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To Rural and Star Route Carriers

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April 14, 1953

TO RURAL & STAR ROUTE CARRIERS

Please follow these pointers in making the spring counts:

1. Record birds seen on four regular trips over your route.

2. Use four route days, during the week of April 20th if possible.

3. Do not begin before April 20.

4. Use four trips without rain or snow. Do not count if it is raining or snowing.

5. Beginning April 20, use the next four trips (unless it is raining or snowing). Do not wait for days of "good counts".

6. Please return the card after four trips even if you see few or no birds. Statewide returns are desired.

SUMMARY OF YOUR 1953 WINTER RECORDS

As we have mentioned before, an important item from the winter counts is the ratio of cock pheasants to hen pheasants after the season has ended. Your winter records showed 88 cocks per 100 hens for the state as a whole. In extreme southeastern Nebraska (where pheasants are scarce), and for central and western Nebraska, you recorded more cocks than hens. For most of the eastern third of the state (where most of the pheasant hunting is done) you recorded two cocks for every three hens. This reflects the removal of more cocks by hunting in that area.

Excepting for the part of the state from about York, and into northeast Nebraska, the ground was mostly bare at the time of the 1953 winter counts. Counts are usually low when we have bare ground in winter. Your records showed fewer pheasants, quail, and prairie chickens than a year ago, slightly fewer sharp-tailed grouse, but more deer. Deer were seen in all quarters of the state, especially in the northeast.

Carriers saw quail in 31 counties, prairie chickens in 22 counties, sharp-tailed grouse in 24 counties. Prairie chickens and grouse out-numbered pheasants in carriers' reports from Antelope, Boyd, Holt, Brown, Cherry, Thomas, Hooker, Grant, McPherson and Lincoln counties. Quail outnumbered pheasants in Sarpy, Otoe, Nemaha, Johnson and Richardson counties.

Thanks a lot for your help.

GAME, FORESTATION & PARKS COMMISSION

Levi L. Mohler, Leader
Wildlife Survey & Investigation

7/13/51

PHEASANT BROOD OBSERVATIONS AND QUAIL SURVEY RESULTS

Ten broods have already been reported by Bowers, Grasmick, Schultz and Owen, and eleven others (see list) have reported their first broods.

The most important item obtained from these cards is an indication of the date of local hatching compared to previous years.

Early The first brood reported in each of these counties was seen more than a week earlier in 1951 than a year ago: Phelps, Kearney, Hall, Nuckolls, Fillmore, Saline, York, Polk, Washington, Wayne, Knox, Cherry, and Sheridan.

Late In these counties the first brood was seen in 1951 more than a week later than a year ago: Keith, Chase, Frontier, Red Willow, Gosper and Harlan.

Little Difference In eight scattered counties the first broods in both years were seen within a week or less of the same date: Garden, Dundy, Hitchcock, Furnas, Dawson, Clay, Seward and Lancaster.

Additional returns may change some of the above results.

The list below shows dates of the first and tenth broods, from cards received in Lincoln by July 11th:

Observer	Date When First Brood Was Seen	Date When Tenth Brood Was Seen	Av. Number Yg. per Brood
Owen	May 11	June 23	8.4
Bowers	June 12	July 3	7.3
Grasmick	June 13	June 30	7.7
Schultz	June 18	July 7	5.2
Wolkow	May 27		
Shaffer	June 8		
Cassell	June 9		
Guyer	June 10		
Edmunds	June 13		
Stenstrom	June 16		
Von Dane	June 18		
Bosak	June 21		
McCarroll	June 26		
Jensen	June 29		
Bunney	July 7		

The average number of young in early broods varies but little from year to year. The first 62 broods reported this year averaged 6.5 young per brood, or about the same as in previous years.

Quail Results from two counties, Pawnee and Saline, show quail approximately twice as abundant as at this time last year. Ten officers are conducting the annual survey in southeastern and southern counties.

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