

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Game Division

Report No. 2144
August 7, 1957

Estimates of 1956 Small Game Kill
from Mail Survey

The following figures are estimates of the 1956 harvest of major small game species with comparative data from the 1954 and 1955 seasons.

These "post card" surveys are based on a systematic sampling of duplicate copies of all small game license files. Both resident and nonresident hunters are included. Basic information on the surveys is:

	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>
Cards sent	4,383	4,422	4,503
Cards returned	3,953	4,070	4,086
Non-deliverable	182	155	156
Non-response	248	197	261
Percent return of delivered cards	94.0%	95.4%	94.0%

<u>License sales* and hunters</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>
Resident small game license sales	714,000	740,050	750,870
Nonresident small game license sales	<u>7,800</u>	<u>8,595</u>	<u>8,070</u>
Total small game license sales	721,800	748,645	758,940
Percent of licensees who did no hunting	8.43%	9.52%	8.22%
Estimated total hunters	662,920	677,370	696,530

*Initial estimates of license sales (made in May or June) are used for computing purposes. Final sales may differ by a few thousand. (Final sales in 1956 were 758,086.)

Kill and Hunting Pressure Estimates - 1956 Season

Species	Kill	Hunters	Hunter-Days*	Kill per Hunter	Days Hunted* per Hunter
Pheasants	1,125,680	549,550	2,421,200	2.05	4.41
Ruffed Grouse	300,140	108,410	527,970	2.77	4.87
Ducks	492,250	126,950	675,730	3.88	5.32
Geese	13,860	37,640	213,540	.37	5.67
Woodcock	40,630	30,520	133,520	1.33	4.38
Cottontail Rabbits	1,487,060	386,650	2,569,370	3.85	6.64
Snowshoe Hares	282,920	71,340	425,470	3.96	5.96
Fox & Gray Squirrels	932,260	244,540	1,043,650	3.81	4.27
Raccoon	208,960	43,250	298,030	4.83	6.89

*These figures are really "hunts." Many hunters no doubt hunted two or more species at the same time.

The following tables show estimates by zones for 1954, 1955 and 1956.

1954, 1955 and 1956 SMALL GAME HARVEST
by Post Card Survey

	<u>Number Killed</u>			<u>Number of Hunters</u>			<u>Kill per Hunter</u>			<u>Days Hunted per Hunter</u>		
	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>
Pheasants												
Zone 1	*	*	*									
Zone 2	130,770	129,300	101,310	52,640	49,860	47,000	2.5	2.6	2.2	4.6	4.2	4.1
Zone 3	970,890	1,053,060	1,020,990	469,850	491,580	500,110	2.1	2.1	2.0	4.4	4.2	4.4
Total	1,102,590	1,182,730	1,125,680	523,610	542,930	549,550	2.1	2.2	2.0	4.4	4.2	4.4
Ruffed Grouse												
Zone 1	180,810	157,650	177,050	43,050	39,160	37,830	4.2	4.2	4.7	7.2	7.4	6.6
Zone 2	186,120	123,680	95,740	61,210	60,880	54,770	3.0	2.3	1.8	4.5	4.5	4.0
Zone 3	26,880	32,680	27,350	15,280	18,750	15,810	1.8	1.4	1.7	3.8	3.3	3.7
Total	393,810	314,010	300,140	119,540	118,790	108,410	3.3	2.6	2.8	5.4	5.2	4.9
Ducks												
Zone 1	51,220	55,110	50,940	8,370	10,340	10,340	6.1	5.3	4.9	4.8	7.0	5.4
Zone 2	119,830	145,810	107,130	32,080	29,360	27,840	3.7	5.0	3.8	4.6	6.1	4.7
Zone 3	217,070	422,860	334,180	75,780	95,480	88,770	2.9	4.4	3.8	5.2	5.7	5.5
Total	388,120	623,780	492,250	116,230	135,180	126,950	3.3	4.6	3.9	5.0	5.9	5.3
Geese												
Zone 1	1,100	2,210	2,060	3,340	3,880	5,320	.3	.6	.4	4.7	2.5	5.2
Zone 2	990	1,660	1,870	4,980	5,740	4,180	.2	.3	.4	6.6	8.3	6.0
Zone 3	6,890	16,020	9,930	20,650	30,160	28,140	.3	.5	.4	5.1	6.2	5.7
Total	8,980	19,890	13,860	28,970	39,780	37,640	.3	.5	.4	5.3	6.1	5.7
Woodcock												
Zone 1	6,620	3,320	9,170	4,640	4,600	4,520	1.4	.7	2.0	7.3	4.2	5.6
Zone 2	28,130	20,810	17,040	14,850	12,890	13,000	1.9	1.6	1.3	4.6	5.4	4.5
Zone 3	14,570	22,100	14,420	9,660	16,210	13,000	1.5	1.4	1.1	4.1	3.7	3.8
Total	49,320	46,230	40,630	29,150	33,700	30,520	1.7	1.4	1.3	4.9	4.4	4.4
Cottontails												
Zone 1	30,510	34,780	34,350	13,790	11,910	11,120	2.2	2.9	3.1	6.9	7.7	5.7
Zone 2	236,110	267,720	238,930	64,610	60,850	58,250	3.7	4.4	4.1	7.3	7.5	6.2
Zone 3	1,172,580	1,303,630	1,213,780	309,540	320,250	317,280	3.8	4.1	3.8	7.2	6.6	6.8
Total	1,439,200	1,606,130	1,487,060	387,940	393,010	386,650	3.7	4.1	3.8	7.2	6.8	6.6

*Too few pheasants are killed in the Upper Peninsula for reliable estimates by this method.
Upper Peninsula reports are used in obtaining total kill but are not shown here.

	<u>Number Killed</u>			<u>Number of Hunters</u>			<u>Kill per Hunter</u>			<u>Days Hunted per Hunter</u>		
	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>
Snowshoe Hares												
Zone 1	173,140	146,250	144,950	31,260	26,100	24,220	5.5	5.6	6.0	8.9	8.6	7.7
Zone 2	174,160	133,670	126,850	49,730	39,250	41,060	3.5	3.4	3.1	5.4	5.4	5.3
Zone 3	4,520	4,620	11,120	5,360	5,740	6,060	.8	.8	1.8	3.3	4.6	3.4
Total	351,820	284,540	282,920	86,350	71,090	71,340	4.1	4.0	4.0	6.5	6.5	6.0
Fox and Gray Squirrels												
Zone 1	14,580	6,830	10,700	1,490	2,410	3,200	9.8	2.8	3.3	6.4	5.5	8.9
Zone 2	93,120	114,290	181,120	25,540	27,780	38,190	3.6	4.1	4.7	3.6	4.2	4.3
Zone 3	442,860	536,180	740,440	137,060	168,530	203,150	3.2	3.2	3.6	4.5	3.9	4.2
Total	550,560	657,300	932,260	164,090	198,720	244,540	3.3	3.3	3.8	4.4	3.9	4.3
Raccoon												
Zone 1	190	370	560	370	560	1,130	.5	.7	.5	11.0	.8	4.0
Zone 2	36,370	22,860	52,520	10,080	9,620	10,960	3.6	2.4	4.8	4.0	3.9	9.4
Zone 3	122,580	139,940	155,880	24,380	29,420	31,160	5.0	4.8	5.0	6.6	5.5	6.1
Total	159,140	163,170	208,960	34,830	39,600	43,250	4.6	4.1	4.8	5.9	5.6	6.9

August 7, 1957

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