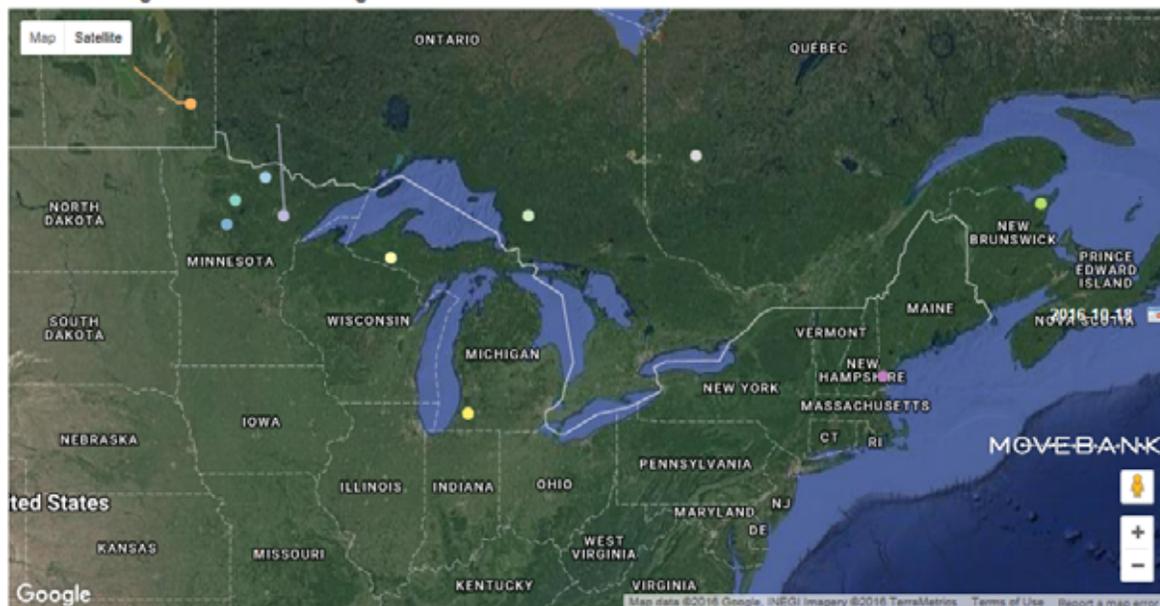




Ruff Country News and Timberdoodle Times **Ruffed Grouse Society Northeast Region Fall 2016**

It's autumn and the hunt is on! And the woodcock migration has just begun as well. The woodcock satellite telemetry migration study is wrapping up, but there are still ten or so radio-marked birds "on the air". Be sure to check out their progress this fall on our [migration study webpage](#). Here's the early October picture; woodcock in Manitoba and Ontario are heading south:

Fall 2016 Migration - Satellite Tags



In this issue we've got hunter surveys in need of your participation, the annual woodcock status report, and some "items in the news". PLUS – I'll be asking successful hunters to save me one nice grouse for next summer's youth events.

Good hunting,

– *Andy*

American Woodcock Population Status, 2016

By Mark E. Seamans and Rebecca Rau, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Abstract: American Woodcock Singing-ground Survey data for 2016 indicated that the index for singing American woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) males in both the Eastern and Central Management Regions were not significantly different from 2015. The 10-year (2006-2016) trends in the Eastern Management Region (-0.74%/year) and Central, Management Region (-0.25%/year) were not significantly different from zero, suggesting stationary populations. Both regions had a significant long-term (1968-16) declining trend (-0.93%/year for the Eastern Management Region and -0.68 %/year for the Central Management Region). The 2015 recruitment index for the U.S. portion of the Eastern Region (1.38 immatures per adult female) was 7.3% less than the 2014 index and 15.4% less than the long-term regional index, while the recruitment index for the U.S. portion of the Central Region (1.19 immatures per adult female) was 14.1% less than the 2014 index and was 23.0% less than the long-term regional index. Estimates from the Harvest Information Program indicated that U.S. woodcock hunters in the Eastern Region spent 115,500 days afield and harvested 54,500 woodcock during the 2015-16 season, while in the Central Region, hunters spent 284,200 days afield and harvested 145,700 woodcock.

Andy's Note: Woodcock numbers in 2016 remained fairly close to 2015 levels across New York and New England (non-significant increase). The entire report can be viewed at

<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/NewReportsPublications/PopulationStatus.html>

P.S. When the woods are very dry like it's been this past August and much of September here, woodcock may be scarce in the usual alders and second-growth hardwoods. If that's the case, try the very wet swamp edges and also young, dense conifer stands such as spruce or fir or even young pine, at any location, but especially on north and east facing slopes. Even though the soil under conifers is poor worm habitat, the soil moisture often will be higher than in the hardwoods and woodcock will feed on other invertebrates among the conifers until rains return and worms and other meaty morsels again become available.



Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument



In August 2016, President Obama created the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument on 86,563 acres adjacent to Baxter State Park in Penobscot County, Maine. A portion of the Monument that is on the east side of the East Branch of the Penobscot River, is open to hunting. If hunters are to have any influence in the management of the Monument, we must provide input into the planning process.

Share Your Ideas

The National Park Service (NPS), which is the managing agency of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, held four listening sessions to hear directly from citizens about their hopes, ideas, and questions for the new monument. The sessions were held in Stacyville, Medway, Millinocket, and Orono. Regional biologist Andy Weik attended and participated in the session that was held in Medway, ME.

According to the NPS, “The goals of these sessions [were] to learn more about the perspectives and ideas that the communities surrounding the monument and larger public have for the monument's future, and begin to identify the opportunities and topics that will inform additional public discussions for the

management plan going forward.

“These sessions are the first in a series of public meetings and discussions that will take place for the management plan process. The National Park Service has committed to completing the management plan in three years. Management plans for new monuments establish the overarching vision for the public lands and guide the direction of future work and activities.

“If you cannot attend a listening session but would like to provide input, please share your ideas and questions with us by:

- Email to kaww_superintendent@nps.gov
- Send written comments to PO Box 446, Patten, Maine 04765 “

I encourage everyone to provide comments to the NPS on the future management of the Katahdin Areas Woods and Waters National Monument. ***To have good hunting requires active and well-planned timber harvests (including clearcutting) to provide the habitat on which grouse, woodcock, and other wildlife depend.*** In your comments please include that:

- Grouse and other upland game hunting is very important to you, to Maine’s culture, and to Maine’s economy;
- Abundant grouse and other upland game and nongame populations require a dynamic mix of forested habitats, which requires frequent forest disturbance;
- Active forest management, including even-age timber harvests such as clearcutting, is essential to providing high quality habitat for ruffed grouse and other upland game and nongame wildlife;
- Active forest management supports the local economy in terms of jobs and support services, and provides timber products to the greater region.

According to the NPS, “planning updates will be available via the enews list and the monument website: www.nps.gov/kaww

Thank you for sharing your ideas



NH Ruffed Grouse Wing and Tail Survey

Statewide New Hampshire Survey

New Hampshire Fish and Game conducts an annual grouse wing and tail survey throughout the state to help gain critical information about ruffed grouse in New Hampshire. Hunter participation is key to this effort -- we need your help!

Win a gun! All those who turn in completed and useable grouse study survey packets will be entered into a drawing for a quality shotgun donated by the Ruffed Grouse Society.



How to take part:

Any grouse hunter can participate by picking up grouse sample packets, which include envelopes and survey cards for two grouse samples, from any of the participating locations*. Hunters are asked to remove all tissue from wing and tail samples and to let them dry completely before placing the samples in the envelopes. Do NOT place the samples in plastic of any kind. Hunters should place only one wing and tail in each envelope with the corresponding completed survey card. Completed packets must be returned to one of these locations*.

Packets will be available as of **September 23, 2016**, check the following website for locations*:

<http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/surveys/ruffed-grouse.html>

Win a gun! All those who turn in completed and useable grouse study survey packets will be entered into a drawing for a quality shotgun donated by the Ruffed Grouse Society.

Please let other ruffed grouse enthusiasts know about this survey to help increase participation this year, and say thanks to these business owners for their effort, as well.

For more information on the grouse survey, call Karen Bordeau, NH Fish and Game Small Game Project Leader, at Fish and Game's Region 2 Office in New Hampton, NH, at (603) 744-5470.

New York Grouse and Woodcock Hunting Log

Grouse and woodcock hunters needed! (for more info visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/9351.html>)

This survey asks hunters to record their daily grouse and woodcock hunting activities in a "hunting log", including the number of grouse and woodcock flushed, the number of hours hunted, the number of birds killed, and if a dog was used to hunt. The primary purpose of the log is to monitor the number of birds flushed per hour. Grouse and woodcock share many of the same habitats, so the information you provide will help monitor populations of both of these great game birds as habitats change both locally and on a landscape scale.



Print or download the [2016-17 Ruffed Grouse and American Woodcock Hunting Log \(PDF\)](#), or contact DEC to get on our mailing list (see contact information below).

Completed survey forms can be sent to:

Grouse Log, NYSDEC
625 Broadway, Albany NY 12233-4754
Phone: (518) 402-8886

[e-mail: fwwildlf@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:fwwildlf@gw.dec.state.ny.us) (Please include "Grouse Log" in the subject line.)

After you have completed your hunting log, you can contact the Department at the address above for a postage-paid envelope to send in your data sheet(s).

After data have been analyzed, your hunting log will be returned to you along with a report of this survey (full reports from previous seasons can be found in the links in the left-hand column from the first link above). In subsequent years, you will receive a hunting log in the mail just prior to the hunting season. The personal information you provide (e.g., name, address) will be kept confidential.

Thanks and good luck!



Grouse log cooperator arm patches

Bird Hunting Opportunities to Support RGS

Join RGS for the **5th Annual NY Grouse and Woodcock Benefit Hunt** October 21-23, 2016 based at *On The Wing Grouse Camp* in Ellenburg, NY. This is a two-day guided hunt - Saturday and Sunday - and includes a banquet dinner. Hunter numbers are limited to 30. Contact Bruce Bennett 413-237-1054 (grouse1202@gmail.com) or Tripp Way.



Also, check out the **Upland Bird Hunt in the PA Wilds** November 3-5, 2015, based out of The Red Fern, Kersey, PA. Contact: Mary Hosmer @ 814-512-2101 or wlahab@windstream.net

Grouse Needed!



We need several whole, frozen grouse. Again we're planning to collaborate on youth programs with 4-H and the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association. How about committing to donating **one** grouse this season for our youth programs in the Northeast? This past summer, RGS

collaborated with the [Yankee \(Maine\) Chapter](#) of NAVHDA, and 4-H Shooting Sports/Bryant Pond Conservation Camp and the [Sebasticook \(Maine\) Chapter](#) of NAVHDA. Sebasticook NAHVDA produced a [nice video of the field portion](#) of the 2015 event. So if you're inclined to help, save a whole (dead) ruffed grouse in good condition.



The best way to keep a grouse in good shape (this goes for saving a bird for mounting, too, by the way) is to slip it head-first into a knee-high stocking (e.g. Leggs brand – photo at right) and put it in the freezer. Once it's frozen, seal the stockinged bird in a plastic bag and keep frozen until you can get it to me – call or email me (andyw@ruffedgrousesociety.org). Thanks!



**2016 RUFFED GROUSE SOCIETY
"12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS" NATIONAL RAFFLE**

December 11: Webley & Scott Model 2000 SxS 20-Ga. Shotgun
December 12: RGS Head to Toe Hunting Outfit includes hunting boots donated by L.L.Bean
December 13: Escort Supreme Semi-Auto 20-Ga. Shotgun & Leather Case - each w/RGS logo.
December 14: SportDOG Tek 2.0 GPS & E-Collar—SportDOG, Donor
December 15: Webley & Scott 900 Sporting O/U 12-Ga. Shotgun engraved w/RGS logo, 30" Barrels, w/case
December 16: RGS Dog Package includes donations from Purina
December 17: Browning BPS Field Pump 20-Ga. Shotgun—Browning, Donor
December 18: Yeti Cooler Set of Two: 65 Quart and a 20 Quart Roadie
December 19: Beretta A400 Xplor Action Semi-Auto 28-Ga. Shotgun
December 20: Orvis Flyfishing Package
December 21: Franchi 48AL Semi-Auto 20-Ga. Shotgun
December 22: Fausti Side-by-Side 12-Ga. Shotgun

Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$20. Winners to be drawn at RGS National Headquarters in Coraopolis, PA and posted on ruffedgrousesociety.org
Ticket sales end at 8:00 a.m. EST on December 9, 2016.
Void Where Prohibited By Law. Winners Responsible For All Taxes
For full details, go to www.ruffedgrousesociety.org/2016 National Raffle



Upcoming RGS Events in the Region

October 21-23 – 5th Annual Northern New York Grouse and Woodcock Hunt, hosted by *On The Wing Grouse Camp*, Ellenburg, NY. Contact Bruce Bennett 413-237-1054 or grouse1202@gmail.com.

October 28 – Central New York Chapter Annual Banquet. 6:00 pm, The Whitetail at Woodcrest Golf Club, 6200 Old Cheese Factory Road, Manlius, NY. Contact Norm Webber 315-655-3007 or lutherwebb@earthlink.net.

November 3 – Nutmeg Chapter 6th Annual Conservation and Sportsmen's Banquet, Aria, 45 Murphy Road, Prospect, CT. Contact Jim Fedorich 860-482-4544 or 860-689-2735 or fedorich_james_j@sbcglobal.net.

November 14 – Triple Flush Chapter 30th Anniversary Conservation and Sportsmen's Banquet. 6:00 pm, Lib's Supper Club, 106 W. 5th Street, Elmira, NY. Contact Tripp Way 607-743-0760 or trippw@ruffedgrousesociety.org.

November 19 – Central Maine Chapter 6th Annual Conservation and Sportsmen's Banquet. 6:00 pm, Penobscot Conservation Association Clubhouse, 570 N. Main Street, Brewer, ME. Contact Kim Gray 207-862-5069.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions:

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