



WINGSHOOTER

Magazine of the SA Wingshooters Association

Vol. 29 No. 1 – March/April 2023



The **2023** *Hunting & Shooting Calendar Edition*

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Contents



The Cover

The Double-Banded Sandgrouse or “Dubbelbandsandpatrys” in Afrikaans (Pterocles Bicinctus) is a small, short-tailed gamebird with an absolutely beautiful call. Photograph was taken by André van der Westhuizen.

Vol. 29 No. 1 • March/April 2023



Editor's Message 2

Shooting & Conservation News 4, 6
Local, international and association news

New from Beretta 14
The Ultraleggero

Official 2023 Hunting & Shooting

Calendar 17 to 27
Many shoot venues and hunting options for all,
including sport shooting

Shooting – Bag limits and self-imposed limits 8



Breed your dog? A tough decision 28
Letting go of the dream

Wildlife Poisoning 32
Am I crazy?

Shotgun Shooting Tips 36
Shoot like a pro

Seasons & Bag Limits 38
Keep it legal and to the bag limit

More Venues and Gear Offers 43 to 47
More venues and kit for you

How to Send in your Dedicated Report ... 48
How to get it done – simple and easy!

Christmas Shoot Photos 40

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A WORD IN YOUR EAR



A father's advice...

This poem – author unknown – was sent to me by member and friend Paul Harms. It is well written and to the point. I just have to share it with you...

If a sportsman true you'd be
Listen carefully to me: –
Never, never let your gun
Pointed be at anyone;
That it may unloaded be
Matters not the least to me.

When a hedge or fence you cross,
Though of time it causes loss,
From your gun the cartridge take
For the greater safety's sake.

If 'twixt you and neighbouring gun
Birds may fly or beasts may run,
Let this maxim e're be thine
"Follow not across the line".

Stops and beaters oft unseen
Lurk behind some leafy screen,
Calm and steady always be,
"Never shoot where you can't see"

Keep your place and silent be,
Game can bear and game can see;
Don't be greedy, better spared
Is a pheasant than one shared.

You may kill or you may miss,
But at all times think of this:
All the pheasants ever bred
Won't repay for one man dead.

Be safe when handling any firearm. Our hunting and shooting calendar for 2023 was emailed to all members via the eNewsletter in February, but as is customary, we also include it in the first edition of the magazine each year. We expect it to be another good season due to good rains in many parts of the country. Have an enjoyable season!

Waidmannsheil! – André



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Hunting and Poaching: One and the Same?

By Zig Mackintosh –
PATROL – VOLUME 02

Poaching and hunting are words that anti-hunting activists liberally interchange. The mainstream media have slurped up their chicanery for one purpose:

Manipulation!

Playing on people's emotions is a great

herd stands at around 3 million animals.

Private game ranches and wildlife conservancies in South Africa cover 50 million acres, more than five times the size of the country's national park system.

Zimbabwe has 25 100 sq. miles dedicated to safari hunting outside formally protected areas.

A total of 94 700 sq. miles of Botswana (over 37%) is dedicated to wildlife conservation, with 17% designated as protected national parks and game reserves.

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way to raise funds through donations for any "Save the (fill in the blank)" campaign. And for the media, it's an effective way to get eyeballs in front of news reports.

Their logic is simple: Poachers kill animals, and so do hunters, so they must be one and the same. Bastards. Please help us fight them by opening your wallet.

But there is a huge difference.

Poaching is indiscriminate, wasteful, unsustainable, cruel, and environmentally destructive. Controlled, selective, sustainable hunting protects wildlife and, more importantly, habitat. Those who sustainably use a natural resource will most likely want to conserve it.

Consider these African countries where sustainable-use safari hunting is a part of the conservation strategy.

Zambia's Protected Areas cover over 77,000 sq. miles or 30% of the country's total landmass in the form of 19 National Parks and 36 Game Management Areas.

Namibia currently has over 50% of its land under formally recognized wildlife management, including its entire coastline. The country has more wildlife than ever in the past 150 years, and the national wildlife

Mozambique has over 31 750 sq. miles of hunting wilderness.

Over 40% of Tanzania is under some form of wildlife management. There are 140 hunting concessions covering 96 500 sq. miles.

These African countries are evidently, committed to conserving wildlife and habitat.

A report by lion researcher Dr Peter Lindsey et al. in 2006 estimated the total area of sub-Saharan Africa devoted to safari hunting at least 540 000 sq. miles. By contrast, England's total land area is 50 300 sq. miles.

– <https://www.patrolling.org/editorial-jan-2023/?ref=patrol-newsletter>

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Unfortunately, this is not always the case. There are more and more litters whose parents have not been tested. Breeding became more a question of selling puppies than concern for the



wellbeing of the breed. More and more puppies grow into dogs with little hunting ability and serious behavioural issues. The GSP rescue organisations are becoming overwhelmed as more of these problem and untested GSP lines are bred and sold to an unsuspecting public.

Please do your homework and do not get puppies from untested parents. Experienced Wingshooters will always make sure that the parents have been tested with a recognised club and do not fall for any excuse or justification why the parents did not do the tests. In the end we all have the same aim – To produce the best hunting companion.

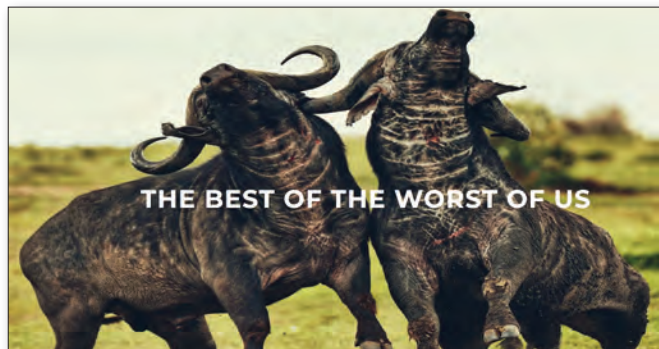
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– SA Wingshooters' Scientific Advisor Dr PJ Viljoen

The Best Of The Worst Of Us

I discovered the writings of Peter Hathaway Capstick when I was a young man, back when African adventures still seemed plausible, long before I accepted the responsibilities of adulthood and shouldered the burdens of mortgages and tuition. By the time I'd finished the first chapter of his first book, *Death in the Long Grass*, it seemed perfectly reasonable to me to abandon my burgeoning career as Capstick had and try my hand as a professional hunter as Capstick did. I didn't, of course. I settled down and did my duty.

But doing my duty didn't preclude me from reading his writings. After that first book, I absolutely devoured Capstick's



library. Like a gun bearer at his elbow, I followed him out of the Long Grass, through the Silent Places, across the Dark Continent and into a Lonely Land, reading tracks along the trail that convinced me trophies were waiting at the turn of every page; trophies like this line from his inaugural offering: 'my heart fell as a flowing dapple of ebony and amber drifted down the trunk of a big tree in an oily-smooth movement, then disappeared into the high grass like ground fog'.

It wasn't until years later that I learned of Capstick's reputation for exaggeration and embellishment. Indeed, there doesn't seem to have been a single biography or blog post written about the man that's failed to include at least a line or two about his use and abuse of literary license.

Bunch of jealous hacks.

Even if Capstick's reputation for exaggeration is well earned, it's still undeserved. Because any hunter's criticism of Capstick is hypocritical. Who among us hasn't placed a figurative finger on the scale when estimating the weight of a black bear? Or pushed a pencil-thin whitetail rack closer to the camera in the hopes of making it appear more massive? If Peter Hathaway Capstick stretched the truth, he was only doing what we hunters do; he just did it better.

Besides, who would you want writing the saga of your first African safari? An author with the attention to accuracy and bare bones brevity of an Associated Press reporter? Or an imaginative poet like Capstick, a man who once set the stage for a Southern African sunrise by saying, 'a terminal moon suicided over the Luangwa River in an ecstasy of orange agony'? Over the top? Well, of course it is. But isn't that exactly what we hunters want the memories of our time afield to be? We don't remember the hours of tedious monotony spent on the stand. No, we remember the moments that matter – that first sighting of a target bull or that last ounce of trigger squeeze. Even now, I can close my eyes and summon scenes long spent from my hunting past. I can see and hear and feel, in vivid and graphic detail, those moments that mattered. I just can't describe them like Capstick could.

Some dismiss Capstick's writings as out and out fiction. Kinder critics arch an eyebrow while reading his work, but they at least accept the plausibility in his pen. I, myself, am not only a hunter but also a hopeless romantic, which means that I view the books in Capstick's library as the very finest volumes written in the world of hunting and adventure literature. So join me, if you would, and raise a sundowner in the author's honor. To Peter Hathaway Capstick; the best of the worst of us.

– Courtesy of Field Ethos and written by Kyle Wright

<https://fieldethos.com/the-best-of-the-worst-of-us/>

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Ethics of Bag Limits and Self-Imposed Limits

by A.J. DeRosa
Project Upland

Should you shoot a limit of wild game birds this season?

During my childhood in southern New Hampshire, kids competed to shoot a limit of “pa’tridge,” my brother and myself included. I admit, I lost just about every time to my older brother. However, we thought shooting the limit was a good idea. After all, it was the 80s.

These birds gave an air of boundless existence. Hunting the droves of ruffed grouse in the Berkshires of Massachusetts when our grandfather was setting up a stand seemed almost too easy. We believed the grouse there and in the woods by my father’s house would be there forever.

But we were wrong. We never thought to ask ourselves, should I shoot that limit?

A fellow grouse hunter introduced me to the concept of self-imposed limits. This hunter was Jay Dowd, a Michigan-based artist, writer, and grouse guide. After our group took two grouse out of one spot, with casual ease, he mentioned, “I’m not hunting that cover again this season.” Needless to say, his statement impacted me profoundly.

It’s been 20 years since I have seen a grouse by my father’s old house. While I heard the drumming of a couple of distant birds on my most recent Berkshires trip, the idea of a grouse being in every bush was gone.



Ruffed Grouse
(*Bonasa umbellus*)
A North American gamebird

Lack of grouse habitat is undoubtedly the overarching theme of the decline in ruffed grouse, but the idea of limiting yourself increases the depth of how we should view the mortality of the birds we love.

Historical Evidence for Game Bird Management Advocacy

“It seems to me what is called for is an exquisite balance between two conflicting needs: the most skeptical scrutiny of all hypotheses that are served up to us and at the same time a great openness to new ideas,” said

Carl Sagan. “Obviously those two modes of thought are in some tension.

But if you are able to exercise only one of these modes, whichever one it is, you’re in deep trouble.” This legendary scientist’s quote sums up upland game bird management perspectives.

Depending on the room you’re in, you may observe denial regarding the idea that hunting affects game bird populations. There’s a collective delusion that’s fueled behaviors like “Governor’s Hunts” and other body

count-based fundraising events.

George Bird Evans, a famous upland writer, was vocal regarding hunting's impact on declining bird numbers. Evans' friction points caused a falling out with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources when he advocated for the changing of bag limits and seasons. He argued that there was a direct correlation to the decline of grouse in the region.

In New England Grouse Shooting, William Harnden Foster recounts the impacts of market hunting on now-extinct game birds including the heath hen and passenger pigeon. Unregulated bag limits, unrestricted seasons, and the devastating effects of capitalism destroyed populations prior to the Lacey Act.

Foster credits the adaptability of ruffed grouse as their saving grace from market hunters; hunting them was too difficult to be profitable.

lic and managers.

The days of there being twice as many small game hunters as big game hunters died in the 80s. Game birds no longer have a voice. As a result, they are simply unconsidered.

Bag Limits Are Not Created Equally

The lack of quality habitat in New England makes grouse very vulnerable. When my brother and I were young, we watched grouse flush and land. You could follow up again and again. We were neither smart nor old enough to understand that the fact we could do this was a symptom of poor grouse habitat.

In New Hampshire's lake region, the daily bag limit for ruffed grouse is four. When I hunt the north country's expansive grouse country, the bag limit is the same, despite there being more birds than in the lake

there. I need to show self-restraint because seasons and bag limits have not evolved with the times.

My thoughts and patterns on this subject are those of someone who has grown up in New England grouse country. But the issue of self-regulation is not unique to the northeast. Even species' behaviors can change hunting impacts, particularly covey birds, that need a minimum number of birds in a covey to survive the winter.

Tyler Webster of Birds, Booze, and Buds Podcast pointed out the very conservative limits of North Dakota being something to celebrate. They have a Hungarian partridge bag limit of three. Meanwhile, the neighboring state of Montana allows an 8-bird daily limit. Webster points out how that limit can be devastating when hunters pursue a single covey for follow up flushes.



*Grey-winged Partridge
(Scleroptila africanus)*

Photograph by Gerhard Laubscher

Today, declining habitat connectivity and quality, climate change, and other compelling evidence threatens ruffed grouse populations.

The fact that we needed the Lacey Act to save game populations is compelling evidence that hunting, when improperly regulated through seasons and bag limits, has dire consequences on wildlife populations. Evidently, the need for conversations regarding what defines population sustainability in wildlife management becomes more obvious.

In most states, game bird management is an afterthought. Many states cannot identify how many wild bird hunters there are because they don't offer a specific license.

Some bag limits and season dates have not been adjusted in decades based solely on disinterest of the pub-

region. If I hunt the highly-developed Massachusetts border, the bag limit is still four birds.

When I hunt my lake region haunts, Burton Spiller's very covers, grouse contacts are geographically isolated. Birds hide in small, fragmented forest pockets that are often 10 to 20 square acres with no other cover for miles.

What would happen if I took four birds out of one fragment on a single hunt? If I hunted it multiple times over New Hampshire's 92-day grouse season? If I took just one bird from that cover?

Because of what I think would happen if I didn't self-regulate, I often take no more than one bird from a cover all season. I still run the dog and enjoy the birds, but that's it. I want to continue to enjoy the birds

Robert Poor of Arizona pointed out an interesting perspective of bag limits as they relate to desert quail. "The limit on Scalies and Gambels has been 15, an unobtainable number most years. There's some psychological factors here. If the limit were cut in half for example: who had taken five birds, they may be more tempted to get three more to 'limit out.' But with the bar at 15, they are more likely to go home and watch a football game." This psychology exposes how self-aware we need to be as wild bird hunters.

Since bag limits are not created equally, we need to remember that many state agencies have not evolved with the times or the science. Since these agencies are slow to adjust with the times, the rise in the popularity of upland hunting can have severe



Swainson's Francolin
(*Pternistis swainsonii*)

consequences. This also speaks to the importance of bird hunters' involvement in state level decision-making. If you do not speak up, no one will.

Bird Hunting Season Dates Can Be Deadly

If you've heard of "pickin' limb fruit," you may be from New England. This cultural phenomenon points to the vulnerability of game birds based on the time of year.

Ruffed grouse, in this case, are vulnerable when feeding on buds on mature trees while conditions allow for snowmobiling season. This also means it's snowmobile season. One can bag multiple limits of birds using a coordinated approach on a tree with friends. It turns my stomach thinking about it, but it happens every season. Is this hunting method sustainable when a bird is a species of conservation concern? There is not a native upland game bird that does not currently have a listing as a species of conservation concern.

Late ruffed grouse seasons can also be deadly. Say you're chasing a ruffed grouse in New York in January. Although the bird may have gotten away, did you mark its death warrant anyways?

The familiar debate here is that the bird expends more energy and

burns more calories when being pursued versus their regular ability to survive a hard wintering season with low food.

Western states have shown leadership in this regard. Washington moved their forest grouse season back 15 days to curb breeding hen harvest, therefore raising overall long-term populations. A study published in 2021 showed the impacts on season dates for hunting of sage grouse over 150 years and the direct impact on long term sage grouse sustainability. The study particularly highlighted state responses to the decline of numbers and impact of hunters.

Upland game birds are not a hunting priority in 2022. This led to season dates that have not evolved with the times. Habitat loss exacerbates the impacts of a lack of evolution in season dates on upland birds.

Weather Conditions Can Be the Deadliest of All for Birds

Drought, low food crops, and low hatch rates are all factors that can have direct impacts on upland game bird numbers in a single year. Learning how weather and conditions can impact wild birds in your neck of the woods can take a lot of experience and learning the science and biology of your quarry takes

time. Even despite our best informed guesses, boot leather confirms our theories.

During New Hampshire's 2021 season, I heard many grouse hunters complain that they could not find birds and "numbers were low." The true version of that story is that food crop numbers were down. There was no mountain ash to be found. Highbush cranberry was non-existent. These are often staples to rely on for grouse hunters that stick to the same covers again and again. It took me a couple days to figure out that they had moved into slightly more mature cover, feasting on tree buds at higher rates in the early season to make up for the lack of mast. I had a great season, but tempered my bag limits in covers with the subconscious reminder that food desperation can become more deadly after hunting season.

In the 2018 season, we saw drought. Again, "numbers were low" was the mumbling of those unwilling to put in the boot leather to figure out the complex and rewarding intricacies of grouse behavior. For those of us that targeted water, we found large numbers, but to the point of vulnerability in isolated pockets. This was a great time to exercise self-imposed bag limits on wild birds.

Robert Poor pointed out a very important fact to changing conditions and state regulation. "I used to be in favor of dropping bird limits on poor years. But that would be near impossible to push and respond correctly to population numbers." This only furthers the argument that a personal ethic when approaching game bird bag limits is something we should consciously uphold.

Bird Limit Ethics in Practice

This article is not meant to chastise those that shoot limits; I shoot limits in the north country. In central New England, I may only shoot one or two birds out of a cover in a season. However, I always consider the population status, conditions, and habitat to support the annual amount of birds and remain aware that this can change season to season.

There are other considerations, too. Traveling hunters might find a greater urge to limit out while being



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**Exclusively for
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a guest on someone else's turf. At a minimum, we should consider learning the factors of foreign pursuits and weigh them against our expectations. While hunting North Dakota in 2021, I limited out multiple days over various covers. Tyler Webster, being very aware of our impacts on the spot we hunted, added important local knowledge to making that judgment call.

Comparatively, I remember shooting a sage grouse years ago. The bomber was as tall as me when I spread its wings. Then, I went back to hunting sharptails, declaring to myself, "The next time I shoot a sage grouse will be when I have my dog with me, and it can wait until then." I made it into fajitas the next day.

Time is another consideration.

While I conveniently created a work environment that allows me to hunt as many days as I want in a season, not everyone has that luxury. I even moved to grouse country to have the ability to walk out my doorstep and find wild birds.

Truthfully, my impact can be far higher as a result when you add those factors up. My personal ethics must consider that. Similarly, one may take limits when they only have one weekend a year to enjoy wild bird hunting.

These are things guides often consider no matter where they work. Client after client can equate to a lot of bagged birds. Without sound judgment, this can spell disaster to their very own job security.

It brings up the debate of guiding on public lands, but I won't go down

that rabbit hole today.

Get your mental wheels turning the next time you drop your tailgate and put your dogs down. There are many iterations of the questions we should all ask ourselves before we fill a game bag. Just because you can do something, should you? This is an intersection of legality and personal ethics because of the slow, ineffective pace our state bag limits and season regulations are created and enforced.

I often self-reflect on the ethics of hunting. I find myself questioning many things the older I get; I am sure this is a natural evolution. I think about how much commitment we make as a community to fight the decline of wild birds, how we put partisan politics aside for the advancement of habitat creation.

I think about Project Upland's role in highlighting species in regions of the country that struggle and our role in the discussion of ethics when new hunters flood our ranks without experienced mentors. We owe it to the birds to question our ethics, challenge our culture to evolve, and be beholden to the science informing game birds' futures.

George Bird Evans is a wonderful inspiration when considering self-imposed limits in bird hunting:

"If I could shoot a game bird and still not hurt it, the way I can take a trout on a fly and release it, I doubt if I would kill another one. This is a strange statement coming from a man whose life is dedicated to shooting and gun dogs. For me, there is almost no moment more sublime than when I pull the trigger and see a grouse fall. Yet, as the bird is retrieved I feel a sense of remorse for taking a courageous life..."

"How then, can you love a bird and kill it and still feel decent? I think the answer is, to be worthy of your game. Which boils down to a gentleman's agreement between you and the bird, never forgetting that it is the bird that has everything to lose. It consists of things you feel and do, not because someone is looking or because the law says you may or must not, but because you feel that this is the honorable way to do it."

— Courtesy of Project Upland

<https://projectupland.com/culture/bird-hunting-bag-limits/>



Natal Francolin
(*Pternistis natalensis*)



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Beretta

Ultraleggero

If not the first to introduce a lightweight over and under shotgun, Beretta were certainly among the first. The rationale for such weapons was the need to counter the very British light side-by-side game guns.

By Charles Duff



The Brits for many years posited that an ideal (side-by-side) game gun should weigh between 6½ to 6¾ lbs (2.95 to 3.06kg) and be fed with 30gram shot loads. This was in reply to such and at my last count more than eleven well-known European makers now have lightweight O/U models, in fact a new sub-genus has evolved, the so-called extremely light ‘Woodcock’ guns with very short 20” to 24” barrels, specifically fast-into-action guns for the eponymous elusive birds.

Thus Beretta launched the Ultralight O/U, the 686 actioned 12 ga version, which has now been around for many years and I have owned and treasured one for ages. Its claim to fame being an all alloy action with a titanium breech insert and its extremely light weight.

With 71cm (27½”) Steelium alloy barrels, originally fixed choked but later versions came with interchangeable chokes and all of the model

weigh considerably lighter than most O/U 20ga guns, which are usually in the 6½lbs + range ; most 12ga O/U guns weigh around 7½ lbs (3.40kg) plus. Of note were the solid side ribs, which, though removed under the forearm, could have been ventilated or better done away with, saving another few precious ounces weight.

The action was machined from a block of aircraft grade aluminium and a titanium breech face inserted. The wood used could alter the weight quite significantly and the fancier and denser it was, the heavier the gun. I have seen reported weights of between 6lbs 5ozs and 5lbs 8ozs quoted (2.86 kg -2.49kg). Mine is pretty plain and weighs 5 lbs 9ozs (2.52kg) - it weighs 2ounces less than my 28ga Fausti. But we are talking about a light working field gun, if you want fancy you are in the wrong market segment.

Over the years I came to treasure its light weight, especially after a long hot day chasing guinea-fowl or walking up francolin and I found that the Hull 'Special Pigeon' load of 29grams of British 6s was ideal, smooth, great patterns and I use it for all gamebirds and waterfowl. For pigeons and doves, any progressive powder 28 gram load of 7½ shot is perfect (some single based ammo, such as GB can be a bit abrupt), but because of the increased cartridge usage I normally use my 12ga Browning B25. Again, if you use 35 or 36 gram loads, or if you are going to use a lot of cartridges, a light-weight gun is not for you.

Beretta have recently produced an updated version, which they say should be referred to as an "Acciaio Ultraleggero" because it is an all lightweight steel version. With 71cm (28") barrels the overall weight is +/- 6 lbs 5ozs (2.86kg). Which, whilst being somewhat heavier than the old model, is still comfortably in the 20ga weight range. The continuing ammunition price increases, especially for the smaller less used bores, has become a major factor in what gun or guns to buy. It has 28" light-weight steel barrels with a ventilated top rib and no side ribs, a small block insert keeps them pointing in the right direction.

The 690 action is machined from lightweight steel, which is internally skeletonised and resulting holes are filled with an epoxy resin, trigger guard and housing is alloy. The inertia single trigger is fitted with an automatic safety catch, which can be easily converted to manual. The forearm iron is also alloy. A 6mm ventilated top rib shows a brass bead front sight, no mid-rib sight is fitted.

Chambers are 3" and steel proofed. The forcing cone is a full 10cms long and the slightly over-bored barrels are 0.732" dia. Five Beretta Optima HP flush-fitted chokes are supplied, Cylinder with a 2 thou constriction; Improved Cylinder with 12thou; Modified with 21 thou; Improved Modified with 30 thou and Full with 40 thou. The latter two are marked "No Steel", obviously.

In the beginning, one thing that was frequently harped upon was that the alloy action would wear quickly, especially around the hinge pin. Whether it is the brilliant almost mid-height locking bars, or just



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never overloading the gun, there is zero distinguishable wear in the barrels to action lockup on my gun, so in my opinion stressing that the new action is a new steel alloy is just

recoil pad is standard, length of pull is 14¾", drop at comb is 1 ⅜" and at the heel is 2½" – all pretty standard. There's a slight right-hand cast, as yet no left hand stocks are available.

pin, also ideal.

An interesting comparison of recoil is that in a recent test a 7½ lbs (3.40kg) O/U with a 36gram load (1¼oz) at a muzzle velocity of 1,200fps gave 25.8ft/lbs recoil while the 6lb 5oz Ultralight developed 30.5ft/lbs, which would be unpleasant for any shooter.

With a 28gram (1oz) load at 1,200fps, the standard O/U pro-

"The pistol grip is full but open and the **nicely dimensioned forearm** has a rounded end"

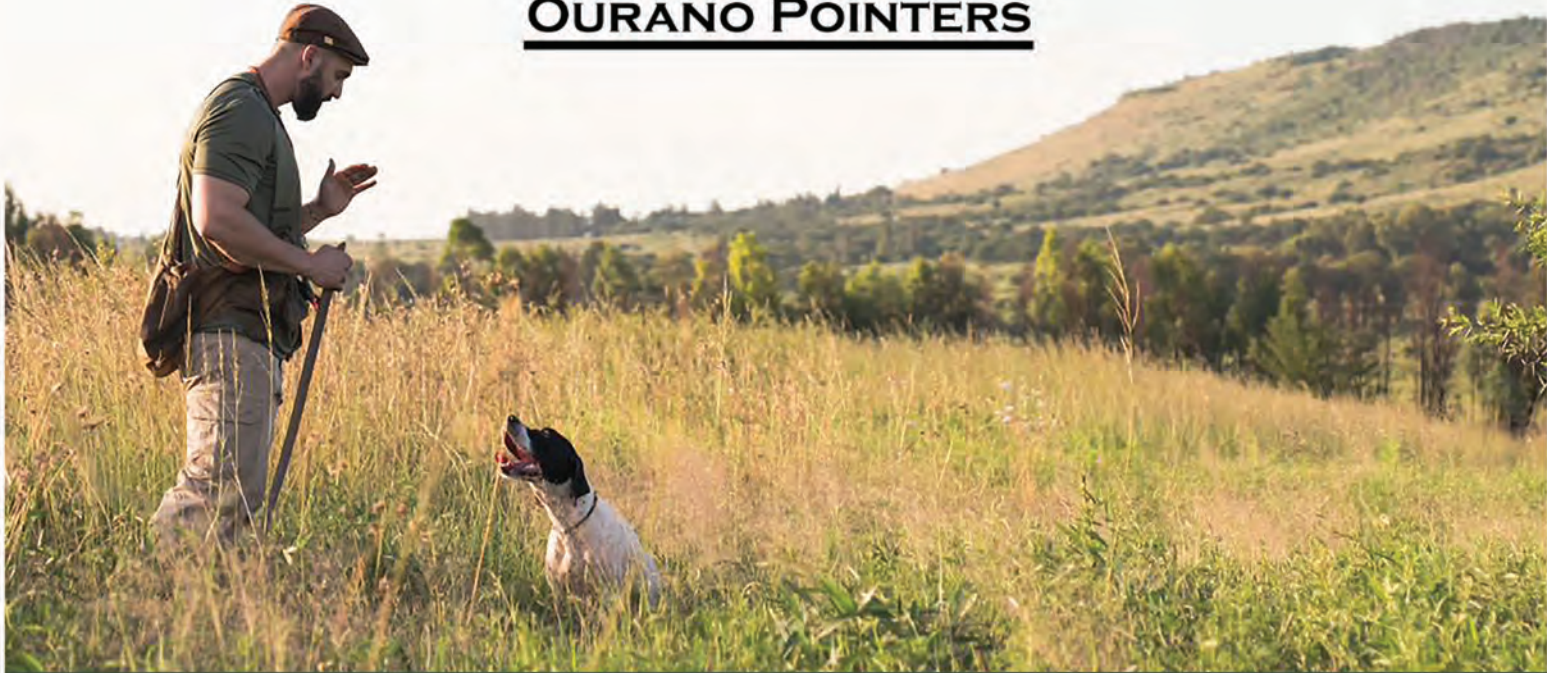


advertising spin. If we add to this the fact that the gunsmiths whom I value are unanimous in not being 690 action fans, I would not be a customer. The walnut is selected for weight, not grain and a 12mm rubber

The pistol grip is full but open, and the nicely dimensioned forearm has a rounded end – good for an extended forearm finger and no alpine schnabel tips thank you! The gun balances at 1½" (38mm) in front of the hinge

duced 17.8ft/lbs and the Ultralight 21.1ft/lbs – only 3.3ft/lbs more. The usual polyester case has a choke wrench, oil bottle and two sling swivels for those benighted fools who like slings on their shotguns.

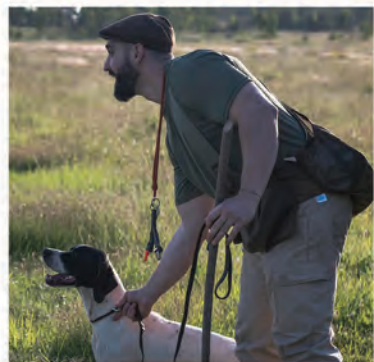
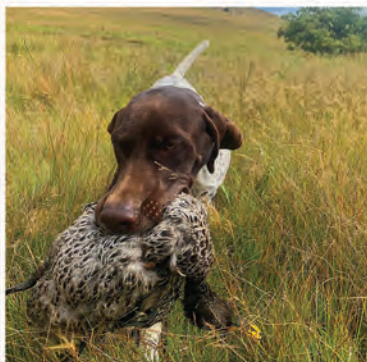
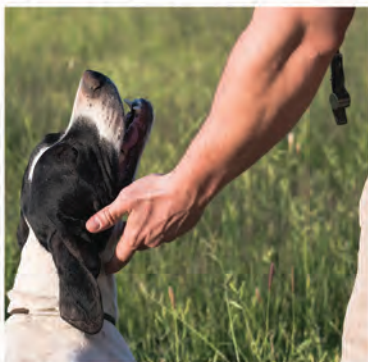




- OURANO PREMIER GUN DOG TRAINING -

The vital few months just before the rigorous hunting season commences are of paramount importance in ensuring your trusty companion is dialled in on birds, conditioned, and sharp and ready for the approaching hunting season. I, Chris, embark on exposure trips from February all the way until May, ensuring dogs are exposed to a multitude of environments, habitats and most importantly, game birds. These trips are by far proving most popular with our growing list of clients and friends.

To avoid disappointments, please get in touch soonest to ensure your dogs booking confirmation.



ALWAYS CHASING THE HORIZON



THE
2023



Hunting & Sport Shooting CALENDAR



Thousands of possible gamebird, waterfowl, plains game and sport target shooting days arranged at venues and ranges countrywide, as well as internationally... just for you! Book now! All shoots are for members only.



Members may not hijack shooting rights for themselves or their syndicates on any of the properties being advertised through SA Wingshooters – thereby effectively blocking other members. That's unsportsmanlike behaviour.

WINGSHOOTING (BIRD HUNTING)

Gauteng:

When new pigeon, upland & waterfowl shoots become available throughout the year – members are notified via e-mail newsletter of new venues.

IMPORTANT:

ALL PIGEON SHOOT VENUES AND DATES ARE SENT OUT DIRECTLY TO MEMBERS VIA EMAIL.

Please note – below each venue & shoot description, the available dates will be listed without the repeat of the venue explanation.

UNIQUE INVITATION

Tactical Handgun Course & Animal Tracking – Timbavati 13-17 July 2023

Some topics covered: Accuracy vs speed; Use of cover & concealment; Shooting on the move; Instinctive shooting; Small team formations and tactics; Obstacle search and clearing; Close quarter battle tactics; Low light shooting; Situational scenarios; Vehicle approach & search; Multiple targets and threat prioritisation. R8950 incl Vat for the 4 nights, incl. animal tracking. Exclusive to members!
Contact the office for full info



North West:

7 June

RUSTENBURG MID-WEEK DAY

Wednesday Shoot:

OFFICIAL SHOOT –

Upland/Walk-up Shoot – Rustenburg, North West.
Co-hosted by André van der Westhuizen

Four guns can book with André to go on this day shoot. R2100 p/p (R2600 if sleep over) all inclusive – just bring your gun and ammo. 6 Guns minimum and maximum. Sleep over costs extra. Call SA Wingshooters to book.

5 July

RUSTENBURG MID-WEEK DAY

Wednesday Shoot:

OFFICIAL SHOOT – Upland/Walk-up Shoot – Rustenburg, North West.
Co-hosted by André van der Westhuizen

Four guns can book with André to go on this day shoot. R2100 p/p (R2600 if sleep over) all inclusive – just bring your gun and ammo. 6 Guns minimum and maximum. Sleepover costs extra. Call SA Wingshooters to book.

9 August

RUSTENBURG MID-WEEK DAY

Wednesday Shoot:

OFFICIAL SHOOT – Upland/Walk-up Shoot – Rustenburg, North West.
Co-hosted by André van der Westhuizen

Four guns can book with André to go on this day shoot. R2100 p/p (R2600 if sleep over) all inclusive – just bring your gun and ammo. 6 Guns minimum and maximum. Sleep over costs extra. Call SA Wingshooters to book.

6 September

RUSTENBURG MID-WEEK DAY

Wednesday Shoot:

OFFICIAL SHOOT – Upland/Walk-up Shoot – Rustenburg, North West.
Co-hosted by André van der Westhuizen

Four guns can book with André to go on this day shoot. R2100 p/p (R2600 if sleep over) all inclusive – just

bring your gun and ammo. 6 Guns minimum and maximum. Sleep over costs extra.

Call SA Wingshooters to book.

27 September

RUSTENBURG MID-WEEK DAY

Wednesday Shoot:

OFFICIAL SHOOT – Upland/Walk-up Shoot – Rustenburg, North West.
Co-hosted by SA Wingshooters

Four guns can book with André to go on this day shoot. R2100 (R2600 if sleep over) all inclusive – Just bring your gun and ammo. 6 Guns minimum and maximum.

Call SA Wingshooters to book.

CHRISTIANA:

Gamebird, Waterfowl and Plains game hunting – INSPECTED VENUE

This is a guided shoot by the provincial game ranger at the All Reasons Resort. Accommodation available. Call SA Wingshooters for info.

Shoot dates available:
Choose your own dates in season.

Limpopo:

WARMBAD/BELA BELA:

Tuli Safaris Upland/Walk-up Day Shoot – Springbok flats – Limpopo

This is a day shoot and no accommodation available. The farms are around Bela-Bela (Warmbad). Bring your own lunch and bird dogs for best results.

Cost is R1000 per gun, unguided. Min. 4 guns, Max. 6 guns.

Call SA Wingshooters for info.

Shoot dates available:

20 May;

3 June;

29 July;

12 August;

9 September.

Continued overleaf...

THE 2023 SHOOT CALENDAR – for members only

Limpopo continued... WINGSHOOTING (BIRD HUNTING)

22 July

Laerskool Tuinplaas Guinea-fowl Shoot – Limpopo

Upland community day shoot.
To book contact: Lorette van der Merwe, or Tersia Giannacopoulos
Tel: 014 792 0820/ email: laerskooltuinplaas01@gmail.com

24 June

The Springbok Flats Farmers Association 27th Annual Shoot – Settlers district

Upland community shoot. R1300.- per gun. To book please contact: Estelle Paul: 079 5166 269 or email: svbv@senco.co.za

8 July

Tuinplaas Boerevereniging Shoot

Upland community shoot. 10% Discount to SA Wingshooters members. To book please contact: lstuinplaas@telkomsa.com or Altus Joubert: 082 551 5761 altus@jubaweni.co.za

DENDRON:

14-16 July

Dendron Community Shoot, Limpopo. Their 25th annual shoot. A great bushveld upland bird shoot. Call Cilanie du Toit: 083 737 8548 or email: tarentaaljagdendron@gmail.com

29 July

Laerskool Warmbad Community Shoot – Warmbad, Limpopo

A well organised community shoot to the benefit of the school. Cost is R1200 per gun (SA Wingshooters members get 10% discount). To book please call: Helena Grobler: 082 550 2472 or email: lsw.birdshoot@gmail.com

Date to be confirmed

Laerskool Bysonderheid School Shoot – Roedtan

Community shoot to the benefit of the school. To book call: Albert Pienaar 082 979 9135 or email: tanganari@gmail.com

SETTLERS:

Beulah Shoot – Upland birds, Waterfowl & Pigeons

Situated on the Springbok Flats in the Limpopo province. Complete wingshooting experience. The open grasslands is ideal to train and enjoy your hunting dogs. 10% Discount to SA Wingshooters members. Call SA Wingshooters for info.

SETTLERS:

TBC

St. Hubert Hunting Event

All SA wingshooters members are invited to the South African Field Trial Club (SAFTC). This is a field hunting event for you and your dog/s. Please email for more info: secretary@saftc.co.za

OHRIGSTAD/LYDENBURG AREA:

Guinea-fowl and Francolin shoots

6 to 8 guns. Self-guided venue. Choose your own dates. Call SA Wingshooters for info.

SETTLERS / BELA-BELA

Guided bird hunting on offer – Upland birds and Pigeons

Guineafowl and pigeons available during the open season. Guided hunts, own bird dogs welcome. For booking info please contact SA Wingshooters office.

GROOTFONTEIN SHOOT:

Inspected Venue

Warmbad (Bela-Bela), Limpopo

Guinea-fowl shoots
Great upland walk-up and driven day shoots. Bring your own lunch/braai/ soft drinks. Own behaved dogs welcome. R1200 per gun only for this superbly guided shoot.

Dates:

6 May

20 May

10 June

22 July

Call SA Wingshooters for info.

Free State:

13 July

WINDHEUWEL INTERNATIONAL SHOOT

Gamebird Shoot – Petrus Steyn, Free State

Superb 5-star Guinea-fowl shoot hosted by owner Peter Wales. Call SA Wingshooters for more info.

3 August

JIMMY WALES INTERNATIONAL SHOOT

Gamebird Shoot – Petrus Steyn, Free State

Superb 5-star Guinea-fowl shoot hosted by owner Peter Wales. Call SA Wingshooters for more info.

TWEELING

Upland Shoot – Tweeling, Free State. Weekend shoots

Guinea-fowl, francolin & partridge on 350 ha. Farmhouse accommodation. Can accommodate 4 guns. Call SA Wingshooters for info.

Weekend Shoots available:

Arrange your own weekend in the hunting season. All weekends still available. 18 weekends to choose from.

STEYNSRUS:

OFFICIAL SHOOT – Inspected Venue

Vals River Shoot – Steynsrus, Free State

Mixed bag along the Vals river. Shoot waterfowl & gamebirds on the river. Self-catering. Accommodation on the river bank. Day shoots also available. Call SA Wingshooters for info

Weekend Shoots available:

Choose your own weekends in season: 1 June to 15 Sept.

ZASTRON:

Waterfowl/Mixed bag Shoot – Zastron, Free State. Weekend shoots

Waterfowl (geese, duck, etc) and Guinea-fowl. Accommodation available. Max. 6 guns.

Members may not hijack shooting rights for themselves or their syndicates on any of the properties being advertised through SA Wingshooters – thereby effectively blocking other members. That's unsportsmanlike behaviour.

Call SA Wingshooters to book.

Weekend Shoots available:
Arrange your own weekend in the hunting season. All weekends still available. 16 weekends to choose from.

VREDEFORT

Inspected Venue
Witklip Upland Shoot, Vredefort, Free State. Weekend shoots
Game birds, mostly Francolin. Shoot hosted and organised by the farmer and his wife, and includes lunch. Call SA Wingshooters for info.

Weekend Shoots available:
Choose your own weekends in season: 1 June to 15 Sept.

VILJOENSKROON

Inspected Venue
Grassmere Wingshooting – Viljoenskroon, Free State
Francolin walk-up shooting over pointing dogs (extra cost). Own dogs welcome. Very good self-catering accommodation available for up to 6 guns. Call SA Wingshooters to book.
Weekend Shoots available:
Call for available dates.

VREDE

Inspected Venue
Groenfontein Shoot – Free State
Upland & Waterfowl shooting. Clean and nice accommodation. Limited bird numbers. R1200 for the weekend per person, self catering (2 nights accommodation). Call SA Wingshooters for info.
Weekend Shoot dates:
Choose your own weekends

VREDE

Little Long Creek Shoot – Free State – Inspected Venue
Greywing, swainsons, water-fowl & guineas. Walkup and dogs essential. Arrive Thursday and hunt Friday and Saturday and depart Sunday. Quality self catering lodge. R3000 per person for the weekend, self-catering. Excludes firewood. Call SA Wingshooters for info.
Weekend Shoots available:

Choose your own weekends from 1 June to 15 Sept.

PARYS

OFFICIAL SHOOT – Inspected Venue
Grootfontein Shoot, Parys, Free State. Weekend day shoots
Good size farm for day hunting. Swainson's, Guinea-fowl, Orange River Partridge. Saturdays only. 4 guns maximum. R600 per person. Bring your own lunch. Own dogs needed – sheep farm, so make sure your dog is under control!

Choose your own weekends in season: 1 June to 15 Sept.

BRANDFORT

Andrew McLaren Safaris – Free State
Upland gamebirds & Waterfowl available during the open season. For more booking information, please contact SA Wingshooters office.

HEILBRON

Mixed bag birds – Free State
Several thousand hectares. Privately Owned & Exclusive Bird Shooting Venue. Upland Birds - Guinea-fowl & Waterfowl. For booking info, please contact SA Wingshooters office.

WINBURG

Inspected Venue
Upland birds – Jasper Shoot, Winburg, Free State
Mostly upland game birds on a beautiful Winburg venue. Accommodation on farm available. Self-catering. Well trained dogs welcome. Call SA Wingshooters for info on how to book.

MEMEL:

Date to be confirmed
St. Hubert Hunting Event
SA Wingshooters members are invited to the South African Field Trial Club (SAFTC) event. More info: secretary@saftc.co.za

VILJOENSKROON

Viljoenskroon Free State mixed bag hunts, as well as Gundog (bird dog) training, boarding for all gundog breeds.

Dates:

June 22 - June 25 – mixed bag, Free State province
August 10 - August 13 - mixed bag, Free State province
Call SA Wingshooters for more info.



NEW VENUES WILL BE ADDED AS WE ARRANGE THEM

Members will be notified via email throughout the season.
New venues

We are always looking for new in all provinces and will let members know via eNewsletter (electronic newsletter via email) when these new shoot venues become available.

If you have venues, please call us and we can discuss custodian shoots.

If you have a venue, the venue will remain yours, and all shooting activity will be confirmed and allowed through you as the custodian. So rest assured that you will not lose the venue.

Mpumalanga

MIDDELBURG

Inspected Venue – Dates to be confirmed
Waterfowl Shoot – Middelburg, Mpumalanga – Dubula Shoot
Good waterfowl and Upland game bird venue. Lodge accommodation available. Own dogs welcome! Call SA Wingshooters to book.

Continued overleaf...

THE 2023 SHOOT CALENDAR – for members only

Mpumalanga continued... **WINGSHOOTING (BIRD HUNTING)**

DELMAS – to – KENDAL

Official Shoot –

Inspected Venues

Upland and waterfowl shoots day shoots

These upland shoots (and waterfowl when available) are guided shoots on various farms around Delmas-Kendal areas. R1300 per gun. 4 to 6 guns. Full lunch, water and cold drinks provided. Own dogs welcome! Call SA Wingshooters to book.

Shoot dates available:

6 & 20 May; 3 & 10 June; 1 & 15 July.

Official Shoot Dates –

Wednesday 21 June

Wednesday 19 July

VOLKSRUST

Inspected Venue

Mpumalanga

Four star selected wingshooting for two on a special farm in the Volksrust district. Must have bird dogs. Very pleasant and hospitable farmer. Inspected and accredited landowner. Accommodation available (2 bedrms). Call SA Wingshooters to book

Choose your own weekends in consultation with the venue custodian

AMERSFOORT/ERMELO:

Inspected Venue

Amersfoort Vaalriet Shoot, Mpumalanga. Weekend shoots

Amersfoort, Vaalriet Camp. Waterfowl and land birds available. 6 to 8 hunters. Weekends only (Fri to Sun). R2600 pppd for guided hunts and comfortable accommodation. Self catering. Bird dogs welcome. Call SA Wingshooters to book

Arrange your own dates

WINGSHOOTING ERMELO

Upland & Waterfowl

Exclusive & Privately Owned Waterfowl - Upland & Guinea fowl Venue. Ermelo & surroundings Guided hunts, own bird dogs welcome. For booking info please contact SA Wingshooters office.

Arrange your own weekend

Northern Cape

HOPETOWN/ORANIA:

Inspected Venue

Gkhui Gkhui Shoot, Northern Cape.

Wingshooting on the Orange River. All birds that are open in their various season dates, plains game hunting and fly-fishing. Excellent lodge accommodation and superb catering. Lodge accommodation for SA Wingshooters R1350 p/p/night. Wingshooting R500 per day un-guided to R1000 guided, plus some extras, depending on what you want to hunt and do.

Call SA Wingshooters to book.

Weekend Shoots available:

Arrange your own weekend

HANOVER - KAROO

CONSERVANCY

Northern Cape –

Egyptian Geese hunting in the Karoo (Hanover). Exclusive for members only. Goose shooting available close to Hanover in the Karoo on lucerne pivots. Many accommodation options in lodge and other on the same farm available. Dogs are not required as you will be shooting from blinds and pit blinds in the fields. R800 per night if you stay in the lodge, hunting included. Call SA Wingshooters to book.

Western Cape

CERES:

Inspected Venue

Waterfowl, Ceres, Western Cape

Waterfowl (Duck and Geese) on a great venue near Op-die-Berg. Good shooting and accommodation hosted by our Western Cape Shoot Captain. Catered. Call SA Wingshooters to book.

Weekend Shoots available:

Arrange your own weekend in the hunting season.

RAWSONVILLE:

Inspected Venue

Rawsonville, Western Cape

Waterfowl and Cape Francolin on a great venue near Rawsonville. Good shooting day shoot. Hosted by our Western Cape Shoot Captain. Call SA Wingshooters to book.

Shooting available on certain dates.

GOUDA / PICKETBERG AREA:

Inspected Venue

Waterfowl, Western Cape

Good shooting day shoot. Hosted by our Western Cape Shoot Captain. Call SA Wingshooters to book.

Shooting available on certain dates.

BREDASDORP:

OFFICIAL Venue

Bredasdorp Walk-up – Bredasdorp, Western Cape

Guinea fowl & waterfowl. Accommodation & restaurant on site. Self guided hunting. Call the office to book.

Weekend Shoots available:

Arrange your own weekend in the hunting season.

STRANDVELD

OFFICIAL Venue

Strandveld Waterfowl & Upland birds – Western Cape.

Walk-up shoot close to Elim/Voëlville. Guinea fowl, Spur-wing, Egyptian geese and duck in season only.

No accommodation – arrange yourself in the area or ask André at the SA Wingshooters office where to stay. Call SA Wingshooters to book.

Arrange your own dates in the hunting season.

TOUWS RIVER:

Exclusive Venue

Souttrivier Shoot – Western Cape.

Walk-up shooting between Touws River and Montagu. Accommodation and camping available. Call SA Wingshooters to book.

Weekend Shoots available:

Arrange your own weekend

Members may not hijack shooting rights for themselves or their syndicates on any of the properties being advertised through SA Wingshooters – thereby effectively blocking other members. That's unsportsmanlike behaviour.

HEIDELBERG:

Exclusive Venue

Nonarosa Shoot Waterfowl & Upland birds – Western Cape.

Walk-up shoot close to Heidelberg. Guinea-fowl, Spur-wing, Egyptian geese and duck in season. Accommodation for 6 guns self catering. Call SA Wingshooters to book.

Weekend Shoots available:

Arrange your own weekend in the hunting season.

OTHER DAY SHOOTS IN WESTERN CAPE:

Riviersonderend School Shoot – There will be no shoot hosted this year

Let's hope they arrange shoots again next year!

Quarry: Cape Francolin

Contact person: Jannie Esterhuysen

Tel: (028) 2611215, or Elma Putter

Email: rshshoot@gmail.com or rivierhigh@gmail.com

Shoot: Rûens College Shoot

Quarry: Cape Francolin / Guineas

Date: 27 May

Contact person: Marica

kampus@ruenskollege.co.za

Shoot: Suideroord Old Age Home

Quarry: Cape Francolin / Guinea Fowl

Date: 22 July

Contact person: Karin Dickason

Tel: +27 (28) 424 1080

Email: bestuur@suideroord.co.za

Shoot: Caledon Shoot

Quarry: Guinea-fowl/Francolin

Date: 29 July

Contact person: Albe Rossouw

Tel: 082 738 3344

Email: alberossouw@gmail.com

Shoot: Greyton NG Church

Quarry: Guinea-fowl

Date: 12 August

Contact person: Piet Matthee

Tel: 072 606 1579

Email: pdkmatthee@gmail.com

Eastern Cape

BARKLY EAST – GREYWING –

Hosted by Ourano Pointers

Greywing Partridge dates available:

May 18 – May 21 – Greywing

Experience – concession to be discussed with group

May 30 – June 1 – Greywing

Experience – concession to be discussed with group

July 13 – July 16 – Greywing

Experience – concession to be discussed with group

July 27 – July 30 – Greywing

Experience – concession to be discussed with group

Other Viljoenskroon Free State mixed bag hunts, as well as Gundog (bird dog) training, boarding for all gundog breeds offered.

Call SA Wingshooters for more info.

LADY GREY AREA:

Memo Shoot – Lady Grey, Eastern Cape

Grey-wing, Red-wing & Orange river partridge, as well as Swainson's, Guinea-fowl, Duck and Geese. Basic, self-catering accommodation on farm for 8 people. Shooting fee is R600 pp per day and includes accommodation. Call SA Wingshooters to book.

Weekend Shoots available:

You can select your own dates

RHODES:

Grey-wing Partridge – Eastern Cape

Professionally guided Grey-wing hunting, as well as Plains game. Accommodation and food/meals can be arranged. Call SA Wingshooters for booking info.

Choose your own shoot dates within the various bird seasons.

ALICE:

Alice shoot – Eastern Cape

Self-guided. Own accommodation and food/meals must be arranged.

Shooting fee is R300 pp per day.

Bring your own decoys.

Call SA Wingshooters to book.

Weekend Shoots available:

Choose your own shoot dates within the various bird seasons.

EAST LONDON:

Douglasvale Shoot – Eastern Cape

Bookings allowed from 2nd week of June to end July – Duck, Geese and Guinea-fowl only. Accommodation and shooting fee R950.- per day.

Call SA Wingshooters to book.

STUTTERHEIM:

Eastern Cape

Waterfowl, upland game birds, rock pigeons, etc. Self-catering or catered. Accommodation, can sleep 8-10 people. Braai area. Gamebirds and plains game available. Call SA Wingshooters for info.

DORDRECHT:

Eastern Cape

Superb Greywing and other bird shooting with professional guides and FT Champion bird dogs! A five star shoot and venue for sure! Call SA Wingshooters for info.

KwaZulu-Natal

KOKSTAD:

Upland and waterfowl

Upland gamebirds, Waterfowl and Pigeons available during the open season. Can arrange accommodation. Call SA Wingshooters for info.

Week & weekend Shoots

available: Select your own dates

DUNDEE:

The farm offers Egyptian geese, Spur-wing geese, Bushpig (in Maize season), Jackal, etc and Bass fishing. Comfortable self-catering cottage accommodation for three people on the farm. Accommodation and hunting fee is R650.00 per person per day. Call the office for info.

Continued on next page...

THE 2023 SHOOT CALENDAR – for members only

INTERNATIONAL HUNTING & CLAY TARGET SHOOTING

International Wingshooting:

ARGENTINA – South America **Duck, Dove, Pigeon, Perdiz and mixed bag hunts**

Tailor made hunting and personalised service – every shooting trip is individually designed around each client. We specialise in custom itineraries based on your group's wishes and budget. Luxury lodges and great shooting. Call SA Wingshooters for booking info.

EAST COAST, USA:

Atlantic Seaboard Waterfowl hunting

Providing top notch waterfowling opportunities in the Atlantic Flyway. Feel confident to trust us to bring you an outstanding hunt that you will never forget. Call SA Wingshooters for info.

CANADA:

Waterfowl hunting

Our mission is to provide outstanding wingshooting for Canada Geese, Ducks, Snow Geese, Speckle-bellies and Upland Birds in the friendly Alberta, Canada. Experience hunting in Alberta – a bird hunter's paradise offering abundant waterfowl and liberal limits. Call SA Wingshooters for info.

TEXAS, USA:

Upland and other

From mid-September through March, Upland Bird Hunting is the main attraction at Joshua Creek Ranch. Texas bobwhite quail are found in great numbers on the ranch as are pheasant and chukar. Starting in December each year, hunters can also harvest Hungarian partridge. Traditional walk-up hunting with guides and dogs is the most popular style of hunting at Joshua Creek Ranch. Call SA Wingshooters for info.

SOUTH DAKOTA, USA:

Discover why our pheasant hunting lodge earned two Beretta Tridents. It is great to know you're experiencing South Dakota pheasant hunting at its finest. As the only lodge in the state who offers our guests unlimited pheasants (up to the state limit) with every package, it won't take long to see why Cheyenne Ridge Signature Lodge earned the title of the 2017 Sporting Classics Lodge of the Year. Family-owned and operated, they provide all-inclusive packages that make pheasant hunting, fishing and waterfowl hunting especially rewarding. Our offerings are endorsed by the Beretta Trident award which assures you'll have an extraordinary experience on our grounds. Call SA Wingshooters for booking info.

UNITED KINGDOM:

Pheasant, Grouse, Snipe, Woodcock, Wildfowl and Duck –

The 'GunsOnPegs' provides access to shoots for guns that are looking for shooting. Guns can get access to a wealth of opportunities that



previously were only available by word of mouth. Not only that, those last minute opportunities no longer have to be given away! GunsOnPegs has now become the largest shoot finder service in the UK. Visit their website www.gunsonpegs.com and choose your next UK bird shoot.

Clay Target Shooting:

Saturday 25 November –
The venue will be confirmed.

SA WINGSHOOTERS ANNUAL **CHRISTMAS CLAY TARGET SHOOT.**

Our annual year-end clay target shoot – 28th anniversary shoot!

We will host our annual Christmas clay target shooting, consisting of 50



fun clay targets, a lunch and prizes for members. Space is limited to 150 people. Call Anél at the office to book!

STERKFontein SHOOTING

ACADEMY – Olifantsfontein, GP **Club access to SA Wingshooters members only –**

The club is open from 09:00 till 16:00 Wednesday to Sunday. SA Wingshooter members have access to the club. Call SA Wingshooters for more info.

CLAY TARGET SHOOTING **COUNTRY-WIDE**

Call the office for info on a club near you.

Throughout the year

CLAY SHOOTING COACHING

SA Wingshooters has experienced shotgun shooting training coaches. If you are new to shotgun shooting or want to improve your shotgun shooting ability. We'll set up a coaching session for you. We also send out pre-arranged coaching days/dates via our email newsletter throughout the year. Call SA Wingshooters.

THE 2023 SHOOT CALENDAR – for members only

SPORT SHOOTING – TARGET & STEEL

3-Gun & 2-Gun (Handgun & SL Rifle & Bolt) Shooting:

MULTI-GUN RIFLE, SHOTGUN & HANDGUN MATCHES

At our LRSC private shooting facility –

We offer 4-gun, 3-gun and 2-gun combined rifle and handgun shooting events. Multi-stage events include handgun shooting from 10m to 100m and transition rifle shooting up to 1400m. This division is for semi-auto rifles, shotguns and handguns. Call SA Wingshooters for more info.



PSP Handgun & Rifle Shooting:

THE PSP Target shooting Competition for rifles & handguns is open to members

**of the PSP. Send your targets for
entry into this annual competition
to us before 1 October 2023.**

Any handgun shooting course dates, presented by our in-house IDPA Master Class Instructor, will be sent out via our official eNewsletters. All welcome at these training days. Download the PSP rifle and/or handgun targets from our website: <http://www.wingshooters.org.za/ALL-DOWNLOADS/>. Then simply post or scan and email your shot targets to us. Your best target (score) of the year will be automatically entered into the competition. Call the office to join the PSP.



LRSC – Long Range Shooting Club:



The Long Range Shooting Club (LRSC) is part of SA Wingshooters.

Come and join us at our shooting facility just outside Leandra, where we host long range shoots, etc. Our ranges are permanently set up and the distances range from 100m metres to 1400m. The range is currently available 7 days a week.

This facility is not a public shooting facility and is available on invitation and for members of the LRSC only. Should you be interested, visit the site below or call the office. www.longrangeclub.com



Events and Matches hosted for members during the year is sent out on email. Long range shooting is challenging but fun. There is also an 'open' division, so you can compete with your hunting rifle in any calibre, even though it is not the preferred setup for long distance shooting.



LRSC – LONG RANGE SHOOTING CLUB MATCH EVENT DATES 2023:

The 2022 LRSC (Long Range Shooting Club), TPS 4-gun, 3-gun and 2-gun, .22PSBC and handgun Official Match event dates for 2023 is as follows:

4 February:	LRSC Rifle Training
18 March:	LRSC Rifle match
15 April:	LRSC Rifle match
8 July:	Annual .22PSBC Small-bore match.
22 July:	LRSC Rifle match
12 August:	LRSC Rifle match
16 September:	LRSC Rifle match
14 October:	TPS 4-gun, 3-Gun and 2-Gun multi-gun Match. A competition division on its own.
28 October:	LRSC Rotavi Invitational Rifle Match – Rooiberg, Limpopo
11 November:	Year-end Fun Shoot and medal/certificate ceremony. Not counted towards LRSC Match points

Participants may enter multiple calibre division at any event, with a maximum of two calibre divisions per match, as per the LRSC calibre divisions.

We invite new members to come and participate in these events, as our focus is on having fun and helping new members at all events.

As always, all event invitations/notifications will be emailed to members in advance, in order to facilitate bookings for events. The TPS and .22PSBC event points do not count towards LRSC Rifle match points.



Continued on next page...

THE 2023 SHOOT CALENDAR – for members only

PLAINS GAME HUNTING

Plains Game Hunting:

ADANSONIA ECO LODGE – Musina, Limpopo

Plains game hunting. Plan on a hunting trip, no need to search further. Phone us for an unforgettable time. We have a fully equipped lodge with a one in a



million chef. Daily serviced rooms. Guides to accompany you on hunting & skinning. Cold rooms available. For the game prices contact us. Member owned. Call SA Wingshooters for info.

EASTERN CAPE – Jansenville/ Somerset East **Donkerkloof Farm**

Plains game hunting in the beautiful Eastern Cape. Member owned. Call SA Wingshooters for info.

Otterskloof – Phillipolis, Free State

A variety of plains game (including Buffalo) at a fantastic Game Hunting Reserve with luxury accommodation. Trophy and biltong hunting available. Call SA Wingshooters for info.

Ulunu Safaris – Alldays Inspected Venue.

The Farm is 7,200 hectares and situated near Alldays, Limpopo Province (close to the Botswana border). Weltevrede Lodge & Stembok farmhouse accommodation Hunting and bow hunting are offered. Hard hunting! Call SA Wingshooters for info.

KZN – 2023 Hunting Packages For Local Amateur Hunters Umkhuze Game Reserve And Ithala Game Reserve

Hunting packages will be available for local amateur hunters who are paid up members of an amateur hunting association and have been proficiency graded, both in theory and practical aspects. Various packages available. Kindly be informed that Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife have limited hunting packages available for local hunters. For more information, visit the Ezemvelo website www.kznwildlife.com. Alternatively contact the office on: Tel: 033 845 1717 or 033 845 1394. E-mail: Rahman.Devduth@kznwildlife.com

HOPETOWN/ORANIA **Inspected Venue** **Gkhui Gkhui Shoot, Northern Cape.**

Plains game hunting. Excellent lodge accommodation and superb catering. Lodge accommodation for SA Wingshooters R1350 p/p/night. Prices vary depending on what you want to hunt and do. Member owned. Call SA Wingshooters for info.

MOUNT CARMEL SAFARIS **Near Daniëlskuil, Northern Cape**

Included in the rates: Breakfast and light lunch, Cold room, Freezer, Butchery, Trackers, Skinners, Fully equipped and serviced hunting lodge. Minimum 3 days hunting. Facilities include caping, catering available, cellphone reception, cooling facilities, Eskom power, family friendly, hunting vehicle, meat processing, self-catering, slaughter facilities and swimming pool. 4 - 8 guests can be accommodated. Call SA Wingshooters for info.

STS-Meletse Hunting **Askham, Northern Cape**

The hunting experience on STS-Meletse consists first and foremost of hunting free animals in their natural African habitat. Unrestricted by borders and boundary fences, both the hunter and the hunted roam free and far as they each fulfil

their natural purpose. Whether per vehicle or on foot, our savannah delivers unprecedented access to an authentic hunting adventure. Call SA Wingshooters for more info.

THABAZIMBI **Limpopo.**

Rifle hunting & bowhunting. Various species and comfortable accommodation, self-catering. Minimum 3 hunters for 3 days. Call SA Wingshooters for more info.

ROTAVI – BELA-BELA/ROOIBERG **Inspected Venue.**

Rotavi is a 3400-hectare private game reserve located 65km west of Bela-Bela in the Limpopo Province, South Africa. Rotavi, which shares a 7km border with the renowned Mabula Game Reserve, has an abundance



of game including: Buffalo, Giraffe, Eland, Kudu, Blue Wildebeest, Red Hartebeest, Zebra, Waterbuck, Gemsbok, Nyala, Blesbok, Impala, Mountain Reedbuck, Warthog, Bushpig, Duiker, Steenbok, and a huge variety of birds and smaller animals. Member owned. Call SA Wingshooters for more info.

PALMIETFONTEIN Game Farm – Bloemhof, NW Inspected Venue.

Plains game hunting. Large hunting area with many species and trophies to choose from. Luxurious airconditioned accommodation for up to 15 people, serviced daily. Cold room and slaughtering facilities. Member owned. Call SA Wingshooters for info.

THE 2023 SHOOT CALENDAR – for members only

PIGEON & DOVE HUNTING

All Provinces:



Singita & Erdzak Pigeon/Dove venues

All pigeon and dove shooting venues are sent to members via email and other online media. We have too many venues to list and new venues are added constantly.

We have many pigeon and dove shooting venues, in many provinces. Most of these venues are exclusive to SA Wingshooters members.

Our venues and shoots are for members only, as we work hard to acquire them, and believe that your contribution to the association – monetary and otherwise – is appreciated. Therefore, we do not want to spend your time and membership subscription money, to help people who are not members. If you want to participate, then join us! You receive many benefits and it is the right thing to do anyway.

Some of the venues that are open most of the year include, but are not limited to:

The Singita shoot venue, GP

Elandsfontein venue, GP

NW Wingshooting venue, NW

Somerset venue, FS

Rooikoppies venue, MP

Erdzak venue, MP

Middelburg venue, MP

Sasolburg venue, FS

Goedehoop venue, FS

Concordia venue, MP

Witklip venue, FS

Uitkoms venue, FS

Vlakfontein venue, GP

Lillydale venue, NC

Merinovlakte venue, Lim

Renosterfontein venue, GP

Geelong venue, FS

There are many more venues on our venue database. Call SA Wingshooters to enquire about any of these venues.



How to Make the Tough Decision to Not Breed Your Dog

*Letting go of the dream to breed
your bird dog...*

*Written by Jason Carter
projectupland.com*



Photograph from projectupland.com

Our dogs are with us for just a short period of time. During those years, we develop such strong bonds with our dogs that we can't stand the thought of living without them. Knowing that we will inevitably part ways, many folks consider becoming a breeder or chasing the genetics that may someday recreate a carbon copy of the dog they love so much. However, good breeding will only get you in the ballpark of cloning your beloved dog at best.

Photograph by André van der Westhuizen



So many irreplicable factors, both environmental and genetic, make a dog what it is.

We would never consider having two children who are exactly alike, though in breeding dogs, folks think they somehow can. Unfortunately, there are way too many people deciding to breed their dog. Nefarious puppy mills aside, good, respectable folks are breeding simply for the wrong reasons. They lack the support system necessary to guide them in the right direction.

For many, to have someone mention that their dog shouldn't be bred is an act of war. This suggestion is often met with strong language and social repercussions. Understandably, these folks are blinded by love and already miss what they haven't lost. They are bound and determined to carry on their dog's legacy. To steer these folks into making the difficult decision to not breed takes guts, facts, tact, and a ton of patience.

There is so much out there on good breeding practices, though there's very little information to help potential breeders navigate away from breeding their dog. I'd like to share a few approaches that will assist you in having these difficult conversations with potential new breeders (or yourself).

Identify the motivations to breed the hunting dog

Is it a fuzzy face infatuation that pulls at your heartstrings? Or is it that your dog is a bird-finding machine? For most, it's probably a combination of the two. When deciding to breed or not to breed, be honest with your motivations. That adorable face comes with heavy liabilities and responsibilities. Unfortunately, the fact that you're in love with your dog

doesn't necessarily mean it has the genetic traits to better its breed and produce a good hunting dog.

There are temperamental, health, and emotional risks when it comes to breeding your dog. Potentially, your dog could pass along temperament issues that could put the owners of your dog's puppies at risk.

You could pass along skeletal or muscular issues that would limit the dog's ability as a hunter or even to live a life without suffering. Never let your feelings interfere with you making the right choice. Your choice to breed has the potential to impact a large group of buyers and their families. The impacts of poor breeding is a heavy weight to bear.

Understand the risk factors

Be sure to account for all risks that go into having a litter. Breeding has severe medical and financial risks associated with it.

The loss of life in the breeding process is commonplace for both the bitch and her puppies. It's important to be aware of the many complications that can occur during preg-

nancy and the birthing process, too.

Additionally, puppies are susceptible to many diseases and environmental hazards. They are designed to put themselves in harm's way. It is nearly a full-time job to raise a litter. The potential for great emotional and financial loss needs to be considered. Even successful breeding causes stress. The enormous responsibility of raising a litter, finding the right homes, and supporting the buyers in the pup's development is a monumental undertaking.

How do you know if you should breed your dog?

Good hunting dogs campaign themselves. They often require very little advertising to place puppies in good homes. A good rule of thumb should be that if you don't have ten of your buddies kicking in your door for a pup, you likely shouldn't be breeding. The last thing any breeder wants is having puppies left without good homes.

Find the right home for your litter

Many folks come to us thinking

we are going to try to sell them a pup. In actuality, we do the opposite. To the surprise of many potential buyers, they are heavily vetted. We require proof that the buyer has the resources to provide the pup with the best opportunity to be raised in a loving hunting family.

We believe our pups have so much potential, they require only the best hunting homes. We will happily re-home any pup that doesn't seem to fit with its new family. This allows us the opportunity to assure each and every pup finds the right home. The networking and communication to align pups with a home is very labor intensive; it's a year-round commitment.

Breeding Correct to Correct

No dog is perfect. However, to be considered breed-worthy, a dog needs to fall within a high standard of excellence both in form and function. Folks underestimate how many breedings it takes to get away from certain genetic faults found within a dog. If you don't believe your dog is correct in either form or function, it shouldn't be bred.

Sit back and ask yourself if there was anything you would change or improve upon in your dog. If you say nothing, you're likely not being honest with yourself and should ponder it a bit longer. If you find you are breeding away from major problems, you shouldn't be breeding. Do your research and investigate both sides of the breeding. Also, don't take credit for the faults in your dog. I've heard the sentence, "If I had known how to train better, my dog wouldn't have turned out this way" many times. Though this may be true, it could be genetic faults that put you in the situation in the first place. It takes an experienced eye to delineate the difference. It would be worth seeking out an expert in the breed to know these things for certain prior to considering breeding.

Understand what is required of you as the breeder

You will be in a marriage with each and every puppy buyer. In most



Photograph by André van der Westhuizen

**"You will need to be
prepared for late
night
emergency
calls and
questions."**

cases, you are their mentor, their trainer, and even their therapist at times. Buyers will rely heavily upon you to get what they need. You will need to be well-versed in dog training and testing of your pups, the genetics of your line, the medical requirements, and proper care of hunting dogs. You will need to be prepared for late night emergency calls and questions. Overseeing the well-being of a litter is a heavy, long-term responsibility required of all breeders.

When you close your eyes at night and can be true to the situation, will

breeding your dog better the breed as a whole? It's an extremely difficult conversation to have. Deciding not to breed feels like the loss of your best friend, the best hunting partner you ever have known, the most loyal companion that brings you so much happiness. However, those memories will always be a part of you. Your next hunting partner adds to the narrative, though they can never replace the dogs before them.

The decision to breed a dog is a heavy one. To make the decision to not breed is even more difficult. As a community of hunting dog lovers, we need to support one another. We need to listen and be sympathetic towards those making the tough call.

Instead of breeding, the extra time and energy can be directed towards the exciting process of chasing genetics, networking with breeders and researching comparable lines. It's an honorable alternative that, in the end, will better breeding lines and strengthen the genetic pool. This will make it that much easier to find your next best hunting partner in the future.

— Article courtesy of: <https://projectupland.com/hunting-dogs/should-breed-my-dog/>

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Animal Health

Wildlife Poisoning: *Am I crazy?*

Wildlife poisoning is real and a scary thing, because pesticides (poisonous substances) are easily available from many rural outlets. It's because of this that the small NGO, Wildlife Poisoning Prevention and Conflict Resolution exists. The NGO was established when a former Endangered Wildlife Trust's Poison Working Group was disbanded...

*Written by Tim Snow,
Wildlife Poisoning Prevention and Conflict Resolution.*

Iask “Am I crazy” because this issue seems so huge that it may be impossible to even get a grip on the extent of what’s happening across southern Africa and worldwide...

When one opens the discussion about wildlife poisoning it seems that Nobody is responsible. Everybody blames Somebody and Anybody can tell that Somebody is doing this, so why does Nobody takes responsibility when Everybody knows that Somebody should?

When talking with farmers, it’s always their neighbour, their staff or someone else who is accused, never them. Grandfather’s poison lies safely hidden away. But we know the pesticides that are abused come from vegetable farms, or sheep farms... so why is it that we are unable to stand up to others and say, “Enough is enough?” The absence of large birds of prey from many parts of our region is an indicator of poisoning and other factors affecting wildlife well-being. Vultures, birds of prey, small wildlife, mongooses and game birds suffer at the hands of those who abuse poison, intending to “protect their liveli-

hoods” or avoid detection by rangers, without realising that their methods are flawed. And poisoning continues unabated. It seems that, apart from paying lip service to the issue; nobody gives a toot about it.

From studies and reports since 1985, we know that hundreds of thousands of game birds, waterfowl, vultures and mammals have been poisoned, and around 450 000 are poisoned every year in South Africa (Snow, Berutti & van Zijl, 1995). We know that 54 lions were poisoned across southern Africa from 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018. We know that despite better livestock damage management techniques being proposed and used, some farmers still poison carcasses and put out poisoned baits for predators.

We know that Motswana farmers are given crop pesticides by their government, which they could; and some do use, to kill predators as revenge for predation. We have heard horror stories about pesticide abuse and we frequently see the death of wildlife as a result. Social media is full of it. Game birds, cranes and water fowls are killed in their hundreds by poorly



103 White-backed vultures poisoned

paid farm workers, who with just a little maize soaked in a pesticide can kill hundreds of birds per event (and then eat those birds, blissfully ignoring that they will also in due course suffer chronic poisoning effects). Yet when we seek out these people who are poisoning the environment, to prosecute them, communities enigmatically close ranks and protect them. It’s a secret...

Apart from rodenticides designed and registered for rodent control, there are no pesticides registered for the general public to kill mammals and birds. Even so, the chemical industry is under environmental pressure, so they are thinking of new “non toxic” ways to kill, such as Vitamin D overdosing. Some toxins that are controlled under the Hazardous Substances Act, Act 15 of 1973, have been permitted for restricted use under restricted conditions, but because it’s almost impossible to

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make a poison bait target specific, the authorities have steered away from these poisons, which, without exception, pose a severe threat to human health. Other pesticides are controlled by Act 36 of 1947, the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act No. 36 of 1947. The poisoning of predators and wildlife that we hear of more and more is illegal and environmentally unsustainable, never mind short-sighted and irresponsible!

There are different forms of poisoning. Primary poisoning is the effect on the first victim and as example, when a carcass is poisoned by poachers who want to escape undetected (sentinel poisoning), or when a poisoned meat bait is put out by an irresponsible farmer who intends to target predators. Lack of service delivery and garbage removal causes explosions of rat populations and leads people to poisoning. The primary poisoning victims are the victims of these actions. Because it's almost impossible to make a poison target

specific, (especially when people go to great lengths to poison animals and birds); the victim often leaves the "kill area" to die elsewhere. It's then scavenged by others, which die of secondary poisoning and there is a multiplier effect, because scavenging birds will often return to their nests to feed nestlings, and hence entire colonies are wiped out. It's pointless seeking an example of this because it happens so frequently that according to those working with vultures, we have reached the point in southern Africa, where vulture deaths exceed breeding recruitment and so we can expect to soon have no vultures left. At that point carcasses will no longer be cleared from the veld and we may expect an increase in animal disease problems.

There are adequate lessons to be taken from an Indian case study, where vulture populations have crashed because of over use of diclophenac. Bearded Vulture study in South Africa placed satellite trackers on about 20 Bearded Vultures. Of

these, nine are known from toxicology on remains found, to have been poisoned. Other dead project birds were recovered but no toxicology was done because the carcasses were too old or decomposed, but circumstances point to poisoning also. That's a large portion of the sample population killed, or suspected killed by poisoning!

In the livestock and game farming context; predators and scavengers are the victims of illegal use of pesticide poisons to "manage" predators. But poisoning is really not the right solution to this conflict. Farmers believe they are defending their livelihoods and their investments, and nobody can deny them that right.

The debate is rather about how they do this, because if one applies Systems Thinking to evaluate the cause and effect of management decisions and actions, it's clear that poisoning kills everything that eats meat or scavenges and merely stops conflict for a short time until the habitat and population vacuum created by the

poisoning event is filled again. The correct measure of conflict management success is not the number of predators killed, but rather a long term end or reduction of conflict. We should rather try to balance and stabilise wildlife populations on farmland and farm in harmony with nature by long term management principles, because random poisoning can never achieve this goal or even be considered as a contributing method. Its not just illegal but illogical, irresponsible and unethical.

People working at the wildlife crime interface believe that poachers are increasingly using pesticides. We know that animals that have been shot or snared are often left in the veld and poisoned because the poach-

Solutions are not easy. The chemicals most widely abused in Southern and East Africa are aldicarb or Temik® and carbofuran or Furadan®/Curaterr® respectively. Bayer CropScience voluntarily terminated the sale of Temik® in Southern Africa so anything still available is illegal product (see below). FMC chemicals conducted a voluntary retrieval and withdrawal of Furadan® from East Africa. Internationally, Bayer have stopped manufacture of Temik® and the product has been off the market since 31 March 2011 in South Africa, yet vast illegal stocks; and stocks stolen from uncontrolled farm stores in Zimbabwe and elsewhere still remain and are abused in many forms of criminal activity. Internationally,

and overburdened with cases and they don't have time to research legislation. Few know the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, Act 36 of 1947. The relevant section to use is Section 7 bis, read with government gazetted Regulations 1716 and 181. For more information and full detail of this legislation, please visit www.wildlifepoisoningprevention.co.za.

Solutions suggested for Wildlife Ranchers and industry stakeholders to consider are:

1. Control of pesticides and chemicals, by good management and safe, access restricted storage.
2. Expose of pesticide abuse, and collaborate with enforcement officials.
3. Lobby government authorities, chemical companies and neighbours to recognise the hazards of agrochemical abuse and to limit abuse opportunities by different formulations, carrier products and by enhanced education programmes.
4. Chemical companies could offer incentives for correct purchases of appropriate volumes of chemicals by farmers, and for correct, safe storage; rather than dishing out incentives for bulk purchases, which all too often become unused surplus, and unwanted or obsolete.
5. Training enforcement staff to recognise and deal with pesticide poisoning crime scenes.
6. Awareness and investigation of vulture activity.
7. Avoid irrational blame of toxins such a lead bullets and lead shot, which can be managed. Rather stop pesticide theft, abuse and mismanagement on farms; and illegal street sales which would have a major effect.

Please become a part of the solution, even if just as a responsible voice; rather than being a contributor to the problem. Wildlife Poisoning Prevention and Conflict Resolution is a registered non-profit, public benefit organisation; and donations are tax deductible in the hands of the donor.

— For more information please contact
Tim Snow: 082 802 6223.



ers return to collect dead vultures or predator parts and bones for indigenous traditional beliefs or the muti and illegal wildlife trade. In recent times there have been several events where 200 or more vultures were killed in a single event.

In July 2012, an elephant carcass was discovered in a Protected Area. A team of rangers was sent in on foot to investigate further. They found the bullet wounds had been cut open and systematically poisoned with Temik®. The tusks had been removed and a nyala, a zebra and over 180 vultures were found poisoned. With carbamate poisonings like this, even blowflies and maggots die on the carcass. There are many more examples.

unscrupulous chemical manufacturers take advantage of such situations and should be stopped by regulatory authorities, but this seldom happens. From the enforcement aspect there is a lot of work needed. The greatest challenge is that abusers seem to have all the time in the world to poison. They do so under a cloak of secrecy. The enforcement officials always seem to be reactive, seldom getting information that leads to an arrest and conviction.

Then at the Police stations, policemen are apathetic, and don't know the legislation. Sometimes, in the scenario of rape and murder, they don't even regard poisoning as an offence! Prosecutors are underpaid



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SHOOTING TIPS

Some tips to help you shoot better – clays or birds... by Don Currie

Barrel Draggers & Hold Point...

Question: I tend to ride the target a lot. I seem to always pull the trigger later than I want to and later than I plan to. How can I fix that?

Answer: You have identified one of the key principles in successful clay target shooting: commitment to break point. A clay target changes speed and direction from the time it exits the trap to the moment it hits the ground. A quartering target, for example, undergoes significant “personality changes” throughout its flight path.

A quartering target thrown from a trap located 25 yards to the right of a shooting stand and thrown at a 45-degree angle in front of the shooter changes from crossing to quartering to curling/descending. During preshot planning, you must identify a specific point along the target's flight path where you intend to kill it.

If you set up to engage the target as a crossing target but delay execution of your shot, you will likely produce too much gun speed and miss in front of the target. If you decide to break this target where it is quartering but delay execution, you might miss over the top of the target, as gravity pulls the clay toward the ground.

Simply put, if you don't execute your shot where you plan to, you are engaging a target that might be quite different in character than the one you initially planned to break. Always select, landmark and commit to your break points. Picking a terrain feature to mark your break point is a great way to reinforce where you intend to end the shot. A strong commitment to your break points is essential to consistency in execution and the ability to run a station. There are only two options for sporting clays shooters: Be a “barrel dragger” or be decisive and committed.



Question: I've always been told to keep my eyes centered in my head to follow the bird (ocular center) and turn my head toward the visual hold point. I see in your video that you say to cut your eyes back to the visual hold point, and if needed, turn your head slightly. Can you clarify?

Answer: Proper shot execution requires acute visual focus and a head and muzzle that are synchronized with the target through the break point. Movement to a target must include an acute visual “fix” on the target together with a brief period, prior to shot execution, when the head is quiet and synchronized relative to the target.

There is plenty of science behind this statement, chief among them being Joan Vickers' text “Perception Cognition -The Quiet Eye in Action”. In this text, Vickers chronicles how the eyes of elite athletes operate during sports activities in which they must “intercept” a moving object. A summary can be found on my website at this link: bit.ly/QuietEye.

So, what does this mean for the clay target shooter? If possible, use only the eye muscles to move the eyes to the visual pick-up point. Your peripheral vision is exponentially more effective at initially

acquiring targets than your direct vision. Turn the head only to the extent necessary to settle your eyes on your chosen visual pick-up point.

If you have to move the head to position the eyes on the visual pickup point, keep your head as synchronized as possible with the body and target throughout the move and execution of the shot. One of the most destructive errors I see committed by shooters is a move of the head down to the gun at the end of the “stroke.” This upsets and interrupts the flow of high-definition information about the target to the brain.

Acute focus, a quiet head and a quiet muzzle will “feed the brain” the high-definition imagery it needs to break the target. I always say, “If the camera is quiet, the brain is seeing a clear image.” Minimize the move of the head. If the head and gun are synchronized with the target at the break point, the quality of the image will be sufficient to break the target. 

– Don Currie is NSCA's Chief Instructor, an Orvis Wingshooting School instructor, and Master Class competitor. To get free shooting tips and videos, sign up for his monthly newsletter. You can also see more tips from Currie at www.doncurrie.com.

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PROVINCIAL BIRD HUNTING SEASONS (and bag limits in brackets)

MPUMALANGA – Gazetted 2023

All year	Rock pigeons (need licence).
1 May-31 Jul	Yellow-billed duck, red-billed teal, Egyptian goose, Spurwing, Guineafowl, Spurfowl, Crested francolin, Coqui francolin, Orange River Partridge, Shelley's.
1 June-31 Aug	Grey Wing, Redwing

FREE STATE – Gazetted **NEW dates for 2023!**

All year	Rock pigeons, Cape turtle dove, Laughing dove, Red eye dove.
15 May-15 Sept	Greywing & O/River partridge, common quail, guineaowl, Swainson's francolin, yellow-billed duck & red-billed teal, Egyptian goose, spurwing, Red KnbKoot
1 Jan - 30 Apr	Shelduck (1)
Note:	(maximum 10 land & 10 water birds pp per day)

GAUTENG – Not yet gazetted – Same as last year

1 May-30 April	All year. Rock Pigeons (need licence) (20).
1 May-31 Jul	Egyptian geese (5); Red-bill teal (5); Yellow-bill duck (5). Note: Spurwing remain closed!
1 Jun-30 Sep	Swainsons francolin (5).
1 Jun-30 Sep	Helmeted Guineafowl (5).

N-WEST PROVINCE – Not yet gazetted – Same as 2022

All year	Rock pigeons (No limit), Red eyed dove (20), Cape turtle dove (20), laughing dove (20) (licence required).
1 May-30 Sep	Francolin: Red-billed (3), Crested (5); Partridge: Coqui (5), Guineafowl (10).
1 May-30 Aug	Partridge: Shelleys (5), Redwing (5); Quail: Harlequin (5), Common (10); Rameron Pigeon (5).
1 Apr-31 Jul	Partridge: Orange River (5).
1 Apr-15 Jul	Namaqua Sandgrouse (5).
1 Nov-31 Apr	Sandgrouse: Burchells (5), Double-banded (5).
1 May-31 Jul	Duck: White-faced (4), Yellow-bill (4), Cape Teal (4), Red-bill (4), Cape Shoveler (4), Southern Pochard (3), Knob-bill (4), Spurwing (4).
1 Jun-30 Sep	Swainsons Francolin (5), Natal Francolin (3).
1 Jan-31 Jul	Egyptian Goose (4).
1 Jan-31 Mar	Shelduck (2).
Note:	A Maximum combined total of 10 land birds & 10 waterfowl per day.

LIMPOPO – Gazetted 2023

All year	Rock Pigeons (licence) (50), Red-eyed Turtle Dove (50)
1 May- 30 Sep	Guineaowl (10), Crested Francolin, (6), Shelley's (2); Natal francolin (6).
1 May - 31 Jul	Egyptian (6) & spurwing (4), white-faced whistling duck (6), Yellow-bill duck (4), red-billed teal (4).
1 Jun- 30 Sep	Swainson's francolin (8).
Note:	Total combined daily bag of (10 land & 10 water birds)

WESTERN CAPE <https://www.capenature.co.za> – Gazetted

1 Jan-31 Dec	Spurwing (3) & Egyptian goose (10), rock pigeons (and Cape turtle dove, Laughing dove, Red eye dove, Speckled Pigeon) (40 in total), guineaowl (10),
1 Jan-30 April	Yellow-billed duck, red-billed teal, shelduck, Cape teal, Cape shoveler, southern pochard (5 in all total combined).
1 May-31 Jul	Greywing Partridge (3); Red-necked Francolins (3); Cape Franc. (6). 1 March-30 April – Common quail (2).

NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE – Same as 2022

All year	Egyptian Goose (10); Red eyed, Laughing, Cape turtle Doves (10 each) and Rock Pigeons (50).
1 April-31 Dec	Helmeted Guinea-fowl (10);
1 Jan-31 Mar	Shelduck (5).
1 May-31 Aug	Spurwing (5).
1 May- 30 Jun	Orange River Partridge (5), Red-billed Francolin (5), Cape Francolin (5), Natal Francolin (5), Swainsons Francolin (5), Grey-wing Partridge (5).
1 May-31 Aug	Northern Cape Excluding Namaqualand Magisterial District Yellow billed duck (10), Red-bill Teal (10), Cape Teal (10), Cape Shoveler (10), Southern Pochard (10). Namaqua Sandgrouse (10). Burchell's Sandgrouse (5).
1 Apr-15 Jul	Namaqualand Magisterial District Yellow-billed duck (10), Red-billed Teal (10), Cape Teal (10), Cape Shoveler (10), Southern Pochard (10).
1 Jan -31 Mar	
1 Jan-30 Apr	
Note:	A maximum combined total of 10 land birds & 10 waterfowl per day.

EASTERN CAPE – Not yet gazetted – Same as 2022

1 Jan-31 Dec	Red eyed, Laughing, Cape turtle Doves and Rock Pigeons. (need licence).
1 Jun-31 Jul	Rameron Pigeon (Olive Pigeon) (5).
1 Jan-31 Mrt	Shelduck (4).
1 Feb-30 Sept	Egyptian Goose (15).
1 Mrt-30 Sept	Spurwing (5).
1 May-31Aug	Red-billed Teal (3), Yellow-billed Duck (3), White-faced duck (2), Southern Pochard (2), Cape Teal (2), Cape Shoveler (2).
1 May-30 Sept	Guineaowl (5).
1 Oct-30 Nov	Quail (10). (Note: Different in former Ciskei)
1 May-31 Jul	Red-Wing Partidge (2).
1 May-31 Jul	Grey-wing (4), but in Queenstown (2), Orange River Partridge (4), Red-Necked Francolin (4).
1 Jan-31 Dec	Exotic Anseriformes

KZ-NATAL – Not yet gazetted – Same as 2022

31 May-31 Aug	Ordinary Game Licence Required for all. Common Quail, White-faced Duck, Red-billed Teal, Yellow-billed Duck, Egyptian Goose, Spurwing, Helmeted Guineafowl, Rameron Pigeon. Francolin: Red-necked, Natal, Swainsons. Partridge: Grey-wing, Red-wing, Coqui, Crested & Shelleys.
Note:	A Maximum combined total of 10 land birds & 10 waterfowl per day.

Other game birds can be shot under a SPECIAL PERMIT during the open season, please contact KZN Hunting & Extension Department on 033 845 1652.

PLEASE NOTE that all members must still consult the respective provincial ordinances, as we do not list species that are not traditionally gamebirds. All exotic Anseriformes are open all year. Contact the office for gazettes

Please Note: You have to return your licence to the respective provinces, after each season, stating on the licence all the relevant details as asked. This applies to provinces who require this, such as NW Prov, and is stated as such on your licence.



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>

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2022 Christmas Shoot



Top: Ant Chapman, Rudy Stam, Michael Foltan, Andrew Lillico & David Lillico
Above: Stratis Fotakis, Rod Duggan, Charles Duff, James Dunlop
Above right: Marc Lax. Right: Rolo Nöffke
Below: Angelo Spada, Peter Wells, Bob Nixon & Dale Crouch. Below Right: Alex Faria



photographs by André van der Westhuizen



William Hill, Jakkals Bothma, Marco Tarantino, Nick Engelbrecht & Frans van Wyk

Top: Down range action.
Below: Noel Gibson
Right: Renier Coetzee, Cole Coetzee, Chris Damen, Brad Smith, Douglas Smith & David Damen.



Below left: Pierre van der Watt.
Below: Michael Anderson, Leslie van der Merwe, Steve Siebert and Roland Boesch.
Bottom left: Tony Pais and Jamie Fernandes.





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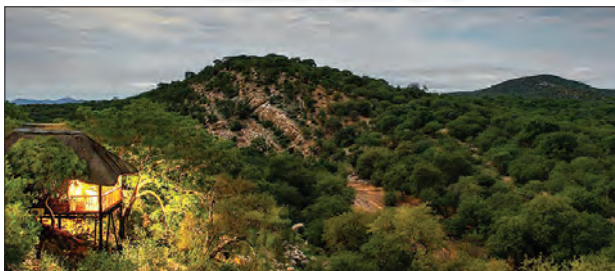


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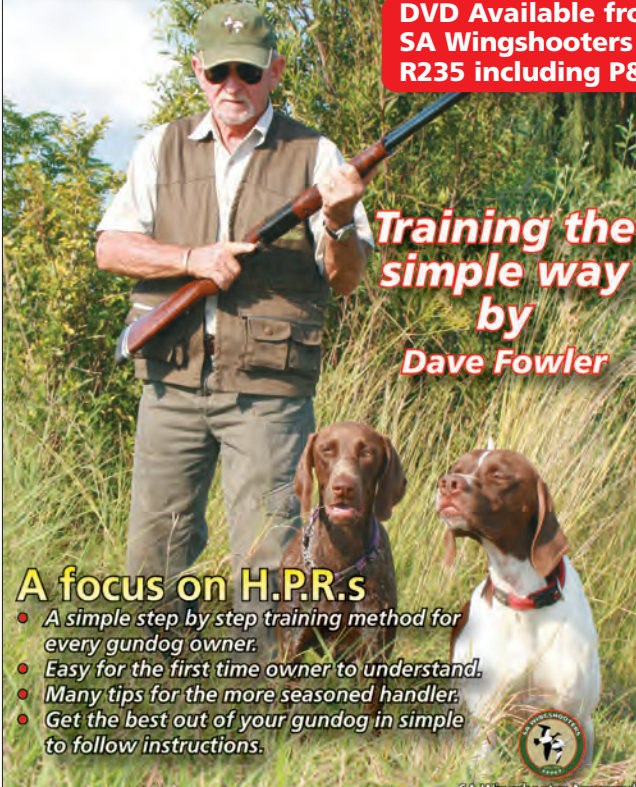
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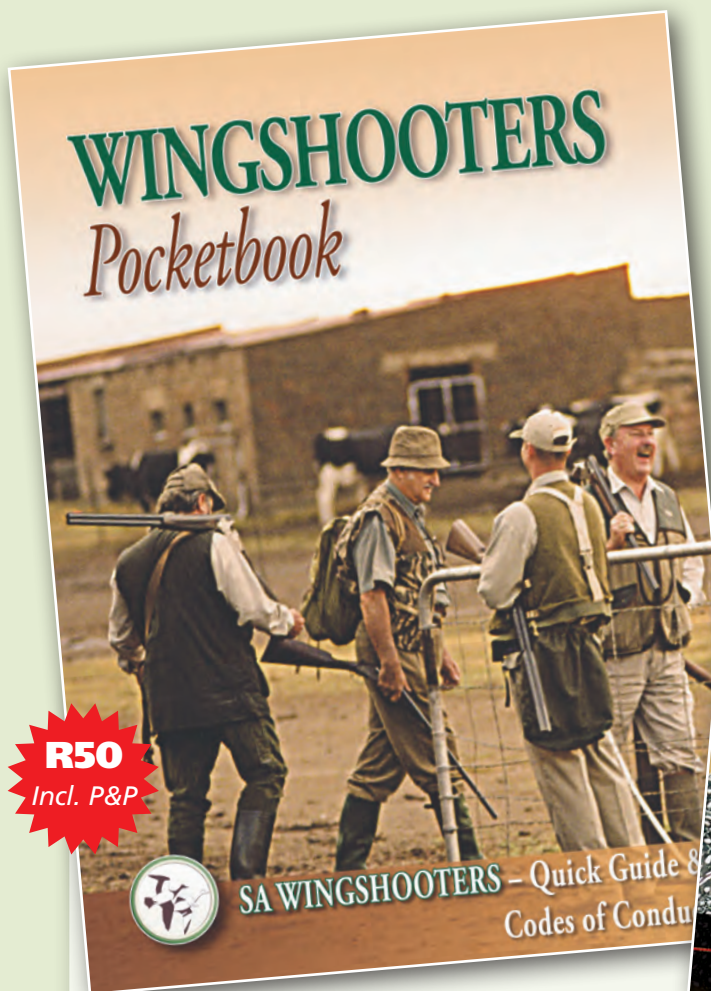
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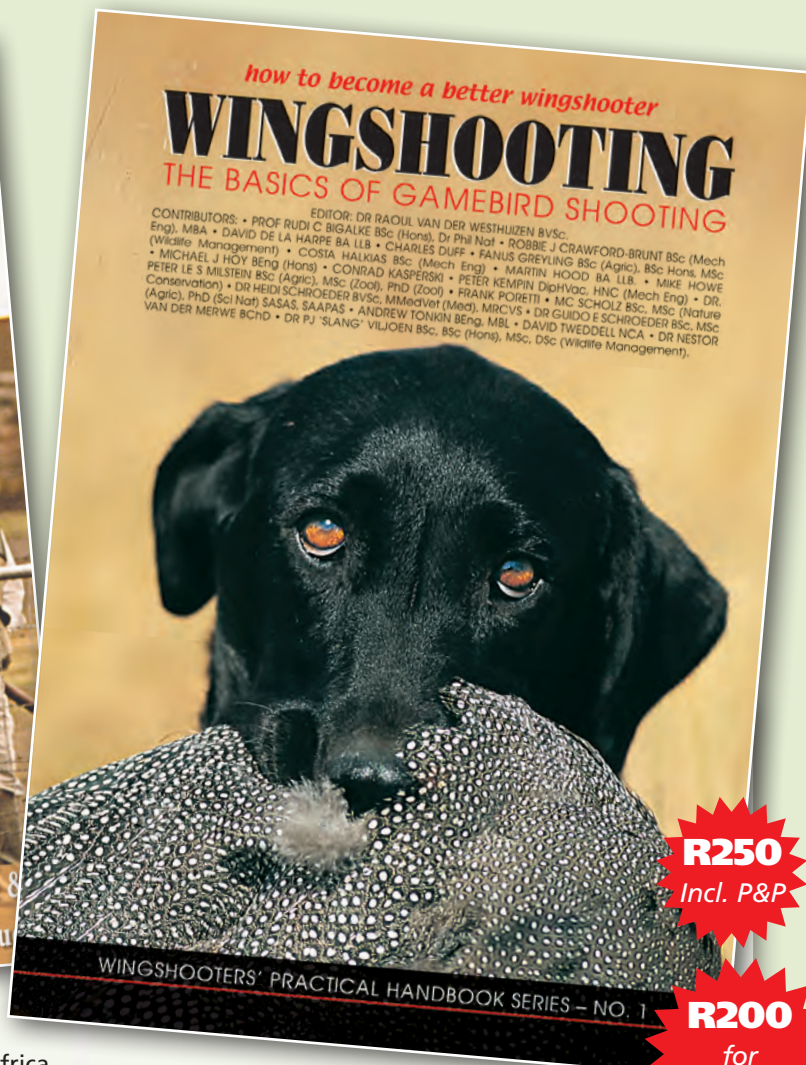
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New Member Online Portal

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.



More shoots and hunts...



RÛENS KOLLEGE



SAVE THE DATE - 27 MAY

RÛENS KOLLEGE HUNT

Contact person: Marica
kampus@ruenskollege.co.za



**25th Laerskool Warmbad
Bird Shoot**

Primary school child - Free of charge!
Non-shooters @R150 pp attending the shoot and/or dinner

Warmbaths
29 JULY 2023
R1200 per gun
4 hunters per team

Registration forms available on our website

RSVP : 15 Jul
Cash bar

For more information please contact
Helena Grobler 082 550 2472
Alida Dykema 082 922 4280

lsw.birdshoot@gmail.com
www.laerskoolwarmbad.co.za



NEW COMMUNITY SHOOT

BRONNIE BIRD HUNT

In benefit of Hoërskool Heilbron.

11-13 August 2023

Contact person: Louise Snyman
082 965 4964 louise@snymanrek.co.za

PRICING

Your weekend will include

- Accommodation for the weekend.
- Meals for Saturday.
- Breakfast for Sunday morning.
- Your guide for Saturday.

This package is available @ R2000 per person.
50% deposit on booking. Remaining balance on/before 1 August 2023.

PROGRAM

Friday: Arrival, Registration & Braai

Saturday: 05:30 Coffee, Tea & Rusks
06:00 Shooting time!
± 11:00 Brunch with guides.
18:00 Return to venue.
Result ceremony, Awards & Dinner

Sunday: 07:00-09:00 Breakfast
Departure

VENUE: DONSVEERTJIE

Situated in Heilbron in the Free State region. Donsveertjie Gasteplaas & Venue features accommodation with free WiFi, BBQ facilities, a bar and free private parking.

Donsveertjie Gasteplaas & Venue is ideal for people from the city to break away from the noise and commotion of the city. Donsveertjie is the home away from home - where you will find peace for your soul... Donsveertjie is prepared to accommodate hunting dogs - it is however requested that dogs be kept of furniture.



WHAT TO BRING

- BBQ pack for Friday night's braai. (Side dishes will be served.)
- Beverages. (Venue has a cash bar)
- Enough ammunition for the shoot.
- Free State Wingshooters License.
- Mosquito repellent.

PRIZES TO BE WON

- 1st group entry. (At least 4 in group)
- Best dressed individual.
- Best dressed pair. (Be it a couple / friends / father and son etc.)
- Most impressive dog(s).
- Lucky draw.
- Quickest defeathering.





11-13 AUGUST

Heilbron

Free State

BIRD TAXIDERMYSPECIALISTS

EST. 1997



Nationwide courier available to collect frozen specimens
3-4 months turn around time

Contact us for ZAR prices - Philipp Schulz
mountmybird@gmail.com | 082 350 2320



KRIEGHOFF



Available from:

LORIS INTERNATIONAL

Mobile: 082 775 0243

082 572 7067

Email: shot25@global.co.za

www.lorisinternational.co.za

K-20 VICTORIA



Join South Africa's No.1 accredited Hunting & Sport shooting association



All the hunting & sport shooting, at one association

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.

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.



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 2023

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 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.

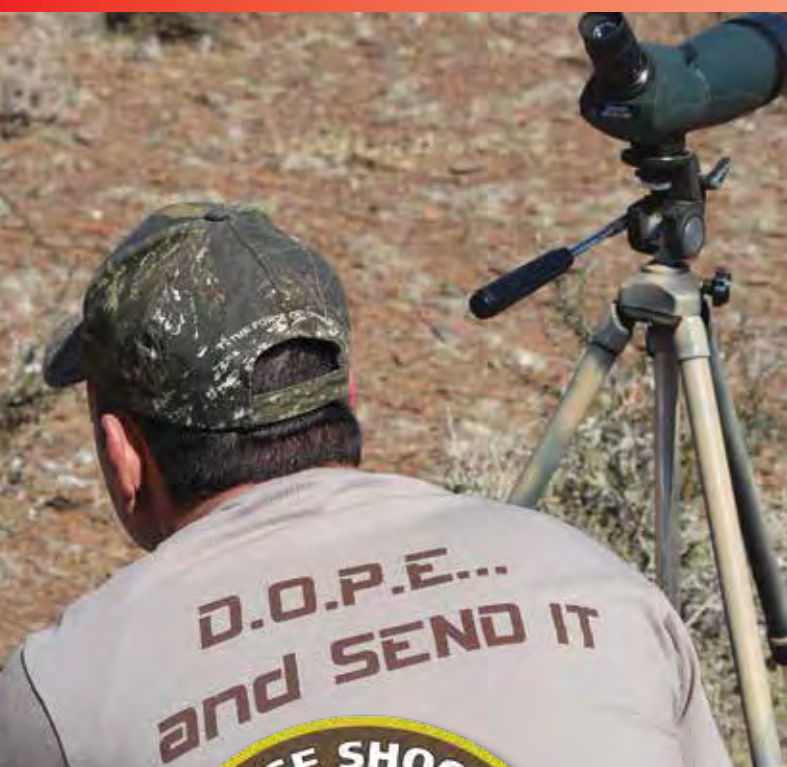
Cell Phone No.

* 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.

JOIN THE ELITE

The only accredited Long Range Shooting Club in South Africa!

- Permanently set-up, 14 target Standard steel range from 100m to 1453m and other ranges in Gauteng
- Challenging targets
- Handgun range, multi-gun range
- Exclusive range open to members only!
- Match days and competitions
- Training & fun shoots, etc.



Membership of LRSC includes:



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

www.longrangeclub.com
Tel: 071 132 5450