

August 2015 e-News



Getting a Handle on the 2015 Upland Bird Season

Spring/summer habitat conditions and preliminary bird synopsis:

- For the Lethbridge/South region, a mild winter has resulted in what appears to be good survival rates for pheasants – field observations during late winter and early spring saw many birds still out in the fields.
- Although it has been hot and dry for much of the spring and summer, there has been enough moisture for good permanent cover growth, and with minimal spring storms and mild temperatures throughout May and June, there should have been ideal nesting conditions for upland birds.
- Preliminary observations saw many coveys of gray partridge throughout the south, the overall size of the juveniles are indicative of a good first hatch! This bodes well for them as the young birds will go into the fall months being stronger and more mature.

Provincial Pheasant Release Program:

ACA is in the last stages of finalizing release sites for this fall, there will not be significant changes from the sites used last year, but there will be added a new site in the Calgary area and a new site in the Edmonton area.

- 25,000 roosters will be released this year, almost 8,000 more than last year!
- Updates regarding important changes, including site locations, and newsflash bulletins will be posted on the ACA website within the next few weeks...stay tuned! They'll be letting everyone know when the information is ready.

2015 Pheasant Release Sites

In the upcoming weeks the complete list of pheasant release sites will be found on the Alberta Conservation Association's website: <http://www.ab-conservation.com>

Where to Hunt Upland Birds in Alberta

Once again the Alberta Conservation Association has published its fantastic resource containing over 750 conservation sites in Alberta. The 2015 - 2016 *Discover Alberta's Wild Side – Guide to Outdoor Adventure* is packed with maps. Hunt, fish, hike, watch birds, pick berries, watch wildlife and photograph your way over a quarter million acres in Southern Alberta (all for free!).

The conservation sites identified in the Guide are either private lands owned by ACA and its conservation partners, or public lands managed by ACA on behalf of the Crown. All are available for public use.

To get your free copy of the 2015-2016 Discover Alberta's Wide Side hit: www.ab-conservation.com Look at the top menu bar and click on Discover Guide and then hit Get Your Guide.

A second update and upland bird synopsis plus the results of the annual "Pheasant and Partridge Brood Forecast" by members of the various hunting dog clubs in Alberta will be sent to our members and posted online in mid – September. Check our website, www.pfcalgary.ca for the latest updates.

Good luck and safe hunting!