



Upland Idaho Wingshooter's Terms, Phrases and Slang

These words or phrases are used while hunting upland game birds; there is some overlap to dog training or shooting

UplandIdaho.com - The upland hunting forum on the Web with the best members.

Backing – when a dog goes on point behind another dog

Big Runner – a dog that hunts at a long distance from the hunter

Birdie – a recognizable change in a dog's behavior when they come across bird scent

Birds Held – while a dog is on point the birds don't flush until the hunter flushes them

Bootlicker – a dog that stays too close to the hunter during a hunt

Bowl – a depressed area of the terrain compared to the surrounding area

Broke Dog – pointing dog that doesn't break point until released by the handler

Bumped the birds – usually used when a dog flushes birds before a shot can be taken

Busted Birds/Covey – bird(s) that are spooked to take flight by the hunter or dog

Busting Brush – when a dog or hunter is moving through thick woody vegetation to locate or flush birds

Covey – a group of upland birds

Covey Rise – when a group of upland birds take flight simultaneously

Creeping – the slow movement forward by a dog on point instead of holding point

Cutting the Wind – a purposeful movement of the dog in a somewhat perpendicular direction to the wind to locate birds

Double – harvesting two birds from a single flush with multiple shots

Downwind – the location of the dog relative to the wind compared to the birds

Devil Bird – slang for chukar

Ditch Chicken – slang for ring-necked pheasant

Green Up – areas that have new growth of grass

Ground Pound – shooting a bird that is standing on the ground

Escape Cover – vegetation, usually thicker or in areas not regularly used by the species being hunted to avoid the hunter

Fair Chase – a conscious choice by the hunter to not use hunting or game locating techniques that would result in the game not having some advantages of avoidance or escape

Flagging – a pointing dog who's tail wags while on point

Flash Point – a momentary point

Fool's Hen – slang used for forest grouse; most often spruce (Franklin), Dusky (Blue), Sooty (Blue)

Hold them or Held 'em – when a dog goes on point in a position that is close enough that the bird(s) want to remain hidden instead of flushing or running

Holding Point – when a dog remains staunch on point for any duration of time that allows the hunter to get within range

Honoring – when a dog backs another dog on point it is said to be respecting the first dog's find by not pushing in front of the first dog

Hun – slang for Hungarian Partridge

Kick & Shoot Birds – a derogatory statement about pen-raised birds and how you have to hunt them

Limited – harvesting the maximum number of a species of birds the law allows in a single hunt

Locked up – a dog on point

Mixed Bag – a harvest of multiple species in a single hunt

Old Scent – scent detected by a dog when there are no longer any birds there

Pin them - when a dog goes on point in a position that is close enough that the bird(s) want to remain hidden instead of flushing or running

Pointer – an English Pointer

Rangy - a dog that hunts at a long distance from the hunter

Ranging – the distance away from the hunter a dog typically stays during a hunt

Relocate – when a pointing dog breaks point to move to another point on the same bird(s)

Ridgeline – a line formed along the highest points of a mountain ridge usually separating two adjacent streams or watersheds

Rimrock – rock face forming the natural boundary of a plateau or other rise in the landscape

Scotch Double – harvesting two birds on the wing with a single shot

Scotch Triple – harvesting three birds on the wing with a single shot

Sharpie – slang for sharp-tailed grouse

Sentry – in a covey of birds it is thought that one bird will serve as a look out

Sidehill – walking somewhat parallel to a ridge line across the face of a slope

Sky Busting – shooting at birds overhead

Sluice – shooting a bird that has not taken flight; it could be on the ground, limb or water

South Facing Slope – the direction the face of a slope is facing, could be any direction

Swat – shooting a wounded bird from a previous shot on the ground before it can take flight again

Triple – harvesting three birds from a single flush with multiple shots

Upwind – refers to the location of the dog relative to the wind compared to the birds

Wild Birds – skittish birds that are flushing or running in a way that makes it difficult to get within gun range

Wild Flush – when bird(s) take flight out of gun range simply because they have seen the dog or hunter

Winged – not making a solid connection with your shot, resulting in a wounded bird

Wingshooting – shooting birds while they are in flight