

WOODCOCK ON BUTE 2012



FRANCO WITH HIS DOG ON POINT AND THE RESULT A NICE BREASTED WOODCOCK, FRANCO SHOT 10-12 EACH DAY ON GOOD POINTS.

The year of the pointer

We have had a mixed year warm weather high winds and torrential rain conditions, not exactly ideal woodcock weather, on the continent we hoped the conditions in Russia, Scandinavia, Finland would get colder but like us they had warmer than usual weather.

None the less we had good levels of well fed Woodcock up to 23rd of December then numbers fell to 15 lifts a day after Xmas period on the 30th we lifted 40 plus per day and I notice more thin breasted birds all young and I suspect the drop of migrants has just

started properly 4-5 weeks late. The Geese came in and duck are at a reasonable level on the shoreline, Snipe are here but on the shoreline mainly.

Well with 4 weeks to go and a group each week we hope the bird gods will favour us.

One thing I do have is good contact with many keepers in a variety of locations through out Scotland which helps to give us an idea whats happening and at best through Scotland patchy comes to mind, how many birds have

been lost in the severe winters we have had over the past two years?

Our pointer clients are allowed after the first day to work there dogs in an area we select without a guide as long as we know the dogs are sheep friendly we are happy enough to let you loose.

We are advertising direct into Italy in 2012 have appointed agents for France and Holland remember we only have from last week October to end of January book early not to be disappointed.



GOOD DAY 1 GUN 1 POINTER

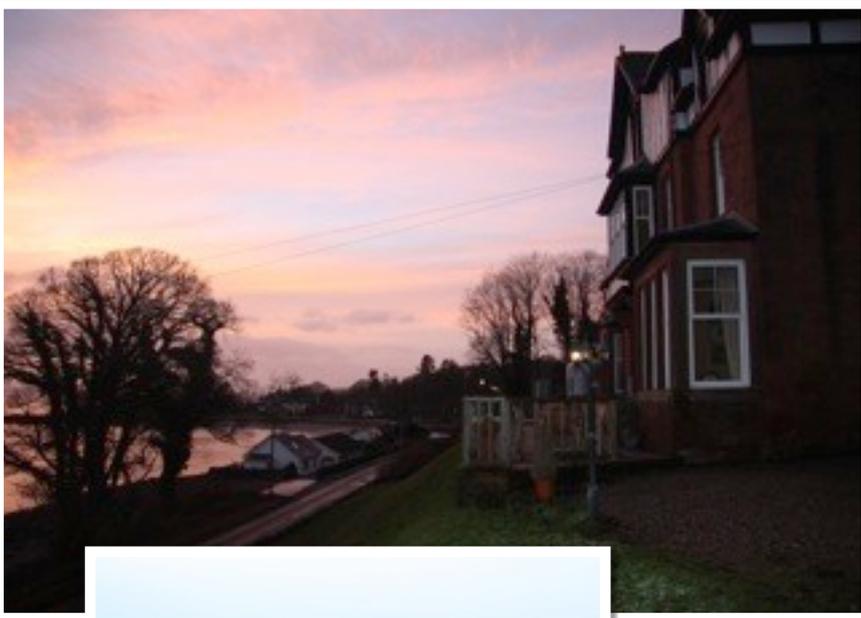


FRANCO GETTING READY



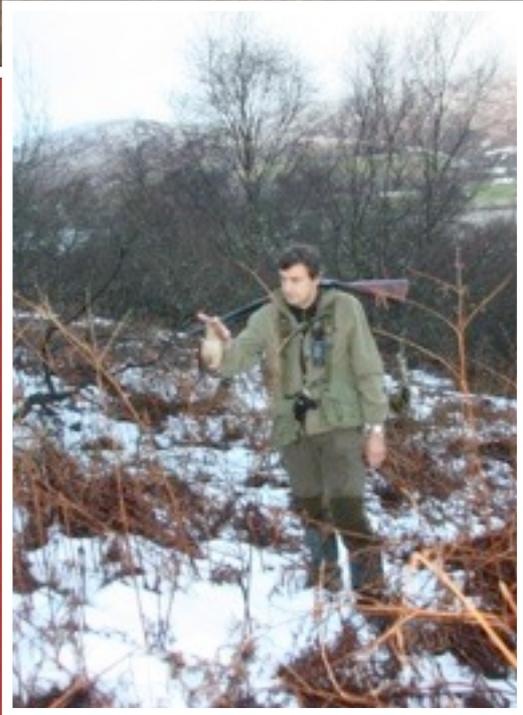
NICE MORNING

PHOTOS FROM THIS YEAR



FROM TOP DOWN - VIEW FROM HOTEL THE NORTH ISLAND MIX OF WOOD AND GORSE BANKS, GOOD POINT - RESULT WOODCOCK BEING HANDED TO FRANCO. BOB GLYNN WITH A PHEASANT AND HIS OLD DOG JESSIE 11 THIS YEAR AND RETIRED NOW. HUNTING THE GORSE BANK EDGE.

PHOTOS FROM THIS YEAR



BOB GLYNN AND FRANCO ON TOP EDGE OF ISLAND

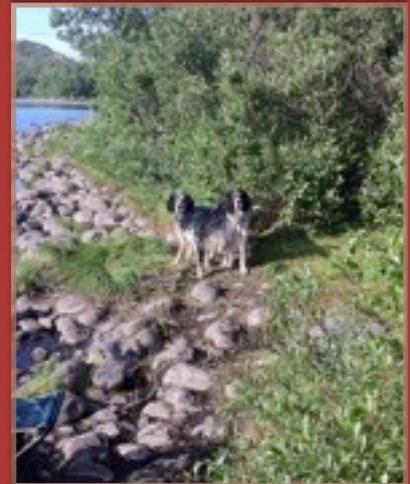
FRANCO AND HIS POINTER

A NICE WOODCOCK IN THE SNOW EDGE

PETER MCULLOUGH WITH GERMAN WIRE HAIRED POINTER

DAVID AND GEORGIO WITH THERE POINTER WITH A FEW BIRDS WE MOVED 38 DURING THE DAY 6

PHOTOS FROM THIS YEAR



2011-12 Woodcock, where have they gone!!!!

WHAT WE ALLOW

1. WORK YOUR OWN DOGS
ONCE WE ARE HAPPY THEY
ARE SHEEP PROOF.
2. FULL GUIDING OVER
SPRINGERS AND COCKERS
OUR DOGS ARE TOP DRAWER
WOODCOCK DOGS
3. THERE IS A MINIMUM
CHARGE FOR SINGLE OR
TWO PERSONS.
4. CHOICE OF HOTELS BUT DBB
SINGLE ROOM FROM £68.00
PER NIGHT.
5. PERMITS FOR SHOTGUNS.
6. NIGHT FLIGHTING FROM £50
PER GUN

Much of Britain and Ireland was frozen over in 2010-11 and subject to migratory bird ban for 5 weeks!! and this year we had spring days in December and January wholly unnatural and with the exception of some hill snow in Scotland and North England this had been one of the mildest winters in living memory and the same has been true of the continent too. And not a great year for woodcock and other migratory birds.

Birds did arrive in October end suggesting and fooling us into believing the migration was fully underway and by early November small flocks were seen in many places across the UK. As the full moon arrived on the 10th numbers still stayed low for this time of year and in comparison with the past 5

winters. I would say that on Bute and elsewhere apart from Lewis and Mull of Kintyre we were seeing 50-60% less birds that applies to all of the UK, bucking the trend County Clare and West /South West Ireland was the only place to have normal bags and in fact probably bigger numbers than seen in 10 years. South West England had patchy numbers through early season January being up to the mark with reasonable bird.

It is my personal opinion that woodcock have through a number of reasons probable high mortality past two winters and this leading to a poor breeding season but I suspect the main reason was mild winters in Scandinavia, Russia, Finland temperatures were 5 -7 degrees C compared with a

Woodcock report - where have they gone!!

-3-6 degrees and in Finland snow only fell middle of December, and the norm here was 4-7 degrees C here we would expect 0 to 15 degrees C into December and colder towards late December.

Lets assume that woodcock in the Western areas of Scotland and parts of Ireland that these birds come from Scandinavia and my hunt friends inform me that Woodcock have been excellent

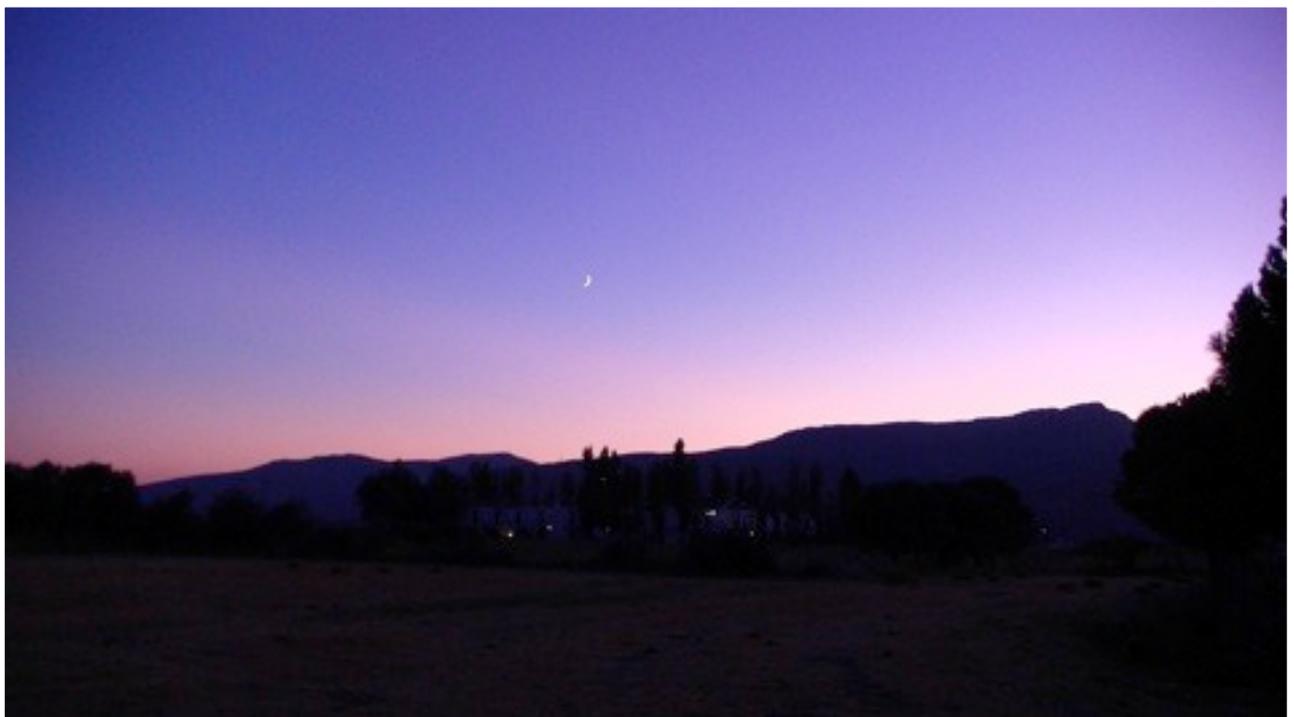
in Norway Sweden this at the time of year is un heard of - the birds just have not bothered to migrate.

Birds shot on Bute were 95% young birds meaning either a big adult kill in 2010-11 or they didn't have the urge to move West.

Home birds on Bute were in great shape and made up a bigger proportion of the bag than we would have wished.

The condition of birds was excellent and we saw nothing thin so i expect we will have a bumper breeding season in 2012.

On my local shoot at LLangollen in Wales in one small area we moved 15 birds in 2 hours this was exceptional and I believe birds are still coming in to the UK.



Top picture -walking to do the evening flight on the Isle-of-Bute, Bob Glynn and Dave Ferguson with the best bag to two guns in 2010 - 1 day!!! a woodcock makes a break for freedom