

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE DIVISION
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909

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The 1976 Quail Whistling Survey

by

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Quail whistling counts were conducted on 34 routes during the first two weeks of June (Table 1). Numbers of quail heard dropped 12 percent from comparable routes run in 1975. We had anticipated more substantial losses this year because of the severe weather encountered over much of the quail range this past winter. In addition to snow accumulation and low temperatures during the January to mid-February period, the northern part of the quail range was beset by a severe ice storm in early March. Despite the winter weather, bobwhites survived in good numbers. In all, 27 counties had sufficient quail to be opened for hunting this fall (see map) -- only three less than the record 30 counties opened to quail hunting last year.

Counties having less than 10 quail heard per 20 mile route were not recommended for hunting. These included Oakland, Clinton and Saginaw -- counties that were hunted last year. Better populations continue to be found in the two southern tiers of counties.

V SJ/sbm

Table 1

Quail Whistling Counts
1972 - 1976

County	1972	Number of Quail Heard Per Route			1976
		1973	1974	1975	
Allegan	1	24	28	19	18
Barry	9	12	19	11	25
Berrien	14	17	24	16	19
Branch, S	59	45	-	-	-
Branch, N	72	48	48	42	39
Calhoun	42	31	14	21	21
Cass	27	42	58	49	41
Clinton	8	16	12	13	6
Eaton, S	10	21	25	17	14
Genesee	0	18	21	21	23
Gratiot	6	10	28	21	11
Hillsdale, N	54	82	-	-	-
Hillsdale, S	79	48	83	56	55
Ingham	21	23	37	25	13
Ionia	7	4	9	10	13
Jackson, NE	36	50	19	43	47
Kalamazoo	55	46	66	39	52
Kent	-	-	-	6	0
Lapeer	2	0	4	2	0
Lenawee, NE	51	47	-	-	-
Lenawee, SW	76	46	45	28	32
Livingston, S	20	12	18	25	12
Macomb	9	32	0	18	10
Monroe	44	31	33	16	19
Montcalm	5	3	7	24	65
Muskegon	-	-	-	26	16
Oakland, N	5	14	-	-	-
Oakland, S	6	1	11	11	8
Ottawa	-	-	-	3	-
Saginaw	9	15	14	25	6
St. Clair, N	6	15	-	-	13
St. Clair, S	19	19	19	28	26
St. Joseph	27	58	37	55	34
Shiawassee	20	26	15	30	21
Tuscola	-	-	-	14	10
Van Buren	8	14	47	50	30
Washtenaw	23	24	37	26	19
Wayne	75	41	56	42	23
Average/route	26.6	27.5	28.8	25.2	21.8

Counties opened to quail hunting -- 1976



