



## The National Wild Pheasant Conservation Plan

Key Literature:  
Pheasant translocations

Last Updated: December 18, 2016

**Note:** The literature cited below represents a subset of the information used when making pheasant management decisions related to this topic. It is intended to provide a general sense of the primary research available on the subject, but is not comprehensive. Other information on the topic may also be available in books and technical bulletins that do not lend themselves well to this form of summarization. The list will be periodically updated upon request by National Wild Pheasant Technical Committee members.

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**Leif, A. P. 1994. Survival and reproduction of wild and pen-reared ring-necked pheasant hens. Journal of Wildlife Management 58:501-506.**

**Abstract:** Pen-reared ring-necked pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) hens are commonly released by private managers to augment wild pheasant populations in South Dakota. To evaluate this practice, I radiomarked wild ( $n = 44$ ) and pen-reared ( $n = 159$ ) ring-necked pheasant hens to monitor their survival and reproduction in 2 study areas in eastern South Dakota, 1990-92. Survival of pen-reared hens ( $7.8 \pm 2.4\%$  SE) was lower ( $P < 0.001$ ) than that of wild hens ( $54.6 \pm 6.6\%$ ) during the 181-day reproductive period because of higher ( $P < 0.001$ ) predation ( $90.3 \pm 2.9\%$  and  $45.4 \pm 6.6\%$ , respectively). Fewer ( $P < 0.001$ ) pen-reared (21%) initiated nest incubation than did wild pheasants (68%). Surviving pen-reared hens (38%) were less ( $P = 0.03$ ) successful in nesting than were wild hens (63%), but brood-rearing success did not differ ( $P = 0.17$ ) with treatment (56 and 83%, respectively). Wild hens recruited 34 broods/100 hens compared with 3 broods/100 hens for pen-reared hens. Because of low survival and reproductive rates, pen-reared hens should not be released in habitats containing wild pheasants.

**Wilson, R. J., R. D. Drobney, and D. L. Hallett. 1992. Survival, dispersal, and site fidelity of wild female ring-necked pheasants following translocation. Journal of Wildlife Management 56:79-85.**

**Abstract:** Criteria that evaluate translocations of wild ring-necked pheasants (*Phasianus colchicus*) into unoccupied habitats are needed. Consequently, we conducted an 18-month telemetry project (1988-89) to evaluate survival rates, site fidelity, and reproductive dispersal of 122 wild ring-necked hen pheasants translocated to a managed area in central Missouri. Hen survival from release (early February) to the peak of nesting (10 June) was 26% and 42% in 1988 and 1989, respectively. Spring-autumn and autumn-spring hen survival was 49% and 86%, respectively. Mammalian and avian predators were the major agents of known hen mortality, causing approximately 72% of total losses. Translocated hens displayed fidelity to the managed target area as all birds remained within 3 km of the release site, with 95% of the locations within 1.6 km of the release site. Mean reproductive dispersal from release site to nesting site was 1,076 m. Survival and movement variables of translocated pheasants were similar to the survival

and movements of established pheasant populations, and may be useful as criteria for comparison and evaluation of future translocation efforts.