



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Iowa DNR News

Conservation and Recreation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 31, 2018

- [Iowa pheasant population survey begins Aug. 1](#)
- [Visit the DNR at the 2018 Iowa State Fair](#)
- [Hooking summer catfish](#)

Iowa pheasant population survey begins Aug. 1



The Iowa DNR's August Roadside Survey collects statewide population data on pheasants, quail, partridge, cottontail and jackrabbits between Aug. 1-15. Results will be posted online at www.iowadnr.gov/pheasantsurvey by Sept. 10. Photo courtesy of the Iowa DNR.

The extent of impact that a late winter and heavy rains and flooding in northern Iowa in June and July had on pheasant nesting success will likely be seen when the Iowa

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conducts its annual pheasant counts.

The statewide survey takes place Aug. 1-15.

The survey is conducted by Iowa DNR staff who drive 218, 30 mile routes on gravel roads at dawn on mornings with heavy dew. Hen pheasants will move their broods to the edge of the gravel road to dry off before they begin feeding, which makes them easier to count.

“Conditions for the survey are important,” said Todd Bogenschutz, upland wildlife research biologist for the Iowa DNR. “We want to see an accurate count. Last year we were in a drought and the dry conditions likely didn’t accurately reflect the population.”

While Bogenschutz, expects Iowa’s pheasant count to be down, he is optimistic about quail.

“The last five years have been pretty good for quail,” he said. “They’ve had a pretty good winter and spring in southern Iowa so I’m hoping to see similar to better numbers than last year. The counts all depend on the dew conditions when the routes are run.”

The August roadside survey has been conducted over the same routes since 1962. In addition to pheasants and quail, the survey collects data on partridge, cottontails and jackrabbits. Results will be posted online at www.iowadnr.gov/pheasantsurvey by Sept. 10. Iowa’s pheasant season begins Oct. 27.

Media Contact: Todd Bogenschutz, Upland Wildlife Biologist, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 515-979-0828.

Visit the DNR at the 2018 Iowa State Fair

DES MOINES, Iowa – As the 2018 Iowa State Fair kicks off, be sure to stop by the DNR building located at the west end of the [fairgrounds](#) near Gate 11.

During the 11 days of the Iowa State Fair, count on the Iowa DNR to have a fun-filled, family-friendly, educational and entertaining packed daily schedule for all fairgoers to enjoy.

Inside the DNR building, DNR experts will be on hand daily to answer any questions you may have related to Iowa’s natural resources. Take time to browse around the many exhibits within the DNR, including the Hike, Bike and Paddle zone, Watch and Learn zone, Stay and Play zone, In Your Home zone and meet many DNR staff and experts. Take a peek at the live fish, ducks and turtles and get an up-close look at the mounted wildlife that are native to Iowa. You can even buy or renew a one-year subscription to the

DNR's Iowa Outdoors magazine for \$15 and receive a free t-shirt or renew or purchase your hunting tags or fishing licenses.

The DNR courtyard provides a nice shady area with many benches and picnic tables for families to enjoy overlooking a pond with live ducks and turtles. The courtyard stage will have several educational and interactive presentations daily. Some highlights of the courtyard presentations include:

- From the farmer's market to the Dutch oven (Thursday, August 9)
- Paddling Iowa: places to go and safety tips (Thursday, August 9)
- Healthy Parks = Healthy People: Annual state park events throughout Iowa for fun and fitness (Thursday, August 9)
- Rain Gardens and Pollinators (Friday, August 10)
- Kids Activities: Explore nature in your backyard (Friday, August 10)
- Fishing technology, cooking and cleaning fish (Saturday, August 11)
- Fishing technology: using the DNR's website to track fish (Saturday, August 11)
- Reusapalooza: Kids Activities: make and take old stuff gets new life (Sunday, August 12)
- When junk becomes art (Sunday, August 12)
- Predator trapping and wildlife on your farm (Monday, August 13)
- Training your new hunting dog (Monday, August 13)
- Timber theft and legal ways to sell your trees (Monday, August 13)
- Tree diseases and insects (Tuesday, August 14)
- Every drop counts: from the ground to the tap (Tuesday, August 14)
- Managing your farm pond and woodland resources (Tuesday, August 14)
- Selecting and planting trees in your backyard (Tuesday, August 14)
- We used to have what? A history of wildlife in Iowa (Wednesday, August 15)
- Volunteer opportunities in the outdoors (Wednesday, August 15)
- Dutch oven cooking in the campground (Thursday, August 16)
- Kids Activities: Explore Iowa State Parks (Thursday, August 16)
- Let's Explore: Maquoketa Caves (Thursday, August 16)
- Turtles of Iowa (LIVE animals) (Friday, August 17)
- Fish cleaning and cooking (Friday, August 17)
- Fishing basics for beginners and kids (Friday, August 17)
- Iowa Trumpeter Swans (LIVE animals) (Saturday, August 18)
- Kids Activities: Attracting wildlife to your backyard (Saturday, August 19)
- Reptiles and amphibians of Iowa (LIVE animals) (Saturday, August 19)
- Chronic Wasting Disease and the Iowa deer herd (Saturday, August 19)

You can find a full schedule at iowadnr.gov/fair. Join the Iowa DNR at the 2018 Iowa State Fair.

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Hooking summer catfish

Fishing for catfish is a summer tradition for many Iowa families. Invite someone new to come along this year to share the fun and memories.

“Catfish are more active in hot weather,” explained Daniel Vogeler, Iowa DNR fisheries technician. They are biting in every stream of any size, in all lakes and many farm ponds.

Bring along two coolers with ice, one to keep your bait firm and fresh and another to keep your catch cold and preserve that great taste.

Catfish have a great sense of smell and taste. Try prepared dip baits, chicken livers, minnows or chubs, green sunfish, bluegill, crawdads, frogs, night crawlers or dead, but fresh, gizzard shad.

Lakes stratify, or form layers, this time of year, with cool, oxygen-deprived waters sinking to the bottom. Do not fish in water deeper than 8 to 10 feet.

Look for areas with vegetation, brush piles or rock. Fish the upper ends of the larger reservoirs where the water is shallower and baitfish like gizzard shad gather. Use baits fished on the bottom or suspended off the bottom with a bobber and let current or breeze move the bait to find active catfish.

Iowa rivers are loaded with catfish. Look for fish around downed trees and brush piles, but don't overlook rock piles or other objects that deflect water and form a current seam. Position your bait just upstream of brush piles so the scent of the bait is carried downstream into the structure to draw the catfish out. Anchor the bait with a heavy weight so it doesn't drift into snags. If fishing the big rivers, try upstream and on the tips of wing dykes and wing dams on the Missouri and Mississippi rivers.

Find more tips for catching, cleaning and cooking catfish on the DNR website at fishing.iowadnr.gov.

Media Contact: Daniel Vogeler, Fisheries Bureau, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 712-336-1840.