

OUTDOORS

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Ruffed grouse counts see increase

Counts may signal uptrend

DNR STAFF REPORT

Minnesota's ruffed grouse spring drumming counts were significantly higher than last year across most of the bird's range, according to a survey conducted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

"Ruffed grouse drums increased 34 percent from the previous year, with the increase happening in the northern part of the state," said Charlotte Roy, DNR grouse project leader. "This may signal the start of an upswing in the grouse cycle that since 2009 has been in the declining phase."

The increase is consistent with changes typical of the 10-year grouse cycle. The most recent peak in drum counts occurred in 2009. The cycle is less pronounced in the more southern regions of the state, near the edge of the ruffed grouse range.

Drumming is a low sound produced by males as they beat their wings rapidly and in increasing frequency to signal the location of their territory. Drumming displays also attract females that are ready to begin nesting.

Compared to last year's survey, 2014 survey results for ruffed grouse indicated increases in the northeast survey region, which is the core of grouse range in Minnesota, from 0.9 drums per stop in 2013 to 1.3 in 2014.

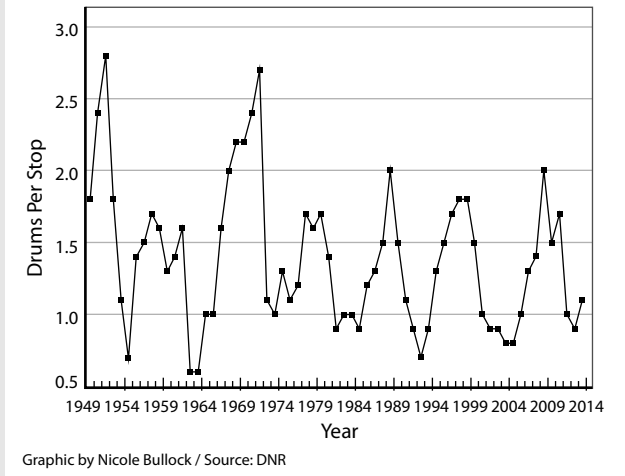
Drumming counts in the northwest increased from 0.7 drums per stop in 2013 to 1.2 in 2014. Drumming counts did not increase in the central hardwoods or southeast, with an average of 0.8 and 0.3 drums per stop, respectively.

Ruffed grouse populations, which tend to rise and fall on a 10-year cycle, are surveyed by counting the number of male ruffed grouse heard drumming on established routes throughout the state's forested regions. This year observers recorded 1.1 drums per stop statewide. The averages during 2012 and 2013 were 1.0 and 0.9, respectively. Counts vary from about 0.6 drums per stop during years of low grouse abundance to about 2.0 during years of high abundance.

Drumming counts are an indicator of the ruffed grouse breeding population. The number of birds present during the fall hunting season also depends upon nesting success and chick survival during the spring and summer.

Minnesota frequently is the nation's top ruffed grouse producer. On average, 115,000 hunters harvest 545,000 ruffed grouse in Minnesota each year, also making it the state's most popular game bird. During the peak years of 1971 and 1989, hunters harvested more than 1 million ruffed grouse. Michigan and Wisconsin, which frequently

Ruffed Grouse Population Index in Minnesota



Graphic by Nicole Bullock / Source: DNR

field more hunters than Minnesota, round out the top three states in ruffed grouse harvest.

One reason for Minnesota's status as a top grouse producer is an abundance of aspen and other ruffed grouse habitat, much of it located on county, state and national forests, where public hunting is allowed. An estimated 11.5 million of the state's 16.3 million acres of forest are grouse habitat.

For the past 65 years, DNR biologists have monitored ruffed grouse populations. This year, DNR staff and cooperators from 11 organizations surveyed 121 routes across the state.

Sharp-tailed grouse counts stay steady

Statewide sharp-tailed grouse counts were higher in 2014 than in 2013, Roy said, although changes were not significant at the regional level. Observers look for male sharp-tails displaying on traditional mating areas, called leks or dancing

grounds. This year's statewide average of 9.8 grouse counted per dancing ground was similar to the long-term average since 1980. The 2009 average of 13.6 was as high as during any year since 1980. During the last 25 years, the sharp-tailed grouse index has been as low as seven birds counted per dancing ground.

Overall, sharptail populations have declined in some areas as a result of habitat deterioration. In recent years, the DNR has increased prescribed burning and shearing that keep trees from overtaking the open brush lands that sharp-tailed grouse need to thrive. This habitat management is important for healthy sharp-tailed grouse populations.

The DNR's 2014 grouse survey report, which contains information on ruffed grouse and sharp-tailed grouse, will be available soon online at www.mndnr.gov/hunting/grouse.

Breeding duck numbers down

Canada goose population similar to last year

DNR STAFF REPORT

Along with another unusual spring and late ice-out, Minnesota's breeding mallard population counts are down slightly from last year while other species saw higher declines, according to the results of the annual Minnesota Department of Natural Resources spring waterfowl surveys.

This year's mallard breeding population was estimated at 257,000, which is 12 percent below last year's estimate of 293,000 breeding mallards, 1 percent below the recent 10-year average and 13 percent above the long-term average.

The blue-winged teal population is 102,000 this year compared with 144,000 in 2013 and remains 53 percent below the long-term average of 215,000 blue-winged teal.

The combined populations of other ducks, such as ring-necked ducks, wood ducks, gadwalls, northern shovelers, canvasbacks and redheads was 116,000, which is 53 percent lower than last year and 35 percent below the long-term average.

The estimated number of wetlands was 343,000, up 33 percent from last year, and 28 percent above the long-term average.

"While we're seeing declines in this year's counts, the survey results can be affected by weather and visibility of waterfowl from aircraft," said Steve Cordts, DNR waterfowl specialist. "Continental waterfowl population estimates will be released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service later this summer and may provide a better indicator of what hunters could expect this fall."

The same waterfowl survey has been conducted each year since 1968 to provide an annual index of breeding duck abundance. The survey

covers 40 percent of the state that includes much of the best remaining duck breeding habitat in Minnesota.

A DNR waterfowl biologist and pilot count all waterfowl and wetlands along established survey routes by flying low-level aerial surveys from a fixed-wing plane. The survey is timed to begin in early May to coincide with peak nesting activity of mallards. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provides ground crews who also count waterfowl along some of the same survey routes. These data are then used to correct for birds not seen by the aerial crew.

Canada geese

This year's Canada goose population was estimated at 244,000 geese, which was similar to last year's estimate of 250,000 geese. This does not include an additional estimated 17,500 breeding Canada geese in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

"Although this year's population estimate is similar to last year's estimate, goose production, or the number of goslings that hatch, will be better than last year," Cordts said. "This year's colder than normal temperatures delayed some goose nesting, particularly in the northern portions of the state."

The number of breeding Canada geese in the state is estimated via a helicopter survey of nesting Canada geese in April. The survey, which includes most of the state except for the Twin Cities metropolitan area, counts Canada geese on randomly selected plots located in prairie, transition and forested areas.

"Although colder than normal, the lack of snowfall in April this spring allowed geese to begin nesting only about a week later than normal," Cordts said. "However, more nests were initiated this year than in spring of 2013, when snow remained on the ground in many parts of Minnesota well into May and goose production should be about average to slightly below average this year."

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: August 3, 2004 MORTGAGOR: Gary D. Christensen, a single person. MORTGAGEE: Bremer Bank, National Association. DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Recorded August 10, 2004 Koochiching County Recorder, Document No. A000249042. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. Dated August 3, 2004 Recorded August 10, 2004, as Document No. A000249043.

TRANSACTION AGENT: NONE TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: NONE LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: Bremer Bank, National Association RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: U.S. Bank Home Mortgage, a division of U.S. Bank National Association MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 703 15th Street, International Falls, MN 56649 TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 92.123.00503 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

That portion of Lot Fifty (50), Plat of First Addition to Merten's Acres lying Easterly of the following described

line: Beginning at a point on the North line of said Lot Fifty (50), One Hundred Sixty Feet west (160' W) of the Northeast (NE) corner of said Lot; thence South on a line parallel to the West line of said Lot to a point on the Southeasterly line of said Lot (which is also the Northwest (NW) line of the right of way of BN RR formerly M & Int'l RR).

Excepting therefrom that portion of Lot Fifty (50), Plat of First Addition to Merten's Acres lying Easterly of the following described line: Beginning at a point on the North line of said Lot Fifty (50), Seventy five Feet (75') West of the Northeast (NE) corner of Lot; thence South One Hundred Fifty Two point Fifty Five Feet (152.55') on a line parallel to the West line of said Lot to a point on the Southeasterly line of said Lot Fifty (50) (which is also the Northwest (NW) line of the right of way of BN RR formerly M & Int'l RR) which point is Two Hundred Eighty One point Eighty Eight Feet (281.88') Northeast (NE) of Southwest (SW) corner of said Lot Fifty (50) and said parcel formerly referred to as the East Seventy Five Feet (E. 75') of Lot Fifty (50), Plat of First Addition to Merten's Acres COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Koochiching ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$61,300.00 AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: \$54,156.71 That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; That no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: July 24, 2014 at 10:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, International Falls, MN

to pay the debt then secured by said Mortgage, and taxes, if any, on

said premises, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law subject to redemption within six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns unless reduced to Five (5) weeks under MN Stat. §580.07.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23 is 11:59 p.m. on January 26, 2015 unless that date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, in which case it is the next weekday, and unless the redemption period is reduced to 5 weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.*

Dated: May 19, 2014

Minnesota Housing Finance Agency Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, P.L.L.P. Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee 4500 Park Glen Road #300 Minneapolis, MN 55416 (952) 925-6888 135 - 14-003167 FC

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

The Journal
May 31st, June 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, & July 5th, 2014

Public Notice

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

Mortgagor: Eddice P.E. Hyatt and Brenda Hyatt, husband and wife Mortgagee: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc. Dated: 04/11/2002 Recorded: 04/11/2002 Koochiching County Recorder Document No. 237126

Assigned To: Minnesota Housing Finance Agency Dated: 04/11/2002 Recorded: 04/11/2002 Koochiching County Recorder Document No. 237127

Transaction Agent: N/A Transaction Agent Mortgage ID No: N/A Lender or Broker: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc. Servicer: U.S. Bank Home Mortgage Mortgage Originator: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

Lot 19 and 20, Block 3, Holler's Addition to Koochiching

This is Abstract Property.

TAX PARCEL NO.: 92-120-03190

ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 1521 Second Avenue East International Falls, MN 56649

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Koochiching

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: 28,565.00

AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: 26,147.10

That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;

PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: August 5, 2014, 10:00 AM

PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Office, City of International Falls

to pay the debt then secured by said Mortgage, and taxes, if any, on said premises, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law subject to redemption within 6 Months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor (s), their personal representatives or assigns.

DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: The date on or before which the mortgagor must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under Minnesota Statutes section 580.30 or the property redeemed

under Minnesota Statutes section 580.23 is February 5, 2015 at 11:59 p.m. If the foregoing date is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, then the date to vacate is the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: NONE

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: May 30, 2014

Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, Assignee of Mortgagee

PETERSON, FRAM & BERGMAN, P.A. By: Michael T. Oberle, Ben I. Rust, Jonathan R. Cuskey, Michael V. Schleisman, Tracy J. Halliday Attorneys for: Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, Assignee of Mortgagee 55 East Fifth Street, Suite 800 St. Paul, MN 55101-1718 651-209-7599

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