

through July 31. All registrations for the 2022 season will be performed online at <https://short.mdc.mo.gov/459>. The web form will not be available until July 1. No paper applications will be accepted.

Only one application per person will be accepted. Successful applicants will receive a daily hunting permit in the mail prior to August 25. Applicants may request weekends only or any day. At least 50 applicants will be selected by random drawing for each of the first 7 days of the dove hunting season. Successful applicants will receive notification by mail.

For the first 7 days of the season, dove hunting will only be permitted from 1 p.m. to sunset daily.

Each hunter may bring one hunting partner with them on the day of the hunt. All hunters will be required to use non-toxic shot when hunting doves at Columbia Bottom.

Hunters with disabilities may call 636-441-4554 to reserve the ADA field after being successfully drawn for the hunt. Reservations are on a first come, first serve basis.

"Any heavy rainfalls in the Midwest may result in floodwaters impacting our planted dove fields. We will notify successful applicants as soon as possible about any important changes or impacts to dove fields," explained MDC Regional Resource Management Supervisor Gary Calvert.

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area is located at 801 Strodtman Road in north St. Louis County, at the Confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. The area can be reached by taking the Riverview Drive Exit from I-270 and travelling north approximately three miles.

NORTH DAKOTA

SPRING PHEASANT COUNTS

Watch the spring pheasant crowing count webcast with R.J. Gross.

The number of roosters heard crowing during the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's 2022 spring pheasant crowing count survey was down 22% statewide from last year.

"The decrease came as no surprise," said R.J. Gross, upland game management biologist. "We documented below average production from late summer roadside counts and the hunter harvested wing survey confirmed a 2-to-1 juvenile to adult ratio, which are lingering effects from the drought of 2021."

The primary regions holding pheasants showed 14.1 crows per stop in the southwest, down from 18.4 in 2021; 13.7 crows per stop in the northwest, down from 14.3; and 9.7 crows per stop in the southeast, down from 14.5.

The count in the northeast, which is not a primary region for pheasants, was 3.0 crows per stop, down from 5.2 last year.

"Current conditions are improving across the state with adequate moisture this spring. These conditions should foster insect hatches, which would provide forage to chicks for brood rearing," Gross said. "Pheasant chicks hatch from early June through late July. Much of nesting success will depend on the weather, and we will more accurately assess pheasant production during our late summer roadside counts, which begin at the end of July."

Pheasant crowing counts are conducted each spring throughout North Dakota. Observers drive specified 20-mile routes, stopping at predetermined intervals, and counting the number of pheasant roosters heard crowing over a 2-minute period.

The number of pheasant crows heard are compared to previous years' data, providing a trend summary.

SPRING BREEDING DUCK NUMBERS TALLIED

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department's 75th annual spring breeding duck survey conducted in May showed an index of nearly 3.4 million birds, up 16% from last year.

Migratory game bird supervisor Mike Szymanski said the index was the 23rd highest on record and stands 38% above the long-term (1948-2021) average.

Indices for most individual species, with the exception of green-winged teal, gadwall, wigeon and blue-winged teal, increased from 2021. Mallards were up 58% from 2021 and represented the 25th highest count on record. The ruddy duck index increased 157%, shovellers and pintails increased 126% and 108%, respectively, and other increases ranged from 4% for scaup to 69% for canvasbacks. Decreases from the 2021 index were observed for green-winged teal (-42%), gadwall (-36%), wigeon (-10%) and blue-winged teal (-4%).

"It's important to note that some of our statewide increases in species counts might not reflect broader-scale population trends, especially for pintails," Szymanski said. "The abnormally wet conditions in the state are likely holding a higher percentage of breeding pintails than normal. We're coming off a very dry year that resulted in low reproduction, range-wide, for many species."

The number of temporary and seasonal wetlands was substantially higher than last year, as

figures show the spring water index is up 616%, the largest single year increase on record for the survey. The water index is based on basins with water and does not necessarily represent the amount of water contained in wetlands or the type of wetlands represented. Consistent precipitation and cool weather leading up to the survey left a lot of water on the landscape in ditches and intermittent streams.

"Besides being our 75th consecutive survey year, this was an interesting survey, as we've gone back and forth between wet and dry conditions over the past couple of years," Szymanski said. "We actually had our second highest wetland index in the state, which is largely made up of water that'll dry up fairly quickly. But ponds that are important for brood-rearing habitat have rebounded nicely as well."

"A lot can change between May and hunting season, so we'll get a few more looks from our July brood index and our September wetland count," he added. "But duck production should be a little bit better this year than it was last year due to a stronger breeding effort. However, we continue to lose grass in upland nesting sites that will diminish reproductive potential for ducks in the state. Despite expected low Canada goose production this year due to the harsh conditions in April, we did have a record number of geese on breeding territories, so hunting opportunities for those birds should be pretty good again this year."



Join us at the Waterfowl Hunters Expo on Aug. 27, 2022 in Oshkosh. Photo credit: iStock / kdgeisler

WISCONSIN

DNR TO CO-HOST WATERFOWL HUNTERS EXPO AUG. 27

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and waterfowl conservation organizations

BIRDS

Mike Hack
Owner & Operator

Cranberry Creek Game Birds, LLC.

715-570-1013
5520 Lynn Hill Rd
Nekoosa WI 54457

www.cranberrycreekgamebirds.com

QUAIL - CHUKAR CHICKS

Quail-55¢ Chukar-\$1 (with a 1000 order)
Chicks shipped anywhere in U.S.A. Guaranteed live delivery. Write or call for price list and ordering instructions.

DELP'S GAMEBIRD HATCHERY

1398 Hunters Grove Rd Brookville PA 15825
(814) 849-3430

www.Bdarn.com/delps

Oakwood Game Farm
PO Box 274 Princeton, MN 55371

Your Pheasant and Chukar Partridge Experts
Eggs - Chicks - Adults

Hatching 50,000 Chicks Weekly with Live Shipment Guaranteed!
Pheasant Hen Chicks Available for each min. order

1-800-328-6647

Hatching & Raising Since 1987 www.oakwoodgamefarm.com NRP APPROVED AT 105110

www.oakwoodgamefarm.com

WOODLAND ACRE HATCHERY:

Jared Anderson at 507-236-3618 Fairmont MN

www.Bdarn.com/woodland

BOOKS

GUN DOG SUPPLY: Starkville MS
800-624-6378

www.gundogsupply.com

COLLARS

COLLAR CLINIC: See our Display Adv on Page 8. 1-800-430-2010

www.CollarClinic.com

GUN DOG SUPPLY: Starkville MS
800-624-6378

www.gundogsupply.com

FOOD

HAPPY JACK DOG FOOD: See our display adv on the cover.

www.HappyJackInc.com

GUNS

ROBERT LOUIS COMPANY INC: See our display adv on page 11 800-979-9156

www.RobertLouisCo.com

HUNTS

A&D ZOSS PHEASANT HUNTING: Letcher SD Todo & Dotty Zoss 605-248-2541

www.adzosspheasanthunt.com

BATTENKILL LODGE: See our display adv on page 16 516-671-7690.

www.BattenkillLodge.com

CARIBOU GUN CLUB: LeSuer MN
507-665-3796

www.caribougunclub.com

GRANT'S KENNEBAGO CAMPS INC: See our display adv on page 15 800-633-4815

www.GrantsCamps.com

GREGORY/DALLAS SD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: Suzanne Braun Gregory SD (605) 831-9773 www.gregorydallasd.com

MIKE KUCHERAS SOUTH DAKOTA GUIDE SERVICE: See our adv on page 12. Mike Kuckera Mitchell SD 605-996-1120

www.SDPheasants.com

PHEASANT CREEK FARMS: Spencer SD Denny: 605-480-4444

www.pheasantcreeksd.com