

Upland Idaho

Date	December 29, 2005	Time	All day
Location	Big Willow Creek – Emmett	Weather	Overcast, slight breeze, no snow
Species	Hungarian Partridge & Chukar; We also saw Quail and Pheasants on the way.		
Harvested	6 Huns, 1 Quail along the creek		
Comments	I harvested my first 2 Huns over Zealot's (Karl's dog) point. We saw over 100 Huns and a dozen Chukar but it wasn't a walk in the park.		

It was a beautiful day despite the week of rain and the forecast of several more days of rain. Karl and I caught a break in the weather and it was a hunt to remember. We started the day with a 30 minute steep hike to get up where the birds were. I was thinking this better be worth it. We got to the top and Karl said “get ready, I usually flush Chukar off this knoll”. We were about half way across the rocky ridge covered with brush and cheat grass when Chukar started flying. I missed a good opportunity for a bird.

We continued up and along the ridgeline and a large group of Huns flushed down the hill from us and out of range. Karl said that they were being very skittish for some reason. We continued the hike over a couple of saddles without much fresh sign of birds. After a couple of hours, we got to the point where it was time to start working down the adjacent ridge back to the truck. We didn't get far when Zealot went on point. Karl was up higher on the ridge watching! I ran to get up to her and then slowed as I passed her getting ready for the flush. I didn't go ten yards when 8 birds flushed from about 20 yards away. I bore down and was relieved as I saw the explosion of feathers and a bird drop and roll down the hill. Karl let out a yahoo and it wasn't long before Zealot had retrieved my first Hun. I gave Zealot a good scratch under the ear and said “good dog”. The picture perfect point of Zealot, the bird falling and the retrieve will forever etched into my memory.



That bird and being able to work with Zealot made the long hike worth it but the fun was just beginning. Karl soon flushed a Hun from the top of the ridge and I watched as he shot and dropped it from the sky. Zealot flushed another couple of coveys just out of range but we watched where they landed just around the hill. There were lots of birds on this ridge. We decided to hike to the top of the ridge and drop down and walk the other side. Our plan worked as Zealot went on point. Karl and I each got a bird from the flush.

Karl followed the birds to the adjacent ridge and planned on side hilling back to the truck. I decided to follow the same ridge down to the road and walk the creek back down to the truck for the possibility of a quail. As I was walking down the hill I heard a couple shots from high up on the ridge. I looked up and Karl had dropped two birds from a flush of about 60 birds. I made it to the road and had just crossed the fence to walk along the creek when I flushed 6 Huns. I missed what should have been my third bird. Karl and I met up at the truck to eat a sandwich and Zealot went down by the creek. Karl went to check on her and saw that she was on point. She flushed a few quail as Karl dropped one of them.

We hunted one other area down a ridge for a couple of hours and followed the creek back up. We didn't see any quail but Karl got him another Hun. It was a very fun hunt that gave me plenty of shooting and hopefully I lost some holiday pounds. The experience of watching the dog is probably more rewarding than actually shooting the bird. Thanks for the great memories Karl!



