comb touches our face, this will absolutely minimize the time the barrels and the bird are spent together.

Another option is to shoot a problem target with a cut-off technique (see the article titled "Cut It Off" in the October 2017 issue of CTN) . By using a cut-off approach to the target, the barrels and the target will not travel together in the same plane for any appreciable time, thus minimizing our barrel awareness. Just another way to keep the bear in his den.

A third option available to us is to alter your focal, hold or break point for targets that you think might be a problem for you due to eye dominance. For example, if you are a right-handed, right-eye-dominant shooter and you have no problems with right-to-left targets but occasionally struggle with left-to-right targets, you may want to force your focal point closer to the launch point for those left-to-right targets. This will help ensure the right eye has a chance to grab the target early and minimize the risk of the left eye deciding to muddy the water.



CORRECTING THE PROBLEM

Going back to the problem I was having with targets that had minimal horizontal movement, Kevin determined that my eye dominance point was aligned with the inside corner of my right eye. The knock-down effect of this was two-fold.

First, when I mounted my gun, I wanted to align my barrels with the inside corner of my right eye rather than with my right pupil. This caused me to roll my head. Second, for these types of targets, I had been taught to minimize my draw length, which means I usually pre-mounted my gun. This made me very "barrel aware" for these targets, which served to increase the probability that my eye dominance would cause me a problem. The effect of this was that the harder I tried to perfect my bird/barrel relationship, the worse I made the problem.

So, my problem is a perfect example of an eye dominance issue that, while it's always there, only comes roaring out of its den when kicked. The majority of eye dominance issues that shooters experience manifest themselves in exactly the same way. They are triggered by only certain presentations and only become a problem for us when we become aware of our barrels.

So, what corrective actions have I taken? Now, for targets that travel straight away/up/in, I always shoot them from a low gun position and release my shot the instant my comb touches my face. For quartering in/out targets, I always shoot them with a cut-off move. For crossing targets, I simply trust my subconscious mind to apply the correct lead. Problems solved!

So, what we have learned about eye dominance issues?

First, almost everyone has this sleeping bear in their game. Second, it only comes roaring out of its den when kicked by a combination of a specific presentation coupled with barrel awareness. And finally, an evaluation by an expert in this topic is always your best option for sorting out your eye dominance demons.

As I write this article, it's springtime in Alaska. Time for the bears to start coming out of their dens. But if I don't go kicking any of them, we should be able to get along just fine.

My thanks to Dr, Richard Colo, OD for his assistance in the preparation of this article.

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