

GEAR 2016: SHOTGUNS & SHOOTING

- this year. To mark the occasion, Benelli has created two anniversary models: a limited production SBE II Flyway model (only 400 available in each flyway) and an SBE II 25th Anniversary Limited Edition. The former is a beautifully crafted shotgun with a AAA-Grade, oil-finished American walnut stock, and gold inlaid flyway-specific waterfowl scenes on nickel-plated receivers. The latter is available in black Cerakote or Realtree Max-5, with premium upgrades such as a brushed nickel bolt, and an over-sized bolt handle and release. benelliusa.com
- 2 ▶ Featuring stock dimensions tailored to the female form, the Franchi Affinity Catalyst is a 3-inch, inertia-driven, semi-automatic 12-gauge shotgun. The Affinity Catalyst's stock dimensions can be further fitted using the supplied shim kit, and length of pull adjusts with separately-sold recoil pads. From its 28-inch blued barrel to its A-grade walnut stock, this shotgun looks as good as it performs. Three chokes are included (IC, M, F), while five other sizes are available. franchiusa.com
- 3 ▶ Known as a budget-friendly, quality firearm, the Stoeger P3000 is a 3-inch, 12-gauge pump-action shotgun that's as easy to shoulder as it is on your wallet. Fitted with a black synthetic stock, it has a machined aluminum receiver and matching 28-inch barrel. A red-bar front sight finds its mark quickly as ducks drop into the blocks. Hauling this shotgun into the marsh is a cinch, as it comes equipped with a front swivel stud to attach a sling. stoegerindustries.com
- 4 ▶ Remington V3 Field Sport shotgun features the VersaPort gas system, enabling the 12-gauge autoloader to soften recoil while reliably cycling everything from the lightest target loads to 3-inch magnums. Available in black synthetic or a camo dip, it ships with improved cylinder, modified and full Rem Chokes. Barrels are available in 26- or 28-inch lengths depending on the finish. Buy with peace of mind, because starting in 2016, Remington's full line of firearms comes with a limited lifetime guarantee. remington.com
- 5 ➤ Waterfowl hunters simply demand certain features in a shotgun, and the Mossberg 930 & 935 Magnum Pro-Series Waterfowl 12-gauge, semi-auto shotguns provide all of them and more. Internal components are boron nitride-coated for corrosion resistance. Moving parts such as bolt slides and elevators receive additional coatings to reduce friction, resulting in smoother cycling. Both the 3-inch 930 and







3½-inch 935 shotguns have 28-inch, vent-rib barrels with fiber-optic front beads. Stock fit can be customized using Mossberg's Stock Drop System, and three choke tubes are included. mossberg.com

6 ► Known for speed and reliability, the Winchester Super X Pump Waterfowl Hunter is now available in a light-framed 20-gauge. Couple its nimble heft with Winchester's ultraslick, inertia-assisted rotary bolt — which pumps the action almost in response to recoil alone — and you'll be doubling up on teal as they race past your blind. It is offered with either 26- or 28-inch barrels, a camo dip and three Invector-Plus chokes. winchesterguns.com

7 ▶ Fabarm XLR5 Waterfowler inherits its innovative characteristics from XLR5 competition shotguns. It's a 3-inch, gas-operated semi-auto shotgun fueled by Fabarm's Pulse Piston system, which cycles all types of ammo without the need for a valve system. Fewer parts mean easier cleaning and ultimately increased reliability. A tapered 28- or 30-inch Tribore barrel, in combination with a specially designed choke, uniquely allows the XLR5 to safely shoot non-toxic ammo with an extra full choke. Other waterfowler-friendly features include an oversized trigger guard, safety, magazine cut-off and extended bolt handle. fabarmusa.com

8 Weatherby adds a new waterfowling shotgun to its line of inertia-operated semi-automatics: The Weatherby Element Waterfowler Max-5. Available in 12- or 20- gauge with 26- or 28-inch barrels, the reliable shotgun is concealed by Realtree Max-5 and includes spacers and shims to achieve a perfect stock fit. Four choke tubes are included: IC, M, F and Long Range Steel. weatherby.com

9 ► Syren XLR5 Waterfowler has all the reliability of its Fabarm cousin, but it's engineered to suit female hunters. Rather than trying to shoehorn a fit using a youth or standard shotgun, Syren has completely re-designed a stock to fit the contours and proportions of women. The 12-gauge, gas-operated shotgun weighs just over 7 pounds, making it light enough to be nimble, while still having enough heft to help soak up the 3-inch magnums for which it is chambered. Additional features include a 28-inch Tribore barrel, five choke tubes and Realtree Max-5 camo. syrenusa.com

10 ▶ Smith & Jackson's Instructor Shotgun Sight is a training tool that provides a quick visual-reminder of sight alignment. With a proper sight picture, a green fiber-optic indicates you're good to go. Seeing red means that something is not quite right — either your head is lifted or your cross-dominant eye is picking up the front sight. The sight is available in a number of sizes to fit any shotgun rib. It's like having a shooting coach attached to the end of your barrel. instructorsight.com