



WINGSHOOTER

Magazine of the SA Wingshooters Association Vol. 27 No. 4 – November/December 2021



2021
Season
Gallery

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Photo by member Gerhard Laubscher



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A WORD IN YOUR EAR



Lulu Schulz was given a 'death sentence' by the Vet two and a half years ago... she is still hunting and retrieving graciously at 13 – old body and all

Looking back at the year... and what a year it's been!

Another COVID-19 year has almost passed in which many of us lost friends and family. Our deepest condolences to all who lost loved ones. We thank all our members, who in these difficult times, have stood with us and helped our association grow.

The associations' management endeavours to bring members the best service possible at all times and we thank you for your support. We have not had a membership annual subscription increase since 2017 – now for the 5th year running. We are pleased to announce that we will not increase the annual membership subscription in 2022, and will maintain the current rate for as many future years as possible, thereby giving our members a direct financial benefit. Thanks to all our members who made donations to the association through the year, over and above their membership fees! Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

A good part of this year's efforts went into opposing the proposed amendment to the Firearms Control Act 2021 bill. This bill was heavily objected to by all the hunting and sport shooting associations, the entire firearms industry, members and the general public. No indication has been received as to whether any consideration has been given to all the comments submitted and it remains to be seen what the SAPS, the Civilian Secretariat for Police and parliament will do. We hope sanity will prevail and that the proposed bill will be repealed.

The bird hunting season was, by and large, a successful one, and all the galliformes bred well in most provinces. Member photographs from our official venues, and elsewhere, in this issue (pages 20 to 27 and 36 to 38) depict members that managed to get out into the veld, despite the continuous lockdowns.

As always, and most importantly, we'd like to thank all our members for their support and we wish everyone a blessed festive season and holidays.

Waidmannsheil

André –



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Smith & Wesson moving headquarters in response to proposed Massachusetts gun laws



MARYVILLE, Tenn. (WATE) – Smith & Wesson, one of America's oldest and most popular gun manufacturers, is holstering Massachusetts facilities and moving its headquarters in Tennessee.

WATE reports that the 165-year-old company will invest \$125 million to relocate headquarters to Maryville, Tennessee, over the next two years. In addition to relocating the headquarters, Smith & Wesson will transfer its distribution, assembly and plastic injection molding operations. The move will create 750 new jobs, according to a release from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. The company plans to break ground in a commercial area known as Partnership Park North before the end of the year. The move is expected to be completed by Summer 2023.

"This has been an extremely difficult and emotional decision for us, but after an exhaustive and thorough analysis, for the continued health and strength of our iconic company, we feel that we have been left with no other alternative," said Mark Smith, President and Chief Executive Officer of Smith & Wesson.

Smith said recently proposed legislation in Massachusetts would prevent the company from manufacturing certain firearms in the Commonwealth — firearms that account for 60% of the company's revenue.

"These bills would prevent Smith & Wesson from manufacturing firearms that are legal in almost every state in America and that are safely used by tens of millions of law-abiding citizens every day exercising their Constitutional 2nd Amendment rights, protecting themselves and their families," said Smith in a press release. "The unfortunate likelihood that such restrictions would be raised again led to a review of the best path forward for Smith & Wesson."

Nexstar's WWLP reports that the location in Springfield, Massachusetts, will remain operational but will be reconfigured. Several manufacturing operations will remain in Springfield, including forging, machining, metal finishing and assembling revolvers. Smith & Wesson will still have more than 1,000 employees in the state.

State officials tell WATE that Tennessee ranks No. 1 in the nation for employment in the small arms and ammunition sector, with employment increasing by 54% over the last five years. There are over 20 small arms and ammunition manufacturers located in Tennessee.

"Our pro-business reputation, skilled workforce and commitment to the Second Amendment make Tennessee an ideal location for firearms manufacturing," Gov. Bill Lee said of the move.

Smith & Wesson has been based in Springfield, Massachusetts, since 1852. Company officials said facilities in Connecticut and Missouri will close when the move is complete.

— Gregory Raucoles, Nexstar Media Wire. 30 September 2021.
<https://wgntv.com>

Five Incredible Ways Birds Change Their Bodies for Spring and Fall Migration

To power perilous journeys, birds undergo extreme feats like doubling their

body weight and rearranging or even consuming their internal organs.

It's tempting to compare bird migration to marathon running. In both, participants prepare intensely and undergo an extreme test of endurance. But the similarities stop there. Though marathon runners push the human body to its limits — during the 26.2-mile race, core temperatures spike to 102 degrees Fahrenheit and the heart pumps three to four times more blood than usual — birds radically change their bodies and their metabolism for the main event. In just weeks or months, they undergo physical transformation unmatched by human gains from years of training. To fly vast distances between breeding and wintering grounds, birds can shrink their internal organs, rapidly gain and burn through fat stores, barely sleep, and more.

These are incredible abilities, but they come with tradeoffs. The energy required to fly hundreds or thousands of miles in a short span leaves birds with little room for error during migration, and vulnerable to natural and human-caused threats. In North America alone, an estimated 2.6 billion birds disappear between fall and spring migration every year. Researchers pin many of these losses on migration, when birds must survive storms and cold snaps, navigate skyscrapers and other buildings, avoid predators, and successfully forage for food or else fail to complete their journeys.

Migration is perilous, but it's also wondrous. Here are some of the incredible ways birds sculpt their bodies for their journeys.

Double Their Body Weight

A bird's first inkling that it's time to shift into migration mode comes from seasonal changes in its surroundings, says Paul Bartell, professor of avian biology at Penn State University. When the days shorten at the end of summer, birds undergo hyperphagia: They eat excessive amounts of food for two weeks or more to store fat before migration. During this time, birds gorge on high-energy berries and fruits loaded with carbohydrates and lipids, which are stored as fat.

Birds' reliance on fat is unusual in the animal kingdom. "It's remarkable that they're using fats as fuel," says Scott McWilliams, professor of wildlife ecology and physiology at the University of Rhode

continued overleaf...



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Island. People, for example, rely primarily on carbohydrates for endurance activities because our system can efficiently convert them to usable energy. But for birds, fat makes sense. Fat is lighter and less bulky than carbohydrates and protein – important for lightweight, small-framed bodies that must stay aloft by wingbeat. Plus, fat contains more energy than carbs. “You get the most energy per gram that you store, if you want to fly long distance,” McWilliams says. As they fly, birds can replenish fat by taking breaks to refuel. This is why it’s so important to grow native plants that produce the lipid-rich berries birds need.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are best known for packing on the grams: most double their body weight in fat, or more, before embarking on migrations. Some even gain close to half that in just four days. They need it, since their metabolism is one of the highest of any animal on Earth. They require the human equivalent of over 150,000 calories every day to power their fast-moving heart and wings, which can beat 1,000 and 3,000 times per minute, respectively. That fat accumulated before migration is burned in a steady release of energy, ideal for the 2,000-mile journey many Ruby-throated Hummingbirds make twice a year.

Transform Internal Organs

To fly 6,800 miles nonstop from Alaska to New Zealand each fall, Bar-tailed Godwits absorb parts of their digestive tract to make room for more fat to fuel their journey.

All that fat added on to a bird’s small frame can’t just sit anywhere – it must be distributed properly. To make it all fit, many birds are able to shrink and grow their internal organs. Take the Bar-tailed Godwit, one of the bird world’s most intense migrators, flying 6,800 miles nonstop from Alaska to New Zealand each fall. To make room for energy-rich fat, godwits absorb into their body 25 percent of the tissue comprising their liver, kidneys, and digestive tract. This happens through a natural cellular process that lets the body recycle and clean up its cells and tissues called autophagy (which means “self-eating” in Greek).

Godwits also increase the size of their heart and chest muscles to distribute extra energy and oxygen to these highly active

areas mid-flight.

“Flying is the most energy-intensive form of locomotion,” McWilliams says. “But it’s also more efficient if you want to go farther, faster. You actually get better fuel economy when you use fat as fuel for a flying animal compared to a runner.”

Birds also undergo organ transformation during hyperphagia. While gorging on berries and bugs to gain weight, songbirds like Blackpoll Warblers expand their digestive tract to process more food, and quickly shrink and re-absorb parts of the same system during migration as they burn fat. According to McWilliams, this keeps energy focused on the most important flight muscles, reducing any need for frequent fueling at stopover sites.

Greatly Reduce Their Sleep Time

The need for sleep might be a barrier to human endurance, but for birds it’s just another physiological rule to break. During migration, a neurological shift instigated by the changing season forces birds to adapt to nocturnal habits and sleep less. How do birds rest while in mid-air? Very quickly.

Swainson’s Thrushes, which undertake 3,000-mile migrations from Central and South America to northern Canada and Alaska, enter a sleep-like state for about nine seconds at a time. They keep one half of their brain awake to avoid predators or mid-air collisions while the other half rests.

The neurological change from breeding- and wintering-season sleep habits to migration sleep is as crucial to bird endurance as metabolic changes, says Bartell. “They are somehow resilient to all this increased fat and the detrimental effects of staying up almost all night,” he says. “And they actually performed better than if they were in a non-migratory state.”

Consume Their Own Muscles

Swainson’s Thrushes will burn their own muscles as energy if it’ll get them to a food-rich rest stop, maybe one with Red Elderberries pictured here. Photo top right by Mick Thompson

When endurance athletes exhaust their carbohydrate and fat supplies, they face dehydration and starvation. For humans, those needs can put an end to any athletic performance. But birds have a last-ditch backup: They can burn their muscles for energy, a trick that some birds use to their advantage. Experiments done



in a wind tunnel in 2011 revealed how Swainson’s Thrushes – typically flying up to 200 miles in a single stretch during migration – even burn muscle unnecessarily so they can fly farther and reach the most beneficial stopover sites. It is risky, though, if they can’t recover that lost muscle after migration.

Revert to Their Previous Form

Once birds reach their destination, they need to regain their organ function and shape, and refuel now-emaciated fat stores. It’s an urgent task during spring migration because soon as they reach their breeding ground, birds must do the hard work of breeding: attracting mates, and producing and raising hungry young chicks – all while still taking care of themselves. “Essentially, they need to instantly start making territories and reproducing,” Bartell says. “If they can’t get food within a couple hours or are delayed after landing, they can actually starve to death.”

The stakes are lower during fall migration because birds don’t need to breed upon landing, plus the warmer, tropical areas in the south tend to have more food available. “All they’re trying to do usually is maintain the body mass at a certain level and get through the winter,” McWilliams says. Birds on average need to restore between 17 and 23 percent of their body weight in fat upon arrival, and also account for significant protein and water loss depending on their species and migratory pattern.

It’s an astounding balance to maintain while already undergoing spectacular trips across the world. But if we’ve learned anything about birds and migration at this point, it’s that we shouldn’t be surprised by anything.

— By Kevin Johnson, Reporter,
Aubudon Magazine.
<https://www.audubon.org>

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in our **Member Get A Member** drive



Introduce a friend or family member to join and get the benefits of SA Wingshooters membership and you could BOTH be in with a chance of winning R10,000 EACH in our **Member Get A Member** prize draw this year.

Here's how it works:

Any member that recruits a new member to join full membership, stands a chance to win R10,000 and the new member also stands a chance to win the same amount! The more new members you sign up – the more chances you have at winning R10,000 each!



Rules:

1. Only current members may be eligible for a prize. 2. There is no limit to how many new members a current member may sign up. 3. The current member and new member pair will stand a chance together. 4. Full membership is our standard membership, and does not include junior or senior membership as per our join form. 5. The recruiting member's initials, surname, and first 6 digits of his/her ID must clearly appear on the new member's join form, or be sent in an email to us. 6. Members of management, their families and relatives are not eligible for any prizes. 7. This membership initiative is open to members of SA Wingshooters Association ONLY. 8. Valid for membership of SA Wingshooters (not LRSC, PSP, etc) only. 9. The draw will take place on Friday 25 February 2022 at 12H00 at the SA Wingshooters office in Randburg. 10. Winners will be contacted via phone and email. E&OE. SA Wingshooters 2021.

2021 Competition Target Shooting Results



Annual PSP Target shooting Winners 2021



HANDGUN – Centrefire

Gold –

MC Young: Score 97 (5 x-rings)

Silver –

CS Morton: Score 96 (4 x-rings)

Bronze –

Ms. R du Plessis: Score 91 (2 x-ring)

RIMFIRE HANDGUN

Gold –

CS Morton: Score 100 (9 x-rings)

Silver –

WA Lambrechts: Score 98 (4 x-rings)

Bronze –

GI Moola: Score 90 (3 x-rings)

RIMFIRE RIFLE

Gold –

WA Lambrechts: Score 100 (5 x-rings)

Silver –

CS Morton: Score 100 (4 x-rings)

Bronze –

Ms. R du Plessis: Score 97 (4 x-rings)

CENTREFIRE RIFLE

Gold –

A Harrison: Score 100 (4 x-rings)

Silver –

G.E. Kretzchmar: Score 98 (3 x-rings)

Bronze –

J. Wylde: Score 96 (2 x-rings)



LRSC 2021 Winners

OVERALL 2021 Points Winners:

Gold: Johan Maree (360 pts)

Silver: Marius Gericke (350 pts)

Bronze: Andrew Toy (310 pts)

.338 F-BA Division:

Gold: Simon Steyn (120 pts)

Silver: Martin Hood (50 pts)

Bronze: Mongezi Milela (20 pts)

6.5 F-BA Division:

Gold: Marius Gericke (350 pts)

Silver: Johan Maree (310 pts)

Bronze: Neil van Vuuren (230 pts)

.308 F-BA Division:

Gold: Shaun Ellithorne (180 pts)

Silver: Neil van Vuuren (170 pts)

Bronze: Christiaan de la Rey (160)

.300 Win. Mag. Division:

Gold: Shaun Ellithorne (170 pts)

Silver: Tony Ernst (120 pts)

Bronze: Andrew Lillico (40 pts)



TPS 2021 Winners

3-Gun Division (Handgun / SLR / Bolt):

Gold: David Lillico (122,1")

Silver: André vd Westhuizen (163.8")

Bronze: Bernard Cilliers (169.6")

2-Gun Division (Handgun / Self-Loading):

Gold: David Lillico (98.34")

Silver: André vd Westhuizen (105,2")

Bronze: Shaun Ellithorne (117,7")

2-Gun Division (Handgun / Bolt Action):

Gold: Bernard Cilliers (80,77")

Silver: André vd Westhuizen (94.99")

Bronze: David Lillico (107.82")



.300 Norma Mag. Division:

Gold: Johan Maree (360 pts)

.223 F-BA Division:

Gold: Charl Jacobs (300 pts)

Silver: André vd Westhuizen (210 pts)

Bronze: Warren Britnell (110 pts)

.22-250 F-BA Division:

Gold: Ben van Dyk (270 pts)

Silver: Friedel Kirstein (260 pts)

Bronze: Theunis Steyn (20 pts)

.223 F-SL (Self-Loading Rifle) Division:

Gold: Marius Gericke (350 pts)

Silver: Andrew Toy (310 pts)

Bronze: Leo van Vuuren (Junior) (190 pts)

.308 F-SL (Self-Loading Rifle) Division:

Gold: Marius Gericke (80 pts)

Silver: Leo van Vuuren (Junior) (10 pts)

Open Division (Major):

Gold: Johan Maree (310 pts)

Silver: Ben van Dyk (160 pts)

Bronze: Etienne de Beer (110 pts)

Open Division (Minor):

Gold: Danie Tait (250 pts)

Silver: Andrew Toy (90 pts)

Bronze: Etienne de Beer (50 pts)

Junior Champions:

Gold: Leo van Vuuren (190 pts)

Silver: Xander Jacobs (60 pts)



.22PSBC 2021 Winners

.22 LR Tactical Division:

Gold: Tony Ernst (180 pts)

Silver: Shaun Ellithorne (160 pts)

Bronze: Johann de Bruin (100 pts)

.22 LR Hunter Division:

Gold: Rui Torres (80 pts)

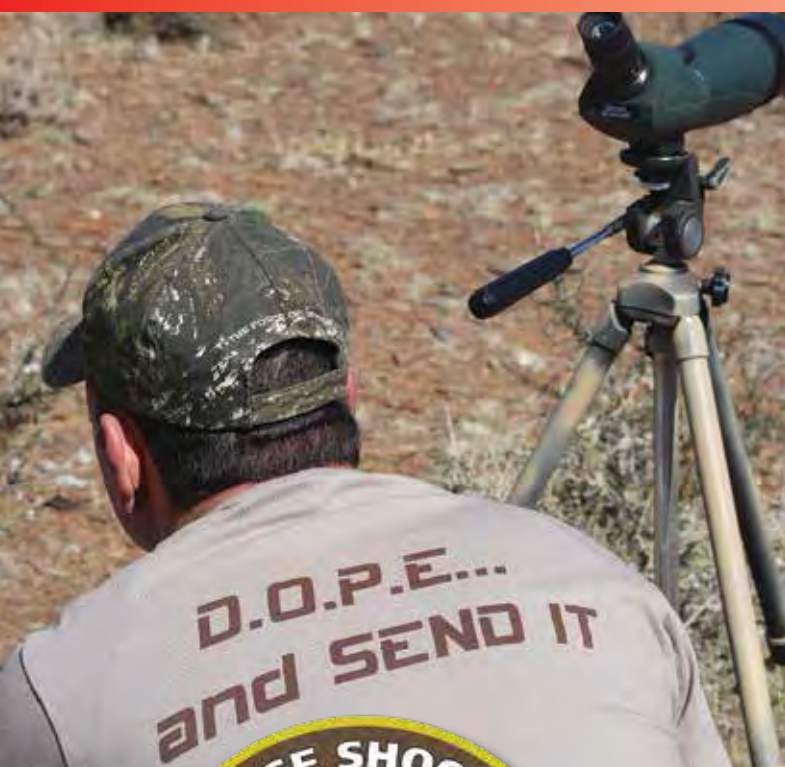
Silver: David Lillico (70 pts)

Bronze: Venessa Reyneke (Lady) (10 pts)

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The LRSC is a sub-club of the SA Wingshooters and requires an additional membership to SA Wingshooters

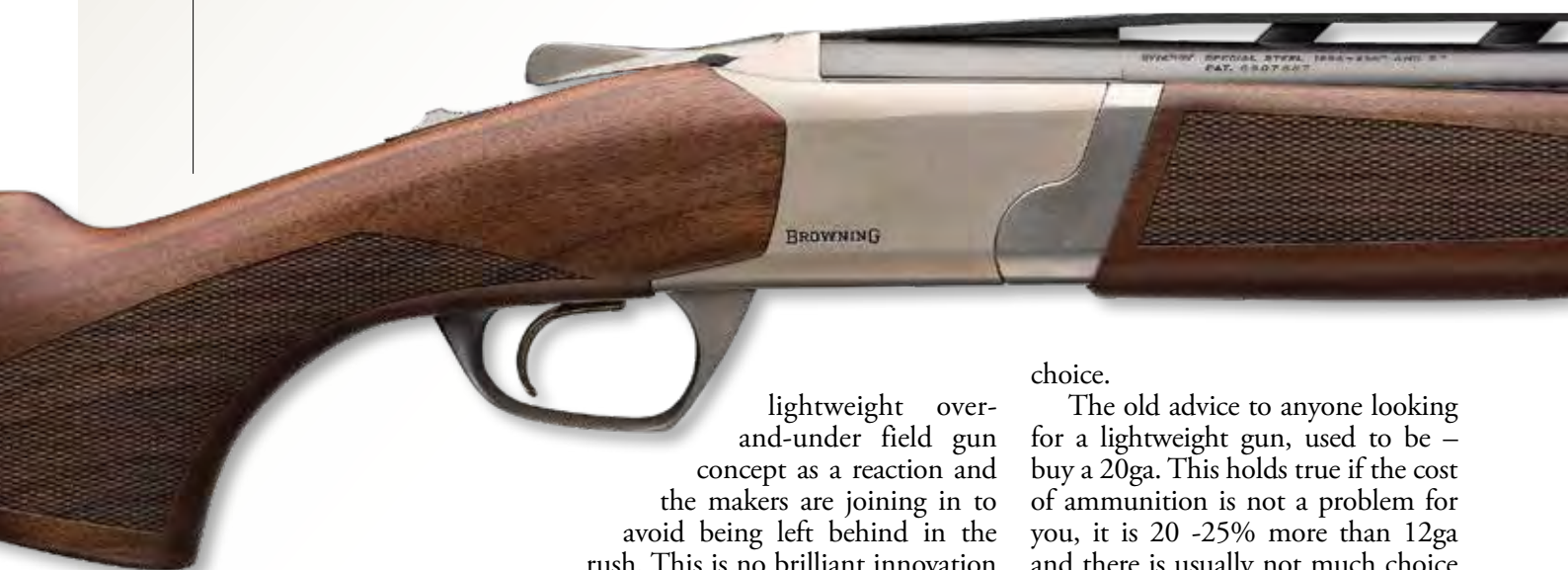
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Lightweight

Over & Under 12 gauge shotguns

Shotgun manufacturers continually look for new products or variations on a theme with which to tempt the gunning public. Over the years I've seen barrels go from 25 inches to 34 and I'm sure they will regress again. The old adage that for a balanced gun the barrel length should be twice that of the length of pull, has long been forgotten.

| by Charles Duff



choice.

The old advice to anyone looking for a lightweight gun, used to be – buy a 20ga. This holds true if the cost of ammunition is not a problem for you, it is 20 -25% more than 12ga and there is usually not much choice of shot weights, sizes and velocities. However all too many of the guns available are heavy; some weighing as much as a 'normal' superposed 12ga at 7¹/₂lbs.

The true metier of a lightweight gun lies in the field and emphatically not at the clay ranges. With the much improved availability of shot sizes in loads of 21, 24 and 28 grams (³/₄, ⁷/₈ & 1oz) any conceivable bird shooting eventually is covered with the possible exception of shooting at high geese. The fact is that if you are on target, you are on, whether with 21 grams or 36 grams is immaterial, however cost savings and decreased recoil are substantial. On an all-day walk-up shoot, you are going to

Fixed chokes became passé as interchangeable ones flooded the market, but the average shooter usually fits chokes as recommended by friends, counter-hands and occasionally an expert, and there they remain in the muzzles to the present day. The most recent fad has been round actions – both side-by-side and over-and-under, and now every maker produces them. Some even have trigger-plate actions, like the originals, but most are boxlocks of one design or another.

The present swing to longer barrels, with the concomitant inevitable weight increase, has now precipitated a

lightweight over-and-under field gun concept as a reaction and the makers are joining in to avoid being left behind in the rush. This is no brilliant innovation as many British field side-by-sides are under the defining gun-weight of below 7 lbs (3.17kg); the ideal 12ga game gun is posited to be between 6¹/₂lbs and 6³/₄”lbs with a charge of 30 grams (1 1/16oz) of shot. If you intend to only shoot gamebirds, and are okay with a double trigger then you could do a lot worse. Single triggers are slowly becoming more available in new side-by-side guns, but are rare in second-hand ones. As a gun to carry in the field from dawn to dusk, the light British side-by-side is hard to beat. However since the side-by-side is not nearly so useful in shooting clays; as an adaptable all-round weapon the over-and-under is accepted as being the logical sporting

appreciate the reduction in weight in both cartridges and gun by day's end.

So what is currently available locally, in no particular order is: **F.A.I.R. (Fabbrica Armi Isidoro Rizzini)** – with an extensive range of O/U guns. The company has been around since 1971 and has a good reputation. Their round-action 'Pathos' model (that's Greek for passion – for hunting, one trusts!) is available in 26" (66cm) and 28" (71cm) barrelled versions, Models 1226 and 1228. Weighing in at a respectable 6.71lbs (3.04kg) with 3" chambers (proofed for steel shot) and 5 flush-fitting multi-chokes (full, ¾, ½, ¼ and skeet) plus a ventilated top rib and solid side ribs. It fulfils the basic criteria and the plain straight-grained wood is nicely laser chequered to 22LPI. The length of pull is 14½" (LOP 368mm) to a hard plastic butt plate. A balanced, fast-handling attractive gun.

ATA Arms – their 'Woodcock' is visually a Beretta 686, which is hardly remarkable as the two companies are in partnership. A single trigger ejector gun with the usual 5 multi-chokes and in 26" (66cm) and 28" (71cm) barrelled versions, 2¾" (70mm) chambers and the weight a really light 6.2lbs (2.8kg). Skeet, ¼, ½, ¾ and full chokes are supplied. The black action is engraved with a woodcock on either side; the barrels are joined with a short block at the muzzles as there are no side ribs, the top rib is ventilated. The Turkish walnut stock is not highly figured, but sufficiently dense and with 20 LPI laser-cut chequering, standard LOP is 14¼ inches (360mm) to a black polymer butt-pad. The cheapest gun in the survey at an RRP of R17,170.

BERETTA – one of the first to produce a lightweight 12ga O/U, the '686 Ultralight'. I have one with 28" (71cm) barrels, ¼ and ½ fixed chokes, (a 26" barrelled version is available). The weight is an astounding 5.62 lbs (2.55kg), lighter than my 6lb Fausti 20ga, and could be even less if the ventilated side ribs were replaced by a connecting block

at the muzzles. The action is a stock 680 in an aircraft grade alloy and the titanium breech insert around the firing pins is clearly evident. The gun balances nicely on the hinge pins, these are conical which makes them self-adjusting with wear. The current Silver Pigeon model has multi-chokes and weighs a trifle more.

I use 21 or 24 gram Hull Comp X No.9s on the clay range and their 29gram No.6 Special Pigeon for gamebirds and waterfowl. At no time have I ever found the recoil to be excessive with these loads. I did experiment with some of their Pro-One 28 gram high-velocity loads

*"The Browning
Cynergy
Hunter
Light with 28
inch (71cm)
barrels is an
excellent gun"*

(MV 1500fps) and got a real jolt for my sins!

CZ – their 'Upland Ultralight' in both 26" (66cm) and 28" (71cm) barrels weighs an even 6lbs (2.72kg). Chambers are 3" (76mm) and steel shot proofed; the multi-chokes are the usual full, ¾, ½, ¼ and cylinder. There are no mid-ribs, the barrels are kept together by a small block at the muzzles. The ventilated top rib is a skinny 6mm wide. The aluminium alloy action features a mechanical trigger with selector switch on the tang incorporating a manual safety. It is fitted with extractors. These are obviously much cheaper to fit than ejectors which many believe are not

needed on a game gun. Opinions differ, but where you might need rapid reloading, such as in the flush of a big flock of guinea-fowl, ejectors can save critical seconds! The overall finish is a non-reflective weather resistant matte black. The walnut stock is average and much hollowed-out to save weight, the balance is just a trifle muzzle-heavy. A 'Green' version is made with a green anodised action.

BROWNING – the 'Cynergy Hunter Light' with 28" (71cm) barrels is an excellent gun. Apart from the standard features of incredibly fast lock time, back-bored barrels, five multi-chokes, ejectors, manual safety, recoil absorbing butt-pad, and a rakish modern look; the action is of alloy with a steel insert at the breech and is a 'self-opener'. The stock, with a 14¾" (365mm) LOP is hollowed-out somewhat, keeping the weight down to exactly 7lbs (3.17kg). An unusual avant-garde gun, but one that is a delight to use. Dropping the side ribs and lightening the top rib could have saved a bit more weight. In 2002 they introduced the alloy actioned 'Citori Superlight Feather' at 6.25lbs, in the USA. Whilst I have handled and shot the 'Cynergy', I have not come across the 'Feather' version here.

FRANCHI – have the 'Instinct SL' with a 28" barrel, 3" or 2¾" chambers and ventilated top and side ribs, notable in this class are the extended multi-chokes, with the usual five sizes. The aluminium alloy action with a matt silver finish, ejectors, single selective trigger, barrel selector switch and auto safety. The 28" (71cm) barrelled version weighs 6lbs (2.72kg) and the 26" (66cm) barrelled version 5.80lbs (2.63kg).

ANTONIO ZOLI – Feature extreme reliability and durability coupled with dynamic handling, according to their glossy catalogue. Main claim to fame is their hand-detachable trigger group, a first for hunting shotguns. But if they are so durable surely this is somewhat extraneous? They stress lighter, game-



Caesar Guerini Magnus Light

contoured barrels, ventilated side ribs and tapered top ribs. Barrel lengths from 26½" (67cm) to 29½" (75cm) with 2¾" (70mm) and 3" (76mm) chambers.

The 'Columbus Ems' and 'Emsc' differ in that the 'Ems' models have fixed chokes, whilst the 'Emsc' feature five multi-chokes, the 'Ems' weigh 6.73lbs (3.05kg) and the 'Emsc' 6.83lbs (3.10kg). Both have gold-inlaid engraved gamebirds on the action sides and floor. The really lightweight 'Columbus Ems Light Comfort' weighs only 6.39lbs (2.9kg), in my book the pick of the bunch. The stocks with some figure and oil-finished.

GUERINI guns tend to be rather heavy, but the 'Magnus Light' and 'Tempio Light' do qualify; both weighing 6lbs (2.72kg). The 'Magnus' has gold-inlaid game birds engraved on its action while the 'Tempio' has fine rose and scroll. The 'Magnus' is available with 26" (66cm) and 28" (71cm) barrels while the 'Tempio' only with a 28".

Otherwise they are pretty-well identical: five flush-fitting multi-chokes, nickelled alloy actions, ventilated 7mm top ribs, solid mid-ribs, single selective triggers, manual safeties and the attractive oil-finished walnut stock with 26LPI chequering has a LOP of 14¾" (375mm); the forearm with a schnabel tip. Both have 0.735" over-bored barrels, a moderate 0.003" per radius – a major plus towards mitigating recoil and producing better patterns. The finish,

wood, chequering, engraving and inlaying of all Guerini guns is always exemplary.

FABARMS – have really gone to town with seven models. The 12 ga 'Elos A AL, B AL and C AL' are very similar, all are available in 24", 26", 28" and 30" (61-66-71-76cm) glossy blue or 'satinated' barrels, with 3" (76mm) chambers. The 'AL' suffix denotes the receiver is made of Ergal-55 alloy and 'titanium' finished. The A and B have 7mm top ribs whilst the C has a wider 10mm, all are ventilated with orange fibre-optic front sights. The C has ventilated side ribs, the A and B's are solid. Flush-fitting multi-chokes, which are labelled 'short – medium – long – extreme', referring to the distance at which to use them.

The roller engraving on the receiver is well executed, simple and pleasing. While the A has extractors, the B and C have ejectors. The A and B are fitted with a single selective trigger (optional double triggers are available), the C has an eight position adjustable single trigger; all have a manual safety/barrel selector switch. Wood is generally plain and straight-grained. The fore-end has a subdued schnabel tip. LOP is a uniform 14^{7/16}" (367mm) and all the stocks have a solid black rubber pad, nicely rounded off at the heel. Weights are from 6.17lbs (2.8kg) to 6.73lbs (3.05kg) depending upon the barrel length and wood density. The 'Elos HE AL Initial' and 'Elos HE AL' are the hunting models and only

in 24" (61cm) and 26" (66cm) barrel lengths with a solid tapered (6-4mm) top rib and no side ribs. The forearm is plain and slim, the stocks with rounded end relaxed pistol grips.

Both have ejectors and the weights are from 5.95lbs (2.7kg) to 6.17lbs (2.8kg) – nice and light. The 'Axis 12 AL' and 'Axis 12 Elite' are lightweight sporters with rakishly angled forearm tips and angular trigger guards. Barrels are from 24" (61cm) to 30" (76cm), ventilated 7mm top ribs and solid side ribs. Single trigger and ejectors only. All the rest of the common features apply, the 'Elite' has a much higher grade of wood and more engraving cover. The weights remain at 6.17lbs (2.8kg) to 6.73lbs (3.05kg), depending upon wood and barrel length.

RIZZINI – have as their basic model the 'Ares Light' 12ga in 26 ½" (67cm) and 28" (71cm) blued barrels with a ventilated top and solid side ribs. An Ergal 55 light alloy action with a titanium breech-plate, single selective trigger and safety/barrel selector switch, light laser engraving, ejectors, fixed or multi-chokes (only 3). The stocks with rounded-knob semi-pistol grips and polymer butt plates. Weight is between 5.95lbs (2.7kg) to 6.17lbs (2.8kg).

Then there is the 'Omnium Light Woodcock' model dedicated to this 'lady of the woods', images of which adorn the sides and floor of the alloy action. Only in 23 5/8" (60cm) long barrels to enable fast mounting and shooting of this elusive bird. With a ventilated top rib and no side ribs, 5 flush chokes, single trigger and ejectors. The stock a relaxed curve pistol grip with rounded end. An extra-bright red fibre optic front sight fitted for crepuscular shooting! Weight is just 5.73lbs (2.6kg). I believe that the ultra-short barrels are a mistake.

BETTINSOLI – have a remarkably practical 'System Profilo', sets of 3 different thickness recoil pads, easily interchangeable. The 'RP' in 11, 17 and 25mm hard black rubber and the 'SP' in 17, 25 and 32mm soft recoil-absorbing black polymer. Common features are chrome-moly steel barrels with long forcing cones for better patterns. Interchangeable hinge pins, large

locking bites, 3" (76mm) steel-proofed chambers, ventilated top and solid side ribs, single selective triggers which are both inertial and mechanical. Annoyingly they ignore gun weights, both in their catalogues and on their website. I was asked last year to do an article on their guns and try some out, but the agency changed hands and this came to nought, so I can only pass on what their blurb says and take on trust that when they say 'lite' the guns will be below 7lbs. The agency has recently changed hands and Republic Arms are bringing in one lightweight model in the Xtra line – the M11 Lite. With 28" and 30" barrels, ventilated top rib, solid side ribs, 5 multi chokes.

A plain black finished gun with the minimum of decoration. The slim forearm and figured butt with 20LPI chequering and a solid black recoil pad. At a RRP of R 21,000 a very good budget choice in 20 and 12ga. In Italy there's a wide range, and these can be got from the agents. There's the 'Nexus' with 4 'Lite' models. The 'Silverlite' 12ga and 'Silverlite Mk 4', the 'X7 Diamond Deluxe Lite', and the 'Delta Swing Lite' with an attractive built-up fence around the breech, minimal engraving and ventilated 6mm top rib and no mid-ribs. A very good grade of walnut and the stock with the relaxed curve semi-pistol grip with rounded end so frequently and incorrectly labelled a 'Prince of Wales'. This would be my choice of the marque. Last they have a 'Superlite Woodcock' model, with 60cm (23^{5/8}") barrels for quick shouldering and shooting. The top barrel with interchangeable chokes, the bottom fully rifled for 'the rapid dispersal of the shot within 7 to 10 metres'.

BENELLI – are best known for their excellent and innovative range of semi-autos. But the new Model 828U, an over-and-under with some interesting features. Available in 26" (66cm) and 28" (71cm) barrels and either a silver-anodized or nickel-plated action. The barrels have a carbon-fibre ventilated top rib and no mid-ribs. Barrels joined at the muzzles with a small block for which we really need a significant name as this feature is here to stay in lightweight shotguns.

Flush or extended chokes can be had. The 828U weighs just 6.5lbs (2.94kg). The action is strikingly sculpted in alloy and features a removable trigger group (do I detect a burgeoning fad?) obviously single trigger and automatic ejectors, manual tang safety. The buttstock is supplied with shims so that comb height, length of pull, drop at heel and cast can all be adjusted quickly and easily.

A recoil absorbing polymer cheek-piece insert at the comb is new, as is the butt pad with interlocking flexible buffers to progressively absorb recoil at different stages depending upon the strength of the load. A gun that I would really like to put through the wringer.



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SHOOTING TIPS

*Some tips to help you shoot better –
clays and birds...*



image: Beretta Gallery

Beretta DT11 EELL

cannot possibly happen. Incidentally, the most comfortable way of all of carrying a gun is in this manner, broke across the crook of the arm.

– This tip came from the book *“Robert Churchill’s Game Shooting – A Textbook on the Successful Use of the Modern Shotgun”* by Macdonald Hastings.

We break practice into two types: move training and performance practice. Move training is about being consciously involved in making changes to your fundamentals. Performance practice is shooting stations of five pairs in a row, just like game day, forgetting mechanics, concentrating on feel and overall game.

– This tip came from the book *“Sporting Clays Consistency: You Gotta Be Out of Your Mind!”* by Gil & Vicki Ash.

Personally, I neither plan for nor think about an insertion point unless it is different from the hold point on a given target, such as in the case of a crossing target. For a crosser, you either insert to the target to execute a pull-away technique or insert to the lead if you are using sustained lead as your technique of choice. You should “landmark” your insertion point by picking out a terrain feature to mark it, just as you should your breakpoint, hold point and visual pickup point.

Consciously verifying that the muzzle is at the insertion point or seeing bird-barrel relationship necessitates a softening of your acute focus on the target. For a crossing target, plan an insertion point between the hold point and the breakpoint. As the target emerges from the trap and you begin your move from the hold point toward your breakpoint, you feel your shotgun meeting the target at your preplanned insertion point. For a pull-away, you insert to the target, then gently accelerate away from the target along the target line. For sustained lead, you insert to the lead, “working” the target for a fraction of a second, allowing

your subconscious to register the correct lead and adjust if necessary.

Successful shotgunning is all about “feeding the brain” by acutely focusing on the target, “feeling the point” of the shotgun at the insertion point and the breakpoint and executing the shot with complete trust that your subconscious will put the gun in the right place to kill the target.

– Don Currie is the chief instructor of the National Sporting Clays Association and one of the most sought-after shooting coaches and gunfitters in our sport. His instructional DVD *“Focus – Movement – Faith”* is the #1 rated sporting clays DVD on Amazon at <https://amzn.to/3jEtt1u>. For more about Don, visit his web site at <https://doncurrie.com>.

You will never be criticized, just the opposite, for being punctilious in your gun-handling. When you are carrying an empty gun, as every game gun should be unless you are in readiness to shoot, make a practice of carrying it under your arm WITH THE BREECH OPEN. Let everybody see, including yourself, that an accident

On a slow-developing teal where you wish to break the target “at the top” or close to it, it is often useful to focus on the bottom edge. Remember, the eyes lead the hands. We tend to shoot where we look, so it helps to focus at a specific, critical point on the target, rather than looking at the entire target. “Look small, miss small.”

– This tip came from the book *“Shotgunning in the Automatic Mind”*
– *The Guide for Shotgunners and Instructors* by Warren Watson and Mike Wilfley.

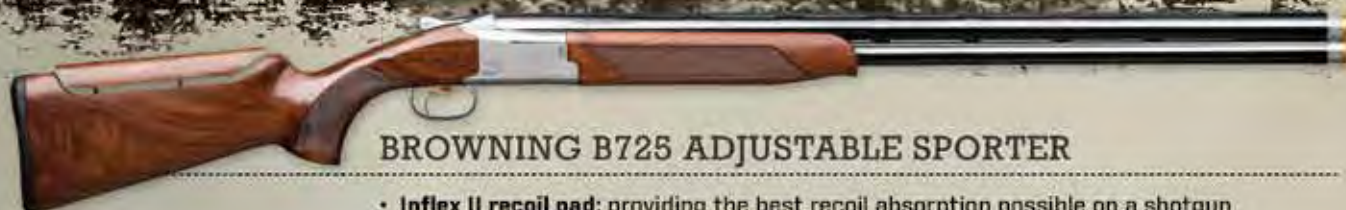
The only time you would shoot gun up is if the time constraints for you breaking the target are very short.

For example, if you had to break it really quick out of the trap to give yourself enough time to kill the other bird and you didn’t have the luxury of time to make the mount, then you would start the gun up. But that is the only time.

– This tip came from the book *“The Coaching Hour Chronicles – Conversations in the Pursuit of Sporting Clays Excellence, Volume 3”* by Gil & Vicki Ash.



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What your shooting hat says



by George Browne - GunsOnPegs

You can tell a lot about a person from how they choose to present themselves, and this is more true than ever when it comes to how people dress on a shoot day.

While traditional shooting attire is, at a cursory glance, all pretty similar - heavy on the greens and browns, tweedy - a closer inspection reveals that within the boundaries of the general feel there's plenty of room for self-expression. Just as a suit can be enlivened by a jazzy lining or flamboyant pocket square, or indeed given a muted feel through careful accessorisation, the very fact of the fairly strict 'rules' means that those personal touches are somehow highlighted.

Whether we're talking about a red windowpane check to the plus-fours or a pair of "Bang, Bang, Bugger!" shooting socks, you can read a lot into a gun's personality by looking

at their shooting clobber. One area where there's plenty of scope for personal expression is that of headgear. Here's what your choice of headwear says about you.

Tweed flat cap



A highly practical choice: the peak keeps the sun out of your eyes, the tweed keeps you warm and mostly dry, and it is unlikely to take an unaccompanied adventure across the

field or into a puddle on a windy day. What's more, your ear defenders sit comfortably over the top. Your choice of a flat cap indicates that you're a bit of a traditionalist with a strongly practical bent, but that you might be a bit unimaginative. Unfailingly polite, your thank you letter is on time, your gift for your host is thoughtful, and your behaviour throughout the day unquestionable. Your selection is in part to avoid drawing attention to your shooting, that you're not 100% confident in, despite it being as dependable, if unspectacular, as your hat.

Baker-boy or Newsboy cap

This style of cap has almost as long a heritage as the flat cap itself, but is less traditionally "country" and, as the name would suggest,

has more working-class connotations. You are keen to nod to tradition but also demonstrate a certain rebel-



liousness. You probably enjoy Peaky Blinders, and smoke skinny roll-ups, which you cup in your hand against the rain, giving you a shifty, furtive appearance. You drive an ancient Fiat Panda 4x4, and out-shoot the flat cap boys and gals by some distance.

Fedora

For you, standing out from the



crowd is everything – you positively glory in the attention that your choice of hat gets you. Shoot days are an opportunity for you to really show off your unique sense of style and do a bit of peacocking – you probably have a feather or two wedged in the hatband. Since style is the aim of your game your shooting is similarly stylish, though your actual aim can be a bit hit and miss, depending on how much of your host's brandy you consumed the night before.

You use a pair of old English “best” side-by-sides you inherited from a “confirmed batchelor” great-uncle. You drive an equally old English “classic” car to shoot days, and probably make a pass at someone inappropriate over the course of the day, and tip the keeper well above the going rate to make up for it.

Bush/safari hat

Like the fedora-wearer, you value the stylishness of the wide brim on your bush hat, but also want to appear rugged. Secretly you are rather pleased when some wag greets you with a hearty “G'day, mate!” or observes that the corks have fallen

off. You may well have a handlebar or sergeant major's tache. Your hat, you proudly declare, is thornproof,



probably bulletproof, and definitely 100% waterproof, something that sounds great until it channels the rain directly down the back of your neck. You are the author of this article, and can't shoot for sh*t.

Beanie or wooly hat

Style be damned – you want warmth and comfort and that's all that matters to you. You couldn't give a toss that it's not traditional, you just



want a warm head, whether it makes you look like you've just come from an evening's poaching or not. You're much happier with a semi-auto in hand and wouldn't be seen dead with a side-by-side.

Baseball cap

Your love of shooting is second to none, but you're far more at home



on the clay ground, and feel slightly intimidated by the formality of a game day. Not quite brave enough to eschew the breeks, your act of rebellion is to sport a be-logoed baseball cap from your favourite shooting brand, whose decal sticker also adorns the barrels of your gun, most likely an Italian over and under.

You spend much of the day fiddling with your extended chokes, which has no discernable impact on your accuracy, since, much to the fury of the more traditional members of the team, you're by far the best shot there, thanks to all those hours breaking clays.

Ushanka/Flying helmet/Davey Crockett

You like to think that you're a bit of a joker, and try to express this through the wearing of the wackiest items you can find. Your tie features a lurid shooting-themed cartoon, and



your socks have some “witty” message stitched around the top, the efficacy of which is rather undone by the fact that you put them on inside out.

You hold court in the gunbus, regaling the crowd with the filthiest of anecdotes and tall tales. People around you know to keep an eye out for your “hilarious” practical jokes. Despite this and your dodgy shooting, the rest of the team enjoy your company, not least as you tend to bring a couple of decent bottles with you for lunchtime and a hipflask of eyewatering homebrewed sloe vodka. Bonus points for a hammer and sickle insignia.

Written in jest

Speaking for myself, as you may have gathered, I am very fond of my bush hat and I'll defy anyone who says a word against it. But, I do own – and wear – a flatcap and a Fedora. The one I choose to wear on any given day depends on my mood, the weather, and sometimes whatever happens to be closest to hand. My point is, if anything written above feels a bit close to home, don't worry: it's all in jest!



– With kind permission from George Browne and GunsOnPegs – <https://www.gunsonpegs.com/articles/shooting-clothing/s/shootingg-clothing/what-your-shooting-hat-says-about-you?ref=related>

Using Hides Or Blinds

Though more local hunters are using blinds or hides than a decade or three ago, their use can hardly be termed common...

by Charles Duff



Back in the good old days, when they were really rare, my first hide was a length of hessian sheeting and 4 fence droppers each about 1.25 metres long.

A couple of spray-cans of a darker brown produced sufficient squiggles to break-up the single colour and render it less conspicuous. Being a confirmed retriever owner and user I quickly changed the obvious four-square box formation of the droppers' positions to three in a line in front and one behind, forming a rough "V" shape and leaving a gap between the left-hand and middle droppers for my dog.

I had observed that having the dog outside of the blind caused a break in communication between shooter and dog and made giving it a line towards an unseen fall more difficult. But having the dog inside reduced its view markedly and required lifting up the hide material for it to go out on a retrieve. Thus the gap on the shooter's left is the solution.

This served me well for many years until a visit to the USA saw me return with all sorts of gear including a good length of hessian printed in the ubiquitous 'Advantage Wetlands' reed patterns. This obviously deserved something better than fence droppers, so I had four two-piece aluminium poles made up with hooks to hold the material.

As a *piece-de-resistance* I made a common egret decoy and its alloy leg is threaded to go into the top of one of the hide poles as a confidence decoy. Thus hopefully calming the local waterfowls' fears about the new intrusion on the landscape.

This has served, and still serves, me well though the camo hessian is looking a bit sad and tattered. The old hide I gave to a friend and, remarkably, he is still using it. Anything that breaks-up the give-away human form and shadow is a plus and over the years I have seen more than a few short bits of material hung over fences to good effect.

In fact, decked out in a suit of the same camo and sitting on the side of a dam, I have had ducks come in to land a few yards in front of me by using decoys and just remaining absolutely still whilst calling them in.

Now, however, there is a fair selection of commercially available camouflage hides about. These range from camo brollies with vertical drapes, which could be useful in the pigeon shooting venues to pop-up box shapes, both open and close topped, and cylindrical hay-bale facsimiles. None are exactly cheap, but all are practical and relatively lightweight. One or two have no easy egress for a retriever, but this could be rectified after purchasing.

But all hides using material for the sides have one big problem if, as the wind starts getting up, the material flaps at all, the ducks will give you a wide berth.

The use of sunken hides is very rare in Southern Africa, but the effort in making them can be well worthwhile, especially if geese are your intended quarry. These dug in reaped fields to take duck and geese harvesting the stubble are kept flush with the surrounding ground and the excavated earth is removed and vehicle wheel-tracks should be kept to a minimum. More common now are camouflaged "lay-out" hides, used for many years in North America, these are deservedly gaining in popularity especially in the Western and Eastern Cape where the Egyptian and Spurwing geese proliferate over the grain fields. You can make your own, or buy the finished article. Professional guides are increasingly



A punt gun

using them and once you have got used to shooting sitting-down, they are very effective. Do not attempt to shoot a shotgun while reclining, without space to recoil into, your shoulder will break, especially if using heavy geese loads!

The use of natural features is always a good idea if such vegetation as bushes, trees and reeds are available on the venue, any hide will be the better for having its outline broken up by vegetation. Again, if tenure of the location is secure, you are well advised to plant some bushes in strategic places about the water, it beats carrying all the katunda for a hide to and fro in the early morning's darkness!

We barely use any craft on the water, granted all too many farm dams are too small to make their use worthwhile, but if you can get to 'big water', give it some thought. But beware! The small 'fishermans' canoes available locally are way too small and unstable to shoot out of while afloat, but if you can drag them halfway ashore in a great big bank of reeds, this will work well.

The English 'Gunning Punt' still survives in England as there are still a few hardy (crazy!) hunters plying the craft. This is a sturdy canoe propelled only by a punt pole or a single scull oar and/or hand paddles. A single-handed punt is usually about 18 feet overall (5.48m) and a double-handed 22 feet (6.70m). Decoys are generally not used, it being considered better form to slowly scull or paddle into range of a raft of ducks before blasting away. The gun – usually between 1½ and 2 inches in bore and between 7 foot to 9.5 foot in length (2.13 - 2.90m), with a weight of between 60-200 pounds (27 - 90.6kg) and more like a small long-bored cannon – is unique. Also as its traverse is very limited, if at all, the craft must be aimed at the ducks, and these can

only be taken on the water, though a shotgun is usually taken along to finish off cripples, and could be used to take any unwary bird which may approach. The single-handed craft have smaller, lighter guns, the double-handed the larger, and even double-barrelled guns, though these are rare.

My syndicate has shot for years over a couple of large dams, part of the Usutu river headwaters, east of Ermelo in Mpumalanga. All too frequently with big dams the ducks main flight path is straight down the middle of the water, thus shooting on the dam wall and in the marshy and usually hard-to-get-to headwaters is the rule.

To get round this we made two rafts, each using two 40 gallon drums per side with seats on top of the drums, the pictures give an impression of what they were like. With a screen of camo material and reeds added to the sides and anchored well out under the flight path, these were very effective. We quickly learned that two shooters on one raft was counter-productive as the rafts were quite lively and could bounce around. We used canoes to get to and fro, the dogs swimming beside us. The only problem that we had was that the local otters loved to use them as dining areas and first thing on getting on board was always to get rid of the stinking fish bones, heads and faeces which they left! For several years all was well, but one summer a violent thunderstorm with tornado-like winds broke them free from their moorings and sank one and wrecked the other. We arrived in June to find the survivor ashore, rusting and waterlogged. But if you have a big dam, this is definitely the way to go.

Hand in hand with hides go the decoys... which, unfortunately, means more things to carry – but always worth it in the long run. 

Official Shoots...



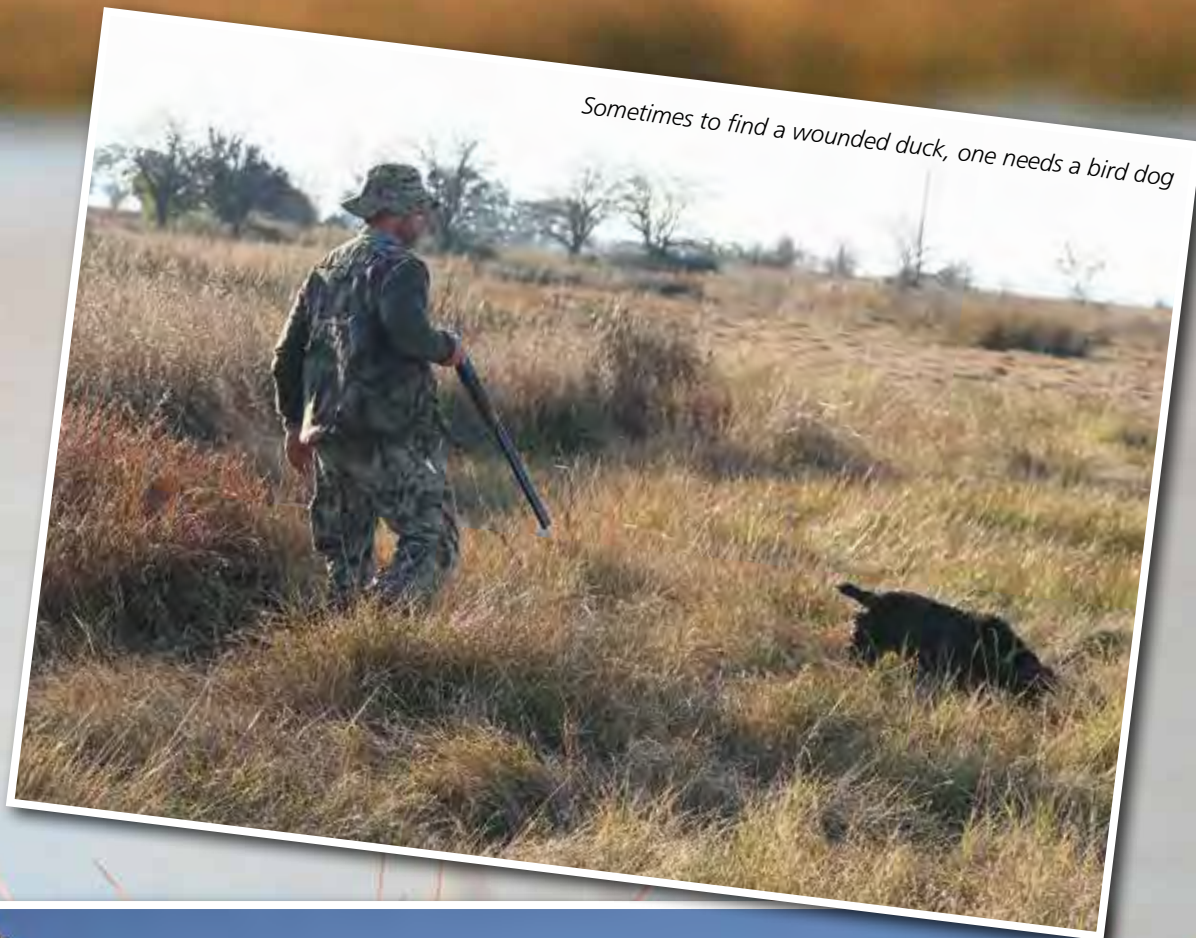
Above: South African Shelduck – Always closed in the Free State province. Generally breeds in winter. The male has a grey head and the female white.

Below: A Yellow-billed duck and a Red-billed Teal

*Background image: Jasper retrieving
Right: Yellow-bills on the flightpath.*



The Rietpan



Sometimes to find a wounded duck, one needs a bird dog



*Marius Gericke swinging through the flight nicely!
Below: A Blacksmith Plover over smooth water*

Official Shoots... The Rustenburg



Above: Dushan Janjic with a Natal Francolin
Above right: Theuns Oelofse explaining the Guineafowl drive and tactics to the guns, from left: Dieter Ochsenbein, Rian Strydom, Simon Steyn, Wayne Rabe, Thomas Ochsenbein and Derek Garton

Above middle: The Guinea-fowl drives are outstanding!
Below: Tony Ernst, Andrew Lillico and Brad Smith at the dinner table. The food is also delicious!



Upland birds & Driven Guinea-fowl



Top: A beautiful Caesar Guerini 20 bore.
Below: Derek Garton, Mark Lax and Dushan Janjic.



After another fantastic Guinea-fowl drive...
From left, Douglas Smith, Brad Smith, André vd Westhuizen, Tony Ernst, David Lillico and Andrew Lillico. Thanks to Theuns Oelofse of NW Wingshooting for arranging such great shoots and hospitality exclusively for SA Wingshooters



Members in the field...

Photograph by member Gerhard Laubscher at Spring Grove dam, Nottingham Road



From left, Neil Swart, Jan du Toit and Philipp Schulz at the Caledon shoot



One of Chris Christodoulou's pointers at work



Members on a shoot near Leandra with shoot Captain Gary Hagemann

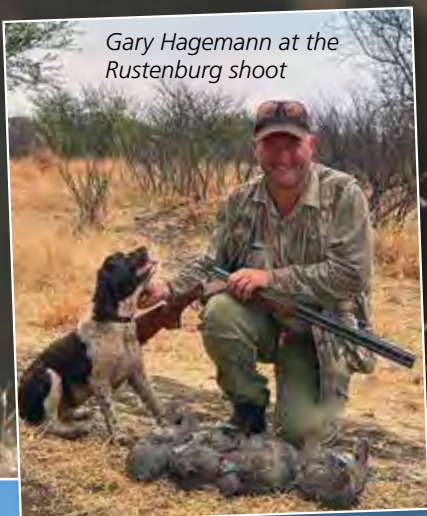


Werner Verster and family at Singita



Leslie van der Merwe and members at the Grootfontein shoot near Bela-Bela

Gary Hagemann at the Rustenburg shoot



Wynand Visser's GSP 'Sneller' at the Gouda shoot hosted by our Western Cape shoot captain



Members on a shoot near Delmas with shoot Captain Gary Hagemann



John Smillie and friends at Singita



Official Shoots... Singita Dove and Pigeon venue



Jean Struweg



Adrian Ogle

We hosted fantastic shooting at our official Singita venue. Thanks to Debbie Odendaal and Danie Coetzee who acted as Shoot Captains at this great venue.

Arnold van Wyk



*Oom Don Forrester
One of our most senior members
at 86 and still shooting*



Shawn Kennard & Rigby



*Craig Engelbrecht, Tim Engelbrecht and
Tim's little brother*



Blikkies Blignaut



Roland Boesch and Layla



Layla



Gerhard Laubscher



How to properly trim a hunting dog's

Nails

Looking at proper nail cutting, maintenance, and care for hunting dogs from Dr. Joe Spoo DVM

*by Dr Joe Spoo DVM, DACVSMR
with kind permission from Project Upland Magazine. projectupland.com*



Some of the most easily preventable yet most common injuries we see in active hunting dogs are broken toenails. It is so easy to neglect your dog's nails until they become a problem. When they do become a problem, especially if not addressed immediately, these annoying issues can sometimes result in weeks of recovery and lost time in the field.

The feet are where the figurative and literal rubber meets the road with our gun dogs, and the nails are a vital part of that system. Nail and foot care needs to be part of your early dog training with a hunting dog, getting them used to having their feet messed with so that you are able to maintain appropriate nail health throughout the dog's life.

Too often people are intimidated by the idea of clipping their dog's nails because they are worried about causing pain or cutting them too short. Heaven forbid the dog have black nails, making it difficult to find

landmarks, which makes the task even more difficult.

A confession: I hate trimming nails, too. While I was in veterinary school I had a Chesapeake Bay retriever that was the most compliant patient in the world. One day I was in the kitchen of our tiny little apartment and decided to trim her nails with the old guillotine style nail trimmer. Right as I went to squeeze the clipper she pushed forward and I nearly performed a nail amputation. I ran to the bathroom to get gauze and a wrap, when I came back the puddle of blood under her food appeared to be the size of a dinner plate.

That incident occurred more than 20 years ago, yet every time I pick up a dog's foot to trim a nail those are the first images that come to mind. Believe me, I understand your fears.

Understand dog nail anatomy and nail trimming tools

In order to get comfortable with trimming nails it's important to understand the anatomy of the nail, where the quick (the blood vessel) is and how to avoid it. Generally speaking, if you draw an imaginary line following the plane of the bottom of the paw pad up through the nail this is generally the line you will want to cut along. I prefer the nail trimmers that operate more like a scissors or pliers rather than the guillotine type; you can lay one blade of the trimmer along the pad and use that to guide the clip.

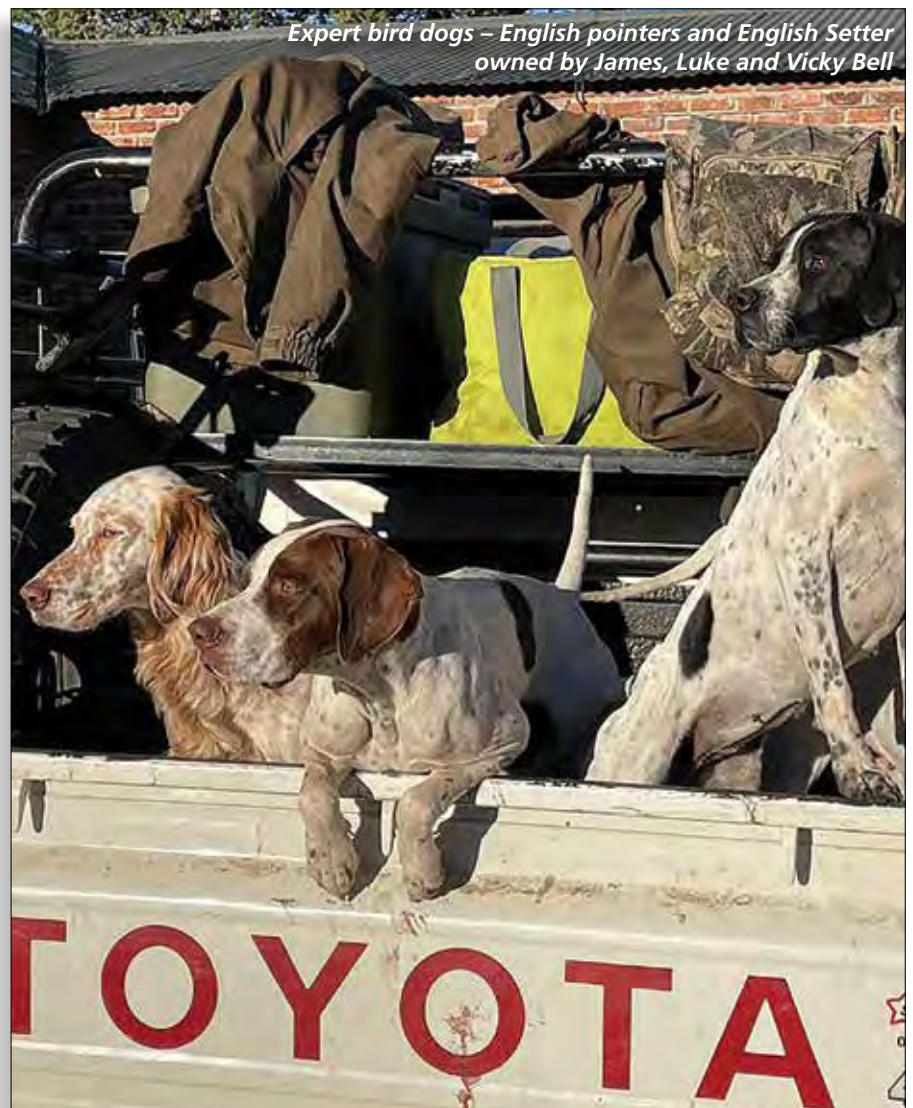
Some dogs will still react when having their nails trimmed even when you don't encounter the blood vessel. This occurs for two reasons. One is that the nerve usually extends out beyond the vessel so there are times you will hit that but not the

vessel. Second is that some dogs react to the pressure of the clippers rather than the cut itself.

Dogs with white nails make it easy as you are able to see where the blood vessel generally is and you can stay away from it. Dogs with black nails, however, make it a little more challenging. In addition to using the bottom of the pad as a guideline I will also look at the bottom of the

dog's nails as you will be able to see where the nail is thick and meaty before thinning out to the tips that can be removed.

Another method to manage nails for dogs (or owners) that do not like to use the clippers is to use a grinding tool like a Dremel with a sanding drum. It has always amazed me that some dogs will go bonkers at the appearance of the nail trimmer



but will absolutely allow these noisy grinding devices.

The main reason this works so well is the anatomy discussion above. Because the nerve reaches out longer than the blood vessel, you grind until the dog begins to react, which means you have reached the nerve.

What happens if you cut the nail too short?

If you do cut the nail too short,

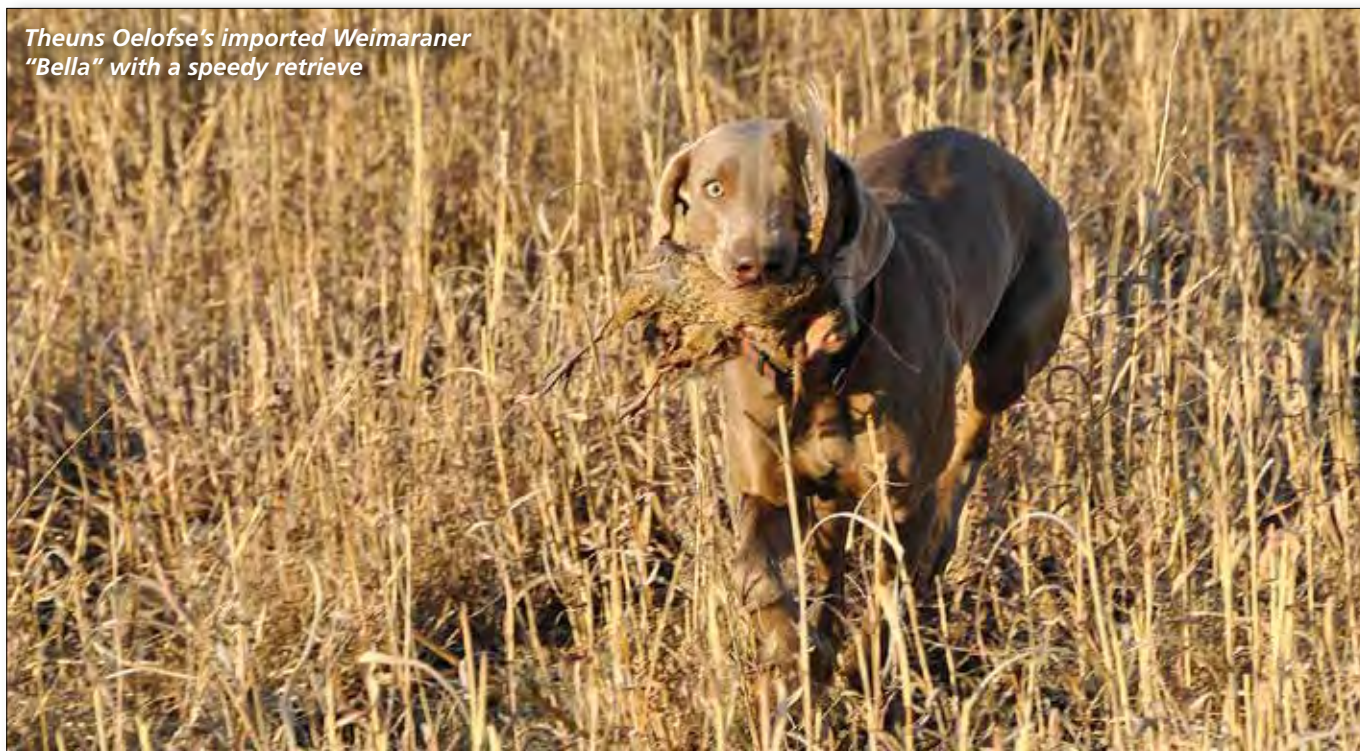
the heart. One word of caution: quicking your dog aggressively, like I did with my Chessie, can lead to fearful behaviours in the future.

How to get your hunting dog's nails back to good length

Once your dog has long nails it is possible to shorten them back to a shorter baseline even if the quick has gotten long. Typically after a nail trim the quick will regress a bit,

sometimes be managed with further trimming, and sometimes tissue glue, while other injuries will require the dog to be sedated so that the nail can be removed. Whether it's a simple fix or more complicated, it is important to have it addressed. I often see internet forums advocating to allow dogs to "lick" wounds or injuries clean, and I cringe. Dogs' mouths are not clean, and creating a moist

Theuns Oelofse's imported Weimaraner "Bella" with a speedy retrieve



do not worry. Your dog is not going to bleed to death. There are a couple of ways to stop the bleeding. If you are proactive you can have a bottle of Quick Stop, a powder that when applied will stop the bleeding.

Silver nitrate sticks are also used to stop bleeding, but they are something I haven't used in decades in an awake dog because they appear to cause a lot of discomfort. If you don't have either of these options then flour or corn starch can also work, as well as simply applying pressure.

Bleeding often appears worse than it is because we aren't expecting it. It's important to not panic and remember the toenails are a long way from

allowing the nails to be trimmed a bit shorter. With long nails, I usually recommend a second trimming in two weeks to try to shorten them even more.

If it is something that you absolutely do not want to do yourself, most veterinary clinics will offer nail trims, as do all groomers. The big thing to remember is to have it done and not ignore it, or it will become a problem.

Cracked nails and other nail injuries

Nail injuries can occur to varying degrees, from a cracked nail all the way to ripping the entire nail off down to the bed. Cracks can

environment sets up shop for bacterial growth. If we return to anatomy for a moment, the next structure back from the nail is bone and, while it is rare, I have had dogs develop osteomyelitis (bone infection) from a "simple" nail injury. With a little bit of practice, trimming dog's nails is a simple maintenance procedure any owner can perform if they desire, and something that is vitally important to avoid unexpected interruptions to your season.

— https://projectupland.com/hunting-dogs/how-to-properly-trim-hunting-dog-nails-2/?mc_cid=50b96ae05c&mc_eid=f4a76f1beb

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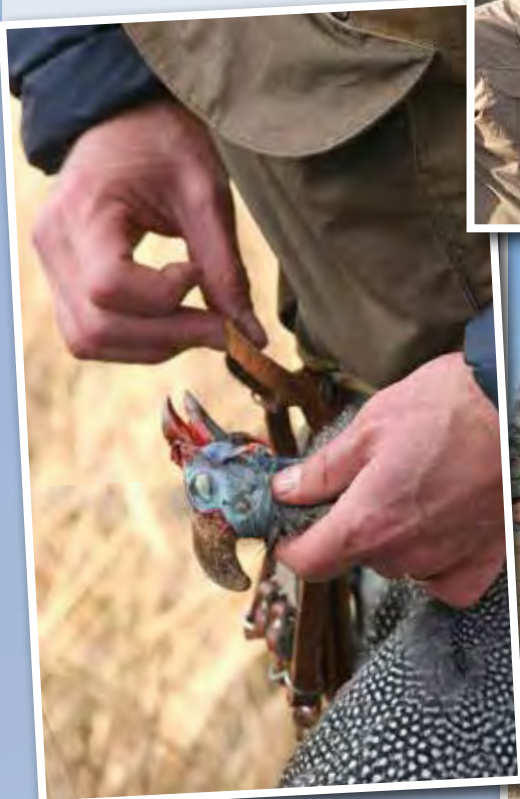
Official Shoots...



Above: Andy Charalambous happy as could be – 4 shots, 4 Guineas
Right: Peter Wefelmeier, Ryan Shillaw & Rob Cook



Below From left: Dushan Janjic, Richard Curtis, Derek Garton, Roland Boesch, Costa Qually, Costa Halkias.



The Donkerhoek



Far left: André van der Westhuizen & Vice-Chairman Dr Henni Boudjelthia
Left: Richard Curtis



Below, from left: Derek Garton, Peter Wefelmeier, André Westerveld, Ryan Shillaw, Rob Cook, Kobus Meyer and his father Oom Koot Meyer.

Right: Andy Charalambous, Costa Halkias, Marius Gericke, Dr Henni Boudjelthia, Tinus van Staden, Emil Engelbrecht & Jan Breed



Flat bread and

Francolin Breasts

Here's a quick and delicious snack to whip up in the camp kitchen or around the lapa fire.

by Philipp Schulz

Remove the breasts and thighs from your game birds. There is no need to pluck the feathers for this, simply make a small incision on the sternum, pull the skin back exposing breast meat and thighs. Cut the thighs at the little ball joint where they meet the "hips".

Pull them out and snip them off at the point where feathers end and scales start. The breasts come out with a neat incision left and right of the breast bone. Cut down along the bone and peel off. The more breasts you do, the better you will become at leaving meat on the breast and less on the bone.

Once you have a few breasts, you can either put them in buttermilk overnight (removes unfamiliar taste an inexperienced palate might not appreciate) or just proceed to the next step.

Place the breasts on a wooden or plastic cutting board, cover them with a piece of cellophane and beat them with the bottom of a wine bottle, gently, till they flatten out to about double the size. Emphasis on gently! Leave the thighs as they are.

Put a deep pan on the stove or on a grid over the coals. Fill it with an inch of quality vegetable oil. Get two deep bowls ready and a large plate or tray. Lay a few sheets of kitchen towel in the tray.

Fill the first bowl with 5-6 beaten eggs, the second bowl with flour. By



Author with a Natal Francolin he bowhunted on a SA Wingshooters' listed venue north of Alldays

this time your oil should be ready. Dip your finger in some beer or karate-water and flick in the oil, if it pops, it's ready for the breasts!

Give the breasts a good salt and peppering and submerge them in the egg-whip, then roll them through the flour till they are evenly coated.

Place the coated breasts and thighs in the hot oil. Do not put in too many at once, you don't want them releasing too much moisture. Fry for 6-10 minutes, flipping them from time to time. Remove and place on the towel. Repeat with the next batch.

Classic coleslaw and a few wedges of lemon are an accompanying must. A simple flat bread recipe my friend Chef Neil Swart showed me is a perfect compliment to this dish: Mix up

yogurt and self-raising flour 50/50 and throw in a tablespoon of cut up rosemary leaves, salt and pepper.

If it feels too sticky, add a little more flour. Knead the dough till it forms a firm consistency then make tennis ball sized dough balls and roll them flat with a wine bottle.

Now you can either place them in a hot pan with a little oil and garlic or put them straight on the grid over the coals till they brown lightly and blister. *Guten Appetit!*

Deep frying a fine game bird might seem like a sacrilege to some, and your arteries won't thank you for it either, but in the words of the great Anthony Bourdain, "*your body is not a temple, it's an amusement park...enjoy the ride*".



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Images from our 2021 *LRSC events*



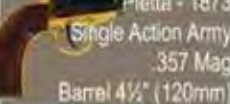
Top left: Bernard Cilliers checking the conditions before the match start. Top right: Johan Maree taking aim. Above: Etienne de Waal setting dope. Below: Neil van Vuuren, Cliff Alexander, Marius Gericke & Christiaan de la Rey





The LRSC Range has a summer and winter range. The Sig Sauer Kilo3000 BDX is quite possibly the most practical and best bino/rangefinder/ballistic calc. optic available. Below: Wilma Tait... always at the range no matter what. Mark Schuurmans letting lose with his H&K G3 during the 3-gun match.



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Members hunting all over 2021

*Below: Dr Mongezi Milela with a beautiful
black impala*



Jakkals Bothma in the Free State



Philipp Schulz harvested this fantastic buck near Cradock



Martin Magwaza with a nice Wildebeest



Danie Botha with wide impala hunted near Alldays



Gert Jacobs, Marius Gericke & Emile Tredoux at the Hopetown shoot

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Ourano has also curated a mixed bag experience, upland experiences in the Free State Province, and a few other destinations. Please enquire about the mixed bag experience options.

Also available to the true wingshooting enthusiast is a limited number of international wingshooting opportunities, please enquire for further details.

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Ourano Wingshooting prides itself on bespoke outings and experiences, and we tailor each trip to the clients' specific requests. 2022 bookings are now open and essential due to the high demand from this past season and also to plan all logistics carefully. **SA Wingshooters' members receive a 15% discount** on advance booking and payment. Please enquire about gundog training, gundog training camps, and gundog wild bird exposure. We look forward to curating a specialised service to your specific needs.

Always chasing the horizon,
Chris.



Please get in touch with Chris: 084 894 3950 info@ouranopointers.com www.ouranopointers.com

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SA Wingshooters Association is truly the one association for all shooting disciplines. With us you can do it all. We offer shooting events and venues in all divisions, including shotgun, rifle, handgun, semi-auto rifle, long range target shooting and multi-gun sport shooting...



The SA Wingshooters Association has been accredited by the CFR as a Dedicated Hunting Association, since 2004.

In fact, we are the second oldest accredited association in South Africa.

We have current members, many of whom regularly participate in the various sport shooting disciplines available and thus have a definite need to be able to grant such members the Dedicated Sport Shooting status, in order to enable them to fully participate in their chosen sport. So, we are now both an accredited sport shooting and hunting association, as we have members who want dedicated status, but who do not hunt.

We currently offer the following sport shooting disciplines to our members, either at our own facilities/ranges, or at any range country-wide and internationally:

PSP (Postal Shooting Programme) target shooting for handguns, rifles and self-loading rifles. Various target shooting tables/disciplines are offered, which can be practiced at any range world-wide. All our targets are available on our website.

Clay Target Shooting – all members have access to Clay Target

Shooting using shotguns at any accredited clay target range or club (CTSASA, COMPAK, etc.) country-wide.

Long Range Rifle Shooting – we have our own dedicated long range rifle shooting range in Gauteng, where members compete over shooting distances ranging from 100m to 1900m. This range also affords us the opportunity to offer a 2-gun sport shooting discipline (handgun and rifle combination shooting with movement and transitions), starting at 10m for handguns, to 100m and then up to 600m for self-loading rifles, with official division categories for calibres and types of rifles.

Handgun Shooting – we offer handgun shooting, again at our LRSC range, or any other range world-wide via the PSP, on our 17 target steel pistol range with targets from 10m to 100m, and includes a 6-plate duelling tree.

The requirements for obtaining a Dedicated Sport Shooting status will be as follows:

All prospective applicants will have to complete a practical shooting qualification exercise, in either handgun, rifle or shotgun. A minimum final score of 50% must be attained in order to qualify and must be signed

off by a range officer or club official.

All qualified members must submit an annual report to us, in confirmation of their minimum dedicated sport shooting activities, as required. We propose a minimum of three sport shooting activities per year for members in order to retain such status.

Should you hold current dedicated sport shooter status elsewhere, we will accept that status, if it is indeed current, on the basis of RPL.

The Long Range Shooting Club (LRSC) and the PSP (Postal Shooting Programme) are part of SA Wingshooters and are subject to its constitution, disciplinary codes and rules of ethical conduct.

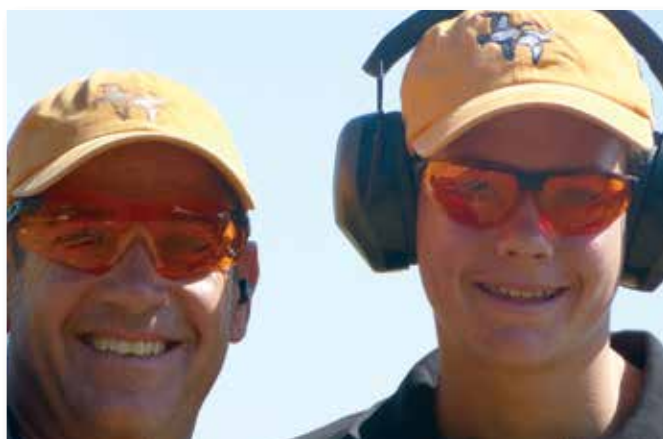
Lastly, as you know, the SA Wingshooters Association has R20-million liability insurance to cover the Association, with each individual member also having R20-million liability insurance as individual cover, for all shooting-related activities.

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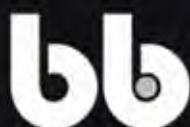
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Valley

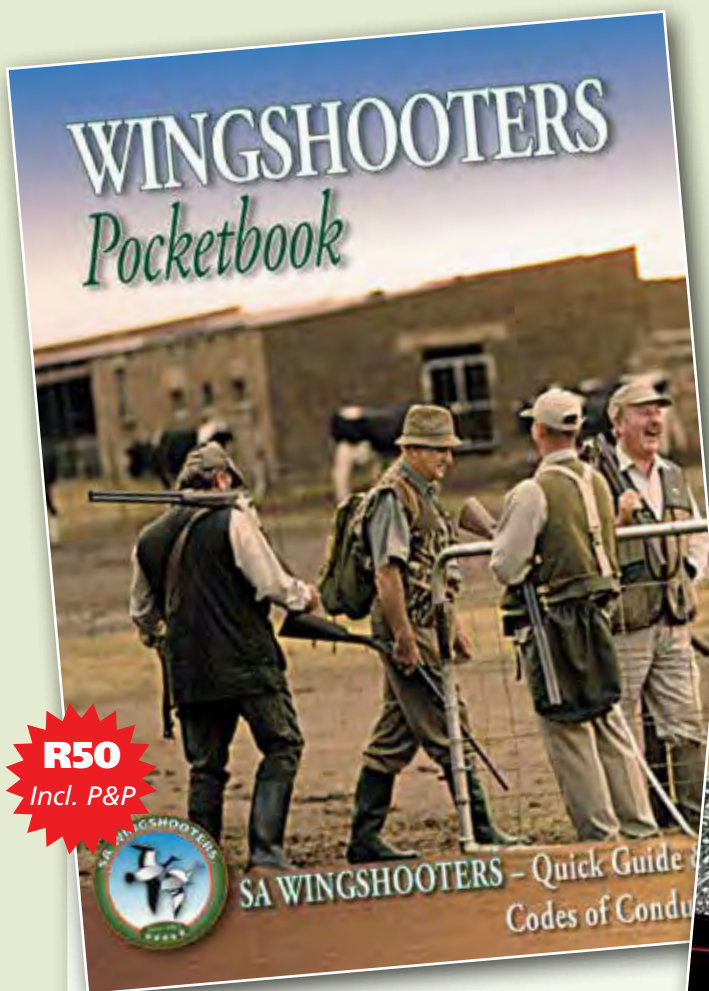
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Contact Dr Slang Viljoen:
084 202 0184, or email:
slangvil@iafrica.com



This pocketbook is the first of its kind in South Africa. It is an essential 'must have' for every wingshooter, particularly *Dedicated Hunters*, and contains:

- The Wingshooters Codes of Conduct, including the codes for bird dogs, shoot organisers and wildfowlers,
- A guide to the identification of gamebirds in the field,
- The combined shooting and hunting log for use by dedicated hunters to comply with the regulations of the Firearms Control Act, incorporating the landowners' hunting permission form... And much more...

'Every Wingshooter should have one'

'In today's world, where it is so important that all hunters act in a responsible and ethical manner, this pocketbook is an essential part of the field hunting gear of every gamebird shooter. We are pleased to support this pocketbook and I strongly recommend it to all who wish to hunt more responsibly. Every Wingshooter should carry it on him in the field'

— Dr Alan Klocek

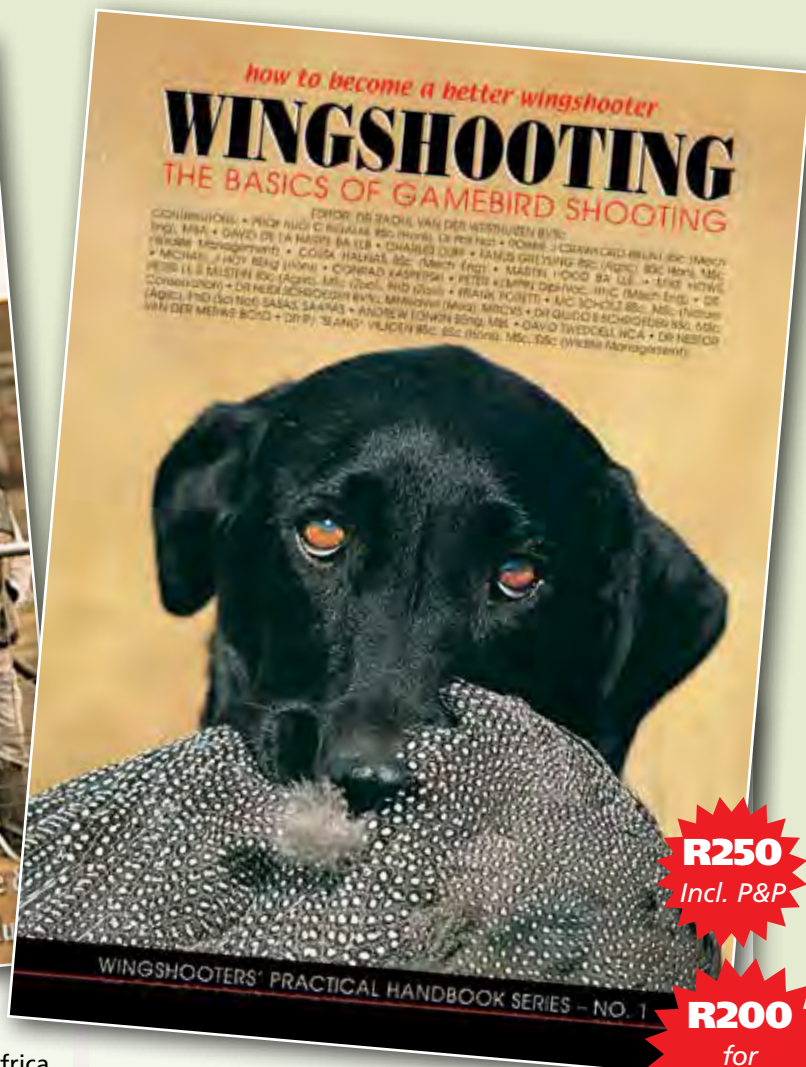
MD: MSD

'Respect for all Creatures, Great and Small'

'There are very few, if any, hunters who can say they have never shot the wrong quarry by mistake or have committed some thoughtless act, which they, in hindsight, would like to undo. This pocketbook will help all of us to prevent such mistakes and to embody the Wingshooters motto of Respect For Life.'

— Dr Raoul van der Westhuizen

Chairman: SA Wingshooters



HINTS AND TIPS FROM 20 EXPERTS ON THE BASICS OF WINGSHOOTING

This is not just another book on Wingshooting in Southern Africa. It is the definitive practical handbook by 20 top experts, packed with facts. Whether you are a beginner or an advanced shooter, in these pages you are sure to find lots of new tips and tricks from the old hands. The subjects are covered in short and concise fashion and include:

- Shotguns • Gun fit • Gun care • Gauges & shot sizes • Shotshells and ballistics • Shotgun marksmanship • Safety • Game bird identification • How to shoot francolin, guinea fowl, geese, ducks, sand grouse, rock pigeons, etc. • Gun dog breeds • Training your gun dog • Gun dog nutrition and health • Shooting ethics and etiquette • The Gun Control Act • How to get a hunting licence • Game birds for the dinner table • Field trial clubs & associations

For the first time, this book brings together the collective know-how and experience in game bird shooting of many of the leading wingshooters in Southern Africa — be they scientists, field trialists, gun dog experts, veterinarians or lay people — who all share the passion for wingshooting and the joy of the great African Outdoors. The section on shotgun marksmanship alone makes the handbook worth having. In this section the greatest South African sporting clay shooter ever and 20 times Springbok tells how to shoot any target under any condition. The handbook is edited by the co-founder and first chairman of the SA Wingshooters Association, Raoul van der Westhuizen.

To order your books today, call the SA Wingshooters Association office: 071 132 5450.

Dedicated REPORTS

Go to:

<https://members.wingshooters.co.za>

and register to create your own profile for your dedicated reports & firearm licence renewal reminders



YOUR ANNUAL DEDICATED ACTIVITY

REPORT (Hunt & Sport) – What to do:

How you can send us your report:

Via e-mail, fax or on-line on your personal member profile.

Go to:

<https://members.wingshooters.co.za>

and register to create your own profile; or

Complete a report (you can download it from our website: www.wingshooters.org.za) and e-mail to: anel@wingshooters.co.za or fax to 086 211 5111, or you can email us a report listing 2 activities you did during the year. Dedicated activity reports are mandatory, by law, for all qualified dedicated members!

New Member Online Portal

For Dedicated Activity Reports & Firearm Licence Renewal Notices –

Firstly, It's nearing the end of the season, thus all Dedicated members need to send in their dedicated hunting activity report. **It's a legal (Firearms Control Act 60 of 2000) requirement for Dedicated Hunters and Dedicated Sports persons.** You can send any hunting activities report, whether it was plains game, bird hunting or range shooting and includes rifles, shotgun, handgun use, etc. You only need to list two (2) activities for the year. Remember to send us a report before end October, as we have to send a 'members activity report' to the SAPS every year in November, listing all the members who did not send in a report.

Our online member portal –

You can do it on our new member online portal. Please go to our online member area and 'Register' with us:

<https://members.wingshooters.co.za>

Once we've approved your registration request, you can 'Login' and start to use this service for your dedicated reporting and to list your firearms renewal dates for our renewal reminder service. Call the office if you don't know what to do! Tel: 071 132 5450.

You can also enter your dedicated hunting/sport shooting activities report online, on our website! Go to www.wingshooters.org.za and click on the "Dedicated Hunters" menu and complete the form right at the bottom of the page. It's quick and easy!

Or, if you prefer to remain old school you can download the form from the "All Downloads" page on our website. You can fax it to 086 211 5111 or 071 132 5450. You can also send us the same one you might have done for another association you belong to... it needn't be our form.



WE NEED YOUR HELP URGENTLY!

The NGO Wildlife Poisoning Prevention & Conflict Resolution (NPO 132-047) was born from a need to address the problem of wildlife poisoning, initially in South Africa; but also across the sub-region since vultures and wildlife ignore human political boundaries. The training project over the past 5 years aimed to train 100 rangers and enforcers per year (target 500). This goal was addressed by fund-raising internationally; and the goal was exceeded by 20%.

The Annual report of March 2020 shows 601 rangers trained. Whilst others claim to train many people, their training simply comprises anti-poison information, whilst we enable trainees to respond appropriately as first arrivals/responders at a toxic wildlife crime scene; in a scenario where mistakes lead to loss of court cases. Another significant observation is that poisoning of elephants in and around Hwangwe National Park, Zimbabwe has decreased annually since Zimbabwe Republic Police trainees conducted roadblocks, and confiscated almost 6 tonnes of Sodium cyanide from Zama-zama miners and their associates. Whilst there is no direct link to our training we feel this assumption is plausible.

We also are able to consult to and advise game ranchers and the wildlife industry on game ranch management, wildlife management, stocking rates and carrying capacities. We use game-birds as indicators of environmental health and can advise on their management. A key issue that we promote is Systems Thinking and its application to management; including predator and wildlife conflict management, with emphasis on non-lethal control systems.

Our projects may be viewed on <https://www.wildlifepoisoningprevention.co.za>

Financially, we operate solely as a non profit organisation, so any profit on income re-cycles through our activities. We rely heavily on international donors, since the exchange rate makes international donations very valuable and significant to us. Covid 19 has closed the gates of many zoos who are our primary source of funding; however, we are registered in South Africa as a Public Benefit Organisation (PBO 930047988) which enables us to issue certificates of donation in terms of Section 18(1)(a) of the Income Tax Act. This enables tax deductions in the hands of the donor, whether corporate or private. Such donations must be used within South Africa. As a non-profit, we are required to report annually to the Department of Social Development, both on activity and financially; and we follow good accounting practices, including Annual Independent Financial Statements. A business stress-test conducted in August 2020 indicates success as we have repeated financial surpluses, albeit with poor cash flows and poor sustainability indications. Perhaps this indicates a very frugal operation where all income reaches the projects?

<https://www.wildlifepoisoningprevention.co.za>

PLEASE DONATE !
We can issue section 18a certificates for Tax purposes



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YES! Sign me up and rush me my membership documents

Deposit your subscription by means of Internet banking (EFT) or deposit it in our bank account as per the details below (email us the proof of payment with the application form) to:

anel@wingshooters.co.za

Bank: ABSA Brooklyn
Branch Code: 335-345
Account Name: SA Wingshooters
Account Number: 1500165460

* If you are a dedicated hunter at any other association please attach a copy to receive a credit towards decated hunter status.

Some of the great benefits:

- Exclusive members-only access to the Gun Licensing Help-line
- 'Bona-fide Hunters' recognised as credit to Dedicated Hunters, or
- Option to qualify as Dedicated Hunter/Sports Person in terms of Act 60
- Membership of Police-accredited Hunting & Sport shooting Association
- Exclusive hunting rights and shoots for members only
- Access to the National Shooting Venue Database
- Up-to-date information on the Firearms Control Act
- 4 'WINGSHOOTER' magazines with full shooting calendar
- Provincial hunting licences (for most provinces)
- Access to clay shooting clubs, shotgun/Rifle/Handgun clinics and training
- 25% saving on the handbook WINGSHOOTING, with tips & hints by 21 experts on game bird hunting
- Free advice on shooting seasons, gundogs, shotguns, rifles, handguns, etc.
- Free firearm ENDORSEMENTS for any type of firearm.
- R20 million wingshooters' liability insurance included
- Option to join PSP – Postal Shooting Programme for Handguns & Rifles
- Option to join the Long Range Shooting Club and TPS 2-gun/3-gun, etc.

Non-Profit Organisation Reg. 031-587-NPO • Tel: +27 (0)71 132 5450
E-mail: anel@wingshooters.co.za

or Fax to Email: 086 211 5111

SAPS Accreditation No's: 1300080 & 1300136



SA WINGSHOOTERS
2021

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: (Tick all appropriate boxes)

1. I wish to join for	☐ 1 Year	☐ 2 Years
Join Fee – Once off, plus:	R 350.-	R 350.-
Subscription – Annual*	R 1,362.-	R 2,650.-
*Subscription – over 70's:	☐ R 903.-	☐ R 1,700.-
*Subscription Junior U/21:	☐ R 253.-	☐ R 500.-

You can also join the PSP (Postal Shooting Programme) for rifle and handgun shooting. The PSP offers participation in our annual target shooting competition in various divisions for rifle and handgun shooting:

2. I also wish to Join the PSP ☐ R 100.- ☐ R 190.-

3. I also wish enroll in the Dedicated Hunter Course and/or Dedicated Sport Shooter course:

Dedicated Hunter Manual & Test: R 570.- ☐
Dedicated Sport Shooter Test: R 570.- ☐

TOTAL R .- R .-

Payment Method:

EFT ☐ Bank Deposit ☐

You can also pay in person with a card at our offices.

Your Signature

Date

I agree to honour the constitution and and charter. I do not have a criminal record. You hereby confirm that you are subscribing to SA Wingshooters Association for a period of one year or two years, depending on your option.

Title (Mr,Mrs,Dr)

Full Names

ID Number

Postal Address

Postal Code

Residential Address

E-Mail *

*(we email members with news regularly)

Office Tel No.

Fax Number

Home Tel No.

Cell Phone No.

* The entry fee of R350 is not payable by younger than 21. The annual subscription fee for Juniors (persons younger than 21) is a nominal R253.- (VAT incl), and for persons 70 and older is R903.- Incl. Family memberships do not pay any once-off join fee.

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