

MISSISSIPPI

LAND & LODGES

A CELEBRATION OF THE
SPORTSMAN'S LIFESTYLE

spring 2011

*the
six shooter
tradition
live, love
& land*

*a vaiden
lodge
from napkin
to nails*

*the
hunting
priest*

*paul meek
turkey call
maker
30 years
later*

*it's always duck season
according to ramsey russell*



Ramsey with a heavy strap of Argentina rosylbilled pochards

RAMSEY
RUSSELL



Mississippi's duck season lasts 60 days, but according to Ramsey Russell, it's always duck season. His GetDucks.com claims, "It's Duck Season Somewhere." That is, somewhere among a long and growing list of world-wide destinations.

Russell explains, "It's more than just seasonal availability; it's about experiencing waterfowling in its fullest context. Whether shooting Canada geese in Alberta's golden barley fields, paradise shelducks in New Zealand's emerald pastures, or swift-flying rosybill pochards in Argentina's marshes, the remainder—amenities, meals, camaraderie and convenience—are important elements.

It didn't take but a couple of hunting trips for him to realize the legitimate need for a full-service agency that makes the hunt of a lifetime a priority. Believing that for too many outfitters it's more about selling than actually delivering excellent hunting, Russell felt the need to provide a richer, fuller experience for the southern sportsman.

Russell was influenced by wildlife management studies at Mississippi State University and by his Delta upbringing. He observes each hunting location with the critical eye of a biologist; he knows a superior bird habitat when he sees it. As a certified wildlife biologist, he seasonably performs baseline documentation reports required for conservation easements, but says that analyzing and painstakingly sorting through intricate levels of detailed processes are requisite to successful sporting travel and wildlife management alike.

Russell's travel business has been enhanced by the internet. His agency stands out when compared to online competitors.

In Russell's own words, "Anyone can buy a domain, have their buddy build a slick free-ware website and call themselves outfitter. If you don't believe they're the very best outfitter in the world, ask them. If you want the honest truth, ask us. We're right here in Brandon, Mississippi, not half-way across the world, and we take your hunting success personally. We ground-proof each destination and ferret out vital travel details. Our commitment is client satisfaction. We ensure smiling clients by first reconciling expectations with the right destination and applying added-value services. With nearly 100 percent client repeats and referrals, we know we're doing right by our customers."



*World-class ocellated turkey spurs,
Yucutan Mexico*



Beautiful harlequin ducks in Alaska

He expounds, "The journey is as equally important as the right destination. For waterfowl hunters, travel can be daunting. There are waders, firearms, ammunitions, ice chests, licenses and import permits to contend with. Then there are ground transfers, car rentals, hotel reservations, local restaurants and trophy imports. A lot of hunters want to bring home trophy species, and that's fine; but there's more to it than just tossing them in your carry on. For their maximum enjoyment, GetDucks.com customers are well prepared. And when something goes awry in travel status (we once even dealt with a stroke in the Atlanta airport), we are personally available 24/7 to get things back on track."

Russell's favorite hunt is the next one, because he never knows what opportunities await. Favorite waterfowl outfitters, for example, respectively offer exceptional hunting for moose, black bear, trophy white-tail deer and more. But beyond best-of-best hunts, he is always looking for unique, not yet discovered wing shooting destinations—such as in up-and-coming Belize, which has not been commercially hunted since the mid-70s (and several top-secrets he'll not yet even mention). GetDucks.com truly does provide the ultimate hunting travel experience. All you need is a mouse click and a wish for duck season now.

Experience Ramsey Russell's GetDucks.com hunting in *Mississippi Land & Lodges'* upcoming column 'An Endless Season'.



*Rare trophy of a lifetime -
an albino rosybill*



New Zealand duck hunting



*greater snow geese along
the St. Lawrence River, Quebec*