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Magazine of the SA Wingshooters Association

Vol. 31 No. 3 – September/October 2025

Annual Report

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Archery Adviser Cliff Alexander

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Notice to Members

In terms of Clause 8 of the Constitution of the SA Wingshooters Association, notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of SA Wingshooters will be held on Friday, 31 October 2025, at 16:15, at the Edgcombe House Conference Centre, 126 Valley Road, Kyalami, Blue Hills, Midrand (see directions on our website – www.wingshooters.org.za – go to "All Downloads" and look under the "Venue Maps" heading).

1. Chairman's Review
2. Report of the Executive Council
3. Consideration of the Accountant's Report and Financial Statements as at 28 February 2025
4. Re-appointment of external accountants
5. Election of members of the National Council

Eight members of the Association will be elected to the National Council by the General Assembly. Messrs Tony Hampson-Tindale, Graeme Milborrow, Roland Nöfke and Anton Jooste are eligible to be re-elected for these positions for the next term.

Every member personally present at the meeting shall be entitled to one vote, whether the vote be taken by show of hands or by ballot. Voting by ballot may be recorded either personally or by proxy. The document appointing a proxy must be in writing and be signed by the principal or his/her duly appointed deputy or, should the principal be a juristic person, be signed by an official or representative authorised by the said juristic person. A person holding a proxy need not be a member of the Association. The holder of a general or special proxy granted by a member, shall have the right to vote if he/she be authorised by the proxy to attend the meetings of the Association and to participate therein whether he/she be a member of the Association or not.

The document appointing a proxy and the power of attorney or other authority, if there is one, by virtue of which it has been signed, or a copy of such a proxy certified by a Notary must be lodged at the registered office of the Association not later than forty-eight (48) hours before the time of the meeting at which the person designated in the document wishes to vote, and in default thereof the document of proxy will not be regarded as valid. No document of proxy shall be valid upon expiry of six months after the date on which it was signed, unless specifically otherwise stated in the proxy and no proxy that could not have been exercised at the original meeting shall be valid at an adjourned meeting.

By order of the Executive Council,

Proud Board Member of

Anél van der Westhuizen

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competition. Winners in various divisions, and in open, female and junior categories, are published in the magazine and you receive a certificate.

You can use any handgun or rifle in either centre fire or rimfire calibres and in either bolt action, semi-auto or single shot. Just use the appropriate target – read more on our website:

Download targets here (under the PSP heading): <https://www.wingshooters.org.za/ALL-DOWNLOADS/>

Download the target, go shoot it, and send it back to us! Easy as that! It obviously also counts as a hunting related activity and/or a sport shooting activity, should you be a Dedicated Hunter and/or Dedicated Sport person with us. Email your shot targets to the office. See previous winners here:

<https://www.wingshooters.org.za/Annual-Shooting-Competitions-Top-Shooters/>

– SA Wingshooters

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– SA Wingshooters

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30th Anniversary...



This year, 2025, the association is 30 years old! We are indeed privileged to remain one of the leading hunting, shooting and firearms associations in the country. This is of course due to largely your support! The members! Thank you!

The SA Wingshooters' "Lady Bird" ladies group was launched, the covenor of which is Estene Trollope, and she has hosted quite a few bird shoots, clay target coaching sessions and get-togethers for the lady members of the association. Thank you Estene!

Lead (Pb) used in ammunition remains a target of the anti-hunting and anti-firearm global community.

We've published further articles during the year pointing out that no factual evidence exists that lead in ammunition has any negative environmental impact on fauna and flora whatsoever. We also assisted other organisations, such as SUCO and WRSA with information to this end. All wish to thank our conservation advisor Arnold Slabbert for his assistance in this regard.

Membership fees were again not increased this year and remained subsidised by the Association for the seventh year running.

We sold 485 provincial bird hunting licences on behalf of the provincial departments this year, of which Gauteng province sold none, due to no open season declared, 145 licences for Free State, Mpumalanga 124, Eastern Cape 61, Western Cape 40 and KZN 38, Limpopo 68 and North-West 9.

Here at SA Wingshooters we offer it all. Apart from hunting, which we've offered since 1995, we offer a full line-up of sport shooting to include any type of firearm.

From shotgun shooting through to rifle, handgun and semi-auto rifle shooting sports, including the first ever Long Range rifle shooting and .22 Precision Small-Bore rifle shooting, from clay targets, steel plates or traditional target shooting... we offer all of it.

As always, we look forward to a fantastic year ahead, and we plan to host and arrange many sport shooting events and fun days, including shooting training, educational courses and more.

Since last year's report, no less than 210 new members have joined SA Wingshooters! Thank you and welcome to all the new members!

As always, we confirm our dedication, loyalty and service to members and our duty to give them the best value for money that we possibly can.

I wish to thank the volunteer shoot captains for their continued support and assistance throughout the year. Thank you indeed!

Shoot captains ensure a safe, controlled and organised shoot venue and they are there for your convenience, safety, and to offer any assistance members might need on a shoot. This able team was also the backbone of our Mentorship Programme, which introduces newcomers to the wonderful cultural activity of Wingshooting.

On behalf of all members, I extend our appreciation to our National Council for their guidance, the other Executive Committee members Etienne Polson and Johan Opperman, and our finance team of Anél van der Westhuizen (book-keeping) and Barbara Bodenstein, our Financial Controller, under the watchful eye of External Treasurer Peter Karsas.

A special thanks to Anél, who does a tremendous job of managing the office. I thank our support staff Zinzi Duma and Lenard Madhlopa for their continued effort and friendly demeanour.

Finally, we thank our IT consultants, risk managers, auditors, sponsors and advertisers for their valued contributions and support.

André van der Westhuizen,
Executive Chairman.



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Critical renosterveld site acquired by the ORT – a breeding hotspot for Endangered Black Harriers

In the heart of South Africa's Overberg, a stretch of Endangered Eastern Rûens Shale Renosterveld is now under conservation protection.

The Overberg Renosterveld Trust (ORT), in partnership with the UK-based World Land Trust (WLT) and the Mapula Trust has purchased a portion of a property called Goereesoe situated between Bredasdorp and Swellendam.

This 270-hectare site holds some of the last fragments of this unique vegetation type. Not only that, it also serves as a stronghold for the iconic Black Harrier, an Endangered species with fewer than 500 breeding pairs remaining.

Only around 5% of the Overberg's renosterveld remains, much of it lost in past decades to agriculture. Each patch that survives is vital, not only for rare and endemic plants but for the wildlife that depends on it.

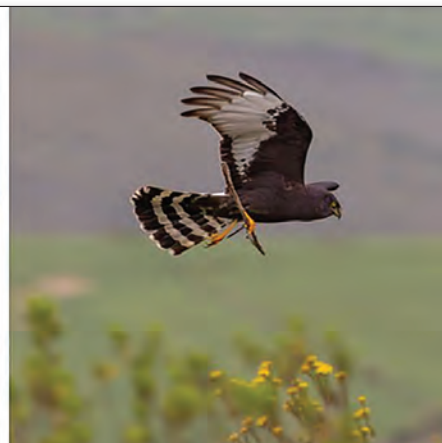
Verging on extinction

"This is a significant win for renosterveld and the Black Harrier," says Dr Odette Curtis-Scott, CEO of the Overberg Renosterveld Trust. "Goereesoe is one of the most important breeding sites for Black Harriers, with the highest known density of nests in a given year. By securing this land, we are protecting critical habitat and species whose futures are teetering on a knife edge."

The property supports up to 20 pairs of breeding Black Harriers. Together with the neighbouring Haarwegskloof Renosterveld Reserve (a recently-declared Nature Reserve) and Plaatjieskraal, which are both also managed by the ORT, around 30 pairs of breeding Black Harriers rely on this cluster of renosterveld – equating to at least 6% of the global population of breeding pairs of this endemic raptor.

According to Dr Catherine Barnard, CEO World Land Trust, "This acquisition

will play an important role in renosterveld conservation. Protecting this site means safeguarding one of the most threatened ecosystems on Earth, and the species that depend on it. It's a culmination of a lot



of hard work from Odette and the ORT team."

A jewel in the crown

Odette says, "By buying Goereesoe, we are growing the Haarwegskloof Cluster, the largest connected stretch of renosterveld left on Earth. We started with 500 hectares in 2013, and now we are up to over 1,300 hectares, after adding Plaatjieskraal and Goereesoe, which will both receive Nature Reserve status in due course. With the number of Black Harriers breeding on Goereesoe, this achievement has become a jewel in the crown for the ORT."

In addition to purchasing land in this biodiversity hotspot, the ORT is also working with farming neighbours, such as the adjacent Muurkraal Conservation Easement site, to grow this conservation corridor. She says, "It means that wildlife, especially our precious pollinators and invertebrates, can move freely and safely across this natural remnant patches in this highly transformed landscape. Our ultimate goal being to protect as much of the remaining biodiversity as possible, building ecological resilience to future land-use and climate change."

One of many tools

Goereesoe's purchase was supported by WLT's 'Buy An Acre' programme, which enables people around the world to contribute directly to land purchases that protect threatened habitats.

While buying Goereesoe is very important for conservation, land purchase is just one of the tools the ORT uses to secure renosterveld. The ORT also relies on the Conservation Easement Programme,

where landowners voluntarily join through conservation servitudes registered over their property. Odette says, "Together, these tools are vital for conservation in highly fragmented and threatened ecosystems such as renosterveld. Our work centres on instilling a sense of pride among landowners who have renosterveld on their farms, as they literally hold its future in their hands."

A partnership approach

Goereesoe is not only vital for conservation but also forms part of a larger study that focuses on GPS-tracking Black Harrier movements, not only on their migrations (which take place across South Africa, Lesotho and occasionally Namibia), but in and around windfarms which are having a significant negative impact on the species.

Dr Barnard says, "It's a great example of what can be achieved when local expertise and international support come together with a shared vision for nature."

According to Odette, "We are incredibly grateful to our partners, including WLT, and the supportive landowners for helping to make this happen. This is a positive step for renosterveld and the species that call this ecosystem home. And it only comes to fruition when fantastic partners work together."



– <https://overbergrenosterveld.org.za>



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Browning Superposed: *A Shotgun Overview*



A hunter finds a connection to hunting tradition through the history of a classic over-under shotgun.

by Johnathan Sliski

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www.projectupland.com

No one in the family into which I was born would identify as a hunter or participate in these pursuits. My dad has an extensive gun collection, but his collection consists of exactly zero hunting rifles or shotguns; they are all military pieces from various eras and numerous countries. It's a beautiful collection, and incredibly

interesting, but has little connection to a hunting heritage. That's the reality for me—I don't have a hunting legacy to which I am naturally connected, apart from the one into which I married. On a personal level, I think traditions deserve questioning, but not before understanding is sought. Hunting, by nature and merit, is no different. I feel a personal responsibility to connect myself

to the history and tradition in and around these pursuits.

Hunting as a tradition, I think we would all agree, is more than the firearms we carry. It is the changing seasons and the quarry we pursue. The transition from summer to fall brings with it a reprieve from the summer's heat and a calling back to perhaps the most cherished time of year. Seasons have come and gone

timelessly, but for generations, people have been donning their favorite coat and grabbing their preferred gun. Fall is known by the deep reds and yellows of changing leaves and the icy snort of a whitetail against taut nerves. It is the frost underfoot and the thunder of wings in thick cover. It is the sounds of hollering through the woods, the crunch of leaves underfoot, and a bear breaking from a thicket. It is the baying of hounds, the crash of a Springer through brush, and a Setter locking into a staunch point. Those experiences are shared and echo across generations. The legends of hunting dogs are told around fires, over drinks, and on tailgates. Successes and failures find themselves in fine company. They are shared as encouragement and as reminders of the hunter's ethic—that what we do when no one is watching communicates our character and respect for the animals we pursue and the land on which they are pursued.

Those of us who didn't grow up in these activities may struggle to connect to that legacy and the rich history in which these experiences are rooted. For at least some of us, I would speculate, we have no tangible connection to Lynn Bogue Hunt's paintings of woods thick with grouse and woodcock or the black-and-white photos from deer camps with 20 deer displayed with an equal number of successful hunters. The oral tradition around which hunting is so completely enveloped certainly fosters that connection, but artifacts work powerfully on the human psyche. The lack of many of these familial connections leave us room to create new narratives, with the artifacts available to us, while honoring many of the narratives around us.

For me, that connection took the form of a 20-gauge Browning Superposed manufactured in 1954.

The Rise of the Browning Superposed

The Superposed was the last gun designed by John Browning, according to Ned Schwing's opus, which is aptly titled *The Browning Superposed: John M. Browning's Last Legacy*. Browning was an engineering genius, with many of his designs still in production today. His vision for



image: By Bertrand Benazeth – Wikipedia

this particular gun was for it to be a high quality but affordable shotgun, especially considering the price of European over-unders at the time. Browning's design took into account weaknesses in other designs in this configuration, specifically looseness in the breech. He reinforced the hinge mechanism in order to ensure tightness for the long haul. Browning went to Fabrique Nationale (FN) in Liege, Belgium with his design, after having great success with the Auto-5 earlier. Unfortunately, he wouldn't get to see the success of the Superposed; John Browning died in 1926. The design itself was finished by other members of the family, including refinements to both the ejector system and a few different trigger designs. The first Superposed wouldn't be sold until 1931.

The pre-World War II Superposed was available in 12-gauge only. During the 1930's, though, the company made clear the scope of options that were available for custom orders, for which quotes could be supplied upon request. One could order a specific trigger setup, chambered to shoot 3-inch shotshells, custom engraving or cases, or most anything the hunter could request.

Regardless of the decade, for me, the Superposed is a gun that hearkens back to a post-war society that sought, once again, to get into the woods, to escape the trouble of the world and connect with something which, in so many ways, was simpler than the

preceding decade(s). According to Schwing, the FN plant, including its workforce, was all but destroyed in World War II. The following decade was one of rebuilding and revitalization. The 20-gauge version of the Superposed wasn't released until after World War II, being first available in the 1949 catalog. It wouldn't be until the following year, however, that both the 12- and 20-gauge models were offered in the complete range of grades (I-V). While both models could be ordered with matted or ventilated ribs, the ventilated rib option came with the most options. Barrels ranged from 26.5" to 30" for the 12-gauge and 26.5" or 28" for the 20-gauge; a handful of trigger options were available as well.

The 1950s saw the introduction of various sub-models of the gun. Hunting models (Trap- and Skeet-specific models also became available), in particular, had a Lightning version that boasted some weight savings and the 12-gauge featured a Magnum option that was chambered for 3-inch shells. Both 12- and 20-gauge guns had similar barrel/rib configurations as those previously mentioned. The guns boasted fixed chokes, which are identified by stamped stars and dashes on the sides of the barrels, just down from the ejectors. This era also saw trigger options limited to one: the single selective trigger, a design perfected by John's son, Val. Interestingly, every Superposed through this era was hand-engraved.

continued overleaf...

Wanting to connect to my new-found gun's legacy, I called Browning and asked if they could provide any additional information on this particular gun. They transferred me to their historical department, where they took the serial number and my information and told me they would mail me a letter with the findings. Their historian dug through the Browning archives and mailed a letter indicating the gun's all-original condition and its original purchase price and location. Unfortunately, the Cincinnati sporting goods store in which it was sold was shuttered in 1997. Their records, I can only assume, have been lost to time.

The Eventual Decline of the Superposed

Browning went public in the 1960s and had begun acquiring other sporting goods companies. While these acquisitions had varying degrees of profitability, they served to grow the company substantially. On the FN front, however, rising labor costs and high demand for such a specialized workforce saw the Superposed begin to miss the mark in affordability. Due to these initial challenges, and the belief that they would only increase in severity, Browning had begun working in the mid-60s to open a plant in Japan in an effort to offset the seemingly perpetual rising costs of manufacturing the Superposed in Belgium and the resulting inventory shortages experienced in the United States. The 1960s still, however, saw the full introduction of a 28 gauge and .410 model and a Lightning version of the Trap model. Sales increased across the board for the Superposed during the 1960s, but labor costs continued to rise, even as design features were modified to cut costs while preserving quality.

The early 1970s saw the first Browning Citori, produced at the plant in Miroku, Japan, hit the market. Between 1970 and 1976, the cost of a Belgian-made Superposed more than doubled. The gun noted for both quality and affordability ultimately priced itself out of the market. By the 1980s the writing was on the wall—the era of the Belgian-made Superposed as a perennial money-maker was over (though it's impor-

*“Used Superposed guns
are regularly
available on the
major online gun
marketplaces.”*

tant to note that some models were/are still available in European markets via the Browning Custom Shop). FN bought Browning in 1977, another testament to changing times and markets.

The Superposed in Today's Market

One can still order a Superposed through The John M. Browning Collection in Belgium. The guns are, ironically, bespoke like the European over-unders of yore for which Browning had originally sought to offer a replacement (e.g., a B25, the original Superposed, Diana Grade will cost you around \$30,000). Current Citori models come in 12, 20, 28, and .410. Beyond that, the options are legion with barrels ranging from 24"-32", depending on other aspects of the configuration, of course, with models running the gamut of function (e.g., trap, hunting, etc.) and grade.

Used Superposed guns are regularly available on the major online gun marketplaces. Their prices vary based on the year of manufacture, grade, and gauge, but typically start at around \$1,000 for the most common varieties in the condition typical for their age. The Superposed was designed to be workhorse, and it certainly is, but that doesn't prevent the mechanical wear that comes from using something 10,000 times. Breakage happens, from perhaps expected sources (e.g., ejectors breaking) to less frequent issues, and there are places that specialize in the repair of Belgian-made Brownings.

I like to think that my gun was part of many great stories in the

previous 65 years or so. I had (and still have) a deep desire to connect my own hunting stories to the stories of the gun's past, to find someone who had carried it afield and to hear its place in those tales. And while that hasn't come to pass, that doesn't tarnish my connection with the gun and its legacy. While there are gaps in my own knowledge of the gun's history, that doesn't erase the previous 65 years, though I'm left to speculate about their content. The Browning high gloss finish is sometimes maligned, but to me, it carries in it the scratches of big fields and heavy cover. The bluing along the underside of the receiver shows tell-tale sign of carry wear with the bright steel shining through. The bruising on the forearm bears witness to hard hunts in good country. Which covers, country, and fields? I cannot say, but field wear leaves an indelible mark. This Superposed has become an essential part of the stories of my own life. It swings sweetly and has the attractiveness of an appropriately-worn field gun, a shooter through and through.

Hunting is a collection of shared stories. The tools of our pursuit, in this case shotguns, alongside our friends and family and dogs, are essential characters in those stories. These old guns can serve as connections to a legacy that might not otherwise be available. While I might not know any details beyond those of the era in which my own was created and the story of the man that designed it and the company that produced it, it connects me to a bygone era of hunting. That legacy is a foundation on which my own experiences are set as I, we, collectively create new hunting legacies to be shared and passed on.

*Superposed technical information and history from *The Browning Superposed: John M. Browning's Last Legacy* by Ned Schwing, Krause Publications, Iola, WI (1996). 

— https://projectupland.com/shotguns-and-shooting/shotguns/browning-superposed-a-shotgun-overview/?utm_source=Klaviyo&utm_medium=campaign&_kx=fUSZQjgzqvSYnuuxNSS2OPOnTvIdmtPQhgaaKJ-WMWz29fqJhAU3f6Y6qWTL-zEu.XSVPXG

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RANGE
INTRODUCING THE NEW

**OUTWORK
THE
HEAT**

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WORKWEAR

One association

We do it all

SA Wingshooters Association is truly the one association for all shooting disciplines. With us you can do it all. We offer shooting events and venues in all divisions, including shotgun, rifle, handgun, semi-auto rifle, long range target shooting and multi-gun sport shooting...



The SA Wingshooters Association has been accredited by the CFR as a Dedicated Hunting Association, since 2004.

In fact, we are the second oldest accredited association in South Africa.

We have current members, many of whom regularly participate in the various sport shooting disciplines available and thus have a definite need to be able to grant such members the Dedicated Sport Shooting status, in order to enable them to fully participate in their chosen sport.

So, we are both an accredited sport shooting and hunting association, as we have members who want dedicated status, but who do not hunt.

We currently offer the following sport shooting disciplines to our members, either at our own facilities/ranges, or at any range country-wide and internationally:

PSP (Postal Shooting Programme) target shooting for handguns, manual rifles and self-loading rifles. Various target shooting tables/disciplines are offered, which can be practiced at any range world-wide. All our targets are available on our website.

Clay Target Shooting – all members have access to Clay Target

Shooting using shotguns at any accredited clay target range or club (CTSASA, COMPAK, etc.) country-wide.

Long Range Rifle Shooting – we have our own dedicated long range rifle shooting range in Gauteng, where members compete over shooting distances ranging from 100m to 1200m. This range also affords us the opportunity to offer multi-gun sport shooting discipline), starting at 10m for handguns, to 100m and then up to 600m for self-loading rifles, with official division categories for calibres and types of rifles.

Handgun Shooting – we offer handgun shooting, again at our LRSC range, or any other range world-wide via the PSP, on our 17 target steel pistol range with targets from 10m to 100m, and includes a 6-plate duelling tree.

Multi-gun (4-gun, 3-gun & 2-gun) sport shooting – we offer multi gun events, where self-loading rifles, shotgun, handguns and bolt action rifles are used, at our LRSC range and elsewhere.

Membership of the LRSC gives you additional membership of the following sub-clubs:

- The LRSC (Long range shooting club for rifles in both Bolt Action and Self-loading rifle, which are to

distinct separate divisions).

- The .22PSBC (Precision Small-Bore Club)
- The TPS (Tactical Precision Shooting) multi-gun club for 3-gun and 2-gun shooting and competition
- The LR Open Sight club (Open Sight rifle division)
- The LR Handgun and Revolver sub-club – for handgun shooting in various divisions.

The Long Range Shooting Club (LRSC) and the PSP (Postal Shooting Programme) are part of SA Wingshooters and are subject to its constitution, disciplinary codes and rules of ethical conduct.

Lastly, as you know, the SA Wingshooters Association has R20-million liability insurance to cover the Association, with each individual member also having R20-million liability insurance as individual cover, for all shooting-related activities.

We are proud to be an association that offers all forms of shooting and hunting to our members. Thanks for your support!





We offer all types of shooting and hunting... as well as coaching!



Executive Council's Approval

The annual financial statements for the year ended 28 February 2025 were approved by the Executive Council on 31 August 2025 and signed:



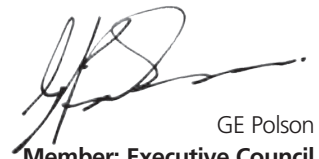
AA van der Westhuizen

Member: Executive Council



JM Opperman

Member: Executive Council



GE Polson

Member: Executive Council



AA van der Westhuizen

Chairman



A van der Westhuizen

General Manager and Bookkeeping



Barbara Bodenstein

Financial Controller

Report of the Accountants to the members of the SA Wingshooters Association

P. van Zyl CA(SA), RA
No 4 Vuurpyl Street
Tubatse Residential Village
Steelpoort
1133

REPORT OF THE ACCOUNTANT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE S A WINGSHOOTERS ASSOCIATION

To the members of S A Wingshooters Association

I have compiled the accompanying financial statements of S A Wingshooters Association based on the information the chairman and financial officer has provided. These financial statements comprise the statement of financial position of S A Wingshooters Association as at 28 February 2025, the statement of income, statement of changes in funds and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

I have performed this compilation engagement in accordance with International Standard on Related Services 4410 (Revised), *Compilation engagements*.

I have applied my expertise in accounting and financial reporting to assist you in the preparation and presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards for Small- and Medium-sized Entities (IFRS for SMEs). I have complied with the relevant ethical requirements, including principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care.

These financial statements and the accuracy and completeness of the information used to compile them are the responsibility of the chairman and the financial officer.

Since a compilation engagement is not an assurance engagement, I am not required to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided to me to compile these financial statements. Accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on whether these financial statements are prepared in accordance with IFRS for SMEs.



P. van Zyl
Chartered Accountant (S.A.)
Registered Auditor

Pretoria
11 August 2025

Report by the Executive Council

Membership & Services

Membership fees have again remained the same for the seventh year in succession. Membership fees were again not increased in the year under review and remained subsidised by the Association. This has been a huge direct membership benefit! Currently (at date of this report), the Association has 2599 members who are "current" or "paid up". There are 50 members who are 30 days in arrears, 41 are 60 days in arrears, 54 are 90 days and 271 who are 91 days plus – totaling 3015 members, a decrease of 24 members from 3039 of the previous year. A total of 228 new members joined at the date of this report, since the previous annual report. At the time of this report the LRSC has 125 members and produced an income of R224,613. The PSP has 373 current members.

During the year under review, competitions, shoots and licence fees produced an income of R90,209 compared to R136,419 in the previous financial year. The Christmas shoot (and others) is always offered at a loss, as these are direct membership benefits. This is expected, as this shoot was offered completely free of charge to members in December 2024. Advertising income in the Wingshooter magazine amounted to R34,478 – an increase of 66,56% from the previous year. This is due to the lower advertising rates for digital magazine adverts, as well as an increase in general advertising support. Thank you to the members that support the magazine through advertising. Our group liability insurance product for members and the association, which was a first in South Africa, has been continued successfully. The Association has expanded shooting venues for the annual shooting calendar and even more so for the current year. We offered in excess of 1000 organised shooting days during the year under review, and we plan to keep on offering venues to members. The LRSC amounted an expenditure of R41,580 at the time of this report, which is again a substantial decrease due to reduced range costs and other savings.

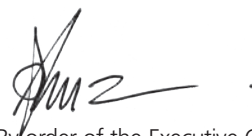
General Review

During the operational year under review, we expanded the Association's membership services and offerings to include expanded firearm application and motivations services, as well as shooting activities and training. We've trained in excess of 120 members and non-members in handgun, rifle and shotgun shooting. We would sincerely like to thank all members for their efforts over the past year to recruit new members. Our cultural heritage activity of hunting, as well as sport shooting and firearms ownership in general, is under constant threat from government and gun-free lobby groups. The weak RSA economy is putting many people under financial strain and we try and keep costs to members as low as possible. We assisted members where we could regarding membership fees and we again thank specific members who financially assisted other members and paid membership fees on their behalf. You are truly exceptional individuals! We have not increased membership fees and the annual membership fees remained the same since 2017 – This is a direct benefit to members.

Bird hunting licences remain available for purchase from our offices for Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Free State, KZN, Eastern & Western Cape. SA Wingshooters Association is part of various forums – from the DFFE wildlife forum to various firearms, hunting and sport shooting forums. In these forums the industry partners up in order to focus on pressing issues that might threaten our ownership of firearms, hunting and shooting. We remain a supporter of the Overberg Renosterveld Conservation Trust. We support and engage in joint conservation projects in Southern Africa, in support of bird conservation of game birds and waterfowl and birds in general. We're proud to be part of the SUCo-SA (Sustainable Utilisation Coalition of South Africa) – of which we are a founding member – along with other hunting and wildlife associations and bodies, such as NHSA, CHASA, PHASA, WRSA, TGA and others. Internationally, our National Associate membership of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) continues to add value to the organisation and to our members. We support and donate to the Wildlife Poisoning Prevention and Conflict Resolution, the aim of which is to curb, investigate and resolve wildlife poisoning incidents and conflicts and provide training across Africa to raise awareness of poisoning of fauna and flora. The availability of editorial material from the BASC publications, Guns-on-Pegs and Project Upland for use in our publications is gratefully acknowledged and appreciated.

Financial Results

We are a government registered non-profit organisation and SARS Public Benefit Organisation. The income from membership subscriptions amounted to R2,869,521 during the year, a slight decrease of R3,076.00 (0,11%) over the previous year. The total expenditure increased by 1,55% (R52,979), due to inflationary pressures and no membership fee increase to R3,470,056 to produce a modest surplus of R122,308. This was again achieved thanks to the strong financial discipline of our Association's management, despite climbing inflation, expanded membership services and benefits, such as offering official shoots below cost and free of association charges, our on-line firearm licence renewal notification and dedicated activity reporting on-line portal, shotgun, rifle and handgun shooting training, etc. The management fees of our administrators, the Advisory Bureau for Development (Pty) Ltd, amounted to R2,261,894 with no increase. Our Funds increased to R3,929,480 which includes the Legal Action Fund of R76,138, the Publishing Revolving Fund of R40,000 and the Youth Development Fund of R89,600.

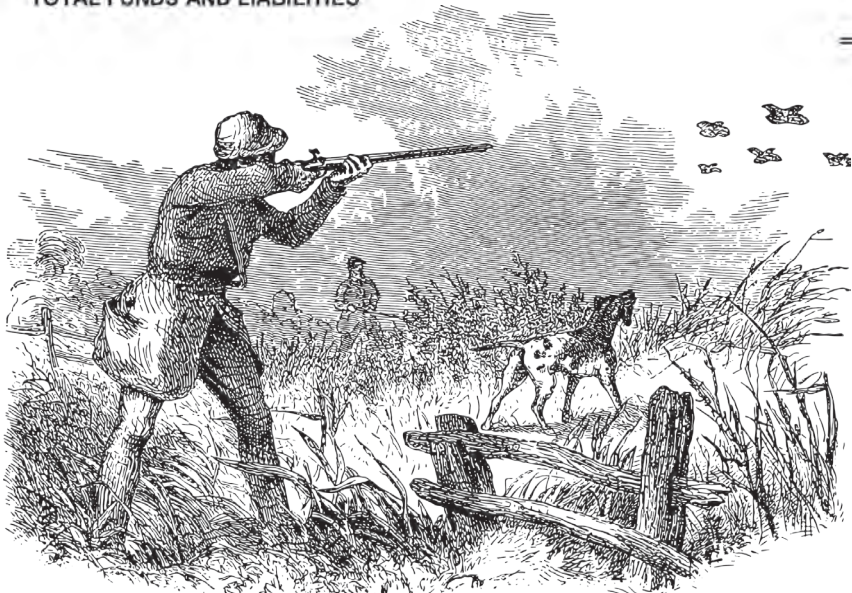


By order of the Executive Council
André van der Westhuizen
Executive Chairman

Statement of Financial Position

SA WINGSHOOTERS ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
28 FEBRUARY 2025

	Notes	2025 R	2024 R
ASSETS			
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	2	535	5 632
CURRENT ASSETS			
		4 007 883	3 862 889
Accounts receivable		20 745	18 540
Cash and cash equivalents	3,2	3 987 138	3 844 349
TOTAL ASSETS		4 008 418	3 868 521
FUNDS AND LIABILITIES			
FUNDS			
		3 929 480	3 807 172
CURRENT LIABILITY			
Accounts payable		78 938	61 349
TOTAL FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		4 008 418	3 868 521



Statement of Income

SA WINGSHOOTERS ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

	Note	2025 R	2024 R
INCOME		3 592 364	3 607 499
Advertising		34 478	20 700
Competitions, shoots and licences		90 209	136 419
Donations received - legal action fund		2 954	1 381
Income from auction and sale of promotional items		11 627	9 992
Long range shooting program		224 613	255 473
Interest received		300 345	263 006
Membership fees		2 869 521	2 872 597
Postal shooting program		3 339	2 287
Training material and book sales		55 278	45 644
EXPENDITURE		3 470 056	3 417 077
Accounting fees		51 000	44 380
Advertising		4 596	64 540
Bank charges		8 277	8 363
BASC expenses and royalties		2 271	2 093
Cleaning		10 100	21 397
Competitions, shoots and licences		181 407	128 386
Computer expenses		84 092	62 540
Credit card commission		12 413	12 043
Depreciation	2	5 097	25 679
Donations		16 040	1 000
Entertainment and meetings		27 733	24 385
Huntex expenses		26 452	15 397
Insurance		107 704	108 055
Long range shooting program expenses		41 580	67 159
Management fees - administration services		1 496 714	1 496 714
Management fees - finance and bookkeeping		765 180	765 180
Motor vehicle expenses		152 266	172 729
Printing and stationery		33 049	27 475
Promotional items and prizes		78 763	47 563
Rent, electricity and water		78 000	78 000
Repairs and maintenance		2 250	3 389
Replacements		1 521	-
Secretarial and bookkeeping services		54 100	54 600
Security expenses		8 937	8 918
Staff refreshments		3 142	7 313
Subscriptions and membership		21 961	29 695
Telephone, courier, fax and postage		107 340	82 890
Travelling and accomodation		6 858	8 163
Wages		48 900	18 000
Website		32 313	31 031
Surplus of income over expenditure		<u>122 308</u>	<u>190 422</u>

Statement of Changes in Funds

SA WINGSHOOTERS ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUNDS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

	General funds	Youth development fund	Publishing revolving fund	Legal action fund	Total
	R	R	R	R	R
Balance at 1 March 2023	3 415 347	89 600	40 000	71 803	3 616 750
Net surplus for the prior year	190 422				190 422
Transfer to legal action fund	(1 381)			1 381	
Balance at 29 February 2024	3 604 388	89 600	40 000	73 184	3 807 172
Net surplus for the current year	122 308				122 308
Transfer to legal action fund	(2 954)			2 954	
Balance at 28 February 2025	3 723 742	89 600	40 000	76 138	3 929 480

Statement of Cash Flows

SA WINGSHOOTERS ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2025

	Notes	2025 R	2024 R
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash utilised by the activities of the association	3,1	(157 556)	(52 361)
Interest received		300 345	263 006
		<u>142 789</u>	<u>210 645</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	2	-	-
Net movement in cash and cash equivalents		<u>142 789</u>	<u>210 645</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		<u>3 844 349</u>	<u>3 633 704</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	3,2	<u><u>3 987 138</u></u>	<u><u>3 844 349</u></u>

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

SA WINGSHOOTERS ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

28 FEBRUARY 2025

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Presentation of Annual Financial Statements

The annual financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities. The annual financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, except for certain financial instruments carried at fair value as stated in note 1.3 below, and incorporate the principal accounting policies set out below. All amounts are presented in South African Rands.

1.2 Depreciation of fixed assets

Property, plant and equipment are held for administration purposes and are expected to be used during more than one financial period.

Property, plant and equipment are carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses.

Property, plant and equipment are depreciated using the straight line method at rates that will reduce carrying estimated residual values over the anticipated useful lives of the assets. The useful lives are:

Computer equipment	4 years
Computer software	2 years
Equipment	5 years
Furniture and fittings	6 years
Motor vehicles	5 years
Office equipment	6 years

1.3 Financial instruments

Initial measurement

Financial instruments are initially measured at the transaction price. This includes transaction costs, except for financial instruments which are measured at fair value through profit and loss.

Financial instruments at amortised cost

Debt instruments, as defined in the standard, are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. Debt instruments which are classified as current assets or current liabilities are measured at the undiscounted amount of cash expected to be received or paid, unless the arrangement effectively constitutes a financing transaction. These include accounts receivable and accounts payable.

At the end of each reporting date, the carrying amounts of assets held in this category are reviewed to determine whether there is any objective evidence of impairment. If so, an impairment loss is recognised.

Financial instruments at fair value

Cash and cash equivalents are measured at fair value.

1.4 Membership fees

Membership fees comprises subscriptions and entry fees received excluding value added tax. Subscriptions received is accounted for in the financial year in which it is received.

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements (continued)

SA WINGSHOOTERS ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

28 FEBRUARY 2025

2 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	<u>2025</u>			<u>2024</u>		
	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated depreciation</u>	<u>Carrying Amount</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated depreciation</u>	<u>Carrying Amount</u>
	R	R	R	R	R	R
<u>Owned assets</u>						
Computer equipment	410 841	410 795	46	410 841	410 795	46
Computer software	149 316	149 294	22	149 316	149 294	22
Equipment	121 840	121 838	2	121 840	117 061	4 779
Furniture and fittings	12 529	12 521	8	12 529	12 521	8
Motor vehicles	220 270	220 270	-	220 270	220 270	-
Office equipment	44 735	44 278	457	44 735	43 958	777
Total	959 531	958 996	535	959 531	953 899	5 632

The carrying amount are reconciled as follows:

	<u>Carrying amount at the beginning of the year</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Disposals</u>	<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Carrying amount at year end</u>
	R	R	R	R	R
<u>Owned assets</u>					
Computer equipment	46	-	-	-	46
Computer software	22	-	-	-	22
Equipment	4 779	-	-	4 777	2
Furniture and fittings	8	-	-	-	8
Motor vehicles	-	-	-	-	-
Office equipment	777	-	-	320	457
Total	5 632	-	-	5 097	535



Notes to the Annual Financial Statements (continued)

SA WINGSHOOTERS ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

28 FEBRUARY 2025

	2025 R	2024 R
3 NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT		
3.1 Cash utilised by operations		
Surplus of income over expenditure	122 308	190 422
Adjustment for interest separately disclosed in the cash flow statement	300 345	263 006
	(178 037)	(72 584)
Adjustment for non cash flow item:		
Depreciation	5 097	25 679
	(172 940)	(46 905)
Decrease (Increase) in working capital	15 384	(5 456)
Increase (Decrease) in accounts payable	17 589	(1 891)
Increase in accounts receivable	(2 205)	(3 565)
	<u>(157 556)</u>	<u>(52 361)</u>
3.2 Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash and cash equivalents included in the cash flow statement comprise the following:		
Cash at bank	399 860	555 425
Cash on hand	2 897	4 888
Funds on call	3 584 381	3 284 036
	<u>3 987 138</u>	<u>3 844 349</u>

4 TAXATION

Taxation has not been provided as the association is recognised as a Public Benefit Organisation in terms of section 30 of the Income Tax Act.

5 GOING CONCERN

The annual financial statements have been prepared on the basis of accounting policies applicable to a going concern. This basis presumes that funds will be available to finance future operations and that the realisation of assets and settlement of liabilities, contingent obligations and commitments will occur in the ordinary course of business.

6 SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

In the opinion of the Executive Council there have been no events subsequent to the end of the reporting period which have not been accounted for in the financial statements and which would materially affect the financial results of the association.

Members in the field...

*Wikus Strydom on a goose shoot.
What a beautiful sunset.*



*Nic Mentis & Yassine Bouajaja
in the Springbok flats*



*Above: Gino Cinquina enjoying
a shoot day in Dendron.
Left: Peter Millits' Scooter at
the Bredasdorp venue.
Far left: Werner Terblanche
with German Kurzhaar "Eike"*



Dr Mongezi Milela and his son Njabulo on a recent hunt to celebrate his 21st birthday.



Yolandi & Lushen Padayachi in Nottingham Road



*Above: John Harper in Barkly East.
Below left: Gunnar, Steve Delport's 2IC at a shoot near Kroonstad.
Below: The Lady Bird club ladies from left: Julie Lakin, Estene Trollope (Convenor), Amanda Barret, Lize Venter, Elma Human and Caren Ziady at the Leandra shoot exclusively for the ladies.*



LRSC MEMBERS *sending it!*



Left: Members Bernard Cilliers and Jacky van den Berg on practice day.

Below: It's hardly ever the equipment!



Members preparing to start



Junior Emmie Jacobs smashed the .223 calibre division!



Shaun Ellithorne calling the hits



Environmentals at our range create professional challenges – mirage is on a next level here!





Above: From left, standing... Andrew Toy, Jordan Toy, Larno Pienaar, Johann de Bruin & Warrick Yardley.
Left: The entire Ferreira family! They shot lights out in the .22PSBC match.



Barries Marais from Australia made quick work of the 1,2km target.



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Caring for the Aging Bird Dog: VET ADVICE ON HUNTING, HEALTH AND JOINT SUPPORT

Here are some of the best ways to care for and hunt with a senior hunting dog.

Written by Dr Jay Brekke

with kind permission of projectupland.com

If you're like me, your bird dogs aren't just working dogs—they're family. I've had the privilege of raising, training and hunting alongside more than half a dozen hunting dogs over the years. I've watched dogs mature from eager young pups to wise, gray-muzzled veterans. Watching our bird dogs age is both a gift and a heart-ache.

Many of us in the hunting community are blessed to share a lifetime afield with our loyal canine partners. But as the years pass, we notice the small changes. They rise more slowly in the mornings. Aging bird dogs may hesitate before jumping into the truck or have short strides after a day in the field. These signs are part of the natural arc of a hunting dog's life. They signal that it's time for us as owners and handlers to adjust our expectations, training and hunting style to match what senior dogs can safely and comfortably handle.

In this article, I walk you through recognizing when your bird dog is slowing down. We'll go over how to adjust your training and hunting accordingly, and the tools and treatments, both simple and advanced, that can help extend their quality of life and time afield.



Signs Your Bird Dog Is Slowing Down

As a veterinarian and a lifelong hunting dog owner, I can tell you this: no one knows your dog like you

do. Yet, so many of us miss the early signs of age-related decline because dogs are so stoic. They'll go until they physically can't.

If you have an aging dog, pay close attention to:

- Limping or stiffness, especially after rest.
- Decreased stamina. Your dog may tire faster than usual or show reluctance to range far.
- Trouble jumping into the truck or up onto kennel boxes.
- Hesitation to retrieve.
- Behavioral changes, like increased irritability, anxiety, or clinginess.

Often, these signs aren't simply "old age" but indicators of underlying issues such as osteoarthritis, muscle loss or spinal discomfort. These health issues are treatable and manageable, but only if we intervene.

How to Adjust Hunts for Aging Bird Dogs

One of the biggest mistakes we make with older dogs is expecting them to perform like they did in their prime. They'll try their best to keep up, but this can lead to injury or burnout. A few ways you can adjust your hunting style includes:

- Shorter hunts. Break your day into shorter sessions with longer breaks between. Let them ride in the truck or crate and rest between walks.
- Hunt easier terrain. Avoid steep, rocky or overly thick cover. Stick to more open ground where the footing is easier.
- Less water work. Cold water retrieves can exacerbate joint pain. Older dogs are also more prone to hypothermia and fatigue during water retrieves.
- Hunt smarter, not harder. Use GPS collars to keep tabs on your dog and recall them before they overdo it.
- Hunt when it's warm out. Just like cold water, cold air can make your dog's joint pain worse. Consider hunting later in the morning when temperatures are warmer for their joints.
- Let them lead. Give your dog the space to set the pace. You'll know when it's time to call it a day.

Warming-Up and Cooling-Down Senior Hunting Dogs

You wouldn't run a marathon without stretching first. Your bird dog shouldn't jump out of the crate and hit the field cold, either. Warming up

helps prevent strains and soft tissue injuries, which are more common in senior dogs.

A light walk is a great way to help your dog warm up before a hunt. A five to 10-minute loose-leash walk helps to stretch their legs and get their blood flowing. This short walk goes a long way. Similarly, passive stretching can help your dog warm up, too. Talk to your vet or a rehab specialist about simple range-of-motion exercises you can do pre- and post-hunt.

The best supplements and medications for senior bird dogs include:

- Adequan Canine (injectable)
- Dasuquin Advanced with Eggshell Membrane
- NSAIDs (Carprofen, Meloxicam)
- Librela (monthly injection)

Adequan Canine

Adequan Canine is an injectable joint medication that I often describe to clients as lubricant and repair support for your dog's joints. Unlike oral



Image: projectpland.com

When you're done hunting, help your aging bird dog cool down gradually. Avoid letting them immediately curl up and get cold—this is when joint stiffness often sets in. A quick toweling, some slow walking, and warm bedding can make all the difference.

Joint Supplements and Medications for Senior Bird Dogs

There's a lot out there when it comes to joint care, and it can be overwhelming. Here are a few of my go-to recommendations, as both a vet and a bird dog owner. I'm not endorsed or paid by these companies, but after 12 years of recommending, prescribing, and using them, I think they are the best.

supplements, Adequan works within the joint itself to protect cartilage and slow the progression of arthritis. It's typically given as a series of injections at your vet's office or at home, and many dogs show significant improvement in mobility and comfort after just a few doses.

Dasuquin Advanced with Eggshell Membrane

This oral supplement includes glucosamine, chondroitin, MSM, and a powerful component called NEM (natural eggshell membrane), which contains proteins like collagen and elastin. These support joint health by improving flexibility and reducing inflammation. It's one of the few over-the-counter supplements I

continued overleaf...



image: projectupland.com

trust and use with my own dogs.
NSAIDs (Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs)

Medications like carprofen or meloxicam can dramatically reduce pain and inflammation. They're prescription only and should always be used under veterinary supervision, especially in older dogs whose kidney or liver values need monitoring. When dosed appropriately, they can give an older dog a new lease on life.

Librela: A New Option for Canine Arthritis Pain

One of the newest and most talked-about treatments in veterinary medicine right now is Librela. It's a monthly injection designed to help manage osteoarthritis pain in dogs.

Librela works by targeting nerve growth factor (NGF), a key player in how pain signals are transmitted to the brain. Unlike traditional painkillers or anti-inflammatories, Librela takes a more upstream approach—essentially “turning down the volume” on pain signals before they even reach the brain.

In my own clinical experience, Librela has been a game-changer for many of my older hunting dogs, especially those whose mobility had been limited by chronic joint pain. I've seen dogs who were struggling to get up and move around become more active, happier, and eager to engage again, whether it's short walks or even light training days.

That said, like any new medica-

tion, Librela is not without controversy. Some veterinarians and dog owners have reported adverse reactions, and concerns have been raised, particularly in certain breeds like Vizslas, Weimaraners, Spinonis, and occasionally Labrador Retrievers. As with any treatment, a case-by-case approach is essential. Not every dog is a good candidate, and we still need more long-term, breed-specific data.

The bottom line: Librela is an exciting new tool, but it's not the right fit for every dog. Talk with your veterinarian about whether it's appropriate for your bird dog's specific health history, breed, and needs. Open, informed conversations, like the ones vets are having right now, are what ultimately help us make the best decisions for our dogs' quality of life.

Don't Overlook Canine Rehabilitation

Veterinary rehab is one of the most underused tools we have for senior bird dogs. If there's a canine rehab facility near you, it's worth a visit. Here's why:

- Underwater treadmills reduce strain while helping maintain muscle mass and cardiovascular health.
- Laser therapy and acupuncture can help with pain relief.
- Doing therapeutic exercises at home, such as balance work or light hill walking, can keep your dog limber.

Ask your vet for a referral or help

finding a certified canine rehabilitation practitioner (CCRP or CCRT).

Helpful Gear for Aging Hunting Dogs

There are some excellent tools and products available that make life easier for your aging bird dog. One is portable ramps or stairs. These can help your dog get into your truck or UTV. Another is heated or orthopedic dog beds. You can stick them in crates or vehicles and even bring them to camp. Finally, hunting vests with handle slings allow you to assist your dog over logs or into boats. All of these tools can help decrease the strain on your older bird dog's body.

Check reputable sporting dog suppliers online, or ask your vet for their favorite brands and products.

Aging Is Inevitable, But Suffering Doesn't Have To Be

With the right care, attention, and adjustments, your old hunting partner can continue to do what they love well into their golden years. I still remember one of my old Labrador Retrievers, Sami. She had slowed down quite a bit by the time she turned ten.

We stopped doing long retrieves and thick cover runs. Instead, we hunted open CRP fields where she could trot and work scent at her own pace. During our final season together, I watched her flush one last rooster, her tail wagging like she was two years old again. It's a memory I'll always treasure.

Bird dogs give us everything they have. The least we can do is return the favor when their bodies begin to slow down. Talk to your vet. Watch your dog. Adjust your expectations. And keep savoring those moments afield, however short, however gentle, however slow.

After all, those are the hunts that will stay with you forever. 

— With kind permission from: https://projectupland.com/dogs/caring-for-the-aging-bird-dog-hunting-health-joint-support/?utm_source=Klaviyo&utm_medium=email&_kx=fUSZQjgqvS YnuuxNSS2OPOnTvdmtPQhgaaKJ-WMWz29fqJhAU3f6Y6qWTLzEu.XSVPXG

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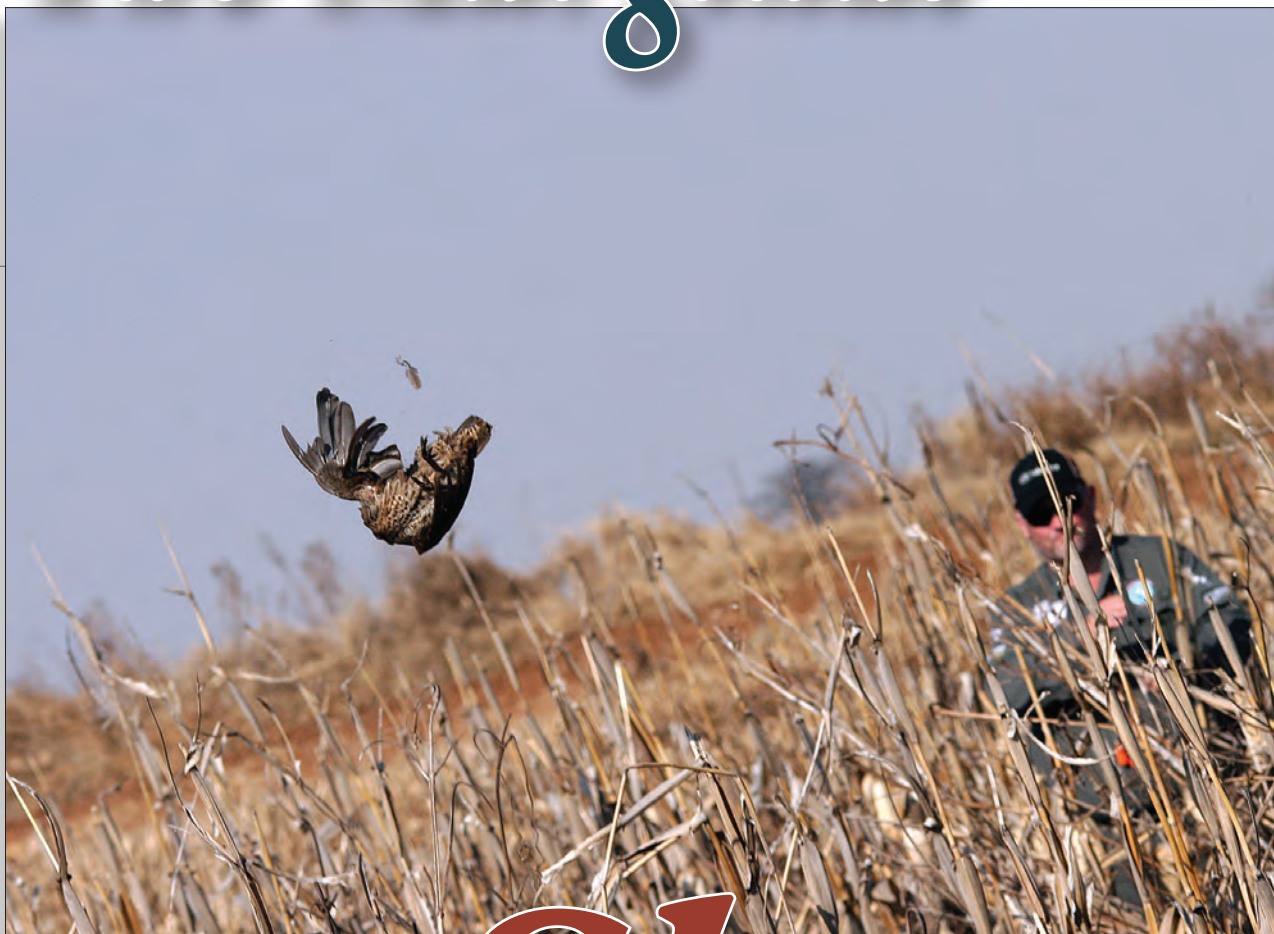


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The Marginal



Shot

I came upon this phrase recently in a Shooting Gazette magazine and it certainly caught my attention.

by Charles Duff

Photographs
André van der Westhuizen &
Jed Vaughan

Chamber's dictionary defines "marginal" as: small and unimportant, insignificant, near the lower limit, barely sufficient and on the edge. Yet their thesaurus differs somewhat with: borderline, doubtful, peripheral, negligible, minimal, slight, low, small, tiny and agrees with insignificant and on the edge. So the word has wide connotations, but in the shotgun shooting context synonyms such as dangerous, foolhardy, long, low, no blue sky, and out of range more readily spring to

mind, all with serious implications, hardly unimportant or insignificant! And, in this context, “shot” can mean either the weapon’s discharge or the thrombosis who pulled the trigger, or both.

The classic marginal shot is, of course, the shoulder-high (or lower) shot with no blue sky at all and this occurs far too often, especially among ‘fast draw artists’ who shoot flushed birds before they even clear the grass-line. Usually blasting the bird into inedible fricassee, if only they could learn to take another step forward and give the bird time to get some elevation!

there is a crowd of people - judges, trial managers, bird throwers, contestants and spectators, plus of course the dogs. So safety becomes a real issue. Thus the Guns are usually well-experienced, level-headed men with a strong safe-shooting ethos. But unless you are truly dedicated to, or interested in the sport, standing out in front all day, usually in the blazing sun shooting at thrown birds which does nothing for your field shooting proficiency, is a boring chore.

Add to this the fact that most if not all of the Guns are also dog owners and handlers and are entered in one or more of the classes – Puppy,

retrieves and their throw is always accompanied by one or two shots. This saluting is, for the Guns, the worst part of any trial so the chore is shared out and so it was that halfway through the stake I ended up with a Gun who professed to some experience with winged game shooting, but never before at a trial. In the previous retrieves he had been saluting dead birds.

We were to shoot a guinea-fowl thrown to our front while on our right and 20 metres behind us was the handler, dog and several judges. Behind them was the gallery of spectators and stretching back for about



Two years ago over the Easter weekend I witnessed such a shot and it still gives me a cold shudder every time that I think of it. Firearm accidents occur with stunning swiftness, it is all over in a split second; there are no “accidental discharges” in my book, only negligent discharges. So NDs not ADs! Retriever field trials require the use of freshly shot game and these are pen-reared birds such as reject racing pigeons, guinea-fowl, pheasants and duck.

It is not in any way sporting, the judges want each dog’s retrieve to be as near as possible the same, so it is really execution. As opposed to most southern African shotgun shooting,

Junior, Maiden, Novice and Open. So sometimes the clubs, at a loss for experienced Guns, have to make do with less well known newcomers.

Thus it transpired that I was the Senior Gun at a retriever stake in Gauteng and had two completely unknown to me volunteer guns. The usual stressed injunction, that only blue sky shooting was to be done as it is only a bird and the retrieve can be re-run in the event of a missed bird or one that falls too far out of the required area of fall, was given and the trial got under way.

Because of the cost of birds, once the live birds are shot for one retrieve, the bodies are used for subsequent

100 metres was a line of cars, some with dogs in the back and with a pretty-well continuous passage of people and dogs back and forth. The bird thrower was a few metres in front of the Gun and I was a corresponding few metres to the left. After half a dozen retrieves, during which one of us did the shooting while the other backed-up, it was his turn to shoot and this bird abruptly turned to the right as it was thrown and dropped on its way past the handler and judges.

With gun high I turned to watch its flight in case it could be safely shot, and I realised that the other man was swinging through the bird



*“Also, the kinetic energy of each pellet is way, way down, to less than 25% of its initial force – making any hits much more likely to wound rather than kill. So this can be taken as **the absolute limit** of range for a shotgun, and 50 to 55 yards is the marginal area.”*

which was now at less than shoulder height and, before I could shout or do anything, he fired. There was a moment of stunned silence and then, understandingly, bedlam. Apart from several peppered cars, there were three people and one dog hit by the No. 6 size pellets; fortunately none seriously though the dog's third eyelid saved its one eye. Reconstructing the event showed that what prevented a catastrophe was the fact that, having to swing to catch up with the rapidly departing bird stretched the lead beyond all the close people and those that were hit were about 80 metres away. So a very marginal shot by a very marginal shooter.

The frightening marginal shot is the man whose field craft, gun savvy, code of ethics, etc, are all lacking, and in fact he should not be shooting at all. Sadly such people do exist and I've met more than my fair share.

All you have to do is go to any of the 'school' or 'charity' shoots which

proliferate over the Springbok flats every season to meet more than a few.

I have over the years come to realise that a frightening percentage of shotgunners are afflicted by tunnel vision as they shoulder a gun and all they see is the target. This may be okay on the clay ranges, but out in the field it is patently a recipe for disaster.

Reading about top-line clay shooters shows that they can, and do, see the separate rings about the dome of the target, and this is usually always at least 20 metres plus away. Fantastic for shooting targets but not a good idea out in the field where the shooter must at all times be aware of what is going on in the background,

Then there is the flanker in a gun line, again a marginal shot or shooter in that he is at the edge of the gun line and it is all too easy for him to become somewhat detached from the line and wander either to the front or lag behind. Either way it is all too easy for him to deliver a raking shot towards the rest of the line unless he is very much wide awake.

It is a fact that the shotgun pattern gives out before the pellets lose their ability to wound or kill. Beyond 55 yards (50m), even with a full choked gun, there are insufficient pellets such as 4s and 5s left in the pattern to be relied upon to down the bird, such as a pheasant or a guinea-fowl.

Also, the kinetic energy of each pellet is way, way down, to less than 25% of its initial force – making any hits much more likely to wound rather than kill. So this can be taken as the absolute limit of range for a shotgun, and 50 to 55 yards is the marginal area.

We can only be thankful that, lacking pen-reared pheasants, we are not going to have purpose delivered ultra-high birds in the 50 – 60 yard plus range. Conceivably gullible guinea-fowl might cooperate in being driven over heights and fly over the subsequent valley, but it is never going to be common-place.

So, while it is possible to have some pretty high goose shooting, we do not usually have to make excuses for those whose marginal long shots only wound the birds.





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Ask The Instructor:

Difference in Barrel Length

by Don Currie

Question: When I first started shooting skeet 40 years ago everyone shot a 26" barrel. Now 28", 30", 32" and even 34" are the popular lengths. My Sporting Clay guns are 28" and 30". What is the difference in breaking targets? My 28" will reach out as far needed for standard targets. Is the sighting plane or lead different with a longer barrel?

Answer: Ballistically speaking, there is no difference in shooting a shotgun with a 28" barrel length versus a 34" barrel except that the wad and shot exit the barrel 6" earlier. The decision on barrel length is situational and should be based on three factors in order of descending importance:

1. Proportionality and balance of your shotgun. Balance is important because it determines how your shotgun moves. A properly balanced shotgun puts the shotgun's center of gravity between your hands, usually at the hinge pin. Shooting with a well-balanced shotgun will enable you to move the gun more naturally and efficiently to the target with less physical effort.

2. Your chosen shooting discipline. If you are more of a skeet shooter or quail



3. What you are accustomed to. Here is where the discussion of "sight plane" and "sight picture" arises. Even though we don't look at the rib or consciously aim our shotgun at moving targets, every shooter has a subconscious sight picture; the brain's subconscious view of the barrel-target relationship.

Throughout our years of shooting

a shotgun at moving targets, our brain amasses a "subconscious database" of images with different barrel-target relationships at different target speeds and distances. If you decide to change shotguns or barrel length, you will need to allow your brain time to adapt.

So, increase your practice time and shoot lots of targets for the first couple of months after changing guns or barrel length.

— Don Currie is NSCA's Chief Instructor, an Orvis Wingshooting School instructor, and Master Class competitor. You can also see more tips from Currie at www.doncurrie.com.



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PROVINCIAL BIRD HUNTING SEASONS (and bag limits in brackets)

MPUMALANGA – Gazetted

All year	Rock pigeons (need licence).
1 May-31 Jul	Yellow-billed duck, red-billed teal, Egyptian goose, Spurwing, Guineafowl, Spurfowl, Crested francolin, Coqui francolin, Orange River Partridge, Shelley's.
1 June-31 Aug	Grey Wing, Redwing

FREE STATE – Gazetted – Same as 2024

All year	Rock pigeons, Cape turtle dove, Laughing dove.
15 May-15 Sept	Greywing & O/River partridge, all Spurfowl, common quail, guineaowl, all Francolin (except Redwing), yellow-billed duck & red-billed teal, Egyptian goose, spurwing, Red KnbKoot
1 Jan - 30 Apr	Shelduck (1)
Note:	(maximum 10 land & 10 water birds pp per day)

GAUTENG – (NOT YET GAZETTED)

1 May-30 April	All year. Rock Pigeons (need licence) (20).
1 May-31 Jul	Egyptian geese (5); Red-bill teal (5); Yellow-bill duck (5). Note: Spurwing remain closed!
1 Jun-30 Sep	Swainsons francolin (5). Helmeted Guineafowl (5).

N-WEST PROVINCE – Same as 2024 for now (Draft in process)

All year	Rock pigeons (No limit), Red eyed dove (20), Cape turtle dove (20), laughing dove (20) (licence required).
1 May-30 Sep	Francolin: Red-billed (3), Crested (5); Partridge: Coqui (5), Guineafowl (10).
1 May-30 Aug	Partridge: Shelleys (5), Redwing (5); Quail: Harlequin (5), Common (10); Rameron Pigeon (5).
1 Apr-31 Jul	Partridge: Orange River (5).
1 Apr-15 Jul	Namaqua Sandgrouse (5).
1 Nov-31 Apr	Sandgrouse: Burchells (5), Double-banded (5).
1 May-31 Jul	Duck: White-faced (4), Yellow-bill (4), Cape Teal (4), Red-bill (4), Cape Shoveler (4), Southern Pochard (3), Knob-bill (4), Spurwing (4).
1 Jun-30 Sep	Swainsons Francolin (5), Natal Francolin (3).
1 Jan-31 Jul	Egyptian Goose (4).
1 Jan-31 Mar	Shelduck (2).
Note:	A Maximum combined total of 10 land birds & 10 waterfowl per day.

LIMPOPO – Gazetted

All year	Rock Pigeons (licence) (50), Red-eyed Turtle Dove (50)
1 May- 30 Sep	Guineaowl (10), Crested Francolin, (6), Shelley's (2); Natal francolin (6).
1 May - 31 Jul	Egyptian (6) & spurwing (4), white-faced whistling duck (6), Yellow-bill duck (4), red-billed teal (4).
1 Jun- 30 Sep	Swainson's francolin (8).
Note:	Total combined daily bag of (10 land & 10 water birds)

WESTERN CAPE <https://www.capenature.co.za> – Gazetted

1 Jan-31 Dec	Spurwing (3) & Egyptian goose (10), rock pigeons and Cape turtle dove, Laughing dove, Red eye dove, Speckled Pigeon (40 in total), guineaowl (10), Yellow-billed duck, red-billed teal, shelduck, Cape teal, Cape shoveler, southern pochard (5 in all total combined).
1 Jan-30 April	Yellow-billed duck, red-billed teal, shelduck, Cape teal, Cape shoveler, southern pochard (5 in all total combined).
1 May-31 Jul	Greywing Partridge (3); Red-necked Francolins (3); Cape Franc. (6). 1 March-30 April – Common quail (2).

NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE – Gazetted Same as 2024

All year	Egyptian Goose (10); Red eyed, Laughing, Cape turtle Doves (10 each) and Rock Pigeons (50).
1 April-31 Dec	Helmeted Guinea-fowl (10);
1 Jan-31 Mar	Shelduck (5).
1 May-31 Aug	Spurwing (5).
1 May- 30 Jun	Orange River Partridge (5), Red-billed Francolin (5), Cape Francolin (5), Natal Francolin (5), Swainsons Francolin (5), Grey-wing Partridge (5).
1 May-31 Aug	Northern Cape Excluding Namaqualand Magisterial District Yellow billed duck (10), Red-bill Teal (10), Cape Teal (10), Cape Shoveler (10), Southern Pochard (10). Namaqua Sandgrouse (10).
1 Apr-15 Jul	Burchell's Sandgrouse (5).
1 Jan -31 Mar	Namaqualand Magisterial District Yellow-billed duck (10), Red-billed Teal (10), Cape Teal (10), Cape Shoveler (10), Southern Pochard (10).
1 Jan-30 Apr	A maximum combined total of 10 land birds & 10 waterfowl per day.
Note:	

EASTERN CAPE – Gazetted – Same as 2024

1 Jan-31 Dec	Red eyed, Laughing, Cape turtle Doves and Rock Pigeons. (need licence).
1 Jun-31 Jul	Rameron Pigeon (Olive Pigeon) (5).
1 Jan-31 Mrt	Shelduck (4).
1 Feb-30 Sept	Egyptian Goose (15).
1 Mrt-30 Sept	Spurwing (5).
1 May-31Aug	Red-billed Teal (3), Yellow-billed Duck (3), White-faced duck (2), Southern Pochard (2), Cape Teal (2), Cape Shoveler (2).
1 May-30 Sept	Guineaowl (5).
1 Oct-30 Nov	Quail (10). (Note: Different in former Ciskei)
1 May-31 Jul	Red-Wing Partidge (2).
1 May-31 Jul	Grey-wing (4), but in Queenstown (2), Orange River Partridge (4), Red-Necked Francolin (4).
1 Jan-31 Dec	Exotic Anseriformes

KZ-NATAL – Same as 2024

31 May-31 Aug	Ordinary Game Licence Required for all. Common Quail, White-faced Duck, Red-billed Teal, Yellow-billed Duck, Egyptian Goose, Spurwing, Helmeted Guineafowl, Rameron Pigeon. Francolin: Red-necked, Natal, Swainsons. Partridge: Grey-wing, Red-wing, Coqui, Crested & Shelleys.
Note:	A Maximum combined total of 10 land birds & 10 waterfowl per day.

Other game birds can be shot under a SPECIAL PERMIT during the open season, please contact KZN Hunting & Extension Department on 033 845 1652.

PLEASE NOTE that all members must still consult the respective provincial ordinances, as we do not list species that are not traditionally gamebirds, and we do not take responsibility for information correctness on this page. All exotic Anseriformes are open all year. E&OE.

Please Note: You have to return your licence to the respective provinces, after each season, stating on the licence all the relevant details as asked. This applies to provinces who require this, such as NW Prov, and is stated as such on your licence.



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The Golden Retriever Club (GRC)

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Transvaal Field Trial Association (TFTA)

Retrievers

Charles Trollope
E-Mail: charles@chardale.co.za
Cell: (082) 888-1906.

Working Spaniel Association

Bobby Lotter
E-Mail: bobbylotter@blconsult.co.za
Cell: 083 449 0325

The Weimaraner Club of Gauteng

Frank Winder
082 478 4135
Email: admin@weimaranerclub.co.za
https://weimaranerclub.co.za/

Hungarian Vizsla Club

E-mails: admin@vizslaclub.co.za
Contact person: Thinus van Staden or Anita Erasmus
Tel: 081 568 0155 or 079 882 2191

WESTERN CAPE

Cape Gundog Club

All Gundog Breeds
Lisa Dimech – (Secretary)
Email: dimech.lisa@gmail.com
Noleen Wilson-Taylor (Chair)
Email: noleen@hixnet.co.za

Cape Field Trial Club

All Gundog Breeds (pointers, retrievers)
Secretary: Sarah Roodt
E-mail: sarahlroodt@gmail.com
Tel: 083 270 5402

Versatile Pointing Dog Club

Pointing Breeds (Pointers, HPRs, etc.)
Trudi Winter: 082 924 7440
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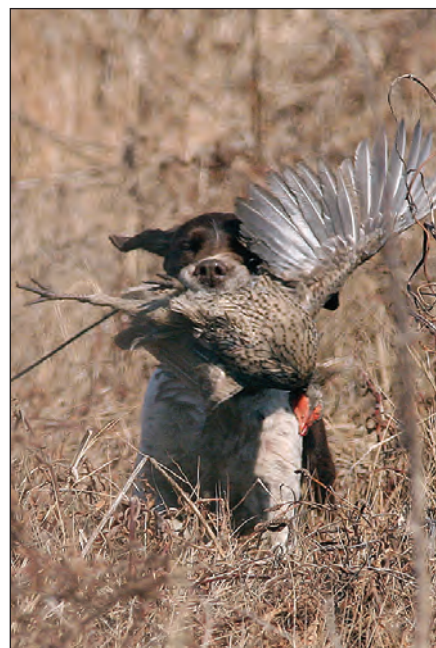
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ID Number:																			
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Activity Description 1:																			
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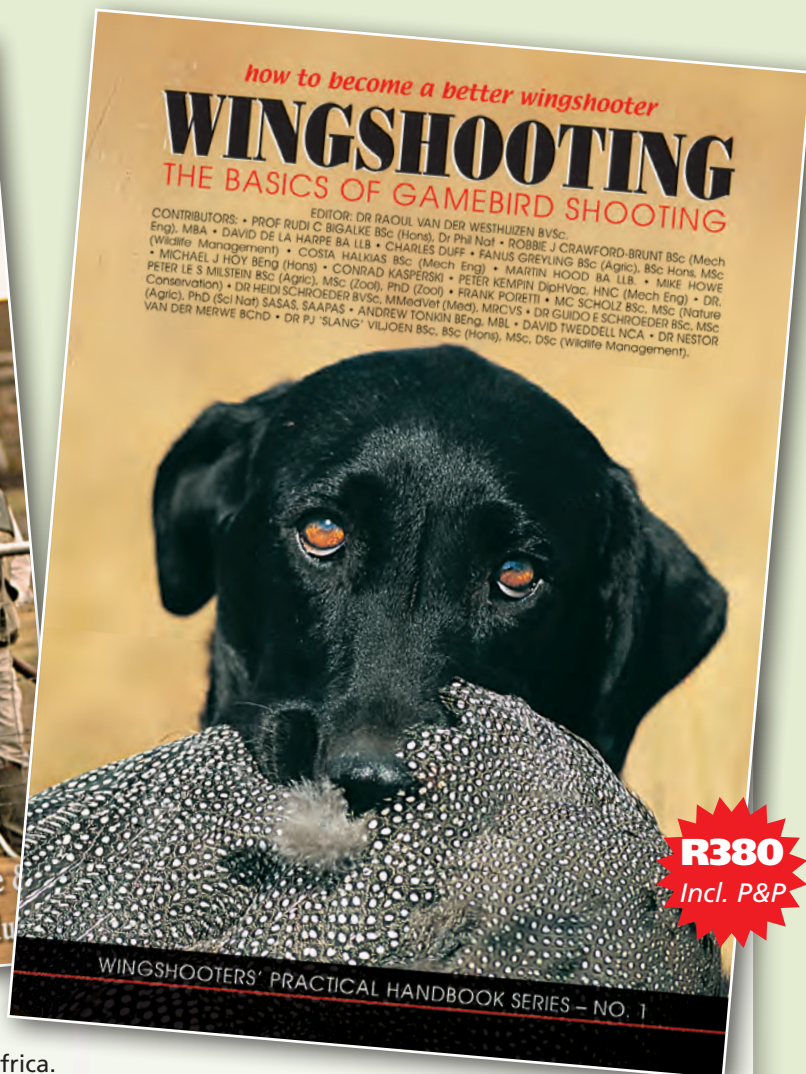
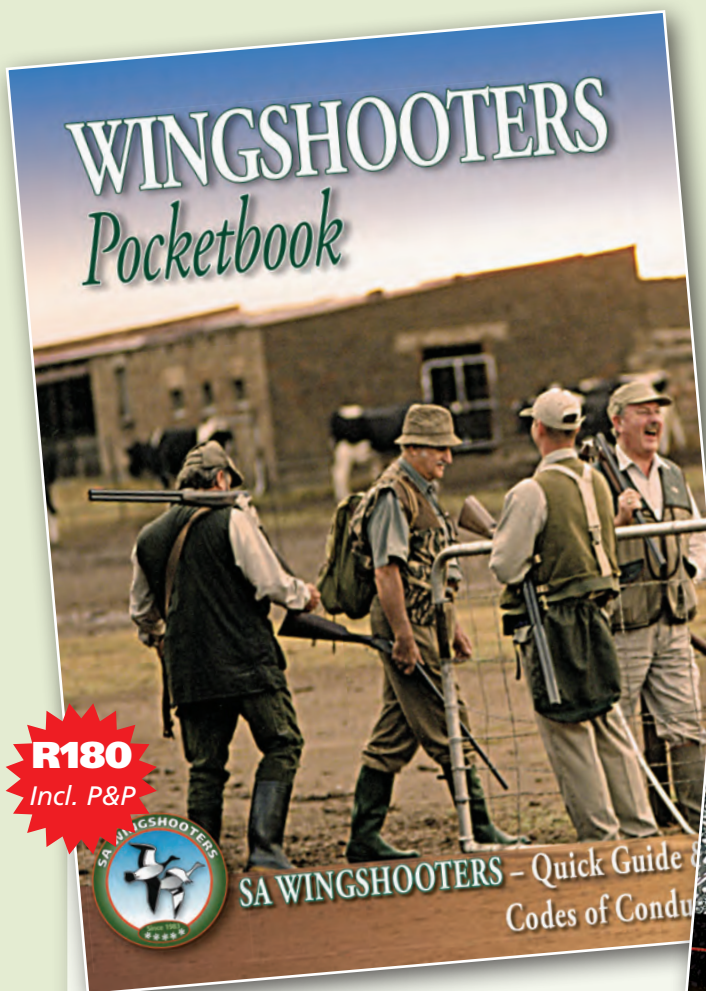
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Scapegoating Lead-Based Ammunition: Why Bullets Aren't the Smoking Gun in Vulture Declines

Nicolette van der Merwe | WRSA

26 June 2025

The widespread decline of vulture populations across Africa has rightly become a significant conservation concern. While various anthropogenic threats contribute to this crisis, the narrative often points to lead-based ammunition as a primary culprit for unintended, secondary lead poisoning in these scavenging birds. However, an in-depth look at available evidence and arguments from stakeholders in South Africa suggests that this may not be the main source of mortality, and that other, often more pervasive, threats demand greater attention.

Lack of Definitive Autopsy Reports Linking Lead Ammunition to Mortality

A key argument put forth by organizations such as the SA Wingshooters Association (SAWA) is the lack of robust scientific evidence directly linking lead-based ammunition to mass vulture mortalities in South Africa. SAWA asserts that, to date, no studies in South Africa regarding the potential impact of lead shotgun pellets or other ammunition on gamebirds and animals have been recorded, and there are no reports of substantial numbers dying from lead poisoning caused by lead in ammunition, including vultures. International organisations such as the British Association for Shooting & Conservation (BASC) also emphasize that global studies show minimal impact findings from lead ammunition, concluding that there is no overwhelming proof that lead-based ammunition poses a serious threat or decline to vultures in Southern Africa.

While a study by van den Heever et al. (2019) found elevated blood and bone lead levels in South African Gyps vultures, including nest-bound chicks, concluding that metallic lead fragments ingested from hunted animal carcasses were the likely source, **it does not explicitly present autopsy reports proving lead ammunition as the direct cause of mortality for these specific cases.** The study indicated that 12% of White-backed Vultures and 9% of Cape Vultures had lead burdens consistent with subclinical to severe clinical lead poisoning upon their deaths. However, it notes that such sub-lethal effects could make birds more vulnerable to other causes of mortality, implying lead may be a contributing factor rather than the sole, definitive cause of death demonstrated by autopsy. Arnold Slabbert, a renowned conservationist with 37 years of professional experience in wildlife rehabilitation, states they have not encountered a single case of lead poisoning. Slabbert also asserts that the focus on lead by certain groups often ignores the "indisputable hard facts about pesticides and poisons," which are considered the greatest threat to wildlife survival.

SAWA maintains that direct lead poisoning, caused by ingesting large metal particles, poses little threat to mammals, including humans, as the lead passes through the digestive system quickly. However, they acknowledge that in birds with gizzards, lead does accumulate, is ground into small particles, rapidly oxidizes in digestive acids, and poisons the bird. Yet, the overall risk from ammunition is still insignificantly small compared to other threats - particularly in light of the precision and discipline involved in modern ballistics.

Multiple, Overlapping Threats to Vultures

The threat to South African vultures is multifaceted, extending far beyond potential lead exposure. The "Draft Multi-Species Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) for Vultures in South Africa" supposedly identifies poisoning, both intentional and unintentional, as the most significant threat. This includes the consumption of poisoned carcasses meant for other species or those treated with harmful veterinary medicines.

Beyond poisoning, the BMP outlines several other major threats:

- *Energy Infrastructure*: Collisions with and electrocutions by power lines and wind turbines are significant contributors to vulture mortalities. Large-bodied birds like vultures are particularly vulnerable to electrocution due to their wingspan and gregarious roosting behavior.
- *Habitat Loss and Degradation*: Changes in land use due to agricultural intensification, development, and bush encroachment reduce foraging ranges and suitable nesting sites.
- *Human Disturbance*: Activities near breeding colonies such as construction, agriculture, aviation, mining, and recreational activities can cause breeding failure and colony abandonment.
- *Diseases*: While information on the prevalence in South Africa is limited, exposure to poultry diseases and increased microbial activity due to rising temperatures are potential risks.
- *Drowning*: Vultures occasionally drown in farm reservoirs, especially if they are already weakened or poisoned.
- *Direct Persecution/Illegal Killing*: This includes trapping, shooting, and the illegal harvesting of vulture body parts for traditional medicine or as a means to conceal poaching activities.
- *Climate Change*: Increased temperatures can negatively impact body condition and breeding success, potentially leading to range contractions.

Arnold Slabbert, conservationist and wildlife rehabilitation specialist, highlights that 30-50% of raptors admitted to care are victims of poisoning, specifically secondary rodenticide poisoning and agricultural chemicals like organophosphates. This is followed by deliberate persecution (10%), with other causes like motor vehicles, power lines, fences, viruses, and accidents accounting for the remainder. Slabbert **explicitly states they have not seen a single case of lead poisoning in the thousands of raptors they have treated.**

Intentional Poisoning as a More Frequent Cause of Mass Die-Offs

Evidence strongly indicates that intentional poisoning, primarily for African traditional medicine and to control predators or conceal poaching, accounts for a far greater number of vulture mortalities than lead ammunition. The BMP identifies intentional poisoning for African traditional medicine as a "major threat" in West, Central, and Southern Africa. Over 90 vulture carcasses, including White-backed, Lappet-faced, and White-headed Vultures, were recovered in northern KwaZulu-Natal in 2019-2020 due to targeted poisonings linked to traditional medicine trade.

Studies estimate that 160 vultures are sold annually for this purpose, with 59,000 vulture parts consumed in eastern South Africa each year. One association of traditional health practitioners in Bushbuckridge alone may use 400-800 vultures annually (Mashele et al. 2021a, b).

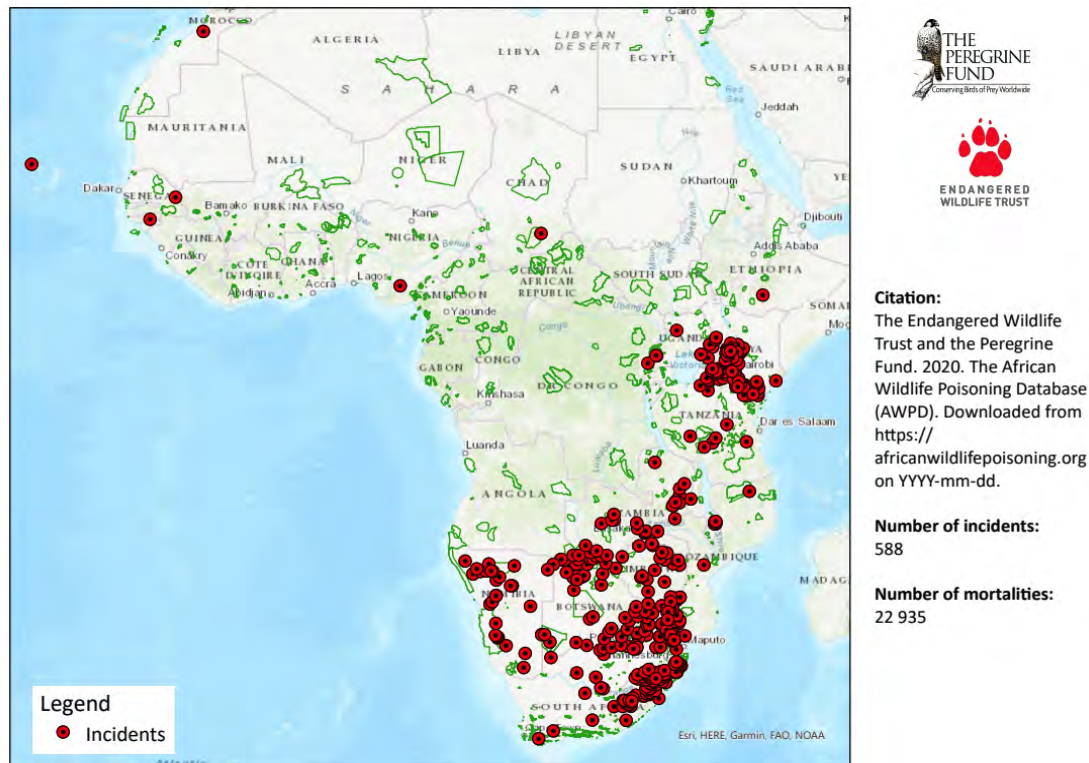
Sentinel poisoning, where poachers deliberately lace large mammal carcasses (like elephants or buffalo) with toxic pesticides to eliminate vultures circling overhead and signaling illicit activities, has also led to mass die-offs. In South Africa's Kruger National Park, two recent incidents resulted in the deaths of 154 White-backed Vultures after feeding on poisoned elephant carcasses.

Since January 2019, at least 450 vultures of four threatened species, along with other predators, have been killed in at least 13 incidents in Kruger National Park due to poisoned poached animal carcasses. The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) records show over **1,200 vultures were deliberately poisoned in southern and eastern Africa in 2019, and none of these incidents were attributed to lead ammunition.**

Africa's vulture populations have declined by an average of 62% over the past three decades, with some species crashing by 80%, primarily due to "large scale poisoning," not lead ammunition.

The misuse of agricultural poisons is cited as the leading cause of mortality in gamebirds in South Africa, with 14% of farms reporting gamebird poisoning, followed by habitat destruction and pollution. These poisons can also secondarily affect vultures.





(Figure 1)

Limited Evidence of Substantial Lead Fragments in South African Vulture Necropsies

While the van den Heever et al. (2019) study inferred that metallic lead fragments were the likely source of elevated lead levels in South African vultures due to the unique physiology of vulture digestion and the right-skewed distribution of blood lead values, the presented documents do not provide extensive data on the direct discovery and quantification of "substantial lead fragments" in necropsies of South African vultures compared to other continents. The focus is often on lead levels in tissues (blood and bone) which infer, rather than explicitly report the source of poisoning.

However, organizations like SAWA argue that such population-level impacts from lead ammunition are minimal, especially in South Africa where bird hunter numbers are comparatively low and lead dispersal from hunting is considered negligible when compared to other sources like the **mining industry, which can disperse 85 tons of lead per month into the environment from detonators**. SAWA contends that if lead in ammunition had a major impact, its negative effects would have been widely witnessed decades or centuries ago.

In defence of Hunters and Lead Ammunition

Proponents of lead-based ammunition, such as BASC and NSSF, present several arguments against a 'blanket' ban, promulgated by anti-hunting *semitism*:

- **Economic Impact and Conservation Contributions:** Hunting tourism significantly contributes to the South African economy, with a total impact estimated at USD 2.5

billion. This industry exhibits a production multiplier of 2.97, meaning that every USD 1 spent by hunting tourists generates an additional USD 1.97 in production. Hunting tourism also supports approximately 95,000 job opportunities in South Africa, predominantly benefiting lower-skilled workers in rural areas (*van der Merwe & Saayman, 2025*). These occupations include trackers, skinners, farm workers, and cleaning and maintenance staff, highlighting the sector's importance in employing a vulnerable segment of the population (*van der Merwe & Saayman, 2025*).

A total phase-out of lead ammunition would create barriers to hunting participation, reduce spending, and negatively impact these economies. **Hunters are conservationists who play a vital role in managing the natural environment, with their financial contributions (e.g., excise taxes on ammunition) serving as a primary source for wildlife conservation funding.** A reduction in hunting participation would directly lead to a decrease in conservation actions.

- **Population-Level Impact Focus:** BASC and NSSF argue that risks from lead ammunition should be addressed at the population level. They state that if there is no evidence of poisoning impact at a population level, further legislation is not justified. They point to the significant increase in raptor populations across North America despite continued use of traditional ammunition as evidence that it does not cause population-level harm.
- **Effectiveness and Practicality of Alternatives:** There are no direct substitutes for lead shot, and alternative shot types (bismuth, steel, tungsten-based) each have strengths and weaknesses, potentially requiring adjustments in shooting practices and extra attention to gun safety. Concerns exist about the universal availability and affordability of alternatives, especially outside Europe and America. In South Africa, steel shot, the closest alternative in price, is over three times more expensive than lead loads. Some countries that do not load their own ammunition fear that supply will not meet demand if a total ban is implemented. Norway, for example, reversed its ban on lead ammunition (outside wetlands and clay pigeon shooting grounds) in 2015 due to insufficient evidence to support the ban and a lack of suitably effective and varied alternatives.
- **Contemporary ballistics** is an advanced, scientifically driven discipline focused on **minimizing bullet fragmentation** while ensuring effective and humane results. When a projectile enters a carcass, it creates a wound channel comprising: A **permanent cavity**, representing crushed and lacerated tissue directly in the bullet's path, and a **temporary cavity**, a larger, short-lived displacement caused by rapid energy transfer. The **kinetic energy** delivered - especially at high velocity - determines the scope of this cavitation and tissue destruction. However, much of the destructive power often comes from **fragmentation** - both the bullet shattering and bones breaking into secondary projectiles, creating multiple wound tracts and extensive tissue damage.
To combat this, modern hunting bullets (e.g., bonded, full-metal-jacket, or monolithic copper designs) are **engineered for controlled expansion without breaking apart**, preserving structural integrity so energy is delivered cleanly and predictably. As forensic and ballistic science emphasizes, **non-deforming rounds penetrate deeply with minimal collateral damage**, while expanding bullets do so in a **measured way**, ensuring humane field performance without excessive fragmentation.

In short, **modern ballistics prioritize bullet design that balances deep, clean wound channels with minimal fragment dispersal**, benefiting both hunting effectiveness and environmental safety.

- **Human Health and Food Safety:** Simple game meat handling practices, such as removing the wound channel (5% of meat containing highest lead levels), can reduce average lead levels by 95%, effectively eliminating risk for rifle-shot game by removing visibly damaged meat plus an additional 10cm. Consumers who eat more game are typically more likely to take these steps to minimize exposure. **The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) found that, at a population level, lead from game meat accounts for less than 0.1% of the average consumer's lead intake.** Furthermore, the UK Food Standards Agency found that nearly 90% of game consumers already consume game at levels below their guidance, and two-thirds practice game meat handling, meaning consumption of game does not equate to consumption of lead.

In conclusion, while lead exposure in South African vultures is a concern and warrants continued research and mitigation, **the comprehensive evidence from various sources indicates that it is not the dominant cause of mass mortality.** Instead, intentional poisoning for traditional medicine and poaching concealment, as well as interactions with energy infrastructure and habitat loss, appear to be more immediate and widespread threats to vulture populations. Decisions regarding ammunition regulation should be science-based and proportionate, considering the complex interplay of factors affecting vulture survival and the significant contributions of hunting to rural economies and conservation efforts.

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VULTURES & LEAD AMMUNITION

SEPARATING FACT FROM FICTION

MYTH

Lead-based ammunition is the leading cause of vulture deaths in South Africa.

FACT

No definitive autopsy reports link lead ammunition to mass vulture mortalities.

THE REAL KILLERS

The threat to South African vultures is multifaceted, extending far beyond potential lead exposure. The "Draft Multi-Species Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) for Vultures in South Africa" supposedly identifies poisoning, both intentional and unintentional, as the most significant threat.

Intentional Poisoning for traditional medicine and sentinel poisoning by poachers has led to mass die-offs, posing the top threat to vulture populations (e.g. 154 vulture mortalities due to a mass poisoning event in Kruger Park, 2025).

MODERN BALLISTICS IS NOT THE THREAT

Advanced bullet design reduces fragmentation, limiting environmental exposure.

South African Wingshooter Association (SAWA): If ammo was the issue, we'd have seen the effects long ago!



ENERGY
INFRASTRUCTURE

HABITAT
LOSS

HUMAN
DISTURBANCE

CLIMATE
CHANGE

AGRICULTURAL
POISONS

HUNTERS = CONSERVATIONISTS

- Hunting tourism contributes USD 2.5 billion to SA's economy.
- Supports 95,000+ jobs, mostly in rural communities.
- Hunters fund conservation through license fees, levies, and land management.



WRSA
WILDLIFE RANCHING SA



WRSA
WILDLIFE RANCHING SA

