



## **Chukar/Hun Hunts**

### **January 2008**

I went hunting with Karl DeHart a couple of times this month north of Emmett, ID. You can expect many Huns and a few Chukar. We hunted several ridges up and down the canyon and got into birds on every drive. This is winter range for Deer and Elk which we saw many of. We also saw several Coyotes a Fox a Porcupine and several Raptors.

#### **Hunt 1**

During the first hunt the snow covered most areas but we had patches of open southern slopes where the birds usually congregated. As we hit one of these areas we flushed a covey of Huns that Z had pointed and decided to follow them since we saw where they landed. It was right in the bottom of a draw. As we approached, the birds flew away before we could get a good shot. The birds were very skittish. Several coveys flushed before we could get into shooting range.



I told Karl I was heading up the draw because there were more birds that flew in than flew out. Z followed me and soon she was on point. I walked around in a group of shrubs where she was pointing but could not get anything to flush. After several minutes I walked back down to Z who was still on point. I noticed a set of bird tracks going under a log. I soon realized that this is what Z was pointing at. As I approached Z was at the log

with her nose near the opening. I pulled her back and took a look and could not see anything. As I stood up Z started nosing around and I heard a chirp. I got my gun ready. Before I knew it Z came out with a Hun in her mouth. I was amazed. Who needs a gun! This was Z's first bird by herself.

On this same push up the ridge we flushed a rabbit and we both got a few shots off. It ran over the ridge and we thought that was the end of it. We reached a knoll we wondered where Z was and were determining where we would hike next. As we were sitting there talking, Z comes up over the hill with the rabbit in her mouth. It is so nice to hunt with a good dog!



Z had several points throughout the day and Karl and I both got a bird or two. The last drive of the day was a steep hike up to the top of a high ridge. As I summit the ridge my first view is a herd of Elk just on the other side, one being a nice Bull. There ended up being 40 to 50 Elk in the herd. There were also many deer and we saw several nice buck throughout the day. It was a great hunt and a good way to start out the new year.





## Hunt 2

I went hunting with Karl again and also with Derick whom Karl met on the Upland Idaho website. Derick had a half day to hunt so we hunted the lower stretches of the canyon in the morning and Karl and I went higher up the canyon in the afternoon.

We had fresh snow and it started out very cold with the wind. We made our way up the ridge surrounded by very promising prospects of a bird flushing at any moment. It was a while before we were startled by four Huns that flushed off to our right. We continued walking and saw many more Deer, Elk, Coyotes and a Fox as we hiked across the slippery steep ridge.



As we swung around making our way back lower on the ridge, and as Derick was crossing the fence, a covey of Huns flushed down to a draw below us. We decided to follow them down and do a sneak. It paid off as we shot and Derick came away with a bird.



Later in the day Karl and I were hiking a ridge and flushed a covey of Huns. We watched them as they glided around the ridge and suddenly half of them came flying right back toward us. One dove out of the air and into a snow bank. It bounced off the ground, gained conciseness and flew off. It must have miscalculated the depth of the snow. It was soon apparent what had happened as a Prairie Falcon began hovering over the ridge. It was quite a sight to witness.

We hiked over the ridge where all the action was taking place and I was able to flush and drop a Hun that was hiding from the Prairie Falcon. Z had a few points on the day and it was another eventful hunt and a good way to close the season.

It's amazing the things you can witness when you take the time to get out into nature!

