



October has come and gone and now we are into November with glorious autumn colours all around us. Going by what I've seen the goose numbers on our local estuary's have been larger than ever. It's just your luck if you do see them when you're out there because a fair percentage will be refuelling resting and moving further south probably within a couple of days. Places like Norfolk and the Wash with large flat fields full of sugar beet are sure to attract huge numbers, fine dining indeed especially for hungry birds.

If you are into your let's say vintage years you may well remember the sweet aroma coming from the sugar beet workings just East of Cupar its certainly something I accepted as normal when driving towards my local estuary's on cold dark winter mornings.

Huge numbers of wild geese are spectacular to watch but for the fowler lying in wait they don't necessarily equate to birds going into the bag. They could continually flight over you all day long at a height say over 30 meters and all you would be doing was birdwatching which off course we all enjoy. The truth is 90% of our time is actually spent watching wildlife of all kinds going about their business in the early hours of the morning and night, the other 10% may well produce a chance of a bird if it's within 30 meters. What I am trying to say is that 3 birds flying over you at within 30m is much preferred to 3000 birds at over 30m if you want to take a bird home.

Patience is key for success and most Wildfowlers have plenty of it!!



There's nothing like making your own Sloe Gin and in my area the blackthorn bushes have produced berries like I never seen before honest!

Within 1hr I had picked approximately 7lb of sloes enough to ensure that family and friends would definitely be presented with a bottle for Christmas. Putting them into separate 1lb freezer bags then into the freezer overnight is an old trick which really helps the infusing that goes on during the run up to Christmas. A quick 2022 label is easily produced on the old computer and that's it.



If you've been lucky enough to bag a bird this season and are passing it on to friends Pinkfoot fillets like the ones above are a nice way to present them.

Bird flu seems to be on the horizon especially over the border and down south I've yet to see any washed up or dying sea birds of any kind on my local shorelines, however let's all be aware of the situation.

Club annual meeting is most likely to be the first Monday in December as usual

JM