

December News

With November now gone December and Christmas will soon be here. One thing is for sure the geese are getting fatter! The unlucky birds that I've brought home have all been in excellent condition - with no real hardships up to now in the weather department they have been gorging themselves on the best that Fife and Perthshire has to offer.

The full moon in November was rather intermittent, cloudy, and wet, with only moderate high and low tides. Local farmers won't be too happy as the wet conditions that continued for over a week has caused crops to be not only eaten but flattened by thousands of webbed feet as the birds graze from sunrise until sunset as well as all through the moonlit nights.

For any fowler shooting on the foreshore the choice of cartridges should now be a lot simpler as BASC Scotland and most sporting magazines have provided more than enough information to help you decide. All I am going to add is pattern them yourself just to finalise things.



Having been out recently on both my local estuaries the number of geese seen indicate an ever increasing population of Pinkfoot with the usual amount of Greylag, Canada, and the odd Barnacle and Brent amongst them. Our newish arrival over the last few years is the little Egret, which has been joined by its bigger brother, the large Egret. This is no doubt proof of the environment changes going on. The Great Egret just looks like our heron only white. Mallard, Teal, and pintail, have also put in an appearance.

Unfortunately on a negative note it has been sad to see the gradual demise of a local pinkfoot roost on the Tay. Over the past years the birds have been easy targets for guns on the actual roost at night! A real shame as they have been coming there for over 50 years that I know. The pinks have finally had enough of this type of behaviour and who can blame them?! Now that area remains quiet as the birds have moved to a secure area where they can enjoy some kind of sanctuary. This just goes to show the importance of safe havens which keep the birds in the same area allowing the odd chance for morning and evening flights for wildfowlers who keep a respectful distance from their roost.

Here is a simple calculation - No Roost = No Geese!



Good luck for December, only take home what you can carry, and remember to feed your four legged friends!!

JM