

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Game Division

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SMALL GAME AND ARCHERY DEER KILL ON DRUMMOND ISLAND - 1956

Following are the results of the small game kill survey and the archery deer kill on Drummond Island for 1956, compared with previous seasons.

The sharptail season was closed on the island last fall because spring dancing ground counts showed that their numbers were down considerably. Ruffed grouse are apparently still increasing, judging by cooperators' reports of birds flushed per hour and by the increase in total kill last fall. Considerably more woodcock and snipe were taken, presumably because more were available or hunters showed more interest in these species.

As in previous years the duck and snowshoe hare figures are incomplete because the survey covered only the grouse and bow seasons (October 1 - November 5).

While there were fewer small game hunters in 1956, 22 per cent more archers visited the island. Only about 1 out of 8 archers was successful in bagging a deer in 1956 compared to about 1 out of 6 for the previous three years, but we do not believe that this change reflects the actual abundance of deer on the island. The 1956 success ratio is still much better than the state-wide average of about 1 in 17.

SMALL GAME KILL

	1956 Season			1955
	Recorded at ferry	Taken by local residents	Totals	Totals
Ducks.....	607	578	1,185	1,140
Ruffed grouse.....	264	314	578	478
Snowshoe hare.....	30	129	159	123
Woodcock.....	46	67	113	46
Jacksnipe.....	8	21	29	1
Total game taken...	955	1,109	2,064	1,938
Number of hunters..	398	107	505	648
Pieces of game per hunter.....	2.4	10.4	4.1	3.0

BOW AND ARROW DEER

Year	Number of archers	Number of deer taken	Per cent success
1953	147	27	18.4
1954	226	37	16.4
1955	281	51	18.1
1956	359	45	12.5