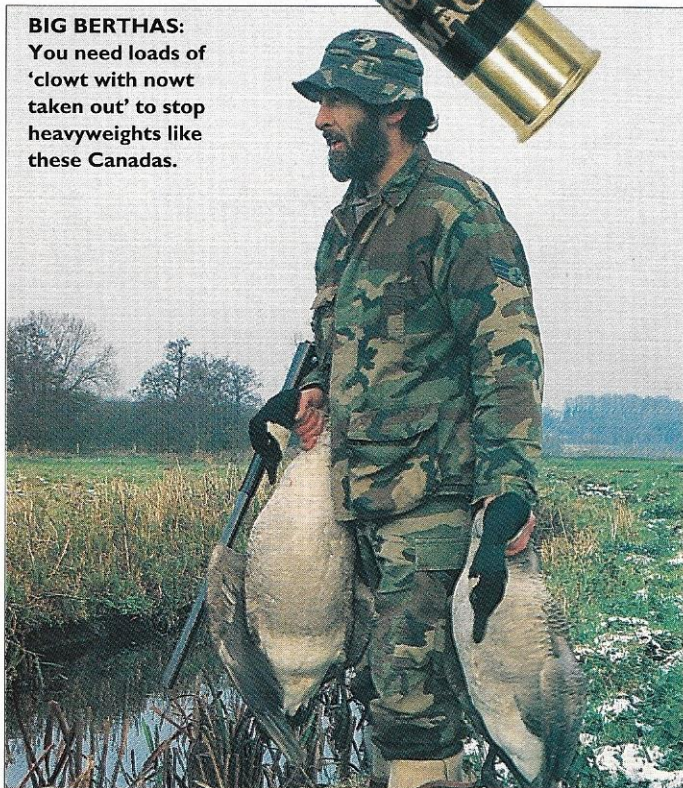


**HEAD  
TO  
HEAD**  
CARTRIDGE  
TEST

**BIG BERTHAS:**  
You need loads of  
'clowt with nowt  
taken out' to stop  
heavyweights like  
these Canadas.



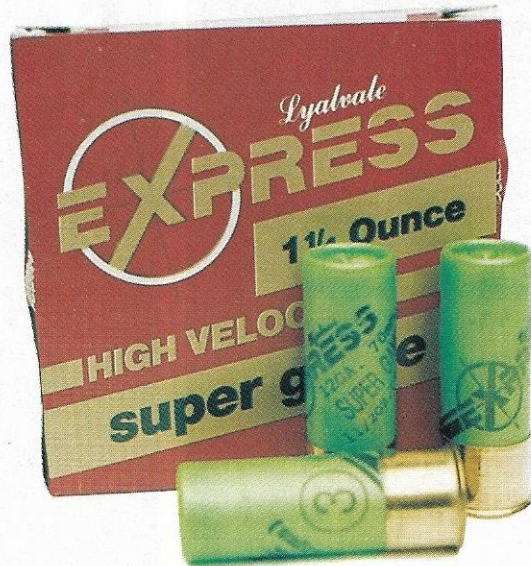
**FOWL  
CARTRIDGES**

**S**ITTING IN THE AUGUST SUNSHINE, it's hard to imagine that the wildfowling season is only weeks away. Yet, in high northern latitudes the first morning chill in the air will be reminding the grey geese that it is time to head south, and soon the great migration will be under way.

Last year, as the long summer nights shortened, I heard wave after wave of greylags and pinkfeet home in over the Moray coast, some peeling off westwards for Findhorn Bay, and others making for the east and the fabulous Loch of Strathbeg. I live by the shore, and their chattering echoed down my dining room chimney - real spine-tingling stuff!

Now's the time to tool up for the job, so what cartridges do Scottish 'fowlers recommend? I asked my local gun dealer, Jim Silvestri, and he came up with three - two for geese and one for ducks. Two are British, and the third is made in Cyprus.

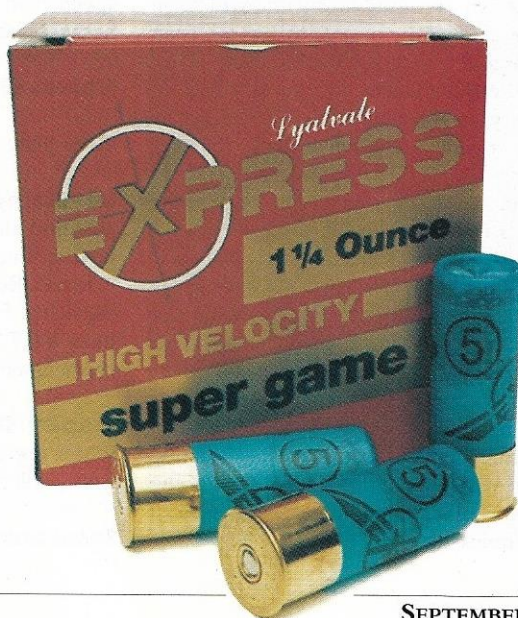
**EXPRESS SUPER GAME 1 1/2oz**



**VICTORY MINI MAG**



**EXPRESS SUPER GAME 1 1/4oz**



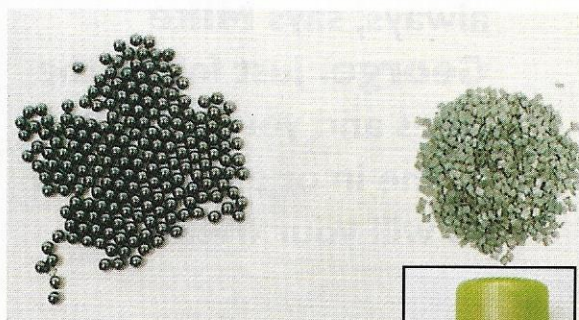


**T**HIS SHELL, IN ITS LIGHTLY-RIBBED green case with a 16mm brass head, looks the business - and its contents and performance do not disappoint. Getting 42gr. of No.3 shot into a 70mm shell is always a bit of a squeeze, but Express have reached a good compromise. Closure is with a six-star crimp.

The shot was true to size, and recorded 16 per cent hardness. This sounds devastatingly hard, but the conventional crush test goes off-scale with pellets this big. It's just right for lethal penetration into big, tough birds. Plastic wad is by B&P, and powder is Vectan.

Muzzle velocity is 1,360 ft/sec, which gives a down-range, observed figure of approximately 1,160, depending on shot size.

Pressure is 650 bars. Express load to these figures to provide lethal performance at range, yet to keep recoil within reason with such a big charge of lead.



**LETHAL performance with acceptable pressures.**

## ● VERDICT

**Excellent, goose-getting performance without the need to invest in a magnum-chambered gun.**



### SPECIFICATION

<b>LOAD:</b> 42 gram
<b>SHOT (size):</b> English 3
<b>SHOT (crush):</b> 16%
<b>POWDER:</b> Sage coloured Vectan
<b>WAD:</b> Plastic B&P
<b>MIN. CHAMBER:</b> 2¾
<b>CASE (size):</b> 70mm
<b>CRIMP:</b> 6 star
<b>PRESSURE:</b> 650 bar
<b>VELOCITY Muzzle:</b> 1,360 ft/sc
<b>VELOCITY Observed:</b> 1,160 ft/sc
<b>PRICE (Approx):</b> £ 130per 1,000

**T**HIS SHELL IS A TOP FAVOURITE among goose guides. The black, 70mm case has a 16mm brass head and is closed with a six-star crimp.

They're made in Cyprus by G&L Calibers. The shot was accurate to English size 3, and registered 19 per cent crush hardness - again, off-scale for the test, but within range for good penetration and tight patterns. It was contained in Victory's own "Power Piston" wad, which is simple but very effective. Propellant is Vectan.

Like all Mini-magnums, the shell develops a lively recoil through a medium-weight Sporter - which must have Magnum proof - but you don't fire that many in a string. One of the heavier Berettas would be ideal.

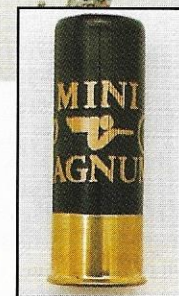
Muzzle velocity is 1,453 ft/sec, with a down-range, observed figure of 1,187 ft/sec. Pressure is 767 bars.



**TIP TOP: But make sure your gun is semi-magnum proofed.**

## ● VERDICT

**A proven goose-getter, and one of the hottest mini-magnums on the market.**



### SPECIFICATION

<b>LOAD:</b> 40 gram
<b>SHOT (size):</b> English 3
<b>SHOT (crush):</b> 19%
<b>POWDER:</b> Multi coloured flake
<b>WAD:</b> Victory power piston
<b>MIN. CHAMBER:</b> 2¾
<b>CASE (size):</b> 70mm
<b>CRIMP:</b> 6 star
<b>PRESSURE:</b> 767 bar
<b>VELOCITY Muzzle:</b> 1,453 ft/sc
<b>VELOCITY Observed:</b> 1,187 ft/sc
<b>PRICE (Approx):</b> £ 130 per 1,000

**A** LONG WITH THE GOOSE SHELLS, we thought we'd try one for high ducks, so chose this shell with No.5 shot. The case is similar in construction to the 1½oz. offering, but in pale blue.

Shot was accurate to size, round and well-polished, and recorded a crush hardness of 24 per cent. That's hard enough to pattern tight, and penetrate at the limits of sensible, sporting range. It is carried in a B&P plastic wad.

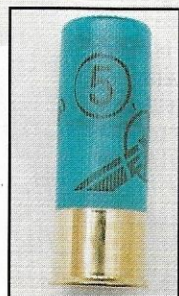
The Vectan powder is a little faster-burning than that in the heavier shell, and velocities are a little higher too - 1,375 ft/sec at the muzzle, and around 1,170 down-range. Pressure is the same - 650 bars. Again, performance is a good compromise between long-range lethality and shooting comfort, acknowledging that a lot of duck shooting is done with relatively light game guns.



**BALANCED components have created a great all-round duck-getter.**

## ● VERDICT

**An excellent duck shell for those high-fliers, and relatively comfortable on the shoulder.**



### SPECIFICATION

<b>LOAD:</b> 36gram
<b>SHOT (size):</b> English 5
<b>SHOT (crush):</b> 24%
<b>POWDER:</b> Sage coloured Vectan
<b>WAD:</b> B&P
<b>MIN. CHAMBER:</b> 2¾
<b>CASE (size):</b> 70mm
<b>CRIMP:</b> 6 star
<b>PRESSURE:</b> 650 bar
<b>VELOCITY Muzzle:</b> 1,375 ft/sc
<b>VELOCITY Observed:</b> 1,170 ft/sc
<b>PRICE (Approx):</b> £ 120 per 1,000