

OCTOBER 2011 SNOWSTORM AT THE ROCKPORT GAME FARM

NJDEP

Division of Fish and Wildlife
Bureau of Wildlife Management



OCTOBER 2011
SNOWSTORM

AT THE
ROCKPORT GAME FARM



The top netting on the range pens
at $\frac{3}{4}$ mast as snow begins to fall.



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The snowfall gets heavier.

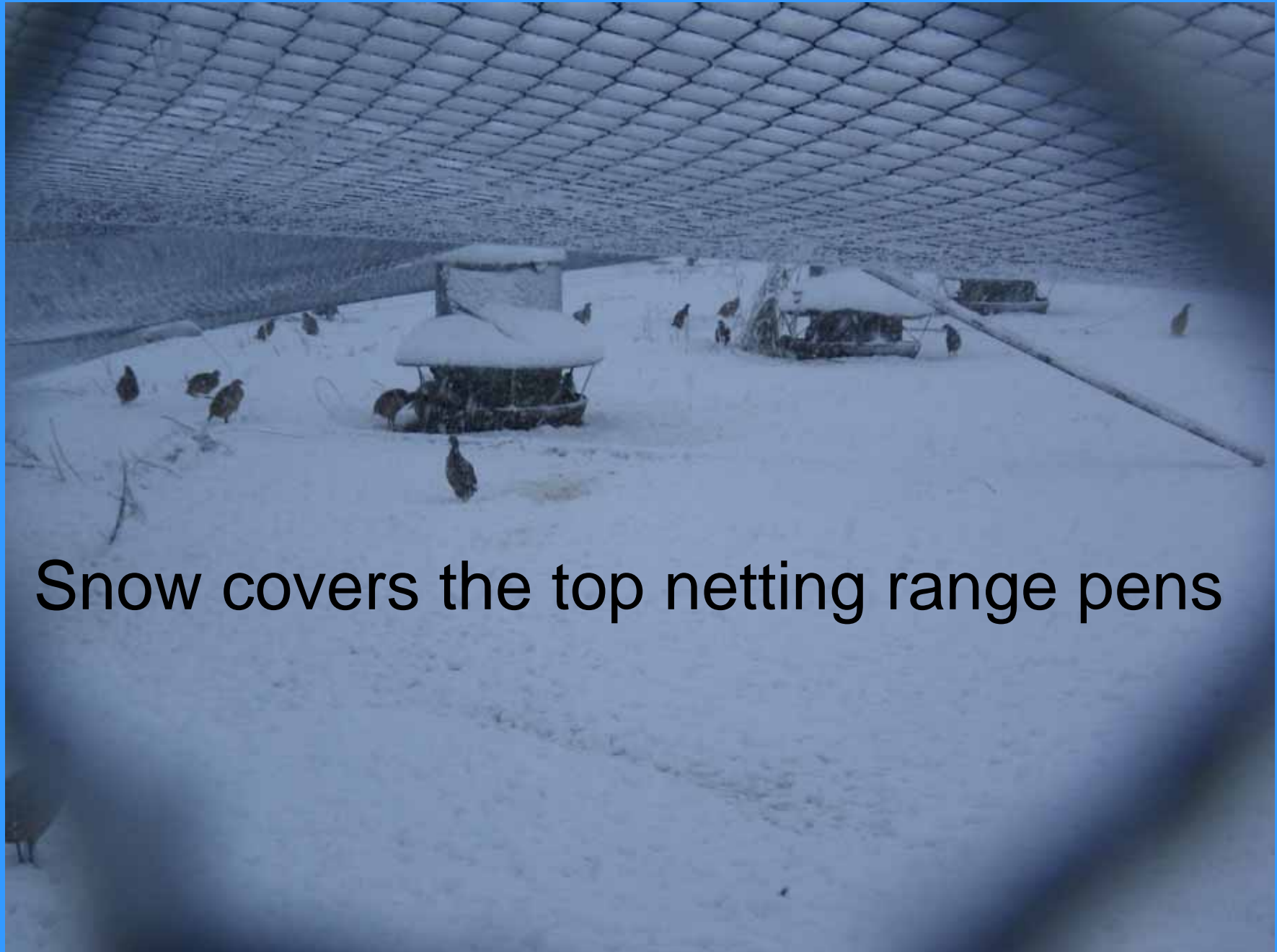


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The top netting lays down.



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Snow covers the top netting range pens

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and the top hard-wired breeder pens.

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The Rockport Crew takes action to save the top hard-wired pens which hold next year's breeders.

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Pounding the top to make
the snow fall through.

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It's a cold, wet job.

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Next year's breeder birds in
the top hard-wired pens.

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Just prior to nightfall



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The Next Morning



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20,000 pheasants outside the pens



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The Rockport Crew had moved the pheasants from the hard-wired range pens into top netting range pens prior to the snowstorm.



The oldest top hard-wired pens were a complete loss.

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The top netting range pens laid down but survived the snowstorm.

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The top netting pens laid down and provided safe spots for the pheasants along the edges.

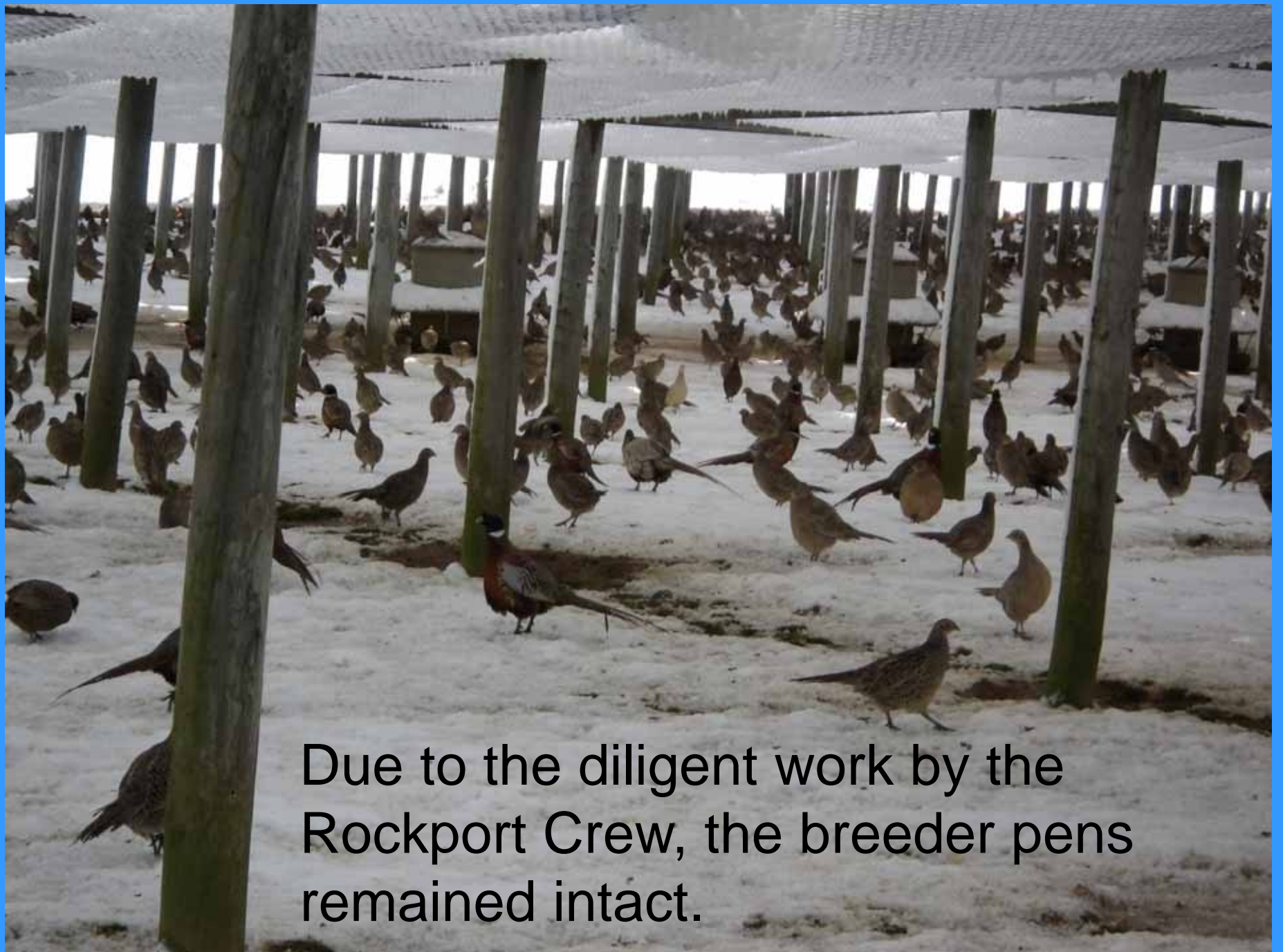
The top hard-wired range pens collapsed.

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Pheasants in the
safe spots along
the edges.

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Due to the diligent work by the Rockport Crew, the breeder pens remained intact.

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Pheasants
under and
on top of the
laid down
top netting.

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**Removing the snow and
re-establishing the top
netting.**

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Recapturing pheasants in the runways.



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RECOVERY

A vibrant pheasant with a red head, blue neck, and multi-colored body (purple, brown, and black) stands in a field of tall green grass. The bird is facing left, and its long tail feathers are visible on the right side of the frame.

The Rockport Crew and personnel from the Bureaus of Wildlife Management, Lands Management and Fisheries recovered about 5,000 of the escaped pheasants during the first week of November 2011.

The Division stocked 1,120 pheasants for the Take-A-Kid Youth Pheasant Hunt and 37,190 pheasants during the Regular Small Game Season.

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