

Early September Outings

September is always a busy month for us shooting and fishing guys, whilst the wildfowling is just beginning the trout and salmon seasons are nearing their end. For some of us trying for both disciplines in a 12hr period it can create memories that will always be remembered whether they are successful or not. Sometimes it all comes down to a big fat zero and other times it can leave a few surprises. Instead of writing about past time successes I thought I would get bang up to date with a recent encounter from this season.



I decided to attempt to flight a small number of our larger species of geese thereafter to fish on the same estuary later on in the day when the tide had receded. As the above pic shows it was indeed a stunning morning and soon after I had taken the picture I had to quickly latch on to 4 large birds that were quietly coming over me. Shooting from a shallow creek in the kneeling position keeps a fowler low and gives a much needed advantage to standing bolt upright. It doesn't help much either if you are chasing the tide out and desperate for a firm base to support your creaking framework! Coming off the flats with a pair of these giants reminded me of how necessary your wading stick can be, and so it proved once again on such a morning. Now it was time for breakfast followed by a quick nap before heading back up for a couple of hours fishing on an incoming tide.

Later on that day and with the tide fully out I did manage to catch a couple of fish, unfortunately not the species I would have preferred



Never mind sometimes you've got to keep light hearted about these things. For those of you that are smiling at my bag returns, let me just say that it takes quite a bit of skill to catch a prawn whilst spinning, honest! and as for the flounder well it's a flounder!

As I am completing this newsletter the rain has at last begun to fall, pity it wasn't last week as my friends and I had been out and about a bit and the rivers Findhorn, Spey, and some over on the west could have done with a top up, not forgetting our own local waters as well.

Goose populations are steadily increasing, passing Loch Leven the other day I noticed more than a few feeding away in a stubble close to the loch. As for the foreshore it never seems right going there when the weather is still a bit on the mild side. Once the cold weather comes it will bring greater numbers eventually spreading them across the country to various areas hopefully close to you.

Let's hope the covid numbers don't climb to steeply like most guys I've a few days to look forward to, fingers crossed for sure!!

Meantime I will be trying for a local salmon or sea trout and experimenting with goose fillets which will provide me with around 8 reasonable meals. Now how did I marinade them last year?

JM