

THE CHAMPION AND OTHERS

The starting field of 52 brought forth seven dogs with creditable grouse finds and an additional two with finds on woodcock only. One contender had work on both gamebirds. Twenty-six grouse were moved on the courses or found and pointed by the dogs. On two occasions grouse flew at approach of the gallery from treetops. Four woodcock were moved during the running but their migration was in its latter stages on the Gladwin refuge. All courses yielded grouse, from a low of one grouse in three hours on No. 10-11 to a high of eight grouse in three hours on No. 14-15. In the 1930s or '40s, peak years, 50-60 grouse were moved in a similar number of hours of championship running.

Grouse Ridge Storm won this title with a great display of desire and hunting skill. The dog jumps hard and patterns his course with skill and knowledge of where to look for grouse. His handling is as good if not better than the average of wide dogs that take in a lot of the woods while working hard on their course. Storm is a sound dog afoot with good legs under him and a smooth fluid gait. He gets the job done and keeps you looking at his intense effort. He handled a lone grouse but that bird was under him and came over his head while handler was still a long way from him, a remarkable display of manners and training. It left a very favorable impression on those who witnessed it. Storm is campaigned heavily both in the grouse events and in walking shooting dog stakes as well as horseback events. The dog's versatility allows him to perform well in all those events. Storm was runner-up in the just completed Lake States Grouse Dog Championship; he is reigning Region 2 Walking Shooting Dog Champion and is runner-up Walking Shooting Dog of the Year in Pennsylvania. Storm's competitive field trial record shows a total of 12 placements.