

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
Game Division

Report No. 1138

January 23, 1952

Rifle River Area Deer Season 1951

Twenty two legal bucks were taken in 1,226 hunter-days during the 1951 gun season. It required an average of 228 hours to kill a buck. During 1950 40 bucks were taken in 1,519 hunter-days and it required 177 hours to take a buck.

In the 1951 archery season one buck and two does were taken in 1,002 hours of hunting, an average of 334 hours per animal taken. Two hundred and fifty-two archers hunted on the area.

The illegal kill consisted of ten does and two bucks.

The first five days were relatively warm, the temperature ranging from 25° to 35°. No tracking snow was available. However, 20 of the 22 deer were taken during this period. No snow was available for tracking until November 26 when there was a four-inch snowfall. The swamps were almost impassable due to high water.

The general opinion of those hunting on the area was that the deer population, both does and bucks, was much lower in 1951 than during the 1950 season.

The following tables provide a statistical record as follows:

Table I Deer Hunting Record by Years

Table II Age of Bucks Killed by Years

Table III Daily Hunting Record for 1951

Table IV Size of Racks of Bucks Killed

Table V County of Residence of Hunters for 1951

Table VI Record of Archery Season for 1951

Table VII Detailed Measurements of Bucks Taken

Lewis C. Ruch

TABLE I

## Deer Hunting Record by Years

## Rifle River Area

Year	Bucks killed	Hunter days	Hours hunted	Bucks seen	Other deer seen	Hours hunted per buck killed	Ave. wt. of bucks killed	Illegal kill
1945	54	1923	9346	364	4363	173	128	16
1946	51	2159	10262	256	4947	201	121	9
1947	48	1921	8806	238	5489	184	115	8
1948	32	1784	7915	169	3861	247	112	-
1949	36	1535	6985	228	4405	194	107	8
1950	40	1519	7098	187	4893	177	109	8
1951	22	1226	5020.5	131	3426	228	105	12
Average seven yrs.	40.4	1724	7919	225	4484	201	114	

TABLE II

## Age of Bucks Killed by Years

Year	1½ Yrs.		2½ Yrs.		3½ & 4½ Yrs.		5½ Yrs. & over	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1945*	28	57	10	21	9	18	2	4
1946	29	56	12	24	8	16	2	4
1947	30	63	14	29	4	8	0	0
1948	19	59	12	38	1	3	0	0
1949	33	91	2	6	1	3	0	0
1950	24	60	13	33	3	7	0	0
1951**	16	80	2	10	2	10	0	0

\*No measurements available for 5 bucks killed in 1945.

\*\*No measurements available on 2 bucks killed in 1951.

Note: Age of bucks determined by antler measurement from 1945 to 1950.  
Age of bucks determined by tooth development in 1951.

TABLE III

Daily Record of Deer Hunting  
Rifle River Area - 1951

Date (November)	Hunter days	Hours hunted	Average hours per hunter day	Bucks killed	Bucks seen	Other deer seen	Ave. wt. of deer
15	182	1,070	5.8	12	51	732	103.9
16	170	729.5	4.2	2	16	477	101.0
17	196	790	4.0	3	14	329	109.6
18	148	549	3.7	2	18	483	93.0
19	66	215.5	3.3	1	1	148	130.0
20	41	181	4.4	0	5	113	0
21	43	217.5	5.0	1	8	180	106.0
22	70	266.5	3.8	0	5	148	0
23	50	181.5	3.6	0	2	172	0
24	117	397	3.4	0	9	296	0
25	73	210.5	2.9	0	0	180	0
26	5	18	3.6	0	0	11	0
27	14	38	2.7	0	0	45	0
28	7	23	3.3	0	0	11	0
29	15	43.5	2.8	0	0	52	0
30	29	90	3.1	1	2	49	110.0
Total	1,226	5,020.5	4.1	22	131	3,426	105

TABLE IV

## Size of Racks of Bucks Killed

Year	Number of Points													Total deer
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
1945	17	5	4	2	6	1	13	2	0	0	0	0	0	50*
1946	14	4	5	4	6	2	14	0	1	0	0	0	2	52
1947	17	5	6	5	5	3	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	47**
1948	8	1	10	4	4	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	32
1949	12	7	5	7	7	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	36
1950	14	4	11	2	3	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	40
1951	7	2	7	1	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
7-yr. ave.	12.7	4.0	6.8	3.6	4.8	1.6	6.6	.3	.4	0	0	0	.3	

\* No information for 4 bucks killed      \*\*Both antlers shot off from one buck



TABLE V

Deer Season 1951  
Rifle River Area

## County of Residence of Hunters

Arenac	6	Macomb	54
Bay	44	Midland	7
Branch	3	Monroe	9
Calhoun	25	Oscoda	2
Eaton	2	Oakland	133
Genesee	226	Ogemaw	129
Grand Traverse	4	Saginaw	86
Gratiot	10	Sanilac	10
Hillsdale	10	Shiawassee	36
Huron	18	St. Clair	11
Ingham	27	Tuscola	17
Iosco	20	Washtenaw	44
Isabella	2	Wayne	234
Jackson	6		
Kalamazoo	1	Total	1,220
Kent	1		
Lapeer	16	Ohio	6
Leelanau	3		
Lenawee	5	Grand Total	1,226
Livingston	19		

TABLE VI

Deer Hunting Results  
 Archery Season  
 Rifle River Area - 1951

Date 1951	No. of hunters	Hours of hunting	No. of bucks seen	No. of bucks killed	Weight of bucks killed in lbs.	No. of antlerless & unidentified deer seen	No. of does killed	Weight of does killed in lbs.
Oct.	1	25	125.5	2	0	177	0	---
	2	25	87	1	0	82	0	---
	3	16	73	0	0	72	0	---
	4	17	53.5	1	0	24	0	---
	5	7	16.5	1	0	33	0	---
	6	22	92.	1	0	115	0	---
	7	14	32	0	0	10	0	---
	8	5	18	0	0	34	1	85
	9	7	41.5	1	0	27	0	---
	10	4	25	2	0	12	0	---
	11	10	42	2	0	84	0	---
	12	9	38.5	3	0	49	0	---
	13	16	84	3	0	63	0	---
	14	10	48	2	0	26	0	---
	15	0	---	-	-	---	-	---
	16	1	3	0	0	4	0	---
	17	3	2.5	0	0	6	0	---
	18	0	---	-	-	---	-	---
	19	2	20	0	0	0	0	---
	20	13	51	0	0	33	0	---
	21	10	31	0	0	6	0	---
	22	2	2	0	0	2	0	---
	23	0	---	-	-	---	-	---
	24	0	---	-	-	---	-	---
	25	0	---	-	-	---	-	---
	26	0	---	-	-	---	-	---
	27	4	20	1	0	29	0	---
	28	6	26	1	0	11	0	---
	29	0	---	-	-	---	-	---
	30	0	---	-	-	---	-	---
	31	0	---	-	-	---	-	---
Nov.	1	3	6	0	0	9	0	---
	2	3	6.5	0	0	4	0	---
	3	6	18.5	5	0	22	1	79
	4	10	33	1	1	24	0	---
	5	2	6	1	0	0	0	---
Totals	252	1,002.	28	1	103	958	2	164

Measurements of Bucks Taken  
Rifle River - 1951

[illegible]