Devon region. **These estates have so many different and challenging drives that in as many as six days of shooting, every drive would be different and none would be repeated.**

The final day was at Chargot, a 4,000-acre estate that has an excellent reputation for high birds in a glorious countryside. The day began with coffee and tea served in a spacious lodge with a commanding view over the valley below. **The shoot at Chargot produced a mixture of pheasants and partridge including some of the highest birds I've seen.**

Chargot is the location where red-legged partridges were first brought to the Somerset-Devon region. Some skeptics thought it impossible to present them in the same high fashion as pheasants. In time, the gamekeepers perfected the drives and today **Chargot and several other estates are known for their exceptionally high partridge.** At the end of the shooting day, which included lunch with soups, salads and an exceptional lamb shank as the main course, the count was 290 pheasants and 74 partridges for 8 guns.

West Country shooting commences with the opening of the partridge season on Sept. 1 followed by pheasant shooting which comes on line in mid October. Both seasons close on Feb. 1. During late October and November, the shooting is generally a nice mix of partridge and pheasant. By December, the

bag is about 80 percent pheasant and 20 percent partridge while in January it is 90 percent pheasants.

England's West Country driven shooting provides quality sport that many regard as the most challenging, most rewarding and most refined form of wing shooting. Furthermore, to shoot

driven pheasants in the United Kingdom is to take part in one of the longest standing traditions and most prestigious wing shooting spectacles remaining in the world today.

Roxtons books day shoots at \$3,650/gun based on a line of eight guns with an expected bag of 400 birds for

the line. The rate includes food and drink at the shoot with accommodations extra. Hotel and manor house stays range from \$225 to \$550/person/night.

Roxtons, 011-44-1488-689-788, www.roxtons.com.

—Gary Kramer

Traditional Plantation-style Quail Hunt with Wild and Early-released Birds

- **Timetable:** Oct. 1 through March 31
- **Accommodations:** Elegantly rustic lodge or private cottage
- **Food:** "Plantation Elegant"
- **Hunt:** Easy

Quail aficionados are well acquainted with the historic plantation life that rooted in the rolling hills, lakes, rivers and red clay of the Red Hills region. For over a century, shooters have travelled to the area that encompasses 515 square miles of land in the surrounding Thomasville, Ga., through Tallahassee, Fla., area. **A relative newcomer that adds to the region's already fine patina is North Florida's Honey Lake Plantation.**

The hallowed plantation is noted on the prestigious Georgia-Florida Field Trial map and was originally owned by Pansy Poe who used it as a day-sporting property in the early 1900s. Serial business entrepreneur Bob Williamson purchased the plantation in 2008 and embarked on a three-year, \$34 million renovation to the 4,800-acre property. **With 95 percent of its initial phase complete, Honey Lake Plantation is well on its way to raising the bar in commercial quail hunting venues.**

The Williamsons' positioned Honey Lake Plantation to offer a traditional plantation-style quail hunt. Five individual quail courses span 1,800 total acres of upland cover, woodlots, fields and ponds. **The courses are a tasteful blend of rolling hills and open fields.** Food and cover crops vary between millet, broomstraw, milo, wiregrass and lovegrass. Oats, clover, soybeans and peanuts round out the food plots. A variety of pines are indigenous

to the region and range from slash, loblolly, spruce, shortleaf and longleaf varieties, and the fields are rimmed by Cypress and the easily recognizable live oaks, sweetgum, hickory, black oak and dogwood trees.

The birds are a mixture of wild and early release quail. **Covey rises range between half a dozen birds and 20, but there are the occasional covey rises of 50 or more birds.** These are known colloquially as "hat blowers" and hunters can follow up singles. I hunted for three days, and all of the birds flushed hard and flew great.

Hunters get around Honey Lake Plantation in one of three different wagons. The Bird Buggy 1 is a custom-designed hunting vehicle built on a Sub-



urban frame and a Chevy 350-block engine and four-wheel drive transmission. It includes a bench seat and four elevated captain's chairs that will transport up to six hunters and dog boxes that will hold up to 10 English pointers, setters and cocker spaniels. Two covered gun racks are built in to the vehicle's frame and safely and securely store up to six shotguns. Bird Buggy 2 is a custom developed trailer that is pulled behind a Jeep and accommodates five hunters, six pointing dogs and four flushing dogs. Bird Buggy 3, a Polaris six-wheeler transports five hunters, six pointing dogs and two flushing dogs. **A final tradi-**

tional touch is that hunters may ride horseback instead of on one of the hunting wagons.

Guides ride Tennessee Walking Horses in front of the buggy and work the dogs throughout the terrain. When the pointers lock up, two hunters step out of the vehicles and take up a position on either side of the guides. When all are ready, the flushing dogs are put down to work through the cover and get the quail in the air. Depending on the birds' behavior and the scenting conditions, the hunters may reposition a time or two until the covey is located. The shooting party rotates as identified by the guests, with most changes occurring after a covey rise. Shots taken are in the 15-25 yard range.

Honey Lake Plantation is a licensed shooting preserve which means that Opening Day is Sept. 1 and the season finale is on March 31. As far as the climate goes, Northern Florida is warm in early September and in late March. October through February offers daytime temperatures between 40-70 degrees Fahrenheit. A fleece vest might be worth bringing if you're hunting in the winter months, and you'll probably remove it by midmorning.

Hunters can shoot a few warm up rounds on the expertly manicured skeet, trap and 5-stand fields. As a side note, shotguns of any gauges or actions may be used for clay target shooting, but **only 20-, 28-, and .410 gauge break-action shotguns may be used while quail hunting.**

Honey Lake Plantation offers shooters seasonal opportunities to hunt two other species of wild game birds. With dove being such a sought-after species, the plantation offers traditional dove hunts in fields of sunflowers, soybeans, millet and corn. Groups of between 10-12 hunters are necessary for these hunts,

and check the migratory bird regulations for specific seasons. That said, there are usually three-split seasons, with one each in October, November and late December-early January. Duck hunting is also a favorite activity at Honey Lake Plantation, and the hunts are held from blinds on three, seasonally flooded ponds. These ducks are all wild and range in species from woodies, green and blue-winged teal, widgeon, redheads, bluebills and ringnecks. All state and federal regulations apply for dove and ducks. Outstanding spring turkey hunting and fall deer hunting are also available.

It goes without saying that bird dogs are an important part of plantation life, and so field trial aficionados will recognize the names Ed and Sheila Hart. These long-time competitors and judges joined Honey Lake Kennels in 2010. The Harts will oversee an entirely new 30-dog kennel that will include a full breeding facility and whelping room. **Expect to see the current Honey Lake Plantation dogs to grow significantly from 32 English pointers, setters and cockers to many more.** Guests are welcome to bring and hunt their own dogs, and all are housed in outdoor kennels. It is important to note that guided hunting pertains to running your own dogs as well.

There are two different lodging options. Groups may choose the 3,600 square foot Honey Lake Lodge which has five luxury king guest rooms, each with private baths. The heartwood pine floors and cypress walls are gorgeous, and there is a full kitchen, breakfast counter, wet bar, leather couches and fireplace. Adjacent to the lodge is an 800-square foot premier suite that features a private kitchen, bar, living room and master bedroom. Another option is the Five Pines and Two Oaks cottages, which offer two suites, each with private baths and double queen beds. There is a common living room that separates the suites. Finally, the Pansy Poe Cottage is a three-bedroom, 2,000-square foot cottage right on Honey Lake. A new option, the 24-bedroom Equestrian Lodge, is currently being built and will be ready for the 2012-2013 hunting season.

Executive Chef William Mann has spent over three decades in the culinary industry, and his experience has

helped to create what he calls “Plantation Elegant” cuisine. Mann defines this as a new twist to favorite Southern classics. Breakfast ranges from eggs any style to omelets or French toast. At lunch, a pulled pork BBQ sandwich, southern fried chicken and a gourmet elk burger are a few options. And for dinner, try a bone-in filet mignon, Andouille-stuffed chicken, lamb chops with a pomegranate reduction and smashed turnips, or an herb-roasted pork loin with roasted apples. Chef Mann is a firm believer in the “from farm to table” concept, so guests will enjoy some of the freshest foods available. Quail, venison and fish are harvested on the property,



as are five types of lettuce, two varieties of greens, vegetables like squash, carrots, turnips, potatoes and broccoli. A plethora of spices are homegrown as well, and eggs are gathered daily from the Honey Lake chicken coop.

An abundance of non-sporting activities are available for non-hunting spouses. For those interested in a cast-and-blast, fishing for trophy largemouth bass and bream on the 73-acre spring-fed Honey Lake or on one of the six other smaller ponds can be arranged. Horseback riding, hiking, kayaking, bird watching and a full spa with workout facilities are available.

Cellular telephone coverage is excellent for all major carriers, and free Wi-Fi service is available throughout the plantation. A fully stocked pro shop that carries strap vests, shooting shirts, gloves, shooting glasses, blaze ball caps and other supplies is located in the Gathering Hall.

A full-day hunt with lodging, three meals, a guide, dogs and a quail buggy costs \$895. Twelve birds per person per

day are included, and birds over 12 cost \$8.50 each. Birds are cleaned, frozen and packaged for an additional \$.90, and soft-sided coolers are \$15 each. Daily Beretta over-under shotgun rentals cost \$25, and shells are \$10 per box. A practice round of skeet and/or trap is available free of charge. Dove hunts cost \$125/per shooter and duck hunts cost \$395/per shooter. Individual rates for non-hunters are available, as are half-day and split-day hunts.

Honey Lake Plantation is located just 10 minutes east of Monticello, about 45 minutes to either Thomasville or Tallahassee and less than ten minutes to I-10. Commercial flights are available at Tallahassee Regional Airport, which also accommodates private aircraft. Nearby Thomasville and Quitman both host private airports that accommodate jets. Jacksonville International Airport is two hours away.

Jon Williamson, COO, Honey Lake Plantation, 1290 Honey Lake Rd., Greenville, FL 32331; 850-948-9911; jon@honeylakeplantation.com.

—Tom Keer

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 **Bruce McArthur, Gary Sanden; Jim Crews III; Patrick Diesfeld; Robert Moore; Curtis L. Frisbie, Jr.; John Hattner; and Joseph S. String.**

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.

Dateline: Texas

Pheasant, Quail and Chukar

- **Timetable:** September through March
- **Accommodations:** First-class lodging
- **Food:** Gourmet continental cuisine
- **Hunt:** Easy

Nestled between San Antonio and Austin in the Hill Country of Texas, a small, unobtrusive sign that depicts a pheasant and simply says “Joshua Creek Ranch” dots a country corner where winding roads intersect. As I turned off the road and proceeded slowly down what I hoped was the driveway, I experienced a strange familiarity with the surroundings. At first, a New England estate came to mind as I looked out at the river bottoms and lightly wooded areas. As I continued, I couldn’t help thinking of an English or European property complete with bluffs and limestone as well as a reinforcing wall of rocks supporting an elevated portion of the driveway. Several well-kept buildings came into view as I parked near the scenic overlook that suddenly appears through the sparse tree line as the truck comes to a stop.

I was quickly greeted by a staff member who directed me to the office. One thing became apparent throughout my stay that was particularly impressive: **The staff at Joshua Creek Ranch is extremely professional and courteous at all times.** From the groundskeepers to the guides to the culinary staff, every employee I encountered offered a pleasant greeting and excellent attitude.

Safety is paramount at Joshua Creek Ranch. One of the first things I noticed in the office is a sign that states only over-under or side-by-side shotguns are to be used. If you do not have one, you may rent one from the pro-shop. Luckily, I had two side-by-side shotguns with me. **Nevertheless, the assortment of Beretta shotguns available for rent will tempt you to take them home with you!**

Each shooting guest is required to sign in and complete a questionnaire and liability waiver. Then, a short and informative safety video that addresses

either target sports or hunting (or both) is a prerequisite to participating in the wing shooting of your choice.

Ann Kercheville, who owns Joshua Creek with her husband Joe, greeted me and showed me around the grounds. Ann was very informative about the history of Joshua Creek Ranch. As I toured some of the common buildings, I was once again reminded that I was in Texas. The distinct Texas designs, accents and pride were apparent in the construction and decoration of the buildings. Joe invited me to sample the sporting clays course with him. He explained that the targets



are changed periodically to offer a variety and challenge. The target presentations were well thought out with the rolling terrain and bluffs creating optical illusions that tested our ability to read the targets and execute the shots.

Dinner was served promptly at 7 p.m. in the main dining area. The menu included venison filets from axis deer. The portions were ample, and the service and presentation were excellent. The flavor combinations of the filets and the sides would shame any Dallas steakhouse I’ve been to that serves venison! Breakfast is a buffet style assortment of eggs, potatoes, breads and muffins, meats, coffee and juice. Lunch varies daily, but I enjoyed a venison stew that had distinct flavors of pepper and rosemary and was simply delicious.

Joshua Creek Ranch offers several wing shooting packages that consist of one to three days with combinations of bird hunting, sporting clays, continen-

tal shoots and other activities such as turkey or deer hunting or trout fishing. A custom package can be arranged to meet your needs and desires. My package included an afternoon arrival with sporting clays and dinner, overnight lodging, a morning mixed bag hunt for pheasant, quail and chukar and lunch.

There are a variety of lodging options ranging from suites to one of the various private houses. My lodging was at the Covey Haus, a two-bedroom, two-bath guesthouse with a full kitchen and a large back porch with a scenic overlook. The house is decorated in an upscale sporting theme that is both welcoming and distinguished.

I was guided by Dave, one of the most tenured employees of the ranch. Dave was extremely knowledgeable about the grounds and the history of the surrounding area. He was candid with me about the operations of the ranch. **Dave shared with me Joe Kercheville’s obsession with finding the best birds possible for release throughout the ranch.** The birds are flight released to afford a more wild-like scenario for the hunts. Dave was quite serious when he told me that if he ever found a guide hard-planting birds on the ranch, it would be his last day working there. There are plenty of birds continuously released throughout the ranch hunting grounds, so there is no specific limit per person. Hunters can take as many birds as they find during their allotted time limit. Half-day hunts typically start at 9 a.m. and continue until 12:30 p.m.

Dave showed me a good representative sample of the dogs that are used at Joshua Creek Ranch. **The primary pointing dogs are English pointers and setters; however, there is a handful of other continental pointing dogs as well.** A unique aspect of every hunt is the English cocker spaniel flushing dogs that are used. The pointing dogs’ primary job is to locate and hold birds for the shooters. **In the interest of safety, not only for the shooters but also for the dogs, the cocker spaniels are used to flush the pointed birds.** These cocker spaniels are also enthusiastic retrievers and tend to

bring back as many downed birds as their pointing dog counterparts. The dogs I observed ranged from an outstanding English setter that I would own in a heartbeat to energetic young dogs and old-timers that each did their jobs very well.

I had the opportunity to shoot at over three dozen quail, a handful of pheasants and at least a dozen chukars during my hunt. In spite of the opportunity, I was engaged in talking with Dave and watching the dogs and birds so I only shot a few. The quail flew well and were average for bobwhites pre-released in the type of cover where we encountered them. The chukars flew strong and fast and were above average compared to other facilities I have visited this year. I did not encounter enough pheasants to provide a fair assessment, but the few I did find flushed high and flew hard. Dave told me Joe Kercheville is quite particular about the birds he purchases

and in the past has turned down entire truckloads of birds because he did not care for the appearance or condition of them. Having met Joe and talking with him extensively, I am confident in saying he only tolerates the best birds for release on Joshua Creek Ranch.

After my hunt I had the opportunity to interview other hunters that had completed a morning of wing shooting. Their glowing faces and eagerness to tell me about their hunts was revealing of their total satisfaction. **One gentleman told me Joshua Creek Ranch is “the only place I will go to shoot birds” while another fellow in a different group said Joshua Creek Ranch is “the best bird shooting place I have ever been to.”**

Besides the bird hunt, Dave took me around the ranch to see the other wildlife. We saw large trout in the stocked waters that would make any fly-fishing enthusiast smile ear to ear. There

were an abundant number of turkey and whitetail deer too. Coincidental to another assignment, I had my son's new stalking rifle to test on a deer hunt. Ann Kercheville generously offered me an axis deer hunt. Dave and I stalked through open area of mixed brush, thick wooded areas and rock ledges where we encountered no less than 50 axis deer within a few hours. Eventually, we found a doe that provided a good route for a stalk. The shot was true and the axis deer fell in its tracks.

For a unique and memorable wing shooting, deer or turkey hunting or sporting clays experience, Joshua Creek Ranch needs to be on your list of top 10 places to visit. This Double Trident Beretta endorsed facility is open year round with bird hunting from Sept. 15 to March 31.

Info: www.joshuacreek.com.

—Joe Riekers

Ringnecks in the Rye

- **Timetable:** September through March
- **Accommodations:** Lodge or hotel
- **Food:** Lodge or restaurants
- **Hunt:** Easy

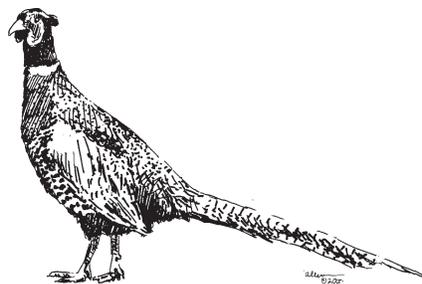
Way back when, they called it “Grass Valley” because the rye grass, when the first pioneers saw it, was as high as the back of a horse. I didn't have a horse, but I could see through the tops of the grass.

Here, the land tips north to the Columbia and west and east to the Deschutes and the John Day River. You get a feel for what it must have been like in the 1860s and 1870s to carve a ranch out of miles of eastern Oregon landscape. But there were no pheasants then. Pheasants came first to Oregon in the 1880s and then were trapped and transplanted to various part of the country, hunted then as we hunt them now, with pointing dogs and scatterguns.

Wild Winds Ranch is a hunting preserve located in the farmlands of north Central Oregon, 120 miles east of Portland. A 3,000-acre ranch with 1,280 acres under the preserve license,

the ground is planted with wild basin rye, alfalfa and native grasses.

In Oregon, preserve hunting takes the place of past state-managed bird planting operations. **Today, instead of hunting state-funded birds on state lands, most pheasant hunts take place on private properties, many of which are licensed hunting preserves.** The system also allows for expanded opportunity, giving hunters the ability to pur-



sue game birds through the end of March, far beyond the end of the public-land season.

In 2001, Jeff DuPont founded the preserve nestled in a long canyon north and east of the small town of Grass Valley. Hunters prospect for pheasant in the tall grass along the creek then walk the

ridge top through the sagebrush for chukar.

Multiple fields offer several hunts in the ryegrass and sage over rolling hills. In the bottomland cover, it is common to find birds that have held over throughout the season.

This is also the easiest ground to walk and the best pheasant habitat. The prime chukar hunting is on the cliffs to the west and on the hilltops above. Wild Hungarian partridge are not uncommon in this area of the state and early-season hunters are most likely to encounter Huns or wild pheasants and chukar.

In the early fall, fields of wheat and barley stretch for miles and the wind bends the stalks in waves that flow across the plain. On a clear day, Mount Hood, Oregon's tallest peak is prominent on the western skyline.

The ranch house was built in the 1950s and has been remodeled over the last few years. A large weeping willow dominates the front yard and a grove of firs and pines protects the house from the wind.

Hunters can bring their own dogs and hunt unguided or Wild Winds Ranch can provide a guide, usually Jeff DuPont or one of his sons, and English pointers.

One of DuPont's strengths is his ability to make a youngster or a newcomer

comfortable and successful on his or her first hunt. A session might start out on the 5-stand course and then proceed to the hunt when the shooter is ready.

For a 10-bird hunt, DuPont will usually release five rooster pheasants and five hen pheasants or chukars an hour in advance. In the tall cover it pays to hunt into the wind and let the dogs work slowly back and forth to catch the scent.

In the creek bottom, four ponds hold irrigation water as well as rainbow trout that grow to 5 pounds. From Sept. 1–30, dove season is open and hunters may add doves to the bag of pen-reared birds.

Later in the year, upland hunters are welcome to hunt waterfowl, mallards and Canada geese, as a bonus.

A one-day non-guided hunt for 10 birds costs \$325 while a 10-bird guided hunt with lunch costs \$375 per person. An overnight guided hunt costs \$475 per person and includes breakfast, lunch and a steak dinner, fishing and sporting clays at the 5-stand range on the ridge above the house. Fly-fishing costs \$110 per day, non-guided. With lodging and meals, the fly-fishing costs

\$235 per person.

Meals are substantial and served family style around a large dining room table. Sandwiches and soup are served at lunch. At night, Oregon beef is served, straight off the barbecue with bread, salad and dessert.

The ranch house sleeps up to nine



people with most of the bedrooms on the second story and two common bathrooms on the lower level. The décor is ranch style, and there is a TV in the great room. For larger groups, a secondary ranch house can accommodate up to 11.

Jeff DuPont and his wife Jennifer also operate a non-profit organization called Youth Outdoor Adventures (www.oregonYOA.com), which exists to promote hunter education through

weeklong youth camps, rafting, fishing and hunting. The ranch is their base of operations.

Grass Valley with a population of approximately 200 has few services, but there are restaurants, fuel and a small grocery store. Portland, a little more than two hours away, is the nearest large city. Hunters can fly into Redmond (93 miles away) or Portland (120 miles away). Major car rental agencies serve both airports.

The preserve season opens Aug. 1, but Wild Winds begins guiding in earnest in September when the weather begins to cool.

An Oregon three-day nonresident hunting license (\$26.50) allows the hunter to pursue upland birds (and migratory waterfowl and doves). **Wild Winds Ranch, Jeff DuPont, 1973 SE E St., Madras, OR 97741; 541-333-0833, 541-350-4197 (cell); www.wildwindsranch.com; wildwindsranch@aol.com.**

Licenses are available at sporting goods stores and on the ODFW web site. For information or to request regulations: **800-720-6339, www.dfw.state.or.us.**

—Gary Lewis

Briefly Noted

Things to Do, Places to Go, New Developments

Correction: In the May 2012 issue we mistakenly stated what fees are charged by the Argentine government for the importation of firearms. **The official gun import fee established by RENAR (Argentina's governing body that oversees such matters) is 300 Argentine pesos per gun.** According to today's exchange rate, that would be **\$67.55 U.S. per gun.** We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

Argentina — Los Ombues Lodge Named Orvis International Lodge of the Year

From Orvis Company:

The Orvis Company has announced Los Ombues Lodge of Argentina as the Orvis Endorsed International Lodge of the Year for 2012.

Los Ombues Lodge is perched on a hill overlooking 37,000 acres of prime bird hunting land in the rich floodplain of the Parana River, with another 120,000 neighboring acres available for shooting. Twenty million

eared doves roost in the native woodlands, an abundance of ducks inhabit the bountiful marshes and perdiz (partridge) abound in the rolling grasslands.

The only Orvis endorsed wing shooting lodge in Argentina, Los Ombues is the ultimate experience for the wing shooter. Owner Carlos Sanchez built Los Ombues for his passion for bird hunting, and his unique understanding and appreciation for the sport is reflected in all aspects of the lodge experience. Dove and duck hunts are on the property, close to the lodge for convenience. All equipment is perfectly maintained; and the staff is expertly trained. After a day of memorable shooting, lodge visitors can reflect and enjoy gourmet dining and exquisite accommodations with the other attending wing shooters.

For over 20 years the Orvis Company has been recognizing excellence in sporting experiences through its Endorsed Lodges Outfitters and Guides program. Each endorsed operation has its own character, but all share the same high standards: great service, great fishing or wing shoot-

ing, and an experienced, professional staff. These standards of excellence are continually reviewed by the Orvis staff and evaluated by visiting guests in post-visit critiques sent directly to The Orvis Company. Orvis-Endorsed operations cater to every ability from beginners to experts.

• • •

South Dakota — Hometown Farmer: Pheasant Farmer Supplies Preserve

By Erika Thomas, KMEG.com:

Adam Nelson has been a full-time farmer for about 10 years, working with row crops, alfalfa, lamb and goats. A few years ago, he got into another aspect of agriculture, pheasant farming. He raises the birds from infancy to supply his family's hunting preserve. **In 2006, Adam Nelson's father and uncle opened Spring Creek Hunting near Wakonda, South Dakota.**

"People, just word of mouth, started hearing about us. So we kind of expanded there. Well then there was a need for pheasants so I said, well that's something I think I kind of enjoy and there was a gentleman

east of here that kind of got me started and showed me how to do it and it just kind of took off from there,” says Adam Nelson. He now provides birds directly to hunters and releases them on the preserve. “We can’t guarantee you to hit them because that’s on your own deal but we’ll show you the pheasants,” says Nelson.

Adam raises the pheasants from 24 hours old. They spend their first month inside the barn at a steamy 100 degrees. At about 5 weeks, Adam blinds the birds. This little orange device blocks their eyesight and helps prevent cannibalism while in captivity. “So we’re slowly introducing them outside and then a couple months later, we’ll start putting them in the pens,” says Nelson.

The first chicks come around the end of May so they’re approaching 5 months old when hunting season starts in September.

“If you can find a bird at 20, 21 weeks, they just got a little more muscle to them, they’re going to be better flyers,” says Nelson. And Adam is proud that hunters typically can’t tell the difference between wild and his released pheasants. “I want to raise a nice big bird that has good feathers. I want a nice long tail and I want a good breast meat to them,” says Nelson. Perfecting this agricultural niche requires time, patience and perseverance. “And I’m still learning now. You learn something almost every day with these things,” says Nelson.

With fence-line-to-fence-line crop farming, Adam says wild pheasants are hard to come by and the industry needs more producers. “There’s a lot of preserves but not a lot of growers. And that’s showing this year. There’s a big demand for pheasants,” says Nelson.

And he believes birds are an easy way to get involved. “I think young kinds just need to realize they don’t have to farm thousands of acres to be a farmer. Try something small just to get in the agriculture part of it and go from there,” says Nelson.

Spring Creek Hunting in Wakonda, South Dakota, is open September through March. If you’re interested in recreational pheasant hunting, you can check out the preserve online at www.springcreekhunting.com.

• • •

Iowa — Lead shot to be allowed for Iowa mourning dove hunting season

From radioiowa.com

Lead shot to be allowed for Iowa mourning dove hunting season

The governor has used his authority to veto a state agency rule so dove hunters will be able to use lead ammunition in September when the dove hunting season opens.

The governor’s Natural Resources Commission, after its chairman checked with Governor Branstad, voted last summer to ban lead shot, as critics say the lead that doesn’t reach its target poses environmental harm to both animals and humans.

But then Branstad said he learned the Iowa House had voted against the



idea of banning lead shot when the bill establishing a dove hunting season was passed in 2011.

“The law, I think, is pretty clear is that the responsibility of the Natural Resources Commission was to set the seasons, not determine what kind of shot can be used in hunting,” Branstad said this morning.

A legislative committee that reviews the regulations drafted by state agencies put a hold on the rule banning lead shot, giving the full legislature an opportunity to weigh in on the issue. The Iowa House voted to nullify the rule, but the Senate didn’t take up the issue — which means the ban on lead shot went into effect Thursday. Today Branstad used his authority to veto the rule.

“I believe it is important — not only on this issue, but on other issues — that we intend to abide by the law and not let administrative agencies exceed their authority and do something beyond what the legislature has delegated to them,” Branstad said. “The determination of whether hunters should be forced to stop using traditional shot is something that should be decided by the legislature, not by administrative fiat.”

Senator Dick Dearden, a Democrat from Des Moines, is a long-time backer of the move to allow dove hunting in

Iowa. Dearden attended the ceremony Branstad held to sign the executive order vetoing the ban on lead shot.

“I’m just happy with the result, not necessarily the process,” Dearden told reporters.

The Iowa House voted this past February to allow lead shot for dove hunting but the Senate never took up the measure. Dearden is unwilling to say whether the senate’s inaction on the issue was intentional or accidental. Dearden intends to hunt doves in Iowa this September, using lead shot.

“Absolutely,” Dearden said. “You know, if you’re walking across a field pheasant hunting and a dove comes over, you don’t have time to change shot. The lead thing is more anti-hunting. It’s a way of, ‘if we make it more and more difficult to hunt, there’s going to be less and less hunters.’”

Earlier this year the Sierra Club’s Iowa chapter filed a lawsuit to try to get a court to uphold the Natural Resources Commission’s decision to ban lead shot and require “non-toxic” steel shot for the dove hunting season.

“Not sure you can air my thoughts,” Neilla Seaman, a spokeswoman for the group, quipped when asked by Radio Iowa for her reaction to Branstad’s decision. “I’m very disappointed that this is happening like this.”

Seaman said Branstad’s reasoning doesn’t make sense.

“You know, he said it was up to the legislature to make the decision about how to proceed with this and when he didn’t like what the legislature did — which was the Senate did nothing — now he’s issued an executive order that rescinds the ban on lead ammunition for hunting mourning doves,” Seaman said.

Governor Branstad argues his veto of the Natural Resources Commission rule makes the Sierra Club’s lawsuit “moot.” Seaman says she’s consulting with a lawyer to determine what the Sierra Club’s next step will be.

•
—Group to promote hunting in Iowa

From desmoinesregister.com:

Outdoor enthusiasts and business groups announced the formation of a new organization to promote hunting in Iowa, hoping to reverse years of declin-

ing interest in the activity.

Hunting Works for Iowa will stress the economic boost hunting provides.

The organization estimates that hunters spend more than \$288 million in the state annually and create 6,200 jobs, said Jim Henter, president of the Iowa Retail Federation, which is taking part in the effort.

The new organization, which includes about 45 groups, plans to boost hunting by keeping a close watch on public policy decisions and pushing for hunting-friendly regulations while making the case that the sport benefits the state economy.

The number of hunting licenses issued in Iowa has declined for 10 straight years, the Department of Natural Resources said. DNR spokesman Kevin Baskins said his agency issued 194,019 resident hunting licenses in 2001 but just 160,466 in 2011.

Officials blamed several factors for that drop, including recent harsh winters that have hurt wildlife populations and less animal habitat. But **Baskins said he thinks the biggest factor is the state's shift to a more urban population, and away from farms and small towns.**

"If you go back to 20 years ago, everybody had a connection with somebody on a farm, so you had a place to hunt. That's not the case anymore," Baskins said. "You don't see 12- and 13-year-olds going out and learning to hunt."

The National Shooting Sports Foundation, a firearms industry trade association, found that the trend being seen in Iowa is occurring throughout the nation.

The foundation tracked hunting license sales back to 1980 and found that such sales peaked in 1982, when about 17 million licenses were issued, but then dropped to 14.5 million by 2005 and about 12.5 million by 2006.

Libby Patton, tourism director at the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce,

said she was joining the effort because of the economic importance of hunting to her community in northern Iowa.

"Hunters bring a lot of money to our town and many others, and that results directly in more jobs and more tax revenue at the local level," she said.

•••

Wyoming Game and Fish Commission Keeps Sage Grouse Hunting Season in Northeast Wyoming

From therepublic.com:

The state Game and Fish Commission has decided to keep a three-day sage grouse hunting season open this fall in northeast Wyoming, despite concern from state biologists that the bird's population is declining in the area.

Dozens of people attended the commission's meeting to oppose closing the season, with some saying there was no biological reason for doing so.

State biologists proposed closing the season because of declines in the population and because some members of the public worry hunting a species that could be placed on the endangered species list isn't a good idea, said Tom Christiansen, sage grouse program coordinator for Game and Fish.

The number of sage grouse breeding grounds has declined from 249 in 2007 to 169 in 2011. In 2011, the number of males on the leks was at the lowest number it has been since 1995, Tom Ryder, assistant chief of the wildlife division for Game and Fish, said.

In Ryder's opinion, sage grouse numbers in that area are dangerously low and closing the hunting season is the only tool the Game and Fish Department has to help the population, the *Casper Star-Tribune* reported. But the population hasn't been reduced to a minimum viable population, meaning that **biologically it can withstand some hunting, Ryder said.**

Jim Magagna, president of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, supported closing the season. If other groups such as the agriculture and energy industry have to make changes for sage grouse survival, hunters should also be willing to make consolations, he said.

In addition, Game and Fish sage grouse program coordinator Tom Christiansen says some people worry hunting a species that could be placed on the endangered species list isn't a good idea.

About a dozen others testified against the proposal. Jill Morrison, a community organizer for the Powder River Basin Resource Council, said the commission should focus not on changing the hunting season but on pressuring the Bureau of Land Management and area industry to reclaim sage grouse habitat to maintain a viable population.

"If you don't have the habitat, you don't have the species," Morrison said.

Kevin Hurley, conservation coordinator for the Wild Sheep Foundation, read a letter signed by 20 groups in the American Wildlife Conservation Partnership. The letter strongly opposed the closure, saying if it didn't benefit the bird biologically, it shouldn't be done.

Others worried the closure would set a precedent that seasons could be ended because of appearances instead of biology.

Instead of closing the season, a solution should be crafted that includes predator management and mosquito abatement to help protect the birds from diseases, said Bob Wharff, executive director with the Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife-Wyoming.

Kenneth Sterner, president of the Wyoming Falconers Association, said the closure could create a domino effect, leading to shutting down other areas in the state.

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 hap-

pening in the field. Our policy at The Bird Hunting Report is as follows: We publish excerpts in the newsletter of Bird Hunting Reports as received, except in cases when booking agents or outfitters submit reports

on hunts in which they have a financial stake or when we have reason to question whether there are ulterior financial or personal motives on the part of the person submitting the report. It goes without

saying that a single report in this section should not be taken as the final word on an outfitter's competence. Many elements of a hunt are subjective. What is wrong for one hunter might be right for another. Moreover, personality conflicts often occur on hunts. It is obvious that hunters, as well as outfitters, can be the cause of a ruined hunt. We think all seasoned hunters can sort this out and make proper use of our Bird Hunting Report Program. Our pages are open for a rebuttal of equal length by any affected party.

Subscriber and frequent contributor Curt Frisbie wants to share some thoughts about his recent **pigeon tower shoot**.

"We all know what pheasant tower shoots are like: Pheasants are released from a tower, a tower often built on top of a hill surrounded by woods, with the shooters moving at regular intervals from peg to peg in a circle around the hill about 50 to 75 yards away. Those are excellent and often difficult shoots because a pheasant in full flight looks like it is hitting Mach II at high altitude. Pigeon tower shoots are similar but, in my opinion, more fun. **Bill Bowles of Trinity Outfitters in Ennis, Texas**, came up with the idea of using pigeons and tweaking the shooting routine to allow more shots per shooter.

"The shoots are the same from the standpoint of using a tower with shooters moving around a circle at regular intervals after so many birds have been shot so that those persons downwind (or upwind) do not wind up with all the shooting.

"**The shoots differ in that the normal pheasant shoot outfitter will provide nine birds per shooter whereas in a pigeon shoot the outfitter provides 20 birds per shooter.** That, in itself, provides the opportunity to take at least twice as many shots at the feathered targets, given that the ideal number of pegs with shooters is 24, i.e., 480 birds.

"**A second difference** is that the shooters do not wear orange. Camo is the order of the day because pigeons have excellent eyesight and will shy away from bright colors.

"**A third difference** is that pigeons seems to fly mostly with the wind while pheasants normally fly into the wind. Flying with the wind provides the pigeons with the opportunity to fly faster

and dip and dive more often.

"**A fourth difference** is that most pheasant shoots let one bird at a time out; however, in a pigeon shoot it is not unusual to have three to five birds released at one time.

"**A fifth difference** is that escaping pheasants keep on going once they have successfully evaded all the flak in the air; a pigeon — especially a city-trapped pigeon — is just not that resourceful and if it gets away unscathed it will circle outside the group before deciding to come back and run the gauntlet again. Often those pigeons will come right back to the tower from which they were



released and have to be persuaded to get airborne again.

"**A sixth difference** is that you have to bring a pack or a shell carry-case with you. Shooters in the past have shot five to six boxes of shells, and some have run out of shells before the pigeons ran out.

"**A seventh difference** is that you don't have to waste time cleaning pigeons afterwards as they make good hog fare just like they are.

"**And the eighth difference** is that city folks plagued with and tired of pigeon droppings on their sidewalks, canvas awnings, outside chairs and statues will bless you.

"There is virtually universal agreement that the recommended gun is a 12-gauge but you'll get an argument whether to bring your regular no. 7 1/2 or no. 8 dove loads and an improved cylinder choke, or 1.75-ounce high brass pigeon no. 7 1/2 or no. 6 load and a modified or even tighter choke. I prefer the latter as a pigeon will take a lot of shot and not go down, especially if shot from behind, and I prefer the cleaner shot.

"This is a shoot that can be started by nine in the morning, finish by 11:30, have a big lunch of BBQ provided by Bill, and then be back at home by 2 p.m. and still be

able to get in a round of golf. **Ennis is about one hour from downtown Dallas.**

"The last shoot cost \$250 per shooter.

"If you want to go on this trip **Bill Bowles, Trinity Outfitters, PO Box 69, Ennis, TX 75120; 214-728-1238; www.trinityoutfitters.com.**"

•••

Looks as if **subscriber Brian Bolton of Winter Springs, Fla.**, traveled north on a return visit to **WingHaven Lodge in Providence, Ky.**, about a week or so before our writer Martin Monsma did for his report in the January 2012 issue of *BHR*. **Bolton's evaluation is on a par with Monsma's (thumbs up, all the way around).**

From Oct. 22 through 26, 2011, Bolton visited WingHaven for a quail hunt and found the birds to be abundant. He used both pointing dogs and flushers and says, "I used pointers then finished with English springer spaniels."

He goes on to say, "**This is a combination wild and pen raised quail. The guides, food, accommodations, like last year were excellent.** The lodge has added for comfort individual room heaters and other minor but welcome improvements, making our stay even more enjoyable."

The visit at WingHaven cost \$3,500, and Bolton would recommend it to a friend because of "owners Russell and Michele Edwards, the staff, food, and hunting — excellent."

The only negative? "None, except that our vacation had to come to an end."

WingHaven Lodge, 15616 State Route 120, Providence, KY 42450; 270-836-7998; www.winghavenlodge.com; info@winghavenlodge.com.

•••

Subscriber Steve Goodwin of Fuquay Varina, N.C., recommends a hunt he took with **Steve Hopkins of Arizona Quail Guides.**

He had a goal of getting an "Arizona Quail Slam," and ended getting two of the three species. He hunted for Mearns' quail south of Patagonia. Even though he found them to be scarce, he was able to add "Mearns'" to his game bag. He also scored on scaled quail, which he hunted near Tombstone. He found them to be average in number. He was unable to fill his bag with any Gambel's quail, which he hunted be-

Serving The Hunter Who Travels

tween Tucson and Phoenix and found to be average in number.

Goodwin rates the dog work as "excellent," the accommodations and cuisine as "good," and the equipment as "fair." That last rating might come from the only problem he experienced on the trip: "The guide's truck died the last day of the hunt out in the desert. So we lost a day of hunting."

Goodwin adds these field notes: **"Arizona quail numbers are down, and I knew it before booking but wanted to go anyway.** Put up two coveys of Mearns' and five to seven coveys of scaled or Gambel's per day. Spooky birds, hard to get a close shot."

Despite the lost day of hunting, Goodwin recommends this trip because of the "uniqueness of the hunt."

The guiding service cost \$500/day. Lodging was \$470 for five nights. Food cost about \$100. Shells were \$8/box.

Steve Hopkins, Arizona Quail Guides, P.O. Box 61, Patagonia, AZ 85624; 520-975-9106; www.arizonaquailguides.com; info@arizonaquailguides.com.

• • •

If a guy calls a trip the "best hunt of my life," you probably expect he'd recommend it. That's exactly what **subscriber John Finnan, Jr.** says and does with his trip to **Dog-n-Duck Outfitter in**

Alberta, Canada.

The rest of his report bears out his rating. From Sept. 25-28, 2011, he hunted for specklebelly and Canada geese as well as mallard ducks. He found them all to be abundant.

He rates all aspects of his outfitter as well as personal guide as "excellent."

Problems? "Absolutely none."

Special features: "Lifelong memories."

The cost of the trip excluding airfare and shells was \$2,500.

Duck-n-Dog Outfitter, 89 Courtenay Terrace, Sherwood Park, Alberta, T8A556; 780-913-1337; www.dognduck.ca.

● ●

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Hunt Report Form

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

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

Date of trip _____ to _____ 20__

Outfitter or Lodge/Preserve Operator _____

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

Street or box number _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____

Web site _____

Personal guide (if different from above) _____

Booking agent (if any) _____ Telephone _____

Place you hunted (State/Province/Country) _____

Specific area(s) _____ Abundant Average Scarce

Species sought _____ Abundant Average Scarce

_____ Abundant Average Scarce

_____ Abundant Average Scarce

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

RATINGS

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

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

YOUR SUMMARY REMARKS

Hunt highlights/special features _____

Problems (if any) _____

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

Cost of trip excluding air fare _____ Air fare _____

Cost of shells _____

PERSONAL DATA

Your name _____ Date of report _____

Your address _____

Telephone (optional) _____ E-mail _____

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

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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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