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# MN DNR Wild Gamebird Brood Survey 2024

User Guide

05/01/2024

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## Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the MN DNR Wild Upland Gamebird Brood Survey! This survey is intended to help the DNR monitor wild populations of ring-necked pheasants and wild turkeys throughout Minnesota. This information, along with other monitoring programs, helps biologists better track trends in the distribution and abundance of pheasants and turkeys across the state.

This survey asks you to report observations of wild turkeys and wild ring-necked pheasants. In doing so, we ask for:

- The date and location of the observation.
- The number of birds seen of each species for different age and sex classifications (young, adult, male, female, etc.)
- If you choose to, you can submit a picture of the birds in your observation. This is entirely optional and not necessary to complete the survey.
- If you choose to, you can submit your name and an email address, and you will receive follow-up communication about survey results and reminders about participation in future years. **ONLY INDIVIDUALS 18 OR OLDER** should submit their name and email address. It is not necessary to provide this information. If you are under 18 or do not wish to share this information, you do not have to in order to complete the survey.

For 2024, you must be connected to the internet to complete this survey., though you can complete it using a PC or a mobile device.

## Completing the Survey

### Access

- You must have internet access to complete the survey. You can access the survey by following the link on the MN DNR Wildlife Sightings Web Page (<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/wildlife/sightings/index.html>) or by scanning the QR code using the camera on your mobile device.

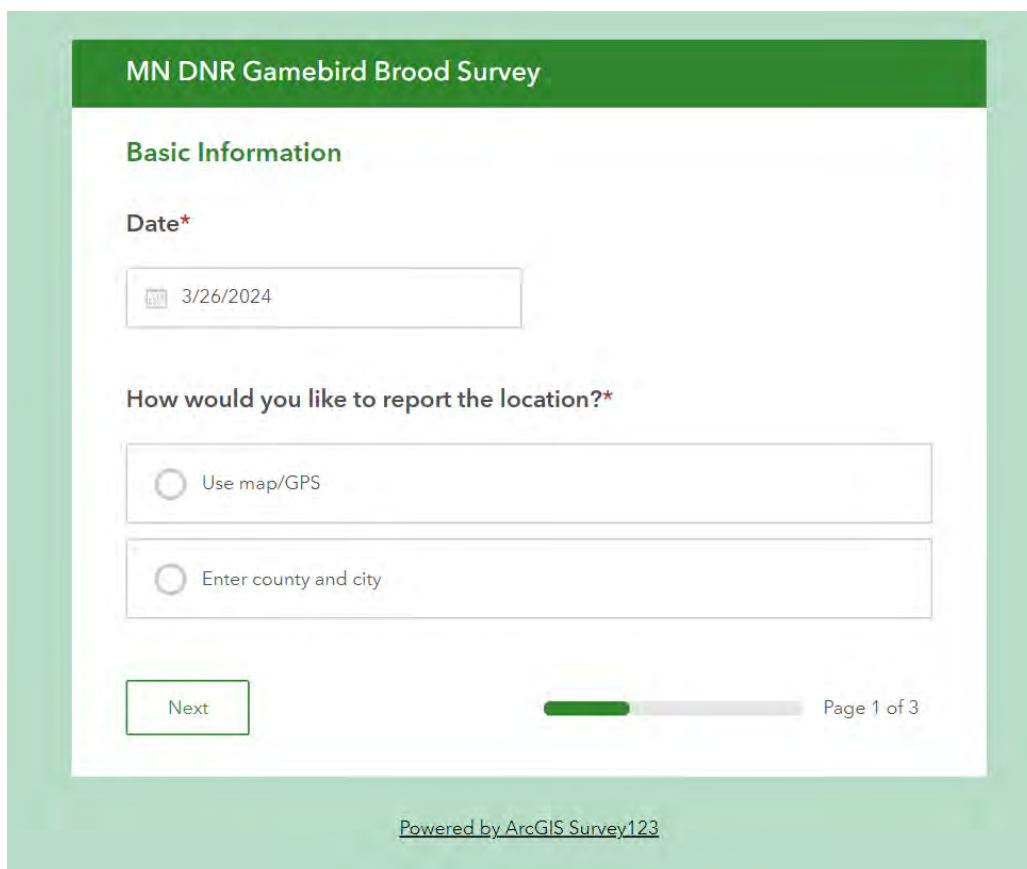


## Completing the Survey

### Date and location

Once you open the survey, on either the web page or in the app, the first page should look like this.

- The date field will auto-populate with the current date.
- If you need to change the date, click the date box and select the appropriate date, and a calendar will appear for you to select the appropriate date.



The screenshot displays a survey form titled "MN DNR Gamebird Brood Survey". The form is set against a light green background. At the top, there is a dark green header bar with the survey title in white. Below the header, the section "Basic Information" is highlighted in a light green color. The first field is "Date\*", which is a date picker showing "3/26/2024". The second section is "How would you like to report the location?\*", which contains two radio button options: "Use map/GPS" and "Enter county and city". At the bottom left, there is a "Next" button. At the bottom right, there is a progress indicator showing a green bar followed by a grey bar, and the text "Page 1 of 3". At the very bottom of the form, it says "Powered by ArcGIS Survey123".

## Location

- Next you will need to provide the location of the observation. You can provide it by using the map/ mobile device GPS or by entering the county and the nearest city or town.
- If you select “Use map/GPS” a map image will appear and you can either place a marker by clicking at the location of your observation, or by clicking on the target icon in the left-hand toolbar to use the GPS on a mobile device.

How would you like to report the location?\*

Use map/GPS

Enter county and city

County\*

-Please select-

Nearest City\*

Distance (miles) from nearest city\*

Cardinal direction from nearest city\*

North

South

East

West

Next

Page 1 of 3

MN DNR Gamebird Brood Survey

Basic Information

Date\*

3/26/2024

How would you like to report the location?\*

Use map/GPS

Enter county and city

Record Location\*

Find address or place

Map showing Mile Lake, Wahkon, and surrounding areas. A red pin is placed on the map. A red arrow points to the target icon in the left-hand toolbar.

Lat: 46.15742 Lon: -93.63856

Next

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- If you do not want to use a map or mobile device GPS to provide the location, you may give an approximate location by selecting the county where the observation was made, from a drop-down menu, as well as the direction and distance from the nearest city.
- You can then advance to the next page by clicking the Next button at the bottom of the page.

MN DNR Gamebird Brood Survey

Observations

Species observed\*

Ring-necked Pheasant

Wild Turkey

Back Next

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- The next page will ask you select which species you would like to submit an observation for.
- Select the appropriate species and then click the Next button.

- Each subsequent page will show you a picture(s) of birds belonging to the different sex and age classes we are requesting information about, specific to that species (young of the year, males, females etc.)
- Record the total number of individuals belonging to each class and select the Next button.

Hen pheasants

# Hens observed

A hen pheasant (female)



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MN DNR Gamebird Brood Survey

Unknown sex/age


# Unknown sex/age

Have you documented this group previously?

Yes

No

Upload a picture

Select image file 

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- If you are unsure of the sex or age class of any birds you see, the last page includes an option for “Unknown sex/age.” Record your observation there.
- You will also be asked if you have reported this group of birds before. If you think you have already reported the individual or group of birds you currently see, select Yes. It is OK to submit repeat observations of the same individual or group.
- At this time, you will also have the opportunity to upload a picture of the birds you are reporting. You can select a saved image by clicking “Select image file,” or you can use the camera on a mobile device to capture an image by clicking on the camera icon.

- If you do choose to submit a picture along with your observation, you will be asked to read and consent to an image-sharing agreement.
- You do not have to include a picture to continue, but you must select Yes, if you wish to share your picture.



grass.jpg 104.8KB  

Image Sharing Consent

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Acknowledgement\*

Yes

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**MN DNR Gamebird Brood Survey**

**Contact Information**

If you would like to receive annual updates about the brood survey, please include your name and email address. It is not mandatory to provide this information.

Individuals under 18 years of age please have a parent or legal guardian submit their name and email address, or leave this page blank.

Observer Name (First Last; optional)

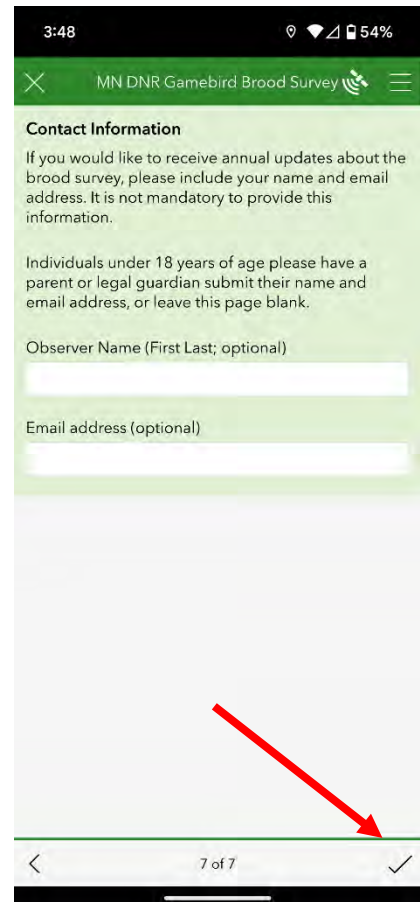
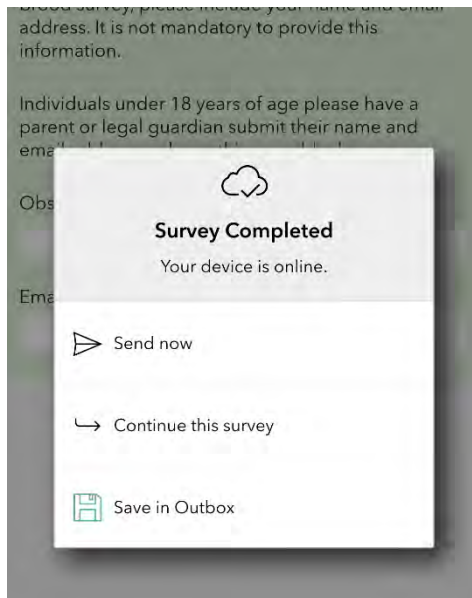
Email address (optional)

Back Submit Page 7 of 7

- On the final page, you can choose to add your name and an email address.
- If you do include a name and/or email address, you will be prompted to read and acknowledge the Tennessee Warning.
- You do not need include your name or email address to submit your observation and only individuals over the age of 18 should include their name or email address.

## Submission

- When you are finished, you can click “Submit” to submit your observation via the web page
- If you are using the Survey 123 app, you will click the checkbox in the bottom-right corner of your screen.
- You will then select “Send Now” to submit your observations. You must have an internet connection to submit your observation.





# Species Identification Guide

## Ring-necked Pheasant

### Males (Roosters)

- Have a red wattle or mask around their eye and cheek.
- Have green-iridescent feathers on their neck and head with a distinct white ring around their neck.
- Have brown-copper-colored body feathers and a long, barred tail.



### Females (Hens)

- More uniformly tan or brown with darker speckling.
- Tail is much shorter.
- Do not have a wattle but do still have red skin around their eye.



## Chicks

- Chicks start much smaller than either roosters or hens. But as they age, they will more closely resemble hens.
- Tails shorter than hens.
- Less speckling than hens, more white streaking along neck and sides.
- Broods can mix, resulting in a larger group of different-sized chicks in addition to multiple hens.



## Wild Turkey

### Males (Toms or Jakes)

- Body feathers are dark brown, with a metallic or iridescent hue.
- Head is more brightly colored, red, white, and/or blue.
- A “beard,” a tuft of hair-like tissue that grows from the chest.
- Spurs may be visible on legs.



### Females (Hens or Jennies)

- Brown and tan, duller than males.
- Head is more pale in color.
- White barring on wing feathers on side/back may be more noticeable.
- No spurs, but some hens may have a thin beard.
- Likely to be seen in groups with young (poults) and with other females and young.



### Young (poults)

- Vary in size from a baseball to a full-size adult.
- Smaller than adults, but may look more like females in late summer.
- Always with at least one hen, more likely in a group with multiple hens and young of different females

