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For Birdshooters and Waterfowlers

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Dateline: South Dakota

Despite Continuing Drought, This Place Has Plenty of Birds

Editor's Note: We've told you about the effects of drought on pheasant populations out West this season and that the operators providing a quality shoot this year would be those who were able to maintain good cover despite the lack of moisture. Well, correspondent T. R. Hendrick just returned from South Dakota where he hunted a place that seems to have the situation well in control. Here's his report.

Due to one of the worst droughts in 25 years, the pheasant population in South Dakota took a real hit the past year. But you would not have known it on my early November hunt at **Tumbleweed Lodge** in Harrold, S.D. (Tel. 800-288-5774 or 605-875-3598; web site: www.tumbleweedlodge.com). The Bollweg family has

so many pheasant on their 10,000 acres that I could actually hear them cackling every morning while lying in bed at the lodge.



Over my three-day stay, I'd conservatively estimate that I saw between 200 and 300 pheasant each day. The main reason for these huge numbers of birds is the fantastic

habitat that the lodge goes to great lengths to provide. Their land is painstakingly planted with just the right mixture of sorghum, corn and residual grasses – making it a pheasant paradise, even in the midst of a drought season.

When Tumbleweed Lodge owner **Donny Bollweg** picked me up for my hunt in Pierre in his Cadillac Escalade SUV, I knew that this wasn't one of your run-of-the-mill pheasant outfitters. Everything at the Tumbleweed Lodge is done first class with great attention to detail, from their hunting dogs and guides, to their five-star accommodations. The newly constructed lodge can handle from a single hunter up to corporate groups of 24. All rooms are double occupancy, but I actually had a room to myself with my own bathroom and shower.

(continued on page 2)

Dateline: Romania

A First-Hand Report On A New Hunting Opportunity

Editor's Note: Continuing subscribers will remember our April report about some new bird hunts on offer in Romania. Well, new correspondent Ralph McDowell just returned from the first organized bird shoot here, and as expected with exploratory trips to new destinations, some things didn't go as planned. But McDowell says the trip was a winner in his book anyway. He tells us why in the following report.

A funny thing happened on my way to what I thought was going to be an adventurous Romanian duck and goose hunt – an adventurous Romanian pheas-

ant and pigeon hunt. Well, I did manage to bag a couple mallards, but even that portion of the trip wasn't your typical duck hunt, unless you normally jumpshoot river ducks from a steel-decked 35-foot "duck boat" cruising the picturesque shores of the historic Danube.

I'm not complaining. This first Romanian tour/hunt put together by **Gabrielle Conea of Corporate Leisure Specialists (1701 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Suite 100, Coral Gables, FL 33134; tel. 305 466-6677; fax 305 576-2760; email: gconea@aol.com)** was wonderful, and I'd return in a heartbeat. What could have been a disappointment turned out to be just the opposite; but next time, I'll make

sure everybody is on the same page.

I thought that I was heading to the Danube Delta where the Danube River
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South Dakota ... (from page 1)

What caught my eye originally about the Tumbleweed was the opportunity to take a Dakota Grand Slam of pheasant, sharp-tail grouse, prairie chicken and Hungarian partridge. During my hunt, the pheasants were so plentiful that even I was able to limit out all three days. I harvested four Huns over the course of my hunt and missed my fair share of the wild flushing sharp-tails. I did not have a shot at a prairie chicken, but my hunting partner did score on one of these elusive birds. So, while it is not easy, the opportunity really does exist at the Tumbleweed to obtain a Dakota Grand Slam.

The place also offers some Canadian goose hunting in November and December. And if you want to tune up before a hunt, the operation has an eight-station sporting clays course.

One of the unique things about the Tumbleweed Lodge is the fact that each hunt is set up exclusively, with no mixing of hunting parties unless requested. If you come in a group of four, you hunt in that group. If you come in a group of a dozen or more, the same holds true. Run by Donny and Judy Bollweg, and managed by son Michael, this operation is geared for the discriminating bird hunter at \$1,392 for a three-night/two-day hunt; \$1,995 for four nights and three days, and \$2,595 for five nights and four days per person for groups of three to 24 people. The price may sound a bit steep to some, but believe me, when your hunt is over you will wonder how the place does it for that cost.

Some of the amenities at the Tumbleweed include a fully stocked, open bar in the evenings. The ranch-style lodge also has two big-screen televisions, a pool table and an outdoor hot tub. The meals are great, with homemade desserts that replenish all the calories you manage to burn off in the course of a day's hunt. They also have dog kennels available if you want to bring your own bird dog, but it would be tough to beat the Tumbleweed's Labrador retrievers. The dog work here was nothing short of fantastic, with labs that quarter a field better than most springer spaniels I've

seen. They also mark and retrieve downed birds with accuracy in the tall cover. My guide, Barry Berg, handled these leggy labs like a maestro, as he and the dogs worked the cover.

The Tumbleweed is located 30 miles east of Pierre on Highway 14, just outside the town of Harrold. The lodge provides transportation from the Pierre airport and in the field. During your hunt, you could ride in anything from a Kawasaki Mule to a school bus pulling a dog trailer.

The South Dakota pheasant season began the third weekend of October and continues through the last weekend of December. But the Tumbleweed Lodge also offers preserve hunting from Sept. 1-March 31. The 1,700 acres directly around the lodge are a shooting preserve where the lodge stocks over a 1,000 birds during the course of the year.

When your hunt is over, you receive a Coleman cooler with your birds, cleaned, tagged, shrink wrapped and frozen for the trip home. Be warned, however, that Northwest Airlines charged me \$80 to ship the cooler home along with my bags. Which brings me to the only real negative of my trip, and that was the deadly flight times getting in and out of Pierre. My flight in on Northwest Airlines arrived at 11:30 pm, and the flight out left at 5:30 am. Donny and Michael assured me that they are working with the other outfitters in the Pierre area to try and get these crazy flight times changed, but for the time being be prepared to lose some sleep either coming, going, or both, into Pierre, S.D.

Next to the great bird hunting, the single most impressive thing to me about the Tumbleweed Lodge was that when it came time to catch my 5:30 am flight out of Pierre, it was Donny Bollweg, the owner, not one of his employees, who was up at 3 am with coffee made to give me a ride to the airport. Believe me, of the 300 registered lodges and shooting preserves in South Dakota, there won't be many that take care of you like the Tumbleweed.

- T. J. Hendrick



For Bird Shooters & Waterfowlers

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Romania ... (from page 1)

empties into the Black Sea – arguably Europe’s most spectacular wetland – for three days of duck and goose hunting. The Delta’s 2,000 square miles of protected marshes, islands and waterways have been designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, so imagine my anticipation when I understood that I had an OK from the Romanian government to hunt ducks and geese there. Three days of waterfowling, around which Conea planned to accompany me for a couple additional days of off-the-beaten-track touring. I was looking forward to a unique adventure.

Following a pleasant flight from New York to Vienna on Austrian Airlines and a hop to the Romanian capital of Bucharest, we headed toward Transylvania and the Carpathian Mountains. Our daytrip through alpine villages, roadside markets and ancient castles (including Dracula’s) closed with a dinner beneath rafters sporting stag antlers and wolf and bear skins. A quartet played Romanian folksongs as the season’s first snow fell outside.

After a comfortable night in a mountain hotel above the city of Brasov, we motored back to Bucharest to pick up Jo and Barbara, two other Americans also scheduled for the Delta adventure. While Joe and I hunted waterfowl, Barbara planned to fish. Conea then left us in the care of a translator/guide who would become our constant hunting companion. Not only did the young woman know her country’s game and terrain, she also provided a wealth of information about Romanian history and culture.

A couple hours east of Bucharest, we meet our Romanian hunters (field guides) and learned that we were not headed for the Delta, after all. The director of the local hunting club explained that the birds migrating south from Russia didn’t usually arrive until the latter part of November (at the earliest), and he seemed surprised that we were expecting to hunt ducks and geese before then. Since that’s exactly what both Joe and I had been told to prepare for, there was apparently a major bug somewhere in the transatlantic communication system.

Deciding to make the best of it, we headed to our hunting lodge near the town of Slobozia. Each of our rooms in

the well appointed lodge had its own full private bath. A dining room where we took our breakfast and dinner (lunches



were in the field), also served as our meeting place. After breakfast the next three mornings, we climbed into a four-wheel drive ARO (like a Land-Rover) and headed out. The first day we traveled east to the Danube River and ferried to a several thousand-acre former-wetland island, which had been drained for large-scale agricultural production (there are currently discussions to restore the wetlands). Miles of wheat, soybeans and corn, interspersed with thick fields of native vegetation, stretched to the horizon. Trees lined canals while cattails and reeds clogged smaller drainage ditches. We devoted the morning to pass-shooting pigeons. Later, we went after ringnecks.

The pigeons were not cooperative, but the pheasants made up for it. Romanian pheasants are truly wild birds that launch like rockets and don’t set their wings until several hundred yards after takeoff. We flushed the birds by walking them up and with organized drives using men from a neighboring village. The action began slowly, but later, the birds began exploding from the overgrown patches like coveys of quail. We could have used some good dogs, especially for locating downed birds, but were told that none were available. At our evening meal back at the lodge, we learned that the next day we’d go for ducks.

After a 3 am wakeup, breakfast and a ride south to Calarasi – a river town along the Danube near Bulgaria – we climbed aboard the “almost 11-meter” boat *Diana*. The plan, we learned as we headed into the sunrise, was to motor

the craft along the banks of the river where overhanging willows provided cover. As we neared, mallards would flush from the thickets. This “sneak-boat-ing” proved surprisingly effective, but the pockets of birds were few and far between. “Come back in a month,” the captain said. If not for my poor shooting, I still would have bagged half a dozen or so. Before lunch, we tried to walk up some pheasants from an island, but no luck. The all-day Danube cruise with shotgun at the ready – past villages, vineyards and even the ruins of a 2,000-year-old fortress – was something the everyday tourist will never experience. The two greenheads I carried back to the lodge that evening were a bonus.

Dawn on the last of the three hunting days found us again on the agricultural island – more pheasants, and also a successful stalk on a huge flock of thousands of pigeons. On each of the three days, Barbara tried her luck at fishing but only landed a few small ones. We did, however, get to add some grilled fish to our riverside lunches.

My last full day in Romania, we spent touring Bucharest. Impressive sights – a palatial government center and a 14th century church in the midst of the busy urban workplace – and great restaurants. Romania is a destination unspoiled by the trappings of tourism, especially if you go as a hunter. From the Carpathians to the Danube, I found the people friendly and diverse. My visit was the first bird hunting trip to the nation organized by Romanian-born Conea, and the bugs I experienced will, I have no doubt, be worked out. A destination shrouded by the communist curtain until recently, Romania is a rough gem. If you’d like to go, do so before it’s cut and polished.

Some additional thoughts, observations and tips that I would add: (1) Nail down the hunt details and requirements if not just an “experience” is your goal. (2) Don’t plan on serious waterfowl numbers much before the end of November. (3) Trained dogs and handlers would have helped on the pheasant hunt. (4) The Romanian government requests a copy of your current local hunting license. Keep it handy. I also supplied a copy of my Federal Duck Stamp. (5) Autoloaders

and pump shotguns are permitted. Although there is a three-shell limit in a gun, my rental Benelli was not plugged. With paperwork completed well in advance, you may bring your own shotgun with a maximum of 100 shells per gun. Lead is OK, even for waterfowl. It's important that you account for all your shells upon entering and leaving Romania. (6) The Posada Hunting Museum, north of Bucharest, is worth a visit. It's open Wednesday through Sunday 8 am to 4 pm. (7) Romania also has world-class big game hunting if you are interested. (8) I was not given specific guidelines for tipping the guides and translator, but prior guidance would have been helpful. Guides and helpers were tireless and worked late each day. (9) Rental cars are available at major airports, but Conea's package included transportation. Traffic drives to the right and fast, uses turn signals and moves over when flashed (headlights). Passing against oncoming traffic is common. And horse-drawn carts share the road with 70-mph, double-trailer trucks. (10) Multilingual Austrian Airlines and hotel staff are helpful. No problems with English. (11) The Romanian government wanted proof of insurance. Details were never clear, but Conea said that temporary traveler's insurance would suffice. (12) Credit cards may be useful in Bucharest but not in rural areas. (13) Exchange cash at airports, although there are some hotels and exchange houses in the cities. (14) Travel advisories warned of pickpockets and credit card fraud. I had no problems but used cash and didn't hang out in groups of strangers. Keep a copy of your passport and additional cash in a separate place. (15) Do not take pho-

tos of government buildings or guards without permission. (16) Even in Bucharest, signs warn against drinking the tap water. Bottled water is available. (17) Feral dogs are everywhere. Although we had no problems, past attacks have occurred. (18) In Romania, a few people are wealthy – many are poor. Infrastructure that Americans take for granted, such



as flush toilets, running water, electricity, land-line phones or medical facilities may not be available in villages. Enjoy!

– Ralph McDowell

(Postscript: We ran McDowell's comments by Conea, and she agreed with his assessment. She says the exploratory trip was scheduled a bit early in the season to accommodate the participants' availability and that had the weather cooperated, enough ducks would have migrated to provide acceptable shooting. Unfortunately, she says unseasonably warm weather lingered in the Danube while the rest of the country experienced snow flurries. She was told that future waterfowl hunts will be organized later in November. As for the dogs, Conea says

there should have been upland dogs available and checked on why her hunters did not have any at their disposal. She says the last-minute change from waterfowl to upland hunting did not afford on-the-ground operators time to make the arrangements, as most of the dogs had already been assigned to other hunts.

Why didn't she accompany the group on their hunt? Conea says that this was basically an exploratory trip or test run, and that she wanted to see exactly what level of service would be provided without her presence. "It would not do to have them provide perfection with me there, only to find out later that things would be handled differently if I didn't tag along," she says. "At least now I know what the shortcomings could be and can work with the operators on that." As for McDowell's tipping conundrum, Conea reports that a new tipping system has been implemented to help future clients.

The bottom line here is that this trip is obviously not for everyone. If you need your trips to go off like a well-oiled machine, with each part smoothly shifting into the next, then this may not be the place for you. Wait a few years for the tourism infrastructure to develop and the Romanian mindset to shift fully from the communistic worldview to a capitalistic, do-what-is-necessary-to-please-the-customer one. However, if you have a high tolerance level for logistical snags in exchange for being among the first international bird shooters to experience a country rich in cultural history, natural beauty and completely wild game, then Romania could scratch your itch.)

Dateline: Kenya

A Romantic African Tour and Mixed Bag Shoot Rolled Into One

(Editor's Note: Correspondent Kinsey M. Robinson has just returned from a trip to East Africa that he says will please adventurous bird shooters and spouses alike. Here's his report.)

I recently returned from accompanying **Colonel Dennis Behrens** on a traditional East African wingshooting safari. We traveled with **Bateleur Safaris Ltd.**, visiting Nairobi and five other

completely different geographical regions of Kenya. The 17-day trip (including travel) combined bird hunting with the viewing of a large variety of game animals and bird life in some of Kenya's most exotic spots.

Col. Behrens has been traveling to Kenya for over 30 years, and his relationship with Bateleur Safaris Ltd. dates back to 1969. Bateleur is owned and operated by Michael Cheffings, a lifetime resident of Kenya and son of Joe

Cheffings, who along with famed outdoor writer Finn Aagaard originally founded Bateleur as a big game safari company. Game hunting in Kenya came to an end when the country won its independence from British rule in 1977. Without warning, hunting was literally banned overnight, including safaris in progress, causing Bateleur to shift their business to sightseeing and photographic safaris. The Kenyan government re-opened hunting for game birds only

in 1985, at which time Bateleur returned to guiding hunts. While most other Kenyan outfitters have only recently begun to test the bird hunting market, the Cheffings family has been specializing in it since 1985 and has years of valuable experience.

After arriving in country on British Air, our group of seven adventurers immediately boarded a charter aircraft for a brief one-hour flight to our first camp, located on the Olarelorok River in the Masai Mara. The Mara is a vast savannah that is home to hundreds of thousands and, during the migration, millions of herbivores followed by the big cats, hyenas and jackals. We were fortunate enough to be in the Mara during the peak of the migration and witnessed the age-old struggle of wildebeest and zebra frantically crossing the Mara and Talek rivers, as they moved north.

After three full days of viewing hippos, giraffes, gazelles, elephants, ostriches, cheetahs, Cape buffalo, raptors and songbirds at close range, it was time to leave the dry grasslands of the Mara through the Rift Valley to Island Camp at Lake Baringo. The camp, which is actually a delightful lodge with great service and excellent meals, is located atop an island four miles offshore in the middle of Lake Baringo. Guests are ferried to and from the camp in large motorized canoes. Our time at Island Camp was spent relaxing, swimming and touring the lake to view sea eagles, Goliath storks, crows and hippos.

The next stop on our excursion was Shaba Reserve in the Samburu region. Getting there requires traveling through the arid Northern Frontier District, a desolate land of high rugged mountains and deep river gorges. This beautiful, but unforgiving terrain was home to many a professional hunter during Kenya's big game heydays and is dotted with landmarks named Gun Site Ridge, Rhino Butte and Elephant Mountain. Shaba was the first destination where we hunted. Bateleur hunts in two separate areas of Kenya. In the north, gunning takes place along the Ewaso Ngiro River outside the Shaba Reserve. To the south, shooting is on Masai tribal land near the Tanzanian border and Amboseli Park. Three glorious days were spent at Shaba hunting

mourning and laughing doves, yellow-necked spurfowl, crested francolin and helmeted and vulturine guinea fowl. We shot the doves as they drifted through the acacia trees, descending to water; guineas were surrounded and driven, although many were walked-up, as were spurfowl and francolin. I had not shot vulturine guinea fowl before this trip and bagging one of the wary birds on my first afternoon hunt was the highlight of my trip. Vulturine guineas are beautifully plumed, with black, white and cobalt



hackles, making them one of the most handsome gamebirds I have ever seen.

This region is hot and dry, and the terrain is undulating and covered with lava rock, making a quality boot or chukka a must. For adventurers not wishing to hunt, the Shaba Reserve has many interesting species of game, including some that may not be seen in other areas of Kenya. Greby zebra, gemsbok, Somali ostrich, gerenuk, leopard, reticulated giraffe and good numbers of elephant can be seen.

Bateleur's neatly uniformed staff sees to your every need here. They are well trained and totally accommodating. Meals in camp are served in the dining tent, lit in the evenings by lantern and the soft glow of candlelight. Linen tablecloths accentuate the dining experience, along with china made especially for Bateleur and stemware for white and red wines served at noon and evening meals. For the main course of each meal, the chef chooses from a variety of meats, fish and wild game. There are plenty of fruits, vegetables and hot homemade bread. Every evening meal begins with a bowl of hardy soup and ends with the chef's special dessert of the day.

Clients are housed in comfortable two-person tents, carpeted and fitted with metal-framed beds, and each person has a small but totally adequate hanging closet. Lighting is provided by a gas lan-

tern situated on a table conveniently placed between the beds. Come morning, an attendant gently and cheerfully awakens you as he lights the lantern and announces that a hot breakfast will soon be served. Each tent has an accompanying shower tent with hot water anytime on request. Clothes are washed and ironed daily by the staff. In the morning you simply leave your soiled items behind, and when you return from a hunting or sightseeing adventure, your clothes will be neatly folded and placed on your freshly made bed.

Leaving Shaba, we traversed down the Trans East African Highway to Isiolo and then on to the luxurious Mt. Kenya Club for a little rest and relaxation. The club is a stunning resort with a majestic view of 13,000-foot Mt. Kenya, shrouded in a stole of clouds. Here, you can pamper yourself with a hot bath and massage, play a round of golf or just relax at the swimming pool. Animal mounts of all description adorn the walls of the main building and a pair of 100-pound elephant tusks elegantly guards the archway into the lounge.

Our next stop was Nairobi, where we spent the night at the Macashla House in Langata. The Macashla House is a well appointed and immaculate six-bedroom private home converted to public use. The evening offered an opportunity to rest up with good food, personal service and a well-stocked bar before venturing forth the next morning to Amboseli. The Macashla House is a pleasant alternative to the hustle and bustle of a crowded downtown Nairobi hotel.

Upon arriving at the Amboseli destination on Masai tribal land, one is immediately overwhelmed by the sight of monumental 19,340-foot Mount Kilimanjaro, boldly visible only 30 miles from camp, across the pan flat desert plane. The Cheffings have an excellent relationship with the Masai going back 35 years. Because of this relationship, Bateleur has access to 600 square miles of prime bird territory and exclusive rights to the 15,000-acre Olgulului Ranch. In addition to hunting ground birds and doves, the focus at Amboseli was on the highly prized sandgrouse.

To assist Bateleur's hunting staff here, each shooter is assigned a Masai warrior, clad in bright crimson regalia, to

serve as beater, porter and most importantly, tracker for felled game. There is no need for dogs, as ground birds are easily located and once in cover, hold well. The exception is the guinea fowl, which are crafty like a turkey and run like a late-season pheasant. The staff and Masai earn their keep by containing and driving guinea so hunters can take reasonable shots. In most cases, shooters are positioned in a deep "lugger" (a dry riverbed) ahead of the birds, and the drivers carefully herd the clever birds to the lugger edge until they burst into the air in a cacophony of whirring feathers. Drives put up 25 to over 200 wiley birds that rocket high over head.

Sandgrouse shoots begin after breakfast. Each morning, approximately an hour after sun up, the swift-flying birds cross the dry, thorn scrub terrain seeking water. The Cheffings position shooters at water holes frequently visited by sandgrouse. Caution is taken not to shoot singles, understanding that many times solitary grouse come to drink and then soak up water in their throat feathers for their young to drink upon return to the nest. As on cue, small flocks begin pouring into the area from high overhead, darting and diving down kamikaze-like to water's edge. The birds fly in and out for an hour or two, offering excellent non-stop shooting opportunities from every angle imaginable.

Three of the six species of sandgrouse found in Africa are present in Kenya. These are the black-faced, yellow-throated and chestnut bellied. We were able to bag all three in our 20-per-gun daily limits. The

daily combined limit on ground birds (guinea, francolin and spurfowl) is 15 per gun. The dove limit is 25 per day. All doves shot at Amboseli were ring-necked doves. Although Kenya has liberal daily bird limits, allowing up to 60 birds per shooter, this trip is not designed as a high-volume shoot. It is rather a high quality shoot and a world class experience.

On this trip I noted that sandgrouse numbers were average and doves were plentiful. The numbers of ground birds were extraordinary. We encountered thou-



sands upon thousands of guinea fowl, and spurfowl were thick as locust. The reasons for the peak numbers is that in recent years there has been a cycle of plentiful rains during the wet season, allowing grasses and ground cover to grow abundantly well. Secondly, the Masai have agreed not to graze their cattle on certain tracts of the best bird holding lands, therefore greatly improving habitat.

The regular hunting season opens Sept. 1, and runs through Oct. 31. The late season begins Feb. 1, and ends March 31. Ducks and Egyptian geese may be shot in

the late season with a combined bag of 15. Importing guns until recently was relatively painless. There was a one-time registry fee of \$100 per gun. Note that the requirements have changed to be expensive and time consuming. It now costs \$150 per gun entering the country and an additional \$150 per gun when departing. But there is no reason to go through the hassle of registration, fees and customs because Bateleur has a good selection of serviceable over-and-under and side-by-side guns in 12 and 20 bore. Game Bore hunting loads, manufactured in England, are available in number 6 shot at \$15 per box. The Kenyan bird hunting license is \$100, and there is a \$50 per day area license fee that goes back to the landowners.

If you are looking for a first class East African safari that's off the beaten tourist track, in superb game country, with the romance of a Hemingway-style camp and experienced guides that know how to give you personal attention, this trip may be the perfect fit. For more information, contact Colonel Dennis Behrens of **Expedition Adventures (142 E. Elsmere Place, San Antonio, TX 78212; tel. 210-735-2373; fax 210-737-3307; e-mail BEHRSAFARI@aol.com)**, who specializes in African and Argentinean bird hunts. The cost of this trip was \$7,000, including airfare. In order to concentrate on personal service and quality shooting opportunities, Bateleur restricts hunting parties to a maximum of eight gunners and will accept a minimum of four.

— Kinsey Robinson

Dateline: Quebec

Subscriber Report - A Rave Review of Camp Bonaventure Lodge

Editor's Note: Honor Roll Subscriber Kurt Glaeseman has checked in with another great find. This time it's for woodcock and ruffed grouse. He gives this place a definite thumbs-up and tells us why in a report that's sure to make you want to head north. Thanks, Kurt, for taking the time to share your experience with the rest of us!

If you are seeking an autumn hunt with lots of pleasant and extra possibilities, this just might be the hunt for you.

I was initially attracted to **Camp Bonaventure Lodge** by the description of the woodcock coverts, which are located on a natural migratory path in eastern Canada. I knew that timing could be critical, but with both resident and migratory birds available, I hoped to maximize my chances - it worked.

I booked this hunt through **Charles Arndt of Fin & Feather Safaris (Tel. 800-320-7117, or 205-824-0833; e-mail: finandfeather@mindspring.com)** and was absorbed into an existing party of three. We were

to meet in Montreal and proceed together to the Gaspé Peninsula, but I chose to arrive several days early so I could enjoy the varied restaurants of Montreal, where the US dollar is so strong. October is a good time of year to find fresh mussels, duckling and foie gras - reason enough for a stop. When I met the others at Montreal's Central Station, we boarded an all-night train called Le Chaleur. We had a good meal on the train and then retired to efficient but comfortable sleepers. Even today there is a wonderful excitement

about hurtling through the darkness in a train. Sufficient light allows snatches of dense forest and tiny villages with rain washed streets and white church steeples. It seemed a shame to pull the curtain and blacken the little couchette.

We arrived at Bonaventure about 8:30 am and were met by lodge operator **Glenn LeGrand** and one of his guides. Transfer of luggage was quick and efficient, and we were soon at the lodge. Camp Bonaventure Lodge is beautifully situated in a birch park with water in the background, less than 10 minutes from the train station. In the summer it accommodates 12 guests for Atlantic salmon fishing, but for grouse and woodcock shooting, the number of hunters is limited to eight. Double occupancy rooms are spacious and comfortable, and each has a large private bathroom. The rooms were designed for the hunter's comfort with ample space for a gun case, suitcases, hunting clothes and all the other paraphernalia that one seems to collect.

Each of the four guides has his own collection of bird dogs, and no guide ever takes more than two persons per hunt. My guide had beautifully trained English pointers that seemed to work easily in twisted brush and tangled alder thickets. This is not a hunt for someone with walking problems or diminished stamina. Resident birds never flushed when we walked right over them, so the hunt depends on the dogs. When the dog's bell stops, you have to bust through the undergrowth, try to get ahead of the dog, and be ready for what is usually a snap shot. The first few days, we were hunting coverts that contained only resident birds. Both the woodcock and the grouse seemed wise to the hunt system, and would start moving as the dog held point. We managed always to get several woodcock and perhaps a grouse each, but the hunt was never easy. It was demanding and rigorous, but we were at the height of the fall color; the woods were damp and appealing and there were mushrooms and cranberry bushes everywhere.

We hunted for four days – in the morning and again later from 2 until 5:30 pm. Meals at the lodge were spec-

tacular, featuring wholesome breakfasts, attractive lunches with dessert and dinners of scallops, shrimp, pork loin and roast beef. Guests are welcome to bring their own wine and before-dinner cocktails.

On the last day, my hunting buddy, our guide and I got into what the guide called a woodcock "flight." After working so long and hard for the resident birds, we were unprepared for the sudden abundance of white "splash" on the ground and the dog signaling a point every few minutes. It did not take us long to collect our limit of four woodcock each. We never did limit out on ruffies, of which three were allowed per day. But we got enough of them to keep our appetite whetted.

As for the appropriate gun for this hunt, this might be the place to bring a classy double, but think lightweight and short barrel. I used a 25-inch 12 gauge with #7.5 shot and liked the combination. A heavy, long-barreled gun is simply a handicap in the dense brush here.

On Sunday evening we took the train back to Montreal and then flew our separate ways. Other traveling options exist. The lodge is approximately an 11-hour drive from Boston, nine hours from Portland and Montreal, and several hours from Bangor. The commercial airport in Bonaventure also receives flights from Montreal.

Some hunters worry about bringing firearms into Canada, but this was easy at the Montreal Airport. Simply get a Gun Declaration Form and fill it out (but do not sign it) before you leave. At the airport an official will check the serial numbers of each gun, charge you a US\$35 importation fee (it's easy to pay by credit card), and wish you, "*Bonne Chasse!*" Keep the stamped form in your possession while you hunt.

The precise timing for this hunt is difficult, so you have to rely on the outfitter's advice and the law of averages. Our trip was from Oct. 8-14, and we managed to get one day of the migration. As I mentioned before, however, the area does produce a lot of resident birds.

The cost of this hunt was \$1,755 for

four days plus about \$330 for the round-trip train with sleeper. Considering the variety of experiences, I found it a good value for the money.

-Kurt Glaeseman

(*Postscript:* Bird hunters traveling to Canada can get a nonresident Firearms Declaration Form from the Canadian Firearms Centre (CFC). Call 800-731-4000 or go to their web site at www.cfc-ccaf.gc.ca and click on "Visitors to Canada." Save time at the border by filling out the form before arriving, but don't sign it. You are required to sign the form in front of a Canadian Customs officer. You can also pre-process if you are entering Canada through Customs offices at: the Sault Ste. Marie and Fort Frances Customs offices in Ontario; Winnipeg International Airport in Manitoba; Regina and Saskatoon International airports in Saskatchewan; and the Edmonton and Calgary International airports in Alberta. Visit the CFC web site or call for more details.)

Honor Roll Subscribers

The Bird Hunting Report encourages subscribers to file reports on great places to hunt or important news developments that help the rest of us decide where to go (or not to go!) hunting. Subscribers who file unusually important and useful reports are placed on what we call our Subscriber Honor Roll and receive a special Bird Hunting Report Honor Roll Cap.

Our current Honor Roll subscribers are: *Ron Barr, Kurt Glaeseman, Robert Gow, Brooks Haden, Herb Hammer, Henry Harrison, Edward B. Hayes, Bill Hedgpeth, Jim Kelly, Richard Lichtenberg, Dave MacEachern, Dick Mider, Richard Shackleton, Greg Tarquinio and Richard Welsh.*

If you have a report on an interesting hunting trip, why not send it in and see if you can get your name on our Subscriber Honor Roll? Write: *The Bird Hunting Report*, PO Box 328, Boyds, MD 20841. By fax: 301-528-2497. By e-mail: support@pnmsi.com.

Briefly Noted

Things To Do, Places To Go, New Developments

Continuing subscribers know we have been following developments in Cordoba, Argentina, after **Franz-Ulrich Kinsky of Argentina Wings (Tel. 011-54-3488-441313; e-mail: kinskywings@arnet.com.ar; web site: www.argentinawings.com.ar)** and a group of clients were robbed at gunpoint while lodging at the luxury hotel La Paz last June. At press time this month, we heard from Kinsky, who e-mailed us from Vienna, Austria, with an update on security developments, his efforts to extract compensation from La Paz for his clients, and the creation of a Cordoba outfitter association of sorts.

In his note he tells us that negotiations with La Paz have not gone well, with the management refusing to make any allowances or compensations for the funds and property stolen by the thieves. Kinsky maintains that because La Paz had not provided any kind of security at all, that they should bear some of the responsibility for the occurrence. "For some time, we and other outfitters had been using La Paz, which was advertised as a super, five star, convention center, estancia/hotel, leading all to believe the establishment was fully licensed, managed, staffed and protected accordingly," he says.

As he was leaving Argentina for his trip to Austria, he says La Paz management had broken off negotiations and the matter has since proceeded to court. "One thing I can say is that I will not go back to La Paz as long as they continue under the same management," says Kinsky. He goes on to say that the place has continued to have troubles, with an attempted break-in in full day light, followed by an assault on one of the maids. At press time we had not been able to reach anyone at La Paz, but a word of warning may be in order here.

Regarding security in general, Kinsky says he and a number of other operators have worked together to create a Cordoba Hunting Chamber, which he describes as "an organization created to represent us as a group to government, game and natural resources administration, security forces and other provincial

and national authorities. The Chamber will defend the interests of the group as such, have an influence in administrative and other regulations concerning our business, such as licensing, providing security, follow up, etc." He says he per-



sonally invited La Paz to join as a member, but the hotel declined. We'll have more information on this Cordoba Hunting Chamber, who has joined and what their plans are in a future issue. In the meantime, Kinsky says that one of their efforts now is to negotiate with police and National Guard officials for a radio system that will put all lodges and mobile operators in direct and permanent contact with them. "Thus if anybody sees or even imagines something suspicious, all he has to do is press the Micro activator and ask for help," he says.

As for Kinsky's operation, next season, Kinsky says he will be operating his high-volume dove hunts out of a place called **El Solar de La Pampa**. He plans to refurbish the place, adding two bathrooms among other things. Kinsky describes El Solar as a very comfortable old house that belongs to some old friends. The house has six double rooms and six bathrooms, a very large living room, dining room, fireplace, a swimming pool and a park surrounding it.

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Remember that new lodge we told you **Erland Von Sneidern of Gran Chaco Adventures (Tel. 011-591-332-3221; e-mail: erland@infonet.com.bo; web site: www.dovehunting.com)** was building in Paraguay for his pigeon shoots? Well, we just got the details on the place. Called Boqueron Lodge, it is owned by the Cooperativa Multiactiva

Neuland LTD., a Mennonite coop that owns most of the farmland growing peanuts in the Chaco area of Paraguay. Seems Von Sneidern has worked out a joint venture investment with the Coop and has remodeled the seven existing double rooms and added another seven new ones, plus a reception/dining room and a bar facility. Boqueron is fully air-conditioned, and the rooms are said to be large with two full-sized beds in each and private baths. The drives from Boqueron to the fields will be less than 30 minutes on surrounding Neuland Coop lands.

Von Sneidern's staff will handle the daily operations at the lodge, with kitchen help provided by the same group that owns and manages the popular Girasol Steak House nearby. For clients with private planes, there is a 3,000-foot dirt runway only two miles from Boqueron, and there is the nearby military airport of Mariscal Estigarribia, with a 12,000-foot runway that was chosen as an emergency landing strip for the Challenger space shuttle.

Von Sneidern says he has worked out a 10-year contract with the Neuland Coop for the exclusive use of the lodge from April through the end of July. Because of this relationship, he says his operation will also have priority when requesting access to the farms owned by the members of the Coop. Rates for 2003 will run \$2,600 for four hunting days and four nights and \$2,000 for three hunting days and four nights. That covers airport assistance, gun entry permits and hunting permits, accommodations and meals and ground transportation. Roundtrip charter from Asuncion is \$500. Bird boys are \$10 per day and shotshells are \$10 per box.

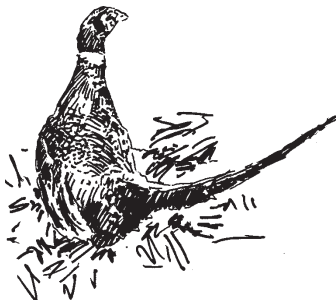
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Continuing subscribers will recall a report in our February issue on a planned South Dakota pheasant hunt by correspondent **Mel Toponce**. Part of the trip was to be a do-it-yourselfer, while the rest of the trip was to be handled for Toponce by an outfitter. Well, Toponce recently returned from his trip to South Dakota, where he and his hunting party experienced some ups and downs on their hunt, particularly with the self-guided portion of the trip. Here's what Toponce had to report:

The first part of our trip, you'll remember, was a self-guided hunt around Doland, in northeast South Dakota. We had arranged to stay with a couple that had opened their home to hunters bed-and-breakfast-style and had secured free hunting access to various farms in the area. Well, at the last minute they were not able to accommodate our group, due to a medical problem in the family. We were referred to another lady in the same town, who put us up in her home. We spent one day scouting and two days hunting on both nearby state and private lands, and came away convinced that pheasant populations here were way down, and that the area was possibly over-hunted. After two days of hard hunting with a very good dog, the three of us who were hunting had taken a total of eight birds. I strongly recommend that anyone planning a trip of this nature eliminate the Doland area from consideration.

We next moved to Gregory, about a three-hour drive southwest, where we checked in to the **Gray House Inn Motel (RR 2, Box 29, Gregory, SD 57533; tel. 605-835-8479)** and were greeted by owners Bruce and Alice Shaffer. We found the place to be clean, nicely equipped with queen beds, cable TV, and air conditioning, all reasonably priced at \$50 per night. One feature that we appreciated was our

being able to park our vehicles directly in front of our ground level rooms. The dog was housed in a heated utility room, in a dog crate. We purchased lunch items from a market, and took the remainder of our meals in local restaurants. We found The Homesteader Steak House (tel. 605-835-8881) to be popular with pheasant



hunters. Another place here where hunters can stay is the nearby Hillcrest Motel (PO Box 349, Burke, SD 57523; tel. 605-775-2654), where part of our group stayed a few more days after my wife and I left. They found owner Kathy Oliver to be very accommodating to hunters, and the dog was allowed in the room. The rate was a reasonable \$55 per night.

Our hunting in Gregory was primarily with guide **Joe Kirwan (RR 1, Gregory, SD 57533; tel. 605-835-8585)**. As I mentioned in my previous report, Kirwan hunts on approximately 1,200

acres of his family's land and has hunting agreements on another 7,000 acres of grazing land, farm ground, river breaks and grasslands. He is also a registered guide with the Rosebud Indian Tribe, giving him access to one entire county and parts of three others. For his pheasant hunts, however, he stays primarily around Gregory. I first hunted with Kirwan in 1981 and had an enjoyable time. I had found him to be competent and responsible. On our current hunt, 21 years later, nothing had changed, and we all gave Kirwan our highest ratings. On our first day, the three of us bagged our limits of three birds apiece in two hours. The second day brought even quicker results, with the three of us bagging our three-bird limits in one hour and 10 minutes. Kirwan supplemented our dog with an outstanding one of his own that worked wonderfully with ours.

If you decide to try this trip yourself and plan to fly with your own dog, be advised that United Airlines does not fly dogs into Sioux Falls, east of Gregory. Northwest Airlines, however, does. Also, we found auto rental rates in Sioux Falls to be very high, at least during the pheasant season. By going online, we were able to rent from National Car Rental at a substantial savings.

Outfitter Critiques: the Good, the Bad, the Ugly

This section of The Bird Hunting Report is based entirely on subscriber-written Bird Hunting Report forms received by our offices. It is designed to provide first-hand opinions on what is happening in the field. Our policy at The Bird Hunting Report is as follows: We publish excerpts in the newsletter of Bird Hunting Reports as received, except in cases when booking agents or outfitters submit reports on hunts in which they have a financial stake or when we have reason to question whether there are ulterior financial or personal motives on the part of the person submitting the report. It goes without saying that a single report in this section should not be taken

as the final word on an outfitter's competence. Many elements of a hunt are subjective. What is wrong for one hunter may be right for another. Moreover, personality conflicts often occur on hunts. It is obvious that hunters, as well as outfitters, can be the cause of a ruined hunt. We think all seasoned hunters can sort this out and make proper use of our Bird Hunting Report Program. Our pages are open for a rebuttal of equal length by any affected party. For details on how to order photocopies of the Bird Hunt Reports, see the Bird Hunt Report Service box elsewhere in this section.

Subscriber **John "Jeff" Schneider** has filed a very positive report about a

goose hunt he enjoyed in Alberta this past season with **Darrel Wise Guide Service (PO Box 935, Corvallis, Montana 59828; tel. 406-961-5234; fax 406-961-5413; web site: www.thewiseman.com)**. In a letter he writes, "Wise invented the Real-Geese decoys and also a unique hay bale blind that is devastatingly effective. Guiding for 35 years in both Canada and the US, Darrel Wise is one of the best callers I have ever hunted with and his attention to detail is simply amazing.

"Although the Central Alberta area is suffering from the worst drought in 130 years, Wise was able to provide plenty of action for us on both Canadas and white-

fronted geese. Ducks were slow due to the severe lack of water, but Wise's friendly association with the local farmers made goose hunting a sure bet.

"The lodge is very comfortable and suitable for ladies. The food was simply marvelous and the equipment first class. He even supplied your choice of music in all locations, including while you were getting ready to hunt or were putting your gear back into the vehicles.

"Wise guides parties of up to nine hunters from Sept. 1 to the end of October at a cost of \$500 per day, per person. If you add in car rental for the drive from Edmonton, tips and game cleaning, you are in the area of \$600 per day, per person. Licenses and shells can be purchased at a local home hardware store, so there is no need to bring anything but your shotgun. This is a first class hunt for the discriminating sportsman. Around 80 percent of his business is repeat, so you know he is doing something right."

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Subscriber **Michael Inglis** has filed a positive report about an unguided hunt in eastern Oregon provided by **Scott Meyers of Lone Rock Ranch (61909 Lone Rock Road, Grass Valley, OR 97029; tel. 541-565-3331; web site: www.lonerockranch.com)**. He writes, "Grass Valley is about one hour and 45 minutes north of Bend, Oregon, and about an hour south of the Columbia River gorge. The ranch is about two and a half hours east of Portland. I drove from Los Angeles to the Lone Rock Ranch and hunted three days as a tune-up before going further east to hunt wild quail and Hungarian partridge. While Meyers has wild birds, I arrived before the season opener to hunt planted chukar as training for my year-old German wirehaired and to refresh my German shorthair. Simply put, Meyers has great ground over 10,000 private acres, much of which is his own property. The three days I hunted on Meyer's property I was on large tracts of land and never repeated an area. Needless to say I did not see any other hunters. The birds were great and flew very well.

"Meyers has access to several "bunkhouses," varying from small homes to very adequate cabins, both of which permit the hunter to stay with his dogs. I stayed in a small cabin that was very comfortable, with good beds and

kitchen facilities, and a shower that felt great at the end of a long day afield. Grass Valley has a good cafe, and a general store, along with gas station, post office and other necessities. The country is rolling grasslands with some dry wheat farms, all providing good cover for hunting. Oregon has suffered some drought, but where there is water, there are wild birds to be found.

"The cost for a non-guided hunt on planted birds was \$13 per chukar (minimum of 10) or \$25 per bird for



pheasant (minimum five birds). The prices ranged for the bunkhouses, depending on the accommodations chosen. My very adequate cabin was \$35 per night. Dogs and handlers are available from Meyers. In addition to planted and wild bird hunts, Meyers also can provide access to bass and rainbow trout fishing all year long, private access to the John Day River for smallmouth and steelhead in season, and access to the White River. Frankly, the hunting was enough for me on this trip, but I would like to do a cast-and-blast event with Meyers in the future.

"I found the trip very reasonably priced and a terrific value. Meyers is a wonderful host, and this is great country to be in. All in all, this was a very nice trip that I would recommend without reserve. I plan to go back myself soon."

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Subscriber **Mark Merting** has good things to say about a goose hunt he enjoyed last January in Stuttgart, Arkansas, with **Johnny "Hoot" Gibson of Goose Busters Guide Service (Tel. 901-593-0767)**. Merting reports seeing plenty of white-fronted snow and Ross's geese that decoyed well. He says this hunt was a one-day add-on to a duck hunt. Shooting was in cutover soybean

fields in spreads with primarily windsocks for decoys. Hunters lay on mats in the field with camo coverings. Merting says that because geese are not the primary interest of most people here, so they are not hunted very much and decoy well. He says collectors looking for Ross's geese would do well on this hunt, as his group of three took five mature birds in one day of shooting. He says that even the snow geese were not very wary. He advises, however, that most shots were at 40 yards, requiring use of larger-sized shot. Merting reports that Gibson has access to large chunks of land and is able to move hunters wherever the birds go. "Having hunted snow geese in Canada, Texas, Louisiana and Virginia, I have not seen any better hunting than what Hoot has," he says. He gives Gibson an all-excellent rating and reports paying \$125 per person for an all-day hunt with a mid-day lunch break.

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Subscriber **Mark Minnis** raves about a Mexican dove shoot he has enjoyed for the last 17 years. The shoots are conducted by outfitter **Carlos Acosta** and his brothers (**1305 N. Grand Ave., #207, Nogales, AZ 85621; tel. 011-52-647-428-0077; fax 011-52-647-428-0279; e-mail: carlosacosta@hotmail.com**). Acosta's operation is based in the town of Alamo in Sonora, Mexico. Minnis says this is a remote agricultural area about an hour out of Obregon, where Acosta has access to thousands of acres of private land planted with milo. The hunting takes place on flyways between the roosting areas and the fields in the mornings and over waterholes in the afternoons. Minnis says the morning shoots are best and that hunters can expect 75 to 80 percent of the doves to be whitewings, with the remainder made up of mourning doves and the occasional pigeon. Drives to the shooting areas vary from 15 minutes to one hour.

Minnis says hunters stay in an hacienda or in a motel in town. The hacienda sits on 3,600 acres of Acosta's own property and features large double rooms with fireplaces, hot showers and good beds. Minnis says there is also a pool, surrounded by lovely manicured grounds. He says Acosta's wife serves as the cook and prepares "incredible"

meals, featuring barbequed steaks, dove tacos, homemade bread, chicken and salads with flan and other homemade deserts topping it off. Lunch is usually in the field followed by an afternoon siesta on cots in the shade.

The town of Alamo was built in 1600, and Minnis says there are at least two or three days worth of sightseeing activities here for spouses, including a church from 1675 and a number of small shops and other tours. There is also a hotel here with a spa, although Minnis says it is not a sophisticated one.

The one downside to this hunt, according to Minnis, is reaching Alamo. He says you must fly into Hermosillo and then take another flight into Obregon, which has limited air service, with sometimes inconvenient flight schedules. However, he says there is an airstrip in Alamo that hunters with private planes may use. Despite the travel route, Minnis says that hunters will have "the time of their lives" in Alamo. Minnis reports paying \$350 a day for this hunt. He says Acosta will rent clients a 28 gauge shotgun for \$12 (advance notice required), and that shotshells are \$10 a box.

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Overseas in South Africa, subscriber **Thomas Farrell** enthusiastically recommends a waterfowl hunt he enjoyed this past June with **John X Safaris (Hillside, Sidbury, Eastern Cape, 6131, South Africa. Tel. 011-27-42-235-1324. Fax 011-27-42-235-1276. E-mail: johnxsaf@intekom.co.za, Web: www.johnxsafaris.co.za)**. He says he completed a 10-day big game hunt early and was able to spend a day sightseeing in the Eastern Cape/Port Elizabeth area and another day shooting geese over a field. He says he and his guide set out 20 Egyptian goose decoys, a single magnum spurwing goose decoy and a hen Roboduck that Farrell had brought with him. "Within 15 minutes, there were six dead Egyptian geese in my spread," he says. "The rest of the day (about four hours of hunting) resulted in 17 Egyptian geese, three spurwing geese and a yellow-billed duck. My Benelli's barrel never cooled down."

Farrell says this is considered a collector's hunt, usually offering six to 10 Egyptian geese, one or two spurwings

and maybe a duck or two. "After my hunt," he says, "I was told there was no way I was leaving South Africa with my Roboduck. It was that effective."

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Subscriber **Martin Coffman** gives Arizona the thumbs up as a destination for self-guided quail hunters. He traveled to the Ajo area in Southwestern Arizona in October of last year and hunted Gambel's quail with some friends and his dogs. "Anyone can do this," he says. He simply contacted **Arizona Bureau of Land Management (PO Box 45155, 222 N. Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85004; tel. 602-417-9200)** and ordered maps of the areas he wanted to hunt. All



Bureau of Land Management (BLM) properties are public lands open to hunting. Coffman says he just drove around the BLM lands around Ajo looking for creek beds and other areas where the birds would be seeking shade. He and his friends then used the dogs to find the birds, walking along the cover and watching about 100 to 200 yards ahead for the running birds. They then would circle around the covey to try to cut them off and flush them. "Traditional quail hunting methods do not work well on this species," Coffman warns. "You have to do a lot of walking and keep your bearings about you, as there are many roads all over the BLM land and getting lost would be easy." Another method he recommends is driving around the roads here watching for running birds. When they saw a covey, he says they would drive past a ways and circle around to cut them off. Coffman reports seeing hundreds of birds here, but says the challenge was getting to them. Despite that, he reports his group killed their limits two out of the three days they hunted.

The terrain in this area is typical Sonoran desert, he says, with lots of cactus and open land interspersed with small arroyos that contain water only when it rains. The ground is mostly flat with some rolling hills and some trees. Coffman recommends hunting in the early morning and late afternoon to avoid the worst of the heat. He also warns that dogs may need a while to adapt to the dry scenting conditions, and will need lots of water brought along for them.

As for accommodations, Coffman says they stayed at a local motel in Ajo called the Blue Marine, and which allowed dogs in the rooms. He describes it as clean, decent and cheap at \$50 per night. They ate at local restaurants, featuring Southwestern cuisine and genuine Mexican fare. He says the cost of this hunt was only about \$200 per person for three days, including the cost of an Arizona small game hunting license. And while snakes can be an issue here when it is still hot, Coffman says he did not see any.

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Subscriber **Tom McGrail** reports enjoying his third duck hunt this past October with outfitter **John Carriere (Tel. 306-888-2098)** in northeastern Saskatchewan outside of a town called Cumberland House. He says the hunting took place in the marshes that surround Cumberland Lake, where the majority of the birds are mallards in full plumage. He says each day his guide, Floyd McKenzie, would scout for ducks and continually put him in "the right place at the right time." Shooting was from natural blinds in the feeding areas. After taking a limit of ducks, McGrail says he would then go fishing for walleye.

He describes the camp as remote, set on the banks of the Mossy River about 20 miles out of Cumberland House, which he says adds to the appeal of the place. In fact, it is so remote that there are no telephones available at the lodge. McGrail gives Carriere an all-excellent rating and recommends the hunt to fellow subscribers who want to hunt ducks in a marsh setting. He says he is already planning a return trip for 2003 and gives the cost of the hunt as \$1,200 for six days, with shotshells running another \$14 per box.

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