

# SHOOTING 1981-82





S H O O T I N G

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MOOR REPORTS - 1981/82 SEASON

STUBLICK MOOR - T DAVISON

30.12.81

There are hundreds of grouse off the moor at present - they have gone onto a patch of heather - approximately 60 acres - close by the roadside where the snow has melted and Keeper Davison is keeping a careful watch on them. Heather is starting to bare now on the higher ground. He said conditions have been very similar to 1978 when the ground was covered by snow for 2 weeks - after which there was a good season. He is looking forward to his visit to Lincolnshire with Walter next week.

4.1.82

Snow had cleared most of moor, but snowing again this evening.

6.2.82

Birds look fit and healthy and do not appear to have taken any hurt with the snow. Heather seems quite good and has not been damaged by the frost. Last few days had strong east wind so birds keeping heads down but wind not yet damaging food supply.

1.3.82

Things look good, grouse distribution not uniform but has seen fair stock on parts of moor. Weather mild and blustery but no snow. Lot of green on the heather. Gas Board contractors working on moor at present relaying pipe at lower level, but not causing much disturbance.

20.4.82

The weather is very dry with cold winds and there have been some hard frosts at night. He has not seen any eggs yet. The bag in 1978 was 1350 in 22 days, but he thinks 1600 - 1700 could have been shot. He does think he has about half as many again as last year. In general things looking good and the grouse are well.

15.7.82

Davison is seeing quite a few birds but too many small broods of 2 and 4 in his opinion. Disappointed with brood sizes but more optimistic than last year. Altogether found 10 dead birds - piners. Weather been dull but dry until last night when had torrential thunder storm which has continued into today.

13.12.82

Davison advises things are going very well. Weather has not been too bad - no real snow, just the odd light shower. Very little frost. Birds seem fit - no sign of disease.

STEAN MOOR - J FREEMAN

31.12.81

Has been up on the moor today - has not seen many grouse, but those he has seen look to be in fair condition. He thinks many have gone off moor but a lot of the heather has started to show through today. Sheep will be slaughtered as you wish and he will deliver to Rothwell House by 5 p.m. on Wednesday 6th - I have told Mrs Nickerson.

4.1.82

Steans more or less clear of snow. Had seen a few birds.

6.2.82

Seen quite a lot of grouse and they all look healthy. Also a lot of nice green fresh heather.

1.3.82

Seeing quite a lot of birds, but seem to be in threes rather than pairs at present. A good lot both on Moss and back of Meugher. Fresh heather shoots poking through. Weather not too bad, but some sleet and hail showers. He finished the fence a fortnight ago and has started putting grit out.

23.3.82

Considers that in general things compare favourably with last year at this time. Is counting pairs on a particular section of the moor and keeping a record so he will have a comparison for next year as JN suggested. Had been burning that afternoon on Meugher - lovely day and the heather is drying but it was not really dry enough to burn successfully.

20.4.82

Freeman reports he has carried out another two days burning. There have been cold winds but nothing to worry about. Is starting to see some eggs.

6.5.82

Freeman telephoned today to say that he had found one dead grouse this morning which was in a very poor condition. You once asked him to send any dead grouse to you - do you want him to send this one?

MOOR REPORTS - 1981/82 SEASON

WEMMERGILL AND HOLWICK - P FAWCETT

6.2.82

During the worst of the snow three-quarters of the grouse moved off the moor down to lower ground such as Egglestone and Langleydale but they are now back at Wemmergill, are paired up and looking good. Heather is still green but winter is not over yet.

1.3.82

Fair stock of healthy birds, if weather conditions continue kind, prospects good.

20.4.82

Fawcett has seen the odd nest. They have had a good spell of burning - 20 or so days he said. Weather dry and everything going well.

6.5.82

No news yet from Fawcett but will follow him up. Have spoken to Grave and he says everyone seems very happy with the prospects. It has been a wonderful spring and the severe weather in November and December did not seem to have any serious effects - the birds came out OK and the heather came out from under the snow looking fine. The talk is of big nests and no-one seems to expect anything bad.

20.5.82

Saw the first chicks on 14 May. By middle to next week the majority should have hatched off. Seen a few nests which have hatched and there are no rotten eggs left. Expects good brook sizes but too early yet to try to count - so far only seen one brood of 7. Ideal weather for hatching although been some severe overnight frosts. No rain so far and things on the moor are not growing quite as they should - the moor still looks rather dead.

23.6.82

There have been heavy rain showers and it has been quite cold, but he doesn't think the weather has harmed the grouse, most of the broods being well forward - only the odd late brood seen. However, the picture does not look quite so good as it did earlier and the higher ground is definitely better than the lower. There are more broods and the number in each is generally larger than the lower ground broods which average five. Fawcett is rather puzzled about this distribution which seems to be general throughout the area. His own theory which he stresses may not be correct, is that last winter after the shooting season grouse moved to the higher ground and those were the fittest birds they stayed there throughout the winter. The weaker birds went to the lower ground and naturally produced fewer eggs. In general he still thinks the season will be good and probably better than last year, but there is nothing to get too excited about.

15.7.82

Fawcett has only walked the moor once during the past two weeks as they are busy with roads and butts before season starts. However, he is not excited by the brood sizes he has seen - broods on the higher end of the moor are quite good but on the lower land the broods are small in number. Cannot understand why they have not done so well. Thunder storm and downpour overnight and today.

S H O O T I N G      1 9 8 1 / 8 2

### Quail Shooting

Mr. & Mrs. Nickerson did not visit Nilo Plantation for the quail shooting with Mr. John Olin partly because it would have been difficult to fit in just before leaving on their World Cruise, and partly because Mr. Olin reported that the season was very bad and he was considering abandoning hunting from 1st January 1981.

In a letter of 4.12.80 to JN Mr. Olin said:

"Evelyn and I have spent 10 days at Nilo and, during that time, I have had an opportunity to inspect the 9 quail shooting courses at the Plantation. I found overall a very low density of cover and a low native food abundance, but most disturbing of all a definite indication of an unsatisfactory relationship of the ratio of adult birds to juveniles. Normally I expect approximately a 50/50 percentage of adults to juveniles, but apparently due to the very high temperatures and lack of rainfall prevailing throughout the summer months, the contents of the eggs in the quail nests were subjected to temperatures which I estimate ran between 100/125 degrees, resulting in non-fertile eggs which failed to hatch. We did not kill a sufficient number of quail to have an accurate determination of the ratio of adult birds to juveniles, and will not have this until the Williams family are at the Plantation to shoot quail morning and afternoon for a solid week. I am of the opinion our adult/juvenile ratio will probably exceed 50/50 to a marked degree and, if so, I am seriously considering abandoning the killing of quail from the 1st of January on so as to preserve our breeding stock. In my opinion, based upon what I have read, adult birds are not successful in their breeding characteristics beyond the age of 3, and I do not wish to gamble by depleting the breeding stock now in existence by further killing of quail into the present season."

In the event, Mr. Olin did decide not to shoot any further quail after 16.1.81, as explained in his letter to JN of 21.1.81:

"I think you would be interested in the detailed records I compiled in order to arrive at a decision with respect to further management of our quail population for the balance of this shooting season. I compiled a record of the past 10 years, 1970 through 1980, and it showed an average kill of quail to be 1,202 per year. The maximum kill was in 1972/73 when 1,792 quail were killed. The minimum was in 1978/79 when 842 were killed. The average ratio of adults to juveniles was 68% juveniles and 32% adults. The maximum ratio of juveniles/adults was in 1977/78 when 937 quail were killed and the ratio of juveniles to adults was 81% to 19%. There was also a very interesting ratio which occurred in 1974/75 when 1,527 were killed and the ratio of juveniles to adults was 76% to 24%. The average of the 10 years was 68% to 32%, and this, in my opinion, is the most accurate figure to use in endeavouring to draw a conclusion with respect to what to do about further shooting this year.

"The results for this year, thus far, based upon the hunting from November 20 through January 3 show a kill of 160 quail and the ratio of juveniles to adults was 45% to 55%. Furthermore, the results of a somewhat similar period, November 23, 1979 through January 1, 1980 show 236 quail were killed, and the ratio was 62% juveniles and 38% adults. When I considered all of these figures in ratios, I decided we were gambling if we continued to kill our breeding stock, regardless of the ratio of juveniles to adults. It is obvious our best results with respect to our quail population result from a juvenile/adult ratio of at least 2 to 1. When I considered the slump we now have, based upon the ratio of 1980/81 of 45% juveniles to 55% adults, I did not wish to gamble any further so, as of yesterday, January 16th, I have decided not to kill any more quail for the balance of this season. This decision, Joe, you will realise was arrived at just about the time Eugenie and you would have arrived here, and I am quite certain neither you nor I would have enjoyed the gamble which is so evident if we were to carry on the killing of our quail population any further this Season.

Extract from John Olin's letter to JN of 21.1.81, continued

"I hope you agree with me that I have made a wise decision because the recovery from any further reduction in our breeding stock would, in my considered opinion, be gambling with the future of our quail population, and this I do not wish to do. Hopefully the summer of 1981 will be more favourable for a good hatch."

Comments relative to the 1980/81 total kill of quail at Nilo Plantation and some contributing factors involved - prepared for Mr. John M. Olin by his staff

The total kill of the 16 hunts during the periods of 11/20/80 through 11/29/80 and 12/29/80 through 01/03/81 was 138 quail of which 62 (45%) were juveniles and 76 (55%) were adults. This abnormally low percentage of juveniles prompted Mr. Olin to research the records for a 10 year period preceding the current season - he found that the average percentages for that 10 year period were 68% juveniles and 32% adults.

Too, since it was known that the total number of coveys over the entire hunting courses was down around 33% from the 1979/80 season there was some apprehension regarding the brood stock for the coming breeding season of 1981 - if there was too much more killing we might go into the breeding season with too few quail and the majority of these quail old birds.

After contemplating the situation Mr. Olin called a conference of wildlife people to determine whether there should be any further killing of quail on Nilo Plantation for the remainder of the 1980/81 season. The consensus of opinion of those attending this conference was that if there was to be any further killing of quail it should be on a limited basis.

Juvenile quail production on Nilo Plantation during 1980 was substantially below the norm due to the extreme drought and ultra-high temperatures throughout July, August and September; during this period of time mid-afternoon temperatures of 107<sup>o</sup>F. at 8' above ground were not uncommon, and at ground level the quail nests would reach as high as 125<sup>o</sup>F; such temperatures would not permit the quail to incubate, and afforded no desire on the part of the hen to re-nest.

The foregoing should explain why our total kill was only 179 quail for 1980-81; for the time hunted, 58 hours and 15 minutes, our guns did the very best they were able under the adverse conditions of sparse ground cover and nervous quail.

Note which J.N. dictated at Middleton-in-Teesdale 10.9.81, probably after talking to Mr. Bill Flowers on whose Plantation - Merrily - Mr. & Mrs. J.N. shot quail in 1980.

There is a bird which roughly resembles a peregrine falcon type which lives in Georgia and it is deadly picking off quail. Some of the staff over there can make a noise like this Blue Barter, and this frightens the hell out of the quail - they all squat so tightly you can walk them up a lot better - they don't rise wild.

VISIT TO NOMBELA, SPAIN BY BENJY JACOB AND IAN GARFOOT APRIL 1981

BENJY JACOB'S REPORT - RECEIVED BY J.N. 26.4.81

ROUTES

1. Rothwell - Plymouth 370 miles via M180, M18 5½ hours driving time
2. Santander - Escalona, via Segovia and Avila 300 miles  
7 hours very hard driving - very bad road Santander - Burgos and road to Segovia, Avila and Escalona.
3. Escalona - Burgos via Madrid 210 miles 4½ hours, much better than other road.
4. Burgos - French border 150 miles all motorway 3½ hours in the dark
5. Escalona - Le Havre 965 miles via Madrid, Burgos, San Sebastian, Bordeaux and keeping on motorway where possible to Le Havre. 23 hours driving time but crossed Pyrenees in dark while raining heavily.

HOTEL EL MIRADOR

Rooms and beds clean, tidy and comfortable, but the baths are small, only 4ft long. The food was good. Confirmed with Tom Gullick and hotel manager the reservations for November and January, including cooking facilities and private dining room and bar. It may be possible to have English papers sent from Madrid if T.G. asked to arrange early enough. Menu and wine list attached.

THE SHOOT

Traps

Not an easy place to trap, but the keepers have traps set in rocks, along walls and near the water courses.

Eggs

Approx. 3000 laid on Monday of the ovo-urraquil (instructions included). These are chicken eggs approx. 60% - 70% dead in shell - clear. On Tuesday morning I saw approx. 40 eggs while with T.G. - of these about 10 taken - one dead magpie found. This poison is not immediate. After permission has been obtained from the village it is printed in the local official paper. If no objections are raised the permission is signed by the Ministry. The town crier then tells the village and signs are placed around the shoot. Until this is done no eggs are allowed to be laid.

### Vermin

Magpies and jays - very few seen - perhaps only 50 in the week.

Snakes: two types killed while there

1. By Paco - green on back with brown markings, yellow underneath, 4' long, venomous
2. By Pedro - green/brown all over, 4' long, non-venomous.

Lizards: legartos green all over, approx. 8"-9" body and 4"-5" tail,  
many teeth - killed 3 ourselves and 3 more trapped

Rats: ratas refers to common brown rat and dormouse, dormouse more frequent,  
3"-4" long, tail 2"-3", head similar in shape & marking to a badger,  
i.e. pointed, black and white stripe - will take eggs.

Ratone: fieldmouse - 1½"-2" - brown - not vermin

Fox: occasional ones being killed - Jesus snared one 20.4.81

Wild boar: seen at Nombela - the keepers have shot 7 this year around the village  
though not all on the shoot.

Little owl: Santos trapped one 18.4.81

### Pantadu

This is the area bounded by Rio Alberche, Arroyo de Casa, Casas de Valdelamuela and Nombela shoot. There are two parts, one of 241 hectares and the other of 111 hectares. The 111 has. is nearest Casas de Valdelamuela. This land is 90% wheat. There are two drives on this land, but more important it will stop other people shooting it and draining Nombela.

### Tom Gullick

I had a long talk with T.G. He feels that if clear instructions come via CAPS everything will be O.K. He is very friendly with Archie Coats and Dick Walgate. Dick Walgate is shooting with T.G. 1,2,3 November 1981. The keepers and villagers respect him. He thinks we have a good team of keepers. T.G. is very confident and extremely knowledgeable about birds I think.

### Shooting ex Strutt and Parker

This is at a place called Cacerias Azores and is very close to T.G.'s own shoot. The shoot is run by Landalucie who is a friend of Gullicks and Spang whom Gullick describes as a s..... Gullick says that they will always make the bag whether the birds are shot or not.

Photographs taken on this trip  
are in a separate album on  
Spain

April 1981 (cont.)

Ian Garfoot and Benjy Jacob's visit to Spain

#### Wildlife Notes

Birds seen: several hoopoes, 10 mallard on Rio Alberche, 25 cranes  
15 little bustards, a red kite at La Rana, a short-toed eagle  
at La Rana (T.G. says this bird hovers like a kestrel).

There is a stork nest on the chapel roof of Nombela.

Trees: The oaks are in flower - they have yellow "catkins" on them 1½" long.

#### Santos

I believe Santos' sister is married to one of Domingo's sons. Santos' brother used to be a keeper at La Ronca but now lives and works in Madrid. I took Santos and his wife to dinner on 19.4.81 at Escalona. Santos' daughter has a small grocery shop in Nombela.

#### Further Notes

1. Only Santos and Jesus have Nickerson buttons, suggest take the others in November.
2. Did Santos & Jesus get pictures of themselves in England? If not, did they ought to? (DS confirms that photos were sent to them).
3. Suggest we should take prints of this trip for the keepers, they like photographs, especially of themselves, possibly one each enlarged and framed.
4. Have arranged for the photographs taken by myself and Garfoot to be printed and for JN and CAPS to have copies.

#### Enclosed with this report

1. Copies of contract - one with T.G.'s comments.
2. Summary of Nombela contract costs.
3. Vermin lists for March '81.



Pablo, shepherd and muzzled dog

Muzzled shepherd dog -  
to prevent eating eggs



Goat herd at Los Prados



Goat herd, west  
of village

21st May, 1981

South Hills

\* see below

Pigeon Flight

13 pigeons

"A few days ago when Will Jacob was doing some rolling on top of Pencil Hill he saw a partridge in front of him running round in circles and behaving in a strange, parental way. He got off the tractor to see if there was anything the matter with the bird and, to his amazement, it continued the movements, which were like that of a parent trying to lead one away from chicks. He thought that there should be any partridge chicks in the middle of this trials field where the late sown barley was only a few inches high. He continued to search and found one green plover chick that was being befriended in this way by this cock partridge. Will Jacob was born on the estate and his father has worked for us for 40 years, and his grandfather too. He knows very well what a cock partridge looks like, and what a green plover chick looks like too.

"It is interesting to think that the badgers that used to come from the setts in Rothwell used to go to the Blacksmith's Shop - now the Nickerson Arms - to eat the horse hoof during the night. The blacksmith used to see them when he came to work in the morning."

25th May, 1981

South Hills

Pigeon Flight

4 pigeons

\*

Further note re this day: "I am with Billy in my pigeon hide at the top of South Hills. There is a very strong east wind - north east - very strong and quite cold, but we are well prepared. I shot at 21 birds and killed 13 and was very pleased. I enjoyed it very much and I used my Woodward 12 bores as my 20 bores are away for overhaul. I shot in front of the pigeons, like I do every year to start with. It's the same with the slow grouse - I shoot in front of them - the same with mallard coming into a pond. You have got to remember to shoot at them, and it is awfully difficult after shooting so many fast high-flying things. I shot for 1½ hours - 4.50 until 6.20 a.m., and it was very enjoyable."



1ST JUNE 1981

Early morning pigeon  
shoot at Rothwell



Billy Jacob and J.N.



Eddie Hassall and J.N.

J. N. P E R S O N A L B A G 1 9 8 1 / 8 2 S E A S O N

1st June, 1981.

Early morning pigeon shoot at Rothwell

Woodpigeons	19
Stockdove	1
Collared dove	<u>1</u>
	21

On Monday June the 1st I rose at 5 a.m. It was a beautiful morning, the early morning mist lifting was really lovely. Had a look round, and then went up to my pigeon hide. Had a couple of papier mâché birds lofted up the top of the tree and ten papier mâché decoys on the ground. I am by no means convinced that, at this time of the year, it is a wise thing to do to have these decoys. They don't seem to decoy well at this time of the year.

At about 6.30 a.m. a solitary carrion crow flew off Great Walk down towards Rothwell Village. He was making a terrible noise - he has evaded us - and avoided us. He has been here for far too long. There is generally one on the place of course. He doesn't seem to be very easy to get. The birds I have seen this morning are shelduck, mallard, stockdove, turtle dove, collared dove, wood pigeon, starling, black-bird, greenfinch, pheasant, French partridge, English partridge. I can hear the cuckoo almost the whole time.

The mist hasn't lifted any more than about 400 ft. in some places. In other places it is still down on the High Street just at the top of the beech trees. Quite a few pigeons have come to have a look. They keep about 50 - 60 yards circle and move on. They can't see me, because I have got a mask and a camouflage hat, and I have got a good hide and am keeping still. They can't see me. There is something they don't like here.

I was thinking of the old days when every ash tree on the Wolds almost had a carrion crow's nest in it, and there was a fox in every pit hole. I found when I was a boy that carrion crows were difficult to get to to shoot the hen as she flew off the nest, but you could do it on your own alright if you waited until 28th, 29th and 30th April. Then they were sitting so tight they would let you get near enough to have a crack at them, either on the nest or as they came off. They often used to swoop very low down and they were an interesting shot. After you had killed the hen you would climb up the tree and put a little cocktail in the eggs without making too much mess of them, just a little tiny bit in, and leave the shells as good as you could. The cock birds will come back and incubate for 24 hours. If his hen doesn't show up, he will eat the eggs in the nest under him and drop out of the tree dead.

The hawthorn hedge close to me has got some beautiful bloom in a few small places. It is not as well known as it might be by people that live in the country that the bloom comes from uncut thorn. Where you trim a thorn you don't get the flowers so much. If you have got a tree that hasn't been trimmed, it is covered with blossom, and part of the hedge in the gap where it isn't trimmed is covered with blossom. I thought that was worth recording.

It seems such a pity that people put up farm buildings and don't put a screen of trees in. This young fellow Davy to the south of us, running down by Spring Hills - on the top of the two grass hilly fields he had put these corrugated iron sheds up there. Admittedly they are palish green. They are for his

1st June, 1981, continued

horses to get out of the sun. They could so easily have been put lower down the hill out of sight in the valley. It would have been warmer for the horses too. However, there they are. He could have planted a few trees round them. The same applies to the Glebe Farm. The Church are bad landlords. They have never been landlords of very much of my land - only 16 acres - since I was 16 years old, but there is 400 acres of good land in Rothwell glebe and the farmyard when I put the ugly general purpose or grain store up, it is toning down slightly now, and of course it has got the beech to the north of it to keep the wind out. But on the south side there are no trees screening that barn, and there should be a belt there. One doesn't want to boast or wag one's tail or be proud of anything, but looking right across this I can see from where I am over 1,000 acres of land I have farmed for over 40 years, and you can't see a building on it - but there are some. You can't see a house on it - but there are some. We resisted the electricity pylons, and there is a bit of unspoilt country, and I hope it will long remain like it.

I have sent a note to Bob Johnson saying I think the laburnums look lovely. I should like to see a few more clumps of laburnum on the place, and I would like four or five planting together in a little grove, perhaps at the top of Diana Wood on the side of Charles Plantation, etc. so that one would have a little clump of 4 or 5 flowering prunus - they will be over, then soon after the laburnum will come out. There are many places where these can go and I have asked Bob to be thinking of planting a couple of hundred at least. The seeds are poisonous so they must not to anywhere except in the woodland where the sheep can't get. At least, I have always thought they were poisonous, and I blame them for killing some calves.

There seems to be no pattern to the way these pigeons are coming in. One just circled away - he didn't want to know anything. Another one came round and had a look at the tree. Didn't want to know the two birds up there. Came across from right to left, a nice crosser about 30 yards out - I clean missed him with the first barrel - I must have been in front. It turned him righthanded back away from me, and I think I must have shot up the side of him again. I never saw a feather anyway. There has been another one now, just come round in a very confidential way, opening his wings and putting his brakes on - I am sure what he was going to do was to swoop into the tree. He got it right in the front end and spun down beautifully.

There is still even now at ten minutes to eight not a breath of wind, and so the mist is not yet rising. It is really lovely. A pair of stockdoves just flew across, took no notice. Half an hour ago there were three stockdoves and they went on, took no notice of what was laid out for them here.

It is warming up a little bit now and there are a few more birds about. Another pair of stockdoves. One came about 4 or 5 feet high - he had a good look at what there was but didn't come any nearer than 60 yards. His mate I suppose a little distance away, and they went away together - this peculiar vol plane that they do, I call it, up and round and down. If only the sun would come out I think these pigeons would move. I find they won't move in rain so easily. They don't like flying in rain. If the sun comes they seem to come on the feed more this time of the year I think.

I suppose I have been very lucky regarding wood pigeons as being tigers. I get so excited at the thought of shooting one. Every one is so different. They are so much better sport than a lot of pheasants that one is invited to shoot at. But comparisons are stupid - you can't shoot pheasants on 1st June, not in England - that's not on, as everyone knows! So you should never compare one bird with another or one sport with another, or one child with another.

1st June, 1981, continued

I have just fetched an overhead bird down - 35 yards only - nearly straight over my head with a little curl just going away to the right. If you get a clean, crisp shot like that with the first barrel it is fantastic really the thrill I can get from shooting these wood pigeons. As I have said earlier, I think I am a lucky man, and not only in that. Of course, you want to walk towards your luck. Get yourself up and get organised and get shooting organised. I mean "organised" - in inverted commas.

The sun is half out now, half broken through and the pigeons have started to come more frequently. I wish it would break through. I have just killed four and missed one. I am enjoying myself shooting at everything, everything that presents itself, not just picking the easy ones. The last four out of five I have enjoyed. I have just had a double at a high one, stung him up, got feathers both barrels. He dived off as far as the big sycamore tree. He has gone into that so I think he could be in the open and I think we could pick him off the road there, close to the road I should say.

I am using one of my set of three Purdey over and unders No. 7, Grand Prix ordinary cartridges 6 shot 2.6 mm. 20 bore. You have just got to remember that, although these pigeons are moving slowly and it is easy to miss them in front, which I have done all my life, you must get on to them, more or less shoot at them, generally speaking. But just keep the gun moving too, just to be crisp. In these days of shrinking margins in agriculture, profits are very hard to come by, and the pressure on everyone farming is getting greater and greater with increasing costs. The processors that buy the peas from us, for example, are screwing us down the whole time. These pigeons do an enormous lot of damage and they do want reducing in numbers, and so this is an added pleasure. I suppose that with all the gas guns we have got out, bangers as they are called, the revolving things of all descriptions, shredded fertiliser sacks flying in the wind to keep pigeons off - they all have to be looked at regularly by the staff. There is a man going round in a truck to service them - so it is a very heavy cost on producing these brassica crops and peas and so on. When you have got about 40 pieces of kale of an average size of 2 acres, 1½ - 2 acres, to keep all those protected from pigeons is another thing, but I have come to the conclusion that you want to get that kale drilled early so that the kale plants are young at the same time as the other plants are young. Youthful plants seem to be very attractive to pigeons and hares and everything else. When the surrounding plants get more mature and then the little kale shoots are coming up they seem to be like caviar for everything.

I have to go to London later today, and tomorrow is the Agricultural Forum. I should think while I am in London the sun will be shining as bright as can be and these pigeons will be coming to feed without me there - that's life. I wish it would break through now though.

Twelve young French partridge chicks hatched near Jacob's Stone at the top of the Park. They were all right before that tremendous thunder storm last week. Nobody has seen them since, but that isn't to say that they're not there.

Now it has gone dull, really dull, and not a pigeon coming. Haven't had a shot now for about 12 minutes. Beautiful bird straight overhead just now. At least I thought he was straight, but I missed him as clean as a whistle. He didn't see me, but he just put in a swerve and had another look and I shot up the side of him. There is a wood pigeon that has just made an 80 yard circle. He looked at the birds in the trees, the decoys, looked at the birds on the ground, came round again and made a slightly wider circle. He

1st June, 1981, continued

didn't want to know, he wouldn't come any nearer. It is the same with early grouse, after you have been shooting these downwind, high swinging pheasants, fast birds, then you start another season and these old grouse are not very fast at the beginning and of course, using 20 bores, they are not so heavy, they shoot further in front. With a heavy gun you have got to give a lot more swing of course, but too light a gun is very difficult to shoot with. It is a new technique - you have to learn it again. When I hurt my shoulders I shot with .410's and 28 bores and killed over 100 pheasants several days I remember. I am talking about if you have been using a 12 bore all your life. It is a different technique which has to be learnt when you are shooting with a lighter gun. You can't really get a good over and under gun without putting a bit of weight into it. There is only one man who could do that and that is Mr. Woodward, and he needed a little bit of weight. Purdey today needs a bit too much weight in his over and under 12 bores, but with a 6 lb. 20 bore which I have had made, it isn't a bad tool, and you get the best of a lot of worlds. Mr. Boss - his over and unders - they are the lightest and they handle most beautifully, but of course they don't keep going. You want to have a mechanic as a loader. I suppose if you had three pairs of them you could keep going during a busy season. That's about the form. They are very, very good. Hollands don't make many over and unders, but my son Charles has a pair and he shoots very well indeed with them. Robert's got a trio of 12 bore over and under Purdeys, and I think they are just heavy enough those Purdey over and unders. We are talking about fine points - these things don't matter a lot.

I can just see the sun - it looks absolutely white through the mist - well, it's not really misty, you can see a mile, a mile and a half, but just under the ceiling of 400 - 500 ft., or probably 1,000 ft. I have just had the most exciting thing. A pair of woodpigeons coming up from one side and a stockdove coming at rightangles. The pair of pigeons settled in the tree from the other side, fairly easy shots, but the stockdove came past to my right. Luckily I got him through the head with the first barrel, a full 40 yards out, spun round as fast as I could as the two pigeons flew off the tree and luckily clobbered one in the back of the head 40 yards; maybe 45 yards the other side. I was very pleased about that. Straight through - a bit of field craft - and another variety in the bag.

I have an arrangement that when I am shooting pigeons in this hide any members of the staff, or keepers, or Billy go up to the top of Diana Wood in the jeep where we have got a clear view across the valley three quarters of a mile away, and if I want them to come to me I wave my red and white handkerchief, which is what I have just done at 8.30 a.m. Just as they have started to get on the way here in the Landrover the sun has broken out. It is very, very bright now and very clear.

(Tape preserved in archives)

The following is a list of the plants and birds identified by Miss Ruth Nickerson in Claxby Wood in early June 1981

Pheasant  
 Woodpigeon  
 Cuckoo  
 Great Tit  
 Blue Tit  
 Wren  
 Song Thrush  
 Blackbird  
 Robin  
 Blackcap  
 Whitethroat  
 Willow Warbler  
 Chiff Chaff  
 Hedge Sparrow  
 Starling  
 Red Poll  
 Bullfinch  
 Chaffinch  
 Tree Sparrow



Acer pseudoplatanus	-	Sycamore
Acer campestre	-	Common field maple
Adoxa moschatellina	-	Moschatel or Town hall clock
Ajuga reptans	-	Bugle
Alnus glutinosa	-	Alder
Allium ursinum	-	Wood garlic
Anemone nemorosa	-	Wood anemone
Arum maculatum	-	Lords and ladies
Carex acutiformis	-	Lesser pond sedge
Carex strigosa	-	Loosestaked woodsedge (RARE)
Carex sylvatica	-	Wood sedge (RARE)
Chrysosplenium alternifolium	-	Alternate-leaved golden saxifrage
Circaea lutetiana	-	Enchanter's nightshade
Cirsium vulgare	-	Marsh thistle
Corylus avellana	-	Hazel
Cirsium	-	Spear thistle
Cratageus monogyna	-	Common hawthorn
Dactylis glomerata	-	Cocksfoot
Daphne laureola	-	Spurge laurel
Deschampsia caespitosa	-	Tufted hair grass
Dipsacus pilosus	-	Small teasel

continued overleaf

Endymion nonscriptus	-	Bluebell
Epilobium hirsutum	-	Great Willow Herb
Equisetum telemateia	-	Giant horsetail
Festuca gigantea	-	Giant fescue
Galabdolan luteum	-	Yellow archangel
Galium aparine	-	Goosegrass
Potentilla sterilo	-	Barran strawberry
Prunus spinosa	-	Blackthorn
Geranium robertianum	-	Herb Paris (Robert)
Geum rivvale	-	Water avens
Geum urbanum	-	Wood avens
Grichema hederacia	-	Ground ivy
Heracleum sphodondylium	-	Hog weed
Holcus lanatus	-	Yorkshire fog
Hypericum hirsutum	-	Hairy St. John's wort
Hypericum tetrapterum	-	Square-stalked St. John's wort
Lamium album	-	White dead nettle
Mysotis sylvatica	-	Wood forgetmenot
Quercus ruber	-	Pedunculate oak
Ranunculus auricamus	-	Goldilocks
Ranunculus ficaria	-	Lesser Celandine
Ranunculus repens	-	Creeping buttercup
Ribes sylvestie	-	Red currant
Rosa canina	-	Dog rose
Rubus caesicus	-	Dewberry
Rumex sanguincus	-	Red veined dock
Scophularia aquatica	-	Water figwort
Silene dioca	-	Red campion
Stachys palustrie	-	Marsh woundwort
Stellaria palustria	-	Great stitchwort
Taraxacum officianale	-	Dandelion
Tilia cordate	-	Small leaved lime
Ulmus procera	-	English elm
Urticularia diorica	-	Stinging nettle
Veronica montana	-	Wood speedwell
Vicia sebrum	-	Bush vetch

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J.N. Personal Bag

June 26th

South Hills Pigeon Flight

9 pigeons  
2 rabbits

Joe Woodcock shot 28 rooks at Cabourne on the evening of 1st July 1981 and spread them on the barley.

14th July, 1981

Early morning pigeon shoot at Rothwell

Wood pigeons

3 2

In position at my pigeon hide at the top of South Hills at 8.45 a.m. after having had breakfast, dealt with the morning post, read the newspapers and seen Mr. Dummer. Two pigeons lofted up on the dead branches of the tree and 11 papier mache decoys out, facing the wind. At 8.50 a single pigeon came round and I clobbered him, first barrel. Then there was a single, very fast, down-winder over me - clean missed him - two barrels. Two other pigeons came: they had a look at the decoys, didn't like what they saw, and they veered away. Likewise a pair of doves, they kept so close together when they were flying, they just were not quite near enough. I then had a single shot at a very long distant wood pigeon over the wheat in Fox Cover without any result, but he was not viewed an out of ranger. So in the first 20 minutes I have shot at 3 pigeons.

I don't think we need these decoys at this time of the year. Certainly they have not attracted any pigeons. I think the two in the tree are alright, they can't possibly do any harm, but they seem to see that these pigeons are stationary: they have got some idea, these birds flying round. They have a good look and they don't come in. We shall have to get the moving decoys which we used to have, and pull them with a string.

It is a dull morning. We are short of rain. Everyone round about has had rain - miles away and even as near as 10 miles away - but it's four weeks since we had any real rain here. I don't think our corn can fill to the maximum, although our crops are good. Many winter barleys are as flat as if a steam roller had been over them. Early drilling, 13 stones of seed to the acre. All this shed grain grew together and all the volunteers grew with it. The potatoes are suffering on Rothwell Top, there is no doubt about that, on Mare Piece and Drove Piece.

It is 9.12 and I shot at my fourth pigeon - a couple of barrels - a wide swinger with a wind, a beautiful twister. Didn't touch him. They won't what I call "really come in", although he might have done, he was showing more interest. My next shot was at 9.25 - a beautiful bird coming in over Fox Cover towards a tree, extreme range through the first big barrel. I have had a lark singing most beautifully - they are quite incomparable birds - soaring and singing even 15 yards from me and then going higher overhead. We found a lark's nest just on the edge of where I go pigeon shooting with 4 eggs in. I suppose this is the bird probably, and it is preparing to nest again.

At 9.35 had a double at a wide bird, stung him up but didn't hurt him much, he went across to Diana Wood and settled there. Lovely sized, low flying hen kestrel quite close to me. It is now hovering over the barley. With the barley being late this year there are so many places for them to watch out for their prey. When you have got all corn standing 100% these kestrels have a time of difficulty, but this year they have got plenty of areas that they can look at from their hover.

Little clumps of mature beech at the top of Spring Hills on the boundary of Blackburns and on the corner of Warren House. I have cleaned all the thorns out from underneath and all the scrub so that you can see the beautiful boles of these trees. I hope they will be kept like that perhaps after my time. I think they look so lovely.

14th July, 1981, continued

The swifts are very busy from about 20 to 80 yards high, and they are always into the teens, even the twenties sometimes, hovering and flying within sight. I reckon it has been a good year for insects. We have not reared any partridges at all at Rothwell, but I have seen quite a few coveys of wild - some nice broods of both English and French.

<u>23rd July, 1981</u>	Rothwell		20 pigeons, 1 rabbit
<u>12th August, 1981</u>	Wemmergill	- 6 drives	102 grouse
<u>13th August, 1981</u>	Holwick	- 6 drives	100 grouse
<u>14th August, 1981</u>	Stean	- 5 drives	72 grouse (Mrs. Prior killed her 1st grouse & 3 others)
<u>15th August, 1981</u>	Stublick	- 3 drives	5 grouse
<u>17th August, 1981</u>	Wemmergill	- 6 drives	77 grouse with 136 shots
* <u>18th August, 1981</u>	Wemmergill	- 6 drives	24 grouse
<u>21st August, 1981</u>	Wemmergill	- 4 drives	64 grouse with 93 shots

I was in a butt with No. 10 painted on it by the new regime at Close House facing east for the first drive on 21st August. It was a misty morning with wind from the west. Birds were coming a bit head to wind but they were a bit tricky. They overflanked them a bit on the top flank. Anyway, I fired 18 shots and picked up 14 birds of my own without any argument. Lord Strathmore was next to me on my right and fired 15 cartridges and picked up 5 grouse - that is all he claimed. There was an empty butt between us and there was an empty butt on the top end to me, so there was not any argument. I only wasted a cartridge at a very, very long bird to stop the flankers thinking they had to come any closer in, I let fly at a single bird out of range so that was one cartridge. Woodcock has picked up another bird there - it can only be mine, so that is 15 with 18 shots the first drive.

Louise has been next to me at the second drive - we call it the Louise butt - it has got a No. 9 on it under the new regime. She shot very well and killed 7 grouse out of that butt - very proud of her, and she killed a snipe and a grouse earlier.

At Close House we have got 52 brace at lunch, and JN and the three daughters have got 47 birds out of the 104 total. Birds that the children have seen today: meadow pipit, merlin, grouse, snipe, ouzel, wagtail, blackbird, heron, dipper, crow, jackdaw, peewit, curlew, muscovy duck, and a chicken, a cockerel.

Father and three daughters have killed 105 grouse today out of a total bag of 180 - father 63, Jennie 19, Louise 17 and a snipe and Rosie 6. Brother Sam had three birds this morning I think, so that is 112. Lord Strathmore had 19, which is 131 so that leaves 50 birds between Mr. Lamyan and Mr. Yates.

22nd August, 1981 Wemmergill - 6 drives 111 grouse with 191 shots  
Douglas was loading for me. I was back in Middleton House at 5.00 p.m. - very happy day & shot WELL.

\*Note later received from J.N. re 18th August: Like October grouse this afternoon in Shipka - wonderful to be back there after, I think, four years. 18½ brace at lunch, total bag approx. 62 brace. I shot 12 brace, Louise 3½, Jennie 2½ and Rose 1½. I feel I have the "flu" coming on, but very difficult Wemmergill grouse. Wet first drive, bright with some sun rest of day. Very strong west wind. Two drives above Lunch Hut and four below. (J.N. in bed 19th August taking antibiotics so did not shoot at Stean).

"We particularly enjoyed your Yorkshire estate - a lovely piece of England and fantastic to see what you are doing to improve it. Tim Kitson was almost green with envy when I told him of our bags, and that with the 2nd XI! He took some convincing that I was not having him on!"  
Jim Prior

"A memorable 3 days with you which we both enjoyed so much. You are most generous friends whose kindness we greatly treasure. Friday was very special for me! Four grouse, brilliant sunshine and quite the most lovely scenery - what more could anyone ask! We enjoyed your Spanish guests - particularly Silvia and Alfredo. How charming they are. Our love to Jenny, Louise and Rosie - three delightful charmers - you must be very proud of them all. Our fond love and very warmest thanks to you both." Jane Prior



"Thank you both so very much for the many attentions showered on me during my visit. For me this was a wonderful new experience. It was my first time out of Spain and my first grouse shoot. You cannot imagine how much I enjoyed myself as your guest. Eugenie, Louise, Rosie and myself had such a gay time, they are delightful companions. Remember me to them all." Carlos Mora-Figueroa

"It really was the greatest fun seeing so many grouse, especially as it was my first day's driving this year. Thank you so very much for a wonderful day!"  
Mikie (Lord Glamis) 22 Aug.




From Ernest Bigland, re Stean  
19 August

"It is now many years since you first included me in one of your parties, & it is always one of the highlights of the season. We had a first class day with the grouse travelling faster than ever, only spoilt by the fact you were not with us." (J.N. felt ill & did not shoot that day.)

Extracts from letters from  
Jean & Henry Nevile re 26/  
27 August:

"Weren't we lucky to have 2  
such sensational days in most  
beautiful places and with so  
many grouse too."

"What a wonderful 2 days  
entertainment you and Eugenie  
have given us. In any year  
to be allowed to take part in  
a 100 brace day of grouse  
shooting is a real treat, but  
in this year to have had 2 such  
days is truly marvellous.  
Wemmergill has a great & romantic  
tradition & it was exciting to  
see the variety of drives and  
countryside. A lovely place, &  
a great pleasure to see."



"This last visit to Middleton was the 20th I have made in successive  
years having shot my first grouse with you at the age of 16 twenty  
years ago. This is a mark of your boundless generosity to me. I  
have enjoyed each visit enormously, met many interesting people and  
made quite a few friends as well".

Rocco Forte


26th August 1981

E. L. Lamyman

Dear Joe,

I was agreeably surprised at the amount of grouse  
we saw on Friday and Saturday. After our own  
experience at Clapham and hearing such bad reports  
everywhere, it was really extraordinary and I  
am very pleased for you.

Thank you once again for a very enjoyable two days.  
Please thank Jenny for her usual superb hospitality.  
I hope Rosie had an enjoyable birthday. I am  
sorry I had to leave, but I felt I had been away  
long enough.



"We simply loved it all and I particularly will not forget either  
days shooting. The Shipka Pass is really one of the most outstanding  
grouse shoots of all and the birds are really very exciting so long  
as one hits one from time to time!!

Willie Whitelaw



ON STEAN MOOR AUGUST 1981



J. N. P E R S O N A L B A G 1 9 8 1 - 8 2 S E A S O N continued

24th August Holwick - 6 drives - guest of Lord Strathmore 41 grouse with 62 shots

<u>Drive</u>	<u>Grouse</u>	<u>Shots</u>
1	15	21
2	8	9
3	2	4
4	10	13
5	5	11
6	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>
	41	62

Total Bag: 94½ brace

25th August Stean - 4 drives 47 grouse

Letter of thanks from Michael Maude to J.N. for this day said: "I enjoyed myself enormously and I am so grateful to you for inviting me. It was so nice to see you and some of your family again. It is a pleasure I miss greatly since I retired from my job at Jesus. It was interesting to see the high ground of the moor for the first time. You will remember it was misty on the last two occasions I shot with you. You have made so many improvements to the moor already - roads, grip drainage and fencing. I am sure you will have put the neighbouring moor owners on their mettle and that the whole area will benefit as a result of your example."

26th August Holwick - bottom end - 6 drives 94 grouse with 127 shots

27th August Wemmergill - Close House - 6 drives 54 grouse with 108 shots

No late hatched birds seen on either 26th or 27th. Much pollen on the heather. Moors dry.

29th August Grand Lieu - France 233 head with 475 shots

Ducks	230	(228 mallard, 2 teal)
Crow (Common)	1	
Coot	1	
Woodpigeon	1	

JN's Notes on the Trip to Grand Lieu: We departed from Middleton House at 1.15 p.m. on Friday, 28th August and arrived at Teesside Airport at 2.05. I was driving the Range Rover myself. Benjy, Woodcock and Douglas Smith had got all the gear on the 'plane, an HS 125, and we took off immediately and, after 1 hour 20 minutes in the air landed on time at Nantes. We did not have to show our passports either at Teesside or at Nantes and we had no customs formalities of any description but just walked straight through at both ends. It takes 20 minutes from the Airport at Nantes to the house, which they built 21 years ago. They have a bedroom each side of a sitting room and then a dining room next to the kitchen that you walk up to on the terrace. Benjy stayed with Alphonse, the keeper. Benjy had driven down from Scotland 11 hours the previous night without any sleep after he'd been fishing. He brought me some wonderful haddock for breakfast and some codling which we have frozen. That is a very great degree of keenness, driving all night to come and visit France and load for me. The Guerlains don't drink champagne, I don't think they drink wine at all. They are splendid people. We had a sufficient dinner and went almost immediately to bed. Slept well, despite the quacking of the ducks.

Out of bed at 6.40 English time on the 29th and down to breakfast at exactly to the minute, 7.00 a.m. Into the hide and all the decoys out and the boat just setting off to leave us at 7.08 - I will use English time as my watch is English time. 7.11 we have not had a shot. Benjy Jacob is here with me. It is now 7.30 and

Grand Lieu - 29th August 1981, continued

we have counted 14 ducks down, we have not had a complete miss. 7.40 and one a minute for the last 10 minutes with 24 on the counter now. Three in the last 8 minutes. We have not missed anything and every time we have put our gun up a duck has come down. We have seen two buzzards both soaring one each side of us, not high, very low, and I can see a pair of herons now. We have seen 3 snipe fly over and 2 wood pigeons and a small skein of geese - about a dozen. First miss at 7.55 English time - a shot at a high bird just hit him hard in the body, the first bird we have not seen actually hit the ground or the water. 8.08 and 40 birds on the clock, plus some long birds which we have not counted. We have had the gun up, I think, only twice, including the time I have mentioned, when we have not seen something drop with one barrel or the other. 50 up at 8.27 and we have used 130 cartridges. It is 9.03 English time and we have got 80 that the dogs should pick up that have dropped on the water. 88 ducks at 9.14. We have seen absolutely nothing like so many ducks as last year. It is now 9.20 and we have 91 on the counter, and by now we must have for sure 20 long birds that we have not put on. Got a carrion crow first barrel No. 7 gun full choke Alphamax and clocked him up as clean as a prayer book. Crossing pigeon about the same angle, first barrel pellet in his eye, swung him round and clocked him right in the centre of the pattern second barrel. 9.30 and 100 on the water one should pick without any long stuff. 9.40 and 114 ducks on the water. 10.00 and 124 that they should pick. 10.19 and 137 on the water, including two smaller ducks - one is a teal and the other could be a shoveller, and that does not include a carrion, a pigeon and a coot. 11.00 with 158 duck on the water. We saw 3 snipe in a wisp and we have seen a sandpiper twice and a peregrine falcon, a female. Exactly 12.00 English time with 178 duck on the water, 180 exactly. The boats have just come to pick us up.

If we go to Grand Lieu again we must take a face flannel, a face towel, a hand towel and my pillow. I was dressed in my shooting vest (cotton airtex), a Spanish cotton long-sleeved shirt (cheap, readymade), my wonderful Palu Sports shooting waiscoat with a pad on, my camouflaged hat, some American cheap nylon trousers, silk socks stuffed into a pair of the best French leather lined knee boots, and that is all I had on and I was quite warm enough. I did not eat anything at all but just drank the bottle of water until the men came to pick us up just after 12.00 English time.

The Muscadet wine is made from grapes 50 kms. to the east of Grand Lieu. Grand Lieu is the name of the lake and also the district around it, and the names of the villages are prefixed Grand Lieu. They make a Bal Plant (that is the name of the local wine) in Grand Lieu and it is not a very good one. We had a chicken in a pot with peppers - I left the peppers alone and slept. To begin with we had some cold turtle soup, and after that some Port Salut type cheese. The bread was very good and I ordered a metre of it to slice bread for toasting. Then we had some whole stewed peaches with the stones left in. A Cantenac Brown of 1970 of the Margot region and, during the early part of dinner, a Muscadet. There was just enough to eat provided for lunch in our baskets, nothing to spare, just enough.

After the shoot we went back to the house where we met just the same moment we arrived my wife. She had picked up 123 mallard, so she had shot jolly well, and she claimed 144. Very good. Her butt was in the middle of more water, further away from the land than ours, and anything that was dead on the water would be picked. Then I took a bath, shaved and changed and waited for Alphonse to come, and we are now en route in the car with Benjy and Alphonse to go to join the Guerlains who went round by that end of the lake to shoot this morning. The two Nickersons have got 274 head picked up for the morning. I should think it is the only husband and wife in the world who have done that this morning. We should have had a big shoot if there had been a wind, but there was none. January is not very good at Grand Lieu. The diving ducks come around and Colonel Stirling got into a good butt and killed a hundred - un tonneau - in a real barrel in the water. Then the keepers came and told him there was another place and he killed another 100 there in one morning, so with a wind it is surprising what you can do because he can't shoot and that is absolutely fantastic ... well, he doesn't shoot badly, but it is nothing compared with Rothwell standards. I think we shall be far too busy to have time to go there in November. January I am told is no good, and it would suit them to shoot a few days in November.

JN's Notes on Grand Lieu, continued

The keeper said they consider 150 for one gun to be a big shoot. Madame Guerlain killed 123, exactly the same as my wife. The bag has now been finally counted and we have 470 mallard, 1 chipeau (gadwall), 2 teal, 3 snipe, 1 pigeon, 1 crow, 1 coot, 9 shoveller and 1 various: 489. Christiane 123, Jean-Pierre 86, Jennie 124, Joe 148 ducks.

<u>31st August</u>	Holwick - 6 drives	94 grouse with 177 shots
<u>1st September</u>	Wemmergill - 6 drives	41 grouse
<u>2nd September</u>	Black Springs - evening flight	4 teal 5 mallard

Went down to Black Springs and in position by 7.45 on Wednesday night after the Sheep Sale. I saw a couple of teals jump and managed to knock them down on a right and left before they got behind the willow bush - a very quick two shots, pop pop. I changed guns - WHJ was behind me. A single teal came over the top of the willows and swung left-handed across the field - downed him first barrel. We then went down the side of the pond and a single mallard came off and I downed him first barrel. So that was four ducks with four shots from the stalk - absolutely amazing. There must have been 100 teal and mallard mixed 50/50 jumped off this pond and all I had seen were the two tail end teal and they went round. I did not get another shot. They were winging about a long way off and they did not offer to come back. Then a pair of mallard came (grey type). I fetched one down and fired at the second one and tickled him up. Then some mallard came into the pond - I killed right and left which pleased me very much. Then a single teal, killed that. Another mallard - killed him second barrel. A teal jumped and went into the pond. I could not shoot him coming in, he jumped and twisted in all directions and I clean missed him. That was the only bird I properly missed, so out of ten ducks I killed nine of them and they were all picked up. Alan said the Skaters Pond is not being fed, but there were 100 on that and 100 on Black Springs - quite a lot of duck down there. It was absolutely flat calm, no wind at all. You could hear those Lightning engines revving up at Binbrook, and several lots of straw burning from different people's farms but nothing happened, nothing came in. It was a most exciting flight and I thoroughly enjoyed it - two rights and lefts.

<u>4th September</u>	Wemmergill - South Side - 6 drives	73 grouse with 141 shots
<u>5th September</u>	Wemmergill - North Side - 6 drives	68 grouse with 114 shots
<u>7th September</u>	Stean - 4 drives	27 grouse

Light south-easterly wind - a heavy day - the birds would not drive. Harrier spoiled the Meugher drive and turned all birds back. Plenty of birds on top end which we should have driven first. Bottom end no water and birds have left it. They were also shooting at Ramsgill. Mr. Robert got 12½ brace, Edward 2½, Flowers 8 brace, Ambrose Monell 7 brace (doubtful).

The Earl of Linlithgoe lives at Hopetoun House near Edinburgh, quite a long way from Leadhills. Bill Flowers stays in a pub called the Hopetoun Arms in the little village of Leadhills. He has a deal with Charlie Linlithgoe that he pays all his fixed costs, he pays for the beaters, the pub, the drink, all that sort of thing and if it is let to anybody else Flowers gets the income, but Lord Linlithgoe is allowed to shoot it himself on his own. There was some discussion between Senator Bill Flowers and his wife - she was asking who controls whether or not he's on his own - so I should think it's a bit of a malarchy. Anyway, Bill is the captain of that syndicate of Americans that come there: they usually have 4 days one week and 4 the second week and average 75-80 brace a day. Then he's been shooting with Farquerson, who has 40,000 acres and 20 miles of the Dee next to the Queen - this fellow took it from the Queen - and Bill rents this and they average 45 brace a day there - 9 guns there and 8 at Leadhills.

Extracts from some letters of thanks

"We couldn't have loved our visit to you more - such delightful company, marvellous weather and shooting and every comfort in your house too - perfection." Irene Moreton (26/27 August)

"I am quite sure that I will not have two better days' shooting this season than last Wednesday and Thursday. I find grouse driving quite the most exciting form of shooting and certainly the most challenging. Moreover I find it fascinating to observe how the drives are managed and developed, and I much enjoyed seeing your expertise in this respect at work, not to mention your marksmanship! Finally, my thanks to you and Eugenie for being such marvellous and attentive hosts. You made us wonderfully comfortable and this was a perfect complement to such superb shooting." Robin Leigh-Pemberton (26/27 August)

"I could not have enjoyed myself more - it was a memorable day's shooting and Eugenie's hospitality was superb." Sir Alex Alexander (31st August)

"Elizabeth and I greatly appreciated your wonderful hospitality and two glorious days shooting ... as a complete novice, I found the shooting exhilarating and the company stimulating." David Curtis (31 Aug/1Sept)

"It is not easy to find words to tell you how much we enjoyed staying with you and sharing the thrills and delights of the moors." Elizabeth Clement (31 Aug/1Sept)

"Thank you so much for your wonderful hospitality - we very much enjoyed our stay with you and meeting the family. It was great fun seeing so many grouse ... the moors are really beautiful." Stella Wardell (5 Sep)

"What perfect hosts you are! Bill and I did so enjoy being at Middleton House with you again. As far as Bill is concerned, there are few things to equal grouse shooting and you have given him some of the best. He was particularly interested to shoot two moors he had never shot before of course." Maury Flowers 7/8 Sept.

"Ambrose and I rarely ever enjoy ourselves to the extent we do when we are with you. Your consideration and constant thoughtfulness are heartwarming, and the days in the field are fantastic." Renee Monell 7/8 Sept.

"What a splendid day it was - firstly to meet your sister, Robert and Edward, secondly to be in such pleasant company, thirdly to shoot over a new country and fourthly to see so many grouse." Robin Cowen 8 Sept.

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<u>8th September</u>	Stublick - 5 drives	61 grouse		
<u>11th September</u>	Stublick - 5 drives	63 grouse		
<u>12th September</u>	Stublick - 5 drives	39 grouse		
<u>13th September</u>	Read's Island	<u>Shot</u>	<u>Picked</u>	
	West End & Johnnie's Pond	5	4	Mallard
	Afternoon & Evening Flight	17	14	Teal
		11	10	Curlew
		1	1	Godwit
		<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	Waterhens
		37	32	

(WHJ's REPORT TO JN 11.9.81: "Very disappointed in partridges I am seeing and we shall have to think twice whether it's worth carrying on with the shoots. My own personal view is that these have got burnt in early August because they were there when the corn was standing. Alternatively, the disturbance may have driven them away. Kirmond and Tealby not worth considering. Few more ducks coming into Black Springs. Very few at Ram and Atkins Bog. Nice flight at Tugdale Pond.")

4th September 1981

Dear Jo  
Dear Regine

9th September

Thank you for that memorable day.

Being on the moors last Friday was particularly special. All the best ingredients - glorious weather, wonderful location, good friends and highly satisfactory shooting. John & I enjoyed it more than we can say and I wish there was a new way of saying how much we appreciated being amongst your most enviable large family.

Sincerely  
Blanche & John

Binbrook 272

STAINTON HALL

Near BINBROOK

LINCOLN

LN3 6HR

"I would like to thank you so much for a really marvellous stay at Middleton and the lovely grouse shooting on the moors." Robert Key  
"I really did enjoy myself out on the moors and am now feeling very fit and healthy after all that lovely fresh air." Jane Key

J. Nickerson Esq.,  
Rothwell House,  
Rothwell,  
Lincoln.

8th September 1981

My dear Jo & Regine,

What a wonderful and exciting stay we had with you last weekend; to be out on the Grouse Moor on Friday and Saturday together, and with Robert being allowed to shoot both days.

It is a real experience to watch the organisation, the Grouse in full flight and the guns shooting; almost indescribable. They are two days I shall never forget.

Thank you most sincerely for all your kindness and hospitality.

With kindest regards  
Yours sincerely  
Harry

12th September 1981

"Very many thanks to you for the marvellous shooting you gave me.  
It was great to see all those birds in the air". Eric Bailey



"Thank you for the wonderful time I had at Wemmergill, I really enjoyed myself and was happy to have the opportunity of talking to you. Thank you for making us both feel part of the family".  
Joseph de Vilmorin

11th September 1981



<u>September 14th</u>	Read's Island	<u>Shot</u>	<u>Picked</u>	
	East End & Sam's Pond	7	4	Teal
	Afternoon & evening flight	3	2	Mallard
		<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	Waterhens
		13	9	

<u>September 15th</u>	Read's Island	<u>Shot and Picked</u>	
	West End	6	Teal
	Morning tide flight	2	Mallard
		2	Godwit
		1	Curlew
		2	Blackbacked gulls
		<u>13</u>	

Total head for visit: 63

#### J.N.'s Notes on his visit to Read's Island

Jackson's dog is running about all over the Island. He was down at Sam's Pond for the flight on Monday night and was on the middle of the Island when we came back - that is quite useless.

I had a very restful day indeed and made up for a lot of lost sleep. I really enjoyed it. Went out at 5.00 with Benjy to the West End and got to the hide. We waited 1½ hours for the tide to flood, but we saw so many birds in the estuary and it was very interesting. We didn't get a chance of a shot from the hide so we moved back to Sam's Pond - we went to the east end not the west end and went to Sam's Pond after the north east corner hide. We moved at about 6.45 and didn't shoot after 8.00, but virtually nothing came. I did not have a clean miss at anything that was in range, and I only shot at 2 wide birds, otherwise everything that came was killed, but it was a very disappointing flight. The largest number of duck that tried to get into the pond was a packet of 4, there were ones and twos, what few there were. I knocked down 10 duck and a curlew, but we only picked up 6 duck.

Jackson came down and I told him I was very disappointed with the two ponds, the two nights flighting, very disappointed, and that I was very disappointed that he had not got the wire fences taken up, particularly at this time of the year.

<u>September 15th</u>	Hair's Pond	12 mallard
	Evening flight	4 teal

I went to Nettleton and met Garfoot and Woodcock outside Hair's house. I drove down to the pond. Garfoot loaded for me and Woodcock kept the birds off the top pond. I almost shot every coconut with a right left at the mallard which we stalked on the pond the moment we got there - 3 of them - a right and left as they jumped. I got another right and left when I came in, then a third right and left, then a single. I had 7 with the first 7 shots. I missed two towards the end of the flight. I missed a chance of one right and left. I got 2 right and lefts with teal. I killed everything that anybody could have shot at practically - could perhaps have had another 3 duck - I feel rather pleased. I only had one gun - No. 7 - it's a very faithful barrel on that No. 7 gun. I use it for the oncoming grouse when they are a long way out, the first barrel then the second barrel. Heard a few snipe go over. This pond has been a great joy to me. It is only about 20 yards from the edge of the Viking Way and lots of people walk the other side of the stream during the summer. Garfoot has fed it faithfully. Of course it is disadvantaged by the rather large pond or lake George Moore has recently constructed in the valley. He has planted round that and put fish in it, and it is a good place for pheasants. It also attracts a lot of duck. Then there is another pond which has been made up the other valley to the west. The soil extraction behind Gissing's garage area of the A46 - that is another place for duck which didn't used to exist. Altogether if one has no wind, no matter how faithfully they have been fed, they will go off from the shot and they have somewhere else to go very close at hand. It was a very good night. I claimed 15: there was some doubt as to whether I killed one or not earlier in the flight, but in point of fact within 5 minutes they picked up 16 ducks - all dead.

1981

September 16thThe Ram  
Evening flight15 mallard  
1 teal

Tonight, Wednesday, I am with Woodcock at the Ram at Rothwell. The first thing was he kindly went round the other side and put over me what few duck were settled there. It was 6.45. I could have had a right/left - I killed the first one but didn't allow quite enough swirl for the second barrel and I got a clean miss. I stuffed a couple more cartridges in. I got one - he has gone behind the big willow on the right, the last pair went the other side but they were too far away. The keeper on this beat, Hassall, has made an absolutely first-class job at going over the marshy place which you have to walk through - he is a joiner, and he's made a superb job of putting up a platform with boards across. You can now come here in shoes and get to this hide without wearing boots, and through the swamp area below the spring. Whilst I am recording this Woodcock is loading for me, and it is now 7.00. Nothing has appeared except an enormous number of mosquitoes which have been well repelled by this new spray. 7.10 - an enormous lot of duck, something like 70 birds in the air, all gathered up one flock after the other. I let 2 or 3 in thinking I would get a quick change as they jumped off the water down on my left at the west end of the pond. Good big pack came in just in nice range. I just lifted up and he saw me, and I had to straighten up my first shot to be sure of getting the second barrel. I wounded only. By the time we had changed, the 2 duck that had been on the water had disappeared: whether they had got up with the shot, or whether they had gone before I don't know, but 2 shots was all I got after waiting. That was through trying to be greedy and getting some down and getting only 4 shots - nothing really beats first come first served - get a couple of barrels anyway. First come, first served is not a bad motto in any kind of duck shooting because it is so still. You don't make any noise, that is the trouble, and when I make noise I like to have something to pick up.

September 18th

Stublick - 5 drives

63 grouse

Stublick grouse moor - South Side - No. 5 traditional butt. There is a fairly strong S.W. wind and, after a wet morning, the sun is now shining, although the clouds on one side are grey. There are only 5 guns in the party, and therefore I am on the left flank. I am dressed in a pair of blue woollen stockings up to the knee with no great long turnover - nice and neat. A pair of French chamois rubber fitted boots, zip fastened, with a strap on the top lined with leather and a close fit to the ankle, knickerbockers from the Nickerson cloth - these are about plus 1½ only with no extra bag over the knee - they are buckled and have been filed off so they are not sharp as provided by the stupid tailor to lacerate people's trigger fingers putting their knickerbockers on. Underneath a pair of Zimmerli thin cotton underpants, a shortsleeved Airtex vest in cotton and on top of that an ordinary blue wool polo neck. Over that I have a very, very well worn cashmere Pringle jersey - it is so thin you hardly know you've got it on. The long sleeves have been cut off so they come half way down the first part of the upper arm. On top of that I have a Palu sports waistcoat. This is an Italian-style shooting vest made of very tightly woven cotton that keeps the wind out. It has huge pockets right the way round it, and a top pocket as well, and it buttons across the chest. Then a leather pad which has had sewn into it some Sorbo rubber - not very thick, but thick enough to stand any punishment - and on top of that what has come to be known as a green coat by Mr. Cording. It is a cotton coat that water pours through of course - when they are new they are showerproof - perhaps for the first season. It is very roomy and it keeps the wind out. It is thin and doesn't interfere with your swing at all. It has button cuffs to keep the draught out of your arms if you want to fasten them up. They are provided with a belt, but one never wears the belt because it impedes movement. Then I have a Nickerson cloth cap made by Mr. Lock on my head.

J.N.'s notes on 18th September, continued:

In my pockets I have rolls of string tightly woven by Douglass, a pocket knife with a cartridge extractor combined in it as well as a few other things, two short pencils (in case the point gets broken off one), postcards headed with my name and address in my lefthand hip pocket, my numberer which I have had since before the war and was the one used for the record partridge day - that is in the front fob pocket for drawing the numbers. We turned up numbers 8, 7 and 6 so the numbers could be seen on the surface, and drew 1 to 5 numbering from the right and we shall move up one each drive.

I am wearing a pair of yellow tinted spectacles made to my own prescription by Kohn, the optician in Paris. These are supposed to be capable of stopping a No. 6 shot at 20 metres range. Thank God I have not had to test them, and I hope never do. In addition I have sun spectacles by the same people and some plain white ones.

On the buttonhole of the lefthand jacket pocket I have got a counter which was introduced to me by The Duke of Edinburgh very many years ago, and I have used them ever since. I automatically click it on as I kill the birds, and if there is a long flush of birds, a long stream, you have to remember what you are shooting - 3/4/5 birds, but usually you get every one, two or three on at each covey according to what you do, or of course you don't click it if you miss. I have found this to be most accurate, and we are usually about one bird under out of 15 or 20 birds at a drive - you can reckon you are pretty accurate, you are never over but sometimes a bird under.

I am wearing a pair of silk-lined gloves to keep the dye from getting on my fingers, and I wear the gloves from August 12th right through the season as they keep your hands clean for lunch and you can feel the gun better. It feels better altogether with gloves on. On this pair the right finger is cut out, but normally I wear them with the fingers in. I have spare silk handkerchieves in my lefthand trouser pocket, and spare cotton handkerchieves to wipe my specs from the mist if need be.

In my waistcoat pocket I have a tube of cream which has lasted me for several seasons. You just put a film of this calomine on your nose and cheeks to stop the windburn and sunburn, otherwise you look as if you have been drinking a lot of port and skin flakes off - this is a very useful thing to remember always. I have my little horn to blow to start the drive and to blow again when people are allowed to come out of the butts. I have a thumb stick given to me by Charles Forte, which has part of a switch of a stag's head forming the thumb with a silver band round and a ferrule on the bottom - a good strong stick - they want to be long enough. In addition I have got a shooting stick - it is ridiculous how wobbly these things are - I think it is almost impossible to get a good shooting stick if it is going to have any comfort. This is a ridiculous stick - it is a new one this season, but it is like all the others: not very good. In any case I don't like to be on my stick because if you are you miss a dickens of a lot of shots. Then I've got a pair of gunslips of beautiful Spanish leather lined with sheepskin - they were a present and are not too heavy, they've got good straps on.

I have with me also a waterproof bag that Douglass carries which has waterproof trousers in. The legs of these have been altered by us and now have zip fasteners in so you can put them on over the top of boots without getting into an awful sweat. They want to be big enough in the backside so they are not too tight when you move about. They are made by Mr. Cording and are very, very thin, beautifully thin - beautiful quality and very efficient. On top of that goes a waterproof coat of the same material to match. This has got felt stickers down the side as well as a zip fastener, and it has a hood with a draw string on. This is most important, however you have got to make great big knots on each end of the draw string, otherwise it gets pulled inside the hood and you have a frightful palaver. Also in the waterproof bag is a very thin, silk-like

J.N.'s notes on 18th September, continued:

Husky that has been worn for the last 15 years, just in case one gets an extra cold spot, and an extra long-sleeved cashmere Pringle beige jersey as well. Also a pair of Zeiss miniature fieldglasses and 2 pairs of gloves in plastic bags so that these keep dry and you can change your gloves during a rainy shoot. Also of course the midge cream and an aerosol to spray on your hat to keep the midges away. Occasionally I carry a couple of apples. Then we have in the Range Rover a more basic bag with spare equipment and a spare cap to change at lunch if we have got wet, and we carry a spare green coat, a spare green Husky - a thicker one, more gloves, chocolate, spare waterproofs in case some guest hasn't got any, and stockings, then we have a spare pair of shoes in the jeep as well.

I am using a pair out of my trio of Purdey Over and Under 20 gauge guns: these were made the way I wanted them with my ideas incorporated. Obviously, a retractable front trigger, and the barrels are only joined at the front and back to save weight - there isn't a bar the full length of them joining them together. The front trigger fires the top barrel: there is some disadvantage in this from the point of view of upward swing, but I think it is probably outweighed in the kind of shooting I do - great lot of stuff coming and the loader can just pop one in the top and you know. The No. 7 gun I have in front of me on the top of the butt is very heavily choked in the first barrel and open in the second barrel so you can get the first grouse a good long way out in front and a bit more spread for the nearer bird, then you don't smash him so much. The other gun in the same, but the going away bird open and then choked. That is how I have my guns bored for driven game shooting.

You can get an awful lot of driven partridges and driven grouse in the ordinary way with a 50% bored gun. You can just kill an awful lot of birds with that, unless you want to try to prove your shooting, which I constantly do by trying to take them further out all the time, but it is a lot easier said than done, particularly with a good wind. It is absolutely vital to put your gun up at these grouse, pull the trigger the second the gun comes to the shoulder - if you only have courage to do that and do it early enough and never take a second aim and never take a check aim you will kill your grouse. You will surprise yourself and the grouse repeatedly if you can only do that. Behind the butt, of course, everyone consistently shoots over the top of these grouse, but never mind that. Generally speaking for the first month of the season lots of people that shoot well shoot in front of the grouse. Ordinary cartridges - Grand Prix - (believe it or not, British Grand Prix Ely cartridges are now loaded in France - so much for the Common Market!) - No. 6 shot 13/16ths of an ounce of shot. With these I can kill as many grouse as anybody I have ever seen - but I haven't seen everybody! Twenty bores will get as many grouse as anything else if held straight. I think that 12 bores will become archaic soon, but the only danger with 20 bores is that you shoot in front of things more because they are lighter and you can swing them faster and better. On the other hand, people get older, and I believe a lighter gun is an advantage.

Stublick Moor covers 5,600 acres and we are on the South Side for the first drive - Glenhills. This is the third season after purchasing. The heather has been burned by the farmers in big blocks, and the heather recovery rate is quite phenomenal. There is no doubt it's beautiful soil for growing heather, but there is not enough fringe area for nesting because of the big block burning, and they are at it regularly. The power of recovery is such that this young heather grows in no time, therefore the farmers have been burning it and there is no what I call "settling ground" - there is no long heather on the place. Instead of having a settling ground in the front where the coveys can come a covey at a time and a few single birds, when one covey flies over the top of a covey sitting on the ground they can be seen and those on the ground jump up and join them. That is a big disadvantage, and we have just seen it - they all come over the line at the same time, which is boring.



18th September 1981



21st September 1981



J.N.'s notes on 18th September, continued:

I have until now been wearing shorts every day - brown tightly woven cotton shorts, and handmade shoes by Mr. Lobb for which I have handmade trees. Mr. Lobb is the best shoemaker in the country. I am wearing spats - horn-buttoned gaiters, white cotton, and they have to be done up with a button hook of course. These keep all the heather, stones and trash out.

I have three black labradors with me. Sir Ben - who has been promoted from Mr. Ben, and before that he was Ben: he is a very fine, big, strong, beautiful-looking labrador; then a bitch, much smaller and very highly intelligent; and a young dog called Teal - black as jet they are, all three, and none are tied up - they are all non-slip. It is a great joy to have them with me: you get a lot of pleasure out of dogs.

The first thing I do when I get a moor is to paint all the numbers out on the butts because, according to the wind, we just fill those butts where we get the optimum places for the maximum shoot. The next thing is to concrete the butt bottoms with a rough finish concrete so they are not slippery. You must be able to move your feet, and you don't want your loader slipping about on these wet boards with all this mud and stone on the filthy butt bottoms that there are on many moors. You are going to get killed if your loader shoots you, and you can shoot so much better and feel so much better if you are not up to your knees in mud.

In addition, after the first drive when there is no walking too far (or it has been known when there has been a long walk) Douglass produces what we call our binocular case - this is a leather case with 2 ½ pint thermos flasks and a couple of cups with a square bottle of milk in the centre. We have it in the butt, and we don't share it out!



Sir Ben

<u>September 19th</u>	Stublick	-	5 drives	43 grouse
<u>September 21st</u>	Holwick	-	5 drives	103 grouse

This was the Monday the French party was here and we did Nickol Hopple down and Mire Hole, then Black Arc from the north with 37 brace at lunch. Then we did Sykes and Gully down - probably had 45 brace on the two drives. The day was 145½ brace. On the Gully there was a strongish wind, and I was behind at the butt just above the wall, the second row - I killed 40 grouse there. They were coming up against the wind and were not all that difficult, but no grouse is easy. So that is how the bag was made with that upwind drive. The French were only using single guns.

The Headkeeper at Bowes Moor is called Keith Lord, and his assistant is Henry Sayer. Wiggin from Norfolk goes shooting there, and there is a gang of Norfolk people. They have shot 7 days, with an average of 199.7 brace per day without pick up, but it hasn't been shot for 3 years until now.

1981

September 22nd

Wemmergill - 6 drives

52 grouse

On this Tuesday we started at Standards. There was a little bit of fog and a strongish wind. It wasn't a heavy drive: we got about 14 brace there. Then we had Corbus and killed about 12 brace there, then the top of Green Grain which yielded approximately 11 brace. Anyway we had 37 brace, the same as the day before, at lunch, which we had at Scotts. Then we took the whole lot through the Allotments - blank - Cock Lake - there were hundreds of grouse went through the blank but we did not get them on the big drive at the Allotments - nice few birds there. 85 brace for the day. Didn't see one blackgame.

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Extract from letter sent to J.N. by Brother Sam, 1st October, 1981.

I am sorry you and Jennie weren't with us last week shooting, we had a very nice day, particularly in the afternoon. We shot ducks in the morning killing almost 300, then in the afternoon we killed 56 partridges, 10 hares and 3 pigeons. It was a very wet morning, but nice in the afternoon when we killed the partridges. (This refers to 26th September at North Ormsby)

The grouse seem to be making a fair bit of money retail. I heard the other day that Jane (Phyllis West's daughter) went to Pettits to buy three brace of grouse and had to pay £13 per brace.

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September 28th

Holwick - 6 drives

63 grouse

September 29th

Wemmergill - 6 drives

56 grouse  
2 snipe

Robert and I claimed 23 brace at the Moss Drive - there were 6 guns and the total for the drive was just over 35 brace, so that was quite a good drive for Moss. We had the Leadmine drive and that was absolutely super. Robert and I stood together and killed 5 high grouse each, and I killed 2 snipe.

Extracts from letters of thanks written by guests who attended the 28th/29th September shoots:

"What a wonderful two days' shooting you gave us. I was so impressed, not only by the number of grouse but also by the immaculate way they were shown. It was very clear to all that a great deal of thought had gone into those two days, and I must say how much I enjoyed myself. What fun it all was, and I thank you very much indeed for asking me to join in. It was interesting to me to see yet another example of how attention to detail always pays in the end."  
Nicholas Playne

"You know you do do things so well, both in the house as well as on the moor - no effort spared and no detail neglected. Thank you! And also I must say how good it is to see Joe shooting just as well as he always has done - one can always see where he is in the line even if he is out of sight." Peter Dennis

"I can't thank you enough for the two magnificent days shooting at Holwick and Wemmergill. In my limited experience grouse driving in late September early October is the "creme de la creme" of shooting, particularly when there are packs flying about. I was fascinated to see a bit of both Holwick and Wemmergill and also to watch the precision that 6 drives each day came in. I also took in some of the things you have done to the moors - the butts - the grit - the dry roads with their ditches, and the immaculate burning. It would be great if you could find the time to write on Grouse Moor Management."

Patrick Dean

"Thank you very much indeed for two tremendous days grouse shooting .. although they were rather better at it than I was (the grouse that is). Obviously they had been briefed to assist in the general humbling of the guns! They are a magnificent bird to shoot at. I shall particularly remember seeing first hand a covey of four birds killed outright with two shots, left and right, the second barrel killing three birds. I have seen multiple hits in situations where more birds were present but never the like of that." Colin Rank



28th September 1981  
L. to R. Mr. C. Rank, Mr. R. J. Nickerson, Mr. N. Playne, Mrs. J. Nickerson,  
Mr. J. Nickerson, Mr. D. G. McNeil, Mrs. P. Dean, Mr. P. Dean, Mr. P. K. Dennis,  
Mrs. D. G. McNeil, Mrs. N. Playne

WEMMERGILL AND

## HOLWICK

**BEAT** Moss to Lunehead  
Walker Butts Up  
Walker Butts Down  
Allotments to Wall above Wemmergill Wood

**Date** Friday  
2.10.1981.

**GUNS** J. Nickerson  
Hon. Albie Bowes-Lyon  
Frank Elgy *Famer Frisk*  
D. Tate → *Shoots near Subitid (haulage)*  
I. Fraser *Sheriff of Berwick*  
Mr. Capper *Engineer*  
T. Cowie

### WEATHER

Wind NE to North.  
Strong at times  
eased after lunch  
Light rain A.M.  
Worsened in P.M.

<b>BAG:</b>	old	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	19
Grouse	young	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	55
Pick up		37	74
	<b>Total</b>	37	74
	<i>JK</i> old	.1	2
<b>Black Game</b>	young	....	
Snipe		$\frac{1}{2}$	1
Various			
<b>Total</b>			151

### NOTES

Nice lot of Grouse  
seen but hard to handle  
in adverse wind  
19 brace at lunch  
Abandoned at 3.p.m.  
due to weather



2nd October 1981

Friday 2nd October, 1981.

Shooting at Wemmergill on the flat butts that Sir Ian Walker put up during his tenancy. The birds here are extraordinarily low and it is the first time this season that we have stood in them because it is pretty well the only part of the ground that was clear strangely enough. For low birds butts do want to be close together, but these are too close together. Birds are so wonderful when they are driven over the Lune Valley, over the Lune Head that we call the Swallow Drive. This is where we drove them on Tuesday, and they really are magnificent. Robert and I next to each other shot 7½ brace of grouse between us and a couple of snipe, they were really extraordinarily marvellous birds, it was a pity to shoot them on the blood and guts butts that I call them. However, we were there today on the let day that I took a gun from the estate, not one of my days, and one had of course read and observed what one thought were principally and/or wholly packs of hens. If you are above them in particular you can see the yellowness of a particular pack, the browney-yellowness, from quite a distance if they are flying below you on a valley and you are above them. This I have known for many, many years. But today there was a little lot, maybe about 20, came up heading the wind, quite easy shots across the butts, the front of the butts. The wind was from the north - totally unsuitable for the drives the wind was, of course. It is quite impossible to do those drives with a north wind. This young keeper is an excellent man and I did acquaint him of that information yesterday, but nevertheless it was the only place we could go to. I am only putting that down in case anyone thinks a north wind is suitable. These birds were flying from south to north, into the wind and about 30 yards out, very low. My neighbour, the Hon. Albemarle Bowes-Lyon, the brother of the owner, told me he'd got a right and left in front, and I had done the same thing. I didn't let my dogs go. I sent Douglass to pick up these two birds and bring them back. They were the only two I had in front.

Then I walked down to my neighbour on my right, Albemarle. He had killed three in front and had put them on top of the butts. Frank Couthard said "which are the two birds you shot out of the little pack in front? Those two?" "Yes," I said, "I could have told you that, I thought they would be those two birds". Of course they were quite in amazement, but so it was of course, they were 4 hens with those 4 shots. It doesn't prove anything except there were 4 hens shot with 4 shots and they looked like a pack of hens to me.

It was a dreadful day. We stood down at the white post that I put up, hadn't been stood in this century when I took the moor. That is to the west of the Lune Head lunch hut. The old butts are only about a foot high, they are all tumbled down. Stood there, there was a north east wind, and of course all the birds went up towards Westmoreland and didn't come over the line. I had one shot - a good bird, a good old cock, and knocked him down, quite high. Then we had the two Walkers, then we went to a trial drive that I told the young keeper about - that is bringing all the Allotments eastwards over a wall. It needs a stile building. I am getting older, and with bifocals on it is jolly difficult to see the top of this 6' wall, clambering about on the top of that and getting down the other side - but without incident. However Frank, from Cotherstone, he was on that flank, he pulled a few stones from the bottom and made some steps to get up the wall for coming back. I was very pleased about that too. Well, we stood on that wall. I was No. 2. I thought it was a good place for black cock. I told him beforehand there would be some black game. I remember killing a black cock there last time I was there. One came over today. I managed to clobber him, he towered up behind and young Janey, which is Rosie's little springer spaniel retrieved this black cock for my man Woodcock, so it was Woodcock

Friday, 2nd October, 1981, continued

picking up a black cock with Janey - a couple of hundred yards towered behind the line. I killed a jolly good snipe, one pellet through the neck, a high bird. I hadn't seen him coming. It was a bit of luck but a hell of a shot - very spectacular. I asked the keeper what he got for them. He said "15 pence". I said to Woodcock "put it in your pocket - I will buy them". I am going to give him 20 pence for these snipe because I really do think snipe are the best possible birds to eat. I really think they are absolutely superb. Golden plover is superb too, but snipe I think is a wonderful bird. I am beginning to like them more and more and prefer them to woodcock - I mean woodcock with wings - I am beginning to like him quite a lot. I did know a man called Snipe, Archie Snipe, who was a miner. He patented some coal-cutting machinery and made a little business when the Coal Board wouldn't accept his idea for improvement. He went to the bank and made a little business called Mining Supplies, he sold some of his shares for a million. I only met him once at Harry Key's - he used to own a few racehorses. He was called Arthur Snipe, but I always refer to him as Jack Snipe - can't help it, I don't know why. A decent enough chap. He wanted to go hunting so he thought he had better have a decent horse. He was very wise. Being a miner and building up this business he had to have some brains - that's two reasons he should have brains, because miners usually do have brains. So he went and gave up ten thousand, I'm not sure what it was, £25,000 or something quite ridiculous for the best showjumper he could find to carry him safely. And dash it all he became Joint Master with Lady Anne Cavendish-Bentinck of the Grove and Rufford, Master of Hounds, there he was. Then he did a funny sort of a thing and bought a grouse moor up near Helmsley. He was supposed to buy it in partnership with some other people, but he got it knocked down in his name and I don't know what happened then but they haven't got it, they don't shoot there anyway. Then he set about that and sprayed thousands of acres of bracken, made a good job. This is a miner Jack Snipe - certainly gets on with things.

Talking about snipe, did you know that their mates are different colours? The migrant snipe whose family is from Europe has slightly different coloured legs from the home-bred snipe. This is about the time of the year that they are coming. My son misses a hot corner with the grouse - that was a couple of days before the 1st October - a few grouse flopping about there quick, one after another and bang, knocks something down: when he went to pick it up it was a woodcock. He didn't shoot my dog man called Woodcock, he actually shot a woodcock on Holwick, on Swinketts Drive. He was about the fifth or sixth butt from the bottom of the line. Nobody else saw it. He got it in his pocket pretty quickly and came to me and said what he'd done. I said "Where is it?" "In my pocket", he said. I said "Leave it there", thinking he would take it home. Lo and behold I happened to go through into the kitchen to see what was for dinner on the night of 1st October and there I saw a dressed grouse on the table AND A WOODCOCK - obviously shot at very close range. The parson's nose and that area was cut clean out, although the legs were absolutely marvellous. So Robert couldn't have seen it, it must have been mighty close to him. Anyway, Douglass is a pretty great diplomat. I said "Give this to Woodcock" - this snipe I shot today - "get this plucked, I'll have it for dinner". "Oh," he said, "you had a snipe last night for dinner". I said "Well that was a Great Snipe, Douglass". "Oh" he said, "that's no Great Snipe, I know it was a woodcock!" "Anyway Douglass" I said, "I didn't eat him out of season anyway."

Friday 2nd October, 1981, continued

Old Jim and Lockwood were waiting outside the Lune Head lunch hut today. It was teeming with rain, absolutely pouring and a north east gale. I was the first there, got out of the jeep and walked there. I greeted them, "Good morning", I said "80 brace". "What", they said "80 brace on a morning like this?" "Yes", I said "80 brace", I said "you two added together". "Well, not quite", they said. "Well", I said "you are". One of them was 78 and the other was 82 - 80 brace - and we had a good laugh. Great people, wonderful people. Mrs. Jim makes a marvellous cake, with a bit of Wensleydale cheese it was awfully good after lunch, I tell you. She really put some currants in it. There was a guest of Tom Cowie's on my left, a farmer fellow, youngish chap, very decent chap. However a grouse was coming straight at me and he let fly one barrel at it. I could have killed it quite easily, or would normally have done anyway. It flew very close to me and passed behind and I didn't offer to shoot at all. I thought that might be a way of teaching him. It seems to work because he didn't shoot anything else flying to me during the day. That might have been coincidental, although I don't happen to think so. In fact I noticed that he wasn't shooting much going to his left-hand neighbour after the incident.

As most readers will know, I have had this Wemmergill Moor on my own for thirty seasons or something and we never shot the grey hens, and we were getting quite a nice population up on the Allotments. One year I think we shot over 20 cocks there - it was great fun. Anyway, I said to Dale when we got up to this Allotment Wall "there will be a few black game here". Well there were, two black cocks came over during the drive and that was all in the event. "Yes" said Albemarle, "what do we do with grey hens". "Oh" I said, "we don't shoot them". Well, he turned to the keeper, Fawcett, who is excellent, "Oh", he said "it is left to every gun's individual taste" he said. "Oh", I thought. "Well, I used to have a penalty for that" I said. "Yes", he said, "there is a penalty. A bottle of whisky for the keeper for every one shot". That is probably the reason why the black game have gone down in numbers the first two seasons after a different arrangement here on these moors. It may be, or it may be not. I would certainly tell my guests that it was £50 for every cartridge fired in the direction of a grey hen and that I should be the sole judge and arbitrator. There wouldn't be any question of any appeal. It used to be £5 but with inflation it has now gone up to £50. They used to shoot the odd one, and in fact one Frenchman who came - who shall be nameless - actually had one dug out by one of my labradors, scratched him out, because he's buried him in the peat on the Allotments, and that was when it was only, I think, a tenner, so he was quite prepared to sell his honour for £10. Now there is £50 for each shot fired in the direction of a grey hen, but nobody has fired one since the price has been as high as that. I remember Tom Saul, he had 17,000 acres of farming, and he didn't like paying it. I think he had to pay twenty quid because he had four shots at a grey hen.

<u>October 2nd</u>	Wemmergill	-	4 drives	13 grouse 1 blackgame 1 snipe
<u>October 3rd</u>	Holwick	-	6 drives	49 grouse 1 hare
<u>October 4th</u>	Black Springs		Evening flight	17 mallard 1 teal 1 tufted duck



2nd October 1981

Monday 5th October 1981

Well, here we are, it is a beautiful morning after lovely autumn fog at Rothwell, mist right into the valleys. I was called by Eusebio at 7.30 a.m. with my tea. I had a breakfast of home-cured ham, home-grown tomato - a big one, a couple of eggs freshly laid this morning, boiled, a bit of honey out of the village - it couldn't have been better. It was a magnificent breakfast. At 8.45 we left with Woodcock driving. I had a look at the immediate neighbourhood and then read the Farmers Weekly for last Friday. Woodcock kindly stopped in Binbrook and bought me The Times because my papers weren't delivered, I suppose because of the fog. I read that for the rest of the journey. The markets are very troubled, the world is very troubled, but what a beautiful day it is.

Over to Worlaby where the guns are my host, Leonard Lamyman, his brother Bert Lamyman and my host David Lamyman, Eric Bailey, my brother Sam, Colonel Ivor Reed, the owner of the property, and a neighbour, young Mr. Brown, the grandson of Edmund Brown from Haugham, a neighbouring place that Brother Sam and I used to farm.

Well, down to Farforth Yard and when we arrived the first thing we saw was a hand-reared French partridge sitting on the top of a barn roof, three or four more running about the concrete outside the grain drier. Absolutely not a breath of wind. We were lying below the Farforth Yard facing west. I was No. 2 just above the grass division where Lamy was 1 at the division, number from the left in Lincolnshire. I shot at 15 different partridges and killed 14, picked them up. I had two barrels at a very wide English bird and hit him with both barrels but he wasn't picked, so there you are. There are several hares running about. Brother Sam was next to me at a blue peg, he couldn't see them coming. I shot the majority of them off my stick, and of course they were all killed first barrel, several rights and lefts, I never even got off my stick. We were behind a shelter of hessian stretched between two poles. It would be about a yard off the ground but it didn't make any difference and the stuff just came through and there it was. Shades of the days really - it is 52 seasons since I first shot on this property and drew a number in the line - I was 15½ then - and I think about all those wild partridges and how marvellous it used to be. But, if we hadn't reared these things we should have been in the office, we shouldn't have been shooting at all. It is very nice to be with one's old friends on a property that one loves and has known so long. The day is getting out beautifully all the time.

We have just driven through Farforth Yard and across a bottom below M Plantation. We have come round the triangular planting at the bottom and are now facing north to get up to line the big Brogdale hedge. We were greeted on the grass there by the sight of 22 of these chukka partridges just as they've been released. They are gradually walking - you can't really call it running - towards the gate. They will probably walk through the gate and get in the drive we hope. What a story! I think over that hedge my brother and I, one of us killed 27 and the other 25 wild partridges, 26 brace picked up, we stood next to each other there a few years ago.

The third drive is out of Schoolhouse Walk, some hessian butts placed up on the brow of the hill about 100 yards back from a piece of very bad roots with a bit of mustard sown among it, and of course there are a lot of tailless pheasants going about and red partridges. We had two double shots here, shot off 10 cartridges and tried to finish off a cripple, but all the partridges we shot at we killed or knocked down - that was 8 with 10 proper cartridges, so we are doing well, we have got 35 without missing a partridge so far.

I am thinking about that home-cured ham - I suppose this will be the last drive before lunch - but the pig was killed a year last December - it did me pretty well, but I'm getting ready for some of Mrs. Motley's beef - I'm working up an appetite now!

Monday, 5th October 1981, continued

We have gone through the 100 acre and are on the top of Rookinged, 100 acres on our left, we are facing north. It has always been a favourite field this has, it's one of the big burrows, Far Burrow I think it is called - a favourite field for golden plover camp. There would be about - I don't want to exaggerate - but 300-400 golden plover went off it, pretty high, we didn't get any shooting at them. I don't think they got shot at at all. Five old English partridges went across my front at the far end of the line, 2 or 3 more old English birds and a hare or two, but so far we haven't got a shot and the drive is well on. It is a beautiful day, hardly any wind, just a little touch from the east, but really hardly any wind at all. I notice that some of the golden plover are left behind from the camp, and a little packet flew away 10 minutes after the others when the beaters got near them, and also one single bird and then another single bird. I can see some hand-reared Frenchmen running about in front, yes they are. I think they must be hand-reared unless they have run a long way, they are only 100 yards in front of the beating line. I was just dictating this when there was one little covey got up of those Frenchmen. They went over my neighbour and I had two shots at a bird, got him through the eye, he skyed down behind us some distance off, I had to interrupt my dictation. That looks to be the end of that drive - that's one bird - 36 partridges, all we have shot at, 18 brace, all down, 4 drives, beautiful weather. I have got old Meg with me and this young dog, Prince Teal.

Old Keeper Turner, he looks more like a pheasant every day! Father Jacob looks more like a partridge too! Anyway, Turner, I met him this morning at Worlaby and he looked very well. "Hello", I said, "you look very well Turner". "Yes", he said, "do you believe in reincarnation? Here I am," he said. Well, he's had a bad hip operation, but he's alright now, he's running about. He said he's like to come to a shoot at Rothwell and pick up again, so we must see he is invited. (Note sent to Mr. R. Johnson).

Well, four drives, then we had lunch. Beautiful kidney soup, very, very good. I had a couple of helpings of it. Then we had the usual roast chine of beef, about 15 - 16 lbs. of it. Been hanging for more than a couple of weeks usually, and this was no exception - it was superb. The great thing is to just catch it in time and not let them cover it with some frightfully awful gravy stuff that they make to pour on it as it is carved - you don't want that. Anyway, today I missed it, I let them know beforehand. You don't want the mashed potato and you don't want the white sauce on the brussels sprouts and on the carrots. What you do want are these King Edward potatoes, very thin skinned and scrubbed with a scrubbing brush and just cooked to perfection. Put them on your side plate and fill them full of butter and have this first-class chine of beef beautifully cooked just to perfection. It melts in your mouth. After that a home-made mincepie and a bit of cheese. The rest of them were drinking sherry and red wine - Bordeaux, but I just drank some orange juice, a glass of water and a cup of coffee.

In position now at Truscombes, facing south, behind some more hessian butts, and I have got the other three-cornered wood on my left, some folded sheep on the hillside on the left in front of that pheasant drive there so that he can blank that three-cornered wood and the Home Covert out into those roots. The sheep have eaten one fold, they are now in the second stretch right across the field, so the pheasants should be quite high when coming back to that wood. It has clouded over, it is very warm and very agreeable. Keeper Turner has been to see me and given me a little information. He's got 4 or 5 lbs of mushrooms at home so I telephoned at lunchtime to get a car over to fetch them from the Keeper's Cottage at Acthorpe. He has been with us since 1947.

WORLABY ↖ 5TH OCTOBER 1981



Mrs. Motley with Mr. Lamyman



Monday, 5th October, 1981, continued

In addition I have shot a Landrover - the first one I have shot! A good pattern with my 20 bore, one ounce of shot hit on both doors with No. 6 shot thirteen-sixteenths of an ounce. I hate doing anything like this. I am going to try and get another vehicle sent over so that we can take it home and get it repaired.

Joe Woodcock is loading for me. We haven't banged any barrels together up to now, and he hasn't kept me waiting - I've been getting them chiefly first barrel. The better you shoot the slower your loader can be. If you use two barrels over every bird he has to put two cartridges in, it doubles his efforts. I have got old Meg with me and a young dog called Prince Teal. We're pegging him for the moment. He hasn't got too used to me and he doesn't know an awful lot about the job yet. He's very good on dummy work and all that kind of business, but he doesn't know much about the real thing. However, I am very optimistic that he will come on well. I am wearing my handmade Lobb shoes, my Maxwell white spats, Nickerson cloth and a Cording windproof jacket together with my waiscoat with the pad in the shoulder.

These partridges are frightfully slow. Of course there is no wind. After shooting all the grouse I have shot, 1,700 grouse this season, I haven't found them very difficult and, as I said, have knocked down the first 36 I have shot at and have had two barrels only at about three birds. We haven't shot anything else, haven't shot at a pigeon or a golden plover or a hare or a rabbit all morning. The usual conversation at lunchtime about farming, some very interesting people, the Lamymans and the Browns they are very keen on farming.

Well, there we are, the last drive down from Ruckland with our backs to Worlaby, one field up on the Ruckland side of the grass road that goes east to west right through the farm, and I was No. 7, a righthand gun. I said to Mr. Lamyman, "shall I walk down?" We were having a job to get our 100 brace, we were at about the 88 brace mark, "I'll walk down the side and intercept it - there are a few there coming forward and righthanded and slipping about there". I got back to my peg and didn't shoot a bird from the peg, but I got 4 brace on the walk, and a hare. From the peg I missed two long birds there, but they were really hopeless shots, miles away, breaking across from that walk. Otherwise we've killed everything from the butt or from the peg where we have been all day. We have killed every partridge we've shot at except one, and for only about four or five of them did we need two barrels.

I have had a very enjoyable day. We went in and had some super homemade cakes which you always get there, and tea, and one Glen Moranchey. Listened to the usual farming talk and then took Mrs. Motley's photograph before tea. Then off we set. We went round to look at Tealby, at the Tealby Farm.

They are drilling there at Tealby on October 5th. They have got almost all the winter corn in everywhere, 2,250 acres of winter wheat and barley in total, nearly all of it is winter barley, and tonight we have a few acres down by the side of Bully Hill and a bit of land there at Bayons Manor and a bottom near Bellamy's house and 70 acres at the bottom of Ludford. Claxby in in, Howsham is all in, all Cabourne and Rothwell area are in, all and about just something over 100 acres, so in a few days now if this weather continues we shall have all the autumn corn drilled and in addition we

Monday, 5th October, 1981, continued

have got about 500 acres of winter rape sown, so we are well on, the hedges are done and we are in good form on the farm.

After we left Tealby we went on to Rothwell, dropped in from Rothwell Top.

<u>5th October</u>	Worlaby - 7 drives	54 partridges 2 hares 1 pigeon
<u>5th October</u>	The Ram - Evening flight	9 mallard
<u>6th October</u>	Rothwell - 10 drives	14 partridges 8 pheasants 8 mallard 1 hare 1 rabbit 2 pigeons 1 waterhen
<u>7th October</u>	Cadeby Hall - 7 drives	15 partridges 1 pheasant 45 mallard

There is a very big gale today, an absolutely tremendous gale from the north-west. I have been shooting partridges at Raymond Caudwell's. I went into the office first this morning and got to Cadeby at 10.00. Woodcock loaded for me. I took the younger dog, Teal, and he did a good job. He is getting to know me and working very well and leaving Woodcock now to come with me - no problem. I had a lot of pleasure from him today. At the first drive I killed 3 old English partridges - righthand to the top of Scallers, went down the road a little way where they always go. Next drive I killed one English partridge - he came over like the clappers, straight down. I was shooting next to Patrick Dean. He did quite well and only had a shot at two birds and I killed one of them. The next drive there was a lot of stuff flying about. It was a huge drive and it took us a long time. I was standing behind a hedge made of rose bushes - a whole hedge of wild roses, and I had a nice shoot there getting 3½ brace and a pigeon. We then went into this trailer/caravan/box thing he has had made - has had it for a great many years now - behind a Massey 1200. Champagne flowed and poured out freely. Soup and a little cardboard box containing a ham sandwich, a smoked salmon sandwich, a custard pie and a Cox's apple - very good. This took an enormously long time. After that we went and had a couple of downwind drives, and the first one was over the valley there. I killed 2 brace of partridges, but nothing much came. Then we had the last drive where I had one shot at a pheasant. After that we went to shoot the duck, and the gale was marvellous. They really did fly well. I was No. 3 and next to Colonel Ivor Reeves - between him and my brother Sam. Sam shot several ducks and I was very pleased to see it. Anyway, there was a gale of wind and they flew jolly well. I emptied a bag of cartridges, No. 5 shot 20 bore, and I think I fired off 147 cartridges altogether to get 45 duck. Very high and putting a few down. It was better than usual at these duck. Ray went in and had a bitter lemon and left them all. He pulled the corks out of the 1973, which I think is

J.N.'s notes on 7th October, continued:

a wasted year myself: '72, '73 and '74 are what I call better forgotten years - terrible years. Anyway, he had the corks off them before we went out at 10.00 in the morning and put them on the mantelpiece, so I think what the air had not killed the heat would have ruined. No doubt they were having the caterer in and having marvellous roast beef and all the loaders stopping and having a feast as well: I had a do like that last time I was there. However when I accepted I said I couldn't stay in the evening, so off I went back to the Villa office straight away with Joe Woodcock, and he took the dogs away. I saw CG and BLD and got on with my work.

<u>7th October</u>	Hair's Pond	5 mallard
	Evening flight	3 teal

Here we are with WHJ loading for me at Hair's Pond below Tugdale. This is a pond we made all those years ago, and a willow tree was planted so they have got to come in a certain way. There are willow trees on the whole of the east side: they can't get in there, so they come in from the west side where the better light is. There is about half a moon. We got here at 6.30 and the pond was absolutely full of mallard: 150 must have flown off it. Anyway, they didn't all go on the first jump and I got a gun there and plugged one. A magpie flew across. Then one actually sat in the willow tree right behind the hide. He must have been within 22 yards above our heads, but he didn't see us. I said to WHJ "Give him one if he comes out". WHJ looked round, went through behind the hide and knocked him down, so that was a good start to the flight. It is 6.40 now and a duck hasn't come in yet although there were hundreds flying about and setting on the stubble when we got here. The moon looks a bit bright to me, and the wind has dropped.

<u>9th October</u>	North Ormsby	- 8 drives	38 partridges
			3 hares

<u>10th October</u>	North Ormsby	- 8 drives	29 partridges
			55 mallard
			2 hares

Today at North Ormsby, Saturday 10th October, we had a walking gun with the ducks and I had Will Jacob to load for me. I had a tremendous shoot and emptied a box of 20 bore No. 4 shot and shot some good high duck. There was a very strong wind. The other six guns, including Brother Sam, were behind the dam and only shot about 70 between them, whilst I got 55 myself. The bag was 124 anyway, so we had the best of that. We shot some very high partridges today. There are no wild partridges, and 1,200 3 day old French partridges were killed with one shot during the summer by switching off the heat. What few there were flew jolly well. We had a tremendous drive over Poplar Holt and I got a couple of rights and lefts and had a couple of high birds there: I was very pleased. In the afternoon over Brants Valley from the north to start with, then from the south - they were two spectacular drives, beautiful drives. I killed in the 2 drives 15 birds, 11 one way and 4 the other: beautiful birds, and I shot jolly well. I was not waiting for a gun from young Will. I didn't bang the barrels and we had some very quick changes. I had my dog Teal, and he did not run in. All these ducks were falling all around him, and he behaved himself beautifully.

It was extremely interesting to meet the farmers, Leonard Lamyman, John Heath and George Henry Parker. They are very clued up farmers and the talk at teatime is always most interesting. It ranged today from low volume sprayers to you name it. Also about Jack Meadows who shot himself - about how his father shot himself and how he shot himself, and about how they started down the marsh.

Eusebio gives me a wonderful massage after shooting to such an extent that, after a very hot bath with a lot of Radox and Sebio massaging me for ½ hour, off I go to sleep and start snoring. So tonight at dinner I said to Sebio "When I go to sleep and start snoring, do you keep massaging me, or do you go to sleep too?" He said "No, I keep massaging you." "Oh," I said, "that's good." He said "Yes, I never know if you are teasing me!"

<u>12th October</u>	Wemmergill - 6 drives	51 grouse
<u>13th October</u>	Wemmergill - 6 drives	39 grouse 1 hare
<u>14th October</u>	Stublick - 4 drives	27 grouse

The 12th, 13th and 14th October have been brilliant sunshine, very, very cold, gale force winds for the first two days and a strong wind the third day - really more like December than October weather. These grouse have flown magnificently - they have been just like nuclear missiles, the speed they've been going at. We've had some low level aircraft flying over, very powerful, the latest fighters, and these grouse just remind me of them. I have been under 2 cartridges to 1 grouse for the whole season, and in fact for 40 years, but on Monday I was two and a third, and on Tuesday about 3 and today, Wednesday, 2½, but of course we shoot at everything and often have an empty butt inbetween when we have got a small number of guns. We were 4 guns on Monday, 4 on Tuesday and 5 on Wednesday, and the bags were respectively 77½ on the North Side, 53 on Close House and the Allotments at Wemmergill, and at Stublick on the third day exactly 50 brace. We only had 4 drives at Stublick as the stock does not seem too plentiful, and the last drive we have been right heading the wind. Pretty well downwind birds all the week, haven't had an upwind drive. Been magnificent shooting - sport at its very, very best. I had my son Robert with me all 3 days, and my son Charles for 1 day, Mr. Bailey was there all 3 days, the 2 Thompsons, father and son at Stublick, and Mr. Caudwell on the second day. The kills to cartridges of the rest of the guests I don't think we want to discuss but, very quietly, without blowing our trumpet, all of them without exception were somewhat worse than we were. They are difficult, and it is a great challenge. We have hardly had a mackintosh on - just an odd shower with a bit of snow on the eastern slope of Mr. Blackett-Ord's boundary above the Moss next to Mickle Fell. I have reached the Battle of Trafalgar: 1805 grouse to my own gun this season. In addition one blackcock, a few snipe, a few hares and one rabbit. A super season, and I am thankful to God with due reverence that I have been fit enough to have these days, these 31 days. I have shot 21 days on Wemmergill and Holwick, 18 of which were under my contract agreement, 2 when I was a paying guest and one as a guest, then I have had 3 days at Stean and 7 at Stublick.

My first grouse on 12th August used, of course, to be frozen - when one had efficient people who had one frozen from the season before, but we have moved forward from then and now we get a fresh grouse very early in the season. When I have it I think "What a marvellous bird the grouse is" and I eat a lot of grouse for a few weeks and they learn to cook them beautifully. But when I taste my first young English partridge of the season I don't want to eat any more grouse.

<u>16th October</u>	North Ormsby - 8 drives	35 partridges 2 hares 1 rabbit
<u>16th October</u>	Hair's Pond	5 teal 23 mallard
<u>17th October</u>	North Ormsby - 8 drives	24 partridges 41 mallard 1 hare



BINBROOK HALL  
BINBROOK  
LINCOLNSHIRE.

12th October, 1981.

Dear Mr. Nickerson,

Thank you so much for kindly letting me know that you are having you Harvest Festival Service at Rothwell next Sunday evening, and refreshments will be served at the Nickerson Arms after the service, I will be delighted to come.

I have met The Reverend Webber, he was very kind to my Aunt, Margaret, Lady Sleight when she lived at Nettleton.

It was so nice meeting you again last week at the Shoot at Cadeby Hall, my dear old Grannie, Rebecca, Lady Sleight lived there for a long time, and in her time the house and grounds really looked beautiful.

With kindest regards to you and to Mrs. Nickerson,

Yours sincerely,  
Michael.



J.N. with Prince Teal in the garden at Rothwell House, Summer 1981.

NOTE WHICH J.N. HAS GIVEN TO HIM  
ON FIRST DAY'S SHOOTING AT ROTHWELL

V.I.P.: Do not shoot at birds flying towards your neighbour - we call that poaching. If in front and gun/s behind you shoot cocks only. No hares, no rabbits, no foxes, no protected species. Shoot everything you enjoy if it is your bird.

GAME REGISTER		
DATE <i>Wed.</i> 7th October No. GUNS <i>8</i>		
PARTRIDGES	61	J. Nickerson
PHEASANTS COCKS	8	S. Nickerson
" HENS		T.A. Saul
HARES	12	R. Abbott
RABBITS		P. Dean
WOODCOCK		L. Lamyman
SNIPE		Col. I. Reeves
WILD FOWL	175	E. Bailey
VARIOUS	14	
TOTAL	270	
HOST	R. CAUDWELL	WEATHER
ESTATE	Cadeby	High wind
KEEPER	Tennant	
NO. OF DRIVES <i>6</i>		

# NORTH ORMSBY

## GUNS

E.W.W. Bailey  
J. Heath  
L. Lamyman  
D. S. Nickerson  
Mrs. J. Nickerson  
J. Nickerson  
S. Nickerson  
G. H. Parker

## WEATHER

Fine. Strong S.W. Wind.

## DRIVES

Eight

## NORTH ORMSBY GUNS

E.W.W. Bailey  
J. Heath  
L. Lamyman  
D. S. Nickerson  
J. Nickerson  
S. Nickerson  
G. H. Parker

## WEATHER

Fine. Strong S.W. Wind.

## DRIVES

Eight

## DATE

9 October 1981

Partridges	189
Pheasants	2
Hares	17
Rabbits	1
Woodcock	
Pigeons	1
Moorhens	
Mallard	

Total 210

## DATE

10 October 1981

Partridges	104
Pheasants	Pick-up 3
	1
Hares	22
Rabbits	
Woodcock	
Pigeons	1
Moorhens	
Mallard	124
	Pick-up 11
Water Hen	1

Total 253



12th October 1981

Charles Nickerson's notes to his father concerning a visit to Read's Island on 17th October, 1981.

We embarked, Tony Dixon, Joseph de Vilmorin and I, at 11 a.m., lunched, etc. and were out of the lodge at 2.45 p.m. We didn't return to the lodge until 7 - 7.45 p.m. The tide was at 10.30 p.m., the moon late and waning. There was a fresh north easterly wind, dry, high cloud, some sun. Some barley had been washed up on South East marsh, but even without that there was a very good flight up the marsh which would be worth taking advantage of - BUT only if the wind were away from the mud on the north side where lots of duck rest during the day. For this reason also we didn't shoot pheasants as the wind was lighter in the morning. The Island was very tidy and clean, and all staff were in good spirits. The claret (your incentive for over 50 duck in a day) was delicious! Thank you. I propose to leave a bottle for over 60 in an afternoon flight with one gun ! picked up. The crawler is in good working order other than the parts of the tracks outlined by Platts. I believe your best chance is to ship on another identical machine, but with good tracks, although not wide. Platts should quote on a time basis to transfer blade, etc. to the newer one. The other way to look at the situation is to look at exactly what you are trying to achieve, and decide if a dozer is the right tool for the job. The dragline machines come in all shapes and sizes and are quite versatile. The ones I have in mind have a jointed mast instead of a scaffold type. This machine or the other dragline could load a trailer of soil needed moving any distance. Our bag for the day was 106 teal, 21 mallard, 3 wigeon and 2 snipe: 132 head. CJN the only one with dogs.

19th October

Rookery Pond

15 mallard

The Ram

21 mallard

Evening flight

Robert Nickerson's notes to his father concerning a visit to Read's Island on 25th October, 1981

Thank you very much on behalf of Ian Flockton and myself for a super weekend's shooting on Read's Island. A fantastic weekend. It has given me great joy to visit the place after so long. Everything very tidy and smart - super. We had a mixed bag of duck: teal 57, mallard 17, snipe 2, curlew 2, cock pheasants 17, waterhens 10: 105 head.

Ian Flockton's notes on 25th October: We left to go flighting at approximately 3.15 p.m. accompanied by Dainty, with the intention of standing on the South Marshes where from the morning we had observed widgeon droppings. Adopted a position in the rushes until it became obvious that any movement was taking place in the vicinity of Sam's Pond. Went over there and attempted to look like a post already in position. The only ducks moving were teal, and those only coming in in singles. Accounted for 7. The flight to Sam's Pond never materialised, nor did widgeon appear, although about seven o'clock some could be heard whistling. Young John came around dusk and assisted carrying gear back to the boat.

Report from WHJ to JN 30.10.81

We start night watching tonight. Ducks are beginning to fly. Working on laying pens in the morning. Woodcock has been training the dogs in the afternoon but is now having a week's holiday. The dogs are all fit and well. Pheasants coming to the feed better due to cold and wet weather.



Consulado General de España

N.º 3987

EL CONSUL GENERAL DE ESPAÑA EN LONDRES - INGLATERRA

CERTIFICA: Que la adjunta licencia de *Armas*  
A favor de *Joseph Nickerson* expedida  
por las autoridades británicas competentes el 2/10/80  
hasta el 1/10/83

Y para que conste donde proceda, expido el  
presente certificado en Londres.



2 SET. 1981

SEP-2-81-0557 (UN975 TL 1 LEG \*003.00



Consulado General de España

N.º 3986

EL CONSUL GENERAL DE ESPAÑA EN LONDRES - INGLATERRA

CERTIFICA: Que la adjunta licencia de *Armas de caza*  
A favor de *Joseph Nickerson* expedida  
por las autoridades británicas competentes el 1/8/81  
hasta el 31/7/82

Y para que conste donde proceda, expido el  
presente certificado en Londres.



2 SET. 1981

SEP-2-81-0556 (UN975 TL 1 LEG \*003.00

VISIT TO SPAIN 23RD OCTOBER TO 10TH NOVEMBER 1981

Mr. & Mrs. Nickerson arrived at Luton Airport at 09.30 on Friday, 23rd October, having been driven from The Dorchester by D. Smith. J. Woodcock was waiting at Luton with the main luggage and lunch to be eaten on the 'plane. At 10.00 they took off in an 8-seater Beechcraft Super King Air 200, touching down at Asturias for Customs and arriving at Badajoz at 15.30 where they were met by a car sent by Senor Mora-Figueroa and driven to Finca Dehesa "Quintos de San Martin".

Benjy Jacob left Rothwell on 20th October in a Range Rover with the heavy luggage, departing Plymouth at 14.30 on 21st and arriving at Santander at 15.00 on the 22nd. He drove to Badajoz to meet the 'plane on 23rd October to take surplus luggage. Manolo went straight to Los Quintos in his own vehicle.

Saturday 24th October Los Quintos 3 drives - Gavilane - R. de Labruda - C. Viejo

D. Fernando Mora Figueroa	Partridges	680
D. Jose Ramon Mora Figueroa	Hare	1
Ramoncito	Rabbits	9
Carlos		
Mrs. J. Nickerson	<u>Head:</u>	690
Mr. J. Nickerson		

J.N. shot 177 partridges, 2 rabbits, 1 pigeon with 371 shots

Sunday 25th October Garlitos 3 drives - Inolino de Panilla -Junta de los Anoyos - Inolino del Infierno

D. Alfredo Gomez-Torres	Partridges	475
D. Fernando Mora Figueroa		
D. Jose Ramon Mora Figueroa	<u>Head:</u>	475
Ramoncito		
Carlos		
Mrs. J. Nickerson		
Mr. J. Nickerson		

J.N. shot 125 partridges, 1 hare, 2 magpies with 221 shots

J.N.'s Notes on 25th October: The wheels have started rolling at 08.51 to go to Garlitos. The road followed was the C413 and then C420. We crossed the Madrid/Badajoz railway line at 09.00 exactly. It is a bright, sunny morning. I am dictating this in the back of Pepe Mora Figueroa's Citroen which is being driven by Rodriguez. He told me it would take 1 hr. & 35 minutes going slowly as I like to go. However we seem to be going fast enough to be taking part in the Grand Prix de Monaco motor race, we couldn't go any faster! We are now in Cabeza de la Buey at the end of the C420. There are some date palms here. Rather lovely gardens in the town centre. Puebla de Alcocer - that is the route we left the little town on, and we're now crossing the railway again. It is a good idea to look up and down. This time it is an actual crossing, last time we were on a bridge over the top. The C420 goes on to Cordoba and

goes off to the right. We are running parallel with the railway. We are now on the BA400 - that is the road we left the crossroads on, but it was not marked. Now we have turned to Penalsordo and Zarza Capilla - 9 km - it is morning and we have the sun on the right where it has been for most of the journey.

The shoot they have built up round Garlitos is now 17,000 hectares and it has not been shot yet, except by poachers or farmers killing an odd bird, but there has never been an organised shoot, so everyone is most excited at the prospect. Pepe did take me to look at it last year and I thought it had great potential. The only snag is that there is no hotel near and it is a long way from the house.

I think it is interesting to record that on the whole journey I have seen no one doing any work in the fields. I saw a couple of chaps with dogs pot hunting, just the two of them. I saw a dog herding goats, but no human activity. I have not seen another motor car, but six motor lorries. It really has been dry - it must be six months since they've had any rain. They have started to ration drinking water in some places and slaughtering cattle so that in a few years time there will be a shortage of beef. It could be an opportunity to intensify pigs here - I am convinced of that. Really the land that is going to pay is the sunny land and the irrigated land in the south. Las Lomas will have a tremendously good future economically where there is 4,000 hectares of land they can irrigate. As far as Los Quintos is concerned, they are hoping to build that up to 7,000 sheep and I think they are close to that now. Sheep and partridges, no cows as cows don't pay in that kind of country - that is how it will be, I think, in Spain. It is the same everywhere else, the best land is the cheapest and most likely to make a profit.

The only birds I have seen since leaving Los Quintos are 5 or 6 starlings, 1 or 2 very small birds I could not recognise jumping about near the roadside, and now a pair of ravens. We are almost at our journey's end now. Have just seen our first car, also an old fellow pushing a wheelbarrow and one pedestrian. It is 09.10 and that is all we've seen all the way. We have arrived at Penalsordo, a small village, and there is a bus here to take the children to school. Here we turn left at a kind of building site. It is a very rough old road, not tarmaced, near a building site and they have retained a lot of sand on the left. Recognition features: it looks like a citadel on the top of the hill about 1 km away on the skyline. We have gone past some intensive housing, not very up-to-date, but there is a silo there for pigs or cattle. I remember the place very well now from last year. It is quite distinctive. This year it is distinctive because of the enormous amount of brown and lack of green. Apart from the odd broom bush, everything is brown. Now 09.25 - 1 hr & 36 minutes - and we are on the road approaching the shoot. Here it turns onto a concrete bridge crossing some water - a terrible road. I can see some martins here. We are on the shoot. Garlitos is a tiny, very, very old village. There is one fellow with a tiny set of harrows scratching away on a small patch before he wants to drill it. 20 km is the speed limit in the village. Even Rodriguez doesn't know the way, nor does Pepe. It is the first time we have been here. They have got some concrete roads in the village, and we have seen some mules. This is where we went last year, near a big white, fairly modern building. We have arrived at 09.34 - 1 hr. & 45 minutes from Los Quintos, and I think we have come like hell.

I am in my butt and Eugenie is at the bottom of the valley on my left. I am on the righthand slope facing the drive, and Pepe is on Eugenie's left on the lefthand slope. It is now 10.24 and we have got our stall set out. At 10.45 we killed the first bird with the first barrel. I missed a long bird, just tickled him. I missed a very easy bird very close to the butt, very low diving and a lifter crossing across me. Now 11.24, 8 birds down and I have not missed any since the last dictation. Now 11.49: killed the last 8 out of 9. That's exactly 30 birds now. I have been shooting in front of some crossing on my right. 1.51 now & we're in the 2nd drive. It's blazing hot, the sun behind us again but the wind is a little stronger, just a nice breath blowing from left to right.

Benjy and I are pushed up onto a bank. At the bottom is Pepe. The people in this village are very nice - most charming. They lift their hats off if you want to take a photo and they smile. They don't seem at all spoilt, very pleasant, nice people and I think this is going to be a very good shoot.

Since we left the last butt we've got 49 down and we picked up 48. Total bag for the drive was 253, 271 claimed. The whole of that time we didn't move very far. I am driving the Range Rover and the air conditioning is a boon. We've not driven very far and seem to have wasted an awful lot of time. If I had not brought a Bath Oliver chocolate biscuit and an apple and Benjy hadn't got a bottle of water I think I would have been cooked by now. It is nearly 2.00 and not a bite, and we had breakfast at 7.15. These Bath Olivers travel well & are worth taking another time and a few chocolate ones too & we always should have a supply of mineral waters with us.

We are on the way home from Garlitos, having had a lovely shoot. The sun is setting and it is 6.24, we should arrive at Los Quintos at 7.45. It is 65 km (40 miles) from the house to Castuera. It takes 1 hr - it's a twisty road. I gave a Churchill crown to my 2 secretarios and my wife's 2 secretarios.

When these partridges are meeting the wind they, like other birds, are going more slowly. You could miss them in front and also as a rule you miss them underneath. You knock a lot of legs down if you don't know what you are doing. What you must remember whether they are coming into you or crossing, you must shoot higher because they are always lifting. They have seen you. Someone else is shooting and something has frightened them so they lift and you must allow for this and shoot higher. If you shoot over the top of them you will kill everything in the head.

Monday 26th October was a rest day.

1981

Tuesday 27th October Garlitos 3 drives - Morrodel Cura, Arroyo Canaverál, Collado Arzuéla

D. Alfredo Gomez-Torres Partridges 620  
 D. Jose Ramon Mora Figueroa  
 Mrs. J. Nickerson Head: 620  
 Mr. J. Nickerson  
 D. Miguel Primo de Rivera

J.N. shot 167 partridges, 3 hares, 1 pigeon with 277 shots

Wednesday 28th October Los Quintos 3 drives - B. del Coscojal, Altos del Coscojal, Mira-Flores

D. Alfredo Gomez-Torres Partridges 514  
 D. Jose Ramon Mora Figueroa Hares 2  
 Mrs. J. Nickerson Rabbits 7  
 Mr. J. Nickerson  
 D. Miguel Primo de Rivera Head: 523

J.N. shot 103 partridges, 3 rabbits with 172 shots

Summary of J.N.'s Total Bag Los Quintos & Garlitos (Av./day: 146)

Oct.	Place	Part.	Cum.Tl.	Rab.	Hare	Pgn.	Mag.	Total	Cum.Tl.	Shots	Cum.Tl.
24	LQ	177	177	2		1		180	180	371	371
25	G	125	302		1		2	128	308	221	592
27	G	167	469		3	1		171	479	277	869
28	LQ	103	572	3				106	585	172	1041
<b>TOTALS:</b>		572		5	4	2	2	585		1041	

Thursday 29th October Duck shoot planned for this day cancelled owing to drought. Travelled to Hotel El Cazador, Maqueda, Mr. & Mrs. J.N. in the Range Rover driven by Benjy, Manolo in his own car with most of luggage. Hotel room nos: JN 204, EJN 205, Sitting Room 208, IRY's 202, RJN 203.

Friday 30th October "Dress Rehearsal" for 31st.

Saturday 31st October - Nombela

S.M. El Rey Juan Carlos I Partridges 671  
 Princess Maria Gabriella de Savoie Magpies 10  
 Eugenie Nickerson  
 Joseph Nickerson Head: 681  
 Ian Yates

(at lunch: Part. 359

J.N. shot 164 partridges, 8 magpies with 298 shots  
 Mag. 10)

5 drives: Verra de los Coraces (89), Caleros (153), Los Trozos (117), El Armeson (147), La Penilla (165)

OCT 1981

JOSEPH NICKERSON, ROTHWELL HOUSE, NEAR CAISTOR, Lincs  
HOME: SWALLOW 237  
OFFICE: SWALLOW 212

ARMERIA CASTELLANA

CASTELLANA 101 0 102  
0 103

MADRIS.

you are for LORENZO.

Handwritten by H.M.  
Juan Carlos F.R.S.T.

Saturday 31st October - Nombela

J.N.'s Notes on 31st October: Ian, Diana, Eugenie and J.N. left Hotel El Cazador, Maqueda at 08.05 on a bright, sunny morning. Benjy and Manolo followed in the Landrover we bought for Spain and after them came Marples in the clapped-out blue Landrover of Tom Gullick's. Then came the waiter Jenny had borrowed from the Hotel - Santiago - he did a very good job, worked from early morning then served our dinner, and he was bright and cheerful when he brought my breakfast the day after at 07.30.

So off we go into Nombela village. There was a great crowd of Landrovers outside Santos' house and I decided to move them all down to the double drive on the new Gomez road. We just waited outside GEE 1 opposite Santos' front door and got all the keepers' wives and daughters lined up in case something could happen. Eventually the first to arrive was the doctor and a couple of security people with him, or his assistants perhaps - they arrived at 8.45. Coco arrived at about 7 or 8 minutes to 9, did his duty and was introduced to all our party. He had met Eugenie and me before of course. Then he met the gamekeepers' wives who were all curtseying madly and their daughters in their slippers, so that was very good. He drove himself in a white Mercedes imitation of a Landrover - a great big box thing. It was not armour-plated - the last one he had armour-plated he was frightened would turn over, and it had no acceleration. He drove himself and was accompanied by Princess Maria Gabriella de Savoie who had been staying a few days with her cousin, ex-King Simeon of Bulgaria. They had all had dinner the night before and had had rather a late night, although the respective children - 3 of the King of Spain and 5 of the ex-King, had all been there from what I could make out, but I did not quite understand that clearly. She is staying tonight at Zarzuela Palace and they are going off early to shoot on Sunday morning with a Basque man who built up a shipping fortune. Neither of them had fired a shot before this season.

We had had a rehearsal the day before, had been round the drives and got out a bit of rotten old wire that nearly tripped me up where he was going to stand, etc. The butts are not high enough for tall people - the birds can see them, and they are no good for English loaders because they slope away behind - they are designed for Spanish loaders sitting in front.

After 2 or 3 minutes I asked Coco to suggest what should happen, should we move on? He said "Yes, I will follow you". So off we went and came down to the first drive. We drove past all those parked vehicles - Mr. Marples was the only one who had got his in the way and I could hardly get past but luckily there was just room to squeeze through with the Range Rover - I don't know what happened to the big white tin box that followed, but it must have got through. Out we get and he went up on the right punta on the eagle's nest there. Jenny was on the brow - very dangerous because Coco was in the centre. She was in the most dangerous butt and I was thinking about her quite a bit. He shot quite well. I was on his left and the Princess was on my left and the damn birds broke - that butt is no good where I was - they turned either side over him or her and she emptied a cartridge bag before she hardly hit anything. Then she began to connect and shoot quite well. There were some beautiful birds and anyone who could have shot could have been there and would have had a beautiful place. If we have a little day with two guns that's the place to stand and have two drives, near that bridge. At this drive 100 birds were claimed and 88 picked.

31st October, continued

Colonel Munoz-Grandes was just as nice a man as I expected he would be after my telephone conversation with him - a superb person in every sense.

We then had the return drive and got about 150. Coco took the centre, I went on the inside right and Jennie outside and right and we had quite a benefit, particularly at the beginning of the drive when the flank was bringing that in. An awful lot of stuff came over there. The Princess was on the punta on the left and she had a pretty thin time. Ian was next and got about 25. Coco got between 50 and 60 he said. Then we got aboard the transport and parked near a little house. You could just see where the lunch was set out out of the corner of your eye. Jenny missed that drive so she could organise the lunch, so we were only 4 guns that drive. I took the right punta and as that flank comes in there I had a nice shoot. I walked down there, 60/70 yards, and clobbered quite a bit of stuff as they were driving it in, then I walked to the left of my butt afterwards - I was on my own and not nearer than 100 yards of anyone for the whole drive. I got just over 30 - some very good birds and some quite low. The Princess was next and she had a nice little drive, then Coco, not quite such a good opportunity, but quite a good shoot. Ian was next and had a hell of a bang. So this was a decent drive. At lunch we had 359 partridges and 10 magpies in the bag - I enjoyed myself with the magpies. The first drive I got 4 high ones with 5 shots - all the 4 I shot at and a double at 1 - I was very, very surprised myself, as well as surprising the magpies!

Then we had lunch, and I must say Jennie had done a super job. Everything was all laid out with Tio Pepe - we brought the Russian vodka, gin and tonic and cold beer. We had a big ice bucket full of soft drinks. Both of the guests had had some cold tonic water after the second drive. He likes fresh squeezed lemon juice with vodka, and ice. We sat down to lunch at about 12.55 - the whole thing was well timed. The beaters did not make any noise - they had been asked not to speak and they did not. He ate a lot of the snacks we had before lunch. The beetroot was very good, I found, and we had the tortilla which he ate, the Colonel liked that too. The bread was absolutely super and he commented on that - I told him we were having the local people to do lunch and were drinking the local wine - one quality for all - secretarios and all the staff. He said "You must make people proud of where they come from and what they do" and there was a little conversation during lunch on another subject of pride asking him why there weren't more Spanish flags flying about in the country. He said "I've just come back from manoeuvres with our fleet. We just had a flag on the leading ship, whereas the Americans have a flag on every ship. It was a combined operation we were doing with them - a military and naval exercise under the NATO American-Spanish co-operation". There is no doubt he is much more mature and much stronger than he was. I think he realises now the chances of the last 5 years, and even before that. He remembered the agricultural discussion we had all those years ago and said "What we could have done if only we had got on with it". We had a talk about Plant Breeders Rights and royalties. I said "Nobody likes paying royalties. You have got

31st October, continued

the law now and it is absolutely perfect, but people are not obeying it and that is not in the interests of the country economically from an agricultural point of view. You won't encourage plant breeders to spend money here if they can't collect the royalties due to them under the law. It is as simple as that. You must have the incentive if you want to get the extra yield." I delivered that message in fairly basic Anglo-Saxon, but politely.

I told the Colonel I was expecting 140 birds from the 4th drive and it turned out that we got 147. I told him I was expecting 140 on the 5th drive and we got 170 something. The total bag was 671 partridges - the last shot was fired at 4.54 and we had a very long lunch - virtually 2 hours. We were able to walk back from the drive before lunch and walk to the first drive after lunch from the lunch table, which is what I like very much. We were spending a lot of time picking up each drive and I think that is quite important - we did not appear to hurry. The beaters did not come anywhere near the line - they were told to stop 60 metres back which they did and not to make any noise, and they peeled off and got in position for the next drive. I would think we saved certainly a quarter of an hour each drive by this new method. We usually are shooting there to 6.30 to get those 5 drives in, and rushing back as the sun is pretty low and it gets cold when we have been having the last drive there. Modestly, I do think the organisation was rather good, and I think the rehearsal played a major part in the success. We had the waiters going round the table the day before imagining Coco was there and going through every possible detail - a full dress rehearsal. I asked him if he would like a few partridges - how many? He said "I will take what you give me" so I gave them 14 - 4 for the Colonel and 10 for him - 14 were pushed into the helicopter. That was a mistake - I had told Marples to have labels ready the day before and to get some good birds sorted out and ready to give to him at night, but this instruction was not carried out.

The pilot of the helicopter was a full Army General. He had flown the King ever since they had been able to get a helicopter - he is the only flying General in the Spanish Air Force. It is usually a job done by a Lieutenant Colonel, but Coco told the Government when they wanted to change it "Well, I shall know more about being a helicopter pilot than anybody else you send me apart from this fellow, and I would like to keep him". This General is a lovely looking man, a little chap, very smart and well turned out as are the other two helicopter officers. The General hadn't a hair on his head. The helicopter was pretty big, a 10 seater, and it would take them 20 minutes to be back onto their pad at Zarzuela Palace.

Coco borrowed one of the staff - old Augustin - from La Ronca - that was an interesting point. He had 4 Spanish guns made by Garbi. They had given him a set of 3 and he had ordered another one himself which he paid for and by this time he had to pay 4,000 pesetas. The guns came up very well, though I thought they were rather heavy in the stock myself -

31st October, continued

self-opening, beautiful guns, retractable front trigger: 1.2 million pesetas a pair would cost today. Gabriella also had a pair - he had advised her to buy some, but whether she had 2 or 3 I don't know. He has given me an introduction to these people and said I could mention his name, but he did not get a commission! The name of the man in the gun shop is Kintana and it is in the Avenue Castigliana. There was a little episode where he invited one of his aides to telephone to get Maria Gabriella's boots through to the Palace that afternoon. I repeat what a wonderful man Colonel Munoz-Grandes is: Diana was getting on very well with him - I think she will probably be given a Spanish uniform - he said she would have to join the Spanish Army if she wanted one! A very smart uniform I must say. I had been looking at it, but I think my size would not do it justice. He was appreciative and congratulatory and, I think, very surprised because this is a very bad season in Spain.

I told the King I had told my wife I expected he would shoot 200 partridges today - I told him that at lunchtime. Then I went up to him after the last drive and said "How have we got on?" and he said "I shot very badly, I got 34". I said "That's good, that gives us two in hand, you have 202 now". He and the Colonel laughed and were very pleased. Guns claimed as follows: The King 202, the Princess 90, Jennie 100, J.N. 164 and Ian 164.

We asked if we could take a photo at lunchtime and he said "Take as many as you like and was very agreeable to it. I had said to the Colonel "Do you think he will mind?" and he said "No, I'm sure he won't, take as many photographs as you like". We did, Diana was very, very good taking all kinds of photographs in all directions and Benjy Jacob took a lot. The two ladies from the restaurant asked if they could have their photos taken with the King, and he agreed so they liked it very much. He entered into the spirit of the thing very well. Diana said "It is rather like being a film star, Sir!" and he said "No, it is much worse because I don't get paid for it!" He had a good sense of humour and I would say the fellow really enjoyed himself. I don't think you could say anything other than that he was superbly happy. He said that he had not killed 200 partridges to his own gun last season at all. He appreciated the small party very much and referred to that several times and so did the Princess. I asked him if he had a shoot in Spain and he said he hadn't. I said Prince Bernhard had kept it going and was able to meet a lot of people diplomatically and politically and do quite a lot of work through shooting and he said yes, he thought it was quite a good idea and he would like to do it too. However, they have got the same shoot that Franco had had apparently, but from what I can understand the King had been asked to shoot there as a guest but there wasn't a lot of stuff there. He is trying to get it so that it would be good enough for a two consecutive day shoot and he also wants to improve the house there so he can have people to stay. I should think this will be done in Spanish time myself. He kept talking about the wonderful grouse moor and how sorry he was that he hadn't been able to come. I would say he was quite friendly and quite appreciates the little bit of knowledge we have on agriculture. I told him we had between 20/30 % of the spring barley acreage and that our varieties were used as the controls in all the trials here. He would like to come grouse shooting in August but it would be too cold after that he thought. He is very keen on sailing, of course, as we know.

31st October, continued

He apologised for asking if he could bring the Princess. Simeon had apparently been saying very wonderful things about Eugenie and me. He told me he had 120 stitches in his body when he walked through a glass door he didn't know was there at a swimming pool. The light was difficult, and he walked straight through the door. He likes playing squash - good exercise - and he has a good figure, slim and tall. He has decided to have a doctor with him the whole time since his experience at the Emergency Ward of the hospital where they took him. He recounted this in great detail: how the doctor had not shaved and he told him before he laid a hand on him he had better go and shave and wash up. The nurse was rather frightened to staunch his Royal blood, and she was just touching him very, very lightly and he was oozing blood in all directions. He got a big piece of cotton wool and pressed it on himself, etc. - he told the story very well. Then he told a story about ski-ing - he is mad keen on ski-ing - and different kinds of skis. He had a long conversation with Ian about ski-ing at lunch which was very interesting, and she is keen on ski-ing too - she goes to St. Muniere a lot. She lives in Geneva. She is the daughter of the ex-King of Italy. He had had two abortive attempts to go to Aspen - Juan Carlos that is. He has spent 6,000 dollars on hotel rooms and hasn't been able to go. Once his father was having a very long operation - 8 hours - in New York, so naturally he was with him, and another time something else happened.

The King spoke to me about the generals, the military and about the democracy, etc. quite a lot. He had his own loader, a very splendid, polite little chap, first class. He had this big Mafia-type chap from La Ronca sitting there, and they had 4 guns, all loaded. The King was very impressed, I think, how someone coming from England could get the shoot organised. He very much liked the idea of being friendly, and shook hands with all the keepers. He liked the Nickerson ties and buttons and all the sense of belonging to an organisation and he seemed to be pleased that we were trying frightfully hard. He said more and more of Spain could be developed for shooting, even in the Province of Toledo, which is one of the most shot over Provinces. He said only 25% of Toledo Province actually had preserved shooting and compared it with the other areas. I told him about what Pepe Mora was doing at Garlitos, and he said "That is the kind of thing we ought to be doing much more". I did not tell him that Pepe had got an 80% grant. They are going to put beautiful roads all over the shoot so that he can get everywhere in his car and develop the territory for the good of agriculture, etc. They have a huge Government grant for this road making and development, but I think it is worth it for the shooting. I said "I am jolly pleased you have not stopped shooting, Sir". "No", he said, "I didn't want to do that. Other people might feel they would have to stop, but I don't intend to. I shoot on Saturdays and Sundays chiefly, but I'm working apart from that".

I shouted over to him when I saw something moving through the bushes on the 2nd drive. It was a little owl which flew out. He said to me afterwards "Thank goodness I know what 'over' means, I could hear it even though I have my plugs in. I nearly laid it low, wouldn't it have been terrible?" Ian has just told me that in point of fact he did let loose at it - a couple of barrels, but he did not admit that to me. Ian was next to him and not only did he miss it a couple of times but he encouraged Ian to let loose. It all started by my mistake in recognition, but I couldn't see these partridges coming through the trees and I was jumping at anything that moved.

1981

31st October, continued

The King's dogs remain a bit of a mystery. It seems to me that probably Augustin at La Ronca may be having these to look after. One was a champion at Crufts - a bitch about 6/7 years old. They are golden retrievers - like Snowy was, but very white. Didn't see them do much and they didn't work for the King at all.

Sunday 1st November - Nombela

Eugenie Nickerson	Partridges	338
Joseph Nickerson	Magpies	4
Robert Nickerson		
Ian Yates	<u>Head:</u>	342

<u>Drive</u>	<u>Birds Claimed</u>	<u>Actual</u>	JN shot 88 birds with 156 shots, plus 4 magpies, 4 jays & 2 pigeons, a total of 98
Fajar de Gaspar	75	74	
Parilla	57	57	
Valdeprau	75	84	
Fardinielos	56	53	
Val de Aguila	67	70	

Tuesday 3rd November - Nombela - La Heredad

Christiane Guerlain	Partridges	530
Jean-Pierre Guerlain	Magpies	3
Eugenie Nickerson		
Joseph Nickerson	<u>Head:</u>	533
Robert Nickerson		
Ian Yates	<u>At lunch:</u>	338

<u>Drive</u>	<u>Total Parts.</u>	<u>JN shots</u>	<u>JN down</u>	JN shot 102 parts. with 155 shots, plus 1 magpie
La Cantera	92	41	26	
Barranco la Nava	96	25	22	
Macadilla	167	58	37	
La Huesa	114	13	7	
El Prado Montes	61	18	10	

Wednesday 4th November - Nombela

(Benjy Jacob's birthday)

Sir Charles Forte	Partridges	587
Rocco Forte	Magpies	6
Christiane Guerlain	Pigeons	3
Jean-Pierre Guerlain		
Eugenie Nickerson	<u>Head:</u>	596
Joseph Nickerson		
Robert Nickerson		
Ian Yates		



SO HAPPY BEING WITH YOU DURING THESE TWO MARVELLOUS DAYS  
THOUSAND THANKS AGAIN LOVE CHRISTIANE ET JEAN PIERRE

Wednesday 4th November - Nombela, continued

<u>Drive</u>	<u>Total Parts.</u>	<u>JN shots</u>	<u>JN down</u>	JN shot 102
Los Pozuelos	84	37	22	parts. with
Carcabosco	134	30	21	159 shots,
Val de Navares	159	32	24	plus 6
El Coronel	102	43	23	magpies
Bajaroso	108	17	12	& 2 pigeons

Thursday 5th November - Rest dayFriday 6th November - Nombela

Sir Charles Forte	Partridges	326
Rocco Forte	Magpies	12
Eugenie Nickerson		
Joseph Nickerson	<u>Head:</u>	338
Robert Nickerson		

<u>Drive</u>	<u>Total Parts.</u>	JN shot 103
Cerro Pendon	109	partridges with
Las Trochas	42	189 shots, plus
Los Regeros	47	6 magpies
El Risco	70	
El Pino	58	

Saturday 7th November - Nombela

Sir Charles Forte	Partridges	564
Rocco Forte	Magpies	4
Eugenie Nickerson	Pigeons	2
Joseph Nickerson		
Robert Nickerson	<u>Head:</u>	570

<u>Drive</u>	<u>Total Parts.</u>	<u>Claimed:</u>	JN - 153 parts.
Los Banos	165	with 306 shots, plus 3	
Heredad	120	magpies & 1 pigeon	
Valle las Moraras	124	EN - 83 parts.	
Cerro el Guarda	49	CF - 93 "	
Las Casas	106	RN - 117 "	
		RF - 135 "	

Sunday 8th November - Nombela

Eugenie Nickerson	Partridges	200
Joseph Nickerson	Magpies	6
	Pigeon	1
	<u>Head:</u>	207



1981

8th November - Nombela, continued

<u>Drive</u> (JN's notes in brackets)	<u>Total Parts.</u>	<u>EN</u>	<u>JN</u>	<u>JN shots</u>
El Pino (King's Drive)	26	9	17	58
Caleros (Return JN below behind bridge)	37	10	27	44
Cerro Pendon (Over same cliff as on way to Nombela)	36	8	28	57
La Cantera	101	66	35	63

(Wounded a lot more. Shot 14 at magpies &amp; 2 at pigeons 1st drive for 2 magpies)

JN's bag: 107 partridges with 222 shots, plus 6 magpies

9th November - Nombela

Eugenie Nickerson	Partridges	273
Joseph Nickerson	Magpies	4

Head: 277

<u>Drive</u>	<u>Total Partridges</u>	JN killed
Los Pozuelos	70	201 partridges
La Rentilla	34	with 390 shots,
El Trozo	49	plus 3 magpies
Zamorilla	82	
Ganchoral	38	

Partridge Sales and Control

Price per partridge: 355 pts. Malos = damaged/small

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Give Aways</u> *	<u>Malos</u>	<u>Total</u>
31.10.81	654	16	1	671
1.11.81	332	4	2	338
3.11.81	489	40	1	530
4.11.81	530	48	9	587
6.11.81	318	4	4	326
7.11.81	476	80	8	564
8.11.81	192	-	8	200
9.11.81	230	43	-	273
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3221</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>3489</b>

\* Partridge Give-aways: Guardia Civil Peluhostan 19, Guardia Civil Escalona 28, Mayor Nombela 10, Santiago 10, village priest 6, telefonos 4, farmacia 6, medico 6, vet 6, Manager Caja Rural 5, Manager Banesto 6, Judge 4, Proprietarios Valdelamuella 10, Navaro 6, Daniel 4, Rubio 4, regular bus driver 4, land-rover drivers 4, Manolo 14, Icona 15, Keepers 34, Guests: El Rey 16, Guerlains 14: TOTAL 235



<u>Cartridge Stock - Casa Santos:</u>	200	Italian 12 b
	1000	Super XX Magnum 12 b
	3200	Italian 20 b
	200	Spanish Paper 20 b
	200	Green Plastic (1980) Spanish 20 b
	3200	Sellier & Bellot 20 b
	3750	Red Consul 20 b
	5425	Consul 7's 12 b
	275	MQ 7's 12 b

Used Cartridge Count

<u>Date</u>	<u>20 b</u>	<u>M.Q.</u>	<u>Consul</u>	<u>2G70</u>	<u>Legia</u>	<u>Total</u>
31.10.81		n o	c o u n t			
1.11.81		"	"			
3.11.81	410	311	258	347		1326
		(IRY)	(RJN)	(Guerlain)		
4.11.81	450	243	450	325		1471
		(R.Forte)	(RJN/IRY)	(Guerlain)		
6.11.81	361	215	267		182	1025
		(R. Forte)	(RJN)		(Sir Charles)	
7.11.81	646	285	297		192	1420
		(R. Forte)	(RJN)		(Sir Charles)	

Mr. Robert paid for 1250 Consul 12 b (14.375 pts.)

Guest Tips Distribution

<u>Guest</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Loader</u>	<u>Secretarios</u>	<u>Keepers</u>
Mr. Robert	5	45.000	15.000	17.000	13.000
Sir Charles	3	27.000	9.000	10.200	7.800
Rocco Forte	3	27.000	9.000	10.200	7.800
M. Guerlain	2	12.000	own	6.800	5.200
Mme. Guerlain	2	18.000	6.000	6.800	5.200
Mr. Ian Yates	4	36.000	12.000	13.600	10.400

Manolo was paid at the rate of 8 pts. per kilometre and 4.000 pts. per day:-  
 16 days 64.000  
 1.300 kms (130 litres used, cost 9.000, + wear & tear 9.000) 18.000  
 82.000

Restaurant account (El Mirador) 346.500 pts. (charge 700 pts./person/lunch + transport/kitchen/waiter/etc. 20.000 pts.)  
 Hotel account (El Cazador) 456.112 pts.



1981 - 9

Dog Count: 3 bitches and 1 dog plus pups: 3 dogs, 1 bitch  
 Santos: 1 bitch (Tina) + pups 2 yrs.  
 Paco: 1 bitch (deaf) 1½ yrs.  
 Pablo: 1 bitch 1½ yrs.  
 Tino: 1 dog 1½ yrs.

Possible Visit of Keepers to U.K.: Santos and Jesus came in 1980. Paco keen to come. Santos suggested perhaps Manolo might be invited. Of the 3 brothers, Pedro retires in a year's time, Tino and Pablo nervous of travelling.

SUMMARY OF NOMBELA SHOOTS OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 1981										
Date	No.		Cum. Total	O t h e r			Cum. Total	Total	Grand Cum. Total	
	Guns	Part.		Pgn.	Jay	Mag.				
31 Oct.	5	671	671			10	10	10	681	681
1 Nov.	4	338	1009	2	4	4	10	20	348	1029
3 Nov.	6	530	1539			3	3	23	533	1562
4 Nov.	8	587	2126	3		6	9	32	596	2158
6 Nov.	5	326	2452			12	12	44	338	2496
7 Nov.	5	564	3016	2		4	6	50	570	3066
8 Nov.	2	200	3216	1		6	7	57	207	3273
9 Nov.	2	273	3489			4	4	61	277	3550
8 days		3489		8	4	49	61		3550	

Average daily bag Nombela: 444

SUMMARY OF JN'S BAG AT NOMBELA 1981 AND GRAND TOTAL FOR SPAIN												
Date	Part.	Cum.		O t h e r					Cum. Total	Shots	Cum. Total	
		Total	Rab.	Hare	Pgn.	Jay	Mag.					
31 Oct.	164	164					8		172	298	298	
1 Nov.	88	252				2	4	4	98	156	454	
3 Nov.	102	354						1	103	155	609	
4 Nov.	102	456				2		6	110	159	768	
6 Nov.	103	559						6	109	189	957	
7 Nov.	153	712				1		3	157	306	1263	
8 Nov.	107	819						6	113	222	1485	
9 Nov.	201	1020						3	204	390	1875	
8 days	1020					5	4	37	1066	1875		
ADD												
LOS Q/G	572		5	4	2			2	585	1041		
GRAND TOTAL	1592		5	4	7	4	39		1651	2916		

JN's average bag/day Nombela = 133.

JN's average bag/day Spain = 138. Average shots/kill = 1.76

Mr. & Mrs. JN returned from Spain on 10th November, Flight IB342 which left Madrid at 16.40 and arrived Heathrow 17.45 where they were met by D. Smith. O/N: Dorchester.







N O M B E L A  
S H O O T

N O V E M B E R  
1 9 8 1



OPEN

November 13th

Rothwell - 5 drives

29 mallard  
27 pheasants  
1 pigeonRam Pond  
Evening flight20 mallard  
6 teal

I am dictating this on Saturday 14th November. I am having a walk round and looking at the fountain which seems to have a much higher jet on it - I know there is no wind, but it seems to have tremendous power and looks lovely. There were a few duck on it when I switched it on early this morning, and they didn't have skittle off! They were very frightened and they flew very low: out they went, and all the pheasants in the area ran like blazes!

The Fountain Summer 1981

A point to remember when you go flighting, particularly if you've got 2 guns and there are more than 2 ducks coming, is to hold your fire. My whole life I have been tempted to fire too quickly: there is just a time to kill them and you must hold your fire much longer than you think. Then they just present themselves for the first shot. Second shot, they have not moved very far, and you should be able to get a right and left every time with a first gun. Of course, the lower you let them come down, the further they have to get up to get out of range: that is quite obvious, but they have got to go against the skyline so you must keep your hedges trimmed round your flight ponds so that they are not too high. It is a good idea to have some escape routes, like the trees I planted round my Ram Pool where I was last night, where 6 teal and 20 mallard were picked up after the flight. All wild birds, of course, nothing to do with any hand-reared stuff floating about. That is the greatest possible fun. You have these escape routes against the sky and keep your eye on them when it is very dark, and you can see them going through there: they can't fly through a tree. In other words, they act as funnels. It is tremendously good sport as you get older, and perhaps cleverer. Anyway, last night I scored every time I picked the gun up and fired. On each occasion I killed at least one duck. Nearly always a right and left, only one three and not a four last night - they didn't present themselves - but it was not until it was absolutely dark that I fired at the last duck, but I didn't touch that. Otherwise we scored every time we opened up. I first made that Pond in 1935 by diverting a road and blocking a spring that was there, and I did not shoot it until the Christmas of that year when I had Father Jacob loading for me and shot 44 mallard. I haven't beaten that record since, although last year I got 42. I don't know how many ducks we have shot at that pond. Quite a deadly way of clearing the area unless you rear some, which of course we do. We reared 1,000 this year to stock up the area of Rothwell. For a good many years we have reared on Read's Island up to 1,000 to stock that area of the Humber.



1981

16th November

Helmsley - 6 drives

88 pheasants 174  
2 woodcock shots  
1 guinea fowl17th NovemberHelmsley - 6 drives  
Riccardale121 pheasants  
212 shots18th NovemberHelmsley - 6 drives  
Bottom Beckdale & Deer Park147 pheasants Mrs. JN:  
244 shots 103 pheasants

I took my set of 3 28 bore under and overs, and 750 Upland Winchester cartridges and 1,000 Grand Prix No. 5 shot. It was 240 miles from the Post House Hotel at Heathrow to the Black Swan Hotel at Helmsley, and we did it in 4 hours driving time, 4½ hours altogether door to door - 15 minutes was spent for petrol and hand washing on one stop at Leicester. It was a very good performance by Douglass Smith. He slowed down for me to eat my sandwich and drink a tonic water.

19th November

Stainton-le-Vale - 6 drives

135 pheasants  
1 woodcock  
1 rabbit20th November

North Ormsby - 7 drives

57 pheasants  
7 partridges  
2 woodcock

The Ram - evening flight

17 mallard

21st November

North Ormsby - 8 drives

124 pheasants  
15 mallard  
1 woodcock23rd November

Worlaby - 7 drives

42 pheasants  
1 partridge  
1 woodcock24th November

Charlton Abbotts - 6 drives

113 pheasants (Mrs. JN: 50)

25th November

Charlton Abbotts - 5 drives

125 pheasants  
1 partridge  
2 mallard  
1 hare  
1 collared dove  
1 little owl26th NovemberRookery, Rothwell  
Daytime

29 mallard

(S.N. was shooting at Cadeby with Ray Caudwell on 26th November where the bag was 16 partridges, 504 pheasants, 1 hare, 3 rabbits, 5 woodcock, 20 mallard, 5 pigeons, + p.u. 6 pheasants: 560 head.)  
Guns: SN, F. Saul, T.A. Saul, P. Dickinson, M. Parker, J. Thompson, W.B. Lamyan, Lord McPherson, R.C.)

*for 3 days  
356 - 630 shots  
about the same as  
for many years*

*Sir Charles Forté's Shooting Dinner*

*Black Swan Hotel, Helmsley*

*Monday 16th November, 1981*

*Alpine - Style Crêpes*

~

*Oven - Baked Bass served with small toasts*

*Noisette Potatoes*

*Radicorn Salad*

*(Radicchio)*

~

*Poached Peach White Lady*

~

*Petits Fours*

~

*Coffee*

~

*Cheese*

*Brie*

*Stilton*

*Cheddar*



*Sir Charles Forte's Shooting Dinner*

*Black Swan Hotel, Helmsley*

*Tuesday 17th November, 1981*

*Lobster Soufflé*

~

*Roast Fillet of Beef*

*Chateau Potatoes*

*Aubergines Provençale*

~

*Poached Pears in Red Wine*

*served with Zabaglione*

*and Savoyard Biscuits*

~

*Petits Fours*

~

*Coffee*

~

*Cheese*

*Brie*

*Stilton*

*Cheddar*





HELMSLEY WITH THE FORTES - 16TH - 18TH NOVEMBER 1981





BINBROOK HILL  
Sunrise

CHRISTMAS CARD FROM CJN

## BINBROOK HILL

November 27<sup>th</sup> 1981

Fine day, strong westerly wind

PARTRIDGES .....	1
PHEASANTS .....	119
WILD DUCK .....	
HARES .....	1
RABBITS .....	1
PIGEONS .....	4
VARIOUS .....	
TOTAL .....	<u>126</u>

Joseph .....	Nickerson
James .....	Heneage
Roland .....	Smith
Ian .....	Yates
Charles .....	Nickerson

## STENIGOT GUNS

Major W Birkbeck  
R. P. C. Eley.  
Lord Glamis  
J. Nickerson  
L. H. J. Tollemache  
H. J. D.  
P. K. D.

Weather: N. W. Wind  
Bright Sun  
28th NOVEMBER 1981

The Valley &  
BEAT. Sparrow Hall

Partridges	
Pheasants	391
Woodcock	2
Snipe	
Duck	
Pigeons	
Hares	
Rabbits	1
Various	3
Total	<u>397</u>

27th November

Binbrook - 8 drives	20 pheasants
	2 pigeons
The Ram	10 mallard
Evening flight	1 teal
	1 shoveller
	1 rat

28th November

Stenigot	66 pheasants
6 drives	1 pigeon
Single Gun	1 rabbit

I met Mr. & Mrs. Lionel Tollemache at Stenigot. They have got a lot of land at Buckminster and they own the Garthorpe Race Course where the point-to-point course is, the Melton Hunt Club. The Newtons paid only £3 an acre for this until this year, so there are always two sides to a story. The Tollemache trustees have been absolutely beastly - the man is called Sir Arthur Collins. It could have been so different. She could not afford to hunt: she didn't have enough money to pay the Belvoir subscription, and one year she had 10 days to the 9th February and they told her she couldn't have any more because she'd had her money's worth. Then the Cottessmore apparently let her hunt with them. She was driving a tractor; they only had 250 acres and were too poor to pay the subscription. She only told me that she had up to a dozen horses there - some point-to-pointers - they do it as a business. They take a lot of peoples' horses for hunting, race horses at Newmarket before they go abroad. They keep them there for a few weeks until they are ready for shipping and so on. They are doing that commercially for a business. I would guess they have two children from what she said, and neither of them hunt because of the way their parents were treated. He is an extraordinarily tall fellow, very charming. Of course, I have heard people talk about them the other way. I don't think they kept any foxes in the old days, I think it was probably before they went. They have been there for 16 years. He came out of the Army and went to work for Smith-Warley, and this Sir Arthur Collins, the trustee, made their life absolute hell.

Harry Birkbeck's brother is on the main board of Barclays Bank in London. He lives at Stamford and does the local banking work. Talked about Ray Caudwell, who banks with them, and I gave Ray a very good word of course. He shot next to me and, although I let everything fly through that I could to the fellow, when he got the chance he knocked everything down that was coming to me! He uses a Boss gun - had a pair but had one shortened for his son, which he is sorry about now. He has got another gun, but it is a single trigger; he had a rotten old cartridge bag and a funny old dog called Rasher - a black-coated retriever. He had it tied to him, and they all had their dogs tied to them in one way or another.

Robin Eley was there - his family were in the cartridge business: the family sold out to ICI in 1918 - it was one of the founder companies of ICI with a Mond Nickel. He is a splendid chap. Is in charge of the Appeal for the Bromhead Nursing Home and is also running it - is the M.D. or Chairman and is going to run the whole Nursing Home. He lives at Ackthorne Hall. He has 1,100 acres in hand, and has a splendid wife. I believe they have two children. Mikie Glamis, Lord Strathmore's son and heir, was there. He's in the Scots Guards and has finished in Ireland now. Is going to shoot at Windsor on Monday. He is going to fly up to the dentist in Edinburgh on Tuesday then go to Hong Kong with the Regiment for a couple of years, but he is going to try and get posted back to England for a course next August. Henry Dennis gave me his address in Somerset - he's got 200 cows there. I would like to see Henry again - he's a kind and sympathetic fellow, 31 now. He met this girl 10 years ago, they were married for 5 years and she's cleared off to Ibiza now. They have no children and he is free, all that is over.

J.N.'s notes on 28th November, continued:

We shot 66 pheasants, a pigeon and a rabbit and we shot at another 10 pheasants which we might have had. We had the 65/65 barrels on all day. At Palace Hill we were No. 1 and used the Upland one ounce of shot; otherwise we used 13/16ths Grand Prix, which is quite adequate.

Will Jacob has been loading for me, and this is the 12th day that I have shot in the fortnight. I had 3 days at Helmsley, 1 at Stainton and 2 at North Ormsby the first week, also a flight on Friday night, then the second week shot at Worlaby for half a day, 2 days at Charlton Abbots, a few duck at Rothwell on the Thursday morning, Friday I was with my son Charles at Binbrook, and Saturday at Stenigot. I have bagged 1,138 head to my own gun and had a splendid time. It was really the first bang-off of the English season after shooting something like 1,640 head to my own gun in Spain. We were away 2½ weeks and shot on 12 different days, so that has been a jolly good beginning to the season: about 2,800 head in those 24 days.

29th November

Read's Island	
Afternoon flight - J.N. Corner	16 teal 6 wigeon 5 mallard
Evening flight - Johnnie's Pond	18 teal 8 mallard 2 waterhen

Total head for visit: 55

1st December

Rothwell Rookery	82 mallard
7 drives	30 pheasants 1 hare 1 rabbit
Black Springs - Evening flight	3 mallard

3rd December

Cuxwold	54 pheasants 1 woodcock
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4th December

Stainton-le-Vale 6 drives	204 pheasants 3 woodcock 1 magpie
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Extract from Mr. Lol Bembridge's letter of thanks: "Many thanks for a grand day's shooting at Stainton-le-Vale. I enjoyed every minute but am afraid I didn't do justice to the wonderful show of high-flying birds. I have been thinking this morning that I do not know or ever have known a person who gives more attention to detail than "Joseph Nickerson". You make it clear that it is the little things that count."

5th December

North Ormsby 8 drives	64 pheasants 15 mallard 1 waterhen
--------------------------	--



ROTHWELL ← 1ST DECEMBER

ROTHWELL 8TH DECEMBER 1981

VISIT OF H.R.H. THE PRINCESS ANNE AND CAPTAIN MARK PHILLIPS





BILLY MAKES THE TUGDALE  
DRIVE INTO 300



ROTHWELL 8TH DECEMBER 1981

1008 HEAD

VISIT OF H.R.H. THE PRINCESS ANNE AND CAPTAIN MARK PHILLIPS



7th DecemberTealby  
6 drives108 pheasants  
2 woodcock  
1 waterhen  
1 rabbit8th DecemberRothwell  
6 drives298 pheasants  
3 woodcock  
3 hares

We left the house at 09.20 precisely and I drove GEE 1 with The Princess sitting in the front and Captain Mark Phillips and my wife in the back. We were four guns - Claude Foussier was also there. He was driven by Will in my second Range Rover No. 7. Eugenie went to the far end of Tugdale, Bob Johnson and big Ben Jacob loading for her. She walked around the bottom side and I walked through the gate and round towards her. There were 9 woodcock, 1 fox and 2 short-eared owls in Tugdale. Mrs. Nickerson killed and picked one woodcock and wounded another and I did exactly the same thing. That was the 2 woodcock. Then we went round towards the gate. Foussier stood well back from the wood, nearly opposite the single big ash tree where the field rises, so he was the first gun out of the valley on the higher ground and Mark Phillips was about 40/50 yards through the gate while I was just below it. Claude Foussier shot extremely well, killed the birds going up the woodside and crossing the valley too. Mark Phillips could not get so much shooting. Will Jacob was loading for him, Alain (his own loader) loaded for Claude and Benjy Jacob loaded for me. This was a very nice drive out of the wood, but the flushing places in Tugdale Wood require attention and we must wire it to flush the birds from the top. I sent Billy a note on this.

The weather was very cold but dry and beautiful. South of Boston they have had 3" of snow, but we didn't get anything here except the odd flake. There was a north-east wind, not too strong down the valleys - you didn't feel it down at Tugdale, but it was there alright when the birds were flying - great fun! A fox went up into the kale at the top of the hill. I killed something like 17 pheasants there - I think it was the first drive. Then the second drive coming back out of the kale I stood just below the gate again in the same place, Mark Phillips on my left, Foussier down to the gorse bushes to meet them and Mrs. Nickerson at the foot of the bank on my right. The fox came out here - probably the same fox that went in out of the cover but that we don't know - he looked like it anyway - a most remarkable fox with a yellowish tinge around his mask and a very distinctive white tip round the whole of his tail: a very, very good fox indeed. This was not a heavy drive, but the next was absolutely superb. Mrs. Nickerson went up to the top of the little valley and then came back. I was in my usual place at the corner of the wood, with Mark Phillips the next one down and Claude at the bottom. This was a fantastic drive and, although I say it myself, I didn't shoot too badly at all.

Douglass brought a table down with a white cloth on it and we had artichoke soup and sausages and here we had, by the time we left, 296 pheasants, 2 woodcock and a hare that I had shot not very well. I said to Billy "Including you, Billy, that makes 300" - he stood with the long line of birds. Then we asked permission to photograph and Billy took several. The Princess said "Oh, but I'm not a gun." Those are the only photographs we took all day. Douglass slipped carrying the table on the frosted grass, but luckily he didn't hurt himself and luckily it was on the way back after we had had the snacks.

We then got up to John's Wood. I stood out in Partridge Valley, Mrs. Nickerson close to the trees in the Grange Paddock, next to me Phillips near the hedge, and then Foussier. Captain Phillips is getting a little bit of an encroacher: he was shooting a bit of the stuff coming to me I notice this year. Foussier has been well lectured and of course he never does that when he's here, so there was no problem with him.

J.N.'s Notes on 8th December 1981, continued:

The bag after John's Wood, where they flew reasonably well, was 452 head, so there were just over 300 out of Tugdale. We then blanked Bogle Hill into Silver Hills, we walked Church Platts down and the beat out of Partridge Valley all into Silver Hills. This is a drive I don't like but I stood on the side in Partridge Valley and didn't shoot a lot. This made the bag up to 699 pheasants, plus a few oddments, and we went down to take lunch at half past one. We went into my study but, as the Princess was not drinking anything, carried our drinks through. I had a tomato juice, Phillips and Foussier had sherry. We went through for lunch and had a whole big turbot with vegetables after we'd had some very good creamed tomato soup in little cups. The whole thing was beautifully done, and Sebio had set the table very well both for last night's dinner and for lunch: both went off wonderfully and the staff were marvellous. We then had a very well made mince tart with plenty of mincemeat in it, and some cream, coffee and tea, then off we went by half past two.

We went down to Lincoln Hill. The Princess went behind on Round Hills to pick up, but of course she went out of the line of the flight of the birds - there was nowhere for them to fly to where she went - they all followed the line of the trees, of course, but she got an odd bird or two out of the drive. Well, we had to wait, and it wasn't until quarter past three that the drive began to get going. Then for half an hour we really did shoot - 299 birds were laid out on the line here, and that made 998 pheasants after that drive which, of course, took the afternoon. I had said that I didn't want to kill 1,000 because it was bad publicity, and when we were in the jeep going home The Princess said "Well, you were pushing it a bit!" However, we had a little note that they had picked up another 4 after we'd gone, so I was obliged to put that on the card. I wrote the cards out and gave to them to take home - a two day card including the little day we had at Tealby yesterday with 400 odd pheasants with the same four guns.

The Lincoln Hill drive was fantastic - Mrs. Nickerson went onto the Round Hills corner where she killed 40, Captain Phillips was the next gun, where he stood last year, then I was next, then Claude Foussier. I fired 150 cartridges at that drive and shot better than I have ever shot in my life probably. Sixteen times I wiped the gun on my left side. Mark Phillips told me he'd killed 259 pheasants during the day - the most he'd ever killed. Mrs. Nickerson, I think, killed 130 and I must have had nearly 300 with the balance for Claude Foussier. I had 288 accounted for, but we must have killed more than we said at the last drive because I had asked each of them and out of the 300 odd birds killed Mrs. Nickerson claimed 40 and the other two only had about 65 each so that is 170 ... I must have killed 130 pheasants there. They were good pheasants until the end of the drive when they were a bit low. We saw foxes everywhere. I think there was a brace at Tugdale, a brace in Silver Hills, and another brace of foxes at Lincoln Hill. Here he flushed the pheasants and "the sky was black" - those were the words of the Princess - and I said exactly the same to my loader during the drive - I have never in my life seen anything like it. There was no white sky inbetween, and they were a long way away from us. They got up the top of the hill, and the sky was blacked out with pheasants. There was a minor black-out later on, but this first one was a complete and utter black-out of the sky. I have never seen so many pheasants. Four guns with 1,002 pheasants picked up the same night, and good pheasants the majority of the day. In fact, apart from the Silver Hills drive, there were no bad pheasants, and Silver Hills was only as most people shoot their pheasants. It is not what I like, but the majority of people shoot their pheasants like that.

The Princess drinks coca-cola and pretty well no alcohol at all. She just had a little white wine, but she took no vodka with her miniscule portion of the fish eggs - she eats very, very little. She is a very feminine creature, a real woman and a tremendously good raconteur - told us lots of stories about Nepal and the tigers and elephants. She was showing a great deal of interest in everything in the house. She had one detective with her, and he stayed in the Green Room. The Royal visitors just had the two main rooms on the third floor. Felt very pleased because she came back from Germany and was only one day at home, then she

J.N.'s Notes on 8th December, 1981, continued:

came up to us. She had a dinner party for 30 the following night, Wednesday, in Gloucestershire, and she had to go to London after shooting on the Tuesday night. We came in and had tea. She was very relaxed and must have talked to us for a full hour in the study before they set off for London. They departed at about five to six.

Captain Phillips has got a good young bitch which was really intended for his wife, but he took it on an aeroplane, and after that it would never go with her, only with him. She has a bitch which isn't so good - a young bitch coming on, and she enjoyed working it. She was very happy, but we had too many pickers-up close to her - I don't think I organised that too well to keep them away from her. That I think could have been improved by me.

The whole organisation on the shoot was absolutely perfect. I was able to present Father Jacob and Bill Jacob to Her Royal Highness, also Mr. Bob Johnson. She had a nice chat with Bob Johnson behind the second drive at Tugdale. I suggested £50 be given to Billy for the two days, and I think they left £10 for the house staff and £10 a day for the loader.

We had deep fried sole the night before, very fresh, and the red blood was in it. We also had a multi-coloured ice cake, sort of six storey, beautifully made by Eugenie. It was beautifully served too. Stilton cheese, which was in marvellous condition.

Captain Phillips likes to work his dog, and we all worked our dogs. I had Meg and Ben with me today, and I had my young dog Teal out with me yesterday. We had time between the drives to look for a particular bird, and we did not hurry at all. The beaters were excellent, and I thanked them all - they were very quiet and the whole thing worked absolutely splendidly. I think the third drive this morning out of the top of the kale at Tugdale was the best pheasant drive I have ever seen in my life, and that is saying a lot. There was not one flush out of it. Altogether a very wonderful trip. I had asked my son Robert to come, but he said he'd already had too much shooting this year - I didn't tell him who was coming. I asked Charles to come, but he had to be at Smithfield with the Leyland tractors. I also asked Ian and Diana, but he was at Charlton Abbotts, so none of them could come. Nobody knew in the village, and the secret was well kept. There was no crowd, nobody took any notice at all, no newspapers, not one single telephone call, and the Palace had not told the local police anything, so it was a fantastic triumph to allow them to be on their own and completely relaxed. They visibly enjoyed themselves.

<u>December 9th</u>	The Ram - Evening flight	3 mallard
<u>December 10th</u>	Worlaby - 6 drives	67 pheasants 5 woodcock 1 hare 1 rabbit 1 little owl
<u>December 11th</u>	North Ormsby - 7 drives	81 pheasants 4 partridges
	Black Springs - Evening flight	27 mallard 1 teal 1 tufted duck

12th December

Rothwell - 4 drives

525 pheasants	(Mrs. JN:
32 mallard	218 head with
1 snipe	451 shots)

JN: 525 pheasants with 748 shots

Had a most fantastic shoot, Will Jacob loading for me. The first drive was Bogle Hill southwards where I had 153 pheasants for 233 shots. At Lincoln Hill I had 183 pheasants for 254 shots, at Great Walk northwards 80 for 121 and House Top, standing in my usual place, 109 for 140 shots. Will never kept me waiting once. I was a beautiful fine cold day with snow on the ground, and my bag was 558 head to my own gun.

Extract from Mr. Rocco Forte's letter of thanks concerning 12th December: "Having been lucky enough to have come to Rothwell on a number of occasions, I always look forward to it with a high degree of excitement and, of course, high expectations. On every occasion these are always exceeded by the actual events, and this occasion was no exception. It always amazes me to see the effortless way in which you show so many birds of such quality without the slightest sign of the thoughtful planning and efficient organisation which lies behind it. I know how difficult it is to get a shoot right, and the effort behind it, so it interests me all the more to come to Rothwell and see it happening. I enjoyed the actual shooting very much indeed, and to shoot those numbers in so few drives is something I will remember in a very long time. Please thank Jenny also for the comfort, warmth and friendly hospitality she creates in the house which makes our stay all the more delightful and enjoyable."

14th December

Gatcombe Park - 8 drives

17 pheasants , 1 hare,
1 woodcock, 1 woodpigeon

At Gatcombe Park on 14th December the guns were Eugenie and myself, His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Captain Mark Phillips, Charles Banbury, Colonel Andrew Parker-Bowles (who commands the Household Cavalry - 280 horses and 500 men under him, we had met at Helmsley many years ago shooting he reminded me), and Jackie Stewart. We had five drives in the morning and three in the afternoon - some were very ordinary birds, but some flew quite high. We shot cocks only. I killed a hare, a woodcock, a wood pigeon and 17 pheasants. I fired at a magpie about a mile away. I fired at a jay a long way away. I fired at several jackdaws and rooks, and at a crow. I missed one pheasant which was about 5 yards over my head in front of Jackie Stewart, who reminded me that he'd read everything about me and had seen all the articles and everything and told me now I'd missed a pheasant. I missed one other, but I couldn't tell whether it was a cock or a hen, it had a short tail. Apart from those two pheasants, and I had a chance of a right and left which I did not get, I fired at 20 pheasants and got 17 of them. The total bag was about 40 pheasants and a hare, a woodcock and two pigeons. There was snow on the ground, very cold, there was one heavy shower in the morning, otherwise it was dry and bright with some sunshine.

We had shot 1324 head on Saturday, 12th December when we had Sir Charles and his son Rocco Forte as our guests. They stayed Saturday night and on Sunday morning as soon as they had gone we set off. We had heard that heavy snow showers, then continuous snow and galeforce winds were going to happen during the afternoon in the south-west of England, so we listened carefully to this piece of news. Sir Charles and Rocco left at about 9.45 and we left at 10.00. We took young Jenny with us and dropped her off at Sister Ruth's, No. 10 Riseholme Lane, Lincoln en route. We were ten minutes there and we stayed fifteen minutes in a filling station after getting some petrol. The one o'clock news confirmed the earlier forecast, and we made as good a speed as we could. Our route was Lincoln - Newark - Leicester bypass - onto the M69 - straight into the centre of Coventry - A46 out - bypass Warwick - Welsbourne - Alford - onto the Fosse. Here the snow was just blowing through from the open gateways, and we had a taste of things to come - snow blowing off the fields and making

TO: CAPTAIN MARK PHILLIPS

RE 14.12.81.

ROTHWELL  
LINCOLNSHIRE

Dear Mark, 18 December 1981.

if I may

Thank you so very  
much for a verysporting day shooting  
Gatcombe Park providesa lovely setting for  
some good pheasants.Those that crossed  
the valley were magnificent

Swallow (047-299) 237 &amp; 371

It was a pleasure to see  
the way you have  
made such a good  
start to correct the  
errors of neglect over  
the past thirty years  
in the woodlands.  
Also I shall never forget  
the joy of the thrush  
flying across my front  
as the first dove after lunch,  
the bright colours against the  
snow were inspiring.  
I thoroughly enjoyed my whole  
visit & thank you very much  
Yours sincerely, Joe  
which do please call me.

1981

TO: PATRICK DEAN

RE 19 DEC.

ROTHWELL  
LINCOLNSHIRE

Dear Patrick, 20 December 1981

Thank you for asking me to shoot I thoroughly enjoyed myself. The deep snow was all against it but a lot of game appeared the whole time.

Congratulations on the planting you have done

Swallow (047-289) 237 8 371

seems most effective & looks delightful.

The lunch and the tea were superb - do please thank the wonderful Susie she is a topper.

re "K. B." thanks - we will try to think when & where in due course if we can.

Your guests were well chosen & conversation flowed as freely as you exalted fluid. Keep up your tremendous enthusiasm it's the only way to live that I know. Thank you so much Patrick I so thoroughly enjoyed myself. Joe.

J.N.'s Notes on 14th December, continued:

little drifts across the road. It gradually got worse on a continuous and progressive basis, and before we reached Cirencester there were very wintry conditions indeed and it was snowing very heavily. We bypassed Cirencester and turned off onto the Stroud road, leaving it at the first sign to Minching Hampton. About a couple of miles down there we came to the Ragged Cot - a very, very tiny public house on the left hand side. We were here quite early really, too early to arrive following the old rule of never arrive before six and never stay after ten the following morning. Douglass enquired at the Ragged Cot where the pub was that he was staying at - the Bear at Rodborough. "Oh", they said "it's just about a mile down the road, and we went along in the direction of the Bear. We couldn't see anything: the blizzard was so intense that on some occasions you couldn't see your hand in front of your face, literally not two yards, so obviously we had to stop. We waited for it to clear and then on we went again. We saw a place after about 3 miles going in that direction and I thought to myself 'we shall never get into the Park if we go up here any further, so we'll change our plan and go and sit in the Park and have a drink of tea and a rest and wait inside our host and hostess' Park.'" With that in mind we turned round, went back to the Ragged Cot and turned right. After we had gone down there about 300 yards we saw a damn great snowdrift about 4' deep across the road, and there was a blue car stuck in it. I got out into all these feet of snow and tried to have a look. You couldn't see very much, but enough. When the owner of the car had got through the snow drift on foot with his wife, baby and two other people, I asked him the particulars of where his car was in relation to the dyke. He was a bearded fellow, but very intelligent, and he told us exactly where his car was in relation to the road. It was half in the dyke, and there was just room to the side of his car, between it and the stone wall to charge the snow, so we decided to do that. Just as we were getting all set to let the blizzard clear a bit before we made our charge, past us came a little old-fashioned landrover with the same idea. He had a few bales of hay on the back, and he made a charge at the snow. He kept ramming it and coming back, ramming it and coming back and getting sideways, and finally he got through. I suggested I should drive, but Douglass said he's had a tremendous amount of experience driving in snow on Dartmoor. We waited for the snow to clear so that we could see, then Douglass made a great charge at it. I had my head out of the window so that we didn't bang into this car in the snowdrift, and through we got.

By this time we were only  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles or less away from the Park, so we went in past the Lodge, parked up and had a cup of tea out of our flasks, killing time. Up came a policeman in an ordinary blue uniform - he looked a bit suspiciously at us, but we were not too forthcoming. Pulling his leg, I said "Why, you've been under cover - you haven't been parading about very long - you haven't got enough snow on your coat!" It really was a proper blizzard and the temperature was about - 23°C. Well, we had our tea, and the policeman went off back under cover I should think. I'd said to him "They told you from the top Lodge that we'd come through?" "Yes", he said "they have". So that was that. Finally we went on right to the front door, and H.R.H. The Princess Anne was there with the baby in her arms, and a little girl and young Peter running about. We seemed to be a very long time getting all the kit in, but we finally did it, and I said to Captain Mark Phillips "Where is Douglass going to sleep?" "Oh", he said "he'll get to the pub." "Well", I said "he won't. He can't get there. He'll have to sleep with the policeman!" The Princess said they were very short of beds, so he would have to have a sofa - there was a short sofa and a long sofa, and he could have the long one. Well, I didn't think much to that, but anyway that's what they said. Douglass came up and got us all unpacked. The whole hall is a depository for boots and shooting clothes, and to the right of that is the dining room and to the left the drawing room. Through the dining room there is a study where we sat when we first arrived; when we were having tea we were in the dining room. The drawing room isn't fully furnished really - not many chairs in it. The lavatories haven't got enough pictures in.

J.N.'s Notes on 14th December, 1981 - continued:

We went down and had tea in the dining room - Princess Anne poured it out. She had a silver urn on the flame in front of her and she only poured one cup each and didn't offer anybody any more. Had a home-made biscuit and a piece of currant cake. There was another kind of gooey cream cake, but that didn't get to our end of the table. It transpired that The Queen had stayed there the night before, and had gone over to H.R.H. The Prince of Wales' house, which is pretty close by, for lunch. Then for some reason or another which was a proper mix-up between her own staff had to come back for her luggage. Not only that, but they hadn't got enough petrol in the four wheel drive vehicles. Set off with a rather stupid town detective and that was that. We were told that Lord Patrick Litchfield had given up any hope of getting there because of the weather conditions. Princess Anne was terrified that the power was going to fail: it was cut off in the hamlet to the north of where we were. Anyway I said I'd got my candles, which I always carry. It often happens in shooting parties that the power can go off. Eugenie and I both had jolly good hot baths and listened to the weather report and the news (terrible troubles in Poland - military law now today) and went to sleep until 7.15. We had been asked to be down by 7.45 for some champagne, which we were, but we didn't see any champagne because a lot of things had been happening in the meantime.

The racing driver, Jackie Stewart, was in the party as I've said. Apparently he'd set off with Captain Mark Phillips at the wheel (he's been trained by Range Rover to drive) and the Princess went too because they had news that the Queen was, of all places, at Chipping Sodbury. Princess Anne delighted in telling us all this at teatime. The Queen rang up during tea, and Her Majesty talked to her daughter and said they were in a motel nearby on the M4. Anyway, we were told by Prince Edward that they'd gone to fetch the Queen - rescue her and bring her back. Then I said "Well, we'd better get in a state of undress, we'd better change our black tie back to a blazer, because Her Majesty will not want to be changing." However, it was felt that we should stay as we were, and Prince Edward went off to put his black tie on and they put dinner back. Nothing happened. Apparently it's only a fifteen minute journey under normal conditions - so Prince Edward said we'd better start our dinner at nine o'clock. Well, we had smoked haddock souffle, served exactly at 9.00 to the minute, and I got two glasses of hock - not very big glasses. I got a glass of water, and I had an awful job to get a second glass of water, but I did get it. Then we had a kind of little croute (not very good pastry) with a large piece of chicken breast cut up, and that was served with pommes lyonnaise (probably without onions). The potatoes had been boiled and fried - how I like them. They were dry and very, very good. Then we had some broccoli without any sauce and some ratatouille (which was pretty poor), and some extra sauce to put on the chicken. That's what we had - no more wine about. We were offered any kind of drink before dinner, but I had a tomato juice because I thought the Queen was coming back. In any case I didn't want to drink anything. They had a most peculiar kind of pudding thing, I don't know what it was. My wife describes it as raw fruit - inch square pieces of raw apples and bananas and rolls all mixed up in a dish with a hard sugar casing on the top - caramel - it was not bad at all. I was offered port or brandy, but I didn't take either, then we went through into the sitting room/drawing room. There was a queer butler - a young boy that they had from Buckingham Palace - who served dinner in shirt sleeves and ordinary clothes - it was awful. The dresser did the bedrooms as well, and they had the red-haired cook roped in - she wasn't in uniform either. The staff and detectives were a very slack lot - no discipline, order or anything about the place. It wouldn't suit me anyway: not the kind of show I would want to have.

At 10.25 our host and hostess had not returned with the Queen - in fact they telephoned to say the Queen refused to move. She was going to have her dinner where she was. I said to Prince Edward: "I think the best thing we can do is to go to bed" which is what my wife and I did. Prince Edward took us to our room, and we had a very good night's sleep.

<u>17 December</u>	Stainton-le-Vale	106 Pheasants 2 Woodcock 1 Snipe
<u>18 December</u>	Rookery Ducks	54 Mallard 3 Snipe 1 Pigeon 1 Waterhen 1 Rat
	Black Springs	22 Mallard 1 Teal
<u>19 December</u>	Mere Hall, Branston - 6 Drives	30 Pheasants 11 Partridge 2 Pigeons 3 Waterhens

I killed 30 Pheasants to my own gun, 11 Partridges, 1 Wood Pigeon, 1 Stock-Dove, 3 Moorhens - that was it. The bag was 400 head so we were not really in the shooting at all. I only got 46 head - about the only shoot I have been to where I have not shot double my share, but did not miss more than 5 birds the whole day, if that.

Joe Woodcock loaded for me.

The place is called Mere Hall because there is a mere there and they have made a couple more small meres for irrigation. Patrick Dean has got 400 sows on the A15 and two pig units where he lives. He's also mixed up with John Deere's partnership with Eric Parker. He soldiered with Lord Trenchard and he saw Trenchard do the deed which got him the Military Cross.

The Deputy Chairman or whatever he is called of Kleinwart Benson shoots but he can't hit much. He is a friend of Patrick Dean's. The Chairman is called Henderson and they were all soldiering together. Patrick Dean was both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and he is paid by Kleinwart - he told me that.

Lord Trenchard is a very decent chap. He is a Minister in the Lords for Defence. He is one of four under Hugh Nott, a fellow called Blakey and Wiggin. Lord Trenchard is on the procurement side, buying equipment and so on. (Jerry Wiggin is on the personnel side, the staff side). He was the Chairman of Walls Pigs and quite high up in Unilever. He has a charming wife and a dog called Dazzle and one son, aged 14 called Henry who was there, and another son of 29 who has smashed up a motor cycle badly and had not settled in any job for very long, but he has settled in the one he is in now. The eldest son is the head of Kleinwart Benson's office in Tokyo - anyway some office in Tokyo and is doing very well and he has got a charming wife. Lady Trenchard said if she could have picked her herself she could not have picked a better one.

One of the other guns was called Parry of the Conservative Board of Finance who is always writing to me for my subscriptions. He is a non-executive director of Dalgetys.

There was another fellow called Wilson whose father is the boss jointly with George Hinge of Savills. This boy is 31 years old and is with Savills in charge of the Lincoln Office and he lives near Grantham. His father is the equal number one at Savills nationwide and Wilson has got twin daughters aged 8 - not a frightfully good shot but a charming fellow.

1981

22 December

Black Springs - Evening Flight

20 Mallard

The Government have banned the shooting of Wildfowl and Waders for 14 days from 12.00 midnight 22 December because of the harsh weather conditions.

JN's Notes - Boxing Day 26 December 1981

*J.N.'s notes & additions written in when received.*

*Centigrade*  
We have had cold weather for 3 weeks and snow for the last 2 weeks. Temperatures have been down to below <sup>-</sup>13 and there has been a frost every night for almost 20 days. Several things have happened. The population of small birds in the yew tree outside my window has increased enormously. There have been tits, greenfinches, chaffinches, hedge sparrows, starlings, blackbirds, robins etc., - fantastic! I have also got a feed area under the beech tree - ~~Will~~ Jacob made it: cut his way through the snow. We feed with wheat so that we can get some of the bigger birds fed. The little ones are going there too. Also within 4 yards of the study window, we put out a couple of halves of bread loaves. While Eusabio was giving me some massage at my desk as I was working here on Boxing morning, a hen kestrel came down and pounced on a cock blackbird, right in front of us, it drew a lot of feathers and knocked the blackbird over. The blackbird emptied himself with fright of course, we could see it plainly on the snow. No blood to be seen, though. The blackbird flew off <sup>towards</sup> past the front door, the kestrel in pursuit. A short time afterwards the Kestrel came back again and was sitting on a bush about 20 yards away watching all these birds eating. He had been sitting up in the tree at the house during the morning. A woodcock flew into the old cart shed that we use as an open garage in Billy's yard. Billy caught it and took it to Black Springs where he was going to feed the ducks to release it. Another one flew away from Black Springs; most unusual. Two teal and two woodcock flew out of the Rookery when he was feeding and the teal came back again and settled within about 10 or 12 yards. It was very, very cold.

A most interesting thing to me is the behaviour of the rooks. It has been my boast that you wouldn't see more than 1 or 2 rooks on several thousand acres at Rothwell base shoot. It was most unusual to see a rook there at all, but now they have smelled out the feed and whenever we are feeding the pheasants they have come in. I saw 50 sitting in the top of the tree on 20 acres on the roadside going to Thoresway. Of course, on the shoot you have an enormous population of birds. The shooting people that feed these rides are the people that really do conserve the birdlife in the country. We are keeping alive now all the birds in the district. Apart from the feeding, by killing the jays, magpies, stoats and grey squirrels and many other enemies of the songbirds on the shoot, we get such a population in the nesting season of songbirds in the garden that some of guests from London complain that at 5 o'clock in the morning they can't sleep any more because the noise of the songbirds is so great.

*+ lots of proper wire peanut containers*

We have, hanging up for the birds, remains of a ham and a sirloin of beef, a duck carcass and I am waiting for the goose carcass to be finished. We have some bacon hanging up and it is quite a ballet. Although I can't see it, I know immediately if anybody is coming towards the front door, by the birds' behaviour. On Christmas morning when there was some sunshine, and a sharp frost, pheasants, all cocks, were sitting on top of the wattle hurdles, on top of the gate across the road, and on the fencing in front of the church. I counted <sup>over</sup> 20 of them - it was a fantastic sight. They were also sitting about halfway up in the two copper beech trees. It must be awfully cold sitting on the ground. The trees have got all this frost and a little snow adhering to all the leaves. It looks rather like lace - absolutely beautiful.

The three collared doves in the garden are just starting to make a noise in the morning. The mallard have lost condition in the rookery, but those that I shot at the beginning of the frost (I haven't shot since) were in very good condition from Black Springs. Very good condition. In fact I ate a whole one cooked by my wife, which was rather more than I could eat and I am a tremendous eater. It was a bit too much, but I did manage it because it was cooked so well; very, very well fleshed.

JN's notes on 26 December, continued:

There are several seagulls going into the Rookery as I am dictating this note and the feral pigeons from round about seem to have found the pheasant corn. They are a great pest on the ride, these feral pigeons, and on a lot of pheasant shoots. At Tealby when we were shooting there, there must have been 200 of the beastly things eating our pheasant food. I have a pheasant hopper in the garden that I can see, but the snow is so deep that naturally all the pheasants can hardly walk. They look grotesque. They are staying up in Housetop Wood and not coming into the garden except that sunny Christmas Day morning. Farmery is feeding them well up there.

There are snipe down the stream to The Ram at the beginning of the frost, because I went down there and shot a few. I love to shoot them and I love to eat them, but when I saw one looking at me before he jumped up it was ever so hard to shoot him and I haven't shot any since. A week later the Secretary of State signed an order for a fortnight's banning on the shooting of all wildfowl. Quite right too. True sportsmen don't need banning. They have their own code of rules.

The news from Read's Island is that there are pretty well no birds there at all. There have not been any tides over the marsh so everything is frozen hard. The tide's have been low. The first big tide over the marsh they will come back. There should be a lot of stuff there after the thaw. Now one can't shoot them until 6 January I won't be able perhaps to take the children there as I had hoped to.

<u>28 December</u>	Rothwell - 5 drives	119 pheasants 3 waterhens 1 pigeon
<u>29 December</u>	Stainton-le-Vale - 4 drives	48 pheasants 6 pigeons 1 hare
<u>1 January 1982</u>	Tealby - 5 drives	84 pheasants 1 pigeon
<u>2 January</u>	North Ormsby - 7 drives	114 pheasants 4 partridge 1 hare
	Ormsby Plantation - Evening Flight	29 pigeons

We were approaching the ride driving up West Hills bottom after about the 16th day of frost and snow and we saw this thing - could not tell what it was crossing the ride. It could have been a squirrel, a rat, or anything jumping in the deep snow from the distance we were then. We watched it as we drove closer to it and saw that it went into the right hand side of the bottom of West Hills wood there, among the leaves and the Willow Herb, I could just see something sticking out of a hole that it went into. It looked like feathers and Will got out of the Range Rover and brought out an absolutely dead blackbird. We had seen its tail feathers quivering sitting in the Range Rover before we got to it. If ever there was a case of wild creatures going on their own and hiding themselves to die this was it - we witnessed it - something unusual.

After the shoot on 2 January at North Ormsby we shot Grimble Wood. On the last drive I just popped into the top south-west corner of North Ormsby plantation and I had Will Jacob loading for me. Snow still on the ground, quite a lot of pigeon droppings there and we had seen a few flying about. I popped in there are used two guns and I got 4 once, 3 once and 2 several times with 2 guns. I had my young dog, Teal, who never moved and, although I say it, shot well.

1982

The other guns had gone home and I was back at the house just one hour later than the others having had a magnificent shoot, I really enjoyed it:- 28 woodpigeons, the woodpigeons were almost white - I have never seen anything like it before - a really white woodpigeon, I brought him home and am going to have him stuffed. I was talking to my brother's gardener, who was waiting for us at the game larder to hang the pigeons up, and he told me that he shot two in a little wood just a mile and a half away at Little Grimsby so there must be a breed of local pigeons there that are having this aberration. The rooks at Black Springs, when I was a boy (the rookery at Johnson's Wood, Thoresway) always had between 4 and 7 brown rooks so that was a case of a local colony breeding and it seems that the same thing is happening here with these white woodpigeons. At Beesby and Harby and across to Wold Newton there were also always some white English partridges - not all completely white - some were, but some were white and brown. This has gone on certainly for 40 years to my knowledge in that district. We did see some of these paler brown and almost white partridges down at Kelsey near where Jacob lives now that were local to that area. The woodcock are out of season now until 6 January and they were flying about today pretty strong - the thaw I think has come just in time to save their lives. In another 3/4 days they should be strong enough and the law will allow them to be shot. I am sure since I stopped shooting woodcock late in the season the population of the resident breeding birds at Rothwell has increased. They used to be shot by the wood pigeon shooting we could shoot the woodcock legally through until 1 March when some of the breeding birds had already taken up their positions in our woods in Lincolnshire. The law was changed to 1 February so they are protected from then and the population of local breeding birds here has increased. At Rothwell after about 10th January I have shot very few for several years, hoping that more would breed here and I think it has happened that way too. In January at Rothwell I have only just about shot what I wanted to eat - I am pretty well the only one in the family that likes them, apart from young Jennie.

<u>4 January</u>	Rothwell - 9 drives	70 pheasants 1 rabbit
<u>5 January</u>	Rothwell - 4 drives	154 pheasants
<u>6 January</u>	Rothwell - 3 drives	77 pheasants 27 mallard
<u>7 January</u>	Stainton-le-Vale - 5 drives	48 pheasants 1 waterhen 1 stock dove
<u>8 January</u>	Rothwell - 4 drives	83 pheasants 1 pigeon
<u>9 January</u>	Rothwell - 6 drives	325 pheasants 6 mallard 1 pigeon

The Department of the Environment re-imposed a fourteen day ban on Wildfowl and Waders effective from midnight 12 January due to continuing hard weather.

<u>11 January</u>	Nombela - 5 drives	75 partridge 1 pigeon
<u>12 January</u>	Nombela - 4 drives	52 partridge 3 magpie
<u>13 January</u>	Nombela - 5 drives	107 partridge
<u>16 January</u>	Pillar Woods - 6 drives	61 pheasants

Rabbit catchers the whole of February, and when we were rabbiting and

CLARE LODGE  
CAISTOR ROAD  
MARKET RASEN  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
LN8 3HZ

J. Nickerson Esq.  
Rothwell House  
Rothwell  
LINCOLN

4th January 1982.

Dear Joe,

Although the weather was most unkind I very much enjoyed your family day at Tealby and appreciate very much indeed your kindness in asking me to join you.

I shall be most grateful if you will thank Mrs. Nickerson for her kindness and hospitality.

I take this opportunity of thanking you very much indeed for various invitations you have extended to me and which I unfortunately have not been able to accept.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely,

*Cooper*

COOPER



Mrs. J.N., Douglass and snake - Nombela  
January 1982

STATION } SCAWBY  
TELEGRAPH }  
TELEPHONE : BRIGG 4205  
STD CODE 06522

F. S. H. Thoburn

SCAWBY,

BRIGG,

LINGOLNSHIRE.

S. Humberside

7N20 9 LX.

22<sup>nd</sup> January 82

W

Jr

Dear Joe,

Thank you very much indeed for the wonderful days shooting you gave me yesterday. I thoroughly enjoyed it, but I am afraid I did not give <sup>you</sup> justice for the birds you put over me. I also wish to thank you for the delicious lunch you gave me.

Yours  
Roger

NELTHORPE.



18th January 1982



Joseph Nickerson and John Denton  
27th January 1982

<u>18 January</u>	Rothwell - 7 drives	536 pheasants 2 rabbits 1 partridge Including pick-up.
<u>21 January</u>	Rothwell - 8 drives	185 pheasants 1 rabbit 1 hare
<u>23 January</u>	Tealby - 7 drives	97 pheasants 3 rabbits 1 waterhen
<u>25 January</u>	Rothwell - 7 drives	73 pheasants 1 rabbit
<u>26 January</u>	Rothwell - 6 drives	194 pheasants 26 mallard
<u>27 January</u>	Rothwell - 5 drives	107 pheasants 1 waterhen
<u>1 February</u>	Tealby - 7 drives	74 pheasants 2 pigeon 2 waterhen 1 rabbit



ROTHWELL DECEMBER '81

J. N.

SHOOTING RECORD

SEASON 1981-1982

# SUMMARY.

	U.K	SPAIN	FRANCE	HOLLAND	AUSTRALIA	AMERICA	MOROCCO	TOTAL
1968	3527							3527
1969	5246	290						5736
1970	7326							7326
1971	7559							7559
1972	6824	572			170	30		7603
1973	4645	141						4786
1974	4203	1431	198			87		5919
1975	5576	842	326	52		82		6878
1976	6016	1372	256	52		80		7776
1977	4808	1077		48	1	72		6006
1978	4938	1322				78		6338
1979	6325	1228				74		7627
1980	7817	1374	244			62	509	10006
1981	8284	1889	233					10406

## U.K.

	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Red Grouse	535	449	503	1450	2406	950	1378	1357	1414	1517	1704	275	1180	1816
Black Game		1		1	4	1			8	4			2	1
Snipe	1	3	10	9	23	7	7	10	10	3	14	14	7	8
Woodcock	31	31	33	40	38	32	19	22	37	30	34	38	39	22
Golden Plover			6	1	9	2		2				1		
Curlew			1	1	1	6	1		6	3	10	13	5	12
Whimbrel						1								
Bar-tailed Godwit											7	1		3
Partridge	375	670	1208	1120	658	495	455	653	1007	456	268	347	504	238
Pheasant	2233	3702	4943	4201	3223	2777	2137	2925	2991	2425	2242	4784	5207	5157
Mallard	132	260	290	371	195	220	37	294	162	124	293	421	613	733
Teal	2	6	71	14	15	21	40	62	95	79	90	116	50	91
Wigeon					2		1		6	21	9	11	6	6
Tufted			8		1	3		1	8	11	10	1	1	2
Merganser									1		4			
Goldeneye									1	3				
Roach		1			1				1	3	2			
Shoveller				1				1			2		1	1
Pintail					3							1		
Scaup-type tufted Bahama Pintail									1		1			
Garganey													1	
Grylag									27	19	9	25		
Pinkfoot									13	8	1	7		
Canada													2	
Pigeon	85	181	121	164	94	55	44	91	55	123	193	203	138	119
Say	2	3	7	10	9	4	1	2	2			1	2	
Magpie				1		1			2					1
Waterhen	16	23	28	48	19	9	4	13	14	7	12	14	14	23
Cormorant											1			
Collared Dove									25	6		12	5	1
Stock Dove									1	9	1	2	1	1

U.K. CONT.

	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Dunlin									1					
Water Rail								1	1			1		
Coot							1		1	2				
Starling	3	6	6	6	1	1						1		
Jackdaw			1				1		1					
Rook		1						1	2	1				
Hooded Crow		1												
Common Crow				2							1		1	
Guinea Fowl				1										1
Black backed Gull		1												2
Redshank	1	1						7					3	
Blackbird								1						
Rabbit	52	45	18	45	65	25	36	35	19	15	5	6	8	19
Hare	57	58	69	73	59	36	39	97	103	38	21	25	26	22
Blue Hare									1					
Weasel			1											
Grey Squirrel			1				1						1	
Rat					1									2
Dragonfly					1									
Little Owl	3	3	1			1			1	1	1			2
Jack Snipe											1			
mole												1		
Turtle Dove													1	1
Mouse													1	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3527</b>	<b>5446</b>	<b>7326</b>	<b>7559</b>	<b>6824</b>	<b>4645</b>	<b>4203</b>	<b>5576</b>	<b>6016</b>	<b>4808</b>	<b>4938</b>	<b>6325</b>	<b>7817</b>	<b>8284</b>

# SPAIN

	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Partridge	/	290			559	141	1347	819	1310	1058	1166	1045	1183	1826
Pheasant											68			
Geylag Goose									32					
Mallard											1	133	142	
Teal									1					
Snipe									1					
Pigeon					1		29		4	5	36	12	10	8
Stone Curlew										1		1		
Say					8		8	3	5	2	18	11	10	4
Asured Winged Magpie									1					
Magpie					7		44	7	14	5	20	18	27	42
Waterhen											1			
Sackdaw											7			
little Owl							1			1	2			
Raven							1							
Hare					4		1	13	4	5	3	4		4
Rabbit												4	2	5
<b>TOTAL</b>		290			592	141	1431	842	1372	1077	1322	1228	1374	1889

## HOLLAND

Pheasant								47	52	40				
Roachard								1						
Pigeon										1				
Hare										1				
Rabbit										1				
Wild Boar								3		4				
Roed Deer								1		1				
<b>TOTAL</b>								52	52	48				

## America

	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
QUAIL					30		87	82	80	72	78	74	60	
WHITE OAK Runner Snake														1
Fox Squirrel														1
<b>TOTAL</b>					30		87	82	80	72	78	74	62	NIL.

## Austria

Pheasants					165									
Roe Deer										1				
Partridge					1									
Jays					2									
Hares					2									
<b>TOTAL</b>					170					1				NIL.

## FRANCE

Partridge							14	35	21					
Pheasant							163	264	207					
Mallard	/						16	9	17				239	228
Teal	/												1	2
Shoveller													2	
Coot	/												1	1
Pigeon							1	5	1				1	1
Jay								1						
Rabbit								1	1					
Hare								1						
Wild Boar							4	10	9					
<b>TOTAL</b>							198	326	256				244	233

## MORROCCO

Turtle Dove													509	
<b>TOTAL</b>													509	NIL.

14 February

Read's Island  
 JN Hide a.m.  
 Sam's Pond p.m.

3 teal  
 2 mallard  
 1 goldeneye  
 1 black backed gull

Valentine's Day 1982

Up at ten minutes to seven, listened to the news and meticulously finalised my kit. It is my intention to visit Read's Island where Benjy Jacob and Alan Smith spent the day yesterday and last night on a reconnaissance to see what is happening to the wigeon below the high water mark. It is still permitted to shoot until 20 February under those conditions. Well, the morning is absolutely beautiful, the sun is shining on the top of the park and all the sheep that have been on the sugar beet on Cherry Top with that light sandy colour, a little red, look marvellous all in a line across the top.

Billy came round getting the dogs ready, Patrick and Janey, spaniels and Meg, labrador, all loaded up in the Range Rover, my 20 bore over and unders, one bag of Winchester/Olin specials, another bag of ordinary Grand Prix. Everything in the shooting department under control. However, in the domestic department it was a different story! I had asked Margaret to make sure that her daughter was over by 7.30 sharp and get me a couple of eggs boiled and a slice of pork pie by 7.45 sharp - she can do that in a quarter of an hour - and that would give her half an hour while I was having my breakfast to pack up the rations for the day on the Island. I sent Billy out as a retriever to bring back one cook if he could find one.

Eventually the cook arrived at five minutes to eight and I gave her a choke barrel. Finally I got my breakfast on the study table, having while I was waiting, walked round the garden. It is a beautiful sunny morning and the aconites of course are not open - in full flower but not open - absolutely a mass and the snowdrops. Seven or eight collared doves, thrushes, I have seen a blackbird, he was singing - lovely and the usual chorus, of course, round my bird tree where I have my ballet. Just to have a joke with my friends, as they are not so hungry now, I have put a very large pot owl with huge eyes on the garden table about ten yards from the yew tree that is absolutely full of nuts and food. In fact while I was having my breakfast old Jack Bates was in - only quarter past eight Sunday morning - here he was coming to hang some more meat and bring some more nuts to feed the birds - wonderful. Well, Billy and I talked several things over about the fact that we are going to have a new man on the Island, and hopefully we are not going to have any black backed gulls and all the rubbish that the other man lived with. We were making our plans to that effect. He also told me about some capsules that can be used in place of the powered cyanide gas - they roll these down the rabbit burrows and stop them in well and they are supposed to be as effective as the gas. I can't think they will go in to the higher chambers as well as that gas does under pressure from a little engine, however we are going to try some on Tuesday as an experiment. Billy is going to Malta for a fortnight's holiday on Friday and he has told me that now that the keepers are entitled to a whole month's holiday a year, or at least agricultural workers are, what are we going to do? Well last year I paid them money in lieu of holiday, and I told him when I did that it would be the first and last time. So glad Billy is going on holiday. He does not take very long holidays. He is going to have a fortnight there. It has always been part of my deal all the years he has been with me - its now 40 this year - that I pay for his annual trip away. I think this is the furthest he has been. I told him that they are a rum lot and you couldn't trust them in that country. We have got all the hens caught up: 900 at Rothwell and 450 at Tealby. When we have a sheep die, Ian Garfoot can travel in a northerly direction and liaise with Alan Smith and the new man.

Cont/d...

1982

I finally set off at 8.30 from Rothwell driving myself in the Range Rover with my three dogs. I am doing 85 miles an hour while I am dictating this on the motorway from Elsham hilltop to the Humber Bridge - 85 miles an hour - no bother at all. It's an evening tide - not till 10 p.m. tonight - I didn't tell the cook that bit - but I said she had better be waiting for me with her mother from 8.30 onwards to let me into the house to look after me. Incidentally I gave her another rocket because all the food that was packed up when I went into the kitcehn to try and switch the kettle on, everything was packed up, mustard, butter, sausages, bacon, pork pie, beef, cold pheasant. Everything had been packed up before they had gone home at 7.30 last night and left in that warm back kitchen, not even carried through into the dairy/pantry where it is so cold there on that north wall. However, they made some soup and put that in, I told Margaret "now put that in the Range Rover and I shall know it's there" - and I hope she has.

I am dressed for shooting ready to go straight out for a bang when I get off the boat onto the North channel. It's a hoar frost, bright sunshine, just a little wind - it's a beautiful, beautiful day. I don't know how many years it is since I was in England after the first few days of February. The new Humber Bridge looks beautiful in the sunshine. It is a beautiful morning on Valentine's Day, beautiful. Last year, of course, we were going round the world and, since 1975 we have been in Florida, and I think for 20 years before that we have been in the mountains ski-ing in Switzerland, Austria or France. So it is a wonderful feeling to be in England on Valentine's Day - wonderful, wonderful fresh air. Unbelievably lovely. Why people want to go to Florida is difficult to understand, unless they are very old and very ill. Then I can understand it. Of course they could be not fit enough and have to have the balmy climate to keep them going.

I saw a dead English partridge on the motorway, and the majority of the partridges that I saw - there were not many of them - but there were a few strutting about on the winter barley - were red-legged and in the sun against this bright green they look nearly as big as pheasants. There are five groups of 4 or 5 just on my left, three miles short of South Ferriby on top of the cliff. The wind is blowing from the south west and I can see the Island from the top of the cliff. I am approaching it. There doesn't look to be any green on it at all. It looks lovely nevertheless. I shall have made up a minute or two and I am arriving at four minutes to nine - eleven minutes. I don't like letting Benjy or anybody else down if I am going to be anywhere I like to be there at the right time, but the alternative of going on an empty stomach didn't appeal to me at all.

Well, after I had been at Ferriby for about 6 or 7 minutes getting the kit out of the Range Rover where I was met by Benjy and Alan Smith, in comes a Land Rover, very fast: "who's that?" I said, "why it's Billy Jacob, what the hell do you want, what has gone wrong now?". "Oh", he said, "they had forgotten to put the food in". He had heard me tell Margaret and had come licketispit, as fast as he had ever driven a Land Rover in his life to get here in time, good old Billy, with the rations for the day. Well, Benjy is driving the boat for the first time. Alan is the caster on and off. We have got the three dogs secured so they can's make the boat too filthy, and its flat calm, we are going out of the creek in reverse like one of the ocean liners. Benjy is navigating the boat and drove it very gently, much more gently than he drives a motor vehicle. We came across in very good order, very gently, moored beautifully, no banging at the landing stage lower down the creek at the bottom there, half an hour before high water. Just stepped ashore same level as the boat onto the top deck, beautiful. Took three dogs and had a look at the granary-type ladder that I asked them to make - it's a big improvement for getting off the boat at low tide - you don't have to climb up and down a completely vertical naked ladder any more: very cleverly done. Went up to the house, Benjy had gone ahead with the kit in the tractor and trailer and off we went to the West End to my hide.

Cont/d...

The boys had put a hide on the North Bank half way down between the West End and the house and yesterday they said there was a constant procession of wigeon flying over to feed in that "splash" - there is a bit of flood in the Magazine and that is the grass that they love there. They were feeding pretty well the whole day. There was a very strong south-west wind, however today there is an absolute flat calm and the high water in the sun for the Humber when you are looking westward, the sun behind you, the colour of the water is like the Mediterranean: just like a hedge sparrow's egg. Of course, if you look at it close to your feet you can see the mud as usual, but looking across the estuary it is absolutely flat calm and there is a tremendous lot of wigeon. They are spread out the whole length of the Island and some of them are within 20 yards of the Bank of the North side, then they go out 100, 200, 300 yards, all the way down the North side right down to the East End - not dense quantities, but quite thick they are. I'm going to try and estimate them and count them in 50's - I should estimate there are 1,300 wigeon in the North channel. Not a lot of teal or mallard, a few pairs of shell duck. It's very interesting that all the shellduck one can see are paired. There are no threes or more, and there are no single birds. Benjy said there was one packet at the West End - right at the point of the West End - he saw 30 shellduck together - that was yesterday and this morning when we walked out to the hide there was a tremendous lot of redshank. One doesn't want to exaggerate at all, but certainly 100 redshank in a packet - probably the most I have ever seen in my life - I don't think I have ever seen 100 redshank before. Also there were masses of green plover on both sections of the Magazine, north and south. Maybe 300 on each side of the bank, 200 certainly, maybe more. I haven't seen a pheasant, however my boys, Benjy and Alan, found some of the pheasant hoppers filled with rat poison instead of food and there is no corn on the Island. We have had completely disastrous management, we haven't really had any management.

I am sitting in my hide, but I have some difficulty getting in it. There's a bit of a ladder and it wants a couple of steps like a small stile to get in and out. The floor is all on the slope and it's jolly difficult. You must have your feet level so the floor wants taking up, some soil putting in to make it absolutely level - that is what we call a JN hide. When we come to reclaiming, we thought we would have a go at getting that middle bank extending westwards built up, but of course, we should have to get some mats for the dragline. These mats must be looked out and probably I could be told what it is going to cost to get a set of mats, I think we shall have to buy some more, probably Clugstons would have some old ones.

Feb 7<sup>th</sup> 1982

The Bungalow  
Nettleton Lodge  
Bairston

To J. Nicholson Esq. Lincoln

Dear Sir

Just a  
line to thank you for the  
cheque also the days back  
shooting very enjoyable, I  
also want to thank you for  
your kindness to me and my  
family a great life at Kettleton  
I also want to wish you and  
your family good health and  
happiness and a lot more  
years good shooting

Yrs sincerely

A W Jacob

1800 ~~3000~~ 4000 + Casual labor for { Pens Rabbits  
 Fanning 3000 10000 +  
 Janfoot 3000 4000  
 Say 15000 = Total  
 NICKERSON GROUP  
 Lawdson 3000 ✓  
 From R. Johnson Copies to WHJ ICC Date 31/12/80 Ref. RJ/BS  
 Woodcock 2250 ✓  
 Stainton 2250 ✓  
 How much last year?  
 RABBIT?

SUBJECT Ref Your Notes on Shooting Plans 1981

Walsby 250 ✓

1. Poults to Ground 14,500

Location	Proposed 1981	Actual 1980
Rothwell	<del>9000</del> 7000	12905
Tealby	3000	5527
Tugdale	<del>2000</del> 1500	1178
Roman Holes	800	834
Stainton	2250	2239
Kirmond	-	2185
	<hr/> 17050	<hr/> 24868
Kelsey	250	238
"Strawson"	-	100

Learn How. at Tealby

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Wheat 170 tons

---

= 3,400 cwt

x 8 = 27,200 Stones

14 lbs a bird

Sent out Nov Dec } 20 weeks

Pheasants released July '81:

1500 Bogle Hill  
 1500 Tealby  
 2000 Horse Walk  
 1900 Stone Valley

(note from J.N.)

REVISED SHOOT BUDGET 1981 (EXCLUDING RECOVERIES)

Actual  
1980  
£000

Budget  
1981  
£000

JN LINCOLNSHIRE

24.5	Keepers' salaries and wages		22.4	
<i>work from</i> 7.3	Beaters <i>actual</i>		8.0	<i>how much for on</i>
6.5	Rents <i>&amp; allowed</i>		6.9	<i>LIST</i>
18.6	Feed		16.0	<i>must be lower</i>
1.5	Dog Keep		1.7	
12.6	Cartridges, equipment, sundries	X	10.7	
0.2	Staff accomodation	X	0.3	
1.6	Lunches and refreshments	X	1.8	<i>th. 12.8 investigate &amp; change</i>
73.5	0.7	Game birds - mallard	0.7	<u>68.5</u>

11.5

NORTH ORMSBY

13.0

NORTHERN

44.1	Wemmergill		46.7	
8.8	Stean		10.5	
9.9	Stublick		11.5	
63.2	0.4	J. Grave	0.5	69.2

86.8

SPAIN (year ending 28 February 1982)

86.4

235.0

237.1

70.000 *Spain*

70.000 *France*

90.000 *Spain*



ALAN FARMERY IN THE  
HATCHERY - HOME YARD  
JUNE 1981

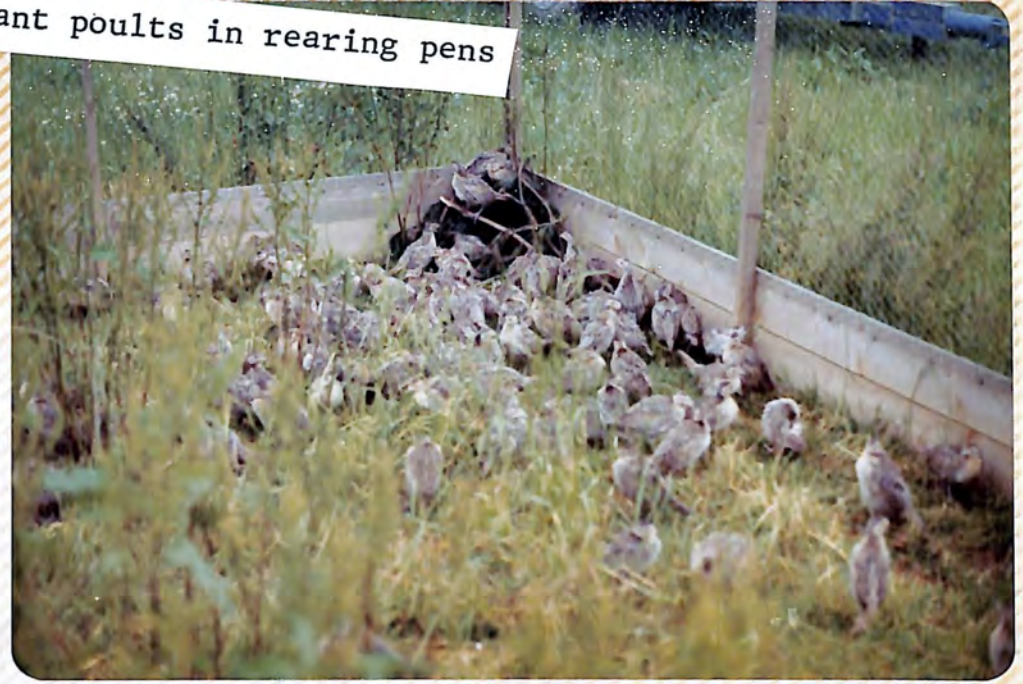


←  
HATCHERY HOME YARD



ABOVE: YOUNG MALLARD  
ROTHWELL TOP

The Grange Farm - Young pheasant poults in rearing pens





Ian Garfoot and Billy Jacob



PHEASANT 1981

Breeding Stock

Rothwell	860 Hens	Total Eggs	31696	Eggs per Hen	36.85
Tealby	461 Hens	" "	13621	" " "	29.54
	<u>1321</u>		<u>45317</u>		<u>34.30</u>

Incubation/Hatching

Rothwell	eggs set	25900	Hatch Min. 63%	Max 72%	Average 68%	D.O. 17550
Tealby	" "	10328	Hatch Min. 69%	Max 78%	Average 74%	D.O. 7649
		<u>36228</u>			<u>Average 70%</u>	<u>25199</u>

<u>Rearing</u>	<u>No. of D.O.</u>	<u>Lowest Loss</u>	<u>Highest Loss</u>	<u>Av. Loss</u>	<u>Poults to Release</u>
C. Valley	10269	10%	13%	10%	8968
Cabourne	2430	13%	13%	13%	2116
Grange Field					
Units	7280	10%	15%	13%	6342
Tealby	3134	20%	22%	21%	2478
Stainton	1560	-	-	10% (E)	1404
Ntn. Lodge	526	-	-	-	-
	<u>25199</u>			<u>14%</u>	<u>21308</u>

RJ/BS/17/8/81

Distribution: JN WHJ ICC RJ Mrs. Denny

Note in J.N.'s handwriting given to  
C.D. 10.7.81

Pheasant releases:

1500	Bogle Hill
1500	Tealby
2000	House Walk
1900	Stone Valley

PHEASANT 1981

Birds to Ground, nett of 5% release loss (or higher loss where known)

<u>Rothwell</u>	<u>Tealby</u>	<u>Stainton</u>
Silver Hills 1425	Manor Wood 570	West Hills 860
Horse Walk 2010	Manor Orchard 1150	Fox Cover 860
Stone Valley 1870	Bayons Wood 475	Black Holt 190
Bogle Hill 1425	Big Ash Holt 160	Other 370
Long Pltn 1740		
Charles Pltn 1140		
House Tops 1460		
	<u>2355 (5527)</u>	<u>2280 (2239)</u>
<u>11070 (12905)</u>		
	<u>Kirmond</u>	<u>Others</u>
Roman Holes 665	Pheasant Holt 330	Kelsey 295
Tugdale 1200	"Over" Road 100	
	"Duck" Wood 330	
	<u>760 (2185)</u>	
<u>12935 (14917)</u>		

(Figures in brackets are 1980 numbers)  
Figures exclude sales of 1000 Poults, 6480 Eggs.

TOTAL: 18625 (25206)

RJ/BS/17/8/81

Distribution: JN WHJ ICC RJ Mrs. Denny

Report to JN from WHJ  
7.8.81

Quantity not yet known,  
but we have lost in  
region of 500+  
pheasants due to  
rainfall - could be  
more yet.

(Heavy rain off & on  
6 - 10 August 1981)

1980 Season Actual  
Hatch 70%, Rearing Loss 13%  
and Allowing 5% Release Loss

Rothwell	Silver Hills	969
	Horse Walk	2037
	Stone Valley	2282
	Bogle Hill	2349
	Long Pltn.	2242
	Charles Pltn.	1663
	Rookery Top	413
	House Tops	950
		<u>12905</u>
	Roman Holes	834
	Tugdale	1178
		<u>14917</u>
	Stainton	2239
	Kirmond	2185
	Tealby	5527
	Kelsey	238
	Strawson	100
		<u>25206</u>

Proposed 1981 Season Allowing for  
Hatch 70% Rearing Loss 10% and  
5% Release Loss

1000
1700
1500
1700
1700
1200
-
1500
<u>10300</u>
800
1500
<u>12600</u>
2500
900
2500
300
-
<u>18800</u>

RJ/BS/28/4/81

JN/WHJ/ICC/CD/E

6-2-82.  
① Billy well done  
Dear Sir C.D. in my Shopping Book  
② Max Have had a good  
week at Rothwell catching up  
Hens.  
We have 600 at the  
grange to-date plus books.  
We have not caught up at  
Tealby this week. Will start  
on Monday. Joe Woodcock has  
been two days helping Frankish.  
Dick Pears & Batchers will go  
over on Monday again to help.  
No change in numbers of hens at  
Tealby about 80 plus books.

C.D.H.G.

P.S. we caught about 300 Hens  
plus cocks on Friday. 5-2-82

## 1981/1982 SHOOT SEASON

Location	Part.	Pheas	Recovery	Woodcock	Hare	Rabb	Pigeon	Mall	Teal	W/E		
Rothwell	21	5906	53%	10	111	40	81	544	8	1		
Kirmond		238		9	1		5					
Tealby		1268	54%	5	73	7	9			1		
R.Holes	3	223	34%				4					
Tugdale	1	427	36%	2	3	2	1	40	12			
Stainton	1	1426	62%	7	2	3	21					
Kelsey	3	139	47%	6	1	4	1	3				
R. Island		17						61	227	1		
B. Springs								89	3			
Atkins Bog								5	4			
Totals	29	9644	Average 52%	39	191	56	122	742	254	55	58	.11190

Excludes "Catching Up"

RJ/BS 5-2-82

Circulation JN ICC CD RJ WHJ

From R. Johnson Copies to WHJ  
 ICC Date 30/6/81 Ref. RJ/BS  
 Mrs. Denny

PRIVATE

SUBJECT		PHEASANT 1981 (Summary of attached detail) see overleaf			CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS																																		
1. Eggs	Location	No. Per Hen 1980	No. Per Hen 1981	Total Eggs																																			
	Rothwell	34.6	36.85	31696																																			
	Tealby	37.5	29.54	13621																																			
	Total				45317																																		
* <u>Note:</u> Likely that Tealby hen number less than that allowed for.																																							
2. Hatch	Location	Average Hatch % 1980	Average Hatch % 1981	High	Low	Total Day Olds																																	
	Rothwell	69%	68%	72%	63%	17550																																	
	Tealby	72%	74%	78%	69%	7649																																	
	Total						25199																																
3. Summary	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">D.O. Produced</td> <td style="width: 20%;"></td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;">25199</td> <td style="width: 30%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deduct D.O. Sold</td> <td style="text-align: right;">326</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deduct 10% Rearing Loss</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2487*</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deduct 5% Release Loss</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1119</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3932</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3932</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">21267</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Programme number</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">18800</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Difference</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">2467</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>							D.O. Produced		25199		Deduct D.O. Sold	326			Deduct 10% Rearing Loss	2487*			Deduct 5% Release Loss	1119			Total	3932	3932				21267		Programme number		18800		Difference		2467	
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Total	3932	3932																																					
		21267																																					
Programme number		18800																																					
Difference		2467																																					
* Higher rearing loss anticipated this season.																																							

WHJ reported that the period of cold, wet, wintery weather experienced from 24th - 26th April 1981 resulted in a marked lowering of fertility in the pheasants. Laying was 20% down. The birds at Tealby, being more sheltered, were affected only slightly.

Distribution: JN  
WHJ  
RJ  
ICC

Private & Confidential

Position as at 29.6.81

(End of Hatch)

Mrs. C. Denny ✓

GAME FARM 1981/82

EGG PRODUCTION (PHEASANT) PER CENT LAY

Week End Date	Rothwell 1980	Rothwell 1981	Tealby 1980	Tealby 1981	Rothwell/Tealby	
					1980 Total	1981
12/4	6%	5%	14%	10%	9%	7%
19/4	34%	40%	54%	39%	41%	39%
26/4	60%	73%	71%	59%	64%	68%
3/5	73%	74%	74%	55%	74%	67%
10/5	75%	80%	76%	62%	75%	74%
17/5	74%	74%	75%	66%	74%	71%
24/5	65%	73%	68%	58%	66%	69%
31/5	53%	69%	54%	49%	53%	62%
7/6	49%	38%	38%	23%	45%	33%
14/6	-	-	27%	-	-	-
Total Eggs	28019	31696	18570	13621	46589	45317
No. of Hens	820	860	495	461	1315	1321
Av. per Hen	34.6	36.85	37.5	29.54	35.42	34.30

HATCH (PHEASANT) PER CENT

Thurs. date of set	Mon. date of hatch	1980 Rothwell		1980 Tealby		1981 Rothwell		1981 Tealby		Total 1981 Rothwell/Tealby	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
16/4	11/5	-	-	-	-						
23/4	18/5	2044	69	1718	66	2430	66	-	-	2430	66
30/4	25/5	2644	91	1805	70	2317	63%	-	-	2317	63%
7/5	1/6	2664	72	2038	79	2585	70%	1778	69%	4363	70%
14/5	8/6	2628	71	1938	75	2686	72%	1854	72%	4540	72%
21/5	15/6	2626	71	1898	75	2594	70%	1993	77%	4587	73%
28/5	22/6	2535	68	1880	73	2474	67%	2024	78%	4498	72%
4/6	29/6	2300	62	-	-	2464	66%	-	-	2464	66%
	6/7			1640	65						
Total Day Old		17441		12917		17550		10328		25199	
Hatch Average			69%		72%		68%		74%		70%

# MEMORANDUM TO CHAIRMAN

From R. Johnson Copies to WHJ

Date 2/2/82

Ref. RJ/BS

WHJ copy to RJ - I think it is very interesting to compare your summary excluding catching up of course, Bob, with the 80/81 season and the 81/82 season - that is the one that is just over. We killed 2,000 more birds on the Rothwell shoot last year than we did this year made up of 540 more partridges, 1,250 more pheasants, 7 more woodcock, 300 more mallard. The only things that we have killed more of this season but just over are 88 hares more, 4 rabbits more and 8 teal more and 7 waterhens more. The total at Rothwell for last year was 8,743 and this year 6,751 - that is a difference of 2,000 of which 500 is accounted for by the partridges and 300 by the mallard, there are 1,200 less pheasants killed. Now, just refresh my memory - it would seem that we released onto what we call the Rothwell ground in 1980 12,900 and in 1981 11,070 so we released in round figures 2,000 less and we have shot 1,200 less but of course we have more to catch up. I think it is very interesting and from that we could prove that you can release more than we did last season. You can prove that the recovery is just as good the year before as it is this year and that the key to how many you recover seems to be in simple proportion certainly between 13,000 and 11,000 - there does not seem to be any difference. If you release 11,000 you are going to get the same percentage recovery as if we release 13,000 - that is just interesting. I don't know whether anyone else can learn anything from that. The total Lincolnshire shooting for 1981/82 has been most enjoyable for me and I think I have enjoyed it more than ever in my life ... is of course 3,500 birds less - 2,000 at Rothwell, 400 at Kirmond, 1,300 at Tealby, 220 at Roman Holes, 200 at Tugdale, 300 at Stainton and Kelsey and the ducks are up this year. Here again we did not rear any partridges and we did not rear so many pheasants at Rothwell and of course we did not rear anything like the quantity at Tealby. It is very interesting to look back at these figures - you see at Kirmond and Tealby last year we put 7,700 birds - a fantastic number and one that we don't want to do another year.

JN 8/2/82

## CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

number to achieve 50%

*Plus breeding birds  
caught up.*

	J.	F.	M.	A.	M.	J.	J.	A.	S.	O.	N.	D.		J.	F.	M.	A.	M.	J.	J.	A.	O.	N.	D.	
Common-curlew ... ..					h	X	X							X	X	X	X	X	X	X	h			X	
Water-fowl, wild-goose, wild-duck ...					h	X	h							X	X	X	X	X	X	X	h				
Doe or fawn (of red-deer) or of fallow-deer and doe ...	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Mountain-hen and heath-hen ...	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Fox ... ..					h	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	h				
<b>Bukovina.</b>																									
Stag ... ..	X	X	X	X	X	X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X					h	X	X
Doe or fawn (of red-deer) ...	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X
Roe-buck ... ..		h	X	X	X	X								X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	h		
Hare ... ..		h	X	X	X	X	X	X	h					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	h	
Wood-cock and heath-cock ...						X	X	X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Doe ... ..	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Partridge ... ..	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Wild-duck, snipe ... ..					h	X	X	h						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Quail ... ..					X	X	X	X	h					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<b>Dalmatia.</b>																									
Partridge, rock-ptarmigan, ptarmigan ...		X	X	X	X	X	X							X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Hare ... ..		h	X	X	X	X	X	X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	h	
Roe-buck, chamois, wood-cock, capercaillie ...	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
All other kinds of game ... ..					X	X	X	X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<b>Hungary.</b>																									
Stag ... ..	X	X	X	X	X	X					h	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Fallow-buck ... ..	X	X	X	X	X	X					h	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Doe or fawn (of red-deer) of fallow-deer and does ...	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	h			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Roe-buck ... ..		h	X	X	X	X								X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Chamois-buck ... ..	X	X	X	X	X	X						h		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Doe of the chamois, mountain and heath-hen ...	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
													<b>Croatia and Slavonia.</b>												
													Stag ... ..												
													Fallow-buck ... ..												
													Doe or fawn (of red deer) and of fallow-deer ...												
													Chamois-buck ... ..												
													Roe-buck ... ..												
													Doe and doe of the chamois ...												
													Hare ... ..												
													Heath-hen, mountain-hen ...												
													Wood-cock, heath-cock ...												
													Pheasant, bustard, small bustard, rock-ptarmigan ...												
													Hazel-grouse ... ..												
													Partridge ... ..												
													Wild-goose, wild-duck, wild-pigeon, wading and water-fowls ...												
													Snipe, quail ... ..												
													<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina.</b>												
													Chamois ... ..												
													Wood-cock and heath-cock ...												
													Roe-buck, hare, partridge, hazel-grouse, rock-ptarmigan, quail, snipe, wild-pigeon ...												
													Wild-duck ... ..												
													Doe, fawn of the chamois, roe-calf, mountain-hen, heath-hen ...												

MAP SHOWING STUBBLE WHJ WOULD LIKE

LEAVING - JN/FRB AGREED 3.9.81

Also: Summary of Kale Strips  
15.5.81.

STABLE W.H.T. WOULD  
 LIKE LEAVING

Plan of  
 THE ROTHWELL FARMS  
 JOSEPH NICKERSON ESQ.  
*2588 acres farmed*



*fill  
 after  
 Oct.*

1981.

SCALE - 6 INCHES TO A MILE

*Noted in the margin of map that the plan is not to be used as a title deed, but as a reference only. It is not to be used as a title deed, but as a reference only. It is not to be used as a title deed, but as a reference only.*

SUMMARY OF KALE STRIPS - 15-5-81

We have drilled 40 acres of Kale so far in the following fields:-

Boarding House  
Bogle Hill  
Cabourne 2  
" 3  
" 7  
*St.* " Chappell Field  
Cherry Top (2 blocks)  
Great Walk  
Harefield  
Lincoln Hill  
Round Hills  
Sanfoin Piece (2 blocks)  
Silver Hills (2 blocks)  
Spring Hills  
Thoresway Road  
Town Hill

*2 or more acres Rothwell  
fair*

Outside Fields

Tugdale  
Nettleton  
Vickers' Land  
Kirmond (9 acres still to drill)

Acres of Kale left from last year total 16 acres and are in the following fields:-

Boarding House  
Bogle Hill  
Fifty-Five Acre  
Great Walk  
Horse Walk  
South Hills  
Twenty Acre  
Twenty-Four Acre  
West Hills

TOTAL Acres = 65

Ref

*farm*

CHAIRMAN

VERMIN REPORT 1981

	Farmery			Wolsey			Hassall			Garfoot			Frankish			Woodcock	Davies Cawdron	TOTAL FOR YR
	Jan/Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan/Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan/Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan/Oct	Nov	Dec	Feb/Oct	Nov	Dec	Feb/Apl	Jan/Feb	
Crow	7			5	2	2	14			3			7			2	2	44
Hedgehog	32			9	3		52	6		20	5		3			6		136
Jackdaw				16						3			21		1		9	50
Jay				5		2												7
Magpie	7					1	3			4			17		1		2	35
Mole							28	14		19	3		3			3		75
Rat	39	7	7	7			75	7		47	5	3	107	23	14	17	43	401
Rock				209		31							1			11		252
Stoat	35	1		27			13	1		18	4		8	1		3	2	113
Squirrell				2						1			8					11
Tab	4			61	4	2	6			9			2				6	94
Toby	10			19	6		9			12		1	6			5	2	70
Weasel	12	1		42	3		20	2		26		1	9			6	6	128
Brock	2			2			1			4			1					10
Gull BB				6														6
	148	9	7	410	18	38	221	30		166	17	5	193	24	16	58	72	
TOTALS	164			466			251			188			233			58	72	1432



SHOOT STAFF 1981/82 SEASON

Bill Jacob 1941 -  
Bob Johnson 1946 -

KEEPERS

ROTHWELL

Alan Farmery Beat That part of the Rothwell Estate bounded by the Cuxwold Road in the North and the Binbrook Road in the South East. Also Lings Farm, Croxby, Roman Holes, Thoresway Grange, Manor Farm and Stone Farm. Plus the land purchased from Ormond, now known as Cherry Top Farm.

Ian Garfoot Beat The land within the boundaries Thoresway Road field to the South West, Chapel Field to the East including all the land at Cabourne and the farms previously held by Mr Addison and the Earl of Yarborough. Also the Rothwell Glebe land farmed by Mr Ormond and Glebe and Grange Farms, Nettleton, incorporating Tugdale. Plus the land at Nettleton farmed by Mr Cooper Jnr.

Eddie Hassall Beat The land to the West of the Rothwell to Binbrook Road bounded on the West by the High Street and on the North from the northern boundary of Badger Top field through to the Rectory.

Graham Frankish Beat Took over beats of Bayons Manor Estate, Tealby, the Ludford Farm and (formerly Whitehead) Kirmond-le-Mire land in February 1981 on the dismissal of Dickie Davies and Wally Cawdron.

KELSEY INC. CHERRY VALLEY

Frank Wolsey

STANTON

Walter Tirrell

READ'S ISLAND

Peter Jackson

STEAN MOOR

Joe Freeman

STUBLICK MOOR

Tom Davison (Helper on shoot days: Walter Rutherford)

WEMMERGILL/HOLWICK MOOR

Head Keeper: Peter Fawcett  
Under Keepers: Peter Bartram, Nigel Winter, Jim Bush, Stuart Glendinning,  
Nicky Lee-Shield (Apprentice Keeper)

KEEPERS - (Continued)

NOMBELA - SPAIN

Head Keeper (Guarda Mayor): Santos (Age 49, at Nombela 19 yrs., beat La Heredad)  
Pablo (Age 54 at La Ronca 17 years, beat Los Trozos)  
Pedro (Age 63 at La Ronca 17 years, brother to Pablo & Tino, beat Los Prados)  
Jesus (Age 36 at La Ronca 2 yrs, beat La Rana)  
Paco (Age 49 at La Ronca 15 yrs, beat La Parilla)  
Tino (Age 51 at La Ronca 15 yrs, beat Barranco La Nava)

Domingo was Head Keeper to Leo Biaggi for 27 years but now retired. Still maintains authority over the 6 keepers.

Loader Spain : Senor Manuel Abad - Manolo

LOADERS

Bill Jacob  
Ben Jacob (brother to Bill)  
Benjy Jacob ) Bill's sons  
Will Jacob )  
Joe Woodcock (Dog Handler, Rothwell)  
Douglass Smith (JN's Chauffeur/Valet)  
John Grave (formerly JN's Head Keeper, Wemmergill, Harry Hope  
now self-employed contractor)

PICKERS UP

Father A W Jacob - Head Keeper at Rothwell for 28 seasons, now retired, father of Bill  
Mary Keal Cliff Chase Alan Smith Brian Wall  
Tom Farmery (occasionally)

KEEPERS' WAGES

Farmery, Garfoot and Hassall each received £82.75 per week plus £5 for every shoot attended, plus £321 tips each. In addition Farmery received a £250 bonus for hatching and rearing.

Graham Frankish received £55.15 per week plus £5 for every shoot day attended and £310 in tips.

Frank Wolsey received £82.75 per week and the Kelsey shoot tips, also £8 attendance on shoot days.

Joe Woodcock received £82.75 per week plus £5 attendance on shoot days and personal tips from JN.

Loaders pay was £9 per day (exception Ben Jacob - £15)

Beaters pay: £8 per day over 16  
£5 per day under 16

Pickers up pay: £9 per day (exception C Chase £10)

JN LINCOLNSHIRE SHOOTS

SUMMARY OF FEED PURCHASED 1981

	<u>Tonnes</u>	<u>Price</u> <u>/Tonne</u>		
Breeder pellets	0.500	149.20	74.60	
	<u>9.000</u>	154.00	<u>1,386.00</u>	1,460.60
	<u>9.500</u>			
Starter crumbs	<u>0.500</u>	230.00		115.00
Chick crumbs	3.000	176.70	530.00	
	<u>9.000</u>	189.00	<u>1,701.00</u>	2,231.00
	<u>12.000</u>			
Rearing pellets				
with Mebenvet	11.700	303.40	3,549.79	
without Mebenvet	<u>2.000</u>	171.80	<u>343.60</u>	3,893.39
	<u>13.700</u>			
Growers pellets				
with Mebenvet	21.550	289.00	6,227.96	
without Mebenvet	4.000	157.40	629.60	
"    "	<u>6.000</u>	160.00	<u>960.00</u>	7,817.56
	<u>31.550</u>			
Recharged by CVF ex Whittons	0.5 tonne (not described)			80.65
Duck starter ex CVF	10 packs			42.32
Duck Grower Pellets ex C.V.F.	2.5 tonnes			372.09
Grit				208.00
Beans and vetches				67.00
Corn ex JN Farms	30 tonnes @ £35			<u>1,050.00</u>
				<u>£ 17,337.61</u>

1981/82 SEASON - Continued

FEED

Chick crumbs were £176-£189 per tonne, rearer food £169 per tonne and grower feed £155 per tonne. The price of feed wheat varied from £110.45 per tonne in July 1981 to £108.20 per tonne in January 1982.

JN 03903 400 112 = 11

JN LINCOLNSHIRE SHOOTS

DETAILS OF FEED PURCHASES 1984

	<u>Details</u>	<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Price/ Tonne</u>	<u>£</u>
MARCH	½ tonne Pheasant Breeder Pellets	- Whittons	149.20	74.60
	3 tonnes " " "	- Whittons	154.00	462.00
APRIL	6 tonnes Pheasant Breeder Pellets	- Whittons	154.00	924.00
JUNE	10 packs Chick Grit	- Dalgety/Spillers		30.00
	3 tonnes Chick Crumbs (111)	- Whittons	176.70	530.00
	5 tonnes Chick Crumbs (119)	- Whittons	189.00	945.00
	10 packs Duck Starter	- C.V.F.		42.32
JULY	½ tonne Starter Crumbs	- Dalgety/Spillers		115.00
	20 packs Chick Grit	- Dalgety/Spillers		60.00
	250 kg. Beans	- Nickerson Seed		40.00
	50 kg. Vetches	- Specialists		5.00
	2 tonnes Chick Crumbs	- Whittons	189.00	378.00
	7.775 tonnes Rearing Pellets with Mebenvet	- Whittons	303.40	2,358.94
AUG.	2.000 tonnes Rearing Pellets without Mebenvet	- Whittons	171.80	343.60
	15.650 tonnes Grower Pellets with Mebenvet	- Whittons	289.00	4,522.86
	4.000 tonnes Grower Pellets without Mebenvet	- Whittons	157.40	629.60
	2 tonnes Chick Crumbs	- Whittons	189.00	378.00
	12½ kg. Bean Sweepings	- Nickerson Seed Specialists		22.00
	40 packs Flint Grit	- Dalgety/Spillers		118.00
SEPT.	3.925 tonnes Rearing Pellets with Mebenvet	- Whittons	303.40	1,190.85
	5.9 tonnes Grower Pellets with Mebenvet	- Whittons	289.00	1,705.10
	6.0 tonnes Grower Pellets without Mebenvet	- Whittons	160.00	960.00
CT.	0.5 tonnes Feed ex Whittons recharged by C.V.F.			80.65
DECEMBER	30 tonnes Wheat Screenings	- JN Farms	35.00	1,050.00
	2.5 tonnes Duck Grower Pellets	- C.V.F.	148.84	372.09
				<u>£ 17,337.61</u>

1981/82 SEASON - Continued

SALE OF GAME

Pheasants sold to Franz Buitelaar (through J Buckner, Cherry Valley) - Game Dealers of Wyberton, Boston made £3.50 a brace in mid-November, £2.30 in late November, £2.40 1 - 15 December and £2.50 on 22 December. The price from the end of December for the rest of the season was £2.40.

SALE OF GROUSE

Stean: Total grouse realised £1,005.70. Prices: August - y: £2.20 - £1.80  
o: £1.00

Sept/ - y: £2.00  
Oct o: £1.00

Stublick: Total grouse realised £1,441.50 Prices: August - y: £3.00 - £2.20  
o: £1.00

Sept/ - y: £2.00  
Oct o: £1.00

NIGHT WATCH

1981

DECEMBER

NOVEMBER

20th	J. Woodcock	G. Whitehead
21st	W. Jacob	W. Tirrell
22nd	A. Farmery	E. Hassall
23rd	I. Garfoot	J. Woodcock
24th	W. Jacob	G. Whitehead
25th	A. Farmery	W. Tirrell
26th	I. Garfoot	E. Hassall
27th	J. Woodcock	G. Whitehead
28th	W. Jacob	W. Tirrell
29th	A. Farmery	E. Hassall
30th	I. Garfoot	J. Woodcock

DECEMBER

1st	W. Jacob	G. Whitehead
2nd	A. Farmery	W. Tirrell
3rd	I. Garfoot	E. Hassall
4th	J. Woodcock	G. Whitehead
5th	W. Jacob	W. Tirrell
6th	A. Farmery	E. Hassall
7th	I. Garfoot	J. Woodcock
8th	W. Jacob	G. Whitehead
9th	A. Farmery	W. Tirrell

10th	I. Garfoot	E. Hassall
11th	J. Woodcock	G. Whitehead
12th	W. Jacob	W. Tirrell
13th	A. Farmery	E. Hassall
14th	I. Garfoot	J. Woodcock
15th	W. Jacob	G. Whitehead
16th	A. Farmery	W. Tirrell
17th	I. Garfoot	E. Hassall
18th	J. Woodcock	G. Whitehead
19th	W. Jacob	W. Tirrell
20th	A. Farmery	E. Hassall
21st	I. Garfoot	J. Woodcock
22nd	W. Jacob	G. Whitehead
23rd	A. Farmery	W. Tirrell
24th	I. Garfoot	E. Hassall
25th	J. Woodcock	G. Whitehead
26th	W. Jacob	W. Tirrell
27th	A. Farmery	E. Hassall
28th	I. Garfoot	J. Woodcock
29th	W. Jacob	G. Whitehead
30th	A. Farmery	W. Tirrell
31st	I. Garfoot	E. Hassall

*MK*  
*From [unclear]*

*copy*

Shoot Lettings 1981.

Stublick Estate.

12/13 August:

By: Bartle Hodgkiss		£5000.00
Less: Transport	£111.92	
Beaters	£540.00	£ 651.92
		<u>£4348.08</u>

6/7 October:

By: G. D. Bowes Ltd.		£2000.00
Less: Beaters (est.)		£ 350.00
		<u>£1650.00</u>

*MK.*  
*Bill a. lot 5*  
*North*  
*North*

*useful*  
*cust. of*  
*Pip?*

Income		£4348.08
		<u>£1650.00</u>
		£5998.08
Less: Adverts	£ 46.80	
Letting fees	£525.00	
V.A.T.	£ 78.75	£ 650.55
<u>Net Income</u>		<u>£5347.53</u>

5347.53

Stean Estate.

By: John Birth Ltd. - 11th Sept.		£1500.00
A.F.S. Dean - 19th Sept.		£1250.00
G. D. Bowes Ltd. - 26th Sept.		£1000.00
G. D. Bowes Ltd. - 29th Sept.		£ 800.00
		<u>£4550.00</u>
Less: Adverts,	£ 35.00	
Beaters 11th Sept.		£200.00
19th Sept.		£300.00
26/29 Sept.	£200.00	£700.00
		<u>£ 735.00</u>
		£3815.00
Less: Letting fees	£341.25	
V.A.T.	£ 51.18	£ 392.43
<u>Net Income</u>		<u>£3422.57</u>

3422.57

8770.10

LIST OF DOGS IN ROTHWELL KENNELS - 1981/82 SEASON - SUPPLIED BY JOE WOODCOCK

ALLOCK BEN

MEG

JAN

JANEY

PATRICK

BEN, Spaniel

TEAL (New dog from Ireland)

TUG (Pup from Meg/Ben - Training well)

-----

TINA (Put down, Cancer)

MILLIE (Dog for Jennie - no good so taken back)

CID (Sold)

SALLY (Mary Keal has her now)

SAMANTHA (With Keeper Hassall, Top Farm)

S T A I N T O N   S E A S O N   1 9 8 1 / 2

STAINTON

SHOOTING

1981/82

Numbers

Pheasants

1,500

Chicks

800

6 week old poults

2,300

FOOD FOR REARING 1981

Ex Rothwell

1 ton 5 cwt Chick Crumbs (50 Bags)  
3 tons Growers Pellets  
6 tons 10 cwt Wheat  
(1½ tons in stock)  
2 bags grit  
1,500 plastic bits

Ex Stainton

Approx. 2½ tons Wheat

THURSDAY, 19th NOVEMBER, 1981

GUNS Sir Emrys Jones, Messrs. J. Nickerson,  
R. Johnson, J. Key and R. Key

WEATHER Mild, sunny day

GAME RECORD

Pheasants	307
Woodcock	2
Water Hen	1
Rabbits	1
	<hr/>
Total	311
	<hr/>

FRIDAY, 4th DECEMBER, 1981

GUNS

Messrs. J. Nickerson, L. C. Bembridge,  
R. J. Nickerson, R. Key and Group  
Captain D. C. Cowley

WEATHER

Wet start, fine later with fresh  
northerly wind

GAME RECORD

Pheasants	420
Woodcock	3
Pigeons	1
Hares	1
	<hr/>
Total	425
	<hr/>

THURSDAY, 17th DECEMBER, 1981

GUNS Messrs. J. Nickerson, J. Thompson,  
P. Easterby, C. Ross and R. Key

WEATHER Deep snow, cold sunny day

GAME RECORD

Pheasants	317
Partridge	1
Woodcock	1
Snipe	5
Pigeons	8
Water Hen	1
	<hr/>
Total	333
	<hr/>

TUESDAY, 29th DECEMBER, 1981

GUNS Messrs. J. Nickerson, I. Yates, R. Key,  
Mrs. J. Nickerson, Misses Louise,  
Rosemary and Jenny Nickerson

WEATHER Rainy and foggy day

GAME RECORD

Pheasants	246
Pigeons	11
Hares	1
Rabbits	1
	<hr/>
Total	259
	<hr/>

THURSDAY, 7th JANUARY, 1982

GUNS

Messrs. J. Nickerson, R. Key,  
N. Johnson, E. Nickerson,  
Misses Louise, Rosemary and  
Jenny Nickerson

WEATHER

Frosty, bright sunshine

GAME RECORD

Pheasants	136
Woodcock	1
Water Hens	3
Pigeons	1
Rabbits	1
	<hr/>
Total	142
	<hr/>

GAME SUMMARY 1981/82

Pheasants	1,426
(caught up)	81
Woodcock	7
Water Hens	5
Rabbits	3
Pigeons	21
Hares	2
Partridge	1
Snipe	5
	<hr/>
Total	1,551
	<hr/>

Pheasants Caught Up (included in above  
summary)

35 Hens to Rothwell

46 Cocks to Stainton

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81



TUG



MEG



JAN



TINA



SIR BEN



J.N. with PRINCE TEAL



BEN



PATRICK



MILLY





SALLY



MEG



18 DECEMBER



JANEY



OPEN

ITEM No.	QUANTITY	MAKE	SIZE	NUMBER
1.	3 guns in match + 1 set of extra barrels	Woodward over/under	12 bore	7084/5/7011
2.	2 (Pair)	Purdey-Woodward	12 bore 3"	26113A & 26113B
3.	1	Bland	12 bore 3"	18245
4.	1	Ogden-Smith	8 bore	1006 77
5.	1	Jeffrey	28 bore	31412
6.	1	Blanch	.410	2562
7.	1	No name	.410 short barrel	
8.	1	Savage	.410/.22 combined under and over	
9.	1	Westley-Richard	.410	1580
10.	1	Browning	.22	7-8061
11.	1	Remington with telescopic sight	.22	23663
12.	1	Winchester	.22	30376
13.	1	Savage	.22	86X
14.	1	James Purdey	.400 D/B rifle	21214 )
15.	1	James Purdey	.400	22970 )
16.	1	Woodward	16 bore under/over	7178
17.	1	Woodward	12 bore under/over	6678
18.	1	Woodward	16 bore under/over	6642
19.	2 (Pair)	Winchester	12 bore repeater single barrel shotguns	M2001/2
20.	1	Alex Henry (with case)	28 bore hammerless ejection	8456
21.	3 (in match)	Purdey	20 bore shotguns hammerless ejector over and under with two pairs of extra barrels	27891/2/3
22.	2 (Pair)	Bozard	28 bore shotguns	8776 & 8777
23.	1	C. Lancaster	12 bore hammer gun	4950
24.	1	Wm Cavanagh	8 bore hammergeun	5750
25.		Leather case for 3 guns		

LIST  
OF  
J.N.'s  
GUNS  
AS  
AT  
21.10.81.

26.		Leather case for 1 gun		
27.	2 (Pair)	Blanch	20 bore ejector guns	54597/8
28.	2	H G Greenfield	20 bore shotgun and case	2192/3
29.	1	Wm Powell	12 bore ejector shot spare barrel No. 14722	12615
30.	1	Woodward	12 bore shotgun	6298
31.	2 (Pair)	Aya	Hammerless ejector 20 bore with double & single case	464359/60
32.	2 (Pair)	Woodward	12 bore with flat case	5632/5631
33.	2 (Pair)	Wm Powell	16 bore	10243/44
34.		Army & Navy double barrelled	.410 5.g	63570
35.		Mannlicher Rifle	(.243	
36.		Gun case for 3 guns Items 1 & 2 best treble leather		
37.		Leather case for 3 20 bore guns		
38.		Leather case for 1 20 bore gun		
39.		Leather case for 2 Woodwards		
40.		Ammunition of various sizes		
41.	2 (Pair)	Purdey 16 bore shotguns		26111/26112
42.	3 (Match)	Purdey 28 bore d/b (side by side) with extra barrels hammerless shotguns		28207/8/9
43.	3	Aya 0.410 double barrelled shotguns		
44.	3 (Match)	Purdey 28 bore shotguns (under & over). <i>with 1 pr extra barrels for 20117</i>		28111/2/3
45.	3	Side by side Boss sporting guns Serial Nos. 5363, 5364 & 6682 complete with leather case		
46.	1	Parker-Hale rifle standard 1000 calibre 0.270 with telescopic sight, cover and clear g kit (on Reads Island)		
47.	2 (Pair)	Purdey 0.410 sporting shotguns with extra barrels		28324/3
48.	2 (Pair)	Browning Rifles - calibre 9.3 x 74c		2877 & 2942
49.	1	Aya double barrelled 20 bore shotgun		477008

# THE STATE OF THE GAME

## Six species and what the latest national census shows

SINCE 1961 the Game Conservancy has been monitoring the status of Britain's game species, as well as a number of predatory birds and mammals, with the use of shooting records and gamekeeper's kills. The National Game Census consists of more than 400 farms, estates or shoots which contribute exact details of their game and gamekeeper tallies every year.

These records monitor not only the success or otherwise of each season, but also the changing status and trend in numbers of fauna. The data provides a unique cornerstone for the Game Conservancy's research programme, since we\* can undertake new field research projects where rapid changes in numbers of a species indicate that a new situation is developing.

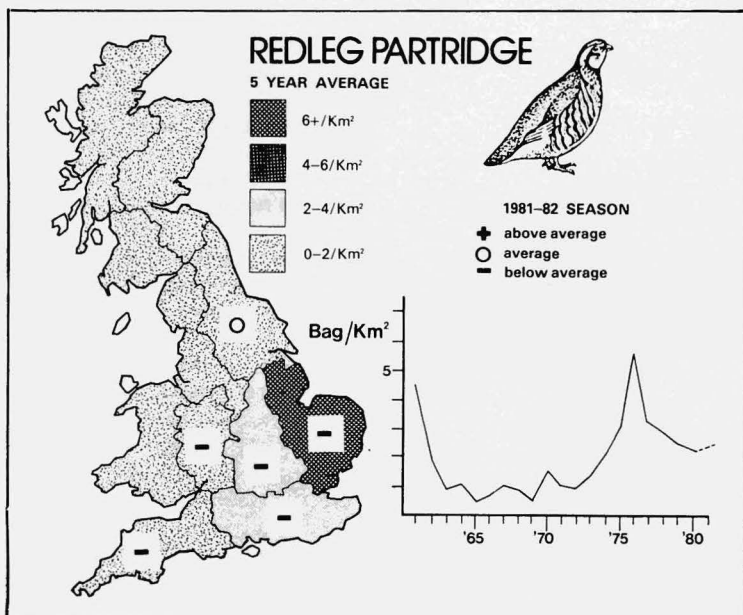
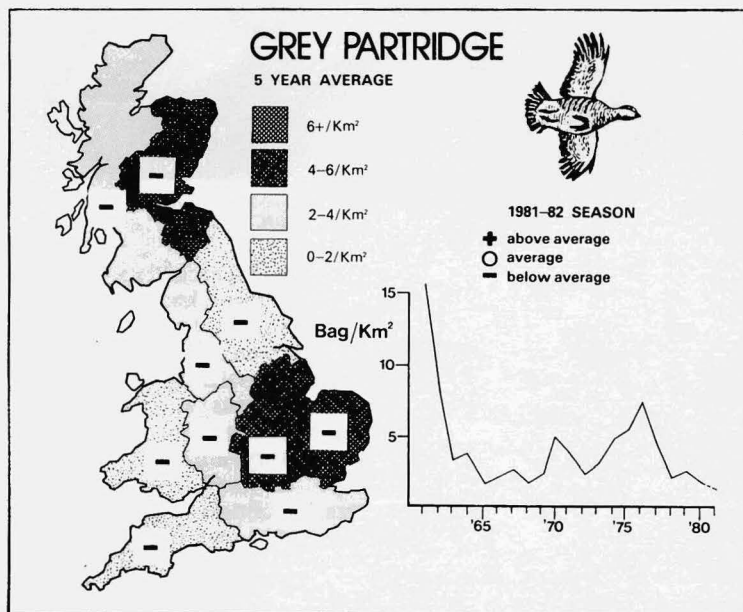
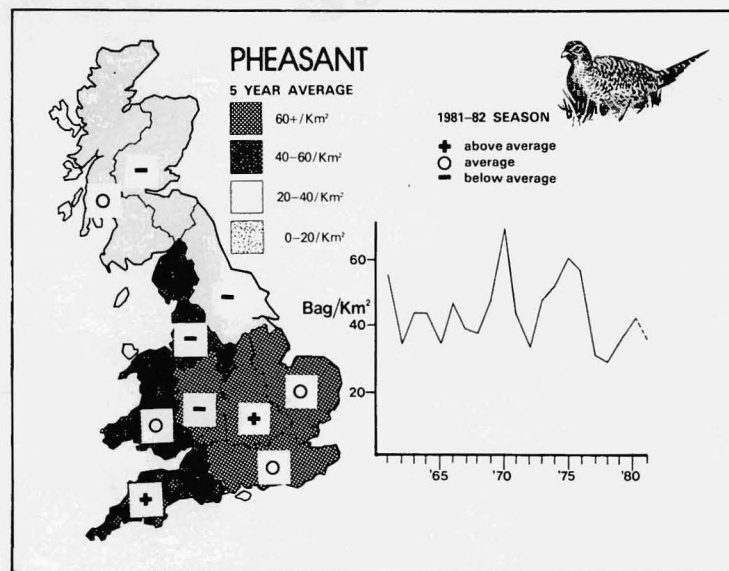
For example, our recent research on the red legged partridge was undertaken largely because this species was forming

a much larger proportion of the total partridge bag in many areas and we knew little of its breeding ecology. The rapid reduction in the bag of brown hares alerted us to the problems that this species appears to be having on modern farmland and we are now currently running a project to investigate the cause of this decline.

### Rabbit recovery

One of the biggest changes over the last 20 years is the remarkable recovery of the rabbit; in many places it is back to pre-myxomatosis levels. This has had consequences for other animals — both foxes and stoats have shown steady increases in number since the early 60s.

Maps and graphs show the status in Britain of six game species and wood pigeon. The map showing regional distribution of the bag is based on a five-year average figure, and the success of



last season is indicated by a plus or minus sign depending on whether the 1981/82 season produced bags above or below the regional five-year average. On a national scale the average bag for the last 20 years is shown which gives an idea of the changing trend, normally shown as the average number shot per 100 hectares (1 km<sup>2</sup>).

The 1981/82 season was particularly poor as bad summer weather produced few birds and the winter was exceptionally cold in most areas. This even resulted in the temporary banning of shooting of many species and our data reflects this to some extent, particularly the woodcock.

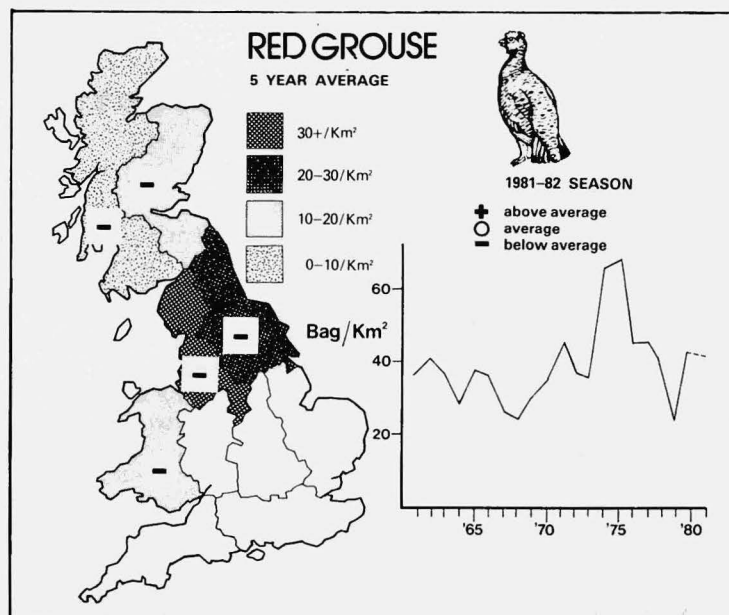
Our data for pheasant measures the success of wild breeding birds only. The effect of rearing has been discounted by assuming that 46 per cent of all reared pheasants are shot. The effect that this has on re-stocking the breeding population for the next year cannot be discounted, however, so it is clear that

although the national average has remained fairly steady, apart from annual variations, over the last 20 years, this is almost certainly due to the constant topping up of wild birds with reared ones.

Although bags appear to have been fairly close to the average in most areas last year, this really is not as good as it appears since there has been a succession of poor years, and consequently the five-year average is now running at a low figure. It is hoped that the warm dry spring of this year will have given pheasant and other game species a better breeding season.

### Dismal picture

Unfortunately the picture for grey partridge is dismal. All areas were well below average, indeed the national figure appears to be the lowest ever. In the areas of highest partridge density, such as East Anglia and East Scotland, the bag was about 65 per cent below the five-year average and



this appears to be typical for most of the country.

The reasons for the partridge decline are now well understood and have been thoroughly investigated by the Game Conservancy. We can now only hope that farmers will take sensible measures to improve the stocks of this species once again.

The red legged partridge also had a bad season, with the East Anglian region being some 32 per cent below the five-year average. However, encouraged by rearing, this species is continuing to spread across Britain.

We now know from other research projects that although it is extremely vulnerable to nest predation, the chicks do not need insect food in the first few days of life and consequently as a species it has been less affected by pesticides than is the grey partridge.

Figures indicate that red grouse, too, had a below average season, although certainly not as poor as 1979/80. Of the five areas where red grouse occur in reasonable numbers, the average reductions ranged from 11 per cent in Western Scotland to 33



Grey partridge hen and chicks. Nationally the species had its worst season ever in 1981/82.

per cent in North-West England.

Bags for woodcock were undoubtedly reduced by the hard weather shooting ban and it is likely that many people refrained from taking woodcock even when the ban was not in force. Looking at the long-term trend in this species, it is clear that since 1963 the number being shot has increased steadily. This does not necessarily mean, however, that woodcock are more common than they were in the late 60s since they are mostly shot on pheasant shoots, an increasing trend that probably derives from the increasing popularity of pheasant shooting.

As far as wood pigeon are concerned, some areas such as the West Country and East Midlands recorded bags of 29 per cent and 12 per cent above average. However, other regions were well below average.

The cold early spring of 1981 is

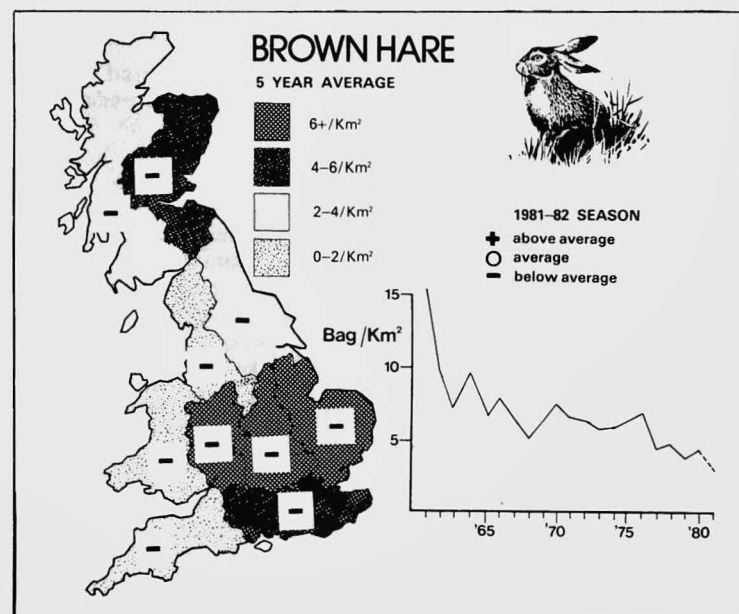
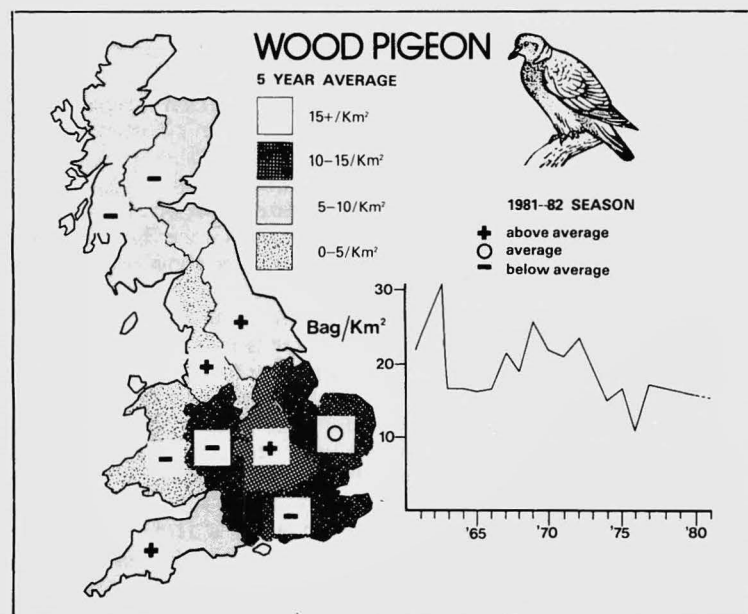
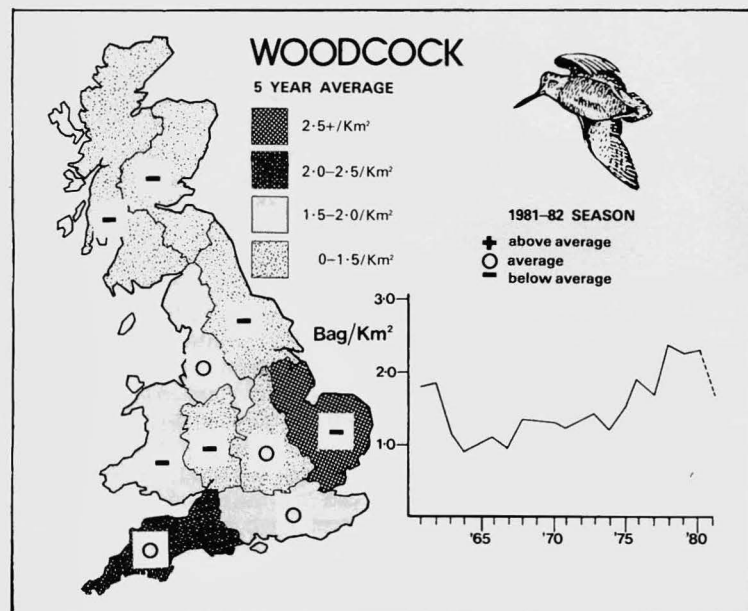
almost certainly responsible for the reduced numbers of brown hare which were considerably below average in all areas. However, it is quite clear from the long-term trend that numbers have been going steadily down since the early 60s.

### Hare project

Our hare project, which has been investigating the causes for this decline, is beginning to show results that indicate it may be related primarily to: a succession of poor breeding years brought about by bad weather; increased predation from a spreading and increased fox population; and a severe reduction in available grazing due to loss of agricultural grassland and early ploughing of stubbles.

STEPHEN TAPPER

\*The author is deputy director of research at the Game Conservancy



From J.N. for inclusion in Game Book - Particulars of sale June 1981 of Glenfiddich Estate

## Forestry

The woodlands extend to approximately 162 acres of which the majority is situated in the vicinity of Glenfiddich and includes some fine stands of Scots Pine which are of considerable value both to the amenity of the lodge and as a shelter for the stags during the winter months.

### DEDICATED WOODLAND

Compartment Number	Stocked Area (Ha)	Plantable Land (Ha)	Total Area (Ha)	Planting Year	Species
1 A	12.4		12.4	1916	Scots Pine
B		2.0	2.0		Bare Land
C	0.8		0.8	1962	Scots Pine
2 A		1.6	1.6		Felled Area
B	14.2		14.2	1957	Scots Pine, European Larch
3 A	2.5		2.5	1962	Sitka Spruce, European Larch
B	3.5		3.5	1962	Sitka Spruce, Scots Pine
C&D	0.7		0.7	1916	Scots Pine
4	10.9		10.9	1916	Scots Pine
7	0.7		0.7	1959	Sitka Spruce
8	0.8		0.8	1962	Sitka Spruce
9	1.0		1.0	1962	Sitka Spruce, Lodgepole Pine
10	1.8		1.8	1962	Sitka Spruce, Lodgepole Pine
11	1.1		1.1	1966	Sitka Spruce

### NON DEDICATED WOODLAND

Dune Plantation	11.55		11.5	Mature	Scots Pine
	<u>61.9</u>	<u>3.6</u>	<u>65.5</u>		

### BARE LAND WITH BASIS III DEDICATION

Provisional acceptance for 159.2 hectares at Balloch More Hill in September 1979.

It should be noted that approximately 5,000 acres of the estate lie below 1,200 ft. above sea level.

## Sporting

### DRIVEN GROUSE MOORS

The extensive records justify Glenfiddich's position as one of the finest grouse moors in Scotland. Its name generates exceptional interest when let commercially and commands premium rents.

The best annual bag was 5,304½ brace in 1922. Excluding the recent years when in order to conserve stock no shooting took place, the 5 year average bag is 1,137 brace, and the 10 year average is 1,224 brace. For the last 100 seasons, the average was 1,451 brace.

The hill can be driven to 33 lines of butts to give 10 separate days shooting without going over the same ground. The majority of the butts are served by landrover tracks although some of the spectacular high ground drives require a short walk. There are lunch huts at the South End (Suie), centre (Blackwater and Old Lodge) and East (Torniechelt). The estate has decided not to shoot during the last three years when grouse, as in the rest of Scotland, have suffered from poor breeding weather in the Spring. This policy of preservation and husbandry will benefit the new proprietor as the estate enjoys an adequate grouse population which is capable of rapid increase to normal stocking level.

### STALKING

With the benefit of deer fencing the Glenfiddich Deer Herd can be more readily controlled to produce remarkable heads and good carcass weights. It is currently estimated that there are about 300 stags and 735 hinds in addition to calves.

With the excellent network of tracks, the estate can be readily stalked by two rifles. The range of topography provides unusually testing stalking ranging from gentle undulations in the north to the steeper ground in the south.

The recent deer management policy has been to stabilise stag and hind culls to about 50 and 100 respectively. The unusually good grazing, particularly at Badcheer where there is an outcrop of limestone, encourages excellent growth of carcass and heads and this level of cull may have to be raised.

To supplement the grazing there are three established deer feeds. The two stag feeds are at Glenfiddich and the Burn of Glackra. The hind feed is below Scout Hill.

In addition there are a number of roe deer on the estate.

### FISHING

Although no records exist, salmon do run up the Blackwater and can be taken in pools near the Lodge. There is also salmon fishing in the River Fiddich and Alt Deveron.

At Glenfiddich there are two trout lochs with a Fishing Hut built of timber under an asphalt roof comprising lunch room, kitchen and W.C.

# Game Records

GLEN FIDDICH ESTATE

Date	Grouse	Various	Stags	Total	Date	Grouse	Various	Stags	Total
1839	626	—	—	646	1864	1,527	61	63	1,651
1840	448	27	—	475	1865	3,108	80	34	3,222
1841	—	—	—	—	1866	5,650	89	6	5,745
1842	807	27	22	856	1867	6	18	22	46
1843	117	3	20	140	1868	36	12	35	83
1844	1,555	70	41	1,666	1869	370	21	41	432
1845	1,554	131	34	1,719	1870	1,994	182	38	2,214
1846	1,253	177	40	1,470	1871	5,702	165	35	5,902
1847	1,159	88	34	1,281	1872	6,987	78	21	7,086
1848	1,859	151	52	2,062	1873	663	30	50	743
1849	2,661	195	28	2,784	1874	79	5	63	147
1850	716	138	63	917	1875	1,386	71	62	1,519
1851	824	108	48	980	1876	2,839	37	45	2,921
1852	1,330	254	49	1,633	1877	3,422	148	47	3,617
1853	3,740	246	55	4,041	1878	2,166	159	62	2,389
1854	2,905	163	68	3,136	1879	630	22	25	677
1855	2,235	141	64	2,440	1880	1,970	149	43	2,162
1856	743	67	67	877	1881	3,064	112	34	3,210
1857	976	56	33	1,065	1882	1,922	72	44	2,035
1858	2,690	126	26	2,742	1883	1,377	42	41	1,460
1859	3,628	111	25	3,764	1884	1,214	27	37	1,278
1860	3,431	61	7	3,499	1885	1,389	97	51	1,537
1861	751	36	11	618	1886	3,700	75	42	3,817
1862	133	26	55	214	1887	4,108	53	29	4,190
1863	1,160	71	62	1,293	1888	1,435	53	42	1,530

Date	Grouse	Various	Stags	Total	Date	Grouse	Various	Stags	Total
1889	353	28	68	449	1931	8,569	892	54	9,515
1890	1,005	39	65	1,109	1932	2,464	575	65	3,104
1891	2,633	52	41	2,726	1933	4,004	853	46	4,903
1892	3,426	45	43	3,514	1934	4,045	822	42	4,909
1893	2,992	40	44	3,076	1935	4,002	707	43	4,752
1894	2,662	90	46	2,798	1936	6,773	649	45	7,467
1895	925	32	29	986	1937	2,154	300	67	2,521
1896	2,053	52	43	2,148	1938	5,430	265	72	5,767
1897	2,656	31	64	2,751	1939	4,947	295	4	5,246
1898	3,443	65	60	3,568	1940-48		NO RECORDS KEPT		
1899	6,102	160	54	6,316	1949	4,332	—	19	4,351
1900	5,134	238	40	5,412	1950	4,234	187	42	4,463
1901	2,491	308	40	2,831	1951	3,587	94	40	3,721
1902	2,242	210	34	2,486	1952	4,025	438	LET	—
1903	3,073	209	40	3,322	1953	1,088	274	LET	—
1904	2,634	44	48	2,726	1954	475	390	39	904
1905	5,447	109	35	5,591	1955	280	208	40	528
1906	4,901	382	45	5,328	1956	1,048	171	36	1,255
1907	6,447	540	62	7,094	1957	3,100	111	35	3,246
1908	3,110	556	36	3,702	1958	820	447	40	1,307
1909	5,269	590	50	5,909	1959	481	205	35	721
1910	10,350	881	47	11,278	1960	726	190	35	951
1911	5,466	289	47	5,802	1961	1,890	307	36	2,233
1912	3,815	643	70	4,528	1962	2,522	212	41	2,805
1913	3,235	677	101	4,013	1963	2,149	253	47	2,449
1914	1,107	441	35	1,583	1964	3,163	276	50	3,939
1915	4,811	—	20	4,831	1965	4,188	275	50	4,463
1916	193	65	31	289	1966	338	49	58	387
1917	202	44	70	316	1967	669	467	51	1,136
1918	279	12	63	354	1968	1,469	436	59	1,964
1919	1,701	52	42	1,795	1969	2,182	2,677	83	4,942
1920	3,247	25	61	3,272	1970	4,241	2,670	64	6,975
1921	6,002	54	8	6,064	1971	1,782	2,678	102	4,562
1922	10,609	119	18	10,746	1972	2,294	2,158	74	4,526
1923	1,278	39	35	1,352	1973	2,612	752	71	3,435
1924	953	82	43	1,078	1974	3,558	1,653	100	5,311
1925	1,908	165	48	2,121	1975	3,194	1,428	111	4,733
1926	4,266	104	46	4,414	1976	2,444	915	90	3,449
1927	3,036	198	13	3,247	1977	1,577	414	48	2,039
1928	352	61	34	447	1978	602 (shooting restricted)		21	—
1929	1,764	268	84	2,116	1979	NOT SHOT		53	—
1930	3,509	452	57	4,018	1980	NOT SHOT		45	—

