43 Field Card: Birds and Bird Dogs

Your bird papers, this season's limits, what the dog needs and the plan for every bird that falls, folded into a vest pocket.

For doves, ducks and geese, your shotgun can't hold more than three shells in all, except in the few goose hunts that lift the rule (Chapter 42). That limit doesn't cover pheasants, though your state may set its own, so a plug you pull for roosters goes back in before you hunt doves or ducks again. Copy the season lines from this year's digest, and finish the dog lines before the first hot September morning.

01 / MY LICENSE AND FEDERAL PAPERS

CHAPTERS 2, 40 AND 42

State: _____ License no.: _____

Bird permit my state adds: _____

HIP registered in: _____ ☐ Proof on me

Federal Duck Stamp: ☐ paper, signed ☐ E-Stamp ☐ not needed

02 / UPLAND BIRDS AND DOVES

CHAPTERS 3, 10 AND 40

Bird: _____ Season and split: _____

Daily bag: _____ Possession: _____

Legal shooting hours: _____ to _____

Shot size and choke: _____ Nontoxic here: ☐ yes ☐ no

Left on each bird to show sex or species: _____

- No rooster past 40 yd.

03 / DUCKS AND GEESE

CHAPTERS 3, 10 AND 42

Flyway and zone: _____ Season and split: _____

Daily bag: _____ Possession: _____

Lower caps inside the bag: _____

Geese, dates and bag: _____

Legal shooting hours: _____ to _____

Nontoxic load and choke: _____ Patterned range: _____ yd

☐ Plug in ☐ Barrel and choke rated for steel

- Only approved nontoxic shells in my pockets. A duck or goose I can't name flies on.

43 Field Card: Birds and Bird Dogs

CONTINUED

04 / MY DAY AND MY PARTY

CHAPTERS 7, 14 AND 40–42

Partners: _____

My plan is with: _____ Out by: _____

☐ At the truck: everyone's zone of fire, where the blockers stand and where the dog works, said out loud

- Line level, muzzles up. No low birds, and no shot toward a blocker, however high the bird.
- In the blind: my lane is _____ ; nobody shoots behind the line; guns unloaded before anyone steps out.

☐ Life jacket on in the boat and while wading · Gun unloaded and open until I'm at the blind and the boat has stopped.

- Grain I can't explain in a dove field or near a blind: I hunt somewhere else.

05 / MY DOG

CHAPTER 41

Vet: _____ 24-hour clinic: _____

☐ Orange vest or collar

☐ Water for the dog, on top of mine

☐ Digital rectal thermometer. Normal is about 100–102.5°F.

- Heatstroke: heavy panting and drooling, very red gums, wobbling, vomiting, collapse. At 104°F or more: shade, call the vet, cool water (not ice), no wet towels or blanket. Stop cooling near 103°F, then drive to the vet.

☐ Release kit from Chapter 41, where trapping is legal

- Caught dog: freed right there, never just unhooked from the stake. Body-grip: springs, never the jaws.
- No gun leaned where the dog can knock it over. Dog through the ice: I stay ashore and call for help. A cut still bleeding after 10 minutes of steady pressure: to the vet.

06 / EVERY BIRD THAT FALLS

CHAPTERS 40 AND 42

1. Eyes on the bird until it's in hand, with a landmark where it fell.
2. A cripple first, even with more birds in the air. Doves: each one picked up before I shoot again.
3. Anything still alive in hand is killed at once and counts in my bag. No shooting a cripple from a boat under power.
4. Every duck and goose keeps its head or one fully feathered wing until it's home or at the processor; breasted in the field, a wing on each breast.
5. Left with someone else: a tag I sign, with my address, the date and the count by species.
6. Laid out to cool, never piled in a bag (Chapter 54). Plucking and breasting: Chapter 58.