

**THE COVEY CALL E-NEWSLETTER  
 JANUARY- FEBRUARY 2018  
 METRO & SE QF CHAPTERS  
 “Helping To Bring Back The Bobwhite Quail”**



**Metro & SE QF Habitat Work Day In Caledonia, MN**

**2017 Was A Good Year For Our Two QF Chapters And For Quail In The State**

**GOOD NEWS ABOUT WINTER WEATHER SO FAR**

The winter of 2017-18 has been good for quail, pheasants and most wildlife in southern Minnesota up to this point. There was almost no snow for most of southeastern Mn. La Crosse, WI. which represents southeastern Mn, reported just a trace of snow during November, and temps were warmer than average for the month. During December, snowfall was also below average for the month. In La Crosse snowfall was just 4.4 inches for December. Temps averaged a little above normal. According to The National Weather Service, Minneapolis-St Paul International Airport has only recorded 9.3 inches (26.2” normal) of snow as of January 12<sup>th</sup> 2018. Since 1884 this is the 26<sup>th</sup> least amount of snow we have had to start any snow season. How will the rest of winter go? It is hard to predict, but so far it has been almost ideal for quail and other wildlife.

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>SNOWFALL</b>	<b>AVG. TEMP. HIGHER/LOWER</b>
Nov. 2017	SE Minnesota	Trace	Warmer than Avg.
Nov. 2017	La Crosse, WI	Trace	Warmer than Avg.
Dec. 2017	SE Minn.	4.4”	Warmer than Avg.
Dec. 2017	La Crosse	4.4”	Above Normal
Jan. 12, 2018	Mpls.-St. Paul Int. Airport	9.3” for the winter	Average

## **NEW FARM BILL BIOLOGIST**

As mentioned in our last Covey Call Newsletter, Eric Ressel is the new Farm Bill Biologist, that was hired to work with landowners in the southeastern part of the state. Our two Quail Forever Chapters believe that having Eric aboard will enable us to do more for quail, and other wildlife in the southeast.



**ERIC RESSEL**

Hello everyone,

My name is Eric Ressel, and I am just thrilled to be the new Farm Bill biologist for Pheasants and Quail Forever in Houston County. The new position sums up exactly what I am passionate about with ecology, conservation field work, habitat restoration and promotion, and conservation education.

I have a background in conservation education with a Bachelors of Science in Wildlife Ecology, with an emphasis in education, from the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point. I worked for the Natural Resource Conservation Service for the last three years as a Soil Conservationist in eastern Washington after transferring over from southeast Colorado, planning conservation practices for extensive soil erosion, soil health promotion, and riparian buffering. Prior to that I worked with the Wisconsin DNR restoring native oak savannas and prairies. We aimed to eliminate aggressive invasive species, promote pollinators, native grasses and wildflowers, as well as provide nesting habitat for turkeys, pheasants, and prairie songbirds. I did extensive cutting and treating of Russian olive and buckthorn, and also plenty of hand-pulling and herbicide application on perennial weeds as well. I've lead planting crews and given guidance on several prairie habitat restoration projects for upland birds, deer and pollinators. In the past I've enjoyed working with kids of all ages, educating them on ecology, conservation, and wildlife. I'd like to gain more experience here in SE MN with our prescribed burning projects, and promote fire ecology as much as possible. I also look forward to becoming active with our local Quail Forever chapter, and meeting our local members.

My wife Jennifer and I are very pleased to be back home in the Midwest where we can be closer to family, especially since we just had our first baby boy, Eli, who is now 7 months old.

Thank you for the warm welcome,

Sincerely, Eric J Ressel

**WEBSITE IS BACK**

Our website is back up and running again. With things looking good for quail, and we have more youth involved with our habitat efforts, we look forward to posting some exciting information on our website. You can visit the website by going to.... <https://www.mnquailforever.org/>

## **2017 Was a Good Year For Our Two MN Quail Forever Chapters**



### **Good Times At Pheasant Fest/Quail Classic**

In **February 2017** our chapter had a booth at **The Pheasant Fest/Quail Classic**. Some members and youth of the Metro Chapter helped pass out some Quail Forever Information at the booth. We had a chance to meet some great people at this event. Bud Grant visited our booth. We had a chance to connect with a local organization name **Fishing For Life**. They specialize in taking youth on fishing trips. Our Metro Chapter brought some of the metro youth on a fishing outing on Lake Mille Lac in June. The Pheasant Fest Quail Classic was a great event for us to be at.

In **March** our Southeast Chapter had another great annual banquet in Caledonia, Mn

In **April**, for the first time our Metro QF Youth had a chance to go to Caledonia and work with the youth at Caledonia High School in building wildlife habitat, by putting out collected Christmas trees for quail. Also, during this month our Southeast Chapter worked with students at Houston High School in planting trees, and shrubs for wildlife. In addition, one of our chapter members did some edge feathering for the Houston Nature Center to improve their wildlife habitat.

In **May** we had our first report of a quail whistling during this month. Also during this month our Metro QF youth visited Cabela's in Rogers, Mn

In **June** more quail heard and seen in Houston County. In June our Metro QF youth went on a fishing trip on Lake Mille Lac

In **July** our Metro QF Chapter had our first banquet in three years. Quail sightings and whistling were continuing to be reported to us, and the first quail brood sighting was reported.





### Metro Youth On Fishing Trip

In **August** quail whistling was still being heard, but not as much as in June and July.

In **September** our Metro Chapter took local youth to the South St Paul Rod & Gun Club to practice trap shooting. I visited some landowners and schools in Houston County during this month as well.

In **October**, Eric Ressel, the Farm Bill Biologist for the southeast was hired. I visited landowners and schools in Houston County.

In **November** deer hunters were reporting seeing quail. I meet Eric Ressel, and we toured some sites where quail had been seen and heard.

In **December** our Southeast Chapter invited some Houston High School Students on their first Christmas Bird Count. The Metro QF Chapter had scheduled a date for their first Youth Christmas Bird Count as well, but had to cancel it because the weather was too cold.



## THE QUAIL COUNT FOR THE YEAR

### Total Sightings

### Brood Sightings

2006	8	-	-
2007	11	2007	3
2008	22	2008	6
2009	43	2009	5
2010	32	2010	2
2011	21	2011	7
2012	35	2012	6
2013	50	2013	2
2014	34	2014	5
2015	62	2015	3
2016	98	2016	2
2017	99	2017	3

## 2017-18 SPONSORS

We want to say thanks to our Metro QF Sponsors:

- Vance Grannis, Jr.
- Central Church of Christ
- DM Law Group, LLC
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## WEEKLY FACEBOOK

Visit our Facebook Weekly for Information on Quail and Other Birds:

<https://www.facebook.com/Quail-Forever-Minnesota>

## MN QUAIL FOREVER WEBSITE

The Website for our two QF Chapters is: <https://www.mnquailforever.org/>

Thurman Tucker, Metro & SE QF Chapters Coordinator