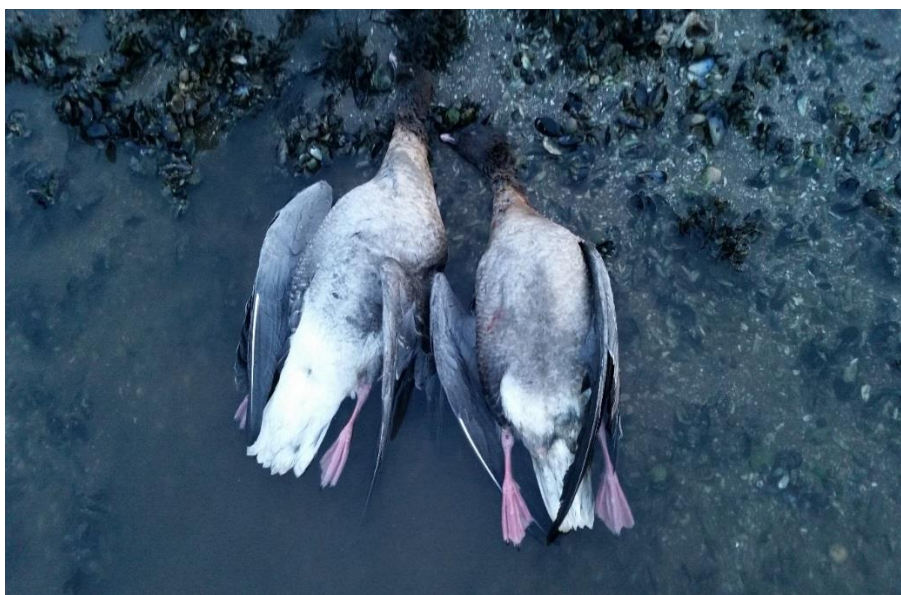


Wildfowling Success

There is nothing better than seeing a fellow fowler having some success after a busy weeks work. Saturday morning is usually their only opportunity to allow this to happen. It matters not what state the tide is or which direction the wind is blowing - the alarm will be set and they will be out there and settled into some favourite spot - hopefully in line with a skein of wild geese that will be within range. On the odd occasion when they strike lucky no one can have any qualms when a handful of birds are shot. They know only too well the weight and distance they will have to carry this bumper bag. After all, these birds are going to a good home where they will be carefully prepared for family and friends. This could also be their only entry in the seasonal bag return!

Sometimes even one bird can be a massive hit for the foreshore wildfowler.



This season has already shown large numbers of geese on the Tay and Eden estuary's but as we all know 10 birds at 30 yards are as good as 2000 birds if they flight in one wave and are all lined out.

I hope some of these fine birds have found their way on to your table or freezer - especially after reading that some people have been complaining to a large supermarket chain having tasted their Christmas turkeys!



One of the essential pieces of kit that the fowler carries are his binoculars. I remember as a young teenage lad saving up to buy a pair of 7 x 56 rubber armoured Ross binocular. They cost me an arm and a leg (40 years ago). They weighed quite a bit but I was able to spot geese on their roost, foxes prowling towards them, seals lying on the sand banks, and the odd otter and mink going about their morning rounds. All this was obviously before night vision came along.

Nowadays I've favoured the 8 x 42 - a lot smaller and lighter with an exit pupil of 5 which still performs well in low light situations. The larger pair shown above are military 7 x 50 Ross of London dated 1940 and the smaller Nikon glasses out-perform them as well as being waterproof and mega light.



Happy New Year to all club members. January & February are usually good times for picking up a bird or two. Shoot carefully, and may your waders never leak!

JM Secretary