

Mid – Atlantic FAN Fall 2013



I hope your respective grouse and woodcock season has been productive so far. That will come in different forms to the many readers of this FAN. To some it is number of flushes, bird's bagged, new honey holes, the witnessing of 'the aw-ha moment' for a young dog...or new hunter regardless of age. For others it invokes reflection to memories of past hunts with old friends in seemingly simpler times. Where they really that simple? Perhaps it's just the beginning of a season dedicated to a companion or hunt partner, either way it's all good...it is grouse season.

Linda



Look for anomalies in your success. These primaries (flight feathers) and alulas (small covering feathers) are lacking pigment (a condition called leucism) or the ability to deposit pigment (pigment is called melanins). Photo courtesy Ralph Martone.

RGS Meets with Region 8 (R8) United States Forest Service (USFS)

Atlanta – RGS met with the Deputy Regional Forester of Natural Resources, Regional Director Biological and Physical, Director of Planning, Director of Forest Management and an individual from Public Affairs to discuss the current state of management of our public lands in the Southern Appalachian Region. This meeting was a necessary first step in elevating our relationship the USFS within R8.

The fundamental purpose of the meeting was to deliver a clear message from RGS to the USFS that their performance has been insufficient and irresponsible in achieving current Forest Plan goals for developing enhanced early succession / young regenerating forest habitat. That message was delivered by the RGS team. In turn we believe we were successful in convincing the USFS that we will continue this effort utilizing all tools available until sufficient progress is made towards achieving the management goals as described in current Forest Plans desired future conditions within R8 forests.

As a second step in this process RGS will meet with respective USFS Forest Supervisors and appropriate personnel to express our concerns within the individual forests. During this process we will continue to comment on and assist in project and New Plan development as we have in the past.

RGS has historically supported the USFS in numerous management projects and will continue to do so as a cooperator in active management.

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Tickets Available for the RGS 2013 Fall National Raffle

Entry tickets are now available for the 2013 RGS Fall National Raffle. This raffle is covering a short time span as the three winners will be drawn on December 31, 2013 so enter early. Please help support RGS and maybe win one of the three fantastic prizes, each of which would make a great surprise at Holliday time for anyone. Purchase tickets by calling RGS HQ at (888) 564-6747 or contacting Linda Ordiway at 412-720-6034 or lindao@ruffedgrousesociety.org. The donation is \$20.00 per ticket. Winners are responsible for applicable taxes.

Three chances to win. WINNER'S CHOICE! - First winner selects choice of 3 prizes, second winner selects from remaining 2, and the third winner gets the remaining prize.

Prizes include:

First prize: Orvis Endorsed Northern Maine Grouse Hunt for Two in the 2014/15 hunting season at Libby Camps; includes 4 nights, 3 days of hunting. \$3,350 value. **Libby Camps, Donor.**

Second prize: Grand Traverse, Michigan Fishing, Golf and Wine Tour for Four; includes 4 nights, 5 days in Traverse City, Michigan during 2014. \$2,400 value, **Fairfield Inn & Suites, Traverse City, Fish Hunter Charters, LochenHeath Golf Club, Celtic Shuttle & Tours, Donors.**

Third prize: Northern Minnesota Fishing and Resort Stay for Two. One week stay at Driftwood Lodge Resort and Boat Rental on Lake Kabetogama during 2014/2015. \$2,000 value, **Driftwood Lodge Resort, Donor.**

Ruffed Grouse Society Magazine Wins 2013 APEX Award For Publication Excellence

Coraopolis, PA – The Ruffed Grouse Society magazine has been awarded a 2013 APEX Award of Excellence in the "Magazines & Journals – Print Over 32 Pages" category for the Spring 2013 issue. This issue was the first for Editor Matt Soberg and was constructed with the help from Paul Carson, a prior editor of the magazine. The design and layout was created by Brittney LaCoste of Campbell LaCoste, Inc. in Black Earth, Wisconsin. The Apex Awards included over 2,400 total entries this year.

The Spring 2013 magazine cover highlighted The Fall Shuffle, a painting by Chris Smith that was the RGS Print of the Year. The issue featured a woodcock sky dance article by Tim Flanigan and other features from longtime RGS contributors Art Wheaton, Nick Sisley, Lisa Price, Bob West, and Doug Forsythe. RGS President and CEO John Eichinger provided a message about the Drummer Fund, and RGS Director of Conservation Policy Dan Dessecker included an article about working lands for wildlife.

"We are honored to be awarded a 2013 APEX Award. The Society works hard to create a quality magazine that effectively communicates our mission and provides engaging articles and beautiful photographs for our members," said Eichinger. RGS won the APEX Grand Award in 2011 for its 50th Anniversary Issue and two APEX Awards in 2012.

In its 25th year, the APEX Awards for Publication Excellence is an international competition open to

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writers, editors, publications staff, and business and nonprofit communicators. The awards are based on excellence in graphic design, editorial content and the ability to achieve overall communications excellence. The Apex Awards are sponsored by Communications Concepts, Inc., a leading publisher of business communication reports.

2013 Upland Bird Hunt Results

St. Mary's PA. - 64 hunters and 32 huntsmen participated in the RGS 2013 UBH. The 2 day hunt in the PA Wilds was not the best weather with wet and windy conditions. I feel the flush rate is merely a snapshot in time and does not reflect the state of the population in the hunt area. There were 16 of the reports that showed an average of 3.2 fl/hr. This would indicate the birds are very spotty in distribution. The overall results are listed below.

Day 1

172 RG flushes	146.5 hrs.	1.17 fl/hr
11RG taken	9AHY (5M 4F)	2HY(1M 1F)

Day 2

180 RG flushes	138 hrs.	1.3 fl/hr
10 RG taken	8AHY (4M 4F)	2HY (2M)

TOTAL

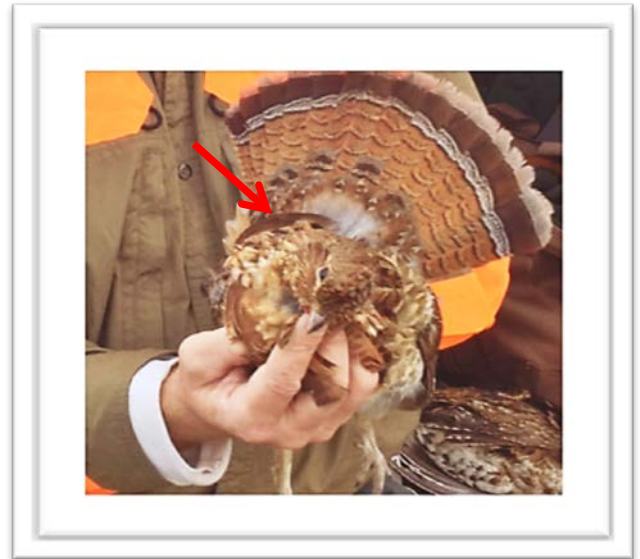
303 RG flushes	183.5 hrs.	1.24 fl/hr
21 RG taken	17 AHY(9M 8F)	4HY(3M 1F)

(AHY = Adult bird HY = Juvenile M = male F = fem)

28 woodcock flushes 6 harvest Day 1
44 woodcock flushes 7 harvest Day 2

Most crops contained evergreen wood fern, beech buds, black cherry, pin cherry, birch buds, beech nuts, wild grape, wood sorrel, and multiflora rose hips.

There was one cinnamon color phase harvested.



Notice the cinnamon ruff and band on the tail.
Harvested by Jim Boburka

State Drummer Fund Proposal Request Mid-Atlantic Southern Appalachian Region

It is that time again that I ask for SDF Proposals. We have moved the **deadline for submission to Jan 01/2014** with announcements made by the end of Feb. 2014. These funding requests are for projects on public access lands that increase the quality of habitat for grouse, woodcock and other wildlife of the young regenerating forest habitat. This program has grown and gained in recognition and look for a full write up in the next FAN as we approach a wonderful milestone. For more information or to receive a proposal form contact me at Lindao@ruffedgrousesociety.org.

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*Unless someone like you cares a
whole awful lot,
Nothing is going to get better. It's not.
~Dr. Seuss*

Nantahala and Pisgah National Forest Plan Revision Update

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/nfsnc/home/?cid=SELPRDB5397660> to view the draft assessment of the Plan Revision Process and examples of 'Need for Change' statements from the first and second round of public meetings.

RGS and its members have been very successful in establishing the need for young forest habitat as a top priority of public issues in the Need for Change in the Forest Plan Revision. How the USFS implements the creation of this habitat type is the next real challenge RGS and organizations and individuals with similar interests now face.

The USFS has requested comments in the form of 'Need for Change' statements which will be assembled in a Draft Forest Plan available for comment at a much later date. Here is an abbreviated list of possible need for change statements to consider in commenting. Comments are due by 12/17/13 via electronic version NCPlanRevision@fs.fed.us or

US Mail: National Forests in North Carolina
Planning
160A Zillicoa Street
Asheville, NC 28801

For a complete background packet which was sent to all NC RGS members contact me at Lindao@ruffedgrousesociety.org.

- 1) There is a need to establish forest management distributed throughout the entire forest (which when looked at the landscape level resembles uneven-aged management at the forest level NOT the stand level). This wider distribution of management will have a greater influence on sustaining wildlife populations using young regenerating forests on a regional focus including ruffed grouse. We are not looking for grouse management areas. RGS would like to see the USFS manage our public lands for distribution and evenness of forest age classes as the focus of the New Forest Plan.
- 2) There is a need to revisit streamside management providing the flexibility to adjust from the strict 100ft buffer zone. These should be variable on a site by site basis, depending on stream classification, activities planned and associated terrain as examples for consideration in the New Forest Plan.
- 3) The USFS needs to reinstate the timber program to operable levels to benefit the local economy and in turn the future health of the forest and wildlife.
- 4) The USFS needs to explore the options in scenery development / management that includes education and information exchange of the aesthetic quality of disturbance to the public.

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- 5) There is a need to recognize and utilize timber production as the most efficient method to create quality wildlife habitat and maintaining a healthy diverse forest age structure. Increasing the number of acres suitable for timber production in the New Forest Plan is a desirable outcome.
- 6) There is a need for recognizing the importance of acorn production and maintaining oak as a regenerating dominant stem across the landscape beyond forest boundaries.
- 7) There is no need to set aside new designated areas either congressionally or at the regional level. The historic land use of the current designated areas needs to be reviewed and other options explored for protecting resources.
- 8) The term restoration should not be supplemented for timber harvesting but used as a description of a benefit of timber harvesting as is the economic benefit of a commercial timber harvest, both leading to the final outcome of creation of quality wildlife habitat.

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

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Established in 1961, The Ruffed Grouse Society is North America's foremost conservation organization dedicated to preserving our sporting traditions by creating healthy forest habitat for ruffed grouse, American woodcock and other wildlife. RGS works with landowners and government agencies to develop critical habitat utilizing scientific management practices. For information on the Ruffed Grouse Society, please call 888-564-6747 or check out the RGS website at www.ruffedgrousesociety.org.

I will close with this statement to the USFS: To focus the attention on management that balances resource utilization with preservation. In order to accomplish that, *there is a lot of ground to make up in the resource utilization category.* **Time for a Change**