

## From the Publisher's Desk

Welcome to the August/September issue of Bird Dog & Retriever News. Thank you: subscribers, advertisers, organizations and others.

For those of you that read calendars you may think this is late. Actually for those that have been reading BD&RN for a few years you'll say it's right on time.

Because the August/September issue is created after the July/July issue goes out, during summer. We all have things to do, so certain things don't get attended to as one would wish.

Add to that if you check the state news for our sport, this time of years there simply isn't any. That means two things: there's nothing to put on those pages and maybe we are not thinking much about hunting. I have an idea for next year to fill those pages and get this issue out sooner. But as Ellen would tell you, I say that EVERY YEAR!

So what's new here? First let me thank Jim O'Shea, friend, breeder of our springer Sadie and the poster of our great cover shot this month. Chessy named Fin Newman, preparing for the 2021 Montana sharptail opener.

Well we waited a month to go to press and I am less than impressed with the bird count numbers. To wrap up the mid-west numbers: pheasant numbers are similar to last year and Ruffed Grouse are lower, but not by half as one might expect from the peak 2017 year.

Typically Ruffed grouse are on a ten or eleven year cycle peaking in a year ending in 0 or 1. Then the numbers tumble by 50 percent plus. So I don't know if the drum counts happened during cooler weather and the birds didn't come out or came out at a different time or what. But let's just say take the numbers with a grain of salt.

I have dogs to run and I guess I'm out of space!

See you next issue!

Dennis Guldan

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& Retriever News**  
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## Losing a Dog

### Where's My Dog? By Dennis Guldan

Few things in life is more stressful than losing a dog. If I walked around the outside of our house with our springer outside Sadie would either be behind me with a tennis ball in her mouth or looking around the yard for someone to throw it.

If I did the same thing with our Vizsla Josie I would be search for where she ran to this time.

Happened to us again a few weeks ago. But this time was one of the scariest. We live on a 200-acre park North of Minneapolis. We just replaced the ID Tags on both of our dogs last month as it was time.

Rarely have I lost an ID set on a dog when hunting in the woods all day. YET when I spotted Josie our Vizsla she was being walked away from the park. WITHOUT ID on her. The lady walking him gave her up and quickly walked away. Was it just a coincidence and did she pull off the tags or was someone trying to steal her?

I didn't think at it at the time but upon reflection I wonder if I had turned a different corner went a different way if she might be the victim in a dog fighting-ring we remember of the NFL Michael Vick days. I have no

proof, but the possibilities got me very upset. Not everyone in this world is nice.

With whitetail deer and Ruffed Grouse and pheasant calling the same land home many of us come upon deer occasionally. Some dogs ig-



nore them, some dogs are in for the chase.

I have gone FAR deeper into the woods than I desire. I have gone through half a box of shells trying to get dogs attention and driven MILES around forest trails in the million acrea woods beeping my horn to get dogs to ultimately come. Additionally, I have stopped at farm houses and left my shirt hidden just outside the parking lot.

And other then losing a runner on a freeway I have always got my dogs back.

So, with bird season upon us what does one do for a lost dog.

I'll tell you a few things we are going to do and some advice if you happen to lose your favorite hunting buddy for a few hours.

1. I'm not a big ID Chip guy. Sadie has one they added it as part of her getting spayed. But we got a call that she was still bleeding from where the ID needle went in. She got through it, but stupid things happen in common procedures that could mean tragedy.

Josie is going in for a skin tag removal and I think I will have an ID chip put in.

2. But beyond that I am going to get a ribbed plate on their collar that says ID Chip ABC in dog. That may or may not slow the bad guys, but the good guys will know.

3. Get a map of your hunting area now. Siplly look at it and say: "if my dog runs, where should I go/do?"

4. Through in an extra shirt. My dad ran beagles and bird dogs. He never lost a dog and said many times he would return to a dog the next morning to a shirt with his smell on it.

5. Look up and put the phone numbers of area vets & shelters where you hunt so you can call.

6. Report a lost dog within the hour to police forces.

7. My Dad always had his work business cards with him to hand out to area farmers with his phone number on it.

8. The most important thing, you are doing it right now... THINK about what you would do!

I hope you never lose one!

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