

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909

Wildlife Division
Report No. 2815
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The 1977 Grouse and Woodcock Season Preliminary Report
by
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High Points - 1977 Season

State-wide:

Grouse kill was up 5 percent over 1976. The preliminary figures indicate 765,000 grouse were taken as compared to 728,500 in 1976.

Woodcock kill was down 10.2 percent. Approximately 350,000 woodcock taken as compared to 389,800 in 1976.

Regionally

Flush rate averages were up for all three regions. Region I was 1.76 grouse flushed/hour; Region II 2.20; and Region III was 2.61. Tables I, II, and III summarize the kill, cooperators' hunting records, and the number of hunters afield in 1977.

Outlook

Prospects for 1978 look better state-wide than last year. It may not be much, but the flush rates maps indicate an upswing. Fruit crops of wild cherry and gray dogwood are noticeable; thornapple spotty. Acorns and other wild fruits are localized and range from fair, scant--to none.

TABLE 1
Kill Estimates from Postcard Poll

<u>Ruffed Grouse</u>					
	<u>1973</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>
Region I	219,000	194,000	278,110	232,300	270,000
Region II	385,000	520,000	433,010	385,800	377,000
Region III	127,000	129,000	119,400	110,400	118,000
TOTAL	731,000	843,000	830,520	728,500	765,000

<u>Woodcock</u>					
	<u>1973</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>
Region I	46,000	48,000	103,270	84,600	47,000
Region II	144,000	166,000	202,960	216,200	214,000
Region III	62,000	69,000	82,830	89,000	89,000
TOTAL	252,000	283,000	389,060	389,060	350,000

TABLE 2
Cooperators Hunting Records - 1972-1977

	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>
Number of cooperators reporting	213	199	181	158	127	131
Total hunting hours	8,642	8,675	7,307	5,208	5,120	4,039
Average hours each cooperator hunted	41	44	40	33	40	31

RUFFED GROUSE FLUSHED PER GUN HOUR

Region I (Upper Peninsula)	1.58	1.11	1.11	1.19	1.27	1.76
Region II (Northern L. P.)	2.24	2.76	2.63	2.05	1.78	2.20
Region III (Southern L.P.)	2.60	2.10	2.22	2.09	2.40	2.61

WOODCOCK FLUSHED PER GUN HOUR
(September 15 - November 14)

Region I	1.05	1.24	1.95	2.48	1.88	1.73
Region II	1.22	1.30	1.27	1.64	1.92	1.85
Region III	.97	.57	.40	.93	.55	.72

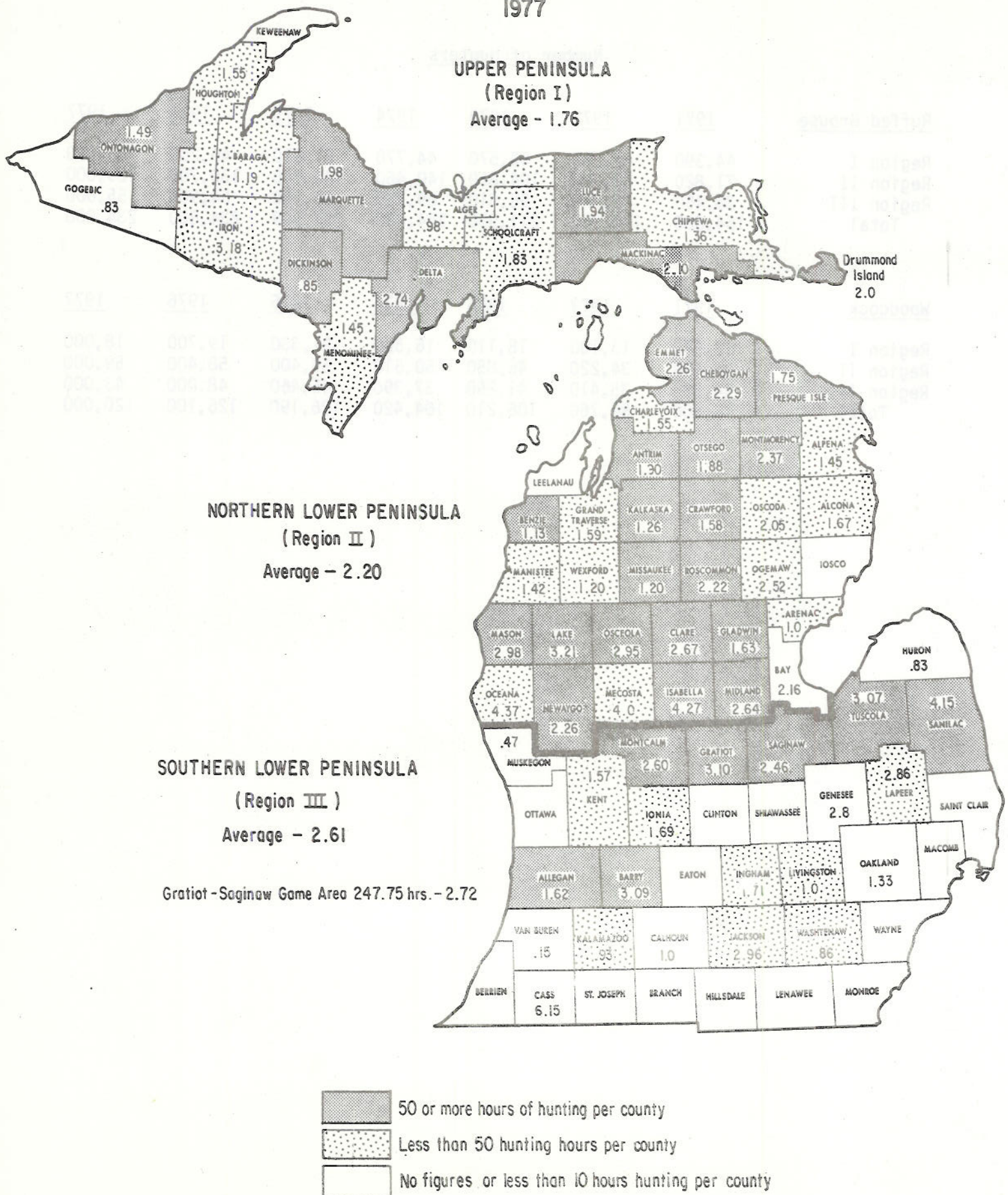
TABLE 3

Number of Hunters

<u>Ruffed Grouse</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>
Region I	44,390	47,280	50,570	44,770	51,610	49,200	50,000
Region II	71,820	80,580	104,850	140,460	140,340	130,700	129,000
Region III	38,450	43,040	56,510	69,260	65,140	54,900	55,000
Total	154,660	170,900	211,930	254,490	257,909	234,800	234,000

<u>Woodcock</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>
Region I	12,080	13,130	18,110	16,520	21,330	19,700	18,000
Region II	31,400	34,220	46,850	50,510	59,400	58,400	59,000
Region III	34,320	35,410	41,250	37,390	45,460	48,000	43,000
Total	77,800	82,760	106,210	104,420	126,190	126,100	120,000

1977



1977

Average - 1.73

