

## **Tips for Beginner Pheasant Hunters**

Pheasant Hunting is a great introduction to bird hunting. You don't need a lot of equipment and although the finer points may take years to learn, it doesn't take much to grasp a basic understanding of how to hunt Pheasants. This article is good if you are getting started in upland game hunting or just need a refresher. These four basic tips will get you started on the right foot.

### Keep it Down:

Seasoned hunters are meticulous about closing doors quietly. The slam of a truck door will alert pheasants in the same way it would other game. Pheasants actually have pretty good hearing and birds that are hunted hard will hunker down or head for thicker cover when they feel threatened. You can get away with talking softly with your hunting partner and try to avoid excessive noise while hunting as much as possible.

### Take Your Time:

A lot of old roosters earned their age thanks to the impatience of hunters. Hunters often move through cover too fast. Pheasants can simply circle behind you and run into safety if you are not taking your time. Work through heavier cover in a zig zag fashion. Another excellent way to get roosters to flush is to pause frequently. A brief stop of just a minute or two is just enough to cause a bird to lose confidence in its ability to avoid you, and become startled enough when you begin moving again to flush to the skies.

### Hunt the Edges:

Pheasants move through various types of terrain and habitat throughout the day. This movement leaves them holding to thicker edges frequently for cover. A lot of hunters will target big chunks of cover and habitat in the middle of a field, but it is important to check out places like field lines and irrigation ditches as well. Anywhere one type of habitat transitions to another will offer excellent hunting opportunity.

### Sleep In:

"The early bird gets the worm", right? Well, the early pheasant gets quite hungry in the afternoon, too. Many pheasant hunters will be feet up in front of the fire by the afternoon, but they could be missing some of the best hunting of the day. Pheasants will start to move out of their heavy cover roosts and into more open areas for feeding during the early to mid afternoon. Grassy patches that lie along field edges are classic spots for finding an afternoon Ringneck.

One of the greatest things about pheasant hunting is the social aspects of it. Hunting pheasants is tough work so most experienced hunters are more than happy to have someone along to join in on the fun, even if the new hunter is also a new hunter to upland game.