

1993 Fall Hunting Guide

Compliments of the Hartington Cedar County News, Wayne Herald and Gary Howey's The Outdoorsmen

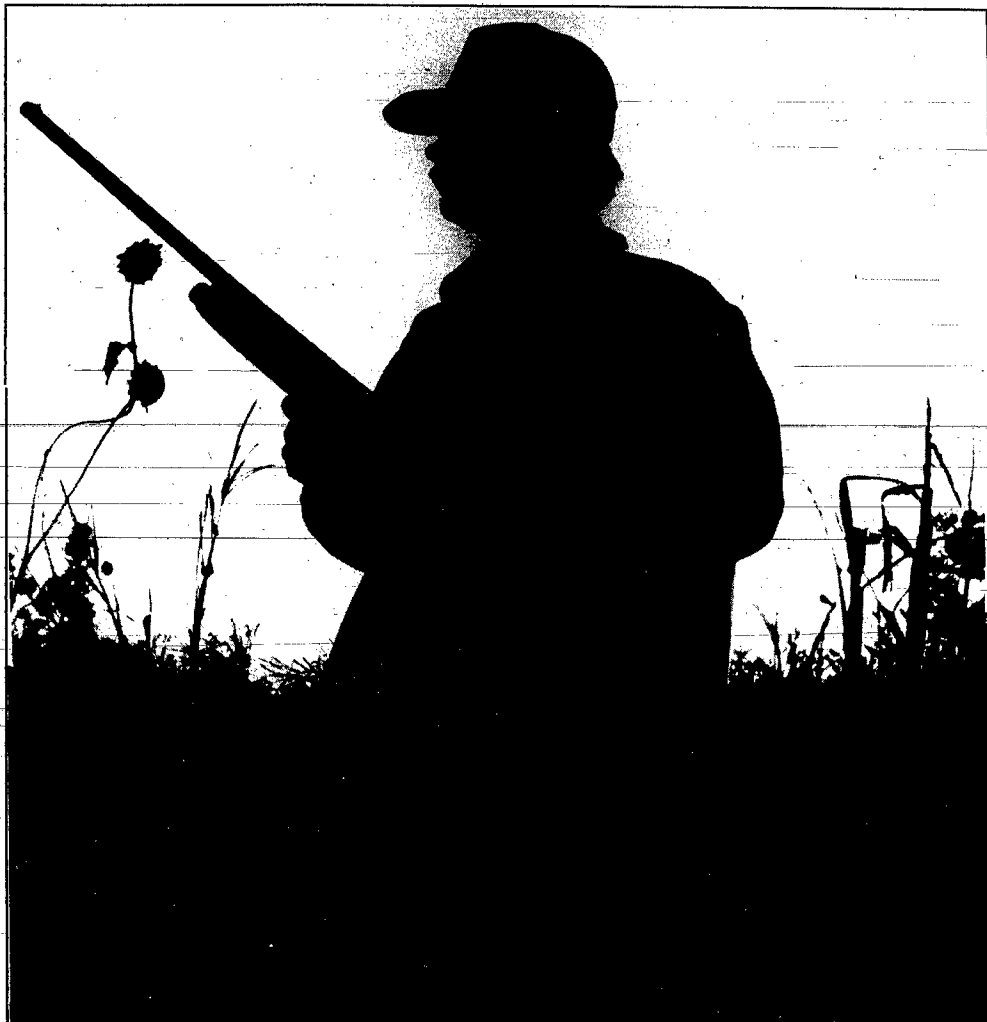
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**NE Nebraska
pheasant
population
looks strong**

**Cedar County
is surrounded
by prime
hunting land**

**Lewis & Clark
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to enhance
pheasant habitat**

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breakdown of
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Area earns national reputation as pheasant hunting hot spot

HARTINGTON — Thanks to an ESPN segment, the Hartington area is quickly earning a national reputation as a pheasant hunting hot spot.

The Hartington area was featured last year in a 12-minute segment of "North American Outdoors" on ESPN. The program was run as a repeat earlier this year.

Hartington has traditionally drawn quite a few out-of-state hunters, but according to a check of hunting permit sales here, the

numbers increased last fall.

Rick Hagberg, producer of the program, has worked enough in Nebraska to know where the good hunting can be found. That's why he picked Hartington.

He formerly worked as a producer for the weekly program Outdoor Nebraska for the Nebraska Educational Television Network. He also worked for three years on a show for nationally-known fisherman Babe Winkelman.

Hagberg said he also heard several good comments from friends about this area.

For the Hartington-based segment, Hagberg worked with outdoor writers Mark Strand of Andover, Minn. and Gary Howey of Hartington.

For over three days, Hagberg taped Strand and Howey hunting pheasants, quail, prairie chickens and Hungarian partridges in several Hartington area fields. Once the footage was shot, Hagberg then spent several days, editing the tape and preparing the segment.

See ESPN, page 3

Lewis & Clark Pheasants Forever group works to improve area wildlife habitat

By Rob Dump
Cedar County News

HARTINGTON — A group of area men is working hard to enhance wildlife habitat here.

The Lewis & Clark Pheasants Forever Chapter sponsored 181 acres of food plots this year.

The food plots are used to help pheasants and other wildlife make it through the winter months.

The group works with area farmers to create the food-plots and ensure that they will remain undisturbed through the year.

The local food plots consist mainly of milo, corn or sunflowers.

The group also has signed up 44 acres of land for nesting cover. The land is set aside by area

farmers who vow not to touch it for one to two years. The local chapter pays the farmers a nominal fee to set the land aside.

The group also initiated a new program this year. The program assisted people in the planting of trees to be used for wildlife habitat.

All projects have one goal in mind, said Pheasants Forever Habitat Coordinator Steve Grube. "We want to improve the habitat for the birds and get the populations up. We can already see the good that we've done," Grube said.

Grube said the Pheasants Forever chapter helps to enhance land that might not be suitable for planting.

"What we're trying to do enhances not only the Conservation Reserve Program acres, but also odd areas that farmers have," Grube said. "They can look at this as another source of income.

It would be better than nothing. It seems like every farmer has a corner like that they can't use."

Grube said the bird population will remain stable if more permanent habitat can be cre-

ated.

"We need something like a large block of grass or woody cover that is there year after year. If you get that, you're going to see an increase in birds in those areas."

"We emphasize the food plots the most. We have a lot of food plots available on the CRP acres. The benefit for the birds is that they don't have to travel as far for the food source. This is important, especially on the eastern edge of the county where you might have two miles of grass so these food plots are necessary for them to survive."

Local Pheasants Forever members say they will be happy to design a wildlife habitat area for upland game birds for any

landowner interested in the program.

Grube said there are several sources of funding available to landowners who want to improve wildlife habitat. Programs are available through the ASCS office, Pheasants Forever and NRD office just to name a few, he said.

The local Pheasants Forever chapter was established five years ago. The organization currently boasts approximately 175 members. Pheasants Forever is a non-profit organization. All money the group raises is used to fund area projects.

Officers for the Lewis & Clark Chapter of Pheasants Forever are: Stan Becker, president; Jim Brummer, treasurer-secretary. Both men are from Hartington.

The annual Lewis & Clark Pheasants Forever Banquet will be held Oct. 23 in Crofton.



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Grouse production is better than expected

BASSETT — The weather during opening weekend of the 1993 Nebraska grouse season (Sept. 18 - 19) was miserable in most of the prime grouse hunting areas but data collected from hunters shows this year's production is much improved, said Bill Vodehnal, district game supervisor for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

"The weather was rainy foggy and cool," Vodehnal said. "As a result, many hunters did not see much action."

However, Vodehnal is encouraged by the birds he and other biologists saw at six voluntary check stations during opening weekend. "I'm very encouraged by the number of young birds taken on opening weekend," he said. The higher number of young birds killed by hunters means that production was good. Preliminary data from the check stations indicates that an average of 2.5 juvenile sharp-tail grouse were taken for every one adult, and an average of 3.4 juvenile prairie chickens were taken for every one adult. "Anytime we see hunters taking more than two juveniles per adult, it indicates excellent production," he said.

Last year, grouse production was considered poor due to wet, cool conditions during the nesting season. Vodehnal said preliminary data from opening weekend indicates the weather this year did not adversely affect production.

Preliminary hunter success data collected from the six check stations opening weekend shows that about 500 hunters took 600 birds. Hunters spent an average of 5.4 hours per bird and averaged .8 birds per day. Vodehnal said the bad weather affected success rates during opening weekend, but based on bird production figures he predicts good hunting for the remainder of the season.

Hunting hints make for a safe, legal hunt

Here is a quick list of Nebraska do's and don'ts to help out-of-state hunters become familiar with Nebraska rules and hunting safety and etiquette tips.

Following these rules will help lead to a safe and successful hunt.

Don't

- Hunt on private land without permission of the owner or his agent.
- Use a hunting permit unless it is countersigned by the holder.
- Lend or transfer a permit to another person.
- Falsely state the place of legal residence.
- Refuse to show the hunting permit on demand to any person or officer whose duty it is to enforce the game laws.
- Take a legal limit of any species and return to take more of the same species the same day.
- Give, put, leave, place in cold storage or in the custody of another, any game birds or animals unless tagged by the hunter with his or her signature, address, number of birds or animals by species, and date killed.
- Hunt, kill, take, trap, or attempt to hunt, kill, take, or trap any game birds from a vehicle of any kind.
- Possess any species taken on a small game permit longer than August 1 following the close of the season.
- Shoot from any public highway, road, or bridge.
- Have or carry a loaded shotgun in or on any vehicle on any highway. A shotgun is consid-

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Continued on next page

ESPN

Continued from page 1

Howey, who publishes a monthly outdoor newspaper and writes for many other publications, did the leg-work for the Hartington-area shoot. He lined up fields, obtained permission from landowners and acted as guide.

After the hunt, Hagberg began the task of viewing and cataloging the tape, editing it, and putting together the show. Some writing is done, he said, a narrator is used to set the scene and create fluid transitions, and music is added. That process can take up to three days for a single 10-12 minute segment.

Hagberg and Strand say they realize their jobs are the envy of outdoor enthusiasts, but the hunting and fishing are only a small part of what is involved.

"It's a lot more work than you

think," Hagberg said. "We spend a lot of time lining things up before we get here. I'm out in the field when others are hunting, but I'm working."

Strand, who occasionally works with Hagberg, said the actual hunt is the culmination of much hard work.

"For every hour we spend out in the field, a lot more hours are spent in the office and sitting behind a word processor," Strand said.

Hagberg said that although he has been on some fabulous trips, he normally does not participate in the hunting and fishing.

"I find that if I try to hunt and film, I end up doing both half-way," Hagberg said.

Hagberg's work on the Har-

tington hunt involved walking Strand and Howey through chest-high switch grass at the Bud Lauer farm east of town. Hagberg trailed the hunters up and down hills, trying to stay in position to give viewers a feel for the hunt. He carried his camera, a \$30,000 Sony Beta SP, on his right shoulder, ready for action at a moment's notice. The state-of-the-art camera weighs 30 pounds, but feels much heavier by the end of the day, according to Hagberg. Remote microphones, which cost \$2,000 apiece, were worn by Strand and Howey.

After the national TV publicity came out on the Hartington area, several regional and national outdoor writers have also come into the area to check out the hunting here first-hand.



A well-trained dog can help hunters of any age bring in the birds. Hunting dogs are especially helpful, while walking fields in search of ringneck pheasants.

Hints

Continued from previous page

ered loaded if there is a shell or shells in the chamber, receiver or magazine.

- Hunt for any bird or animal with any artificial light attached to or used from a vehicle or boat, except landowners in protection of their property. Raccoon may be hunted on foot with a hand light.

- Set out carelessly to cause or start any prairie or forest fire or willfully injure any person or livestock with firearms while hunting or camping.

- Hunt, drive, or disturb game birds or game animals with or from any aircraft or boat propelled by power or sail.

- Take game birds or animals or to hawk except during the legal shooting or hawking hours.

- Hunt game birds with any swivel gun, rifle or pistol.

- Shoot or attempt to shoot any bird, fish, or other animal from an aircraft.

- Take crows by means other than firearms, bow and arrow, and falconry.

- Carry a firearm, bow and arrow, or other projectile device on a snowmobile, except when unloaded and in a case.

- Possess a pistol for persons under 18 years of age.

- Dig, cut, or destroy natural or planted vegetation on any state-owned or controlled area.

- Cause game birds or game animals to depart from a game reserve or game sanctuary.

- Hunt, kill, take, trap, or pursue, or attempt to hunt, kill, take, trap or pursue any wild mammal or wild bird within a 200-yard radius of an inhabited dwelling or livestock feedlot, unless permission to do so has been granted by the owner or tenant of that dwelling.

- Shoot, take, hunt, or kill or attempt to shoot, take, hunt or

kill any wild animal or bird from or with a snowmobile.

- Take migratory game birds with a trap, snare, net, crossbow, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance.

- Take migratory game birds from a sinkbox, from any motorboat unless motor is shut off and boat stopped, from a car or other motor-driven land conveyance, from an aircraft, or from a sailboat unless the sail is furled and the boat is stopped.

- Take migratory game birds by use or aid of live decoys.

- Use records or tapes of bird calls, sounds, or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls to take game birds.

- Hunt or attempt to hunt, take, or kill any game birds by baiting or attracting them to the place where hunted by distribution of grain or other feeds. Federal regulations consider an area baited for 10 days after bait is removed.

- Possess more than one daily bag limit of migratory game birds while in the field or when returning from the field to one's car, hunting camp, etc.

- Take migratory game birds by driving or chasing them with any motorized conveyance to put them in range of hunters.

- Hunt migratory game birds without making a reasonable effort to retrieve dead or crippled birds and including them in the daily bag. Crippled birds must be killed immediately.

- Take migratory game birds by driving or chasing them with any motorized conveyance to put them in range of hunters.

- Hunt migratory game birds without making a reasonable effort to retrieve dead or crippled

birds and including them in the daily bag. Crippled birds must be killed immediately.

- Shoot mourning doves or bobwhite quail except when in flight.

NO ROAD HUNTING

It is unlawful to shoot from any bridge, highway or roadway, including the traveled surface and the right-of-way on either side.

LEGAL WEAPONS

Only shotguns 10 gauge or smaller may be used for any game birds. For waterfowl and other migratory game birds including dove, snipe, rail and woodcock, regulations require that a shotgun be capable of holding no more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined. UNLAWFUL—any magazine not cut off or plugged with a one-piece metal or wood filler (which cannot be removed without disassembling the gun) so as to reduce capacity of said gun to not more than three shells. No plug required for upland or small game.

Bow and Arrow—Special restrictions apply to deer, antelope, and wild turkey. Crossbow prohibited on all protected species of wildlife except they may be used by persons who have lost an arm or their arm is permanently disabled with medical proof thereof. A free permit available from Game and Parks Commission is required. Long bow may be used for hunting small game animals and game birds during the regular season.

TRANSPORTING GAME

If en route, while hunting or returning to home, no tags are required if licensee accompanies the game (big game excepted).



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<p>•••SUNDAY••• 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Choice of five different meats Includes choice of soup or juice, mashed potatoes, vegetable, choice of salad, homemade roll, coffee and dessert.</p>	

Cedar County area has hundreds of public hunting acres

By Rob Dump

Cedar County News

HARTINGTON — Extreme northeast Nebraska is blessed with some excellent natural terrain to help promote pheasant and waterfowl growth.

The state Game and Parks Commission has recognized this fact and has helped support hunting here by creating several Wildlife Management areas in the Cedar County area.

Hunters can experience some of the best waterfowl hunting in the state along the Missouri River and its marshy backwaters.

Pheasants are in abundance in the tall, natural prairie grass and in the corn and soybean fields that surround the area.

Wild turkeys roam the river bottoms, creek beds and shelterbelts lining the river. White-tail deer can be found in the bluffs above the river and in the crop and grass lands of the area.

Public hunting lands help add the natural populations in this region.

Unless otherwise posted,

hunting is allowed in season on all Wildlife management areas and federal wildlife production areas. Unless otherwise posted, state recreation areas are also open to hunting. Hunting, in season, can only take place from the day after Labor Day until the close of the Spring Turkey season.

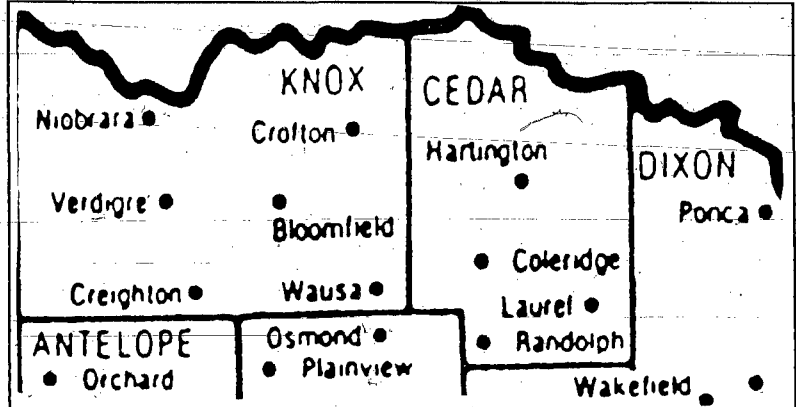
Here is a brief description of the public-owned lands available for hunting in the northeast Nebraska area.

Chalkrock Wildlife Management Area:

This public hunting area is located northwest of Hartington. From the State Highway 12 and U.S. Highway 81 intersection, the WMA is located five miles north and 1.5 miles east. Chalkrock is known for its abundance of pheasant, waterfowl, dove and rabbits. The 130-acre area features a man-made lake established in the 1980s.

Bucksin Hills Wildlife Management Area

This 340-acre hill-covered hunting area is located nine



miles east and two miles south of Obert. Obert is a small village located on the eastern of northeastern Cedar County. Hunters have good success here in the past few years with pheasant, waterfowl, quail and rabbit.

Lewis & Clark State Recreation Area

This 1,227-acre state recreation area located on the north-

ern border of Cedar and Knox counties is located adjacent to the Missouri River. Hunters can find turkey, waterfowl, pheasants, deer, squirrels and rabbits in this heavily wooded recreation area.

Sioux Strip Wildlife Management Area

This hunting area features three interrupted strips of land

located just two miles southeast of Randolph. The strips encompass 25 acres filled with pheasant, rabbits and doves.

Wiseman Wildlife Management Area


This heavily wooded area winds along the Missouri River near St. James. This 365-acre area is prime habitat for deer, wild turkeys, rabbits and doves.



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Pheasant forecast looks good for Northeast Neb.

By Gary Howey

HARTINGTON — The Nebraska upland game bird season is due to open Saturday November 6.

Game and Parks Department reports indicate that the pheasant population in N.E. Nebraska should lead to some of the best hunting in the entire Cornhusker state. Mild winters and extensive habitat have helped the ring-neck population in this area to make a tremendous comeback over the last five or six years.

The Conservation Reserve Program or CRP has put thousands of acres of crop land back into native grasses making ideal pheasant habitat.

Cedar, Dixon, Wayne and

Knox counties have huge tracts of CRP ground and should have excellent numbers of birds for the opener.

There are over 187,000 acres of CRP ground in the above-mentioned counties. The majority of the CRP land has established switch grass or a cool season mix which makes ideal habitat for pheasants. The CRP ground is privately owned so permission will need to be obtained before hunting is allowed.

This, along with the Wildlife Habitat Program and Pheasants Forever plantings should give

the hunter numerous areas to look for the birds.

The Lewis and Clark Natural Resources District, headquartered in Hartington, has over 1,580 acres of wildlife habitat land that is

available for hunting. These lands consist of grasslands woodland border and tree plantings. Wildlife habitat maps

can be obtained through the NRD office in Hartington.

The Lower Elkhorn NRD office in Norfolk also has the Wildlife Habitat Program. In the Lower Elkhorn, there are habitat areas in Wayne, Stanton, Pierce, Madison Dodge and Cumming counties.

The program is similar to the Lewis and Clark NRD program and maps can also be obtained from the NRD office in Norfolk.

Wildlife Habitat ground is open to hunting and there are signs identifying the area as open to public hunting by foot traffic only.

Pheasants Forever tree plantings and food plots are

scattered throughout N.E. Nebraska and offer the birds places for resting and feeding. These areas are not open to public hunting and permission will have to be obtained from the owner before hunting is allowed.

Daily bag limits for pheasants is three daily and nine in possession. Bag limits for quail are six daily and 18 in possession. The daily limit on partridge is three with a possession limit of nine.

Openers for the last two years have been snowy and cold, but the National Weather Service's extended weather outlook indicates that this year there might warm fall-like weather instead of winter-like weather.

The pheasant population in N.E. Nebraska should lead to some of the best hunting in the entire Cornhusker state.

— Nebraska Wildlife Dept. officials

Neb. Hunting Guide has all the answers

LINCOLN - The Nebraska Department of Agriculture's hunting and fishing guide is now available.

This guide features agricultural hunting and fishing operations across the state. These lease operations provide sports enthusiasts the opportunity to hunt or fish on agricultural land.

The Department of Agriculture is involved in promoting this alternative use of farmland for a number of reasons. It is an addi-

tional source of farm income; it enhances environmental efforts of producers by encouraging them to improve wildlife habitat on their farms and ranches; and it stimulates rural economic development.

The department's promotional efforts began with compiling a list of all existing fee-based hunting and fishing operations in Nebraska.

Those operations are now formally listed in the department's

new guide, Sporting Nebraska. Now that these operations have been identified, it is hoped their business increases and other operations develop.

Sporting Nebraska will be available through the Nebraska Department of Agriculture's Ag Promotion and Development Division, at Interstate 80 rest stops, and county extension offices. For more information on the hunting and fishing guide, call 800-422-6692.

Hunters need to note table corrections for sunrise-sunset

LINCOLN — Waterfowl, upland and big game hunters should note the following corrections in the 1993 Nebraska Hunt Guide sunrise/sunset tables, said Paul Horton, administrator of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's Information and Education Division.

"A few sunrise and sunset times were incorrectly listed due to the change on Oct. 31 from daylight savings time to standard time," Horton said.

Sunset times are listed one hour early from Oct. 25 - Oct. 30 in the Grand Island, North Platte and Scottsbluff columns. Sunrise times are listed one hour late on Oct. 31 in the Grand Island, North Platte and Scottsbluff columns. All hunters should make these changes in their hunt guides.

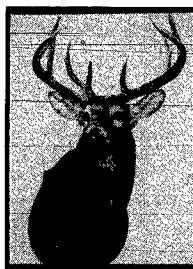
Hartington DU plans Nov. 5 banquet

HARTINGTON — The Hartington Ducks Unlimited Chapter will hold its annual banquet at the Skyline Ballroom on Friday, Nov. 5.

The event will feature, a meal, speakers and an auction.

Important Dates for Nebraska Outdoorsmen

Dove Season Ends	Oct. 30
Low Plains Late Duck Season Opens	Oct. 30
Partridge Season Opens	Nov. 6
Pheasant Opens	Nov. 6
Quail Season Opens	Nov. 6
End of Low Plains Early Duck	Nov. 21
Low Plains Late Duck Ends	Dec. 12
High Plains Duck Season Ends	Dec. 22
Light Goose Season Ends	Jan. 16
Sand Hills Canada Goose Season ends	Dec. 26
Dark Goose Season Ends	Dec. 26
East Unit	Jan. 9
Central Unit	Jan. 9
Panhandle	Jan. 9
North Unit	Jan. 30
Pheasant Season Ends	Jan. 31
Quail Season Ends	Jan. 31
Squirrel Season Ends	Jan. 31
Partridge Season Ends	Jan. 31



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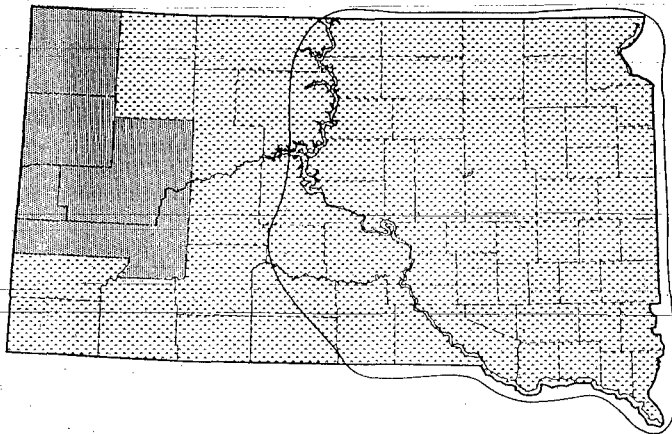
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Prime pheasant range

South Dakota's 1992 pheasant season opens October 16 and extends through December 19 for most of the state, providing a wealth of late-season hunting opportunities. For more information about other South Dakota hunting seasons, contact: South Dakota Adventures, 711 E. Wells Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501-3369.

Ringneck has a storied history in South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. — This is the 75th edition of South Dakota's annual pheasant hunting season and it's time to take a look back. (Editors, you may run this in installments, or excerpt it in any way you like.)

The 1920 annual report of the Department of Game and Fish said "The Game and Fish Commission declared a one-day open season on cock pheasants in Spink County on October 31, 1919... As the weather was very bad not many hunters were out and the best estimate that could be arrived at by the wardens on the ground was that not to exceed two hundred pheasant were killed on that day."

South Dakota weather hasn't changed much in 75 years, and neither have pheasant hunter attitudes about the weather.

A year later, a two-day season produced about 1000 roosters. The weather was nice, and it was observed that the season could have been longer, as the birds became very wild after the first day. Apparently pheasants haven't changed much either.

Pierre resident Bob Summerside, who was there for that first hunt and every one since, said, "I was 9 years old in 1919. My dad and I just walked out of town to stubble fields and farm fields. That day was cold, and wet, and miserable, and as I recall, he didn't kill a pheasant." A year later Bob carried a gun himself, and shot his first ringneck.

By the 1940s South Dakota was known as the country's

pheasant capitol. George Spencer of Dallas, Texas wrote the "Conservation Digest" to say, "I am thoroughly convinced that the greatest upland shooting in all America is to be found in South Dakota."

Then the infamous Armistice Day blizzard of 1940 swept through the Midwest. When the wardens broke through the drifts they found, "Hundreds of birds had succumbed to the elements. Any attempt to estimate the final toll would be a mere matter of conjecture."

But ringnecks are resilient, and a month later the report was modified. "A post season survey tends to show that our seed stock in most counties has not been seriously impaired and under favorable climatic conditions we will enter next year's breeding season with near the usual average number of birds."

In 1943 the legislature named the ringneck the state bird, replacing the horned lark. Rep. Paul Kretschmer of Eureka supported the bill, saying no other bird of this state could be better suited for this honor than the pheasant.

He struck a parallel between the residents of South Dakota and the bird by saying that throughout all the hard times and drouth, they both stuck to South Dakota. In addition, both the bird and the people possessed strength, and the aggressiveness to forge ahead and bring fame to this land of sunshine.

In the mid-50s Soil Bank arrived, creating the second bonanza for bird hunters, and South Dakota's economy. But when Soil Bank ended, the population took a stomach-turning drop.

From 1961 through 1963 the population was estimated at 10 million annually, but Soil Bank was due to be retired, and the weather was about to throw our state bird another curve.

In the summer of 1964, an AP reporter wrote, "South Dakota's pheasant population—routinely expected to be lush year after year—will likely change drastically in the not too distant future."

By that fall a memo from pheasant expert Bob Dahlgren to Game Division chief Fred Priewert said, "Nature did a poor job of home building this year because of lack of moisture, and much of the pheasant homes were destroyed by retirement, haying or grazing of soil bank lands, and other areas usually left undisturbed."

"Because soil bank is being retired, prospects are not bright for a really strong comeback in 1965. We should not expect to



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S.D. officials optimistic about pheasant season

PIERRE, S.D. — The 1993 South Dakota pheasant season got off to a good start during opening weekend Oct. 16.

Prior to the season's start, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks officials were cautiously optimistic despite summer flooding and a late harvest of row crops.

"Overall, South Dakota has slightly fewer pheasants than a year ago," said pheasant biologist Steve Riley. "But the important thing is that a big portion of the pheasant range has the same number or more pheasants than last year.

"In central South Dakota, we see slightly increased numbers of pheasants. There were declines in the extreme east, but in between things look similar to last year."

Bird harvests were reported as good after the opening weekend. The harvest is expected to remain good later in the season once the crops have been harvested from the fields and pheasant cover has been reduced.

Most of the credit for the

"We've heard from folks who wonder if our pheasants were devastated... there should still be decent hunting this fall."

**— Steve Riley
S.D. G, F & P**

land become concentrated later in the season. Riley also noted that although most of western South Dakota is not usually thought of as pheasant country, hunters can find spots with excellent hunting scattered across the western prairies.

Despite flooding in some eastern counties, there was no devastation.

"We've heard from folks who wonder if our pheasants were devastated. But even where there were declines in numbers, there should still be decent hunting this fall," Riley said.

That means hunters will be able to find birds in almost all areas of the state. Often, the areas with lower populations also offer the advantage of lower hunting pressure.

"Finding habitat that produces birds is the key no matter where you hunt," Riley said. "The best person to talk to about pheasant numbers is the owner of the land. So always give your host a call when you are making plans for the season."

pheasant population staying up in spite of a wet, cold summer goes to the Conservation Reserve Program, Riley said. "We have to be thankful for 2 million acres of quality habitat on CRP lands," he said.

A late harvest with the heavy cover made for tough hunting in some areas. Success rates will depend greatly on when crops are harvested, state G, F & P officials said. Recent news that many farmers are opting to destroy their crops under the 0/92 provision of the Farm Bill could also have an impact. Hunting will improve as birds scattered out in crop-



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18	Loup City D.
19	Imperial D.
20	Kimball D.
21	Valentine D.
22	Albion D.
27	York Sponsors
27	Oshkosh D.
30	Broken Bow D.
?	Burwell D.
December	
1	Albion S.
4	Ceresco
7	Columbus
January 1994	
23	Axtell D.
29	Ord/Elyria D.
?	Gothenburg D.
February	
?	Ogallala D.
?	Horshey/Sutherland D.
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History

Continued from page 6

build back the high populations of the past six years because of lack of habitat to support these numbers of pheasants."

The population dropped an astonishing 80 percent in three years. The next few years, as Dahlgren predicted, wouldn't be much better. And South Dakotans, used to having easy limits, were determined to do something about it.

For a decade, no one could forget what had been. If the pheasants were gone it must be someone's fault. An editorial in the Salem Special in 1969 summed it up. "Once again the Game, Fish and Parks Commission has closed its eyes and ears to reality, refusing to take any advice from South Dakota farmers, ranchers and nearly all other residents, and set a pheasant season for a large portion of the state. This action, calling for a pheasant season, is foolhardy!"

At the same time, a column by Lee Weishaar of the Aberdeen American News concluded, "In the final analysis, South Dakota could perhaps withstand an even more liberal season. Experience and research in game management of upland game indicate this, but the public will not accept it.

"Closed seasons have been tried here and in other states. Yet no one of the unbelieving public has yet been able to show, in black and white statistics, that closed season one fall has resulted in a bountiful pheasant population the following spring."

South Dakota ringnecks are tough, though. In the early 1980s, five straight mild winters and good rainfall helped to push the state's pheasant population to a peak of 4.4 million, in 1984.

Drought followed the peak. Two weeks of minus 70 degree windchills in December, 1985 closed the deal. The 1986 population was the second lowest since 1945, when counts began.

This time pheasants got some valuable help from the U.S. Farm Bill. The Conservation Reserve Program, a 1980s version of Soil Bank, began just as things bot-tomed out. By 1991, 2 million acres of erodible land had conservation cover on them. At the same time the population had grown to a level last seen in 1964. Best of all the bloated abundance of the last boom was mostly forgotten.

In recent years, it's been more common to see headlines proclaiming the return of the "good old days."

1993 NEBRASKA HUNTING SEASONS

Species	Inclusive Dates	Daily Bag	Possession Limit	Open Area
Cock Pheasant	Nov. 6-Jan. 31	3	9	Statewide
Coot	Same as duck	15	30	Statewide
Cottontail	Sept. 1-Feb. 28	7	21	Statewide
Crow	Oct. 1-Nov. 15 Jan. 28-Apr. 15	No Limit		Statewide
Mourning Dove	Sept. 1-Oct. 30	15	30	Statewide
Duck	Oct. 9-10	See 1993 Nebraska Hunting Guide		Low Plains Early
	Oct. 16-Nov. 21			Low Plains Late
	Oct. 30-Nov. 28 Dec. 4-12			High Plains
	Oct. 9-17 Nov. 11-Dec. 22			
Light Goose	Oct. 2-Jan. 16	10	20	Statewide
Dark Goose	Nov. 13-Jan. 30	See 1993 Nebraska Hunting Guide		North Unit
	Oct. 9-Dec. 26			East Unit
	Oct. 16-24 Nov. 1-Jan. 9			Central Unit
	Nov. 6-Jan. 9			Panhandle
Sandhills Canada Goose	Oct. 16-24 Nov. 1-Dec. 26	By special permit, see Hunt Guide		
Grouse	Sept. 18-Nov. 30	3	9	See Hunt Guide
Partridge	Nov. 6-Jan. 31	3	9	East of NE 61
Quail	Nov. 6-Jan. 31	6	18	Statewide
Raccoon/Opossum*	Nov. 5-Jan. 15	No Limit		Statewide
Virginia & Sora Rail	Sept. 1-Nov. 9	10	20	Statewide
Common Snipe	Sept. 1-Dec. 16	8	16	Statewide
Squirrel	Aug. 1-Jan. 31	7	21	Statewide
Woodcock	Sept. 15-Nov. 18	5	10	Statewide
Bobcat	Dec. 15-Jan. 15	No Limit		Statewide
Jack Rabbit	Sept. 1-Feb. 28	8	24	See Hunt Guide

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