

# SHOOTING 1986-87



S H O O T I N G   B O O K

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SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF SPECIES

PHEASANT	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
RED GROUSE	<i>Lagopus scoticus</i>
GREY PARTRIDGE	<i>Perdix perdix</i>
REDLEG PARTRIDGE	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>
BOBWHITE QUAIL	<i>Colinus virginianus</i>
MALLARD	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
SNIPE	<i>Capella gallinago</i>
WOODCOCK	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>

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SIR JOSEPH'S PERSONAL BAG - 1986/87 SEASON

12 July Rothwell Pigeon Flight 10 pigeon Head: 10

12 August Reeth 5 drives 33 grouse with 45 shots

Very pleased to have lived another year and to be on Reeth Moor. I am in the top butt of all, that is the right hand outside butt for the up drive. I have let them all and I am shooting the eighth gun to pay my corner. That is my contribution. The longest line I think I have ever been in - I do not know since when - probably ever. George Graham is loading for me and I have got the 20 bores, 13, 16 and an ounce of number 7 shot. I have got Blaze with me, the labrador who has got a white blaze on her throat.

The weather forecast is very, very slight. It is almost oppressive, no wind. No doubt you heard the shot on the tape - four or five well grown grouse came up the front of the wall. The fellow next door shot and killed the bird I was going to get on to, but he left me one really in range because I was asleep dictating, not wide enough awake. Anyway, I let fly, dropped him hundred yards on the top. Picked him up. That is my first grouse this season.

I have come up to Lady Mary because most of these keepers want to have the best ground on the 12th. I thought our neighbours would not be up on this high ground today and we should not be putting birds on to them shooting. I came on to what is supposed to be, what I believe, is the high ground, which is the worst.

I am expecting, at this first drive, which a lot of it comes off Brownsey over this big wall, Merryfield up. Quite a good drive from what I saw when I was up here.

As George Graham quite rightly says, we shall see what is on each drive because they will not be strong enough with no wind behind them to make two or three flights to keep getting forward.

George has fired off a 'pop pop' at exactly 12 o'clock when Mark Alderson said he would be ready. I told the guns down at Surrender Bridge that the beaters were ready to start at 10 o'clock. We had better move on.

Just gone into my butt three or four minutes before 10 o'clock. We are bang on time to start with. Exactly 10 o'clock.

One of the reasons why I like to go to the high ground when it is as still as it is now is that you do not get so many days - you get fog and you get wind and you get rain, bad weather on that top ground. There are not many days in the year when it is as still as it is today.

10.15 a.m. - a bird or two came to the line. Fifteen minutes after the signal.

Well that drive with the eight guns, 9 brace of grouse picked up, 2½ brace of old and 5½ of young. 46 cartridges accounted for, but a few went missing I suppose. That does not matter very much. Actually there were 49 shots clicked.

Lady Mary up, 11.34, the first grouse we have seen. 13 brace up to Lady Mary of which we have picked up four brace. Looks like 32 brace.

12.25 - first shot on the down drive from Lady Mary. Slain by the Brigadier in good style at short range. He had not seen it coming and like everything else, they have executed him beautifully.

We were in the butts for the first drive after lunch at 2.30 p.m. First shot fired at 3 o'clock.

We are now up for the fifth drive. I am the top gun in the number 8 butt for the down drive on Lady Mary. The last drive was pretty poor.

The fourth drive we had 50 shots altogether, the whole line. The next drive, 69 shots the whole line.

13 August	Reeth	5 drives	30 grouse with 48 shots
14 August	Reeth	5 drives	74 grouse with 103 shots 1 Snipe
15 August	Reeth	5 drives	21 grouse with 47 shots
16 August	Reeth	5 drives	18 grouse with 37 shots
19 August	Stublick	4 drives	31 grouse with 61 shots 1 Snipe
Davidsons Moor			9 birds, 12 shots
Half Moon Moor			8 birds, 21 shots
Chairmans Moor			10 birds, 15 shots
Eshells Moor			4 birds, 13 shots
20 August	Stublick	5 drives	24 grouse with 48 shots 1 Snipe 1 Hare
Churchlands			9 birds, 13 shots
Rebel Hill			10 birds, 21 shots
Anglie Clough			3 birds, 9 shots
Allotments			1 snipe, 1 shot
Allotments Return			2 birds, 4 shots
23 August	Stublick	5 drives	16 grouse with 33 shots
Rosie's Birthday Shoot			
Glenhills			1 bird, 3 shots
Chairmans			1 bird, 2 shots
Eshells Moor			8 birds, 16 shots
Half Moon			3 birds, 9 shots
Upper Eshells			3 birds, 3 shots

Saturday, August 23rd. Called at 7.15 a.m. Breakfast at 8.00 a.m. Those women put one of my favourite shirts that I shoot in to the wash and I have wasted ten minutes trying to find that thing.

I had a good breakfast. Left Middleton House at 8.45 and arrived spot on at Stublick as planned at 9.45. The Allendale keeper is helping us with some of his under men and he is here himself. He is out on the right flank of the guns for the first drive, normal first drive that we always have here.

We are eight young people, Rosie is number 1, Robert Ropner 2, Jennie II 3, Jamie Berger 4, Paul Carlbon 5, Andy Monell 6, Nick Jopling 7, and JN 8. I have got Coucom loading for me.

We had four Range Rovers and one Land Rover to get in on the way here. We got Mark and Charlie Barron from Reeth. One dog, I have got Sweep with me.

It is an absolutely lovely morning, beautiful morning. Lovely white clouds and blue sky.

10.26 - I have seen the first grouse settle five hundred yards in front of me. Sister Rachel and my niece Elizabeth are pushed out on the flank to my right.

Five drives at Stublick today. A nine hour day. Leaving here at quarter to nine, back here at quarter to six.

25 August	Reeth	5 drives	68 grouse with 122 shots
Surrender Top	10 birds, 20 shots		
Surrender Top Down	20 birds, 40 shots		
Surrender Top	13 birds, 15 shots		
Barris End Wood	9 birds, 26 shots		
Barris End Stone Butts	14 birds, 21 shots		

We are up on Surrender Top and Reeth High Moor. We have had the drive down and I have killed 11. No, they only picked ten and the bird was not dead. Brother Sam was in the favourite butt, in number 3. I was one above him. Rosie in the bottom butt, she got 4. Mark Phillips was higher up. We were only numbering four guns plus Brother Sam, plus Rosie and young Jennie. Mark Phillips had nine shots but only got seven grouse, but that is a good start. There should be more now we are waiting for the return. We got just forty brace. 16½ on the first and 23½ on the second. Down wind 23½, side wind really. It is 12 o'clock. Twenty or thirty grouse came back on their own before we got back in the butts. We were still out picking up.

They soon move back on their own ground this time of the year. Out of the 66½ brace in the bag this morning, Mr. Rocco Forte claimed 13 brace, we claimed 22½. That is 25½. Miss Louise has got 6 brace. That is 41½. Captain Phillips has got nine brace. That is 50½. Miss Jenny must have killed 4 brace. That is 54½. That leaves 12 brace for Monell. Of course, sometimes there is a bird picked up by the pickers-up that nobody claims and so on, but that is about how it balances out.

27 August	Wemmergill	5 drives	64 grouse with 103 shots
	Guest of Tom Cowie (S & K Day)		
	First day on Wemmergill this year		
First Drive	9 birds, 14 shots		
Second Drive	10 birds, 14 shots		
Third Drive	13 birds, 19 shots		
Fourth Drive	18 birds, 29 shots		
Fifth Drive	14 birds, 27 shots		

28 August	Reeth	5 drives	90 grouse with 181 shots
Lady Mary	17 birds, 31 shots		
Murrayfield	13 birds, 24 shots		
Slade Head	26 birds, 41 shots		
Ash Pot	20 birds, 41 shots		
Pulpit	14 birds, 44 shots		
29 August	Holwick	6 drives	36 grouse with 65 shots
Black Arc	13 birds, 22 shots		
Nickle Hopple	4 birds, 8 shots		
Nickle Hopple Return	- -		
Silver Band	2 birds, 6 shots		
The Laird	12 birds, 21 shots		
Black Arc North	5 birds, 8 shots		
30 August	Wemmergill	6 drives	44 grouse with 90 shots
Allotments Top	3 birds, 9 shots		
Allotments East	3 birds, 9 shots		
Allotments West	15 birds, 31 shots		
Allotments Top	5 birds, 13 shots		
Allotments East	7 birds, 11 shots		
Allotments West	11 birds, 17 shots		
<p>We have killed 83½ brace on the Allotments. The weather was cool. A good north wind, a north to north west wind and pretty strong. A cool day, a bit of sun, bright and dry. One little shower. Not a lot of birds. He owes me 9 brace of young birds the Keeper does. And then there are two brace for Cowie so that means he will owe me 7 brace on the grouse account.</p>			
2 September	Wemmergill	5 drives	18 grouse with 30 shots
Sledge	- birds, 2 shots		
Top Row	3 birds, 5 shots		
Top Row	2 birds, 4 shots		
Shipka Pass	6 birds, 10 shots		
Shipka Pass	7 birds, 9 shots		
3 September	Wemmergill	6 drives	78 grouse with 134 shots
Standards	23 birds, 31 shots		
Corbus	7 birds, 19 shots		
Green Grain	18 birds, 32 shots		
Wemmergill Head	8 birds, 14 shots		
Return	10 birds, 19 shots		
Wemmergill Head	12 birds, 19 shots		



Edwin Bailey, Ian Yates, Diana Yates,  
Tom Cowie, Eugenie Nickerson,  
Gracie Ryan, Tristan Bailey, JN  
(Kneeling) Melissa and Annabel Yates



Sam and Connie Nickerson, Louise Nickerson,  
Rosie Nickerson, Eugenie Nickerson, JN,  
Rocco and Aliai Forte, Andy Monell,  
Eugenie Nickerson II, Mark Phillips

August 1986





Garry and Claire Stephenson, Lady King,  
Lord King, Jessie and Bill Thomson,  
Eugenie Nickerson and JN



Dick Walgate, Robert Nickerson, David  
Nickerson, Harry and Clarice Key, Jane Key,  
Ruth Nickerson, Eugenie Nickerson, Audrey  
and Ben Nickerson, JN, Robert Key,  
Edward Nickerson

September 1986



Fred and Jane Hamilton, Bill Flowers,  
Eugenie Nickerson, Dudley Hughes,  
Eugenie Nickerson II, Maury Flowers,  
"Chips" Keswick and JN

Wednesday, 3rd September 1986. Cloudy, very black clouds in some places. The sun breaking through. 20-25 miles an hour strong wind from north west. Just right for the Standards drive.

I was in the fourth butt from the bottom - had a butt empty on either side of me. Had a right and left on the first covey and the second covey. On the third covey I got 3 aduats and I carried on shooting, I thought not badly. Claimed 23. Mikie claimed 11 - that is 34. Fergie 10 - 44. Senator Flowers - he was at the top - 48. Chips Keswick 11. That is 59 claimed. 5 guns. A lovely drive. Got some speed on.

I am now in Corbus, the third butt from the right. Butt numbering No. 1. The two right hand butts are empty. There was no doubt on that cross wind on the Standards you can leave half the butts empty and each gun can cover two butts really, except for the top end where they go straight through.

4 September	Wemmergill	6 drives	50 grouse with 117 shots
Standards	- birds, 2 shots		
Corbus	8 birds, 17 shots		
Green Grain	5 birds, 15 shots		
Allotment Wall	19 birds, 43 shots		
Allotment East	7 birds, 9 shots		
Allotment West	11 birds, 31 shots		
8 September	Reeth	5 drives	48 grouse with 79 shots
Surrender Top Down	7 birds, 13 shots		
Surrender Top Back	19 birds, 28 shots		
Surrender Top Down	8 birds, 13 shots		
Wood Butts	7 birds, 15 shots		
Surrender Bridge	7 birds, 10 shots		
9 September	Reeth	5 drives	74 grouse with 149 shots
Lady Mary	23 birds, 39 shots		
Lady Mary Return	7 birds, 15 shots		
Slade Head	13 birds, 28 shots		
Ashpots	16 birds, 42 shots		
Pulpit	15 birds, 25 shots		
13 September	Reeth	5 drives	76 grouse with 135 shots
Lady Mary Uphill	17 birds, 32 shots		
Lady Mary Back	25 birds, 34 shots		
Wood Butts	6 birds, 14 shots		
Stone Butts	16 birds, 40 shots		
Wall Blades	12 birds, 15 shots		

1986

15 September	Stublick North Moor	4 drives	24 grouse with 39 shots
Rebel Hill	4 birds, 4 shots		
Rebel Hill Down	5 birds, 11 shots		
Glenhills	10 birds, 14 shots		
Anstys Clough	5 birds, 10 shots		
16 September	Steane	3 drives	12 grouse with 22 shots
New Meugheur	2 birds, 4 shots		
Moss Drive	5 birds, 7 shots		
Peat Drive	5 birds, 11 shots		
17 September	Stublick South End	4 drives	27 grouse with 50 shots
Glenhills	3 birds, 10 shots		
Half Moon	9 birds, 15 shots		
Chairmans	5 birds, 10 shots		
Fouth Drive	10 birds, 15 shots		
19 September	Reeth	5 drives	33 grouse with 89 shots
First	10 birds, 20 shots		
Second	5 birds, 20 shots		
Third	6 birds, 14 shots		
Fourth	6 birds, 19 shots		
Fifth	6 birds, 16 shots		
20 September	Reeth	5 drives	37 grouse with 75 shots
Murrayhead	5 birds, 9 shots		
Murrayhead Back	7 birds, 21 shots		
Ashpots	10 birds, 23 shots		
Pulpit	2 birds, 13 shots		
Fifth	13 birds, 29 shots		



Elizabeth Willson, Rosie Nickerson, Louise Nickerson, Rachel Willson, Camilla Carlbom, JN, Jamie Berger, Paul Carlbom, Rob Ropner, Joanna Ropner, Nicholas Jopling, Eugenie Nickerson II, Andy Monell.  
(Behind) Mary-Anne Nickerson, Eugenie Nickerson



Ian Yates, Tony Carlbom, John Harbert III, Diana Yates, Gunilla Carlbom, Eugenie Nickerson, JN, Wita Harbert, Marcus Edmundson



Patrick Dean, Peter Dennis, Eugenie Nickerson, JN, Susie Dean



Gilles Leclercq, Pierre-Yves Masson,  
Francois Cambier, JN, Michael Summers,  
Victor Desprez, J.S. Denton, Lady Nickerson



Guy and Irene Moreton, Connie Nickerson,  
David Wigan, Eugenie Nickerson,  
Sam Nickerson, JN, Lord Buxton,  
Charles Smith-Ryland



Paddy Shillington, William Wilkinson, JN



Edward Nickerson, JN, Robert Nickerson

22 September

Reads Island

Mallard 1  
Teal 18  
Golden Plover 2

Head: 21

I am on Reads Island, it's now a quarter past five. We've been up at the west end for two hours. It's a fresh wind, a good wind it is, a very nice wind, but very little stuff moving, an odd teal. I shot at one widgeon wide and there have been about half a dozen mallard over the south channel and five or six more mallard, odd mallard. A little flight of golden plover - I shot at two birds, one barrel each, five minutes behind the hour, killed them through the head and I am happy about that, they were lovely shots although I say it.

We picked up six teal now and we have three teal that we haven't been able to pick up. Coucom is loading for me and we have got Sweep with us, and John Hewson is away with Skip and Bess.

We came down this morning from Middleton House, there was a lot of traffic so we cut across just north of Wetherby and on the A64 part of the way, skirted York to the south and then we turned right-handed and through Market Weighton and North and South Cave. We left Middleton at 8 o'clock in the Range Rover and got to the boat at quarter past eleven, a very big tide. I stopped at the south pond near the creek, it was too late though but there had been a few duck about there, there's no doubt. I killed three teal and picked two of them up, I picked the right and left up which I was glad about.

The deer looked well and the new man Burbidge, the first time I have been on since he has been here, seems to have got on quite well from what I've seen, I think he has done some work.

I missed two chances in about an hour, that's all. It's been the slowest we've had on here for some time. A packet of pink feet geese went over which was quite exciting - I didn't count them but there were 25 or 30. I always have said that there are geese in the Humber on the 17th September, and I never remember a year when there weren't pink feet on the Humber on the 17th September, and that's going back over 50 years.

23 September

Black Springs

Evening flight

Mallard 25

Head: 25

We counted the ducks in last night. It's Tuesday the 23rd September. I came down from the Moor to the Island yesterday. Got down to Black Springs, in position at seven o'clock. A single mallard came just about seven as we got into the hide, cleaned him up. Almost immediately afterwards a pair of mallard came, and although I say it it was a very quick right and left. I can see them in front of me on the pond as I am dictating now, so, so far so good.

Eight cartridges fired at ducks, eight mallard. That's a single bird, a right and left out of a pair, another right and left out of a pair, another right and left out of a pair, and winged a further one with the same shot, and I had a double at the first one, so it's eight cartridges and eight mallard, and I have had a couple of shots on the water. Two more rights and lefts - I've had twelve shots and twelve mallard down. I've had nine rights and lefts, one single bird and killed it, and once I only killed one. Nine rights and lefts as far as I know.



30 September	Reeth	5 drives	42 grouse with 106 shots
Lady Mary	12 birds, 26 shots		
Murrayfield	6 birds, 15 shots		
Murrayfield Back	10 birds, 22 shots		
Stone Butts	5 birds, 22 shots		
Wood Butts	9 birds, 21 shots		
2 October	Muggleswick	5 drives	39 grouse with 80 shots
West End			
Transmitter	5 birds, 15 shots		
South End	3 birds, 5 shots		
Feldon Dene	12 birds, 21 shots		
Stone Butts	13 birds, 21 shots		
Hyshope	6 birds, 18 shots		
3 October	Muggleswick	5 drives	35 grouse with 80 shots
Castle Butts	14 birds, 27 shots		
Smiddy Shaw	11 birds, 15 shots		
Gold Hill	6 birds, 21 shots		
Hare Hope	2 birds, 6 shots		
Hare Hope Back	2 birds, 11 shots		
4 October	Reeth	5 drives	30 grouse with 64 shots
Murrayfield	2 birds, 2 shots		
Slade Head	2 birds, 8 shots		
Ashpot	14 birds, 26 shots		
Wall	4 birds, 14 shots		
JN Drive	8 birds, 14 shots		
7 October	Reeth	5 drives	34 grouse with 103 shots
Healagh Brow	5 birds, 11 shots		
Marks Drive	5 birds, 28 shots		
Charlie's Drive	5 birds, 21 shots		
Brownsey	14 birds, 28 shots		
The Wall	5 birds, 15 shots		

Tuesday, 7th October. Had a very nice day at Reeth with my eldest son Robert. Just two guns. Coucom loading for me and George Graham loading for Robert.

It was a bit misty and a bit damp when we started out. There was a strong wind from the west and south west but the day brightened up after the first drive.







1986

11 October	North Ormsby	8 drives	69 Partridges 4 Hares	122 shots
13 October	Ram Pond		22 Mallard 3 Teal	
15 October	North Ormsby		59 Partridges 11 Mallard 5 Hares	
15 October	Black Springs Evening Flight		6 Mallard	
16 October	Rothwell	8 drives	29 Pheasant 15 Partridge 1 Pigeon	
17 October	Rothwell	3 drives only	14 Pheasant 41 Mallard	
18 October	Mere		64 Partridge	126 shots
20 October	Reads Island		50 Teal 5 Widgeon 1 Mallard 1 Snipe	

20 October 1986. We crossed at 10.10 and I must say they have got the boat very well maintained and beautifully clean. There is a large post and rail they have put on to help get on board. Also the landing stage has been improved. I just walked on at dead level, at the right tide, but an hour after high water, absolutely right. Just walked on and no climbing about on the island side, no effort and it was absolutely lovely. It was perfect.

Mr. & Mrs. Burbidge were on the boat. All in apple pie order. We dropped in near the creek on the little pond there, on the south side. I saw a couple of teal on the way to the house and then I had an hour's sleep and a jolly good joint of silver side that had been roasted in a bag and it was absolutely fantastic - an excellent lunch and off we went.

I was in position at 2 o'clock at the West End. It is now bright sunshine and a wonderful cloud scape. I shot for five hours without moving in that hide. It was enormously cold. It was really cold and there was a gale wind. Of course, we did have some shelter from the bank, but a gale wind and it was very, very cold. The wind was from the north and the north east.

2.30 - we have now been here half an hour. I shot at 4 teal and knocked 3 down. In fact that is all we have shot at and all that we have seen anywhere near us really. Teal came in using the wind. I did not get the right allowance and clean missed him. Another single teal came between the sun and I could not get a lone on him so I did not fire at all, so that is 6 single teal that have interest in us in the first forty minutes - 4 in the bag, one we have missed and one we did not shoot at. That was the same as being missed because it was in range. Single teal, got him with the second barrel. 5 teal killed in the first hour.

Now 3 o'clock - a lovely right and left at teal, one on the right and one on the left. Another right and left at teal seven or eight minutes later, lovely! I think I have had four rights or lefts, anyway I have shot well, although I say it. I missed one easy teal and I just missed a pair, otherwise they are the only two, what I call "misses", that we have had. I have just shot another. 22 teal and 1 mallard in two hours on the West End bank this afternoon. The wind has now got strong, as the forecast said it would. West, north west is correct and cold, but tremendous sport. There has been continuous sunshine since 2.30, I would say. Wonderful clouds and it is now 4.25. 27 ducks, 26 teal and 1 widgeon down in two and a half hours.

It is now 5 o'clock. I have been here three hours and I have knocked down 33 birds. 31 of them are teal and I am very pleased. In the last hour really it has got a bit calm but it is very exciting. 33 duck since 2 o'clock, that is 11 per hour. I would say I have shot very well indeed in parts. Missed practically nothing, about 4 birds really that were bad misses or ordinary misses.

It is 5.30 - I have shot 3 in the last half hour as far as I know. 36 anyway now.

It is 5.40 - I have still got 37 ducks.

6.05 - it has gone very quiet. I am 39 birds, I think that is 6 killed in the last hour. Mind you, I missed a widgeon and I missed a teal. Almost standing still they were in the gale. A strong wind, but I have not had much shooting really for an hour. 39 I am on for the afternoon. 4 hours I have been in this hide. 6.40 - I am still shooting. We have got 50 on the clock.

At 7 o'clock we have loaded up on to the sledge. 55 from this round. 55 birds in 5 hours. It is a long time in one hide. I will certainly have a typescript of the tapes about Reads Island and about the general shooting and any entries that I have put on.

Back in the house at 7.15. I was pleased to have a little drop of whisky and two cups of tea, I tell you! The dogs worked well and we picked up at this time 44 teal, 5 widgeon, 1 mallard and 1 snipe - 51 head. We have actually lost 6 teal but that is not bad. No doubt I will have a look and see what I can get tomorrow. This is the first rain since Hurricane Charlie 7 weeks ago.

There is no doubt about it, you miss these teal in front. Every year exactly the same thing. If you can remember to check your swing you can get them good enough, but they came in just like butterflies against this gale. Up and down and sideways and it was tremendous skill needed. I think I luckily had, I think, five or six right and left side, a good right and left at a mallard and teal in the dark. That pleased me very much, a lovely right and left. I had another right and left later on at teal coming in head high.

REPORT FROM HEAD KEEPER SANTOS, NOMBELA, SPAIN

22nd AUGUST 1986

Partridge Count

Over a distance of 80 kms they counted 3,820 partridges. As they always reckon there are more unseen than seen, Santos estimates there should be 8,000 or more birds this year. (TMG advised a count of 3,316 partridges on 19th and 20th August last year). Santos definitely feels they have seen more birds this year.

However, Santos also reported that a few birds (about 100 counted), have died - of the virus you made enquiries about a few years ago. The weather is not so hot now and he thinks the other birds are not in danger of catching anything now.

Santos presently estimates that there will be 6,000 birds to shoot this year, leaving about 3,000 for breeding.

INSTITUTO NACIONAL PARA LA CONSERVACION DE LA NATURALEZA

LICENCIA DE CAZA

CLASE A - 5 8.250 Ptas.

Nuevo Importe Ptas.

7080

N.º provincial

003869 A

Titular SIR JOSEPH NICHERSON

Edad 12

Población ROTHWELL

Calle Rothwell House n.º

PROVINCIA DE RESIDENCIA LINCOLNSHIRE

Toledo 2 de Octubre de 19 86

EL EXPEDIDOR.

J. Lopez

N.º del D.N.I. o pasaporte

P 370654 E

FOTOGRAFIA

Sólo para menores de 16 años

NOTA.—La identidad del titular deberá acreditarse mediante D. N. I. o Pasaporte.

1987

1986

1985

1984

1983

En. Fb. Mr. Ab. My. Jn. Jl. Ag. Sp. O.. Nv. Dic.





There was a lot of room round them in that gale and a lot of people would not have had such a heavy bag, I tell you. Just to spend a lifetime at it. Maybe we can go on a few more years but at this age it is not a tempting promise that the providence will be able to go wildfowling to this extent.

One of the fallow deer got into the barn at the top of the hay and in the headlights of the tractor, as we were coming through the yard, this fallow deer jumped right out, over the top of the gates into the yard, out of the barn. A tremendous sight seen in the headlights. There was a big curlew flight from west to east. There was one sort of cavier golden plover which came from east to west. I did not get a shot at them. I saw two or three redshanks but that is all. There were a lot of gulls. I saw three herons and there was a feed of pheasants, about 80 pheasants I should think in that West End. The widgeon are trying to get in over that main cross bank at the West End and they are feeding out there. I think a hide about 120 yards over that bank would be a good place.

21 October	North Ormsby	8 drives	67 Partridge 1 Hare
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22 October	The Ram		16 Mallard 3 Teal
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Anyway, in position at 6.15 at the Ram with a pair of 28 bores, numbers 9 and 10, over and under. Remington cartridges. American size 7 yard shot. You can hardly hear yourself with all the pheasants making such a noise. I do not know whether you will hear them recorded on here. It has suddenly turned very black and the first duck came in at 6.15 - knocked him down, a nice shot, first barrel. It came very dark indeed as we got there at 6.15 - very dark. Oh, I have enjoyed myself, my 28 bores. Shot jolly well, although I say it myself.

23 October	The Rookery		41 Mallard
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27 October	Nombela	5 drives	110 Partridge 200 shots 3 Magpie 1 Azure Winged Magpie
M. J.P. Guerlain	Area: La Parrilla		
Mme. C. Guerlain	Gaspar		
Lady Nickerson	Valde Prados		
Mr. R.J. Nickerson	La Parrilla		Warm and sunny
Sir Joseph Nickerson	Jardinillos - not to have again because of sun Jarena		

28 October	Nombela	5 drives	92 Partridge 195 shots 3 Magpie
M. J.P. Guerlain	Area: Los Trozos		
Mme. C. Guerlain	Cerro Pendon		Warm and sunny
Lady Nickerson	Arteson		
Mr. R.J. Nickerson	Los Trozos		
Sir Joseph Nickerson	Rentilla Casa Vidal		

An excellent day's sport. First class difficult birds.

30 October	Nombela	5 drives	84 Partridge 187 shots 3 Magpie 1 Jay
Lady Nickerson Robert Nickerson Sir Joseph Nickerson	Area: La Rana Don Pedro El Pleito Navarro Valdecarrascosso Viana		Warm and sunny
1 November	Nombela	5 drives	117 Partridge 229 shots
Lady Nickerson Senor Manuel Fraga Senor Jose-Antonio Torrontegui Sir Joseph Nickerson	Area: La Heredad Los Banos Las Moreras Pililla Las Casas Cerro El Guarda		Super weather
2 November	Nombela (Mountains)	5 drives	87 Partridge 197 shots 1 Magpie
Lady Nickerson Sir Joseph Nickerson	Cantera Trochas Prados Los Riscos Los Riscos II		Very sunny. Light breeze at times.

Comment by JN : Not bad going - 44 brace in the morning - only two guns. Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Vittoria, who own the Casa Blanca, came to lunch in the mountains.

3rd November 1986. I jumped out of bed at a quarter to eight. It's surprising how the time went. Will Jacob and Paul Watkins, the new man, gave me massage for forty minutes. I dealt with Dummer and the post and a few shooting invitations, the diaries, and that sort of thing. Lady Nickerson packed up for lunch and we set forth our caravan, set forth at ten past eleven. Sorecos, 1985 Range Rover driven by Will Jacob. Lady Nickerson in the back. I've got three blow up cushions, one round my neck and one on each hip. I've got my darkest spectacles on and my American big peaked cap with a green lining, together with a bush shirt and some lightweight trousers and a pair of not much more than slippers, very comfortable.

Spain is making great strides obviously. A wonderful new road we are on towards Talavera. It cuts across, there is no need to go to Maqueda, it cuts across country and it's a beautiful road. The improvements in the village of Nombela are fantastic. It seems to me that Spain is getting quite a lot of benefit out of the Common Market from the social economic conditions and if we could only get their agricultural surpluses organised more on a national basis there would be more money in the European fund to help these poor countries. They are going to make great strides - I think Spain is going to make great strides in any case.

N O M B E L A   K E E P E R S

PEDRO GONZALEZ GARCIA (SANTOS)  
Born 13 May 1931 in Nombela

Head Keeper

SEBASTIAN MORON GUTIERREZ (PABLO)  
Born 20 January 1927

FRANCISCO BARATAS CABANAS (PACO)  
Born 10 October 1931

FLORENTINO MORON GUTIERREZ (TINO)  
Born 14 March 1929

JESUS ALONSO GARRIDO  
Born 7 November 1945

JOSE DELGADO  
Born 30 January 1948



Paco, Jesus, Pablo, Tino and Santos

We have come out on the route 5, 7 kilometres south of Maqueda and Talavera is signposted 36 kilometres. We are at a place called Santa Olalla. It's a beautiful morning, really hot, and tremendously bright sunshine. We have left Paul behind to clear up all the kit, clothes and so-on. Manolo is following us in his new Citroen 25 diesel van of which he is very proud. We are not taking his little dogs, he's got a lot of the luggage and we have a journey of 225 miles ahead of us.

There's not much traffic this morning, it's great, it's a Monday morning. I have been coming to shoot here 20 seasons at least. I've never seen the countryside so green. They've had a tremendous lot of rain. There's a hugh new building, a laying battery house for eggs, pig houses and chicken houses are going up here - a lot of capital going in.

They still take these very large flocks of sheep and goats out on the stubbles to clean out anything that's green. I don't know how they are owned, but I think they are owned by various members in the village. They employ shepherds or a shepherd, like in the days of the Bible. There are no hedges and he takes them out and they get what they can and he brings them back into the village at night.

I would describe the traffic to Talavera as heavy, a lot of trucks, quite heavy traffic. Anyway we have cleared the town by 12 noon, that's 50 minutes from departure, 34 miles. The next signpost in front of us is Alapasa, 30 kilometres. First hour, ten past twelve, 43 miles on the clock. Just passing a great big truck of transportation of pigs - they are all those brown pigs, they look a very nice conformation, they look as if they've got ham and a bit of good bacon on them, they are the kind of shape that I like a pig to be. I don't know what they are, or whether they are at all profitable, but they are like a Tamworth but much longer - they are quite a long pig, and they have the money about on some of the farms, they are half wild.

We were shooting in the mountains yesterday, just Lady Nickerson and I, and the first drive on the mountain proper, that's the Holden Wall. I didn't see any magpies on that Holden Wall drive at all and neither did Will. Then we went to the Ram Rock and I shot a very high magpie there with the 50-50, and Lady Nickerson shot a good magpie - there might have been two more. And then the afternoon shoot from the west down on the east, I didn't see any magpie on either of those two drives. I have always thought, I had a suspicion that Jesus was a very good Keeper there and he always wanted to get on the mountains. I congratulated him because I think he is worth encouragement.

There were  $8\frac{1}{2}$  of old and  $11\frac{1}{2}$  of young on the Ram Rock, the third drive in the morning,  $11\frac{1}{2}$  young and  $8\frac{1}{2}$  old picked up, so that was very good. There were some young birds reared there,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 ratio is not very good but in that kind of country where there's everything after them it's something, but you haven't a very heavy shootable surplus at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 1. On the lower ground the majority of the partridges shot looked to be old birds. I think we'll have them sorted and have a quick run through. You can see the young ones without picking them up, it makes you think. They probably lost the first hatch and they nested again and these young ones that are there, you can reckon very probably that a lot of these birds are second broods.

We are passing the Oropesa castle on our left, it really looks lovely against the sky. Still en route aiming for Trujillo, it's 105 kilometres further south. We are getting clear of the traffic now, it's a lovely road surface but it's only two lane. My theory is that they have done better on the higher and drier ground than they have done near the river on the better land.

Well, we have been journeying two hours, we are climbing up the high mountains, we are passing the atomic plants at the river at the bottom near the victory road where we went to see the colonies of vultures. That includes one stop which we had for convenience. We have done very well, virtually 90 miles and we have 125 miles to travel.

1.55 - five minutes to two. We are just leaving our lovely lunch place at the top of the most wonderful view in Spain, probably. A tremendous expanse of country, a tremendous height, and lovely mountain fresh air. You open the windows and it feels lovely and we had a little walk round after lunch, and at five minutes to two we are on the track again.

A wonderful black vulture gave us a splendid solo performance over our heads as we were having our lunch at the top of the mountain. Ten minutes past two - three hours since we started and we've covered 104 miles with only one convenience stop and another stop for lunch. I don't know if it's siesta time or what it is, but 238 kilometres south of Madrid just after ten past two, but there's not so much traffic.

Ten minutes past three, four hours since the wheels moved out of the Castilla Hotel. 162 miles have been covered, a splendid piece of driving - 5 hours, 40 miles an hour, a long lunch and one convenience stop - well done Will! That means we have 63 miles to go.

Ten minutes past four - 212 miles we have covered in five hours exactly, so it's 42 miles an hour including I think the lunch - average 42 miles an hour, excellent!

The left turn off the road on to road C437 - Usagre - he's actually at a garage, very quickly signposted 437 - 17 kilometres from Usagre. You see the Usagre river which is quite jumpable on a fair horse. It's not a big river at all but it says Usagre river a mile before you get there - that prepares you for it - turn left on the 437 actually at the garage.

At Usagre there are some very fine looking pigs running out there, but they are black pigs, totally black, slightly grey but not jet black, but you would call them black pigs.

You arrive at a signpost Llerena Castuera and you take the Castuera, don't go through the village - it's 228 miles on the speedometer of the Range Rover and we are just approaching a grain silo at Valencia de las Tores and our favourite garage man. It's 4.35 p.m., 229 miles in total from the place.

They've now got 17,000 acres here and they rent another five or ten thousand acres just with the shooting and the sheep. They have 6000 lambs in a sheep shed at a time and they have got 10,000 ewes, they look like hybrids, French and Merino, the big parents from what I can make out. Six or seven weeks after they lamb they usually return to service and they get 2.4 lambs per ewe per annum. They are trying to get three crossed in two years. They have the lambs all inside and they take the ewes outside - the ewes run out and when they are first born they run back for an hour's suckling in the morning and an hour's suckling in the evening. I saw the whole performance taking place - the ewes rush in from their trough food supplement, and rush in like an electric train coming in, and the lambs all rush towards the ewes to find their mothers to get their food - it's an extraordinary performance. You can get the equivalent of £55 sterling for these lambs and he's having a good do. He says this land is worth about £300 an acre for sheep and partridges, but of course partridges are worth £50 a brace getting on now and I think they are getting a bird to the acre. They rear 15,000 partridges but that's off about 25,000 acres, including the let land. They are not allowed to kill magpies now.

Alfredo Gomez-Torres thinks by having a short gun he can shoot more quickly and shows his index finger for all to see, bruised to bits. Alfredo Gomez-Torres - 32 grammes of lead, that's 64 grammes at every bird. I know when we have been sorting the game out with these shots somewhere else.

13,000 ewes here now.

They've picked 54 out of 58 claimed. Their handling of the dogs is abominable, two of their dogs were killed when the others sat on them a few weeks ago. They have to throw a stone into a thick bush to try to persuade the dog, or even an ordinary bush with very little cover at all, even the thick grass. They have to throw a stone in to get any of the dogs to go in, and Alfredo couldn't get a dog to retrieve a partridge to him at all. The dog work is disgraceful, there's no other word for it. The whole thing is what it is, it's a different country, it's a different system and if you don't like what happens you have no need to come.

Twelve miles from Torrijos, 12 kilometres from Torrijos to Santa Olalla, and it's 7 kilometres from Olalla to Maqueda, so anything by which it's more than 5 kilometres from Maqueda to Torrijos you gain by cutting across if you are going south. It's 12 miles from Maqueda to Torrijos so you save 7 kilometres by cutting across. The road is equally good, I would say fractionally better.

It's twelve minutes past two as we arrive at the Hotel Castilla, our base in Torrijos on Friday afternoon where we should find Mr. & Mrs. Dummer.

8 November	Nombela	5 drives	100 Partridges 4 Magpie 1 Starling	178 shots
Lady Nickerson	Cantera			
John Denton	Olivos			
Sir Joseph Nickerson	Casa Blanca Carcabosso Gorrional		Warm and sunny	

9 November	Nombela	5 drives	119 Partridges	221 shots
Lady Nickerson	Area: Heredad		Warm and sunny	
John Denton	Santos Finca			
Sir Joseph Nickerson	Ladera Huerta El Gacho Las Moreras La Pillilla			

Comment by JN on number of partridges - "If I had more birds I would have to invite more guests".

11 November	Nombela	5 drives	123 Partridges	242 shots
Lady Nickerson	Area: Barranco La Nava		Cloudy and cooler.	
Lord Forte			Little rain in afternoon	
Hon. Rocco Forte	Huerta Jarena			
Ian Yates	Fuente Alosete			
Sir Joseph Nickerson	Prado Los Montones Tomates Los Regueros			

12 November	Nombela	5 drives	134 Partridges 2 Jays	254 shots
Lady Nickerson Lord Forte Hon. Rocco Forte Ian Yates Sir Joseph Nickerson	Area: Arroyo La Parra Rentilla Casa Vidal Finca Carlos Valde Menares Granja Sucia			Cloudy start to day but sunny later
3 drives before lunch. The Forte party left after lunch. JN, IRY and Lady Nickerson continued for 5th drive.				
14 November	Nombela	4 drives	53 Partridges	134 shots
Lady Nickerson Mr. W. Gubelmann Mrs. W. Gubelmann Ian Yates Sir Joseph Nickerson	Area: Parilla El Bajaroso La Parilla La Cabana Cerro El Guarda Regueros Lecheros			Cloudy and dry in morning. Rained heavily in afternoon.
15 November	Nombela	5 drives	120 Partridges 12 Magpie	217 shots
Lady Nickerson Mr. W. Gubelmann Mrs. W. Gubelmann Ian Yates Sir Joseph Nickerson	Cerro Pendon Arteson Los Trozos El Pino Caleros			
16 November	Camarena	5 drives	87 Partridges	165 shots
Fernando Tapia Alfonso De Hohenlohe Luis De Rojas Principe Adan Sir Joseph Nickerson Lady Nickerson Juan Mojardi Jose M. Arburua D. Alfonso Juan C. Fierro Jaime Ibarra Sicre				

JN Comment: This shoot of 5000 hectares - they shoot 10 days and get 6000 partridges per season. They used to shoot 10,000 partridges. They have 5 Keepers.

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19 November	Nombela	5 drives	123 Partridges 4 Magpie	238 shots
Lady Nickerson Sir Joseph Nickerson	Area: Rana El Pleito Navarro Valde Carrascoso Valdeprados Gaspar		Cloudy, dry, but cooler	
20 November	Nombela	5 drives	129 Partridges 8 Jays 8 Magpie 1 Pigeon	253 shots
Lady Nickerson Sir Joseph Nickerson	Cerro Elguarda Valdeaguila Regueros Lecheros Tomate		Dry and sunny	
22 November	Nombela	5 drives	146 Partridges 1 Magpie 2 Athene Noctua	275 shots
Lady Nickerson Sir Joseph Nickerson	Huerto El Gacho Ladera Casa Blanca Granja Sucia Valde Menares		Strong wind	
23 November	Nombela	5 drives	110 Partridges 3 Magpie	224 shots
Lady Nickerson Sir Joseph Nickerson	Los Riscos Olivos Trochas El Pino Caleros		Dry, sunny, a little cooler	

Comment by JN on 24th November 1986 : What we are apt to forget is that the Guardas in Spain really are guards. They really spend a lot of time guarding the shoot. They can't be judged by Rothwell standards.

26 November	Hambleton	5 drives	61 Pheasant	121 shots
The pegs were set out far enough apart - excellent.				
27 November	Ram Pond	Evening flight	3 Teal	27 Mallard
28 November	Reads Island	Evening flight	2 Teal	1 Golden Plover
29 November	Tealby/Rothwell	6 drives	153 Pheasant	216 shots
	3 drives Tealby			
	3 drives Rothwell			
29 November	Black Springs	Evening flight	3 Mallard	
1 December	South Pickenham	4 drives	49 Pheasant	78 shots
			2 Woodcock	

We left Pickenham at 2.10 p.m. Just make a note of how long it takes to get to London. I did not shoot in the afternoon. George Graham was very well. I slept a lot of the way. We got on to the north end of Baker Street at 4.19, that is two hours and 9 minutes. We have been in Baker Street 7 minutes now and are just coming out to Marks & Spencers.

I used my 28 bores this morning, a good effect. I killed 49 pheasants. There were 7 guns, including David Wigan, Kenneth Keith, Edward Trafford. We had 270 at lunch. He put 3000 red posts down, sometimes he puts 4, but this year he has put 3. Luckily there was a good wind. They were not bad. I killed 20 pheasants the first drive. I was pleased about that - about 34 shots.

There were a lot of woodcock in the hazel. They were difficult to shoot at. I killed one stone dead, very well behind me. I waited for it to get safe over the top of an oak tree. There must have been 9 or 10 woodcock in there. I saw a "Montjack Deer" - that is the furthest away from Bedford that I have seen one I reckon..

There really were very low pheasant down in the hazel and Guy said to me afterwards how well they had flown. He is wonderful really, nobody likes him - extraordinary! But of course, my pheasants at Tugdale, even though he had been shooting well 10 years ago, he would pretend not to see them and he would put his gun up.

I've now been to Los Quintos since they first started. They started the place in 1975 and they got it operational for shooting in 1976 when we came, so we have been for eleven consecutive seasons, 76/86. That's a very long time. We've spent one per cent of our lives in there during the last eleven years, an average of 3½ days a year, is 1%. It really is a wonderful place for all kinds of eagles and harriers, buzzards and vultures, plus hawks and falcons - everything you can possibly imagine - cranes, big herons flying over.

There is some triticale which they grazed two or three times with the sheep, they irrigate that then they take a fodder crop from it for the sheep, but generally speaking the sheep are just ranging about all over the place. If it's dry like it is now they will have to buy a lot of imported food.

I would like to consider renting Blanc's shoot at Guedea. He's advertising it and I would like to find out what the form is - remind me.

At the house at Los Quintos, 19 miles from the house, C437 just through the Usagre. This is the absolute truth, as is everything else that I record. Just before we got to Los Quintos I said to Will Jacob, the lowest that they will get away with, with offering me a chance to shoot and me actually shooting, will be as many days as a driver year.

We are now on the 432 after 30 minutes from N432, 30 minutes from Los Quintos.

4 November	Los Quintos	3 drives	173 Partridges 1 Rabbit	309 shots
5 November	Los Quintos	3 drives	136 Partridges	242 shots
6 November	Los Quintos	Morning flight	58 Mallard	

6th November. Got up at twenty to six. I just had comfortable time. Had my breakfast brought up the night before, laid it in my bedroom. Left the house at 6.30 with Will Jacob and Manolo, down to the favourite place that I like so much that Alfredo pinched from me last year.

We are in the dark and there were swarms of duck dived in - I've never seen anything like it, bees round a honeypot, whatever you like to describe it as, huge quantity of mallard coming in. I had a few shots but it was too dark and it wasn't until thirteen minutes past seven that I was able to connect with the first duck. I think we've rather too many decoys out, we must have 50 I should think and they are 50 yards from one end to the other approximately and I think that's too far. Anyway the eagles are flying about.

It's now 7.45 and I've killed 21 mallard - I got three out of one lot, I had two rights and lefts, but I was not shooting as well as I should like to, I just had a very bad miss. I think I must have been in front of them. I have definitely been in front of them. I just shot three here with a change of guns, a very difficult rifle with the last two shots, and I think I have been in front of them, in fact I'm sure I have.

You can see the sun shining on the clouds higher up where there is a very steep ravine on one side and we are not in the sun at all, but the sun's on the lovely cloud - there's no prettier sight of these ducks coming over the top of that cliff and diving there in the water.

Two minutes to eight and killed 26 duck. There's been about ten minutes when I sent Manolo out of the hide, 100 yards or so down the water to flush everything off that has settled at that end. So far he's worked alright, he's got one drake off, and a big packet he put up between us and only got one out of them.

Ten past eight, we've got 29 ducks. For 35 minutes there's almost been nothing happening. 40 ducks at 8.30. We started to let them come in, 4 threes altogether now. Just got a pair, pop pop - missed, and changed guns and got one, so I got both of them - 42 duck on the counter now at twenty to nine. Still only 45 ducks and we haven't got another shot. At six minutes to nine, that's very good for a morning drive but not for this place, the worst since I have been coming.

Twenty past nine - 52 ducks, and the sun isn't on the hide yet, just coming over the top of the cliff. Ten past ten and Will Jacob has just set off to get the Range Rover. We had a Keeper on a horse come to look at us a few minutes ago, so that's three hours since the first shot, virtually nothing has happened for a long time. 5 green plover flying over. We've had buzzards, eagles, all kinds of things have flown over us this morning. Quite a flight of wood pigeons across the top of the cliff the other side of the river from us.

Twenty past ten, the sun is over the top of the cliff and how bright it is! It's been quite cold and I have been glad to put on my Spanish green coat. Took off my English green thin cotton coat and put on this thick Spanish green coat. I am very pleased with it. The difference between Cashmere jerseys and ordinary lambswool, you can tell when you haven't got them. It's been quite cold this morning despite the fact that I've got my goose on.

Crossing the river Usagre 30 minutes after leaving Los Quintos. I guessed I should kill 365 head the number of days on the way there, in the event I killed 309 partridges, 58 ducks and one rabbit, so I was 3 out.

We made the Zafra hotel in 40 minutes on the N630. We've been travelling two hours on our return journey from Los Quintos. A convenience stop for about three minutes. We've covered 101 miles in two hours so that's absolutely excellent. 144, twelve dozen miles from the Los Quintos house to the eagle and vulture view where we have just had lunch. We arrived at five to twelve and we are leaving at twelve twenty. We have seen a black vulture and we have seen five eagles, and we have had lunch in twenty five minutes, and it's a beautiful view. Now we are going on.

We have just crossed the river Tajo which flows from Toledo to Lisbon - a lovely river. We crossed at a point where colonies of vultures nest.

We are approaching Talavera about seven or eight miles away. We've done 200 miles from Los Quintos and altogether it's five and a half hours since we left Los Quintos - nearly five and a half, we stopped half an hour one way and another, that's five hours. That's four hours travelling, 200 miles, an average of 50 miles an hour while the wheels have been moving and this is marvellous.

There was hardly a magpie at Los Quintos but I think that's because they don't live in that part of Spain; apart from the good keeping I don't think they have ever lived there in quantity. There are no rooks, jackdaws or crows hardly there, there are not so many of those in what I have seen of Spain.

I've never known ducks so keen to get in to a place in the dark, it was really dark. They were coming in the air and there must have been hundreds trying to get in there but it was too dark to shoot at them. I kept having a try but I didn't get one until thirteen minutes past seven. They were really swarming in which was exceptional in my whole life really. I think we ought to put that in the book, and all these things want typing out and eventually getting among the papers for my book file.





Well, it is 4.30 - 2 hours and 20 minutes. We are just going past the Brazilian Embassy in Green Street. We are just coming into the tube cars at the Dorchester at 4.33. George has driven very well and I slept a lot of the way.

I saw a red squirrel at the first drive at Pickenham. A long time since I saw one, many, many years.

3 December	Hairs Pond	Evening flight	10 Teal 6 Mallard	
4 December	Stainton-le-Vale	7 drives	52 Pheasant 1 Partridge 2 Pigeon	96 shots
5 December	Ram Pond	Evening flight	20 Mallard 2 Teal	
6 December	Rothwell	5 drives	267 Pheasant 1 Pigeon	
8 December	Tealby	6 drives	92 Pheasant 1 Moorhen	
9 December	Rothwell	4 drives	210 Pheasant	
10 December	Otby/Normanby Single gun	4 drives Otby 2 drives Normanby	29 Pheasant 1 Mallard 2 Moorhen 2 Hares	
11 December	Cuxwold	7 drives	18 Pheasant	

Well, it seems very cold this morning and very wet. We have managed to kill 10 head. Very difficult birds. There is an absolute gale and pheasants are going everywhere.

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13 December	Gatcombe Park	8 drives	12 Pheasant 1 Jay 1 Rook	24 shots
15 December	Charlton Abbots	5 drives	33 Pheasant 3 Mallard 1 Moorhen	
16 December	Charlton Abbots	5 drives	84 Pheasant 1 Woodcock 1 Pigeon	

We left Westwood, Gloucestershire, at 4 o'clock precisely. We stopped for petrol with Will Jacob with a Land Rover. Anyway, the Bentley, driven by George - 181 miles in 3 hours. We are just getting on to the M18, including the stop - fantastic! 60 miles an hour.

17 December	Rothwell	5 drives	213 Pheasant 1 Rabbit 1 Pigeon	
18 December	Rothwell	2 drives Half day only	270 Pheasant	419 shots
20 December	Rothwell	5 drives Half day only JN and Rosie	87 Pheasant	
27 December	Rothwell	5 drives	89 Pheasant 1 Woodcock 2 Pigeon 1 Magpie	
29 December	Tealby/Rothwell Morning Tealby Afternoon Roman Holes	6 drives	109 Pheasant 3 Woodcock 2 Rabbit	

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31 December	Tealby	6 drives	84 Pheasant	
2 January	Somersby	5 drives	36 Pheasant 2 Woodcock 1 Pigeon	
3 January	Rothwell	6 drives	188 Pheasant 2 Pigeon 1 Collared Dove 1 Moorhen	
5 January	Rothwell	4 drives Half day only	88 Pheasant	
10 January	Rothwell	5 drives Half day only	151 Pheasant 1 Pigeon 1 Woodcock	262 shots
12 January	Rothwell	3 drives Half day only	112 Pheasant	
17 January	Rothwell	5 drives	250 Pheasant 2 Pigeon	
19 January	Tealby/Rothwell	3 drives Tealby 2 drives Rothwell	122 Pheasant	151 shots
On Monday, 19th January, I killed 120 pheasants - 150 shots with 28 bore. Felt quite pleased with myself. I picked out the good birds.				
20 January	Rothwell	5 drives	146 Pheasant 1 Pigeon 1 Moorhen	226 shots

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23 January	Rothwell	5 drives	301 Pheasant	410 shots
24 January	Rothwell	7 drives	131 Pheasant 1 Moorhen	
26 January	Tealby	6 drives	70 Pheasant 2 Moorhen	
27 January	Rothwell	6 drives	214 Pheasant	
29 January	Rothwell	6 drives	113 Pheasant 1 Mallard	
31 January	Tealby/Rothwell	5 drives Tealby 2 drives Roman Holes	102 Pheasant 3 Woodcock 2 Moorhen 1 Pigeon	



## LINCOLNSHIRE VERMIN KILL - 1986

SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APL	MAY	JNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL FOR 1986
Crow	1	5	4	6	10	9	5	1	2	4	5	6	58
Hedgehog	-	-	1	3	7	3	10	23	20	13	2	-	82
Mole	7	-	48	40	8	17	3	1	21	29	-	8	182
Rat	34	20	58	41	25	13	17	38	45	78	71	41	481
Rook	1	9	2	6	10	5	7	-	7	3	5	5	60
Stoat	6	1	10	6	7	1	14	13	7	9	8	5	87
Squirrell	1	-	-	2	-	-	1	1	4	4	6	1	20
Tab	1	1	2	-	2	1	3	6	8	2	2	3	31
Toby	1	-	4	7	14	-	8	9	2	5	5	-	55
Weasel	2	3	5	9	2	5	2	10	12	9	7	4	70
Moorhen	17	52	11	9	14	2	8	8	4	7	12	18	162
Feral Pgn	121	606	7	15	9	6	5	-	1	-	3	13	786
Coot	2	5	4	7	7	4	-	8	3	-	-	3	43
Jay	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	9
BB Gull	-	1	1	-	-	1	16	6	-	2	1	3	31
Jackdaw	-	8	2	5	10	4	4	-	1	1	-	-	35
Magpie	-	-	4	1	5	5	4	6	3	1	3	5	37
Brock	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	5
TOTALS	194	712	163	159	134	76	108	131	142	168	131	116	2234

LINCOLNSHIRE VERMIN KILL - 1986

KEEPERS	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Frankish	30	53	26	44	57	22	11	20	18	36	28	36	381
Hewson	13	54	27	34	25	9	12	6	26	17	14	19	256
Clay	10	30	30	29	22	27	30	35	34	43	26	12	328
Martin	141	575	80	52	30	18	22	40	23	41	43	31	1096
Wolsey	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	30	41	31	20	18	173
TOTALS	194	712	163	159	134	76	108	131	142	168	131	116	2234

TOTAL HEAD FOR 1986 : 2234

1986

## NOMBELA VERMIN KILL - 1986

SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APL	MAY	JUNE	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL FOR 1986
FOX	6	3	3	14	-	6	11	1	4	2	2	6	58
CAT	6	4	6	3	10	15	11	1	7	12	6	2	83
WILD CAT	2	5	3	-	2	-	2	1	-	-	2	2	19
BADGER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WEASEL	3	14	48	29	14	3	3	2	-	-	-	-	116
HEDGEHOG	1	2	8	11	10	24	7	-	2	1	-	2	68
MAGPIE	112	126	158	156	45	135	207	110	81	184	176	106	1596
CROW	1	-	-	1	-	2	4	-	-	1	-	-	9
LIZARD	-	-	22	39	124	141	53	14	1	3	2	-	399
RAT	55	206	564	446	168	44	41	22	45	18	16	31	1656
SNAKE	3	8	38	45	98	100	56	27	25	22	16	3	441
TOTALS	189	368	850	744	471	470	395	178	165	243	220	152	4445

SIR JOSEPH NICKERSON - PERSONAL BAG											
SPECIES	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986						TOTAL
RED GROUSE	3,012	1,866	1,437	2,677	1,382						10,374
PHEASANT	4,621	6,206	5,422	4,744	3,979						24,972
PARTRIDGE	3,140	2,273	947	2,741	2,318						11,419
SHIPE	35	20	10	9	4						78
WOODCOCK	43	45	31	10	13						142
CURLEW	7										7
WATERHEN	17	18	21	8	11						75
MALLARD	636	444	348	331	398						2,157
TEAL	258	847	221	191	160						1,677
MISC. WEBBED FOOT	37	183	45	18	33						316
MAGPIE	20	35	6	53	46						160
JAY	17	16	4	9	12						58
WOODPIGEON	131	66	110	139	27						473
GOLDEN PLOVER	3	6	1		3						13
BLACK GAME	1										1
QUAIL (U.S.A.)		5	16	39							60
VARIOUS	8	12	10	17	5						52
HARE	29	9	12	7	13						70
RABBIT	7	12	15	14	4						52
WILD BOAR											0
TURTLE DOVE (MOROCCO)											0
TOTAL	12,022	12,063	8,656	11,007	8,408	0	0	0	0	0	52,156

SIR JOSEPH NICKERSON - PERSONAL BAG - SUMMARY											
SPECIES	1942/51	1952/61	1962/71	1972/81	1982/86						TOTAL
RED GROUSE	982	4,282	8,625	13,938	10,374						38,201
PHEASANT	5,482	21,455	33,007	35,984	24,972						120,900
PARTRIDGE	7,099	12,505	9,148	16,110	11,419						56,281
SHIPE	86	113	196	104	78						577
WOODCOCK	179	322	312	315	142						1,270
CURLEW	88	118	7	59	7						279
WATERHEN	219	425	308	130	75						1,157
MALLARD	521	1,894	2,945	3,877	2,157						11,394
TEAL	244	808	160	662	1,677						3,551
MISC. WEBBED FOOT	400	522	107	276	316						1,621
MAGPIE	7	0	26	191	160						384
JAY	21	20	75	95	58						269
WOODPIGEON	524	2,900	2,092	1,144	473						7,133
GOLDEN PLOVER	111	86	19	14	13						243
BLACK GAME	3	11	7	20	1						42
QUAIL (U.S.A.)	0	4	8	610	60						682
VARIOUS	1,060	242	176	152	52						1,682
HARE	2,272	3,607	1,026	508	70						7,483
RABBIT	3,150	1,195	399	249	52						5,045
WILD BOAR	0	0	0	35	0						35
TURTLE DOVE (MOROCCO)	0	0	0	530	0						530
TOTAL	22,448	50,509	58,643	75,003	52,156	0	0	0	0	0	258,759

ICC  
24/3/87

1986

SUMMARY OF SIR JOSEPH'S PERSONAL BAG AT NOMBELA, LOS QUINTOS AND CAMARENA  
AND GRAND TOTAL BAG FOR SPAIN 1986

Date	Part	Cum Total	Pgn	Jay	Magpie	Mallard	Rabbit	Other	Total	Cum Total	Shots	Cum Total
27 Oct	110	110			3			1	114	114	200	200
28 Oct	92	202			3				95	209	195	395
30 Oct	84	286		1	3				88	297	187	582
1 Nov	117	403							117	414	229	811
2 Nov	87	490			1				88	502	197	1008
4 Nov	173 Los Quintos	663 Los Quintos					1		174	676	309	1317
5 Nov	136 Los Quintos	799 Los Quintos							136	812	242	1559
6 Nov	Los Quintos	Los Quintos				58			58	870		
8 Nov	100	899			4			1	105	975	178	1737
9 Nov	119	1018							119	1094	221	1958
11 Nov	123	1141							123	1217	242	2200
12 Nov	134	1275		2					136	1353	254	2454
14 Nov	53	1328							53	1406	134	2588
15 Nov	120	1448			12				132	1538	217	2805
16 Nov	87 Camarena	1535 Camarena							87	1625	165	2970
19 Nov	123	1658			4				127	1752	238	3208
20 Nov	129	1787	1	8	8				146	1898	253	3461
22 Nov	146	1933			1			2	149	2047	275	3736
23 Nov	110	2043			3				113	2160	224	3960
TOTALS 19 days	2043		1	11	42	58	1	4	2160		3960	
GRAND TOTAL	2043		1	11	42	58	1	4	2160			

1986

SUMMARY OF SIR JOSEPH'S SHOOTING IN SPAIN - 1986 SEASON

15 days at Nombela	Partridge	1647	3244 shots
	Magpie	42	
	Jay	11	
	Starling	1	
	Azure Winged Magpie	1	
	Pigeon	1	
	Athene Noctua	2	
		—	
	1705	—	
3 days at Los Quintos	Partridge	309	551 shots
	Rabbit	1	
	Mallard	58	
		—	
	368	—	
1 day at Camarena	Partridge	87	165 shots
		—	
	87	—	

GROUSE BAG - SPLIT BETWEEN THE MOORS

Reeth	884
Stublick	122
Wemmergill	254
Holwick	36
Stean	12
Muggleswick	74

Partridges UK

Rothwell	15
North Ormsby	195
As Guest	65

Pheasants UK

Rothwell/Tealby	3605
As Guest	374

Partridges Spain

Nombela	1647
Los Quintos	309
Camarena	87



SIR JOSEPH'S PERSONAL BAG - 1st FEBRUARY 1986 TO 1st FEBRUARY 1987

UNITED KINGDOM

Grouse	1382
Partridge	275
Pheasant	3979
Snipe	4
Woodcock	13
Golden Plover	3
Moorhen	11
Mallard	340
Teal	160
Widgeon	31
Tufted Duck	2
Pigeon	26
Collared Dove	1
Jay	1
Rook	1
Magpie	3
Hare	13
Rabbit	3
<u>Total Bag</u>	<u>6248</u>

SPAIN

Partridge	2043
Mallard	58
Athene Noctua	2
Magpie	42
Jay	11
Pigeon	1
Azure Winged Magpie	1
Starling	1
Rabbit	1
<u>Total Bag</u>	<u>2160</u>

GRAND TOTAL BAG : 8408

1986

SIR JOSEPH'S PERSONAL BAG - 1986 SEASON

ROTHWELL PIGEON SHOOT

Pigeon	10
<u>Total Bag</u>	10

READS ISLAND

Mallard	2
Teal	70
Widgeon	5
Golden Plover	3
Snipe	1
<u>Total Bag</u>	81

THE ROOKERY

Mallard	41
<u>Total Bag</u>	41

TEALBY LAKE

Mallard	16
Teal	4
Tufted Duck	2
<u>Total Bag</u>	22

HAIRS POND

Mallard	33
Teal	28
Magpie	2

Total Bag 63

BLACK SPRINGS

Mallard	34
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Total Bag 34

RAM POND

Mallard	107
Teal	15

Total Bag 122

## Science report

# Wintering birds lost in Sahel drought

By a Special Correspondent

Many British birds wintering in Africa have been lost because of the drought in the Sahel zone which has caused such horrific human suffering.

Two ornithologists, Chris Mead and Bob Hudson, summarizing the data in *Ringing and Migration*, show that four species, Sedge Warbler, Whitethroat, Turtle Dove and Yellow Wagtail, which all spend the winter in the drought-stricken area, were ringed in far fewer numbers in 1984 than usual, between 22 and 36 per cent down.

The number of Spotted Flycatchers, which use the region as a refuelling stop en route from South Africa to Europe, was 20 per cent below normal. Other species such as the Willow Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat and Tree Pipit which winter outside the area were ringed in numbers similar to previous years or a little higher.

The Sand Martin is particularly affected by Sahel droughts and has been decreasing since the early seventies. It was done again and the

population in Britain and Ireland is now only 5 per cent of that of the mid-sixties.

A species on the up in the list of ringing totals is the Siskin, a small finch. More than 8,000 were ringed in 1984 compared with 4,000 in 1983 and 3,000 in 1982. The increase is said to be because the species has become attracted to peanuts hung up in net-bags — especially red ones.

Its usual food is the seeds of alder and birch. But as these run low later in the winter, large numbers now come in to gardens, attracted by the nouvelle cuisine, where they are easily caught by licensed bird ringers.

The vast majority of the Siskins are caught in the South of Britain from January to March. By the summer they are back in their main breeding grounds in the north of Britain and in north and east Europe.

A bird ringed near Virginia Water on April 4 was found in Finland on April 30, 1,735 kilometres north-east. Another caught at Kabli, Estonia, in

September 1983 was retrapped by a ringer in Dorking the following March, 1760 kilometres to the south-west.

During 1984 the one millionth Blackbird was ringed under the British Trust for Ornithology's ringing scheme, only the second species to reach this mark after the Blue Tit. More than 40,000 blackbirds have been recovered after ringing, a rate of 3.76 per cent. The highest recovery rate is for the Mute Swan with more than 1 in 3 found subsequently and the lowest, 1 in 400, for the Willow Warbler.

Long-distance movements are detailed for many birds, including two Manx Shearwaters ringed on Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, and shot by a biologist 35 miles off the coast of North Carolina while on their way down the Gulf Stream to winter in the South Atlantic. They were at least 18 and 20 years old when "collected" for research.

A White-Tailed Eagle ringed in Germany was shot in

Norfolk despite being a specially protected species; a Grey Plover went from Norfolk to the Canary Islands and a Snipe ringed as a chick on a Hebridean island was shot in the Azores the following November, 2560 kilometres south.

The first British ringed House Martin ever found south of the Sahara was reported from Nigeria in 1984 but the post office there misread London for Louzon and it took five months to reach the British Museum by way of Manila.

Eleven species have now been found to live for more than 20 years and a Razorbill and an Eider Duck, each 25 years old, were reported in the year. Another longevity record was claimed by a Blue Tit which was ringed as an adult bird in 1972 (therefore hatched in 1970 or earlier) and found again in July 1984, so becoming the oldest Blue Tit yet discovered amongst the 1,280,784 ringed to date.

Source: *Ringing and Migration*, Vol 6, pp 125 to 172.

In my gallery &

Book material

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