

Labrador Retriever Club of Greater Boston Beginning Retriever Training

Marking Vocabulary

(Taken from Mike Lardy's Articles and Retriever Field Trial Judging Manual, compiled by Karen Kennedy)

Go-Bird – The last bird down in a multiple mark setup.

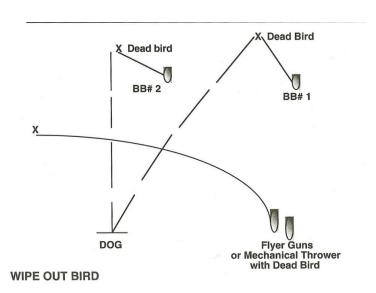
Memory Birds -- Birds thrown before the Go-Bird in a multiple mark setup.

<u>Out of Order Flyer</u> – Flyers are usually shot as the Go-Bird, and therefore are considered Out of Order when they are thrown before the Go-Bird. This can create some challenging secondary selection situations when the Flyer is longer than the remaining marks.

<u>Primary Selection</u> – This refers to a test that encourages the handler to pull the running dogs off the last bird down (the Go-Bird) and send the dog to retrieve an earlier thrown bird.

<u>Secondary Selection</u> – This refers to the training convention where you require your dog to pick-up the shortest mark remaining after getting the Go-Bird. Judges cannot mandate what order you pick-up the birds; but it is often advantageous to get the shorter bird before a longer one. (The choice for sequencing the retrieves of marks).

<u>Eraser Birds (aka Wipe Out Marks)</u> – This is the situation where the Go-Bird is thrown relatively close to the line and across one or more earlier marks. This means the lines to the memory mark(s) go under the arc of the go-bird.

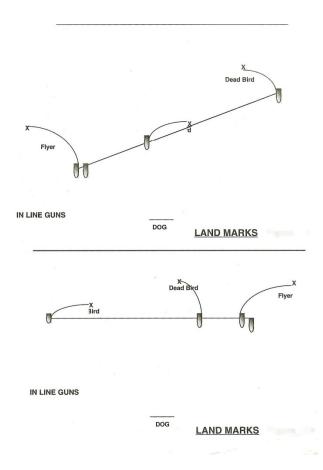


<u>Interrupted Marks</u> - A multiple mark set-up with a blind retrieve that you have to pick-up sometime during the marking test (not after). Typically you are instructed to get the blind after retrieving the Go-Bird. Then you may have one or two memory marks remaining. If you have a lot of trouble with your blind your dog is quite likely to have a hazy memory for the marks.

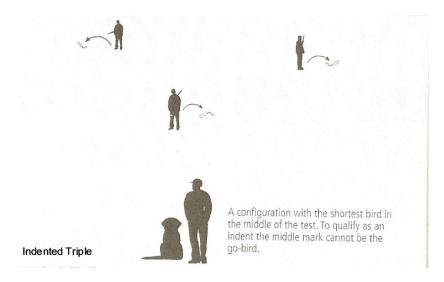
Poison Bird – A marking setup in which the dog is told to ignore the Go-Bird in order to run a blind(s) first.

<u>Delayed Triple</u> – A triple in which the dog is sent after the second bird thrown. When the dog returns, a third "delayed" mark is thrown. The benefit of this setup is that the dog will essentially run two singles, and yet the memory bird is on the ground the same amount of as in a regular triple.

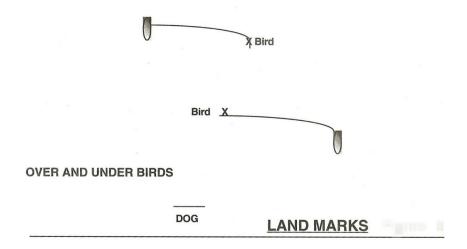
<u>In-Line Triple</u> – A configuration where the three guns in a Triple are set out in a straight line. Typically, they all throw in the same direction, and are aligned at an angle away from the line. Dogs usually have trouble remembering the location of the middle mark.



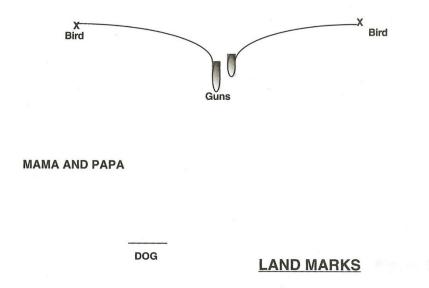
<u>Indented Triple</u> – A configuration with the shortest bird in the middle of the test. To qualify as an indent, the middle mark cannot be the Go-Bird.



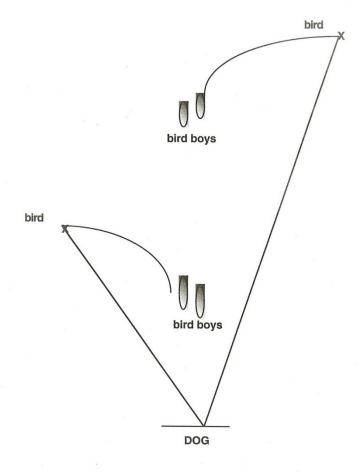
Over and Under Marks - A pattern in which two birds are thrown in-line with each other, one short and one deep.



<u>Mama and Papa (aka Fountain Pen)</u> - a marking pattern in which two birds are thrown from the same set of guns, thrown in opposite directions.

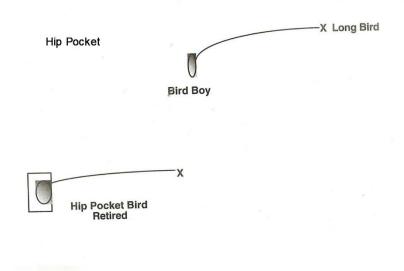


Flower Pot – A mark in which two gunners are in line vertically but throwing their birds in opposite directions



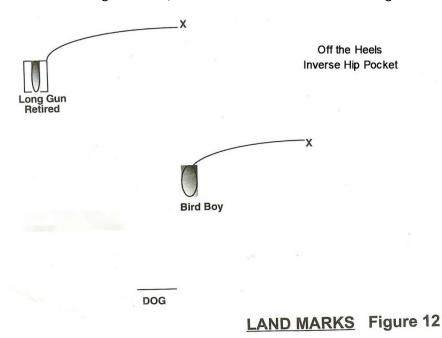
FLOWER POT CONFIGUARTION

<u>Hip Pocket</u> – a marking pattern in which a long bird and short bird are positioned so that the short bird is thrown to land in-line with the long gun's "pants" back pocket. Both long and short birds are thrown in the same direction.

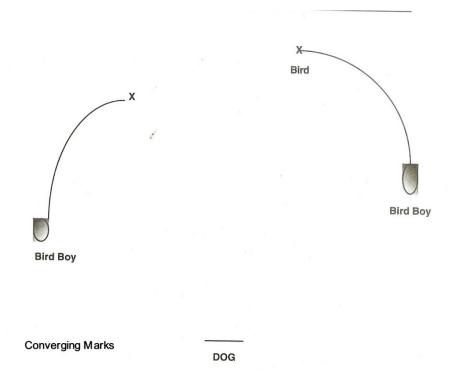


DOG LAND MARKS Figure 11

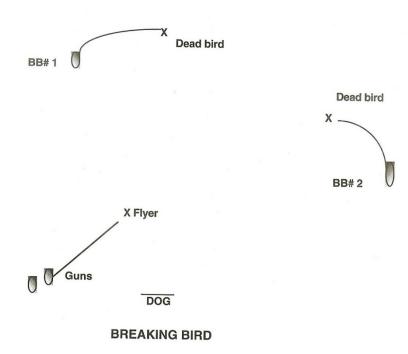
Off the Heels (above) – the inverse of the "Hip Pocket" marking configuration has the short bird directly in front of the line and the long bird offset by 20 to 25 yards. Both birds are thrown in the same directions. The "long" bird will now land in-line with the gun's heels, while the short mark will land at angle out to the side.



Converging Marks – marks involving two birds that are thrown towards each other



<u>Breaking Birds</u> – a live bird that is right out in the open and shot fairly close to the line and is usually exciting for the dogs. A breaking bird tests steadiness in a dog.



<u>Down the Shore</u> – Typically the line is set at an angle to the long shoreline with two birds thrown down the shore away from the dog on line. The marks are usually well separated and at least 40 yds apart. Any body of water that has a reasonably long and relatively straight and open shoreline that is visible from the running line can be used.

