

Shooting Notes 1967

^{7:00}
Saturday 14 October To Gregg Knob Glades in late
^{CS we}
Indian Summer color. Weather mild, partly cloudy after light
rain in early a.m. This is the first season without Shadows and
we'll miss him. We are fortunate in having Dixie after a
close call this August. Now well recovered from post-operative
convalescence she is weak and soft - and aer-weight - but
did amazingly today just keeping going for $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours and
showed real zest for the first.

Parked about the old doging house, slapping away its senility
and hunted along base of knob to woods and along little draws
with no success. Finally moved a grouse near slashings in
far bottom at edge of woods and then walked into 3 more in a
downed tree top. Bliss somehow missed them but pointed the 3rd
one. #2 had given me a look I couldn't make use of for the
intervening cover, then I sensed something darting along the
ground that Bliss later pointed. It did not hit. We moved
only the four I could be sure of tho we had 9 flocks in all.

Toward late afternoon (we started only at 3:00) I saw
Bliss pause and go into an uncertain point, flagging a
moment longer before freezing with Dixie backing. I was sure
of a woodcock - it was in brushy cover among loads of
huckleberries near an edge - and I signaled 149 to get
the mail, stepping back. This was a mistake, for a grouse
flushed well ahead of Bliss, ^{George Bird Evans Papers} and I had

a brief look that I tried to swing ahead of and missed.



Later we walked into a woods on the north side of where I shot the one last season on his own Blin's point. On the third find Dine made a lovely point on it and the bird came out the edge far ahead and dove straight at me, turned as it passed and went into the cover when we did not re-locate it.

The day was a good opener. Blin worked too wide some of the time - a problem I have to overcome but when the point I am inclined to forget all else. My shot was not a too possible one, but I sometimes think that grouse shooting is comprised of frustrations. What about these shots where you do what you feel is the right thing? Do you fault & swing just enough? Fewer birds here this year - 4 vs. 13 last year. at least today. Kay's camera acting up after trip to the factory last summer. Today the outdoor filter would not function.

Moved 4 - 9 flashes
 One shot - no hit
 Used 1 w.c. - no shot

Blin: 2 prod. grouse
 Dine: 1 prod. w.c.

Saw "Modeling Ladies' dresses", spotted Ruffed Grouse, West Valley (both) & loads of grouse
 George Bird Evans Papers
 West Virginia and Regional History Center

I gave my heart to them, Years ago, but with each shooting season I succumb anew to the sorcery of mountains - the black-dark hills of home.

Monday
10/16 Blackwater Trip
Back road - 0. 1 hr. 3:30
4:45 Gates - 8 wc. 20 fleeces 3 shots - 0 hits Disco 1 prod } w.c.
Sunny, warm 2 hrs. Bliss 1 prod }
1 lock }

Bliss worked too fast & wild, bumped many
Disco hunted with great interest & did well

Tuesday
10/17 Flamingo Hill - 2:30
cloudy, warm Bliss bumped 2 Limited but excellent cover, grapes
Blackwater south side - 1 grouse - 1 fleece Color magnificent g. birds
B & D bumped.

Mallows - 0 used Bliss alone, D. in car to rest.

Bliss false pointed twice - probably birds flushing wild.

5:00 Gates - not a feather. Boot tracks everywhere.
Too much "game management"
Have the locals left? B & D. Both tired hard. Bliss did better

Rained out, 10/18 returned home.



IN CABIN 18

Friday 20 October ³¹¹⁵ Leander Place prearranged so moved on and met
Art Kelly who gave us permission to hunt on his land.

Moved one quail and one woodcock (Dixie pointed on second flush) - no
chance to shoot. Cover on ridge dense brush but almost unbroken. Ray
waited in car with Dixie while Bliss and I hunted edge across valley. No
birds but one lovely point by B. that proved empty tho looked like
woodcock. Drove down to mouth of Sugarcamp Run found B. on point
at stream edge but again empty (groundhog?). Moved to hollow
where M. & R. Castal used to live. Hunted up one mile and back.
Empty. Don looking over. Where are the birds? Dixie: 1 mod. w.c.

Weather: clear, cool
perfect

Moved 1 quail - 1 flush
" 1 w.c. - 2 flushes
no shots
~~~~~

Bliss

First time I have seen a woodcock  
run out before flushing.

Saturday 21 October 2:10

Perfect Indian Summer. To Hartman Place.  
Parked at old deserted houses beyond site of Steamboat House, now  
under spoil pile. Moved one quail wild from woods under edge of  
flat field. No reflex. On muddy creek side in excellent cover  
found Bliss on point with head turned, ear flung back, holding like  
an angel. Quail flushed low, weaving, and was gone before I could try.  
Ray got a movie of point with Dixie backing. No reflex tho we had  
an excellent point by Bliss in thick tangle at about right place.  
Noisy and dry. with wind and suspect birds were running out wild. At  
north end of gulch came to strip mine road that had created perfect  
conditions of edge cover, but no birds. Flushed third quail wild from  
dense green goldenrod stand in little glen - unusual. Again on  
follow-up found Bliss on point in tangle at exactly the right





LOW &amp; AWAY

place and distance but  
no bird. at first we  
returned to car and  
Ray dropped me off at  
bridge on fork of Dick  
Run and I hunted up  
bottom to Messengers  
willows where she picked  
me up. Blin worked

beautifully today and Dixie did wonderfully. She is a new dog since  
we have been hunting - moving out at close range but getting back her  
old enthusiasm after the operation. Nice point made the day. This course  
should be better later on. Came out back way to Deep, hollow road to  
Wesley Chapel and found it much shorter and better way to reach  
Hartman area. First of each season it seems that hitting a bird, or  
even getting a shot, is something that can never happen. But I can't  
believe guess are as near as they seem so far. Next week want to try for  
the woodcock flight at Mt. Storm.

Mead 3 - 3 fleas  
no shots.

Blin: 1 prod.

Dine: 1 backpoint



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very.

Bliss: 1 prod. group  
6 prod. w.c.  
3 ret. w.c.

Heard 10 W.C. - 15 females  
4 slots W.C. - 3 luts (over pts.)

Dance: 1 prod w.c.  
1 net w.c.  
5 back pt. w.c.

Quagmire 5:20-6:40

new 1 grown - 2 flowers  
no shots.

Moved 3 w.c. - 4 flunks.

2 shots w.c. - 1 hit (over ht.)

To Cabin 5 (reverse arrangement).

8. Cabin 3 (hardest arrangement).  
Grouse flush rising acutely left - too close, pattern soaked into  
sapling; landed in tree. From there, overhead, away ~~right~~<sup>left</sup> - too close for left  
barrel.  First w.c. point by Bliss missed. Next 3 left. Am

certain that intense concentration (focus) essential and all else secondary. First we hit our blind point on far edge, left quarter, low. Next from dead goldwood, B. point, rising, taken overhead away left. Next over B. point taken right quarter, low as I landed after jumping rocks. Last in Quequec went over B. point overhead away left. Corner asked me to not hunt there embarrassing but my fault. Looks like good trip with auspicious start. B. a bit too wild at times. ~~~~~~~~~ D. doing well.

Tuesday 24 October Huckleberry Plains Clear, cool, perfect.

Traces of East woods grow in shade.

Nodding ladies' tresses

Top of mountain at opening (log) ←

1:50-2:50

Mural 2 w.c - 5 Gardens (both visits)

No shots

20 min. Dolly Soda 0

1 hr. Mine Kuch Moved 1 grouse - 1 flush  
No shots

$\frac{3}{4}$  lb Fresh Spring 0

West Virginia and Regional History

Bkns: 1/2nd w.c.

Dixie 1 backpt. w.c

Beautiful but totally  
disappointing.  
Where are the groves?



Wednesday 25 October The "Famous Twenty-fifth" of the  
woodcock flights. High winds all night, steady rain set in  
about 6:30 a.m. Finally slowed down to light drizzle about 2:30 p.m.  
We drove to Canaan Valley through cap of cloud on Canaan Mt. and  
found <sup>the</sup> Valley in light clear weather under low cap but with  
traces of drizzle until we turned in at the Bates where rain ceased.  
Had the place to ourselves! and began at 3:00 in cold windy  
weather. In thorns on right Bliss drew to a point almost  
at once - a cock that gave me no shot. Moving too quick, she  
hit a point far out that Kay spotted - a hen (adult) that I  
dropped right away, Bliss retrieving.   
Next prod. Bliss showed on after I walked in - bird went out  
behind where she had pointed.

For a while B. & D. had trouble and bumped or passed  
birds. One B. roared right up to (unusual for her), another she  
ran over. There was much water - floods - but the  
watermark was actually floating and birds must have been  
squatting in it at times. The spectacular point was beyond  
fur ashers when we lost B. and found her on point moments  
later, in far edge in ashers, facing wind. I walked in & dropped  
the cock (young male) low  
right - quacking. Kay too  
far away for mind.



Lost bird in ashers & alders (ashers seemed to be the place today) at  
far end. Bliss holding beautifully, bird a high rising-away bird -  
(young female) ~~and~~ it. Bird ~~returned~~



Bliss made a lovely point with head turned sharply in next  
aspens but bird gave me no shot.

Finally, no more birds.  
They hunted in car with  
D. while B. & I took last  
team at first aspens -  
moving 2. Last bird B.



28%  
645

had pointed but it got out too far away as I was tangled in alders near  
big aspens - final action of a fine day. There were flight birds, I  
am sure.

Moved 11-13 flushes. W.C.

3 shots - 3 birds W.C. (over pt.)

Bliss: 6 prod. W.C.  
2 net

Dixie: 4 back W.C.  
1 net

Doe at Cabin 5  
upon our return.

Thursday 26 October

Met. Storm Cherry Ridge

2:15-3:45 Cold, clear

Moved 2 W.C. - 2 flushes

Towering Oaks Herse

Moved 3 - 3 flushes

" 1 W.C. - 1 "

One shot W.C. - 1 hit (over pt.)

# 2

Moved 9 W.C. - 10 flushes

3 shots W.C. 3 hits (over pt.)

Bliss: 1 prod

6 prod W.C.  
2 net W.C.

Dixie: 4 back pt. W.C.  
1 net W.C.





Saturday 28 October

3:00 - 6:45

Upper Dority

Bliss: 2 prod w.c.

Dixie: 2 backs w.c.  
1 ret w.c.

Cold, overcast, partly  
sunny, some spitting snow.

Moved 1 grouse - 1 flush (sound only)

" 4 w.c. - 5 flushes

1 shot w.c. - 1 hit (over pt)

Fast left-crossing shot.

Leaves nearly gone after most prolonged & colorful autumn we can remember. Hops & hawthorn yield numerous, greenbrier berries moderate, beechnuts & acorns fair, yet have moved only 9 grouse in home coverts, 11 in big mountains. Woodcock flight seems in this week, beginning October 23, down ~~up~~ here. Only real action today. Bliss on point

when I found her at edge of cover along upper Rattlesnake Hollow, a brace of cock which flushed when B. moved in after I had walked up thru cover. This cover in a low for grouse after about 6 years of high, even when others were poor. Bliss worked hard and well but too wide. I didn't permit her other than to ambush her in, which is easier on me too. Dixie's urge to get out and hunt, markedly different in this old favorite covert and she worked seriously and much better. Hope we find grouse soon.



Monday 30 October

2:15 - 5:45 (starting Standard Time)

4 AM

Jerry Thoms  
Albion Creek

Weather cool, sunny, breezy to warm & dry at times.  
downstream on East side from bridge.

Moved 2 - 5 flushes  
One shot - no hit

Bliss: 8 prod. w.c.  
3 ret w.c.

Moved 20 w.c. - 25 flushes  
5 shots - 4 hits (over pt.)

Dixie: 5 prod w.c.  
2 back pt. w.c.

UNMOVED  
FEATHERED

BIRD found

CS w.c.

Thursday 11/2 ~~listed the date.~~  
This was one of those lovely experiences when an exploration turns out well. We hunted the thorn hillside on East side of Albion Creek, north of Rt. 50, belonging to Darling whose wife in store house gave me permission to hunt - upstream and down. Parked at Mrs. Sacy's little house - friendly - and began hunting about it. Bliss was moving too wide again and completely missed the grouse that flushed from thick cover of thorns and, I think some alders on hillside, after crying tight close about me while I whistled for Bliss. Flush without plenty bird.

Further up the hillside of dense thorn cover we began running woodcock - Bliss bumped the first and then pointed the next. We moved several without dog work and after putting up at least five 'cick, we crossed the fence and a pipe line right-away. In good cover on far side a grouse flushed from Bliss below and back of me, coming head-on, then over my head and pitched into cover out the ridge. Dixie found it next and roared into it: flushing. The third flush was from rather open woods about with no dog present and. I marked it over the top. after a breather we climbed up and Kim told Dixie while I worked Bliss along the pipe line in good cover. It was dense weedy, leafy cover along the edge and Bliss failed to find it tho she tried. I finally stepped onto the bird - a cick - which flushed straightaway rising



HEAD-ON



moment for the view or focus, exactly as I do on woodcock, and  
fired as it disappeared thru a hawthorn tree loaded with haws.  
I expected to hit it and knew that I had but we failed to relocate  
thru we followed where the grouse had sailed down over the ridge back  
in the area it had just flushed from. Bliss made a good point  
just where the bird ought to have been but I think it had reflushed  
wild.

Returning in the face of the lowering sun, I came on both  
dogs pointing toward me with Desire in front. I walked up a 'cock which  
fell and lodged well up in a hawthorn where the dogs gazed up and  
barked at it. I shook it down & B. retrieved.

Back in the original thorns it was obvious we were into a flight-  
'cock anywhere. I missed a nice shot over a double point - a bird I  
that I had feathered, but decided it must have been the wad I saw  
against the sky, breaking a string of <sup>10</sup> ~~shots~~ straight on 'cock - the  
best shooting I have done! The miss seemed to throw me off, for I  
missed the next one - a low right-away that seemed to drop  
to the right just before I pulled. Then came several points I couldn't  
shoot over and finally a point by Bliss in the densest cover. These  
thorns are so thick I find shooting about the most difficult I  
have known. With B. solid, I walked into the least hopeless place &  
took the shot but the bird held. I made a dash thru the tangle and  
still the bird lay tight. With a further lunge I got even closer -  
too close - and the bird arched up and I shot from a crouching  
position - first I have tried that tho I have come close at times -  
and centered the bird. Bliss ~~thought~~ <sup>thought</sup> that the 'cock



had been decapitated, and nearly everything else.

The next point was a nice one by Dixie and I shot the bird  
 thru dense branches, seeing it fall out on the pipe line clearing.  
 I lifted Bliss over the fence and as she searched we saw a  
 'cock flush from the very fence row about where my bird might  
 have fallen. But woodcock don't get up and fly after being hit  
 and I waited. Bliss moved in, got scent, and picked up my  
 'cock - dead - from the very place where the other had flushed.  
 It was late, and we moved toward the car - being going in to speak  
 to Mrs. Sorey and I cutting thru the dark thicket where the dogs  
 found me another thrilling point but empty.  
 This is an excellent woodcock covert - as well as grouse -  
 and we count it a new treasure.

Wednesday  
November 1

Overcast, cool, breezy. 3:00-5:30

Int. Storm #1

Moved 1-1 flush  
no shots

2 AF (first two)  
1 IF

Moved 11 W.C. - 16 flushing  
6 shots - 3 hits W.C. (over pts)

Bliss: 1 prod grouse  
 10 prod W.C.  
 2 ret. W.C.  
 1 back pt. W.C.  
 Dixie: 1 prod W.C.  
 8 back pts.  
 1 ret. W.C.

Hunting down the little run, Bliss moved wide  
 and pointed far out <sup>on</sup> edge of beaver dam -  
 a woodcock that I failed to shoot at. Soon after we  
 saw a small beaver swimming in dam. Shortly, we heard one of the dogs,  
 we that, plunging into the deep water of the dam and nothing but  
 bubbles rose to the surface. I say said that was Dixie and I that  
 my foot, this stuck under water in that snuck and lay my my  
 gun down ran toward the pond. Just then a huge fat fox  
 wiggled up over the breast of the dam and played in giving us  
 a glimpse of a beaver. Only then we realized the first splash  
 had been.



Failing to make game, we returned to the usual area along the  
little stream and soon came to Bliss on point on my right. The  
cock flushed ahead of me and dropped across the stream at my shot.  
Dixie found and retrieved - a nice big hen. When B. saw D. make  
the find, she moved on and was soon pointing ahead. I walked  
up the bird without a shot and lay flushed #4 as she approached.  
There was no action for a short time, then B. pointed in the  
alders - a cock that floated straight up and backed off - to  
my chagrin as I missed, resting out the bird instead of mounting  
& retrieving.

The next bird flushed ahead of B. on the edge with further out  
and dropped close. Both dogs drove the scent but failed about  
20 yds. bumped the bird. Next flush was over a wide point of B. too  
far to shoot. We localized again over a point by B. and the bird left  
me walk past on point, then came over my head and I missed a try  
as it lured across the thorns. We followed and  
got wonderful action on these thorns. ~~the~~ on the hillside toward  
the storm. D. pointed staunchly, backed by B. but I couldn't walk  
up the bird. There was loads of chalk present. Finally I sent the  
dog on, and lay saw the cock flush from B. as I called her to  
me. I lay saw another bird flush  
down the hillside toward the woods.

In the thorns around the hill, B. sawing around almost 180°  
and pointed toward me on the far side of a clump of cover, backed  
by D. I moved around to get a shot from above but wasn't  
fast enough. A grouse flushed and went well around the hill -  
a lovely lot of dog work.



after some crawling we headed back toward the original cover #14  
and came to B. on point. As I walked up I had to refrain and D.  
to make the cock, and a cock dove out straightaway toward  
the woods. It dropped at my shot, crept and B. moving in flushed  
another cock. B. made the find & retrieved.

Moments later - it was getting darker - we found B. on  
her 8th point out in the thorns and I walked up a cock that  
rose and quartered right, dropping hard - but at my shot. This too  
was a hen, like the others, B. retrieving. I had scarcely set the bird  
in my game pocket when I saw B. pointing again far out in the  
thorns. This was a honey of a point and I hurried to her. The bird  
dove out low behind the thorns and I had no shot.



The next point was  
in the alders near the  
fence - a close bird I  
walked up in thick cover.

It rose acutely and I waited, firing as it tipped but felt the  
bird left of my gun. A small feather floated down and we  
felt as though follow - but failed to either find or flush the  
bird. There was nothing else to do but go up and work toward  
the car. One last bird flushed from the field in near-dark from B.  
a fine day's shooting. We drove to Cabin 24 at Blacksburg.



Thursday 2 November

Rain in morn and off & on today, turning warm. To Clyde Davis lower hillsides, drawing from Cabin 24. Then with timeout for rain to Darling Hawthorns or Abram Creek. Took first  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr. turn in Corner Covert at Blackwater while Ray drove to Davis for errands etc.

12:00 - 12:45 Corner Covert (Blackwater) 0

1:50 - 3:50 Clyde Davis Heard 2-2 flushes (sound no shots)

4:30 - 5:30 Abram Creek Darling Hawthorns; Larry Thorns Ray: 1 ret W.C.

1 AF

1 IF

1 AM (bird found that was shot Monday)

Heard 8 W.C. (new?) - 10 flushes

4 shots W.C. - 2 hits

Bliss: 7 prod. W.C.  
2 ret W.C.

Davis: 1 prod. W.C.  
6 backshots W.C.

listed Monday Oct. 30

The Corner Covert proved empty under perfect conditions - sun after a rain, if no grouse here, I'll give up on all Blackwater coverts this year. This seems the worst of successive bad years here beginning about 1962.

The Clyde Davis hillsides were equally disappointing but even more attractive with grapes and greenbriers and perfect cover types. Bliss hunted well but when she finally contacted birds, failed to handle them - two flushes were merely heard. Stunning bittersweet.

Heard out after 2 hours and waited out some rain, starting in above Mrs. Lacy's house at 4:30 In upper edge, as on Monday, we got action. A nice point and a flush straightaway, that flushed in a left fork but flew on tho I lost sight within a second, leaving me frustrated and puzzled. Above on top edge, another point that I almost circled without action, then had to walk in on in dense thicket and missed as the cock darted up. Then, feeling the shot above the bird as it pitched out of sight. I think this is the worst



difficult shooting I have experienced - the coverts so dense even in the edge clumps that the birds lie until you almost step on them, and you find yourself too close and the birds going up within feet to disappear over the thick Hawthornes. Incidentally, the larger clump growth below is not alder, as I thought on Monday, but clump forms of ironwood. I think this Hawthorn stand and the Hawthornes on the outer exposure of #1 covert the first good cack cover in Hawthornes I have found. #1 has some alders near; the Darling Abram Creek Covert has none, but the birds are surely there.

We followed down in failing light and hoped to flush the birds I had missed, moving some wild. On the fence line at the cable right-of-way I found Blin on point - well ahead as usual but staunch, and Deane backing (my best way to locate Blin). I walked around Blin to the open edge at the fence and finally close enough to flush the cock which flushed out in the open. I tried for it as it crossed the right-of-way - missed - and on impulse used the left barrel as the bird made the far woods high, dropping it sadly. At my shot a second bird flushed behind me. Blin made the find and retrieved (after I lost her on the fence and followed her) - a nice summation here.

It was getting very dark and cloudy - there had been a double rainbow earlier - and we hunted across the covert toward the clump of oaks on the south edge. As I was examining considerably white-wash. Kay exclaimed "Here's a dead woodcock" and picked it up. I was disappointed to find it was stiff and therefore not one of the birds I had shot at. Then we realized that this was the bird I had shot at Monday, seeing either feathers or wadding as the bird turned at the shot and came into this



exact area where we followed but failed to find it. Mrs. Lucy had said there had been no hunting since we were here and the bird was in a location that fit the situation. Key put it in her game pocket (it was in perfect condition) and we made one more circle across the top margin of the main covert.

In the almost-dark I saw Bliss stop and wind then draw to a solid point with her head almost tilted over to the ground and Dixie came in close and pointed staunchly.



TILTED OVER

I walked up trying to squeeze some remaining sight from my cramped eyes, nothing happened, then as I gave up hope of a shot and tramped into the thicket a flutter went up inches from Bliss's nose and I had the baffling impression that the bird had not tilted out. As I turned to consult Key, there was another flutter and I saw that it was a wounded cock fluttering back a foot off the ground. In moments the dogs closed in and Bliss had the bird and delivered it — an adult cock and obviously one of the two I had shot at and had not dropped. On careful consideration we decided it had been the first shot by the person who it was in a position to see either I had missed, think it was the first straightaway which had flushed.



W. Day T W B D Friday 3 November Left Cabin 24 and to mt. Storm Thorns, #18

to try to find woodcock. We did.

Bliss: 2 prod grouse

The Thorns: { Made 24-26 flushes W.C.  
9 shots W.C. - 5 hits (over pts.)

15 prod. W.C.

3 ret. W.C.

1:00 to 4:20

{ Lying about 30 yds from big woods in thorns.  
Made 7 grouse - 7 flushes  
One shot - 0

2 back pts. grouse

Dixie: 1 prod W.C.

12 back pts W.C.

2 ret. W.C.

Partly cloudy, cool. Abraham Creek bridge 5:00 to 5:20

Made 1 W.C. 1 flush  
" 1 grouse

Parked at old house off Rt 42 - Handlen's - and crossed open fields toward the thorns, coming to nice little alder and hawthorn glade on near edge with Bliss pointing along run, Dixie backing. Woodcock flushed from behind after I had walked in & dogs moved on. Got another point along rail fence in goldenrod & hawthorn cover - a 'cuck' that flushed without shot, crossing field and topping tall woods to go forever. Dogs bumped a few in this cover with another point by Bliss but I couldn't seem to get a shot at any.

Discovered good thorn edge along big woods and open flat pastures beyond Brown Court and heard a grouse flush. Later Bliss pointed a woodcock that short-hopped several times, then flushed under Bliss's point (third or same bird) and I missed a fast try.

From then on, action was nearly constant with Bliss making points and Dixie backing most. The first 'cuck' I shot was on the edge and a nice rather high going-away centered. I saw at least three on the ground, one of which lay so tight Ray got a mail and I let it go having gazed into each other's eyes too long.

I shot four in a string, the fourth well into the woods when I shot it was a grouse we were following. One of Bliss's points was on a grouse - a surprise to me but I was sure I'd drop it as it



19 21/67

rose acutely like a 'cock, but it didn't drop. What is the thing about grouse - faster timing needed?



My next miss on 'cock was in the lower portion of the thorns - some of which have been cleared and more will probably be.

The bird lay so tightly I had to walk all around it, then finally almost stepped on it and shot too quickly as it quartered right and again as it tipped the cock. The next miss was another close-lying cock that turned back in the clear and gave me a nice left-crossing chance I should have made. That left me with exactly one shell for the 2 miles back to the car. This had made another good point on a grouse that took off along the ground in thick cover and disappeared. Near the upper end of the thorns both dogs pointed and I walked around to the edge and at last flushed a cock that came out after the dogs had moved in - a right-crossing bird in the open that dropped the way they should. Dime retrieved.



45 78%

It made a magnificent day - the first time I have shot 5. But finding the grouse and the big flight of 'cock after failing to make a woodcock then several years ago.

was a fine experience and good for the soul. Saw posters in big woods signed "Jordan Run Hunting Club". Must inquire. George Bird Evans Papers. West Virginia and Regional History Center. Rt 50 above bridge, west side of heard a grouse & heard a cock.



Monday 6 November

Cold 32°, cloudy, sugaring of snow  
Steve Selnick's. Ray stayed at the house with

220  
'67

Dixie, Steve hunted with me. First bird came from Bliss on game planting edge of pines, autumn olive (first I had seen - surprisingly large - stemmed shrubs like tree with clusters of small red drupes the size of small haws) and multiflora rose. It came back over me and flew to far end of woods where I walked into it at a dead tree - missing a low away-right shot out into a field.



We failed to relocate it.

Bliss made a lovely interior point much beyond where the bird originally flew but it was empty. When Steve walked into 2, I saw #3, and Bliss, without knowing, bumped #4 & #5 of the group. The last bird came from an edge of grapes and I tried for it thru dense branches - a fairly high left-crossing shot. The bird faltered, fluttering, and seemed tangled in branches but I failed to see it fall. Steve came up and as Bliss searched the area, we peered into the trees overhead - at last, Steve saw the grouse perched in a high sapling with a grapevine and I that I hadn't hit it.



But when Steve pulled the grapevine, instead of flying, the grouse came fluttering down to the ground, obviously hit. As it lay stunned, I tried to get Bliss to find it but she was much too excited and cackled wildly. Finally she ran into it, the bird fluttered, Bliss grabbed but missed, and to our amazement the grouse took off, topped the trees and flew away. Steve marked it beyond where I could see and we followed.

There were several large tangles of vines and roots and I felt the bird was hopelessly lost. Then a short piece beyond, Bliss wheeled and stopped into a beautiful point and a few yards in front of her I saw the grouse, crouched and dead.



eye.



I dispatched the grouse - or tried to - then tossed it out for Bliss to retrieve but the bird was still fluttering and she refused. At last I gave up and had to worry the grouse's neck - a yearling hen.

We made grouse from then on, as singles until we had made 9 for 10 flushes - the best day I've had so far. We hunted to the Pennsylvania line and Stas pointed out the three-state point with Maryland. This is excellent bird cover with variety and lots of food - greenberries & grapes. It was interesting that with the exception of the first grouse all the birds were <sup>in</sup> natural areas, not the wildlife plantings that are numerous on the place.

young hen: inty. Made 9-10 flushes  
Crops: ~~chore~~ <sup>chore</sup> ~~no~~ <sup>no</sup> shots - one hit

Bliss: 1 prod (when bird was found).  
1 kill

Tues. evening saw woodcock run across our lane

Wednesday 8 November

Cold, clear high 30's. George Ringers

Made 4-5 flushes  
no shots

Bliss: nice range but careless - lumped all of them.

2:20 to 5:00

Dixie: enjoyed herself.

Parked on Charles Kelley's & walked across Beaver, making 1st deposit in little tributary. Other 3 made from top square of woods above house - loads of grapes, flushed to far side across field. One reflush. Can't understand Bliss's carelessness work <sup>Dr. Evans</sup> George Bird Evans Papers

West Virginia and Regional History Center

Do grouse favor an isolated food covert such as this top of pine of oaks?



Thursday 9 November Bert Mathews (nice couple) #22

Clear, mild 50°  
2:30-5:00

Moved 2-2 flushes  
No shots

Bliss: nice range  
Dixie: enjoyed herself

We parked at the house — seeing turkey gobbler more threatening than Bert Mathews whose wife insisted <sup>he</sup> was "the boss." In evening met him & found him a mild little man about 4' 8" tall reduced to 180 from 216.

We hunted the good kno to covert and found it more impenetrable than ever. If greenbrier had value, Bert Mathews would be worth a million. Grapes loaded and even the low rip-stem smilax was full of berries. Yet we didn't miss a bird until we crossed to Tarleton Humbertons and I saw a grouse flush far ahead of dogs and go into the big woods, where we searched with no success. Were other grouse going out equally wild and silently? At last toward sunset we found ourselves in the head of the little run, newly cut woods, and much rhododendron and then grouse flushed with no dog work and no chance to shoot. The lotter got up nearby. Following the stream down on the far side we came to excellent grapevine-shrub cover too late to explore but want to return and do so. At the house Bert M. said there were usually birds further down the run (Cheney) below his house. We'll go back.

I found the dear greenbriers even too thick for Bliss and I think it would be a good slowing-down method for a too-wide dog.

Friday - 10 November Back to the Mt. Storm Thorns

Warm, partly cloudy mid-50's°

1:40-5:30

Moved 5 grouse - 5 flushes

One shot - 1 hit

Moved 9 w.c. - 15 flushes

5 shots w.c. - 2 hits (one hit)

Bliss: 1 prod  
1 kill  
1 ret

Dixie: 1 back  
1 kill

10 prod w.c.  
1 ret w.c.

1 prod w.c.  
7 back w.c.  
1 ret w.c.

adult cock: solid  
crip: yellow haws  
and leaves (viduamum?)

George Bird Evans Papers

West Virginia and Regional History Center



Parked at Huddleis as before. Bliss tended to move too far out but she did some nice work though there were exceptions. The first point was a honey up the first little run and the 'cock flushed in perfect open. I somehow managed to miss it can only guess that I shot from stationary barrels. Even so, I don't see how I missed!



Whether my miss upset her or whether some other conditions were adverse (it was dry and noisy) Bliss bumped this bird twice. Finally on a point with Dixie backing I walked up and, with no bird flushing, waited. Bliss decided to re-establish and moved too close flushing the bird. Two more went out close by.

Her next point was far out but a beauty and I hurried to her, stepping from rock to rock where possible to avoid the noisy dry leaves. B. was pointing high and I wasn't too surprised to have a grouse flush, low and darting between <sup>small</sup> tree trunks. Unfortunately Bliss broke at flush and I couldn't try for the bird - which probably wouldn't have been possible anyway. We followed into a far neck of cover but didn't reflush. Kay had seen a 'cock flush at the same time as the grouse and we turned back and hunted down the main edge.

The first good action was a point in the thorns just out from the line fence with D. backing B. - a bird that ~~flushed~~ <sup>flushed</sup> while I circled around and came in from the front. The 'cock flushed ~~in~~ <sup>across</sup> a clearing



in a left-quartering flight and I had the sense to wait a second #24  
and took it well out, hard hit. Bliss retrieved - a male.

The next shot came soon over a double point, at first shoulder-to-shoulder like two forms, one of which was a reflection. But Dixie moved around and came in from the left, pointing solidly. I noticed she had taken to doing this today with less confidence in Bliss. Why? I cocked and it was a while before the ~~cock~~ <sup>cock</sup> flashed low and to the right. I swung fast and dropped it near the fence, right-quartering. With an air of "this is my bird" Dixie got to it first and retrieved nicely - another male. Soon after, Bliss turned and just failed to point a quail that flushed with no shot from the thorns.

Getting into very few birds - actually, I believe no more cock - we turned back and decided to try Covert #1, hunting just inside the large woods as guests of Jordan Run Hunting Club. I saw a quail flush far from dogs or man and Kay heard another do the same later on.

I was about to cross the fence back to the woodscock cover and had exchanged my left barrel "quail" shell with a "woodscock" shell when I heard a quail flush from the deep in the thorns. It came back, high and behind me, and I had the sense to close the gun and turn, taking the bird high overhead and left-crossing.

The pattern centered and the quail cartwheeled down, striking a big fallen tree and bouncing to the ground on the far side where Bliss found it.

She retrieved, coming under the tree trunk (I hoped she'd leap up over for Kay's maid) and delivered a beautiful big cold quail with its upper breast golden. I don't know why, but the shot, coming as





It did after considerable frustration with grouse this year, seemed especially rewarding. Kay says I called out "What a shot! Boy, what a shot!" and really, that was the way I felt. The big <sup>cock</sup> grouse - and yes, Dr. Morris, I shot of you - made a lovely load in my game pocket with my two woodcock and life was truly about as I would have it.

It was too late to move to Crest #1 and we walked thru the woods to the first thorns. There, Bliss did again what I deplore - moved in on her point and bumped a cock. We followed and she did some excellent work, pointing well out and this time justifiably re-establishing.

My eyes were giving me trouble at this level of light and tho it is no real alibi the bird was dim against the leaves when it flushed but I had no regret to miss it both barrels in a rising straightaway.

We feared the bird was carrying a pellet from its action as it flew high and turning against the far edge but tho we followed and hunted hard we failed to refush the Bliss pointed nicely and I moved another bird. This was a good day, with considerable cock for so late in the year.

Saturday 11 November Armistice Day Sugar Valley above coal mine.

Warm, partly cloudy 60's, breezy.

2:30 - 5:00

yearling hen: inter.

crop: few grapes.

Moved 1 grouse - 4 flushes

3 shots - 1 hit

Moved 1 W.C. - 3 flushes

2 shots W.C. - 0 hits

Bliss: 1 prod grouse  
1 kill  
1 ret

2 prod W.C.

Kay stayed home to rest Dixie while Bliss & I hunted above Paul Hinton's coal mine in wonderful cut-over cover with loads of grapes and tangles of vines & slashings. Perfect grouse cover. Bliss worked closer but did not point at each contact with the one grouse that I could see, tho she may have. I followed the bird marking it



rather accurately. On the second flush from a pile of leafy tree tops the bird crossed right, turning and swinging back close to me, offering a fast right-quartering shot once I realized I could shoot. Evidently my swing was not fast enough (tho I thought it was) or perhaps it was out of line. As the grouse crossed below me it must have seen me for the first and put on speed for I could hear it accelerate with a roar of wings like a jet plane speeding up.

I followed the bird around the ridge of slashings at the same level until we came to a line fence and a stand of second-growth woods where I let Bliss coil. Soon I heard her bell go silent and found her pointing toward me just inside the margin of cover. There was a stone fence with a lean-to of grapevine tangle leaving two ways for the grouse to go out - straight ahead of me over Bliss's left shoulder, or through the opening to my left. I walked as close as I dared without blocking out my view of these two openings - nothing happened - and I stepped back and waited for the bird to get nervous. After a few moments it did, and I saw it start off from under the vine lean-to, taking the left way out. It was a lovely offering - left-quarter rising acutely against the sky. I was so sure of it I missed - I don't know why, unless that I didn't come up there fast enough to a slight lead.

Ordinarily I consider that a bird does not flush back into the area from which it was moved, but this seemed so definitely to be the same hen grouse but it appeared to go directly back to the former area. On this chance, we followed and when we reached the leafy tree-tops it seemed





that my guess was wrong so we headed on around the ridge. In a  
grapevine tangle among standing trees I saw Bliss wheel and move in as  
a grouse flushed - 'The same one I am sure - and take off right-quartering  
and high. On an impulse I swung them and fired, shooting them dense  
branches, and saw the bird go down, winged. I sent Bliss in to  
retrieve and soon saw the  
bird fluttering down the  
slope. She cornered it in  
a little run and retrieved



THRU THE BRANCHES

It, sitting to deliver. Regrettably, the bird had to be despatched the both  
wings were broken - a young hen of ~~the red phase~~ - The first red I've  
shot for a long time.  
(with red ruffs)

Later, under the spoil bank of the upper strip mine, Bliss  
pointed a woodcock that I at first thought was a grouse from a distance.  
This area is rich with many spring seeps and ideal for cock, with  
thorns nearby and scattered them to. We followed, still under the  
impression there was a grouse ahead and B. pointed beautifully. I walked  
in and was somewhat surprised and disconcerted I think when a cock flushed  
and I managed to ruin it both barrels. I wound it once more without  
a point. This was an exciting day - not the best shooting but  
the grouse made it memorable.



Monday 13 November

Hit Storm Count #1

#28

Cold, cloudy  
upper 30's falling  
snow at eve.

Moved 1 grouse (not new) - 1 flush  
no shots

Bliss: 1 prod. grouse

16 prod. w.c.  
1 back  
3 ret.

AF 2  
IF 1  
AM 1  
IM 1

Moved 26 w.c. - 29 flushes  
8 shots w.c. - 5 hits (ave pts)

Dixie: 1 prod. grouse  
3 prod w.c.  
12 backs  
2 ret.

This was one of the big days and one that broke the rules. 1) It was late in the season to find a flight of 'cork, and 2) scenting was ideal in spite of falling temperature and snow coming in. Birds were everywhere as if they had dropped in a large "fall of 'cork." Bliss pointed the first one in the corner at the little stream 1 minute after we started - a bird that flushed from behind the point after she had moved on and I didn't shoot. The next point was a good one - productive by both Dixie and Bliss at the edge of the woods from inside, and I saw a grouse cross the field and to the woods toward the car.

Next point was another double production and as I flushed and dropped the first 'cork as recalled <sup>almost immediately</sup> Dixie's bird and I tried and missed it running away. Finding cork in braces seemed a pattern today - the next point by B. was a pair, one of which I missed, and then a third one flushed nearby.

Action was so fast I scarcely had a chance to reload and put a bird in my pocket before Bliss was on point again. The next bird was beyond the fence near the fallen tree at the alders. The



bird lay tight as I walked to Bliss point, then flushed from the leaves in the open path - a rising-away shot that I dropped, winged. I hate to have to dispatch a woodcock. This was a fine big hen.

We paused for lunch, with our three birds on the log beside us, then moved on inside the main woods. Bliss was missing for a while before I found her on point. Two cocks flushed simultaneously as I walked in behind and to the right - low flushes that I couldn't get a focus or fast enough to shoot, and a moment later a third bird took off a bit to the left.

We hunted out the margin of woods and hawthorns to a point of cover where Dixie began trailing then Bliss came in and froze solid. I walked a complete circle in front and below her - then a spring seep and back again with no flush - then to double-check



I walked in front of Bliss in a stand of several clover seedlings and a bird got up only ~~just~~ from her nose - a going-away shot I missed as it reached the edge. Bliss looks at the shot, looking for a fall, and after a moment returned and nearly stepped on a second cock lying a few feet from the first.

The edge of this woods is damp and soggy from the spring seep above and was dotted with whitebark. This is new cover to us and looks like grass woods along here and below. B. made another point too far, I think, for the pair of cocks we were following and I was unable to mount in time to shoot at the flush. Shortly after, the

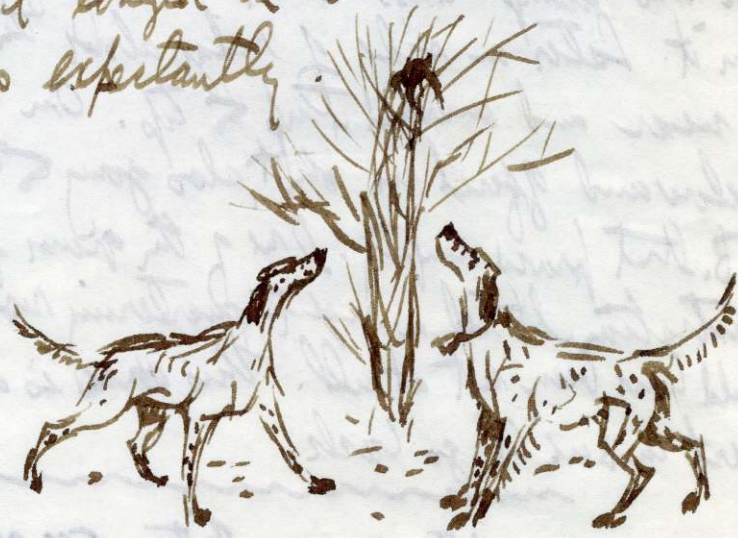


pointed again and this time when the cock flushed I was able to  
drop it, though I had to wait and sort it out of a lot of tree trunks  
in a rising and landing flush right and away. Dick made this  
retrieve - having retrieved her first bird too.

Walking back up to the hawthorns we started to swing back in  
the face of dropping temperature and the beginning of a spitting snow. Soon  
I found Bliss on point in a clump of dense thorns I couldn't possibly  
push into. Crouching in behind her I walked up, wondering how to  
flush. all day - in fact, all season - I'd been exposed  
with the proper choice in walking in or points in hawthorns. I  
suppose it is no worse than in alders but it seems so - and is a  
certain result of shooting over points and doing the flushing  
yourself. But cock shooting is most sporting done this way. The  
bird decided to take matters into its own hands(?) and flushed,  
rising away thru very dense branches. I tried and saw the bird  
go down but at that, it lodged in a hawthorn limb where both  
dogs stood looking up expectantly.

As the bird fell, both dogs  
went for it but Bliss won.

With no more shooting  
ahead we still hunted  
back to the car letting  
Bliss rack up point after  
point - lovely work as the  
raced from one point to the next.



WHAT GOES UP -

Her 16th point came in the dark woods along the little run and the 26th cock flushed  
wild out in the open field as we reached the duck pond in the moon and dark. This was the  
biggest day in the biggest woods yet.

2800  
p61



Thursday 16 November

Steve Selnick's

Snow on ground, cold, upper 30's  
cloudy. 3:00 - 5:00

(not new)  
Mead 4-5 flushes  
No shots.

Bliss  
Dixie

No new birds. Bliss made a very solid point that proved empty, later we heard two birds go out of the grapes where I shot my grouse on other hunt. Ray enjoyed seeing the cover here but it was a disappointingly inactive hunt, from a shooting and dog work angle.

Saturday 18 November Last day before deer season. Cold, extreme wind,  
spitting snow at times

Hazelton #1

Mead none

Loaded with grapes & membrinos. Same conditions as last year with missing weather and wind.

Bliss: 1 prod.

Glover Place

Mead 3-4 flushes

One shot - no hit

Dixie: 1 buck

Hoped to find less wind in this lower area but it was windy. This is a beautiful cover, also full of grapes on vines & on ground. Difficult scenting conditions even tho damp. Bliss worked scent of first bird but it flushed before she could find it. Later on side of ridge above the old road Ray saw a flush with no dogs near and marked it up to top. On the way, Bliss pointed a grouse that got out below and offered no shot, also going to top. Followed and got several points from B. that proved empty. One of the grouse flushed well ahead of me and from frustration I tried a right-quartering rising shot too quickly - but otherwise it would have been not at all. This area is a promising coast and we'll go back.

To deer season: 56 shots W.C. - 33 hits 58.9%

13 shots grouse - 3 hits 23%



Monday 4 December Little Sandy North

Snow on ground, 40's  
Partly cloudy  
First post-deer season hunt.

Moved 2-2 flocks  
One shot - 1 hit  
(used left barrel to drop)

Bleis: 1 hit!  
moved in mid range.

2:30-5:15

Debie had her second operation last Friday and is doing well but Ray had to stay home with her. I took Bleis to the bridge on Sandy and hunted up the left side. The first sign of birds was a flock from grapevines tangled about the path on Siders pastures after crossing under the power line. Bleis was working above and I heard the quack flutter out of the cover, turned and fired as the bird quartered left low. The shot hit but the quack rose and, having vertically fluttering. It would probably have dropped but I didn't care to chance a glide down into the valley in that cover, so fired again, dropping the bird with the left barrel.



Bleis ran in at the shot and began searching frantically. The quack and lying inert at our feet and after mouthing it,



she seemed to decide I didn't need any retrieving. However, I wanted the full treatment and so stepped back down to the path and again ordered Fetch. Nothing would persuade her, so I decided to pass it over with

no further discipline and let her retrieve future birds. The quack was a lovely big cock, a beautiful ginger bronze and an adult, probably a third or fourth year bird and a wonderful way to begin the post-deer season shooting. We hunted up beyond



Castles' where the second and only other bird flushed wild. There was loads of grapes, excellent corn but not a single parrot track. A good day. I was using the Alcan Trapmax 3.18.8 loads for the first.

Tuesday 5 December Butch Bennetts

Bliss

Cloudy, 400 warming  
now still on ground

March 2 - 2 flocks

No shots.

3:00 - 5:00

Butch had reported seeing four to ten birds on the Cale place where he has been hunting. I drove over today (they still at home with Dore who is doing beautifully) and drove back over their place to the back barn. It is a big basin, headquarters of the run that goes past Dick Miller's home place and should have held birds. Grapes, Hawthorn greenbirds, but only moved the two (which might even have been the same bird reflected). Bliss was gone at one time & I suspect she had a print but couldn't verify it. A good place to try from the Millers on Pleasant Valley Road. Butch had moved a group of 5 near the trap mine.

Wednesday 6 December

Glover Place

Bliss: 1 prod (kill on 1/2).

Sun nearly gone  
Warm, cloudy 49°

adult cack: solid  
Crops: few ferns  
(marginal dried)

March 4 - 4 flocks

One shot - 1 hit (overpt).

2: - 5:

I returned to the Glover Place, having talked to the Bradford boy who told me of grapes in woods on Wright's place. I parked at the Glover barn and immediately saw a green flash with below Bliss from rocks & grapes on the right side of the road. Followed and saw one. Didn't have a reflector.



Crossing the old road to the slope of goat cover where Ray & I had  
moved two last time, I walked the gaspkins along the upper edge and  
soon saw #2 go out just in front of Bliss, marking it sloping down  
the ridge. Within a few minutes I saw Bliss pause, flagging,  
then go solid in a gaspkins above me. As I walked in, the grouse  
took off low and quartered right where I caught it just as it made the  
edge of the field above.



The bird pitched over and dropped into the field with Bliss close  
behind. To my amazement, she dashed on past and I thought she was going on  
hunting. When I saw the grouse struggling along the ground as Bliss tried  
to catch it, the bird fluttered into the woods in clear view and at  
last Bliss had it. But when I ordered fetch she abandoned the bird as she  
had done the last one, as well as the first bird of the year at Selkirk.  
Knowing Bliss could take force I ordered her to retrieve and when she  
went back and again refused I despatched the bird and placing it in Bliss's  
mouth I clamped her jaws over the bird and pulled her to where I had  
stood. She screamed and tried to drop it but I made her take it, then  
forced her to sit and hold the bird, finally cooping her to me where she  
sat and I accepted the grouse, praising her. I felt I had done a good job  
and a worthwhile one, for too much for other things. She hunted beautifully the rest of the day in one last paper over.



We made no more birds until we had hunted up the valley to some beautiful new slashings too large to cover at this late hour. But on the edge a grouse, #4, flushed wild and headed toward the woods near the car. It was a good day, a fine point and kill over, but I had done something I would regret.

Friday 8 December

Charlie Brytes'

2:00 - 5:00

adult hen: inter.  
crop: empty

Mixed 5-8 flocks  
5 shots - 1 hit

Bliss: 4 prod.  
1 kill

Perfect, cool, damp  
partly cloudy, in 50's

I stayed home yesterday. Today, Art and I had a fine bit of action. Bliss was working beautifully, in excellent range. Her first point was at the far end of the good ridge cover in the ravine below the field on top - a grouse that came at me, moving & quartering left. I should have waited, taking it as it went away, but my reflexes were too much and I fired too close as it crossed.



On top where Art was waiting we missed #2 which let us pass then went out against the sun. #3 flushed soon after. Then Bliss pointed as we walked the ridge back. Art was above and I walked in from below. The point was a honey. The bird flushed crossing right high and should have been a hit. Art's gun went off a tenth-second before mine (I wasn't aware he had a chance to shoot), we both missed and I also missed a left barrel as the bird quartered right, high. Minutes later as Bliss moved below me she pointed and another grouse #5 flushed and again I missed an away-moving, though I



felt sure enough. It was well out but not over 35 yards or so. #36

We followed and art flushed both birds again, the second over Bliss point, we felt. The next reflex was one I almost slipped on and it took me what seemed two seconds to get off a shot as the bird rose straightaway thru thick saplings. The bird was almost at tree tops when my shot caught it, tumbling it in a spin and a float of feathers.



I sent Bliss in to

the spot, feeling the bird hard hit and certainly stone dead. Feathers were still floating down and it was no problem to find the bird, but to my surprise she came away without it. I grasped then that she was refusing the retrieval, and when I sent her in she blundered the bird. I didn't force it but coaxed her to locate again but again she refused so I picked up the bird and found to my surprise I had to dispatch it. It was wing-broken and hit about the legs, probably in the lower body but I had to wring the neck to put it out.

I'm sure it is these still alive birds that are causing Bliss to refuse retrieval and I don't know why I'm not centering them. I'm still using the alcam Trapmax 3-1-8 but had the same results with 3-1-8 earlier - using the 50% barrel. This was a nice adult hen. We moved no further birds and I went to Bryte's & got the car, picking art up at their millbox. I shot as a pleasure to give with, a fine hunter with "bird sense" and an appreciation of these mountains he was raised in. A good days action.



used

Saturday 9 December

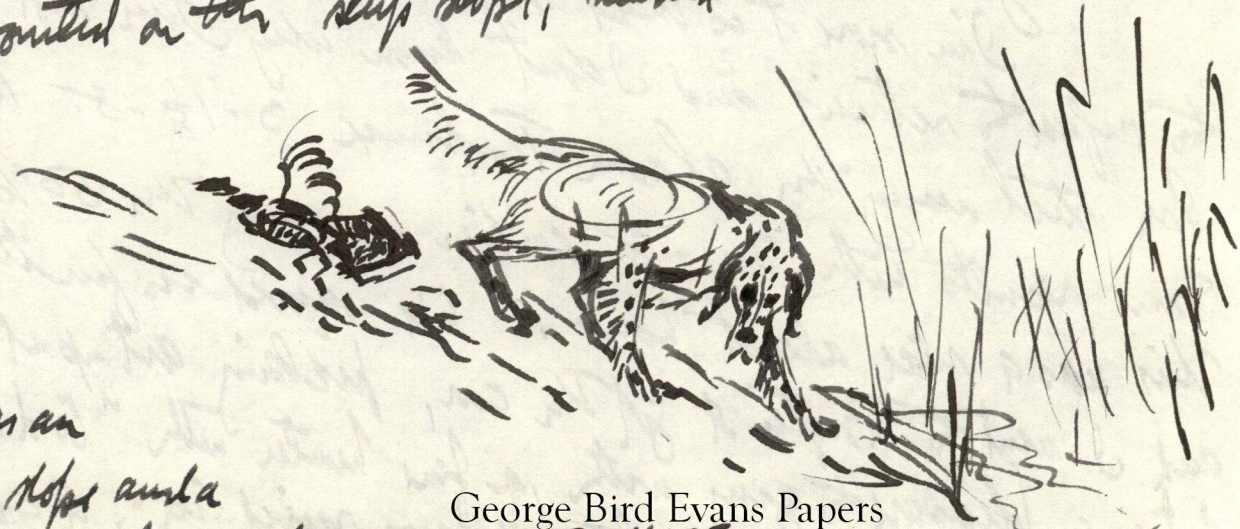
Martin Place

Bliss: 3 mod.  
2 bells  
over pts.

adult cock: solid; dark red tail 2 shots - 2 hits (over pts),  
crops: full of grapes. but black ruff & band

Adult cock: inter: golden breasts ~~but~~ like a red  
but with black ruff & band of tan tail  
crops: hawthorn leaves, 5 kinds of greens including ~~very~~ narrow "chickweed" types  
also some that could be clover  
Sunny, 50's, partly cloudy, damp.

Drove to "Hillstone" to speak to Bill Barr & Derek, then  
Ray let me go at old bridge near wooden mill and drove to John Swynolds  
and rested with Ambell while I hunted. Did stay in car.  
I found the area immediately above bridge a mass of strip  
mine run - leveled. But the two abandoned houses sit in fields and old  
thickets that look promising. at little hollow above the strip job  
I followed old fields up to about the power line and then dropped  
into another head of the ravine - a deep wooded gully with grapes,  
excellent place for a bird. Bliss that so too for she pointed almost  
at once headed up the ravine. When nothing happened she re-established  
and again pointed on the steep slope, headed toward me.



this time there was an  
explosion of the dogs and a  
big grouse flushed low up the hill.



I wheeled and made a fast swing, firing as the bird almost reached the edge. It tumbled and Bliss ran up but the grouse fluttered and scurried down the hill with Bliss in pursuit. She overtaken it in the little stream where I caught & dispatched it, again having to wring its neck. I didn't pursue the grouse when Bliss refused to touch it but stopped to admire the bird - "a big cock yours" and I told of you, Dr. Norris.

I wanted to find a place to eat and having my jacket rolled up in the game pocket of my vest I carried the bird up the far side of the ravine to a trap line road, soft mud today. With no place other to sit I continued on to some old grouse up fields about while Bliss worked ahead. Still carrying my grouse I heard Bliss's bell & silent in the cover below and I went to look for her.

I found her on point among a stand of crab apples. She was in a thinner patch making a slight clearing in the dense cover. With a left hand full of grouse and a gun in my right, I had to adjust to the situation so laid my bird on the ground and walked in. A beautiful big golden grouse flushed between us and crossed right, rising. I fired swinging up thru and the grouse tumbled, landing out in a muddy strip road where it lay fluttering. Bliss went to it mouthing it but she wouldn't pick it up. I watched as the grouse stopped fluttering and lay inert. I tried to get her to retrieve again





but she'd have none of it. I really made a bad mistake on Wednesday when I tried to force her.

My grouse was another big skull cock with black ruff and tail band but with the golden under markings for a quizz. The tail on this bird was tan, that on the first cock a deep red-brown and the first cock had darker bars on the underparts. Two magnificent birds. I stopped to eat with my two birds lying on the ground between Bliss and me.

After eating I started back with some difficulty skirting the sea of muddy mud for the most part un-replaced stripping. At last I got into good dense cover that proved to be above the "old Bastard" ravine. There were old strip scars here, from back to trees with a couple of ponds formed in them with, of all things, beaver dams and new beaver workings on the nearby trees.

Bliss went out again and again I walked up a grouse which gave me a chance I passed up rather than try for a third bird with so few in here. There may be more birds on these high isolated pieces of cover and old fields but the strip mining played hell in here. I came out at Silas Fisher's and they phoned me to come for me.

Altogether this was a good day - productive on all three birds moved, shot at two and two hits. I'm in trouble I think with Bliss' quirk about refusing retrieves but I hope to let it sink itself out naturally. A good week with five grouse with 9 shells.



Wednesday 13 December

Wolf Hollow Clifton

Bliss: #40

Cloudy, cool

none

Sawmill Hollow Wellington

Moved 2-2 flocks

no shots

Monday to dentist in Dunsmuir, Tuesday to Langford to have Dixie's sutures removed, then to Aurora and Josie & Bond Evans. Today I tried the area I used to hunt about Clifton, parking where the schoolhouse used to be. The cover along the stream has grown too open though I came to a big flat well up the hollow with greenbrier berries and crab apples and thorns - looked like woodcock cover, but found no birds. Bliss was very sure on one point but the bird wasn't there. It must have been nearly eight or ten years since I've been here for there were pine plantings about the size of ours. The streams were too high to cross easily so I walked the far road back the east side until I crossed the bridge then hunted the car.

at the Wellington Sawmill hollow I hunted the last  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour and moved two quails with no dog work or shots. The Bliss made one hot point on the electric line right of way that looked good. The amusing thing about it was that she straightened up from having a BM into a solid point without changing position. This country up the hollow is excellent cover and I want to try it when I have more time. The big woods on the head has grown too large and open - I could just make out the old road I used to hunt along - and hunt at quails - but oddly, the birds today both flushed into this open woods!

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Och Frankhausen Place

Friday 15 December

Partly cloudy, 28°  
Cold as hell, wind.

Heard 5-5 flocks Bliss: 2 ind.

2 shots - 1 hit

adult cock: ~~red~~ semi-spld. <sup>1 kill</sup>  
crop: wintergreen leaves & berries, Sedgemoor berries <sup>cattail?</sup>

This is magnificent grouse cover at just the right stage of regrowth. On a warmer day it should be even better. Parked this side of the old Frankhausen Place after getting permission from a young fellow (speech impediment). George Rude owns this now. I was handicapped by numb hands in spite of fur-lined gloves under deer skin gloves. I missed an bird wild; had a shot some time later at #2 flushing from Bliss, a left-quarterming shot pretty well out. The grouse tumbled but from Bliss's action after finding it and the sound of fluttering. I was sure it was winged. Unfortunately Bliss still refused fallen birds after my four-lesson last week and tho she caught this one, she left it and I had to send her back. At last she stopped the bird out in the open clearing but wouldn't pick it up and I had to dispatch it. This is the fifth out of six grouse this past week and today that I have not killed outright. I am going to switch to the 55%-70% barrel on the chance that I'm using too open a pattern on the 50% even with 3.1/8-8 loads (Tropmax). This was a nice adult cock I think and I suspect not on the body as well as one wing.

Later I thought I heard a grouse flush (my ears as well as eyes and fingers seemed frozen today) as a good friend Bliss made a couple of



points that proved simply that there must have been a bird there shortly before.  
Coming up the hill just within the woods on the north end Bliss pointed  
into a pile of slashings.

I walked in behind her and  
saw the quon start up. I  
nursed as it rose, straightaway,  
and moving with the bird after  
it turned, felt my stiff & gloved  
trigger finger hit the second  
trigger and discharge the gun  
in a one-two repeat, without my volition. The bird was untouched. But what  
a lovely lot of dog work. Some afterwards I heard #5 flush ahead of  
Bliss and couldn't see if there had been a point-



at the car I tried to warm up with hot café au lait but had  
little success. Is it the hypoglycemia that makes me feel the cold  
this way!?

Saturday 16 December  
a little warmer, sunny.

Charles Kelly  
March 2-2 flushes  
no shots

Bliss:

32°  
3-to 5:00 A very short hunt after talking to Charles, hunted the  
strips of ever across the road along Trip's ruins - moved one wild ahead of  
Bliss. Drove at 4:30 to Beaver Creek and moved one along path.  
too cold today - dressed warmer!



Tuesday 19 December

Dave Morgan

Bliss

Perfect, sunny, 50°s  
2:00 - 5:15

Moved 2 - 2 flushes  
One shot - no hit

Dixie (her 1st since  
last operation)

Parked at empty green house at top of hill & hunted thru excellent grapevine and whip-size brush above strip operation where Dick Kelly reported seeing grouse regularly. We moved nothing on way out to Hoy Miller edge. Too much cover to find them easily. Returned below level of strip cut and flushed two - the first I tried for well out going down & missed, the second flushing above where I think Bliss may have pointed it. Unable to find on further hunting. This was Dixie's and Ray's first day out since Dixie's operation (2nd) on December 1st and it was wonderful to all be together again. There must be other birds here.

Wednesday 20 December

17#45

Pisgah

(Pisgah) (Burris)  
Jim Burroughs, etc.  
Ed Kennell's

Partly cloudy, warm  
in 50's

Moved 1 - 2 flushes

One shot - 1 hit (over pt)  
adult cock: semi; crop: grape, fern, buds.

Bliss: 1 prod.

2:30 - 4:30

Hunted with Art Thomas in area he suggested - turning off at Pisgah and again turning off to go to end of road at old Walls house (Copperheads in their stones in the wall) where I met a colorful character - Jim Burroughs - pronounced Burris. We hunted the ridge beyond his house where he said there were grouse but we found it too open and decided to go back and hunt some good slashings we had passed driving in. We returned to the car at the Walls place by way of the stone ledge (Stonehenge type) - we have seen from Brad Fiddle's place. The Kennell land is steep grapevine cover among slashings on the north side, old greenbrier tangles on the other. <sup>George Bird Evans Papers</sup>



in the grapevines, I heard a grouse flush ahead of Bliss and as followed it up the ravine to the shanties at the head, with no result.

Topping out, we crossed the road and were going to hunt back. Art felt the bird may have dropped into that cover from below. I didn't walk far until I came to Bliss on a lucky point in the grapevines. I signaled Art to be alert and I walked in.

The grouse flushed low and straightaway from dense rip-stems and I caught it squarely, leaving a pillow-full of feathers floating. I was using the 55%-70% set of Carrels with traps 3-1 1/2-8 and there was little doubt that this grouse <sup>had not</sup> fluttered at all. Even so, Bliss is still under the nervous of my "Lesson" which was all ~~to~~ impossible and then we went to it and mounted the bird she refused to retrieve. I have a problem here. But the point was a honey and the shot over it qualifying. a good day. too few birds.



Thursday 21 December

James

Bliss: 1 prod.

Very hot - 65°; cloudy but damp underfoot

Heard 4-5 flushes  
One shot - 0

Dixie:

Again Kay & Dixie joined us and we met James at his mailbox and chatted, giving him the photos of Jim & Asbury. We didn't go as far as his house, having seen him, but walked to the sawmill, then up toward the cabin. We got a wild flush even with no dogs near, then a very hot point by Dixie, with Bliss backing ~~unfortunately empty~~ but a nice point.



On the way back to the bridge, below the old tramroad, we moved 2 more snigles wild.

After hunting out the Fiske Run road to the Hardy's Rocks we moved up the slope and began working toward the car. Partway in excellent cover Bliss pointed and I crawled to her thru tangles of grapevines. The grouse flushed a short piece in front and I fired for a good right-quartering rising shot that missed. I felt myself shoot with my head too high. A lovely point. Followed and reflushed this bird for 1 day had taken D. to the car and was at Summer's house. I circled and came in about with no more action. Dixie is doing so well after her last operation and while she pokes around in part much of the time, she is enjoying herself and getting good air & exercise - and happy. So are we!

Friday 22 December

Jakes - (Gray Ringer)

Much colder 36° to 40° Moved 5 (two new) - 8 fleas  
cloudy, some wind. No shots Bliss: 2 prod.  
Dixie

Kay & Dixie were along again and we drove to Jakes cabin via the Cuygnet road - very muddy at Jakes. Hunted the starlings below the strip mine above Jakes house where he had moved grass in deer season. Kay heard 3 go out far ahead of us at end of the starlings. I think they all pitched for the rhododendron along the run - a good move. We moved nothing in the bush and starlings below the power line on top and Kay built a lunch-time fire while I circled the area. After eating we hunted the top square of cover, going over nearly every foot of it without catching anything. Then hunting the north edge. I was just inside, Dixie in front of me, Bliss walking further out.



Ray was walking in the open and a grouse flushed from the edge and rounded the corner, disappearing over the ridge. I think the bird had run out from the woods ahead of Dixie.

We followed with some bit of futile doubling on the slope beyond but missed nothing. Returning toward the car along the bottom path, we saw Bliss point and Dixie back, just in the rhododendron. It looked productive but when I walked in I was empty. B. began working the scent, convincing me a bird had run up from the rhododendron and some pointed in the open woods above me. The grouse flushed almost immediately and we marked it to the edge below the spoil bank on top. There we flushed it and I merely glimpsed it as it sailed over my head. Following, we got a flash point <sup>from Bliss</sup> and a bird flushed from the dense corner below the strip mine - I think the bird we had put over from the top square court.

With that, we soon turned back and hunted to beyond the power line right-of-way where I expected a bird. Bliss & Dixie walked across and into the woods beyond and I crossed about where I thought birds might lie for the night in the right-of-way. Later, ~~for~~ in the far woods I heard Ray call, <sup>me</sup> that she had flushed a grouse from the center of the r.-of.-way from some rocks below where I had crossed with the dogs. Why hadn't the dogs hit it? This is good cover and we haven't been able to hunt all of it yet. Will return.

Monday 25 December Christmas

Och Frankhausen

cloudy, cool, turning to rain  
2: - 4:

Heard 3 - 5 flushes Bliss: 3 prod.  
(no new) No shots Dixie: 1 back.

Took Ray & Dixie to this lovely cover. Much good cover on the Ray Guthrie place we hope to try. Obtained permission from Ray & Mrs. Troy. Beautiful points on first two points of Bliss, the Deer Valley Center



Wednesday 27 December

Lebanon

Bliss  
Dixie

Snow yesterday.

Moved 1-2 fleas

One shot - 0

Snow on ground today, light amount.

Cold, 32°

We found footprints nearly everywhere we hunted, with a rabbit chase and some shooting to the east. We made our first bird after a long hunt, an meadow from the dogs on the far edge of the pines at the NE corner of Steve's place. I turned and tried a fast swing as the bird was crossing left but had too short a view between trees, tho it could have been made. We followed back down to the alders in the bottom beyond a clearing. I was sure the bird would have crossed and I think I



heard the gun go out the far end. After that, nothing except more tracks tho we hunted thru excellent grouse cover along the head of a branch of Filer Run to a road Steve says is the WVA-MD. line. I doubt this. With no one in ahead of us - there were 4 men we later saw with rabbit dogs - I think there would be a chance here.

The following day - my birthday <sup>proved</sup> too rough, as was the rest of the week - and the year - as 6" of snow dumped on us and clung to everything. Oh well.



Thursday 25 January

Little Sandy N

Bliss: 1 prod.

Dixie: 1 back.

2 1/2 hrs.

Moved 2 (new) - 2 flushes

Two shots - no hit

Sunny, 30°, snow pack frozen.

This was the first time out since December 22<sup>th</sup>, after a long bitter cold spell with 20" of snow. The bird I shot at flushed from the very tangle where my first grouse after the deer season flushed, except I hit that one. Ray and I were on the path in the slashings and I was just saying that this was where - when the grouse came out and at us, passing low over our heads. I turned and fired too soon as the overhead right going away opportunity. If I'd waited a moment it would have been better. My left barrel



try at the bird going away was well out and below eye level but almost straightaway.

but did not stop it. I am sure Bliss had the point with D. looking for her bell had gone quiet and both dogs came out of the piece of cover as the bird disappeared.

Later we made a grouse just beyond the fence on Cortez's in the paperons below the hill crest field, no chance to shoot.

Friday 26 January

Hazard Helmick

Bliss & Dixie

2 1/2 hrs.

Warmer, 35°, partly sunny. Some snow in places

This was an idea I'd wanted to try - to go to the west side of the mountains in the foothill country where the ground cover of snow was still too deep here at home, yet with good weather overhead. Helmick had hunted deer on Old Hamlock in the past and was reputed to have grouse on his land near Mt. Morris on the Penna. line. The situation was perfect for the experiment and the Helmicks were

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cordial, with Hayward waiting for our arrival and driving up the  
hollow to show us the cover. It was ideal. One factor was missing -  
the grouse. However we had a good outing - the hills are steep and the  
exercise fine. But it had to be tried at least once.

Saturday 27 January

James

Blin  
Dixie

Mixed 1 - 1 flash.  
No shots.

Partly cloudy, 45°  
Still lots of snow

Snow footing bad, letting us down an moment after  
supporting us before. Kay returned to car for Blin's bell I'd forgotten  
and I missed one grouse in the cover on the right of the road.

June rode down road on Mabel and Kay followed. There were grouse  
tracks along upper part of road but none in bottom or above the  
sawmill. We finally came to more tracks in the big rocks & papermills  
above James' but no birds. Came to "Trails End" - sign on James  
shed and found June waiting on porch with Buddy for us. Visited  
widows, June concerned about absence of four hounds (finally all  
returned - all gone 16 days). Saw pictures of our dogs and met among  
foxhound pictures in large frame, as well as Ruff's photo with star head.  
No birds on return trip. Feel this would be a place to try on a  
good day (above James' house). June says he has never remembered grouse  
so scarce.

Just got settled with a spot of rye and soda after

laying fore & cleaning Purley when a call from Hugh Wiley from  
near Cuygart saying he was stranded in a snow drift on Eyre  
Kelly place sent me for them. Came home, picked up Kay & we drove  
them home, returning to a dinner after 10:00 pm. & very tired.  
Later, I wondered why I didn't just send them away. 311



Wednesday 31 January

William (Hollan) Sammill

#50

4 hours.

Partly sunny 44°  
Snow gone except  
study sides.

Mixed 6 (5 new) - 7 flushes.

2 shots - 1 hit

Bliss: 1 head.  
1 ret  
1 k

Dixie: 1 ret  
1 k

adult cock: semi-solid, red.

Crop: X was firm, marginal firm, wingfold

This proved a good impulse, & tho we were unable to cross the little run at flood stage to hunt the cover I had planned hunting first, we kept to the snow side and followed a log road up the right hillside. Came to grass tracks several times all seeming to be going up. Finally on far edge of the small power line we followed some of them back and up the right-of-way.

I was just outside edge of woods on the right near the top of the hill when I saw a grouse flush toward me coming down the right-of-way. Deliberately I turned, determined to take the shot well out. I did and saw the bird back left but couldn't be certain it was hit. The shot was an away-left or more nearly straight away at about 30 or 35 yards.

Both dogs came in to search and tho I wasn't sure where to expect it, Bliss soon located the grouse in some tangle of brush in the right-of-way. It fluttered and she had to catch it, but ~~did~~ and started to retrieve, losing her grip once or twice. She made the retrieval almost to me and then lay down as the bird got loose again. Rather than let it continue I dispatched the grouse - a beautiful big bronze cock - and when Bliss did no more about it, I had Dixie retrieve which she did nicely. A moment later Bliss attacked poor Dixie and rolled her on her back but there were no injuries. Dixie has been coming



about her since.

The grouse was a lovely specimen and tho seemed only winged  
proved, upon dressing it, to have been centered with at least 12  
pellets in the body. The going away shots are treacherous, in that  
birds can carry off shot, or escape on the ground at times with  
pellets in (non-lethal) (shots) enough to kill outright. This bird was  
with the T. rufus 3. 14-8 found - in 55% right word.

As I shot my bird, Kay had almost stepped on another grouse on  
her side of the power line - a hen.

We worked up and crossed the back road into where I usually  
hunt in the head of this water shed. Much of it is good now, some has  
grown too open. Here, we lost Bliss on a point, I'm certain, and  
tho I searched all over for her, could not locate her. Finally she must  
have missed us for we marched for an hour before, back toward the  
old road she came to us, obviously having started down the hollow.

While in this situation Kay saw 3 grouse flush over a near by from  
an area - birds I wasn't aware of and we were unable to relocate.



It was late and we had to get across the flooded  
stream which we did in "Three Dead Cats" hollow -  
what Kay tho I said when I spoke of a dead tree we  
could cross on.

Taking the north side of the valley on the way down, we flushed a grouse  
the dogs should have found in a woods on the edge of the big power line - a low  
left-quartering shot I missed with a fast snap for lack of view, and again flushed  
it where I felt Bliss should have found it. Today she seemed to work well but  
without effect. Came out to hand the road (Clifton-Brandenburg) near car after  
coming down an "excellent" knob. It's being timbered of big oaks and with any  
again be good grouse cover in for a few years.  
~~Phone call from Wileup & took them home - not back & had dinner at 10:00 pm.~~



Thursday 1 February Bill Ringer & Ezra Kelly Place #52  
Cloudy, damp, 48° Moved 3-4 flocks. Heard 3-3 flocks.  
3 1/2 hrs. Patches of snow. One shot - 0 2 shots - 0  
Bliss: 2 prod  
Dixie: 1 back

Conditions seemed ideal. The birds on the Ringer place were actually below, on the White Land, a good brushy regrowth, pasture. Bliss made a bad point, Dixie cocking but it braced empty. We had hunted Bill Ringer's and was headed toward car. Part way down near a little spring and clump of grapevines a grouse flushed to our side of me and bored uphill into dense cover on Bill's, followed almost at once by a second bird - neither offering a shot due to my position. What puzzles me is that Bliss missed them, working not far to our side, yet hit the scent on the empty point. We followed back uphill and Bliss pointed, I am certain, the cover on which I couldn't enter. I tried for the bird on a right-quarter rise but had to shoot too soon because of short view, and missed. We are unable to follow onto the Harner place (pointed) and so returned to car, driving to the Ezra Kelly land for a last hour's hunt.

Again, Bliss did not find a bird that flushed not far from her east, topping the trees from just below the old land. In the lower woods but not in brushy cover I found her on a lovely point in the old log road. She reestablished as I walked in, freezing toward me. The grouse flushed from beneath a rock and I tried a right-quartering rise and missed, firing the left as it bleeded them some themselves well out but I went on.





Soon afterwards a third pair flushed out of a tree below. Bliss' point was beautifully rewarding - my shooting wasn't.

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Saturday 3 February Little Sandy<sup>N</sup> Bliss & Dixie

1½ hr. 31° Nothing.  
Kuy stayed home and I tried a hunt with a light snow on ground. no results. Rabbit hunters ahead of me had made what might have been ahead

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Monday 5 February Egra Kelly Bliss worked too wide  
Perfect weather 43° Heard 7 (4 new) - 9 flushes Dixie  
Snow on ground. No shots  
Dogs seemed unable to handle birds. Saw tracks throughout the bottom court

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Tuesday 6 February Ray Guthrie Bliss  
Sunny 46° Heard 4 - 4 flushes Dixie  
Birds jumpy Ock Frankhauser  
Heard 2 (no new) - 2 flushes  
No shots

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Wednesday 7 February George Ringer Bliss: 1 brod. (chick) over  
Cold, sunny. Heard 1 - 1 flush 1 R  
adult cocked adult One shot - 1 hit over pt. Dixie: 1 R  
crop: 2 grapes, greens Both refused retrieval.  
We hunted the ridge below strip mine to the top cover where, remembering our experience last time, I hunted around outside.  
at exactly the corner (NW) where the quail flushed out of woods and



into the field, I stepped around the corner to find Bliss in the field pointing very high, toward the woods. #54



IMPOSSIBLE TO RESIST

birds, Dixie was unaware of the point and moved the bird which came out low and almost into Bliss's head. I saw Bliss wheel and dash after the grouse which was flying low and left-quartering in the open along the edge of the woods exactly like the other time. I couldn't shoot for fear of hitting Bliss but as I watched, the grouse pulled away from her and, on impulse, I fired going thru a lead and the grouse tumbled. Bliss picked it up but unfortunately the bird fluttered and then tried to coax her, she refused the retriever. Dixie also refused, afraid of Bliss. When I saw that the grouse was still alive the hard hit, I went to it and dispatched it. To my amazement the distance was fifty yards - I doubled checked - the shot was with the 55% right barrel - 3.18-8 "Alcan". The bird was an adult cock. One wing and one leg was shattered and, when dressed, proved to have some body shots. This was my last bird of the season - number 12

Friday 16 February

James

Bliss: 1 prod.

Dixie: 1 back

mailed 6 (4 new) - 6 flosses.

One shot - no hit

Snow on ground, 36°

4 hours.

Back to James. Heard a grouse from woods & across open field into woods about James' house. There Bliss walked

into another bird. There were tracks of grouse more than the ones we



moved and we hunted along the road beyond Jones without refreshing the two. Beyond Jones' fence I missed Bliss's bell and found her on a lucky point in the cover above the road, half turned. 557/67



THREE TREES.

I walked in, closer, closer and finally the grouse flushed from ahead of Bliss - only yards - crossing right rising and as I sawing them I felt a group of three trees blocking my swing and I fired knowing I hadn't waited long enough and missed. I had a glimmer as the bird leeked beyond but it was too late for another try. Anyway it was a honey of a point and Dixie had been backing from above.

We hunted out to the end of the road, moved one at the end, then hunted to the upper path and back, getting involved in the steep, mind and ending around the ridge, very tired and a long trek from the car. But a good day.

Saturday 17 February

Cold 28° dropping to 22°

Sunny. Snow cover.

2 hrs. 40 min.

Eyre Kelly

Bliss  
Heard 3 (no name) - 3 flashes Dixie

2 shots - no hit

Even tho it was Saturday we tried this count. Tracks of at least one car preceding us. Parked short of back road



after crossing small stream was alerted from my study of snow for  
tracks by a flush from Bliss on right edge of road. The grouse was well  
up when I heard the flap of wings and my response was too fast and impulsive—  
a snap shot instead of overtake — a miss in wide open air, and another  
miss as the bird angled and lurched going away thru oak leaves.



AND AGAIN!



WIDE OPEN

We followed and missed a second  
grouse but no reflex of 1st bird.  
Found foot tracks all thru the  
cover further in and a shot in  
bottom toward late afternoon.

Their car was parked near the quarry. One of them was a confirmed tobacco chewer!  
~~Our~~ Our hunt was started late but in this temperature we had all we wanted.  
Hunted one blind bird in the cover at head of little run.

Monday 19 February

Bill Ringer  
missed 4 - 4 flushes  
(1 new)

Bliss: 1 prod.  
Dixie:

Sunny 32°  
3 1/2 hrs.

Ezra Kelly  
missed 2 - 2 flushes.  
No shots

Friday 23 February

James  
missed 8 (1 new) - 10 flushes  
No shots

Bliss: 4 prod.  
Dixie: 2 back

Warmer 34°  
Snow cover

Back to James' for next to last day. Lots of action but no  
breaks for the gun. Birds wild. Found June home and learned  
that Buddy had died. He had a new puppy, Cathy.



Saturday 24 February

Hazleton #1

Bliss

moved (3) - 5 flushes

Dixie

Bill Ringer

0

Eyra Kelly

no shots

moved 2 - 3 flushes

Lovely 32° turning  
cloudy & spitting snow

Last day. In effort to make the most of it we tried cover hopping with small success. We moved a grouse in usual knob cover at Hazleton #1 but had no dog work that we could see, the B. might have pointed the 2nd flush after we followed the grouse to the west edge. After moving it once more and then mowing the area to no avail - saw only one set of tracks other than bird we moved - we hunted the cover below the road more fully than before and found good potential cover in a good year. Moved two singles, one of which - a big cock - Bliss ran onto unaccountably. Was it the 32° temp.?

after covering this (there is probably much cover all the way up Mill Run that deserves study) we moved to the Bill Ringer place, only to find foot tracks all over it - at least four pairs - with two rabbit hunters on the Soren White side. Moved nothing here or left.

Next year we must obtain permission to hunt over on Robert Harner where all birds flush. Moved to Eyra Kelly place, only to find a car parked at the intersection of road & hard top with a pack of foot tracks going into woods where we entered (parked on hardtop because of snow in ~~back~~ strip road).

Working back to road at stream crossing, I was on lookout for the grouse that caused time before last but in spite of my alert I



failed to get a shot when it came across in exactly the same place,  
Dixie having rooted it out. We followed down to the bridge on Beaver  
along back road, seeing many tracks but no birds. Woods cover came to  
footprints of hunters but no game. Finally came back Kelly road to  
quarry, where this time the grouse did march last time flushed well  
from upper edge. In the last light of the day we followed all  
the way to cover along the little stream and came out on lower  
strip road in near darkness, with no further results. I suppose  
many seasons have ended on a day without shooting but this season  
seemed doomed to be one of them. A disappointing last week with  
no shots in three days out. Bliss made it an event by eating some  
human fecal matter. Too many people these days.

### Summary '67-'68

This was one of the really low years - 3.14 bird/court ratio  
Only the exceptional woodcock flights made the year. This was  
the biggest woodcock year in my experience. Very shooting on 'cock,  
58.9% was surprisingly even with last season's - 58.8%. Very  
grouse average, 30.8% was much the same - with last year at 30%.  
The small number of chances has an effect on your shooting as  
compared with a year when the shots are numerous and a string of  
hits can bolster your confidence.

We were grateful that Dixie had so much hunting. I had  
actually not hoped she would even be alive for it was recently  
as last August. It was wonderful. She did very well on 'cock,  
her best bird. On grouse she was also very good.



and then backs very nicely ~~back~~ that toward the end she  
tended to creep up on Bliss's points. I don't know why Dixie  
has never become staunch on grouse, as she is an most cock and  
even pheasants. This year I had no pheasant shooting tho I  
would like to have given some to Dixie, but I won't spoil  
Bliss.

Bliss is everything I had dreamed and I think I must  
admit, as good as Ruff. She has a phenomenal nose and  
a genius for pinning grouse. Her plan for holding them without  
has convinced me it is foolish to try to hold her to a close  
range when I have a gun like her. Pinning them for  
ahead of me — and when that bell goes silent you ~~can~~ <sup>can</sup>  
can't another point — she holds birds that would have  
ward out if I had been close behind her. I have shot  
 $\frac{1}{3}$  of the birds she ~~has pointed~~ killed on her, one <sup>to date,</sup> her  
points, a fine record for a young four-year-old.

I have one problem — I nearly (may have) spoiled Bliss's  
retrieving by forcing her when she got to refusing fluttering grouse.  
My "game" seemed to be bringing her back but did not prove  
to be successful. However, I am hoping that next woodcock season  
will get her over it. If not, I will still be content with one of the  
two best dogs I've had, or expect to have.

We hope for a better grouse year next season, but anyway,  
this was a good year for us all, tho we missed Shadows.

This year I made a string of ~~eleven straight hits on 'cock~~  
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1967

GREGG KNOB 014.4.9.0  
 MUDDY CREEK 020.1.1.0  
 HARTMAN 021.3.3.0  
 UPPER DORITY 028.1.1.0  
 LEBNICK N6.9.10.1/N16.4.5.0/D27.1.2.0  
 GEORGE RINGER N8.4.5.0/D22.5(2).8.0/F7.1.1.1  
 BERT MATHEWS N9.2.2.0  
 SUGAR VALLEY N11.1.4.1  
 Hampton #1 N18.0/F24.3.5.0(1)  
 GLOVER N18.3.4.0/D6.4.4.1  
 LITTLE SANDY D4.2.2.1/J25.(2).2.0/F3.0  
 BUTCH BERNETT D5.2.2.0  
 CHARLIE BRYTE'S D8.5.8.1  
 MARTIN PLACE D9.3.3.2  
 WOLF HOLLOW CLIFTON D13.0  
 WILKINSON SAWMILL D13.2.2.0/J31.6(5).7.1  
 OCH FRANKHAUSER D15.5.5.1/D25.3.5.0/F6.2.2.0  
 CHARLES KELLY D16.2.2.0  
 DAVE MORGAN D19.2.2.0  
 PISGAH D20.1.2.1  
 JONES D21.4.5.0/J27.1.1.0/F16.6(4).6.0/F28.8(1).10.0  
 HAYWARD HELMICK J26.0  
 BILL RINGER F1.3.4.0/F19.4(1).4.0/F24.0  
 EZRA KELLY F1.3.3.0/F5.7(4).9.0/F17  
 Ray Guthrie F6.4.4.0/F19.2.2.0/F24.2.3.0

92

MT. STORM

15-26

#1 023.1.1.0/N1(1).0/N13.1.1.0 2  
 QUAGMIRE 023.1.2.0 1  
 CHERRY RIDGE 026.0 0  
 TOWERING OAKS (HESSE) 026.3.3.0 3  
 ABRAM CR. 030.2.5.0/N3.1.1.0 2  
 CLYDE DAVIS N2.0 0  
 THORNS N3.7.7.0/N10.5.5.1 7  
 Handlen

BLACKWATER

6-8

FLANNIGAN'S HILL 017.4.6.0 4  
 GATES S. 017.1.1.0 1  
 HUCKLEBERRY PLAINS (MINE 024.1.1.0 1  
 CORNER N2.0 0



# DATA 1967

GEORGE 50 DAYS - KAY 39

36 COVERTS

39 SHOTS - 12 HITS 30.8%

3.14 BIRD/COVERT

113 BIRDS - 198 FLUSHES

SHOTS AT 19.7% OF FLUSHES

6.06% OF FLUSHES HIT

WOODCOCK: 56 SHOTS - 33 HITS 58.9%

ALL OVER PTS.

152 W.C. - 203 FLUSHES

SHOT AT ~~100~~ % FLUSHES

27.5

16.2% OF FLUSHES HIT

DIXIE 9+

39 DAYS

1 PROD. 11 BACKS

16 PROD. 63 BACKS

3 KILLS

W.C. 10 RET.

1 RET.

33 KILLS

LIFE '58-'67

112 PROD.

102 KILLS (15 OVER PT.

68 RET.

337 1/2 DAYS

BLISS 3+

50 DAYS

41 PROD.

90 PROD. 4 BACKS

12 KILLS (5 OVER PT.

W.C. 21 RET.

3 RET.

33 KILLS

LIFE '64-'67

<sup>20</sup>/~~200~~ PROD. 4 BACK

69 KILLS (23 OVER PT.

38 RET.

217 DAYS

GROUSE

9M 3F

(9A) (2Y 1A)

WOODCOCK

16M 17F

11A 5Y 12A 5Y

Y .85/1 AF

George Bird Evans Papers

West Virginia and Regional History Center



WOODCOCK

1967

October 23 four Mt Storm #1  
 25 three Galls  
 26 four Cherry Ridge (one) #2 (three)  
 28 one Upper Doity  
 30 four. Mt Storm Dulung-Alman

NOV.  
 1 three Mt. Storm #1  
 2 two Mt. Storm Dulung-Alman  
 3 five " Thorns!  
 10 two " Thorns  
 13 five Mt Storm #1

IM ~~one~~ three  
 AM two  
 IF two  
 AF ~~two~~ four

IM one

AM four (one found by King Thorns.)

AF six

IF two

AM two

AM two

AF two

IF one

AM one

IM one

1  
 10  
 yearlings  
 5 IM  
 5 IF

A  
 23  
 adults  
 11 AM  
 12 AF

16 M

17 F