

TOM ROSTER'S 2016 NONTOXIC SHOT LETHALITY TABLE[©]

Proven Nontoxic Loads For Waterfowl, Doves, & Upland Game Birds¹ <i>Vel. Range Tested: 1,225 – 1,700 FPS</i> ACTIVITY	Observed Hunters' Typical Shooting Range During Activity (Yards)	Most Effective Nontoxic Shot Size(s) For Birds Listed Under ACTIVITY At The Distances Listed In The Second Column	Minimum Load Weight (Ounces)	Minimum Pellet Hits Needed on Lethal Areas for Clean Kills	Minimum Pattern Count Needed at Any Distance for Clean Kills (# of Pellets in 30" Circle)	Most Effective Choke(s) at Distance (Given in Lead Shot Choke Designations)	NOTE: The pellets in the steel shot loads listed in this table were traditional, highly spherical ball-shaped pellets of ~ 7.86 g/cc density and 90-95 DPH hardness. The HEVI-Shot pellets were of 12.0 g/cc density and are harder than traditional steel pellets.
Large Geese At Long Range Giant, Western, Atlantic and Interior Canadas	50-65	Steel BBB to T	1-1/4	1-2	50-55	Improved Modified	
	50-70	HEVI-Shot 2 to B	1-1/2	1-2	50-55	Improved Modified, Full	
Large Geese Over Decoys	35-50	Steel BB to BBB	1-1/4	1-2	50-55	Improved Cylinder, Modified	
	35-50	HEVI-Shot 2 to B	1-1/2	1-2	50-55	Improved Cylinder, Modified	
Medium/Small Geese Long Range Snow, White-fronted, Lesser Canadas	50-65	Steel BB to BBB	1-1/4	1-2	60-65	Improved Modified	
	50-65	HEVI-Shot 2	1-1/2	1-2	60-65	Improved Modified, Full	
Medium/Small Geese Over Decoys	35-50	Steel 2 to BB	1-1/8	1-2	60-65	Light Modified, Modified	
	35-50	HEVI-Shot 4 to 2	1-1/4	1-2	60-65	Improved Cylinder, Modified	
Large Ducks At Long Range Mallard, Black, Pintail, Goldeneye, Gadwall	45-65	Steel 2 to 1	1-1/8	1-2	85-90	Improved Modified, Full	
	45-65	HEVI-Shot 4	1-1/4	1-2	85-90	Improved Modified, Full	
Large Ducks Over Decoys	20-45	Steel 6 to 2	3/4 - 1	1-2	85-90	I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds)	
	20-45	HEVI-Shot 6 to 4	1-1/8	1-2	85-90	I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds)	
Medium Ducks Over Decoys Wigeon, Scaup, Shoveler	20-45	Steel 6 to 3	1	1-2	115-120	I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds)	
	20-45	HEVI-Shot 6 to 4	1-1/8	1-2	115-120	I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds)	
Small Ducks Over Decoys Teal, Ruddy, Bufflehead	20-45	Steel 6 to 4	1	1-2	135-145	Mod. (20-35 Yds), Full (35-45 Yds)	
	20-45	HEVI-Shot 6	1-1/8	1-2	135-145	Mod. (20-35 Yds), Full (35-45 Yds)	
Ring-Necked Pheasants	20-50	Steel 3 to 2	1	2-3	90-95	I.C. (20-30 Yds), Mod. (30-50 Yds)	
	20-50	HEVI-Shot 6 to 4	1-1/8	2-3	90-95	I.C. (20-30 Yds), Mod. (30-50 Yds)	
Turkeys (Head and Neck Shots)	20-40	Steel 4; HEVI-Shot 6	1-1/4	3-4	210-230	Full or Extra Full	
Mourning Doves	20-45	Steel 8 to 7	5/8 - 3/4	1-2	200-210	IC-8's/LM-7's (20-30 Yds); Mod>30 Yd	
	20-45	HEVI-Shot 7 1/2	3/4	1-2	200-210	I.C. (20-30 Yds); Light Mod (30-45 Yd)	
Northern Bobwhite Quail	20-30	Steel 8 to 7	5/8 - 3/4	1-2	200-210	Imp. Cyl., Light Modified	
Swatter Load For Wounded Birds	20-30	Steel 7 to 6	1	1	175	Improved Modified, Full	

This table summarizes Tom Roster's analyses to date of the lethality data bases for certain of the 16 U.S. steel vs lead waterfowl & dove shooting tests published between 1968 & 2014 & one steel-only pheasant shooting test (1999) plus lethality data bases owned by ammunition companies for birds taken with nontoxic shotshell loads Roster tested for them & the CONSEP Org. Note: Steel #BBB (.190") & HEVI-Shot #2 (.150") have exhibited the best all-around performance for taking geese; steel #3 (.140") & HEVI-Shot #4 (.130") the best all-around performance for taking ducks; steel #2 & HEVI-Shot #4 (.130") the best all-around performance for taking ring-necked pheasants; & steel 7's (.100") the best all-around performance for taking doves.

¹These findings are derived from testing 2 3/4" 28 gauge; 3" 20 ga.; 2 3/4", 3" & 3 1/2" 12 ga.; & 3 1/2" 10 ga. steel loads; plus 2 3/4" 28 ga.; 2 3/4" & 3" 20 ga.; and 2 3/4" & 3" 12 ga. HEVI-Shot loads.

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