

# Rural Mail Carrier Pheasant Survey 2008

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## **Abstract**

The number of pheasants seen during the 22-24 of April survey period by rural mail carriers per 100 miles driven was 0.68. This is an 18% decrease from 0.83 observed in 2007. The number of pheasants seen per observer decreased from 2007 levels, and was 0.97.

## **Methods**

Survey forms were mailed in early April to postmasters in 32 counties across Wisconsin's pheasant range. Postmasters were asked to distribute the forms to their rural mail carriers. Carriers were instructed to record their route number, distance driven, and the number and sex of pheasants seen along their route on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in the third full week of April. Data from the returned surveys were entered into the DNR UNIX production server and analyzed using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS).

In an effort to expand coverage of the Rural Mail Carrier Survey, Grant county was added in 1995 to the list of counties that were surveyed. None of the totals for Grant county will be used in the statewide totals so a long term trend can be observed.

## **Results**

Rural mail carrier participation decreased by 2% in 2008. Six hundred and eighty-two respondents saw 659 pheasants during the April 22, 23, and 24 survey period. This is a 20% decrease from the total number of pheasants seen in 2007. The counties with the highest number of pheasants seen per 100 miles driven were St. Croix (3.21), Green Lake (1.83), Polk (1.80), Washington (1.78) and Lafayette (1.69) (Table 1, Fig. 2).

The statewide average number of pheasants seen per 100 miles driven decreased to 0.68 in 2008, a 18% decrease from 2007 levels. The number of pheasants seen per 100 miles driven is higher than the long-term mean of 0.61 (Figure 1). The number of pheasants seen per observer decreased 18% from the 2007 levels, and was 0.97.

**Table 1. Rural Mail Carrier Pheasant Sightings 2006-2008.**

County	Pheasants Sighted			Sightings/100 miles Driven		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
Barron	39	22	5	2.39	1.58	0.35
Brown	19	24	13	0.37	0.51	0.23
Calumet	8	4	4	0.35	0.17	0.17
Columbia	9	6	1	0.20	0.15	0.02
Dane	30	18	27	0.48	0.27	0.40
Dodge	18	16	19	0.41	0.37	0.51
Door	11	7	6	0.43	0.29	0.24
Dunn	24	9	18	1.11	1.03	1.49
Fond du Lac	43	64	36	1.14	1.61	1.04
Grant <sup>1</sup>	47	65	43	0.68	0.94	0.59
Green	46	28	3	1.77	0.90	0.10
Green Lake	7	11	32	0.35	0.66	1.83
Iowa	46	96	45	1.72	3.04	1.49
Jefferson	27	29	9	0.70	0.95	0.36
Kenosha	2	12	9	0.13	0.80	0.66
Kewaunee	2	13	13	0.10	0.77	0.57
Lafayette	75	59	28	5.11	3.89	1.69
Manitowoc	8	34	14	0.26	1.03	0.40
Oconto	14	10	2	0.54	0.41	0.11
Outagamie	11	16	11	0.27	0.40	0.23
Ozaukee	33	37	20	2.42	2.25	1.66
Pierce	18	19	24	1.25	0.73	1.08
Polk	26	42	49	0.71	1.45	1.80
Racine	1	10	3	0.03	0.28	0.11
Rock	33	55	25	0.61	1.07	0.46
St. Croix	39	101	112	0.76	1.51	3.21
Shawano	6	19	1	0.23	0.93	0.04
Sheboygan	16	16	14	0.47	0.46	0.38
Walworth	18	10	17	0.38	0.29	0.39
Washington	6	10	67	0.20	0.36	1.78
Waukesha	17	12	8	0.45	0.21	0.16
Winnebago	10	10	13	0.48	0.51	0.62
Unknown	3	0	11	1.12	0.00	2.78
Total	665	819	659	0.68	0.83	0.68

<sup>1</sup>Not included in totals

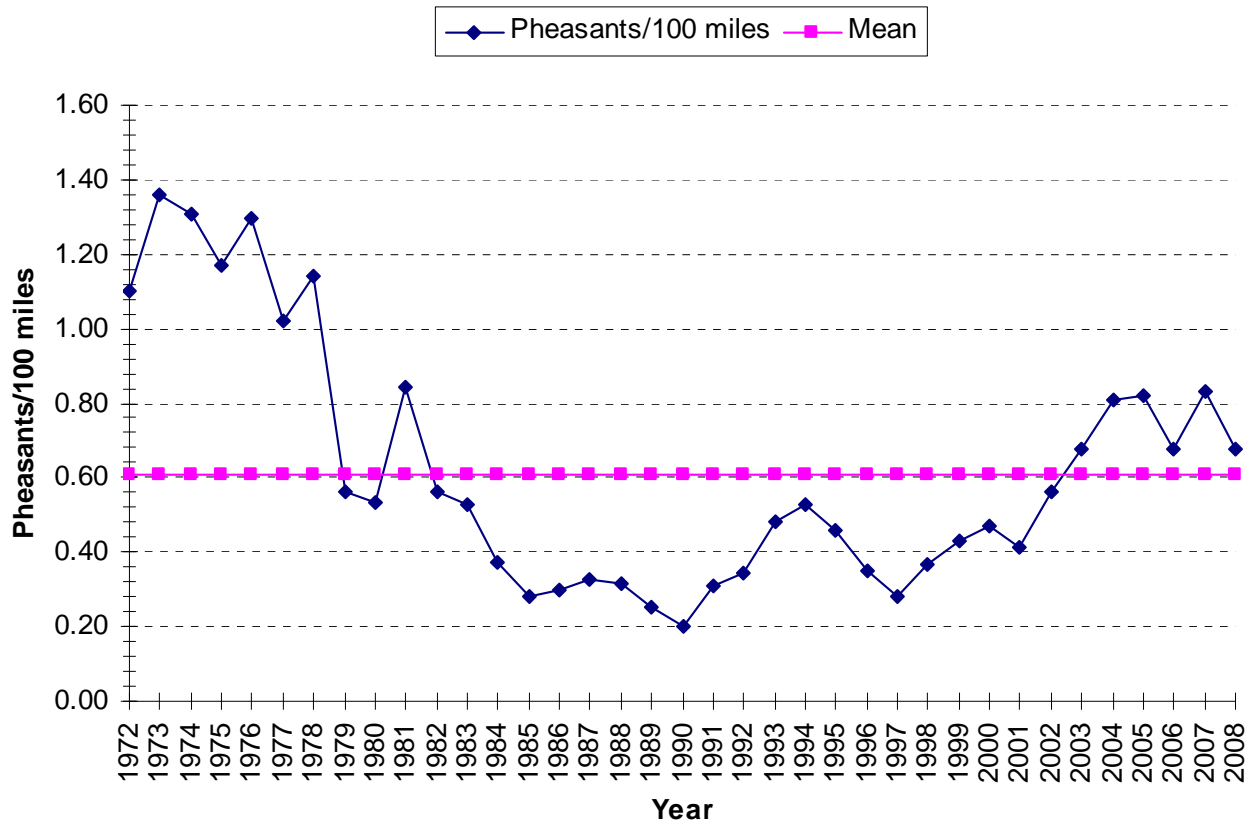


Figure 1. Pheasants seen per 100 miles driven, 1972-2008.



Figure 2. Counties encompassing all or some of Wisconsin's primary pheasant range.