

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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MICHIGAN RUFFED GROUSE HUNTER'S SURVEY, 1983*

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A random sample of names was selected from the 1982 list of small game licensees. Those licensees who were sampled included; resident small game, non-resident small game, junior resident small game, sportsman's and senior hunting. Even though these hunters were selected from the 1982 license file, they were asked about their hunting experiences during the 1983 ruffed grouse (*Bonasa umbellu*) season.

The sampling of licensees from the previous year's license file is not a preferred survey technique. Because the respondents bought a small game license during two consecutive years, they may be more dedicated hunters. They would likely spend more time afield and harvest more grouse when compared to the occasional grouse hunter. This may inflate the percentages of hunting effort and kill given in this report. However, the results of this report are comparable to those in the 1984 Grouse Hunter's Survey. The 1984 Grouse Hunter's Survey sample was also taken from the previous year's license file.

Of the 5,775 randomly selected small game hunters, a total of 4,614 hunters responded (84% response rate). Of those responding, 1,389 (30%) said they hunted ruffed grouse during the 1983 season. This report represents the results of these 1,389 grouse hunters.

The grouse hunting season was divided into six periods: September 15-30, October 1-15, October 16-31, November 1-14, December 1-15, and December 16 - January 1. These periods were chosen to demonstrate how hunting effort and grouse kill are distributed throughout the grouse season (Tables 1 and 2).

The major reason for this survey was to evaluate the grouse kill during December (hunt periods 5 & 6). Eleven percent of the total State grouse harvest was taken during the two combined December periods. This compared with 9 percent of the total hunter-days during the same periods. In 1983, grouse kill appeared to be somewhat proportional to the hunting effort. Examination of the Regional figures revealed much the same pattern. In Region II, the two December hunt periods accounted for 10 percent of the grouse bagged and 8 percent of the hunting effort. Corresponding figures for Region III were 24 percent of the bag and 22 percent of the hunter days.

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Examination of grouse kill per day hunted by season by Region revealed some interesting results (Table 3). Upper Peninsula hunters bagged .43 grouse per day in the field compared with .50 in the Northern Lower Peninsula and .52 in the Southern Lower Peninsula. Regions II and III success rates varied somewhat throughout the season. Region I grouse hunters appeared to be more successful as the season progressed.

Ruffed grouse kill per day of hunting effort by District is presented in Table 4. Districts 1 and 11 appear to have the highest grouse kill per hunter day in the State while Districts 2 and 3 have the lowest ratio.

The geographic districts of the respondents are presented in Table 5. Sixty percent reside in the Southern Lower Peninsula while only one percent of the respondents was from out of state.

Appendix A is a copy of the 1983 Michigan Ruffed Grouse Hunter's Survey.

TABLE 1.

PERCENTAGE OF DAYS HUNTING RUFFED GROUSE BY HUNT
PERIOD BY DISTRICT AND REGION, 1983

	<u>Sept 15-30</u>	<u>Oct 1-15</u>	<u>Oct 16-31</u>	<u>Nov 1-14</u>	<u>Dec 1-15</u>	<u>Dec 16-Jan 1</u>
District						
1	26	36	27	10		
2	37	30	19	14	1	
3	38	31	19	12		
4	29	31	25	15		
REGION I	33	32	22	13		
District						
5	30	29	21	13	4	2
6	34	27	20	13	4	2
7	27	31	18	17	4	4
8	28	21	24	12	9	6
REGION II	30	28	20	14	5	3
District						
9	24	22	25	14	10	5
11	19	14	29	13	10	14
12	20	18	19	20	11	11
13	20	16	18	16	20	11
14	24	23	22	11	10	9
REGION III	21	18	24	15	12	10
STATE TOTAL	29	26	22	14	5	4

TABLE 2.

PERCENTAGE OF RUFFED GROUSE KILLED BY HUNT
 PERIOD BY DISTRICT AND REGION, 1983

	<u>Sept 15-30</u>	<u>Oct 1-15</u>	<u>Oct 16-31</u>	<u>Nov 1-14</u>	<u>Dec 1-15</u>	<u>Dec 16-Jan 1</u>
District						
1	17	24	47	12		
2	17	35	24	24		
3	36	35	17	12		
4	19	40	22	19		
REGION I	22	33	29	16		
District						
5	40	25	14	12	6	3
6	34	28	17	14	4	3
7	30	27	15	18	7	3
8	30	19	18	17	11	5
REGION II	33	26	16	15	7	3
District						
9	30	19	20	18	9	4
11	14	19	26	11	12	18
12	21	19	16	29	5	10
13	22	10	15	16	11	26
14	45	13	14	13	9	6
REGION III	22	17	20	17	10	14
STATE TOTAL	28	25	20	16	6	5

TABLE 3.

RUFFED GROUSE KILL PER DAY OF
HUNTING EFFORT BY HUNT PERIOD BY REGION

REGION	HUNT PERIOD						TOTAL SEASON
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
I	.29	.44	.55	.54			.43
II	.56	.47	.40	.55	.68	.46	.50
III	.54	.49	.44	.59	.44	.68	.52
STATE TOTAL	.47	.46	.45	.56	.55	.59	.48

TABLE 4.

RUFFED GROUSE KILL PER DAY
HUNTING EFFORT BY DISTRICT

District	KILL/DAY
1	.61
2	.31
3	.39
4	.44
REGION I	.43
District	
5	.53
6	.56
7	.43
8	.50
REGION II	.50
District	
9	.44
11	.61
12	.54
13	.46
14	.44
REGION III	.51
STATE TOTAL	.48

TABLE 5.

PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS FROM EACH
OF THE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

District	Percentage
1	4
2	4
3	7
4	3
REGION I	18
District	
5	5
6	6
7	3
8	7
REGION II	21
District	
9	13
11	13
12	5
13	8
14	21
REGION III	60
OUT OF STATE	1
STATE TOTAL	100

