

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/20/2024 4:00:00 AM

First name: Tom

Last name: Gangemi

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Good-evening,

I'm a lifelong hunter, three months shy of my 60th birthday. All my life I desired to own an upland bird dog and to hunt Ruffed Grouse. That dream finally became a reality in Oct. 2019 with an English Setter puppy named Duke. Duke and I started our first full season together in Oct. 2020. As a Virginia resident we hunted in the Northern section of the GW National Forest. Season one results;

12 wild bird hunts // 35 hrs. 20 minutes in the field // 1 unconfirmed bird encounter.

Season two results;

6 wild bird hunts // 21 hrs. // 0 confirmed bird encounters

Season three results; (shift to West Virginia)

12 wild bird hunts // 41 hrs. in the field // 1 confirmed flush // 2 unconfirmed flushes

Season four results; (West Virginia)

9 wild bird hunts // 37 hrs. 20 min. // 0 confirmed flushes

Small game in the National Forests is alarmingly low. Walking and hunting for hours and seeing no wildlife has become a common occurrence. To see even just a handful of song birds, a couple of crows, maybe one squirrel and a deer would be considered a "good" day.

We need a plan, we need action and we need it now.