

### **Bird Planting Principles**

Saturate the field pre- trial. (Judges to Drive ATVs all across field before the Bird Planter begins planting birds for the brace, this is done only at the beginning of trail)

1. Birds must always be on the downwind side of bird planter's ATV's track.
2. Know the wind direction before you plant. If you plant on the edges (which you should at times, use the whole field) make sure the dog has room to smell the bird without going out of bounds.

Example - Bird is planted close the boarder, wind direction is from field to boarder, this would be a bad plant, there is no way for the dog to smell this bird. However, if the wind is from edge of the field to the bird that is planted close to the edge it would be a good plant. Dog should not have to go out of bounds to smell the bird, also the dog should not have to be in the water to smell the bird either.

3. No ATV's track should lead to a bird that has not been crossed by another ATV track during the bird planting process.
4. From one brace to the next brace, birds should not be put in the same place in the field.
5. Birds should be slept so that when you put them down they stay down, no walking birds. Why, because you don't want birds walking out of bounds or walking into another quadrant.
6. Should use the whole field to plant. Should have 5 birds - 1 in each quadrant and one in the middle of the field.
7. No two birds should be close to each other, i.e one quadrant next to another quadrant.
  - a. Example - The back two corners, if a bird is on the inner edge on one back corner and the inner edge of the adjacent quadrant, that is a bad plant, the birds are too close together.
8. No birds should be touched with bare hands. Always wear gloves when planting birds.
9. Don't plant following the same ATV's track brace after brace.
10. When planting birds, people in the gallery should not be able to see where you toss the bird - no shoulder dip, head nod, look back, etc.
11. Should never drop birds while turning or making a loop on the ATV. Always drop the bird on a straight away, not within the turn.
12. For fun for the gallery, on the last brace of the day you can do a "show bird". Show the bird to the gallery before you plant it and let them see you drop it.
13. Goal of a well planted field:
  - a. If you have done your job well, the last bird found will be found within the last minute of the brace.

### **Procedure to Sleep Birds**

1. Place your index finger within the v of the bottom side of the bird's neck and breast.
2. Hold constant pressure, squeezing inward where you feel the air sack.
3. When it starts to deflate, lightly shake the bird back & forth.
4. Drop the bird on the ground with a slight toss to the downwind side of the track. Don't drop the bird next to the wheel.