



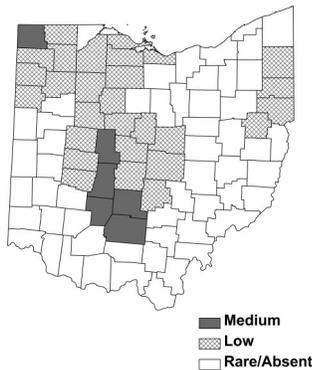
# Ring-necked Pheasant

www.wildohio.gov

## 2014 POPULATION UPDATE

### Ohio pheasants show first increase since 2009

#### DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE



Ring-necked pheasants were first introduced to Ohio in the 1890's and were considered established by 1916. Populations peaked in Ohio in the 1930s and 1940s. Following World War II, decades of change in agricultural practices and urban development eliminated or degraded the fallow fields, fence rows, and field dividers where this popular game bird was found. Historically, pheasant population declines were monitored by the Rural Mail Carrier survey and the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS). From 1966-2012 Ohio pheasant populations declined at a rate of 4.5% each year based on the BBS.

An annual roadside spring crowing count survey in select counties was initiated in 2001. In 2014, 57 permanent routes in 25 counties throughout Ohio's pheasant range were surveyed once from 21 April to 9 May by Division of Wildlife personnel. Pheasants seen or heard at stops along the survey route were recorded on these early morning surveys. Pheasant abundance is indexed by the number of pheasants heard per stop.

In 2014, the statewide population index was 14% above levels in 2013. In northwest Ohio Williams County showed greatest numbers with 0.15 roosters heard per stop, down from a high of 1.02 birds/stop in 2007. Madison County's 0.71 birds/stop led the state this year, down from the 1.9 birds/stop detected in 2005. Notable populations in central Ohio were also observed in Pickaway (0.58 birds/stop), Fayette (0.28 birds/stop), Union (0.19 birds/stop), and Ross (0.17 birds/stop) Counties. Of several counties surveyed in eastern Ohio, Carroll County led with 0.14 birds/stop.

#### SEASON:

NOV. 7, 2014 —  
JAN. 4, 2015

#### DAILY BAG LIMIT: 2

#### OPEN: STATEWIDE

#### BEST COUNTIES FOR HUNTING:

MADISON  
PICKAWAY  
ROSS  
WILLIAMS

OLENTANGY WILDLIFE  
RESEARCH STATION

1201 U.S. 23 North  
Delaware, Ohio 43015  
1-800-WILDLIFE

