

Recipes

Kick Up Your Game With Pheasant Phried Rice

From The Iowa DNR

If you're looking for a way to shake up the old stew routine with pheasant, adding wild game to a classic stir fry is a great way to start!

Here's what you'll need:

- 1/2 cup onion, chopped
- 1 tsp minced garlic
- 2 tbsp olive oil, separated
- 4 cups cooked, cooled rice (we used brown rice)
- 2 scrambled eggs
- 2 drops sesame oil (strong flavor - don't go overboard!)
- 3 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 cup frozen peas and carrots (combined)
- 1/2 pound thinly-sliced pheasant breast (about one pheasant). Can substitute chicken when season is closed and out of pheasant.

You'll want to get all your ingredients prepped and at-hand before you start cooking, because this recipe moves fast!

Allow about 35 minutes to prep (although it gets faster the more you make the dish) and about 30 minutes for cooking.

Start by browning the onion and garlic in 1 tablespoon of olive oil in a wok or large skillet. Remove from the pan and cool. Reduce the heat to medium-low to get ready for the eggs. (Remember, if you haven't cooked the rice already, you should be now.)

Whisk two eggs and two drops of sesame oil together with salt and pepper, and add to the skillet. Don't scramble the eggs! Instead, swirl the mixture to cover the entire skillet, then allow the eggs to set up. Flip all at once and cook the other side. Remove to a plate to cool.

Add your remaining 1 tablespoon of olive oil to the wok. Add salt and pepper to the pheasant and add to the pan until cooked thoroughly.

Finally, slice the fried egg into 1/4 inch wide strips about 2 inches long, and gently fold into the mixture. Grab a fork and enjoy!



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State News You Can Use!

MICHIGAN DNR MONITORS WATERFOWL POPULATIONS FROM THE SKY

Earlier this year, Department of Natural Resources staff took to the sky in small aircraft to observe and count ducks, geese and swans on southern Michigan waterways. DNR Wildlife Division staff observed 148,521 ducks, 49,840 geese and 5,103 swans in 2017's survey.

In the 2016 survey, 157,028 ducks, 33,468 geese and 5,896 swans were observed. Goose observations increased in 2017, while duck observations were down about 5 percent and swan observations down 13 percent.

Though duck observations were slightly down, biologists believe that duck populations in Michigan are stable. The 5-percent decline can be attributed to cold

"The ducks were concentrated this year, with the ice cover that we had early in the winter," said Joe Robison, DNR Wildlife Division's Southeast Region Field Operations manager. "We did not count as many ducks in 2017's survey, but we did see large rafts of over 40,000 canvasbacks on the Detroit River. That is always a great sight."

Since 1991, the state of Michigan has cooperated with other states, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Canadian provinces and the Canadian Wildlife Service to conduct aerial surveys of wintering ducks and geese. This survey is commonly referred to as the Mid-Winter Waterfowl Survey.

Population estimates from Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin are included in estimates of mid-continent waterfowl abundance and are needed for establishing annual waterfowl hunting season frameworks for the Mississippi, Central and Pacific flyways. The Mid-Winter Waterfowl Survey has been especially important



Department of Natural Resources biologists counted ducks, geese and swans while flying low over Michigan's waterways as part of an annual effort to monitor waterfowl populations.

arctic blasts in late December and early January pushing birds southward, with some ducks bypassing Michigan altogether.

for evaluating waterfowl populations, monitoring winter migratory patterns and planning habitat management for these species.



NEBRASKA Land Magazine/Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Southeast Michigan, especially areas near western Lake Erie, the Detroit River and Lake St. Clair, is one of the most important areas in North America for migrating birds. Billions of birds migrate through this region each spring and fall. Many waterfowl species spend the winter on the open water of the lakes and rivers of southeast Michigan.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/dnr.

NEBRASKA

OBSERVE GREATER PRAIRIE-CHICKENS FROM BURCHARD WMA BLINDS

Wildlife viewers can observe the courtship ritual of the greater prairie-chicken in southeastern Nebraska. Twenty birds have been using a lek at Burchard Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Pawnee County.

A lek is a specific area where the birds gather to display their mating rituals year after year. The public is invited to view the spectacular mating rituals of the male prairie-chickens. Viewers will be able to interact in the bird's environment and see the importance for conservation of habitat for these birds.

Prairie-chickens are an overlooked native species that put on a great mating show. Males will drum their feet and strut in their territory on the lek while keeping other males away in their attempts to attract a female. The males have brightly colored air sacs on the sides of their necks that they inflate and "ear-like" pinnae feathers that they raise and lower during their displays.

To view the prairie-chickens, the WMA has two observation blinds available on a first-come basis. No reservations are required. The blinds, which have been on the WMA since the mid-1970s, are located on the hill between the north and south neck of the lake. Follow the lake's perimeter road and the signs marking the trail to the blinds. One blind is located the north side of the lek and the other on the south side. Each blind can accommodate at least six adults.

Viewing sessions begin one hour before sunrise so that viewers can get into the blind without disturbing the prairie-chickens in their natural habitat. Plan to stay in the blind until the birds leave the lek, which is usually two to three hours. Camera flashes should not be used and all electronic devices should be on silent.

Contact Mike Remund for more information at 402-335-2534.

NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION SETS 2017-18 WATERFOWL SEASON DATES

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission approved 2017-18 waterfowl season dates during a March 17 meeting in Grand Island.

The Commission adopted waterfowl season orders that include opening the early teal season on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend - a week earlier than staff had proposed and the same as the 2016 teal season - as well as discontinuing the Public Nuisance and Health Hazard Order for crows in Buffalo, Dawson, Franklin, Harlan, Kearney, Lincoln and Phelps counties. The 2017-18 waterfowl and crow season dates are:

Early Teal - Low Plains: Sept. 2-17; High Plains: Sept. 2-10. Daily Bag Limit: Six; Possession Limit: Three times the daily bag.

Duck and Coot - Zone 1: Oct. 14-Dec. 26; Zone 2: Oct. 7-Dec. 19 and Jan. 8-28 in High Plains; Zone 3: Oct. 26-Jan. 7 and Jan. 8-28 in High Plains; Zone 4: Oct. 7-Dec. 19; Daily Bag Limit: Six (with restrictions); Daily Possession Limit: Three times the daily bag.

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