

BIRD FEST

in Argentina

— LARRY'S SHORT STORIES #115 —

My typical trip to Argentina has been three days of dove shooting. A couple of times I've also shot perdiz or ducks — and pigeons, one time. Adding ducks, perdiz or pigeons often requires one or more changes of location, which isn't really possible during a three day trip. So, when I heard about a five day package that included all four species from one location I thought, who wouldn't want to do that?

Five days of hunting broke down into five mornings and five afternoons — ten different hunts; although one day we shot pigeons in the morning and again in the afternoon — in the same field, with a very special lunch break in some nearby shade. Doves are always the easiest for the outfitter, and perdiz are fairly straightforward; but good pigeon and duck shooting are the most

difficult to deliver on, so the outfitter must work very hard to ensure success on these birds.

Perdiz are not a covey bird, like quail. We hunted with

dogs and jumped them mostly one at a time. It's a little like hunting bobwhite singles back in Missouri, except they run a lot before finally flushing. Perdiz have white meat and are quite delicious. We had the legs for hors d'oeuvres and the breasts for lunch or dinner — prepared by the resident chef.

The duck hunting (mostly teal this time of year) was pretty conventional, a simple temporary blind near a pool of water, with decoys out front. The ducks started flying



An afternoon's shoot of doves and pigeons. There is no limit on either.

before we could see well enough to shoot, but soon we were firing away. It's hard to believe that it takes 3-4 boxes of shells to shoot a limit of 25 — as close as they were.

My favorite of all the hunts, though not the most shells fired, was an afternoon of dove and pigeon shooting from the same blind. There were thousands of doves, in small to large flocks, and a few pigeons. I shot 30 boxes of 20 gauge ammo (750 rounds) and killed 42 pigeons and 348 doves.

"Five days...ten different hunts..."

The lodge was located on a beautiful estate, 150 feet above the Paraná River. It was purpose built for hosting hunters and was a near-perfect fit for our party of twelve. It's been my great fortune to shoot birds in this country many times, but I must confess that this trip may have spoiled me. It was truly a Bird Fest in Argentina.

Midway USA

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12 June 2015



The perdiz are a true game bird. The limit is eight; Beretta 20 gauge O/U



Part of a morning's limit of Brazilian teal, shot with a Benelli Montefeltro, 20 gauge; the limit is 25.