

# Cape Barren bucket list fulfilled

**Ramsey Russell is the owner of GetDucks, a United States-based company that facilitates duck hunting experiences worldwide and has been doing so since 2003.**

**H**e has hunted on six continents and spends about 225 days a year pursuing his passion, which has allowed him to gather a wealth of knowledge from around the world including during multiple visits to Australia, where he has hunted with Field & Game Australia members and also helped with waterfowl research activities.

This passionate waterfowler has hunted diverse species in some truly amazing locations, but after two decades in business there are still some “bucket list” birds and experiences on his radar.

Here, Ramsey gives us an insight into a trip he made in January this year, leaving his Mississippi home and the North American winter to spend a week hunting Cape Barren geese on Tasmania’s Flinders Island.

## Long journey worth the effort

“Five flights later, the shimmering Bass Straight was glimpsed through puffy clouds, and ahead lay the small island that was our destination,” Ramsey said.

“Covering roughly 550 square miles, it’s inhabited by 900 people living close to the land. No antis here, I was told ... no crime either.



*Cape Barren geese have talon-like claws on deeply lobed webbed feet.*

“Cows and sheep plentiful, Cape Barren geese too.”

Ramsey said the birds evolved in brackish marshes and still bore the greenish-yellow cere to excrete salt – but had since adapted to the island’s abundant pastureland.

He said other distinctive features of the birds were their talon-like claws on deeply lobed webbed feet, and heart-shaped dark spots on their feathers.

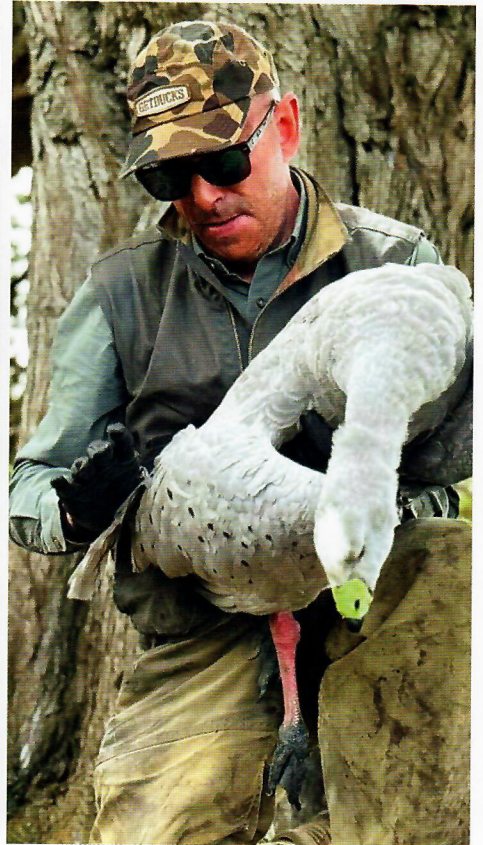
“Highly territorial, pairs and cohorts stake out each paddock across the landscape as their own,” he said.

Ramsey Russell with his bucket-list bird, a Cape Barren goose.





A Bennett's wallaby downed by Ramsey Russell.



Ramsey (right) with his fellow hunters on Flinders Island.

"It's a driven hunt for that reason."

Ramsey said he enjoyed plenty of laughs and stories around the skinning table, not to mention the island delicacies Cape Barren sausages, hotdogs and stroganoff.

"Some of the Aussies we fell in with had returned for over a dozen years, and some were – like me – first timers.

"All great people who, besides letting me crash their goose hunting party, brought me full circle to my youthful rabbit hunting

roots by way of red-necked wallabies!"

The Bennett's wallaby – thought to number about three million in Tasmania – is abundant on Flinders Island and is a permitted species for hunters.

Ramsey described them as: "Lightning bolts running scarcely a foot off the ground through waist-high bracken ferns. Far easier to miss than to hit!"

Although this journey to Australia was a short one for Ramsey, it surely won't be

his last – even though he does describe it as a "bucket list" experience.

"Spent more time travelling there than hunting – but as always, a bucket list experience defined as much by people and sense of place than simply by a bird."

To find out more about Ramsey Russell, visit [GetDucks.com](http://GetDucks.com)

You can also check out his YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/GetDucks>

KEYS FOR ACCESS TO HUNT AT HEART MORASS DURING VICTORIAN DUCK SEASON AVAILABLE NOW

CONSERVATION • HUNTING • CLAY TARGET

# field & game

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE  
Issue 33 March – May 2024 \$9.95

## NEW DAWN FOR DUCK HUNTING IN VICTORIA

HUNTING: SEASONS ANNOUNCED  
IN SOUTHERN STATES

CONSERVATION: APP TRACKS  
HENHOUSE ACTIVITY

CLAY TARGET: SNAPSHOT  
OF PORT PHILLIP



ISSN 2206-0707

