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MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
Game Division

Report No. 2418  
April 25, 1963

1963  
Late Winter Pheasant Survey  
By  
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Forty-eight percent more pheasants were seen during February and March, 1963, than in the same period a year ago in Region III, Michigan's primary pheasant range. Pheasants were seen at the rate of 14.7 birds per 100 miles, compared to 9.9 a year ago. Sight records this year compared favorably with observations made in February and March of 1959. Snow cover was similar to last year and to 1959.

Sex ratios in Region III averaged 4.6 hens per cock, a little less than the 5.2 hens per cock ratio observed in 1962. A probable explanation for the somewhat lower sex ratio was the rainy opening day of the pheasant hunting season last fall, followed by a Sunday which was closed to small game hunting in most of the eastern counties. These factors reduced the hunting pressure and percentage of male pheasants harvested. Pheasant observations in the counties along the northern edge of the pheasant range in Region II remained about the same as for 1962.

Highest observed density was in the Thumb counties where pheasants were seen at the rate of 29.1 birds per 100 miles of driving. Last year this rate in the Thumb was 21.5. The greatest gain was made in the southeastern area where 22.5 pheasants per 100 miles of driving were seen this year, compared to 5.1 a year ago. Pheasant sightings in the southwestern counties were again the lowest in the primary pheasant range, 2.9 birds per 100 miles of driving.

Survey results are summarized in Tables 1 through 5.

Table 1

Late Winter Pheasant Survey  
February, 1963

County	Miles driven	Cocks seen	Hens seen	Total
Allegan	1,921	8	103	111
Barry	4,977	41	51	92
Bay	975	3	306	309
Berrien	210	20	130	150
Branch	1,700	20	22	42
Calhoun	70	--	---	---
Cass	2,410	7	25	32
Clinton	2,878	100	490	590
Eaton	1,507	13	31	44
Genesee	1,028	44	1,304	1,348
Gratiot	1,980	29	146	175
Hillsdale	1,754	67	188	255
Huron	2,734	91	676	767
Ingham	1,125	114	173	287
Ionia	2,825	26	67	93
Jackson	2,060	13	9	22
Kalamazoo	2,121	105	26	131
Kent	4,097	11	61	72
Lapeer	1,700	64	276	340
Leanssee	1,500	19	10	29
Livingston	3,136	176	294	470
Maconb	2,375	30	291	321
Monroe	320	186	109	295
Montcalm	2,556	14	28	42
Muskegon	1,420	--	4	4
Oakland	4,750	35	110	145
Ottawa	447	12	299	311
St. Clair	4,083	148	856	1,004
St. Joseph	1,785	63	71	134
Saginaw	3,103	138	793	931
Sanilac	1,600	113	659	772
Shiawassee	1,325	246	2,097	2,343
Tuscola	2,397	310	1,109	1,419
Van Buren	2,000	25	40	65
Washtenaw	3,563	341	1,753	2,094
Wayne	<u>1,328</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>311</u>	<u>396</u>
Region III Totals	75,760	2,717	12,918	15,635
Arenac	1,757	9	17	26
Clare	473	-	--	--
Gladwin	3,591	16	25	41
Isabella	1,449	6	2	8
Lake	690	2	--	2
Mason	2,400	-	15	15
Mecosta	2,070	4	7	11
Midland	1,650	12	2	14
Nowaygo	2,638	5	1	6
Oceana	1,130	-	--	--
Ogemaw	300	-	1	1
Osceola	<u>3,030</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>19</u>
Region II Totals	21,178	59	84	143

Table 2

Late Winter Pheasant Survey  
March, 1963

County	Miles driven	Cocks seen	Hens seen	Total
Allegan	2,315	54	100	154
Barry	5,826	30	19	49
Berrien	60	--	---	---
Bay	406	5	26	31
Branch	1,830	1	4	5
Calhoun	60	--	---	---
Cass	560	3	---	3
Clinton	3,566	62	224	286
Eaton	1,725	5	14	19
Genesee	2,825	8	42	50
Gratiot	1,850	10	15	25
Hillsdale	125	--	---	---
Huron	3,289	58	336	394
Ingham	1,940	32	40	72
Ionia	2,331	9	18	27
Jackson	3,010	6	18	24
Kalamazoo	1,260	13	21	34
Kent	4,559	7	26	33
Lapeer	1,900	22	115	137
Livingston	1,852	20	31	51
Macomb	1,690	17	124	141
Monroe	565	2	4	6
Montcalm	2,793	10	9	19
Muskegon	630	--	---	---
Oakland	5,469	14	51	65
Ottawa	2,022	28	635	663
St. Clair	4,364	61	184	265
St. Joseph	235	2	1	3
Saginaw	2,208	34	94	128
Sanilac	2,112	91	361	452
Shiawassee	1,300	146	785	931
Tuscola	460	302	1,291	1,593
Van Buren	1,845	24	30	54
Washtenaw	3,050	42	202	244
Wayne	<u>2,052</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>139</u>	<u>172</u>
Region III Totals	72,084	1,171	4,959	6,130
Arenac	1,320	1	4	5
Clare	702	4	--	4
Gladwin	4,072	14	29	43
Isabella	1,880	3	9	12
Lake	386	-	--	--
Mason	2,414	3	14	17
Mecosta	180	-	--	--
Midland	1,426	10	2	12
Newaygo	2,940	-	--	--
Oceana	1,645	-	--	--
Osceola	<u>3,084</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>23</u>
Region II Totals	20,049	48	68	116



Table 3

Late Winter Pheasant Survey  
by Areas  
February, 1963

County	Miles driven	Cocks seen	Hens seen	Total	Hens per cock	Birds per 100 miles
Bay	975	3	306	309		
Huron	2,734	91	676	767		
Saginaw	3,103	138	793	931		
St. Clair	4,083	148	856	1,004		
Sanilac	1,600	113	659	772		
Tuscola	<u>2,397</u>	<u>310</u>	<u>1,109</u>	<u>1,419</u>		
Thumb	14,892	803	4,399	5,202	5.5	34.9
Lenawee	1,500	19	10	29		
Macomb	2,375	30	291	321		
Monroe	320	186	109	295		
Washtenaw	3,563	341	1,753	2,094		
Wayne	<u>1,328</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>311</u>	<u>396</u>		
Southeast	9,086	661	2,474	3,135	3.7	34.4
Clinton	2,878	100	490	590		
Eaton	1,507	13	31	44		
Gratiot	1,980	29	146	175		
Ingham	1,125	114	173	287		
Ionia	2,825	26	67	93		
Shiawassee	<u>1,325</u>	<u>246</u>	<u>2,097</u>	<u>2,343</u>		
Central	11,640	528	3,004	3,532	5.7	30.4
Barry	4,977	41	51	92		
Berrien	210	20	130	150		
Branch	1,700	20	22	42		
Calhoun	70	--	---	---		
Cass	2,410	7	25	32		
Kalamazoo	2,121	105	26	131		
St. Joseph	1,785	63	71	134		
Van Buren	<u>2,000</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>65</u>		
Southwest	15,273	281	365	646	1.3	4.2
Allegan	1,921	8	103	111		
Muskegon	1,420	--	4	4		
Ottawa	<u>447</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>299</u>	<u>311</u>		
Western	3,788	20	406	426	20.3	11.2
Region III	75,760	2,717	12,918	15,635	4.8	20.6
Region II (12 counties)	21,178	59	84	143	1.4	0.7

Table 4

Late Winter Pheasant Survey  
by Areas  
March, 1963

County	Miles driven	Cocks seen	Hens seen	Total	Hens per cock	Birds per 100 miles
Bay	406	5	26	31		
Huron	3,289	58	336	394		
Saginaw	2,208	34	94	128		
St. Clair	4,364	81	184	265		
Sanilac	2,112	91	361	452		
Tuscola	<u>460</u>	<u>302</u>	<u>1,291</u>	<u>1,593</u>		
Thumb	12,839	571	2,292	2,863	4.0	22.4
Lenawee (no records)						
Macomb	1,690	17	124	141		
Monroe	565	2	4	6		
Washtenaw	3,050	42	202	244		
Wayne	<u>2,052</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>139</u>	<u>172</u>		
Southeast	7,357	94	469	563	5.0	7.7
Clinton	3,566	62	224	286		
Eaton	1,725	5	14	19		
Gratiot	1,850	10	15	25		
Ingham	1,940	32	40	72		
Ionia	2,331	9	18	27		
Shiawassee	<u>1,300</u>	<u>146</u>	<u>785</u>	<u>931</u>		
Central	12,712	264	1,096	1,360	4.2	10.7
Barry	5,826	30	19	49		
Berrien	60	--	---	---		
Branch	1,830	1	4	5		
Calhoun	60	--	---	---		
Cass	560	3	---	3		
Kalamazoo	1,260	13	21	34		
St. Joseph	235	2	1	3		
Van Buren	<u>1,845</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>54</u>		
Southwest	11,676	73	75	148	1.0	1.3
Allegan	2,315	54	100	154		
Muskegon	630	--	---	---		
Ottawa	<u>2,022</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>635</u>	<u>663</u>		
Western	4,967	82	735	817	9.0	16.3
Region III	72,084	1,171	4,959	6,130	4.2	8.5
Region II (11 counties)	20,049	48	68	116	1.4	0.6

Table 5

Late Winter Pheasant Survey  
by Areas  
February-March, 1963

County	Miles driven	Cocks seen	Hens seen	Total	Hens per cock	Birds per 100 miles
Bay	1,381	8	332	340		
Huron	6,023	149	1,012	1,161		
Saginaw	5,311	172	887	1,059		
St. Clair	8,447	229	1,040	1,269		
Sanilac	3,712	204	1,020	1,224		
Tuscola	<u>2,857</u>	<u>612</u>	<u>2,400</u>	<u>3,012</u>		
Thumb	27,731	1,374	6,691	8,065	4.9	29.1
Lenawee	1,500	19	10	29		
Macomb	4,065	47	415	462		
Monroe	885	188	113	301		
Washtenaw	6,613	383	1,955	2,338		
Wayne	<u>3,380</u>	<u>118</u>	<u>450</u>	<u>568</u>		
Southeast	16,443	755	2,943	3,698	3.9	22.5
Clinton	6,444	162	714	876		
Eaton	3,232	18	45	63		
Gratiot	3,830	39	161	200		
Ingham	3,065	146	213	359		
Ionia	5,156	35	83	120		
Shiawassee	<u>2,625</u>	<u>392</u>	<u>2,882</u>	<u>3,274</u>		
Central	24,352	792	4,100	4,892	5.2	20.1
Barry	10,803	71	70	141		
Berrien	270	20	130	150		
Branch	3,530	21	26	47		
Calhoun	130	--	---	---		
Cass	2,970	10	25	35		
Kalamazoo	3,381	118	47	165		
St. Joseph	2,020	65	72	137		
Van Buren	<u>3,845</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>119</u>		
Southwest	26,949	354	440	794	1.2	2.9
Allegan	4,236	62	203	265		
Muskegon	2,050	--	4	4		
Ottawa	<u>2,469</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>934</u>	<u>974</u>		
Western	8,755	102	1,141	1,243	11.2	14.2
Region III	147,844	3,888	17,877	21,765	4.6	14.7 (up 48%)
Region II (12 counties)	41,227	107	152	259	1.4	0.6