

ducks, white-faced whistling ducks and the incredibly wary rosy-billed pochards. The rosy bills reminded me of black ducks—both in size and behavior—and they are the draw for most hunters who are not enchanted by the sound of teal. Alvaro hunts them like Phil Robertson hunts mallards. They are perhaps the wariest duck in the world, and only after many passes over the Mojos would they finally commit, if they did at all. And if they did, Terry, his girlfriend, Annette, and Ramsey would open up. I would also shoot, but most times I felt I was just wasting shells.

Keep in mind this crew was in Argentina warming up on ducks and doves a week before I arrived, and by now they were wingshooting machines. On the other hand I couldn't even blame my shooting on the beat-up loaner Beretta, because we were all shooting beat-up loaner Berettas! And now three species of teal sliced the air, our guns blazed and the cameras rolled.

When the fusillade was over, I looked across the blind. With his shotgun's butt on his hip, Denmon looked a little like John Wayne as he stared with his jaw set.



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Ramsey wore an expression of disbelief. Alvaro muttered something in Portuguese. The humming of the Mojos was the only sound I heard—indeed the only thing on the water at all. That's right, there before us lay ... not a single teal. We'd hit nothing. Nada. Nary a duck of any type anywhere in sight. Although I don't know if it will air—because not getting any ducks is not great

promotional material for getducks.com—surely Nate got the whole debacle on tape.

The truth is, we took the trifecta of teal many times over that day and certainly that week in Uruguay. But unlike that day long ago on Charlie's watershed, this time I remember only the exhilarating sound of wings ... as they sliced our pride and beelined yet farther south. **dh**

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