

SAFGA "STATE BOARD"

News Bulletin



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FIELD AND GAME

Member Body of Sporting Clays Australia, and
Conservation and Hunting Alliance of South Australia

*"The wild life of today is not ours to dispose of as we
please.
We have it in trust.
We must account for it to those who come after."
King George vi*

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2024 Duck & Quail Season



Photograph by Chris Pallis

South East Region

Preparations for the 2024 duck season started in July 2023 with the Parliamentary review into Native Bird Hunting. This was an exhausting process for those involved with everyone coming together to present a positive case to the committee as to why duck and quail hunting should remain legal in SA.

Following the positive conclusion of this review, volunteers took to the swamps in October for the annual waterfowl count and what a great result it turned out to be with 10 times more birds counted in the South East than the previous year. Grey and Chestnut Teal, Black Duck, Hardhead and Mountain Duck were all seen in good numbers even reasonable numbers of B.W.S were observed. It was obvious if the birds remained in the area the 2024 duck season was going to be a ripper.

Finally, after all this happened the minister declared an Open Duck and Quail season for 2024.

To say people were happy about the announcement would be an understatement with many locals fearful it wouldn't happen.

Opening day saw good numbers of hunters in the field, Lake George, Lake Bonney and Brinkworth's were monitored by the DEW staff over the opening week-end with no offenses being committed. This is fantastic news and shows how responsible the hunting community is.

In the first 2 weeks of the season most people obtained their bags or very close when they went out. Birds began leaving the South East around mid-April for greener pastures but there were still significant numbers in the area for those who were keen to put in the time while hunting.

Lake George hunted well all season with many interstate hunters visiting the area, being successful using decoys is the secret to hunting Lake George and being patient and prepared to move to where the birds are working.

From all reports Lake Bonney hunted well at different times throughout the season once again decoys and patience were the key to successful hunting on Lake Bonney.

Towards the end of June there was some good hunting on private swamps once a bit of water started laying around.

Cheers

Mark Fabris



Lake George on the opening, not a bad photo using a mobile phone, Showing us waterbird life on the water.



Couple of Teal during a morning hunt.

Working Gun Dogs on the Watervalley Wetlands

This year a group of the SSAA Working Gun Dog Association Australia SA Branch (WGAA) members were invited to the WaterValley Wetlands for a Wetlands and Wildlife duck shoot.

There is a certain magic in the early morning light that enveloped the serene lake, setting the stage for a spectacle of nature and instinct. Our English Springer Spaniels, their tails wagging with excitement, poised at the edge of the water. The crisp air carried the sounds of ducks calling and the water like glass. In the distance, the echo of gunshots signals the start of a day, filled with adventure and purpose for the dogs.

English Springer Spaniels are renowned for their hunting prowess, particularly in retrieving game birds such as ducks. Bred for centuries to work alongside hunters, these dogs possess an innate ability to track, flush out, and retrieve game with unparalleled skill and enthusiasm.

As the sun began to rise, casting a golden hue over the lake, the Spaniels eagerly await their cue to spring into action.

With a single command, the dogs launch into the water, their powerful strokes propelling them towards the fallen ducks. Their keen sense of smell guides them to their targets, and with precision and grace, they retrieve the game. It is a sight to behold - the natural grace and agility of these dogs as they fulfil their purpose with unwavering dedication.

As they return to shore the Spaniels exude a sense of pride and satisfaction and bond between handler and dog are palpable, forged through centuries of working together in perfect harmony. It served as a reminder of how dogs play such an integral role in ethical and sustainable duck hunting, and we will definitely return next season.

Alice Mills - WGAA SA Secretary

Another welcoming success story shared with you from Alice Mills as past graduate of the CHASA Duckwise WIT training program



Patrick Torrens



Patrick Torrens and fellow members enjoying a weekend away with the dogs and bagging some duck for the table. *It doesn't come any better than this!*

Working Gun Dog Association SA



Lower Lakes Region

For the 2024 SA Duck Season my friend Allen Lian and I choose Narrung as our spot. Our day started very early at 3am since we drove from Adelaide. We got there around 5am and the boat was in the water and us geared up within 30 minutes.

Was an easy ride until our selected spot with a beautiful clear sky above us. By 6:30am we were all settled and ready to go just waiting for the clock mark 7am for the start. We were very excited and it was hard to contain the enthusiasm.

Finally at 7am sharp we heard the first shots around us. All the preparation and training off season paid off with Allen and I, shooting our bag limit by 9am. Allen got 9 Black Ducks and 1 Mountain Duck, I got 9 Blackies and 1 Grey Teal. I could see mobs of ducks flying around, which is much more than I was used to see on past years. What a fantastic opening. I got some duck breast for lunch on Sunday and some Duck jerky were made. Looking forward for the rest of the season.

Regards - Paulo Castro

Another welcoming success story shared with you from Allen Lian & Paul Castro as past graduates of the CHASA Duckwise WIT training program



The Borg family has been hunting and predominantly ducks for many years. So, it isn't unusual to see them on the waterfront enjoying duck hunting whilst trying to introduce new hunters to the swamp, Aaron Borg explains and shows many the art of duck hunting with all the key elements including how to set your decoys, understanding wind direction, how to call the birds, showing how to prepare your ducks for the table, teaching & explaining important environmental fundamentals about nature while we practice today's modern hunting.

Keep up the good work Aaron Borg

Another welcoming success story shared with you from Nick Borrelli & Billy Kennington as past graduates of the CHASA Duckwise WIT training program.



Riverland Region

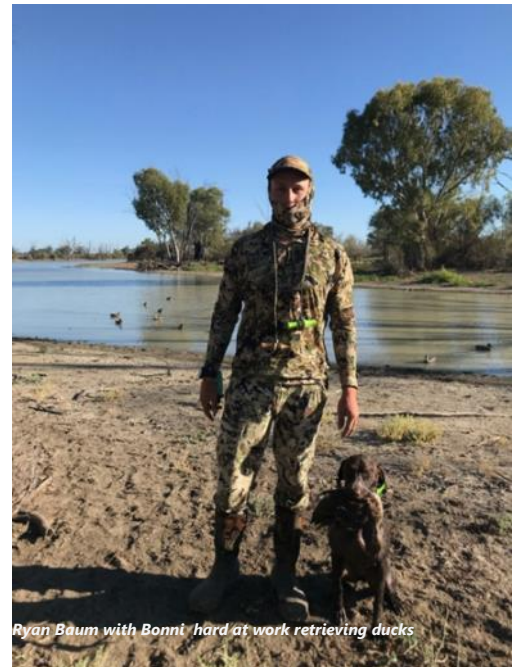
It is here, for many years, our close group of friends, many of different cultures together have been enjoying each other's duck hunting traditions in the upper region of the Riverland. Each year we get together and arrange our houseboat, dingy, dogs, gear, BBQ dinners followed by a traditional laidback relaxing time of doing nothing in front of a large bonfire with mates, perhaps a small glass of tawny port or a shiraz in one hand while watching the fire slowly crumble away.

And why do we do it? Why? Why would you want to load your car, register & insure then hook up the dinghy, sort your gear, the travel 300+ kms for hunt, then get up while it's still dark outside, find a torch, put on you camo while it's still -2.0'C, hunt your ducks, have your dog retrieve them, look at your dog in the eyes while he shivers & thinking to himself, hope you miss the next one, return to camp, started to rain again, get out the boat, slip on the clay surface, by that time your feet are higher than your head – if you know what I mean!, then you pluck your ducks, cover yourself in feathers, and so on.

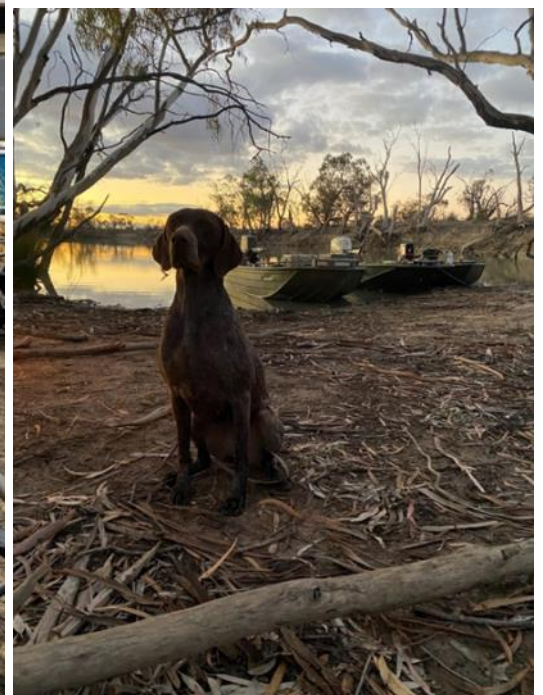
Why, I ask you? Why would you do it?

Because it's all for the sake of enjoying each other Good "Parea" that makes it all worth it. That is what brings us together. It was explained to me many years ago by, this common Greek word which describes people that come together on a regular basis and share a meal, a drink, tell a story, share life experiences, and often in a relaxed environment with great companionship.

This Good Parea, is my "**Great Parea**" - Grant Baum



Ryan Baum with Bonni, hard at work retrieving ducks



(Photo by camp photographer by Ray Tonellato)

Loveday Swamp

Loveday swamp, a very popular duck hunting spot in the Riverland commonly enjoyed by all hunters.



More ways to keep in touch for the latest info



SAFGA

Face Book



SAFGA

Website



SCA

live scores



SCA

Face Book

Letter from Director Conservation and Wildlife National Parks and Wildlife Services

Hunter Survey Mandatory for the 2024 duck open season

I am writing to inform you that Regulation 9 of the National Parks and Wildlife (Hunting) Regulations 2011 has been implemented for duck and quail hunting permits this year.

This means it is now **mandatory for duck and quail permit holders to complete and lodge a Hunting Survey to the Department for Environment and Water within 30 days of permit expiry or revocation.**

You would have received a Hunting Survey form that I encourage you to complete during the season to record the location and number of duck taken for each day you hunt during the 2024 duck hunting open season. At the end of the duck open season you must submit the completed the Hunting Survey form within 30 days of permit expiry or revocation.

If you also hold a 2024 quail open season hunting permit you must complete and submit a separate form for that permit (that is, you must record ducks and quail separately).

Forms are to be returned to National Parks and Wildlife Service - Fauna Permits Unit by post to GPO Box 1047 ADELAIDE SA 5001 or email to DEW HunterReturns@sa.gov.au.

Please note that **penalties** of up to **\$1,250** may apply for non-lodgement of a Hunting Survey, or for making a false or misleading statement.

I encourage you to thoroughly read through all the permit conditions to ensure hunters are as informed as possible regarding their responsibilities and conditions of duck hunting. Further information on duck and quail hunting in South Australia is available on the DEW website at <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/licences-and-permits/wildlife-permits/permit-types/hunting> as is the Modern Hunting in South Australia – A guide for responsible and sustainable hunting which you may find informative.

Yours sincerely

Lisien Loan Director,
Conservation and Wildlife National Parks and Wildlife Service
Department for Environment and Water

Online Form

[2024 Duck and Quail Hunting Survey \(snapforms.com.au\)](https://snapforms.com.au)

Example Only Below –of paper Form

National Parks and Wildlife Service - Fauna Permits Unit
 GPO Box 1047 ADELAIDE SA 5001
 Phone: (08) 8124 4972
 Email: hunterreturns@sa.gov.au
 Website: environment.sa.gov.au/licences-and-permits/wildlife-permits



2024 Duck and Quail Hunting Survey

Regulation 9 of the National Parks and Wildlife (Hunting) Regulations 2011 requires that you complete and lodge this Hunting Survey within 30 days of permit expiry or revocation. If you held both a duck and a quail open season hunting permit, you must submit separate Hunting Surveys for each permit. Penalties may apply for non-lodgement of a Hunting Survey, or for making a false or misleading statement.

The completed and signed Hunting Survey must be returned via post or email to the National Parks and Wildlife Service office at the above addresses.

Please complete one row for each day spent hunting. If you hunted in multiple regions on one day, please complete one row for each region you hunted that day. If no duck or quail were taken on a day of hunting, please include that on the Hunting Survey. If you did not hunt in 2024 please tick the appropriate box below.

Name:	Permit number:
Address:	

Date	Hunting location			Number of species taken per day*								Comments
	Region	Game Reserve or UCL	Private Land	Pacific Black Duck	Grey Teal	Chestnut Teal	Wood Duck	Mountain Duck	Pink-eared Duck	Hardhead	Stubble Quail	

Date	Hunting location			Number of species taken per day*								Comments
	Region	Game Reserve or UCL	Private Land	Pacific Black Duck	Grey Teal	Chestnut Teal	Wood Duck	Mountain Duck	Pink-eared Duck	Hardhead	Stubble Quail	
If you hunt more than 12 days please complete an additional survey sheet.			TOTAL									

Regions: **RL** = Riverland, **LL** = Lower Lakes, **SE** = South East, **AH** = Adelaide Hills, **KI** = Kangaroo Island, **EP** = Eyre Peninsula, **YP** = Yorke Peninsula, **MN** = Mid North
 Game reserves: **BL** = Bucks Lake, **C** = Chowilla, **CC** = Currency Creek, **LR** = Lake Robe, **LL** = Loch Luna, **M** = Moorook, **MI** = Mud Islands, **PS** = Poocher Swamp, **T** = Tolderol,
UCL = unalienated Crown land

* If you do not take a bird on a day out hunting, please record zero as the number taken for the day.

I did not hunt during the 2024 duck or quail open season 2024

I certify that this is a true and correct record, and understand that there are penalties for making a false or misleading statement.

Signature:	Date:
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2024 Northern Territory Waterfowl Hunting Season

The season has a daily bag limit of 7 magpie geese and 10 ducks, per person per day for the third year in a row.

Magpie geese and waterfowl season dates

In the Northern Territory (NT), you can only hunt for magpie geese and waterfowl during the hunting season.

The season opens every year for a certain time period and you must have a [hunting permit](#).

For 2024, the season opens during certain hunting hours from:

Thursday 15 August on private land ,

Wednesday 25 September on hunting reserves.

It closes on Monday 6 January 2025.

Check the other [hunting rules](#) including how to submit a [waterfowl permit return](#).

Hunting hours

See 2024 hunting hours for hunting reserves and private land below.

Hunting reserves

25 September 2024 to 31 October 2024 - 6am to 7pm

November 2024 - 5:50am to 7:15pm

1 December 2024 to 6 January 2025 - 5:50am to 7:30pm

Private land

15 August 2024 to 31 August 2024 - 6:30am to 7pm

September 2024 to October 2024 - 6am to 7pm

November 2024 - 5:50am to 7:15pm

1 December 2024 to 6 January 2025 - 5:50 am to 7:30pm

Contact

Call the Parks and Wildlife permits office on [08 8999 4795](tel:0889994795) (Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm) or email pwpermits@nt.gov.au.

Looking ahead – Next Issue

SAFGA Working in close relationships with hunters to provide WIT (Waterfowl Identification Test) Training in the Southeast

CHASA Information Night again for early 2025, arrangements have started, if your interested please call

Phillip Papaioannou – 0419 858205, or email: adelaideexcavation@gmail.com

We wish to thank those that have contributed hunting related reports and pictures for this issue of the State Board News Bulletin.

If you too have some pic's or news that you wish to share with the hunter community of SAFGA please contact your club delegate or find us on www.safga.org.au

On behalf of the State Board

Mark Fabris: 0428 849387

Phillip Papaioannou: 0419 858205

SAFGA Delegates Conservation & Hunting