



Now that the 2020/21 season has ended its time to reflect on what actually happened, were you local to your estuary or were you inland and unable to travel. Birds that did go into the bag what kind of shape were they in!

Was the voluntary shooting applied or was it not needed in your particular area. Certainly in my area during the mega cold spell it looked like most birds flew south which would have made perfect sense. Maybe fowlers who were able to legally continue shooting would say different! Unfortunately I had to remain at home due to the restrictions so I couldn't give an accurate account of events. What I can say is that on a few of our bag return forms some guys have had a fairly normal season. What's been frustrating for me has been the fact that I've not been out there scouting around as I usually would using binoculars and camera never mind wildfowling!!

Luckily a highly successful day on pigeons that were fast devouring a farmer's rape came to my rescue, seven hours of the best sport I've had in ages and all of them plump birds. No sign of bird flu either!! That's for sure.

Let's hope things slowly improve and that we get back to somewhere near normal, as I write freezing conditions are forecast for the days ahead

JM