

Dateline: Oklahoma

The Terminator Hunt: "I'll Be Back."

- **Timetable:** September through March
- **Accommodations:** Modern lodge
- **Food:** Home cooking, family style
- **Hunt:** Easy

When the last weekend in March rolled by, I was content to end another year of bird shooting. However, a fellow "upland addict" called me and told me he had made reservations for us at **the Bar-R Ranch** for the last day of the month. Since I hadn't heard of the Bar-R before, I figured we were in for a road trip. I was surprised when Charles told me it was just over an hour from home!

Just two days later we left the Dallas area and headed north. In one hour we crossed the Texas/Oklahoma line. Just a mile or two later I noticed the sign for Durant, Okla. and the Choctaw

Casino and Resort that is well advertised on roadside billboards throughout North Texas. **A few miles more and we turned off just before the city of Hugo, Okla.**



As we pulled through the gate, the cover and terrain were the first things to catch our attention. **Even after a full season of hunting traffic and**

weather, the cover was thick and healthy and there was no shortage of breaks, nooks and pockets. The several thousand acres of the Bar-R feature rolling hills, natural grasses, trees, small creeks and thickets.

At the lodge we were greeted like old friends even though neither of us had ever been there before, and I had not even spoken to anyone from the Bar-R. **Mike Virgen and Tammy Richards believe in a family-oriented operation and strive to treat every visitor accordingly.** The lodge featured furnishings crafted of local wood, vintage outdoors paraphernalia and taxidermy with an emphasis on birds.

There are cabins for rent for overnight accommodations, but we did not take advantage of this option on this trip.

Before heading out to the field, we were treated to coffee, tea or water and

(continued on page 2)

Dateline: Bolivia

A Place to Feel at Home

- **Timetable:** April to November
- **Accommodations:** First-class lodge
- **Food:** Quality local fare
- **Hunt:** Easy

Among the wing shooting destinations outside North America, Bolivia is relatively new, with the first clients hosted in the late 1990s. Some of the Bolivian outfitters formerly operated in Colombia, but when that country became unsafe, they searched for alternate locations with comparable dove numbers. **Today, Bolivia offers high volume dove shooting and first-rate outfitters and lodges.** Among them is **Jorge Molina** who left Colombia in 1992 and by 1996 had

settled in Bolivia. Jorge got into the outfitting business after he had become a four-time Colombian skeet shooting champion and a participant in the 1984 and 1988 Olympics as a member of the Colombian shooting team.

He started outfitting dove hunts in Bolivia in the late 1990s, staying at leased estancias and hunting on leased property. In 2003, he completed **Las Palomas Lodge** and now has access to more than half a million acres of native habitat and farmland. **The lodge is in the center of the Bolivian portion of the Grand Chaco, a semi-desert grassland with scattered agriculture that occupies portions of Bolivia, Paraguay**

and Argentina. Widespread small grain crops, abundant nesting and roost sites along with ample water have created

(continued on page 3)

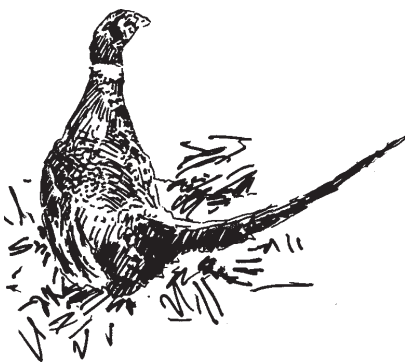
Inside:

Argentina	p.4
Oklahoma	p.5
Arizona	p.6
South Dakota	p.7
Briefly Noted	p.7
Iowa	p.8
Illinois	p.9
Kansas	p.10
Outfitter Critiques	p.11

Oklahoma... (from page 1)

offered a complimentary round of clay target shooting. The mixture of manual traps and automated machines provide enough variety to serve as a makeshift 5-stand course if you are a little creative. Charles' daughter Lyle was joining us, and she hadn't been out hunting in a while so we indulged in the orange target throwing for about a half hour. Satisfied that we would actually hit something, we headed for the field.

Mike discussed with me how we wanted to hunt. Since I had two types of dogs and Mike had his, we agreed to rotate the dogs and then combine the ones that we felt would complement one another. Throughout the day Mike used four different pointers. I am happy to report that



all of his dogs were well above average in bird finding, handling and responsiveness. After a while we decided Mike's orange and white dog and liver and white dog would be fine with my dog, also liver and white. My dog was the first to find a bird and Mike's orange and white dog honored. It was a comical moment when Mike's dog rolled his eyes and cocked his head as he realized the dog he was honoring was not his kennelmate. I'm sure that dog was thinking, "Who are you and where did you come from," but he held the back as he should have.

Mike was very attentive to us, asking questions and explaining things as we went along. He made sure each of us had opportunities to shoot, and he complimented good shots while ignoring those dreadful misses. Mike's personality and demeanor made it more like hunting with one of our friends than with a guide we had just met.

Bar-R Ranch offers flight-conditioned quail, pheasants and chukars. Since this was literally the last day of the season, Tammy told us that the birds that were released for us were the last of the year's supply. She ex-

plained that there was no reason the birds would not be good fliers, but she was a little nervous about it anyway. Well, her fears were quickly put to rest. All the birds flew great with little provocation. **The birds at Bar-R were as good as any place we've been and better than most.**

There are two levels of service at the Bar-R Ranch. One is a no-frills, do-it-yourself type of hunt. In this case, birds are released for your group upon your arrival.

Hunters can pursue them with their own dogs until they are satisfied or it gets dark. The second level of service includes a guide with dogs, full family style meal, clay target shooting and bird cleaning. We chose the later option so we could evaluate all of the offerings for *The Bird Hunting Report*

subscribers.

The meal was unbelievable. Tammy was in the kitchen from the moment we arrived until we returned late in the afternoon. The varieties, quantity, flavor and quality were more satisfying than you will find at a lot of fine-dining facilities. Tammy's home recipes were tasty and filling and her pies were to-die-for! Even though we encouraged Mike and Tammy to sit and eat with us, there was more food than the five of us could have eaten in two days!

As we ate and socialized, I experienced a rare moment that speaks of the quality of the Bar-R Ranch operation. Mike asked us for feedback on our hunt. I've hardly ever been solicited for comments on how I liked the hunt, what I thought could be done better or different, and other details. Yet Mike sincerely wanted our thoughts on how the day went. It was easy to tell Mike the truth. **I've hunted at over a dozen preserves over the past nine months and the trip to Bar-R Ranch was the most fun I've had out of all of them.**

Hunting outfitters and guides are very used to hearing clients say they'll be back, but it is probably only true less



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 Josef A. Riekers
Tom Huggler Nick Sisley
Tom Keer Doug Stamm
Gary Lewis Mel Toponce
Greg Morton

Brunson Publishing Co.

Copyright ©2011

The Bird Hunting Report (ISSN: 1084-8789) is a newsletter for the active hunter/conservationist who travels in search of the world's best birdshooting and waterfowling, and is deeply involved in efforts to save that wingshooting for future generations. *The Bird Hunting Report* is not a booking agent, nor is it affiliated with any booking agent, outfitter or guide. All reports contained herein are based on the best information available at press time. A one-year subscription costs \$59. Single copies cost \$6. Back issues cost \$5.50. In Canada and Mexico add \$6/year. Overseas subscribers add \$21/year and send payment via major credit card or US bank draft. Material herein may not be reproduced without permission of Brunson Publishing Co.

The Bird Hunting Report USPS (1084-8789) is published monthly by Brunson Publishing Co., PO Box 328, Boyds MD 20841. A one-year subscription costs \$59. Periodicals postage paid at Boyds, MD and at additional mailing offices. **Postmaster send address changes to: The Bird Hunting Report, Brunson Publishing Co., PO Box 328, Boyds MD 20841.**

Enter my subscription to **The Bird Hunting Report**
[] One-year subscription — \$59

Name _____

Title _____

Company _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Visa/MC/Amex No. _____

Signature _____

Mail to: The Bird Hunting Report, PO Box 328, Boyds MD 20841, e-mail: support@pnmsi.com or call 301-528-0011.

than half the time. I normally don't say that. Since I am intentionally trying different places throughout the year, it just wouldn't be true. I explained this to

Mike and Tammy but concluded with, "Oh, and I will be back!"

Bar-R Ranch, Hugo, Okla.; Mike Virgen and Tammy Richards; 580-

326-6647; www.barranchhuntingpreserve.com; mvirge@hotmail.com.

—Josef Riekers

Bolivia... (from page 1)

habitats that are literally alive with doves.

Upon arrival in Santa Cruz, hunters are greeted by a Bolivian Adventurers representative, luggage is collected and shotguns are cleared through customs. The lodge is 70 miles to the east with most clients arriving via a 20-minute chartered aircraft flight. The landing strip is only minutes from the lodge. For those preferring to travel by land, a vehicle transfer takes less than two hours.

The lodge itself is a study in comfort and impeccable design. Las Palomas has 12 well-appointed double rooms in three separate buildings, an indoor pool and spa, outdoor swimming pool, lounge, dining areas and manicured grounds. The rooms are booked as single occupancy unless other arrangements are requested.

Hunting for eared dove is the first order of business at Las Palomas. They are a species endemic to South America with hunting popular in Bolivia, Uruguay and Argentina. This handsome bird is the same size and similar in appearance to North American mourning doves. Considered pests by farmers, there are no seasons or bag limits. To provide an idea of just how outstanding the dove shooting can be, recently a single client fired 127 boxes in the morning and 72 in the afternoon for total of nearly 5,000 rounds! His party of six shooters bagged 17,500 doves in three days.

The hunting areas vary from a 15-minute to a one-hour drive from the lodge with many of them less than 30 minutes. **Las Palomas is open from Apr. 1 to Nov. 15, which coincides with the highest dove populations, dry season and harvesting of corn, soybeans, sunflower, sorghum, sesame and wheat.** The hottest months are April, October and November when temperatures are in the 90s or above, while May, June and July are the coldest with daytime temperatures in the 70s and 80s.

This region of the Chaco is farmed by Mennonites of German descent who came to this region 30 years ago. Some are traditional, still using horse-drawn farm equipment and utilizing horses and buggies for transportation, while others use modern farm equipment and drive vehicles. The advent of agriculture has in-



creased the food and water available but at the same time has reduced native vegetation important for roost sites and nesting areas. As the agricultural acreage increased, forward thinking individuals in **the government and conservation community passed legislation that requires at least 20 percent of the land in the major agricultural regions to remain in native habitats.** This landscape combination has been very favorable to wildlife and created dove populations that are counted in the millions. **Within a one-hour drive of the lodge, it is estimated there are more than 25 million doves that use 14 different roosts.**

Most morning hunts take place at grain fields or waterholes while afternoon hunts are most often at roosts and occasionally at waterholes. One of my most memorable shoots was near a waterhole. We arrived about 4 p.m. and while we were unloading the gear, the first flock of doves passed over a patch of brush 100 yards east of the pond.

Our driver that afternoon was 23-year-old Jorge Molina Jr., who attended a university in Florida and speaks impec-

cable English. I pointed out the spot to Jorge Jr. and asked if that might be a good location to set up. His answer was "Sí s nor," and we headed in that direction. Jorge Jr. and our bird boy Luis carried shotgun shells, a stool and a small blind. Luis set up the blind while I ripped open a case of shells and loaded the semi-auto that the lodge had provided. Before I could load the last shell into the magazine, a flock of 30 doves passed directly over the blind. I fired three shells in rapid succession and dropped two birds. The doves flew along a predetermined flight path almost nonstop. By the end of the afternoon, the average bag was at least 300 doves per shooter!

We arrived back at the lodge in time for a dip in the pool and shower before hors d'oeuvres and cocktails were served in the main dining area. Las Palomas maintains an open bar policy and has an extensive wine cellar stocked with quality Chilean and Argentine labels. The food was an exquisite mixture of local pork and chicken dishes, imported seafood and grass-fed local beef along with breads, salads, soups and desserts.

During a typical four-day program, one morning or afternoon is reserved for pigeon hunting. While pigeon populations cannot compare to those found in Paraguay or support shooting every day, there are sufficient picazuro pigeons to warrant one quality hunt per visit. We hunted pigeons 40 minutes from the lodge in a harvested soybean field. A blind of cut brush was used for concealment and while decoys were not used, the blind was placed in a flyway between the field and nearby roost trees. At the end of the afternoon, the tally was 100 pigeons for two shooters.

Six-night/three-hunting day packages at Las Palomas that include airfare from Miami, accommodations, food, hunting services and transportation from Santa Cruz are \$2,795 while seven-night/four-hunting days are \$3,195. Hunters can

import their own shotguns or Bennelli and Beretta semi-autos can be rented for \$60/day. Shells are \$13/box.

An outfitter once told me that in addition to the shooting, each lodge has at least one attribute that sets it apart from the others. It might be the elegant accommodations, the availability of a first-class masseuse or a barman that can

mix the best drinks in South America. **At Las Palomas it is the ambience of the lodge and its employees that make you feel comfortable and relaxed the moment you walk through the door.** Las Palomas truly lives up to the saying “Mi casa es su casa,” or “My house is your house.” So if you are in the market for awesome dove shooting mixed with a

bit of pigeon hunting while staying at a great facility with incredible service, look no further than Bolivia’s Las Palomas Lodge.

For more information: **Trek Safaris, 800-654-9915, www.treksafaris.com.**

—Gary Kramer

Dateline: Argentina

Dream Trip for Dove Hunters

- **Timetable:** Year-round
- **Accommodations:** Huge lodge
- **Food:** Local and American
- **Hunt:** Easy

Argentina has gained the reputation of having the best dove hunting in the world. I made my first trip to Argentina three years ago and have returned three times already. Combine nonstop shooting with gourmet food, luxury accommodations and knowledgeable guides and the result is a dream hunting trip.

I hunt with Argentina Wild Wings, owned by Denton Lindsay. Denton was born and raised in South Carolina and, after making several trips to Argentina, decided to use lessons learned from those trips to open his own hunting business. **He now has access to over 200,000 acres of hunting land, offering hunters year-round shooting. Two lodges, or estancias, are on the property located in Cordoba Province.** El Cielo (Heaven) and El Paraiso (Paradise) are properly named. Each bedroom is spacious, always clean and the beds are big and comfortable. Goyo, the Peruvian chef, has been with them for 10 years, and is a world-class chef. Meals are huge, well prepared and served in luxury dining style with very good local wines.

The fields hunted are all within easy driving distance from the lodges, as most are only 10 minutes away. After an early breakfast, hunters board a van and head to the field fairly early in the morning. Bird boys will await their arrival with cases of shotgun shells and a stool and lead each hunter to a spot that has been set for him. Most shooting spots are along a fence line with plenty of cover to hide hunters. The birds will

be coming from the roost to the feeding fields in a steady stream. After they have filled their crops with grain, they head back to the nesting area, offering “return” shots. **After that, birds will be coming and going, and the shooting is fast and furious.** Their dove is a “torcaza,” which looks like the mourning dove in the United States. The perfect growing season for crops results in perfect breeding conditions for the dove, and as many as five nestlings per bird are common every year, hence the tremendous quantity of dove.

Around noon, hunters board the van for a return trip to the lodge for a big lunch, drinks and relaxation before returning to



the fields in the late afternoon. Hunters use this time to relax, swim, have a drink or take a nap. There is no need to eat in the hot fields as some outfitters do.

On my first trip, I shot one of the rented 12-gauge shotguns and on my second trip, I brought my own. Those are two things that I will never do again! Bringing your own gun requires special permits and a custom inspection at each country you stop in as well as an extra charge. Shooting thousands or rounds each day puts a lot of wear on your gun. Quality Beretta shotguns are available to rent, and if one does break down, another is simply handed to you instead of you having your own broken

shotgun. **Finally, a light 20-gauge is enough to knock down all the dove you want, and the recoil is much lighter.**

Flights into Cordoba are offered by several airlines. Some stop and change planes in Buenos Aires, and I don’t recommend doing that. You will have to transfer by bus, bringing all of your luggage with you. **I prefer to fly on American Airlines, as they have convenient arrival and return times.** I also like to spend at least the first night in Cordoba. There is a great deal to do and see there and the extra night will allow you to be rested and the luggage that often gets delayed to catch up with you. Denton will arrange the extra night if you decide to do so.

While the hunting is year-round, the peak months are November through March. The seasons in Argentina are the reverse of the United States, so December is the equivalent of our July. The days are longer and hotter during their summer, offering more hours of shooting. I prefer the cooler days of October and March. Less shooting time is no problem, as most shooters quit before the day is over anyway!

Shooting thousands of shells every day requires a little preparation. Bring along a good shooting vest and a good set of ear protectors. High quality muffs can cut shotgun muzzle blast to a whisper. They might be a bit hot to wear during the really hot months, so bring along a good set of earplugs in case they are too hot for you. It is imperative to protect your ears from all of the shooting! Shooting glasses and lightweight shooting gloves are also recommended. **I bring a roll of adhesive tape along and wrap my thumb and shooting finger so that reloading would not blister them.**

A normal hunting trip is four days

and three nights long. After arriving at the Cordoba airport, a drive of about two hours will have you to the lodge for a quick lunch and an afternoon shoot. The next two days involve morning and afternoon hunts with a morning hunt on day four and a return to the airport.

Argentina Wild Wings has kept its prices at the 2009 level, but will customize hunts to your desires. Currently, the price is \$1,800 and includes 1,000

rounds of shells. A very good option to add to a dove hunt is a day or two of pigeon shoots. The fields are a few hours from the main lodge, so you will stay overnight near the fields. **Pigeons are fun to hunt and offer a more challenging target than dove. Decoys are set up, and it is almost like a duck hunt on dry land, as the pigeons will circle and come into the decoys.**

Denton often will offer special

prices during the year and encourage father-son type trips. **Ideally, find enough friends to make a group of six to eight hunters to have exclusive use on one of the lodges.**

For additional information: **Argentina Wild Wings, P.O. Box 26, Santee, SC 29142; 877-294-2622; argentina.wildwings.com; info@argentina.wildwings.com.**

—Butch Thurmond

Dateline: Oklahoma

Rio Grand Turkey

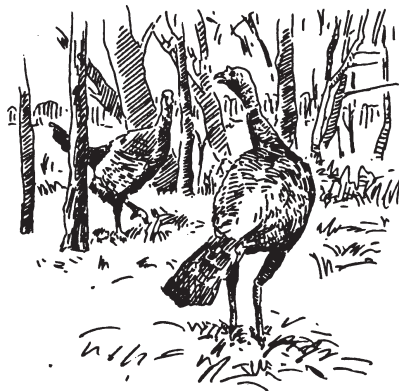
- **Timetable:** Spring
- **Accommodations:** Converted dude ranch with motel and social barn
- **Food:** Pre-arranged meals to bring and cook your own
- **Hunt:** Easy to moderate

Croton Creek Guest Ranch and Outfitters is now offering spring turkey hunts on their prime 6,000 acre ranch located in Roger Mills County in western Oklahoma.

Roger Mills County holds **one of the largest populations of Rio Grand turkey in Oklahoma**, which is why hunters are allowed a two tom harvest limit with spring turkey season running April 6 to May 6 in Roger Mills County.

Located northwest of Elk City and eight miles west of Cheyenne, Okla., Croton Creek Guest Ranch and Outfitters is a simple rustic retreat surrounded by rolling sand hills, canyons and creek bottoms that is home to many wildlife species, including lots of turkey. **A family owned and operated ranch, its owners Scott and Joni Sanderford just recently started offering outfitting services that includes guided and semi-guided hunts on turkey, deer and quail.** Formerly a working dude ranch, Croton Creek Ranch and Outfitters now offers a 20-room hotel with small, moderate rooms that can accommodate one to four people. Keeping tabs on weather, news or sports can be done in the social barn that has a satellite big screen, since there are no televisions in the rooms, and the social barn provides a unique gathering spot for those guests

staying at the ranch. The social barn is located a short walk from the hotel and makes for a great place to share hunt-



ing stories, eat, watch television as well as meet other hunters. The social barn also includes a restaurant and kitchen, pool table, and even a dance floor if you have enough energy left to kick up your heels after a full day of hunting, and of course, brought your own dancing partner.

Joni, Scott and company can arrange, prepare and serve home cooked meals for large or small groups of hunters, and dinner often includes some kind of awesome homemade pie, cobbler or other dessert. Mornings are usually a continental breakfast, self-serve and at your own time and pace. Make sure to try the homemade cinnamon rolls. **The restaurant kitchen can also be used for preparing your own meals if desired or needed; just pre-arrange with Joni or Scott.**

Spring turkey hunts are semi-guided and the cost is \$800 for two-and-a-half days and includes lodging. Scott and Joni handpick several areas the turkey move through going from the roost

in the morning and to the roost in the evening, as well as feeding and loafing areas the turkey frequent during the day, most with easy hunter access. **Ground blinds are also utilized in heavy traffic areas, helping conceal movement because at times there are many sets of turkey eyes always on the lookout for potential danger.**

Scott says, "There are lots of jakes and hens scattered with older longbeards that have not been over hunted or pressured, resulting in lots of calling, yelping, clucking and gobbling, great spring time action and an absolute joy to watch."

Early morning seems to be the best time since the wind is usually calmer and the birds are vocal, strutting and active. Response to calls often occurs all day with activity once again picking up in the evening, depending on the weather.

Regarding springtime weather in Oklahoma, temperatures can be freezing or over 90 degrees and usually windy no matter the temperature, so be prepared when it comes to clothing. A good turkey gun and preferred turkey loads along with tight chokes will always help since **these birds are in open range land and some shots could be 40 or more yards.**

After harvesting a turkey at Croton Creek Guest Ranch and Outfitters, you might also want to try your skills on the surrounding government lands open to public hunting. Named after the historic peaceful Indian Chief Black Kettle, **The Black Kettle National Grasslands remains a popular destination for turkey hunters.**

However, moving from Croton Creek Guest Ranch to surrounding public hunting areas can be extremely challenging and difficult hunting, since turkey on public or government lands are heavily hunted, extremely wary and react much differently than birds on private lands that are not over hunted or pressured, like the turkey at Croton Creek Ranch and Outfitters.

Hunting wild turkey is never a guaranteed hunt, but hunting with Croton Creek Guest Ranch and Outfitters will drastically increase odds of harvesting an Oklahoma tom turkey. Scott and Joni strive to make guests feel welcome and at home during the time spent with them at the ranch and feel the overall hunting experience is what matters in the end, not just the game

encountered or harvested. In fact, "Welcome to our home" is their practice and even printed on their promotion brochure.

Croton Creek Guest Ranch and Outfitters, Scott or Joni Sanderford, 580-497-3960 or 580-497-6129, www.crotoncreekranch.com, crotoncreek@yahoo.com.

—James Dietsch

Dateline: Arizona

A "No Frills" Pheasant and Chukar Hunting Preserve

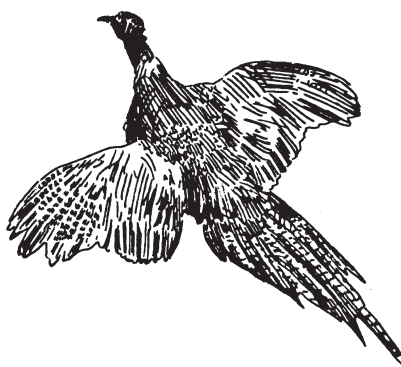
- **Timetable:** December through March
- **Accommodations:** Local motels
- **Food:** Regional cafés and fast-food
- **Hunt:** Easy

The State of Arizona is not well known for wild populations of pheasants, and the chukars there can be extremely challenging to hunt. **Indeed, wild pheasants do exist but may be hunted only in wildlife management unit 40B near Yuma and only if one is lucky enough to draw a permit, the deadline for which is traditionally the second Tuesday in June for the following fall/winter hunting season.** Chukars exist in the isolated areas in the steep, rugged canyon country of the far northern part of the state where the terrain is greatly in their favor and for the hunter and dog is highly difficult to negotiate. **However, there is an Arizona preserve that offers both species, without limits or permit draws on easy-to-hunt-in high desert terrain**

The YMCA High Desert Hunt Club, located halfway between Phoenix and Flagstaff in the town of Mayer, just five miles off I-17, offers pen-raised birds of both species. At 4,200 feet elevation, the temps tend to be cooler there than the Phoenix valley and yet not as cold as Flagstaff to the north. Snow seldom falls there and if it does, it doesn't last for long. Terrain ranges from flat to mild, rolling hills and is dotted with chaparral and other scrub high desert vegetation. **The facility covers 4,500 acres and is open to the public. A variety of membership packages are also available.**

Both chukars and pheasants are kept

in flight pens prior to release and are flight conditioned on a daily basis. Hunters may order the number of birds they want released and are then assigned a specific, marked area where the birds are released



prior to the hunt. Bird dogs are also available for rental and bird cleaning is offered at \$2 per bird. **It is strongly recommended that reservations be made ahead of time for any hunt, typically taking place over half-day segments.** The vegetation can be abrasive, typical of high desert conditions, so briar proof outerwear is recommended for both hunter and dog. Depending upon timing during the hunting season, temperatures can range from just above freezing to up into the 70s.

Local accommodations in the way of small motels can also be found in Mayer and in nearby Cortes Junction. Camping is available on the hunt club property as well. Meals can range from fast food over by the interstate to local, Southwestern-style cafés.

Located on the YMCA Chauncey Ranch, the facility has operated for the benefit of youth and families since 1972 and offers summer camp, family camps, group retreats and an adult retreat center called the "Stone House" which can accommodate up to 20 people. Guests

can enjoy horseback riding, paintball, a high ropes course and climbing tower with a zip line, canoeing and fishing and many other fun activities. **In fact, the Agua Fria River runs through the property.**

A 5-stand clays course is also available for shooting on a year-round basis with pricing at \$10 per 50-target round. Pricing for birds are set seasonally and can vary widely depending upon packages purchased.

The YMCA High Desert Hunt Club, 18970 E. Old Sycamore Rd., Mayer AZ 86333; 928-632-7226; www.ymcahighdeserthuntclub.org.

—John C. Gosselin

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 **Joseph S. String, Brad Watts, Gary Sanden, Mark Rousseau, Woods Weathersby and Curtis L. Frisbie.**

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.

Subscriber Field Notes

Snake Den Lodge

I should start out by saying that I have hunted with this outfitter for pheasant for the past 15 years and would not think of going through a hunting season without a trip to the Snake Den Lodge in Persho, S.D. I first visited the Snake Den Lodge in the mid-90s, after several in our group canceled out at the last minute on an annual pheasant hunting trip. **At the time, Cordie Schlomer had just joined up with Mike Amber to form Snake Den Lodge,** and my brother and I who had already arrived needed a place to hunt. Although we hunted with several different outfitters on that trip, I was extremely impressed with Cordie Schlomer and Mike Amber's operation.

The Snake Den Lodge is located midway between Sioux Falls and Rapid City on I-90. The lodge is located on the north end of town in an old mechanics' garage, which has been extensively renovated and transformed into a modern, well-appointed lodge that accommodates 30 hunters in 10 rooms, each room with its own private bath. Four additional rooms were added to the owner's house, which was built last year behind the lodge. Each room has three double beds, one of which has an overhead single bunk bed. There are several common areas for reading, working, playing pool, watching television, playing cards or hooking up to the Internet (WiFi service). The lodge is appointed with lots of hunting memorabilia and many wildlife mounts, the product of successful hunting excursions by the owner and the guides over the years.

Schlomer hunts about 5,760 acres of ground within 15 minutes of the lodge, which includes 2,000 acres of "CRP" grass interspersed with about

550 acres of strategically planted food plots. The outfitter uses well-trained Labrador retrievers, and the guides are local area relatives who have hunted all their lives in the Presho area. The hunts are typical for South Dakota: the guides, several hunters and the dogs walking the food plots with a wingman on each side and blockers at the end. The hunts start at 12 p.m. the first two weeks, then 10 a.m. for the remainder of the season. **Groups typically limit out before 3 p.m., but that largely depends upon the shooting skills of the group. I promise, it won't be for a lack of shooting opportunities.**

In 2008, Cordie Schlomer began offering "Preserve Hunts" on an 800-acre tract of ground south of town. This ground is managed exclusively for pheasant hunting, offering hunters an opportunity to continue hunting after harvesting their three bird limit. The "preserve" is a mixture of about 90 percent wild birds and 10 percent pen-raised birds. However, within two weeks of the release of about 1,000 pen-raised roosters at the beginning of the season, there is no discernible difference in a wild or a pen-raised bird. **The preserve also offers hunters an opportunity to hunt earlier in the morning, as well as a couple of months before the regular season opens and a couple of months after the regular season closes.** The preserve hunts next season will run from Sept. 1, 2011, through March 31, 2012. Four additional birds are allowed on the preserve hunt, although the state actually allows up to 15 rooster pheasants per day.

One night during your stay, the owner's wife prepares a delicious pheasant dinner for the hunters in each group. Snacks and drinks are provided during

the hunt, plus there is hot food at the lodge after hunters return from the field. Although the package does not include meals, there is an inexpensive restaurant in the middle of town that serves a great breakfast and good home cooked dinners. Our group normally makes a trip one night during our stay to one of a couple great steak houses in Pierre. Beverages, beer and liquor at the lodge are included in the package price.

The 2011 prices are extremely reasonable at \$300 per day for the regular season hunt (three roosters), plus \$175 per day if you choose to hunt the preserve that allows you four additional roosters. If you only hunt the preserve, the price is \$300 per day, which includes four roosters. There is air service into Pierre, Sioux Falls or Rapid City. Snake Den is located a one-hour's drive from Pierre and a three-hour's drive from either Sioux Falls or Rapid City. There is a Cabela's in Mitchell, about one hour west of Sioux Falls for those needing licenses, shells, and clothing.

I have hunted pheasants in Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota over the years, and **I can honestly say that there is no better place to hunt pheasants than south-central South Dakota.** Most of the groups that have hunted at the Snake Den Lodge return year after year because of the great hunting and the quality of the operation.

I might add that I have been extremely reluctant to post anything about the Snake Den Lodge, simply because I guess I wanted to keep it all to myself. Now the word is out.

Snake Den Lodge; 605-895-2452 (office), 605-280-9683 (cell); www.snakedenlodge.com.

—Joseph S. String

Briefly Noted

Things to Do, Places to Go, New Developments

Trident Program Explained

The Beretta Trident Program now offers seven affiliates in its elite program, five domestic and two in Argentina with

plans to expand in the near future by adding venues in Europe and Africa.

The Beretta Trident Program is a unique, quality rating-system that will reflect an objective assessment of the complete guest experience at a wing

shooting and/or shotgun sports venue.

The program requires wing shooting and shotgun sports venues to undergo a detailed and specific assessment of every area that can impact the guest experience. This rating system provides con-

sumer confidence in the quality of field sports, accommodations and guest services. **Tridents will be awarded to designate the venue's level of excellence, rating everything from the birds and hunting experience, professionalism of the staff and guides, quality of the food, even bird dog performance and habitat.** These properties are among the best of the best with less than 5 percent of the destinations worldwide believed to merit even a single Trident. **Though each venue has its own unique personality, each property exemplifies commitment to excellence and a true passion for the elite sporting lifestyle.**

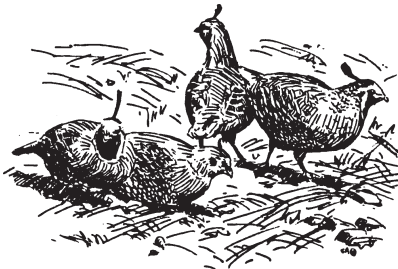
Cabin Bluff near Woodbine in southern Georgia lies alongside the Cumberland River between Jacksonville and Savannah and is the newest addition to the Beretta Trident Program offering quail hunting on 1,500 plus acres and a host of other activities. Its pristine forests overlook Georgia's vast tidal marshes cradling famed seashore, Cumberland Island. Established in 1928, Cabin Bluff garnered a respected reputation as host to Presidents and distinguished sporting enthusiasts from around the world. www.cabinbluff.com, 912-729-5960.

Cheyenne Ridge Signature Lodge was the first lodge to ever receive a Beretta Trident rating for excellence in upland bird hunting and was recently awarded its second Trident. **Located near Pierre, S.D.,** Cheyenne Ridge Signature Lodge overlooks Lake Oahe where wetlands, cattail marshes and diverse habitat provide some of the best pheasant hunting opportunities available. Cheyenne Ridge Signature Lodge also offers outstanding waterfowl hunting. www.signaturelodge.com, 605-264-5444.

Estancia Los Chanares is the first of two international affiliates just 60 miles from Cordoba, Argentina, in South America offering high volume dove hunting. Estancia Los Chanares joins a select group of venues earning a Two Trident rating for excellence in upland bird hunting. Doves roost nearby and feed on the many fields surrounding the lodge perfectly suited for tremendous wing shooting. www.loschanares.com, 800-281-2717.

Highland Hills Ranch has 3,000 acres near Condon in north central

Oregon that provide diverse wing shooting opportunities including pheasant, chukar, gray partridge and valley quail. Terrain varies from creek bottoms, grasslands, planted fields, rolling hills to mountain ridges that provide cover for



the variety of upland birds in beautiful scenic surroundings. www.highlandhillsranch.com, 541-422-2502.

Joshua Creek Ranch is located by Boerne, Texas, near San Antonio offering upland hunts for native bobwhite quail and other upland shooting opportunities on pheasants, chukar and Hungarian partridge in the hill country of southern Texas since 1990. The ranch has creek and river bottom land to lightly wooded grass pastures with intervening limestone bluffs and ledges, all managed to produce prime wildlife habitat for quail, pheasant and turkey hunting. www.joshuacreek.com, 830-537-5090.

Pine Hill Plantation near Donalsonville, Ga., offers some of the finest traditional southern style plantation quail hunting since 1991. Vintage quail hunts from horse and mule drawn wagons on 6,000 acres consisting of long leaf pines and wiregrass understory with extensive habitat management for quail and other wildlife. www.pinehillplantation.com, 229-942-2726.

Sierra Brava Lodge, Cordoba, Argentina, is the second of two international affiliates near Cordoba, Argentina, in South America offering high volume dove hunting. Sierra Brava Lodge joins the Beretta Trident Program with a One Trident rating for upland birds. Doves flock to the feed fields in massive numbers providing outstanding wing shooting. www.sierrabrava.com, 800-281-2717.

For more information on the Beretta Trident Program: www.berettatrident.com.

• • •

Oklahoma — Spring Turkey Season Date and Limit Changes for 2012

Spring turkey season will be shorter in the southeastern counties of Oklahoma for the 2012 spring season in an attempt by the Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation to strengthen the Eastern wild turkey's dwindling populations in the southeastern part of the state. The ODWC announced that beginning in 2012, **the season will start on the Monday following the third Saturday in April and run through May 6 for the eight southeast counties of Atoka, Choctaw, Coal, Latimer, Le Flore, Pittsburg, Pushmataha and McCurtain.** The season bag limit in those southeast counties will be reduced to one tom. The neighboring state to the east, Arkansas, has been modifying its turkey season the past several years dealing with the Eastern wild turkey population decrease. Weather conditions ranging from extreme drought that reduced insect populations and nesting habitat to unusual wet springs that followed hampered nesting conditions the past few years. Oklahoma officials believe the measures will help reduce overall harvest in the area as well as limit the disturbance of nesting hens and should lead to better breeding success. Oklahoma's diverse habitat allows for populations of Eastern, Rio, and Merriam turkey. **Season dates and limits will remain the same for the rest of the state.**

For more information: www.wildlifedepartment.com.

• • •

Iowa Joins the Party

In early April, a dove hunting season was approved in Iowa. If the rules get hammered out soon, the season could open in September 2011.

• • •

Quail — States ID 195 Million Acres as Bobwhite Priority

From Outdoor Wire:

If its habitat management goals were to be fully implemented across "priority" landscapes **it could add 4.6 million additional coveys — or more than 55 million birds** — to the plummeting populations of bobwhites across the range, estimates the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI).

That was one message delivered to representatives from an array of federal,

state and private conservation organizations at the North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference. **They gathered to see the 25 states comprising the core range of the northern bobwhite quail unveil the new, web-based NBCI 2.0, the massive revision and expansion of the original 2002 printed bobwhite plan, known then as the “Northern” Bobwhite Conservation Initiative.** It was instituted primarily by 16 southeastern states to help reverse the drastic decline of quail and a suite of other wildlife species dependent on disappearing diversity of native grasses, wildflowers and shrubs on rangelands, farmlands, grasslands and timberlands.

“The original 2002 NBCI changed the game for bobwhite conservation and grasslands conservation overall in many ways; this revised NBCI will raise our game,” NBCI Director Don McKenzie told the audience. “This second edition goes light years beyond the initial paper-based effort in 2002. This new NBCI is a dynamic, interactive, web-connected geographic information system created by an innovative combination of satellite imagery, landscape databases, professional biological judgment and knowledge of priorities in rural communities. This is an initiative by the states, for the states. And it’s really just the beginning at a truly range-wide scale.”

Essentially a range-wide prescription for bobwhite recovery, NBCI 2.0 includes a thorough update and analysis of the bobwhite’s situation, a survey and classification of 600 million acres of landscape across the bobwhite range, and inventories 195 million acres of priority landscapes where bobwhite and grasslands conservation have a relatively high potential of success. It also prescribes specific management actions necessary for those acres to achieve respective state bobwhite population goals and identifies specific keys to success, such as the addition and management of diverse native grasses and wildflowers to agricultural fields, pasture lands and forests.

NBCI 2.0 includes a massive database with an array of custom digital applications — the NBCI Conservation Planning Tool (CPT) — that helps bobwhite biologists quickly analyze habitat prospects at regional, state, county

or landowner levels and plan and implementation projects for the greatest return on investment.

Paired with the online plan and tools for implementation is a small NBCI staff to help generate support for state efforts and, over time, help states address constraints to bobwhite recovery at a



range-wide or national level.

The 233-page report can be accessed by visiting the NBCI website at: www.bringbackbobwhites.org and click on the “NBCI ver 2.0” link.

Headquartered at the University of Tennessee, NBCI is a project of the National Bobwhite Technical Committee (NBTC) to elevate bobwhite quail recovery from an individual state-by-state proposition to a range-wide, policy-level leadership endeavor. The committee is comprised of representatives of state fish and wildlife agencies, academic research institutions and non-governmental conservation organizations. NBCI is funded by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, two dozen state wildlife management agencies, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and Southern Company. For more information: www.bringbackbobwhites.org.

• • •

Illinois/Missouri — 11,000 Acres of Critical Habitat Protected

From Outdoor Wire:

In just over three years, Ducks Unlimited and an impressive suite of partners permanently protected 11,135 acres of critical wildlife habitat in Illinois and Missouri with the support of a \$2.5-million grant from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation using funds provided by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

“We were thrilled to have this opportunity to work with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation to use the very generous support from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation to achieve sub-

stantial, high quality habitat conservation on the ground,” Dave Brakhage, DU director of conservation programs, said.

In 2007, DDCF provided a three and one-half year grant in the amount of \$10.8 million to the INHF for the purpose of establishing and managing the Upper Midwest Land Protection Initiative. This initiative was designed to support the implementation of the State Wildlife Action Plans in the Upper Midwest states of Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois and Wisconsin.

Under the terms of the grant agreement, INHF was to work with The Conservation Fund and Ducks Unlimited to implement the initiative. Ducks Unlimited entered into a re-grant agreement with INHF to specifically implement the initiative in targeted conservation opportunity areas in Illinois and Missouri.

“We believe this effort was a resounding success,” INHF President Mark C. Ackelson said. “The mission of Ducks Unlimited was in great alignment with what we were trying to achieve with state wildlife action plans.” INHF is a member-supported, nonprofit conservation organization.

INHF granted DU \$2.5 million to permanently protect ecologically significant land in Missouri and Illinois. DU and its partners protected 3,746 acres in Illinois and 7,389 acres in Missouri. **These lands are identified as high priorities for conservation by state wildlife agencies.**

DU was required to match the grant funds at a minimum of 5:1 ratio overall. The final match ratio was 22:1. All together, DU and its partners used \$2.5 million of grant funds coupled with \$55.9 million of partner match funds to permanently protect 11,135 acres of wetlands and associated habitat in six different conservation opportunity areas.

“This program was extremely successful, with much partner interest. Without the support of the grant and the outstanding cooperation of area landowners, I doubt we would have been able to celebrate this accomplishment,” said Mark Flaspohler, Ducks Unlimited manager of conservation programs in Missouri. “Ensuring these critical habitats are forever protected from development is a significant step in the right direction for wildlife, waterfowl, flood pro-

tection and water quality.”

Wyoming — Range Energy Leases Withdrawn Following Sportsmen’s Input

A decision by the U.S. Forest Service not to issue energy leases on more than 44,000 acres of public lands in the Wyoming Range drew praise from the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership.

The TRCP had submitted comments via the National Environmental Policy Act recommending that leasing and development of these parcels be prohibited to conserve important fish and wildlife habitat and sustain hunting and other outdoor recreation.

Located southeast of Jackson, Wyo., in Bridger-Teton National Forest, **the proposed leases are sited in prime habitat for elk, mule deer, moose and forest grouse that is a popular hunting destination.** The area also is home to native cutthroat trout populations and provides ample fishing opportunities. These recreational offerings are a mainstay of local economies and have supported outfitters, guides and a range of other sportsmen-dependent businesses for more than a century.

“Wyoming’s federal public lands have born witness to significant oil and gas development over the past decade — development that in some cases has decimated fish and wildlife populations and hunting and fishing opportunities,” said TRCP Western Energy Coordinator Neil Thagard.

“The decision to not lease these parcels, based on thorough environmental review and under the mandate of multiple-use, equals a victory for the responsible management of our federal public lands and for sportsmen — both in Wyoming and across the country.”

In particular, the TRCP maintained that developing the leases would compound the pressures on mule deer in southwestern Wyoming. **A federal scientific report released in November 2010 shows that mule deer populations in the area had declined by 60 percent since oil and gas development began around Pinedale, Wyo., in 2000.**

Kentucky — Ruffed Grouse Battling Habitat Changes, High Mortality

From Outdoor Wire:

The ruffed grouse has an interesting history in Kentucky.

No one knows for sure how widely

distributed grouse were during the pre-settlement era when old-growth forests covered an estimated 90 percent of the state.

It’s been well documented that as Kentucky’s big timber was cut, grouse sightings in the region increased. In recent decades, the reverse has been true — grouse population densities have severely declined as Appalachia’s forests matured.

“Historically, grouse populations have most likely gone up and down with forest condition,” said Dan Figert, assistant director of wildlife for the Kentucky Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources and former small game program coordinator. “In mature forests, grouse survive, but they don’t thrive. They are really an early successional species. They do best in forests



with several different age classes of trees.”

After 1930, when most of the Cumberland Plateau had been timbered, grouse numbers increased, offering good hunting for several decades beginning in the 1940s.

In the March 1950 issue of *Happy Hunting Ground* magazine, Frederick C. Hardy, Federal Air Project Leader, reported that “cutting the climax forest, which helped spell doom for deer and turkey, actually improved grouse habitat. Grouse populations are being studied by drumming counts and flushing counts. Drumming sites were almost without exception located on uplands, in second-growth hardwoods, as are a majority of nests.”

Grouse have a high natural mortality rate, so reproductive success is important to maintain population levels. In the north woods of the U.S. and Canada, grouse experience regular population cycles (highs and lows) every 10 to 12 years.

“Appalachian populations of grouse occur in much lower densities, but populations are more stable,” said John Morgan, small game program coordinator for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

In an attempt to expand the range of grouse in Kentucky, birds were stocked at Land Between the Lakes beginning in the early 1980s. During the 1990s, the trap and relocation efforts extended to several counties in central Kentucky, Pennyriple State Forest and Ft. Knox Military Reservation.

“There were some initial successes, but over the past decade populations have largely disappeared,” said Morgan. “We occasionally get reports of grouse sightings in central Kentucky, and we had one in Hart County a few years back.”

Daniel Boone National Forest, the state’s largest area open to public hunting for grouse, has had no significant timber harvest in the past 20 years.

“Without question, a lack of early successional forest habitat has impacted grouse populations and hunter harvest in the forest,” said Morgan.

While timber harvest on private lands may have benefited some local populations of grouse, the maturation of forests in Appalachia continues to be the driving force behind long-term population declines. Two natural events created some forest openings: the February 2003 ice storm that damaged thousands of acres of hardwood trees, and infestations of the southern pine beetle, first reported in the spring of 2000. However, **Morgan said the overall benefit to grouse populations has been negligible.**

Kansas — Brownback Announces Special Pheasant Hunt/Hunt Fees Not Taxable

From Kansas.com:

Gov. Sam Brownback has announced Kansas’ first Ringneck Classic pheasant hunt will be held this Nov. 18-20 and based out of Oakley, Kan.

Since being elected, Brownback has said he hopes to bring more attention to the Kansas outdoors in an effort to improve the state’s economy.

“My top priority is to grow the state’s economy. Key to that is capitalizing on the competitive advantages our state has,” Brownback said in the release. **“Kansas is consistently ranked as one of the top three states in the country**

for pheasant hunting. This is an underutilized asset for our rural communities. If we do a better job telling folks about the quality of hunting available here in Kansas, we will pull more of those tourism dollars into Kansas.”

Invitations to the hunt will be sent to select business and community leaders across the nation.

The event will be on the second weekend of the Kansas pheasant season.

In Wichita, Brownback mentioned he'd like to see Kansas be more like South Dakota, where the renowned pheasant hunting draws sportsmen from all over the world and adds more than \$200 million to the state's economy.

“I'm tired of South Dakota getting all the credit for having great pheasants when ours are bigger, tougher, wilder and better to shoot at than theirs are,” Brownback joked.

•
From Outdoor Wire:

Kansas hunting guides and non-guided hunt fees are not subject to state sales tax, the Kansas Dept. of Revenue has determined.

“This decision will help Kansas hunting guides keep their prices competitive and encourage more people to take advantage of Kansas' outdoor hunting and fishing opportunities,” said Revenue Secretary Nick Jordan. “Gov. Sam Brownback is promoting our state's world-class outdoor tourism opportunities, and this will keep these activities more affordable.”

The ruling also determined that game birds purchased by a controlled shooting area operator from a bird breeder for release at a controlled shooting area would be considered a retail sale and the retail sales tax would apply to the transaction.

Michigan — DNR Begins Revitalizing Wild Turkey Population in Northern Michigan

From Outdoor Wire:

Thirteen wild turkey hens that were native to Barry County have been relocated to Oscoda County, the Dept. of Natural Resources announced.

The trap-and-transfer operation was a joint effort of the DNR, Michigan Wild Turkey Hunters Association, National Wild Turkey Federation and

the Mio Chamber of Commerce, as part of a plan to revitalize the northern Michigan wild turkey population, which has been in decline during the last decade. **The birds, which were trapped on private land in an area with a robust turkey population, were released on public land near Fairview, a town once billed as the “Wild Turkey Capital of Michigan.”**

Al Stewart, the DNR's upland game bird specialist, said more wild turkeys might be released in northern Michigan this year if weather conditions remain conducive to trapping birds in southern Michigan.

“This is an excellent example of our employees working with our stakeholders to enhance wildlife populations and produce high-quality outdoor experiences,” said DNR Director Rodney Stokes.

Wild turkeys were once totally extirpated from Michigan, but thanks to cooperative efforts of the DNR and conservation groups, turkey populations are now thriving in many parts of 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 happening in the field. Our policy at The Bird Hunting Report is as follows: We publish excerpts in the newsletter of Bird Hunting Reports as received, except in cases when booking agents or outfitters submit reports on hunts in which they have a financial stake or when we have reason to question whether there are ulterior financial or personal motives on the part of the person submitting the report. It goes without saying that a single report in this section should not be taken as the final word on an outfitter's competence. Many elements of a hunt are subjective. What is wrong for one hunter might be right for another. Moreover, personality conflicts often oc-

cur 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 Terry Ray of Brownsville, Texas, has a South American dove hunt he'd like to recommend.

Terry hunted out of the **Sierra Brava Lodge, an hour north of Cordoba, Argentina,** from March 10 through 14 of this year.

It sounds as if everything went A-OK for Terry. He found the doves to be abundant. He gives “Excellent” ratings to all aspects of the “Personal Guide” category and to all but the “Dog work” in the “Outfitter/Operator” category. There were no problems, and he remarks

that “Topo and J.J. run a first-rate operation. They can handle up to 14 people.”

He liked the hunting blinds, calling them “very natural.”

He received **“good service” and says Sierra Brava plays home to a “top-notch chef and outstanding staff.”**

As another highlight, he notes that hunters needed a drive of less than 20 minutes to get them to the birds. He says the March 2011 journey “was not my first trip to Cordoba, but **there were tons of birds in these roosts.”**

Terry even was able to rank his airlines with a 10. He flew Continental from Houston to Buenos Aires and LAN from there to Cordoba.

The cost of the trip, excluding airfare was \$1,250. Shells cost \$11.95 per box.

Sierra Brava Lodge, 888-627-4541, www.sierrabrava.com.

Serving The Hunter Who Travels

Advertise in the "Back of the Book." Call Kathy 301-528-0011 or fax 240-599-7679 or e-mail: support@pnmsi.com. Ads are \$2.00/word. They are published as a reader service. All items in this section are paid advertisements

PTARMIGAN HUNTING SWEDEN

World class ptarmigan, capercaillie, black grouse hunting in Swedish Lapland. PH with dogs, all transfers during hunting, high standard lodging, permits and licenses.

Tel: (Sweden) +46 722 633957
info@originaltours.eu

THE ORIGINAL SINCE 1976 Argentina Wild Wing Shooting SRL Miguel Medus

Ranked company **Top 78** in the world - SCI
As always offering the **highest Volume of Ducks/Doves/Perdiz**
At Entre Rios Province
2-3-4 hr. drive from Buenos Aires Airport
www.argenina.wildwingshooting.com
mmedus@argentinawildwingshooting.com

Cell- Miguel Medus:

011(54-9-3444) 620-641

US Direct Lines in Argentina:
949-467-1967/301-533-8227

World Class Ruffed Grouse/Woodcock Hunting

Guided hunts over dogs. Includes lodging, meals, game care and in House Wellness Center in Northern Wisconsin.

715-339-2823

www.backfortywi.com

Bird Hunters Africa – since 1986

South Africa, Mozambique & Botswana
We offer the most varied wingshooting in the world.

April / May – Hot barrel doves and pigeons
June, July & August – Duck, Geese, Guinea fowl, Francolin, Pigeons, Doves & Snipe.

September – Waterfowl collectors hunts
16 species.

September / October – Sandgrouse

Email – gamehunt@sai.co.za
www.birdhuntersafrica.com

UMDENDE LIFESTYLE SAFARIS SOUTH AFRICA

World class Wing shooting on 10 species, Trophy Hunting, luxurious accommodation and in-house Spa - Where the whole family will enjoy a true safari in South Africa.

www.umdende.com

Tel (S.A.) +27 34 9816411

Tel (USA) +1 972 769 8866

Tel (Germany) +49 89 6415151
umdende@umdende.co.za

"Argentina bird hunts"

with *Paco Riestra*

Tel: 305-247-3833

www.argentinabirdhunts.com

ULTIMATE WING SHOOTS ARGENTINA

Grand slam shoots from our 4-star lodge
3 hours drive North of Buenos Aires.

Dove and pigeon \$300/day.

Duck \$650/day Mar - May.

Web: southparanaoutfitters.com
Contact; wingsarg@earthlink.net
Tel: 804-694-6110

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

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

For more information please
call (301) 870-2158 or
visit website www.flyingdoublef.com



Send us the name and address of a hunting buddy that does not receive the Bird Hunting Report and we'll send them a three-month subscription FREE!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Details and more - check web site
www.nealsbirdhunting.com

CANCELLED HUNT FOR 4 HUNTERS

Santa Fe Argentina Mixed Bag
Duck, Dove, Pigeon, Perdiz
Flexible dates May-August, 2011
Retail \$13,600 Asking \$8400

972-769-8866 or tim@safaritime.com

E-mail hunt alerts!

Send us your e-mail address so we can send you alerts with news that has come in after our issue went out. Send your email address to support@pnmsi.com and stay up-to-date on late breaking news.

ARGENTINA WILD WINGS

"Specializing in the finest wingshooting and big game hunting Argentina has to offer"

American owned and operated
Spacious accommodations, gourmet meals, very competitive pricing

Toll free 1-877-294-2622

www.argentinawildwings.com

If you submit a hunt report that we use as a "Subscriber Field Note" in 2011, we'll send you a free copy of the collectible, leather-bound "*The Bird Hunting Report: 2011 Annual Edition*" when it is released — complete with your report for you to share with friends and family for years to come. Contact support@birdhuntingreport.com for hunt report guidelines and additional details!

THE UPLAND ALMANAC

For the Bird Hunting Enthusiast
A glossy, colorful quarterly publication featuring expanded North American as well as overseas destinations, regular columns on fine shotguns, culinary secrets, dog handling and much more!
Contact us for a Free Trial Copy!

PO Box 70, Fairfax, VT 05454 USA
Tel. 802-849-9000

www.uplandalmanac.com

E-mail: info@uplandalmanac.com

Become a "Premium Plus Subscriber" before December 31, 2011, and you'll receive a copy of our attractively bound "*The Bird Hunting Report: 2011 Annual Edition*" — a \$59 value! Covered in British tan leather and containing more than 140 pages, this yearly compilation of our monthly issues is a useful and attractive addition to your hunting library! Visit the SUBSCRIBE page to order or upgrade your subscription and take advantage of this before the year ends!

Hunt Report Form

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

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

Date of trip _____ to _____ 20__

Outfitter or Lodge/Preserve Operator _____

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

Street or box number _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____

Web site _____

Personal guide (if different from above) _____

Booking agent (if any) _____ Telephone _____

Place you hunted (State/Province/Country) _____

Specific area(s) _____ Abundant Average Scarce

Species sought _____ Abundant Average Scarce

_____ Abundant Average Scarce

_____ Abundant Average Scarce

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

RATINGS

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

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

YOUR SUMMARY REMARKS

Hunt highlights/special features _____

Problems (if any) _____

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

Cost of trip excluding air fare _____ Air fare _____

Cost of shells _____

PERSONAL DATA

Your name _____ Date of report _____

Your address _____

Telephone (optional) _____ E-mail _____

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

voice 301-528-0011 • fax 240-599-7679

Hunt Report Form

Self-Guided Hunt

(please see other side for outfitted hunt)

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

Date of trip _____ to _____ 20____

Place you hunted (State/Province/Country) _____

Specific area(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Abundant	<input type="checkbox"/> Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Scarce
Species sought _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Abundant	<input type="checkbox"/> Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Scarce
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Abundant	<input type="checkbox"/> Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Scarce
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Abundant	<input type="checkbox"/> Average	<input type="checkbox"/> Scarce

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

Permits, licenses, etc., required _____

How obtained _____

Special gear needed (decoys, waders, etc.) _____

Dog requirement (if any) _____

Where you stayed _____

Address (Street or box #) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____

Transportation in area _____

How and where arranged _____

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

Comment _____

Whom to contact to set up this hunt and phone number if available) _____

YOUR SUMMARY REMARKS

Hunt highlights/special features _____

Problems (if any) _____

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

Cost of trip excluding air fare _____ Air fare _____

PERSONAL DATA

Your name _____ Date of report _____

Your address _____

Telephone (optional) _____ E-mail _____

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

voice 301-528-0011 • fax 240-599-7679