



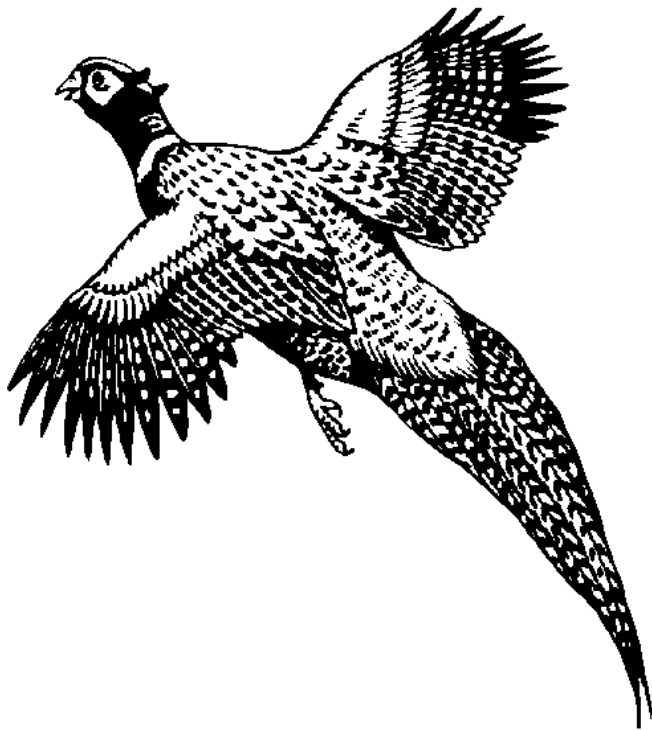
RIDEM
Division of Fish and Wildlife

Rhode Island Small Game Hunter
Harvest Report

2014 - 2015 Season

Date: February 20, 2015

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RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife



Rhode Island Pheasant Stocking Program Summary 2014-2015 Season

Management Areas:

Small game Pheasant hunters are required to check in and out of the state operated check stations at Great Swamp, Arcadia, Durfee Hill, and Carolina management areas on the following dates: Oct. 18 & 19, 25 & 26, and Nov 1 & 2, Nov 8 & 9. Check station hours are ½ hour before sunrise to sunset.

Pheasant hunting: Gamebird Permit is required *in addition to a regular hunting license.*

Pheasant Stocking:

Pheasants are stocked prior to opening day through the end of December. Stocked management areas are: Arcadia, Black Hut, Big River, Buck Hill, Carolina, Durfee Hill, Great Swamp, Nicholas Farm, Sapowet, Simmons Mill Pond and 8 Rod Farm. Bird stocking occurs weekly from opening day through the end of December. A list of WMA units stocked during the season is available to hunters (attached). Bird stocking occurs twice per week from the opening day through Thanksgiving holiday, normally a mid-week and weekend stocking. Stocking during December is once per week on the weekends only.

There is no bird stocking in January or February.

Bag limit:

The daily limit for pheasant is 2 either sex birds. Each pheasant must be tagged immediately upon taking. Each gamebird permit allows the taking of 6 pheasants and hunters may purchase multiple permits.

Jr. Hunter Pheasant Hunt – Oct. 11-12:

Open for Junior hunters only at Great Swamp, Durfee Hill, and Eight Rod WMA. Registration is required. Call 789-0281 for information.

Deer season:

The small game hunting season will remain OPEN during the December shotgun deer season. This is a new regulation and allows small game hunting on state management areas during the shotgun deer season.

Ringneck Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)

- Ringneck Pheasants are Native to Asia and were first brought to the United States in 1881 and released to the Willamette Valley of Oregon
- Since that time Pheasants have been released throughout the United States and have become established where suitable habitat exists.
- In Rhode Island, Ringnecks became well established from releases in the early 1900's when open grasslands and much open farmland existed in the state. At that time pheasants were found statewide and were abundant primarily in Washington, Bristol and Newport counties.
- Stocking of pheasants was practiced by the state since the early 1950's as a way to supplement natural populations of the Gamebird for hunters using state gamelands. Today most hunted pheasants in Rhode Island are stocked birds.
- Loss of suitable habitats is the primary reason for the decline of native populations of pheasants in Rhode Island fueled by a decline in farmland and maturing of forest.

Natural History and Behavior

- Male or cock pheasant are a large gamebird weighing 2 1/2 to 3 pounds and have bright reddish brown feathers with a blue green head, red face and white neck ring. Female or hen pheasant are smaller and colored tan and drab brown.
- Pheasants are ground loving birds with strong legs and quite capable of running to escape predators. In hunting them, they will often avoid flight unless forced by the hunter or his dog.
- Pheasants have short rounded wings that enable them to fly in short powerful bursts but not for long flight. A pheasant will erupt in flight and then glide to a protected cover of grasses or shrubs.
- Habitats for the pheasant include tall overgrown fields and meadows of native grasses and herbs, hedgerows and shrubby old fields, which provide an abundance of concealment cover to protect them from predators.
- Pheasants eat a variety of plant foods consisting of small seeds, nuts and green leaves of grasses and other plants and insects. Young pheasants rely on insects to provide protein for the first few months of their lives.
- Pheasants are ground nesting birds that establish a simple ground nest at the edge of a field and hens lay a clutch of 11 eggs that will hatch in 22-23 days. Block Island is the only remaining location in Rhode Island believed to have a sustained nesting population of Ringneck Pheasant.
- Predation is the most common cause of natural mortality of pheasants. Common predators of pheasants, young or eggs include birds of prey, skunk, raccoon, squirrels, snakes, fox and coyote.

Hunting Pheasant

- To hunt pheasant you must be a proficient wing shooter
- Best hunting success will result if hunting with a bird dog, either pointer or flushing breed
- Be patient, thorough and walk slow in working a cover with dogs or on foot as birds will hide and run to escape rather than fly
- Be considerate when hunting near others not to crowd or encroach into the cover or bird that is being hunted
- Be aware of other hunters in the area when swinging to shoot at a bird. It is far better to avoid taking the shot than to accidentally fire in line with another hunter

*******For Distribution*******

PHEASANT STOCKING STATE MANAGEMENT AREAS

ARCADIA NORTH – EXETER

- 1. MIDWAY TRAIL**
- 2. FLAT RIVER/OLD NURSERY**
- 3. BARBER FARM**
- 4. OLD TEN ROD ROAD**

ARCADIA – SOUTH

- 5. PRATT UNIT**
- 6. RICHMOND FARM**
- 7. WOODMANSEE UNIT**

BIG RIVER

- 8. SWEET SAWMILL ROAD**
- 9. CONGDON HILL ROAD**

BLACK HUT - BURRILLVILLE

- 10. NORTHERN SECTION – EAST OF MARSH**
- 11. SOUTH – EAST OF BLACK HUT ROAD**

BUCK HILL- BURRILLVILLE

- 12. ALL MANAGEMENT FIELDS**

CAROLINA - RICHMOND

- 13. MEADOWBROOK TRAIL FIELDS**
- 14. ESSEX TRAIL FIELDS**
- 15. DIAMOND BOG FIELDS**
- 16. SOUTH OF CHECKSTATION**
- 17. WRIGHT FARM**
- 18. AMERICAN FISH GRAVEL BANK**

DURFEE HILL - GLOCESTER

- 19. EASTERN SECTION – SOUTH OF ROUTE 44**
- 20. WESTERN SECTION – VICINITY OF CHECK STATION**

EIGHT-ROD FARM – TIVERTON

- 21. EAST OF EIGHT ROD WAY**
- 22. WEST OF EIGHT ROD WAY**

GREAT SWAMP – SOUTH KINGSTOWN

- 23. AREA'S 1, 2, 3**

NICHOLAS FARM – COVENTRY

- 24. PLACE FARM – CARBUNCLE UNIT**
- 25. NICHOLAS UNIT – GREENHOUSE ROAD**

SAPOWET – TIVERTON

- 26. SAPOWET MARSH – SAPOWET AVE**

SIMMONS MILL POND - LITTLE COMPTON

- 27. COLD BROOK AREA**

10-1-14

Table 1. 2014 - Rhode Island Small Game Harvest By Check Station

Station	Date	Pheasant	Grouse	Squirrel	Woodcock	Hare	Cottontail	Quail	Dove	Duck	Raccoon	Crow	Fox	Total
Arcadia	10-18	41		6			1	2						50
	10-19	4		5				3						12
	10-25	24		4	1			2	1					32
	10-26	0		1	1				4					6
	11-1	23			1									24
	11-2	0												0
	11-8	21						1						22
	11-9	0			1									1
Total		113	0	16	4	0	1	8	5	0	0	0	0	147
Carolina	10-18	31												31
	10-19	3												3
	10-25	18					1		1					20
	10-26	0												0
	11-1	12												12
	11-2	1												1
	11-8	12												12
	11-9	0												0
Total		77	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	79
Durfee Hill	10-18	39												39
	10-19	4												4
	10-25	26												26
	10-26	6												6
	11-1	17												17
	11-2	1												1
	11-8	20												20
	11-9	0												0
Total		113	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	113
G. Swamp	10-18	36												36
	10-19	15												15
	10-25	15			2									17
	10-26	5												5
	11-1	0												0
	11-2	2												2
	11-8	6			1									6
	11-9	1												1
Total		80	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	82
TOTAL		383	0	16	7	0	2	8	6	0	0	0	0	421

Table 2. 2014 - Rhode Island Small Game Hunters and Effort in Hours

Location	Date	# Hunters	# Hrs. Hunted
Arcadia	10-18	90	343.50
	10-19	24	60.00
	10-25	67	220.50
	10-26	25	83.50
	11-1	49	178.50
	11-2	1	3.00
	11-8	45	132.00
	11-9	5	12.00
Total		306	1033.00
Carolina	10-18	49	144.75
	10-19	17	53.50
	10-25	42	96.00
	10-26	0	0.00
	11-1	20	43.50
	11-2	9	17.50
	11-8	21	50.00
	11-9	13	43.75
Total		171	449.00
Durfee Hill	10-18	46	93.38
	10-19	15	44.55
	10-25	36	94.05
	10-26	13	30.15
	11-1	27	59.09
	11-2	6	10.40
	11-8	22	41.30
	11-9	8	13.56
Total		173	386.48
G. Swamp	10-18	62	183.25
	10-19	29	74.25
	10-25	36	82.00
	10-26	12	28.50
	11-1	0	0.00
	11-2	1	3.00
	11-8	20	49.50
	11-9	5	10.50
Total		165	431.00
TOTAL		815	2299.48

Table 3. 2014 - Rhode Island Small Game - Total Hunter Visits By Date

Date	Acadia	Carolina	Durfee Hill	G. Swamp	Total
10-18	90	49	46	62	247
10-19	24	17	15	29	85
10-25	67	42	36	36	181
10-26	25		13	12	50
11-1	49	20	27	0	96
11-2	1	9	6	1	17
11-8	45	21	22	20	108
11-9	5	13	8	5	31
	306	171	173	165	815

Table 4. 2014 - Rhode Island Small Game Season - Hours Hunted By Check Station

Date	Arcadia	Carolina	Durfee Hill	G. Swamp	Total
10-18	344	145	93	183	765
10-19	60	54	45	74	232
10-25	221	96	94	82	493
10-26	84	0	30	29	142
11-1	179	44	59	0	281
11-2	3	18	10	3	34
11-8	132	50	41	50	273
11-9	12	44	14	11	80
Total	1033	449	386	431	2299
Date	Arcadia	Carolina	Durfee Hill	G. Swamp	Weekend Total
10-18 & 19	404	198	138	258	997
10-25 & 26	304	96	124	111	635
11-1 & 2	182	61	69	3	315
11-8 & 9	144	94	55	60	353
Total	1033	449	386	431	2299

Table 5: Average number of birds harvested per hunter, and average number of hours per bird harvested, for each Check Station 2014-2015 season

Station	Date	# Hunters	# Hrs. Hunted	# Birds Taken	# Birds/Hunter	# Hrs./Bird
Arcadia	10-18	90	344	41	0.46	8.38
	10-19	24	60	4	0.17	15.00
	10-25	67	221	24	0.36	9.19
	10-26	25	84	0	0.00	0.00
	11-1	49	179	23	0.47	7.76
	11-2	1	3	0	0.00	0.00
	11-8	45	132	21	0.47	6.29
	11-9	5	12	0	0.00	0.00
		306	1033	113		
				Total Average:	0.24	9.14
Carolina	10-18	49	145	31	0.63	4.67
	10-19	17	54	3	0.18	17.83
	10-25	42	96	18	0.43	5.33
	10-26	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
	11-1	20	44	12	0.60	3.63
	11-2	9	18	1	0.11	17.50
	11-8	21	50	12	0.57	4.17
	11-9	13	44	0	0.00	0.00
		171	449	77		
				Total Average:	0.32	5.83
Durfee Hill	10-18	46	93	39	0.85	2.39
	10-19	15	45	4	0.27	0.00
	10-25	36	94	26	0.72	3.62
	10-26	13	30	6	0.46	0.02
	11-1	27	59	17	0.63	3.48
	11-2	6	10	1	0.17	10.40
	11-8	22	41	20	0.91	2.07
	11-9	8	14	0	0.00	0.00
		173	386	113		
				Total Average:	0.50	3.42
G. Swamp	10-18	62	183	36	0.58	5.09
	10-19	29	74	15	0.52	4.95
	10-25	36	82	15	0.42	5.47
	10-26	12	29	5	0.42	5.70
	11-1	no data		0	0.00	0.00
	11-2	1	3	2	2.00	1.50
	11-8	20	50	6	0.30	8.25
	11-9	5	11	1	0.20	0.00
		165	431	80		
				Total Average:	0.55	5.39
Total Hours Hunted			2299	Statewide Average:	0.40	6.00

Table 6: Total pheasant harvest per weekend at each check station, compared to the number of birds stocked and percentage of stocked birds harvested in the 2014-2015 season

Mgt. Area	Stock Date	Harvest Dates	Sat. Harvest	Sun. Harvest	Total Harvest	Total Stock	% Harvested
Arcadia	10/17 & 10/21	10/18 &10/19	41	4	45	80	56.3%
Carolina			31	3	34	70	48.6%
Durfee Hill			39	4	43	60	71.7%
G. Swamp			36	15	51	70	72.9%
Sub-total					173	280	61.79%
Arcadia	10/24 &10/28	10/25 & 10/26	24	0	24	50	48.0%
Carolina			18	0	18	50	36.0%
Durfee Hill			21	6	27	40	67.5%
G. Swamp			17	5	22	50	44.0%
Sub-total					91	190	47.9%
Arcadia	10/31 & 11/5	11/1 &11/2	23	0	23	45	51.1%
Carolina			12	1	13	40	32.5%
Durfee Hill			17	1	18	45	40.0%
G. Swamp			0	2	2	40	5.0%
Sub-total					56	170	32.9%
Arcadia	11/7 &11/12	11/8 & 11/9	21	0	21	35	60.0%
Carolina			12	0	12	30	40.0%
Durfee Hill			20	0	20	30	66.7%
G. Swamp			6	1	7	30	23.3%
Sub-total					60	125	48.0%
TOTAL			338	42	380	765	50%

Table 7: Breakdown of hunters using check stations by town and county of residence.

Town	Total	County	Total By County
Barrington	9	Bristol	16
Bristol	1	Bristol	
Warren	6	Bristol	
Coventry	72	Kent	203
Cranston	39	Kent	
East Greenwich	9	Kent	
Warwick	52	Kent	
West Greenwich	11	Kent	
West Warwick	20	Kent	
Jamestown	24	Newport	41
Little Compton	0	Newport	
Middletown	2	Newport	
Newport	5	Newport	
Portsmouth	6	Newport	
Tiverton	4	Newport	
Burrville	4	Providence	201
Central Falls	8	Providence	
Cumberland	8	Providence	
East Providence	12	Providence	
Foster	13	Providence	
Glocester	34	Providence	
Johnston	6	Providence	
Lincoln	5	Providence	
North Providence	14	Providence	
North Smithfield	2	Providence	
Pawtucket	18	Providence	
Providence	13	Providence	
Scituate	28	Providence	
Smithfield	21	Providence	
Woonsocket	15	Providence	
Charlestown	24	Washington	252
Exeter	25	Washington	
Hopkinton	29	Washington	
Narragansett	14	Washington	
New Shoreham	7	Washington	
North Kingstown	35	Washington	
Richmond	37	Washington	
South Kingstown	32	Washington	
Westerly	49	Washington	
Connecticut	21		21
Massachusetts	31		31
Other	4		4
Total	769		769

Table 8: Number of hunters per check station according to town of residence

Town	Arcadia	Carolina	Durfee Hill	G. Swamp	Total	County
Barrington	0	0	8	1	9	Bristol
Bristol	0	1	0	0	1	Bristol
Burrville	0	0	4	0	4	Providence
Central Falls	5	0	3	0	8	Providence
Charlestown	0	15	1	8	24	Washington
Coventry	42	13	5	12	72	Kent
Cranston	27	3	7	2	39	Kent
Cumberland	1	2	5	0	8	Providence
East Greenwich	6	0	3	0	9	Kent
East Providence	5	0	5	2	12	Providence
Exeter	20	2	0	3	25	Washington
Foster	4	0	9	0	13	Providence
Glocester	3	0	31	0	34	Providence
Hopkinton	6	18	0	5	29	Washington
Jamestown	1	3	0	20	24	Newport
Johnston	6	0	0	0	6	Providence
Lincoln	0	3	2	0	5	Providence
Little Compton	0	0	0	0	0	Newport
Middletown	2	0	0	0	2	Newport
Narragansett	0	3	1	10	14	Washington
Newport	2	3	0	0	5	Newport
New Shoreham	6	1	0	0	7	Washington
North Kingstown	22	1	1	11	35	Washington
North Providence	7	0	7	0	14	Providence
North Smithfield	1	1	0	0	2	Providence
Pawtucket	4	2	11	1	18	Providence
Portsmouth	3	3	0	0	6	Newport
Providence	9	0	2	2	13	Providence
Richmond	10	22	1	4	37	Washington
Scituate	5	1	13	9	28	Providence
Smithfield	8	0	13	0	21	Providence
South Kingstown	8	11	0	13	32	Washington
Tiverton	0	0	2	2	4	Newport
Warren	0	1	0	5	6	Bristol
Warwick	29	7	8	8	52	Kent
Westerly	4	33	0	12	49	Washington
West Greenwich	6	3	0	2	11	Kent
West Warwick	10	2	8	0	20	Kent
Woonsocket	2	0	13	0	15	Providence
Connecticut	8	11	2	0	21	
Massachusetts	13	2	7	9	31	
Other	2	1	0	1	4	
Total	287	168	172	142	769	

Table 9. 2001-2014 Rhode Island Small Game Hunter Effort

Year	# Hours Recorded at Check Stations	# Visits to Checkstations	% change
2001	5716	1892	
2002	4570	1616	-15%
*2003	4078	1567	-3%
2004	3469	1148	-27%
2005	3269	1169	2%
2006	3364	1180	1%
2007	3694	1219	3%
2008	3309	1171	-4%
2009	4566	1534	31%
2010	3019	1062	-31%
2011	2596	1022	-4%
2012	2903	1082	6%
2013	2932	1037	-4%
2014	2299	815	-21%
Total	44553.16	15662	