

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909

Wildlife Division
Report No. 2815
September 7, 1978

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

Ruffed Grouse

| | <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 |

Woodcock

| | <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)

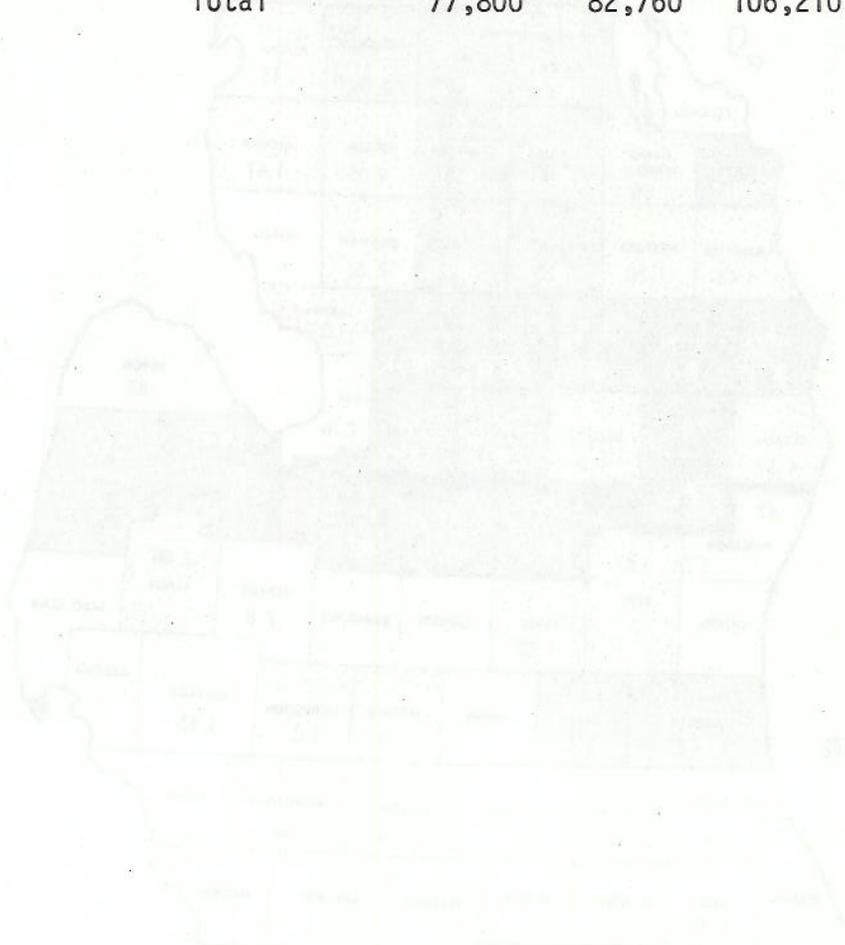
| | | | | | | |
|------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Region I | 1.05 | 1.24 | 1.95 | 2.48 | 1.88 | 1.73 |
| Region II | 1.22 | 1.30 | 1.27 | 1.64 | 1.92 | 1.85 |
| Region III | .97 | .57 | .40 | .93 | .55 | .72 |

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 |



NORTHERN LOWER PENINSULA
 (Region I)
 Average = 1.50

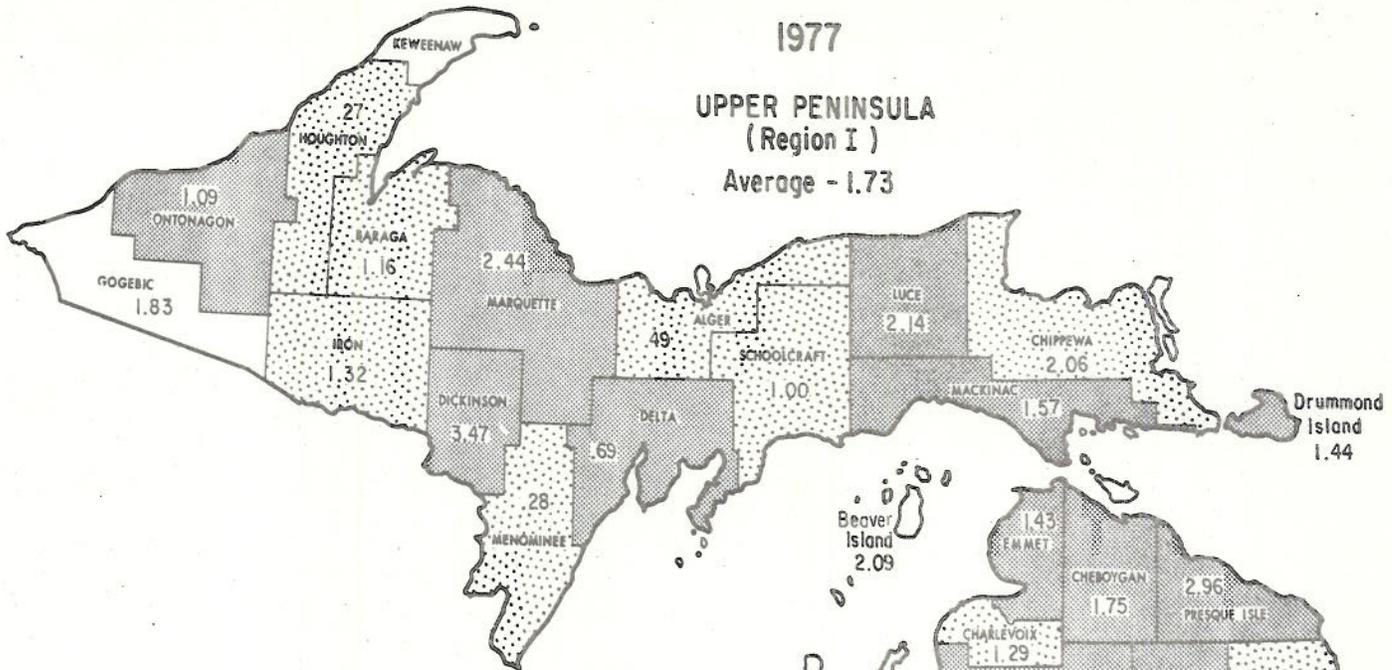
SOUTHERN LOWER PENINSULA
 (Region III)
 Average = 1.61

WOODCOCK FLUSHED PER GUN HOUR BY COOPERATORS

1977

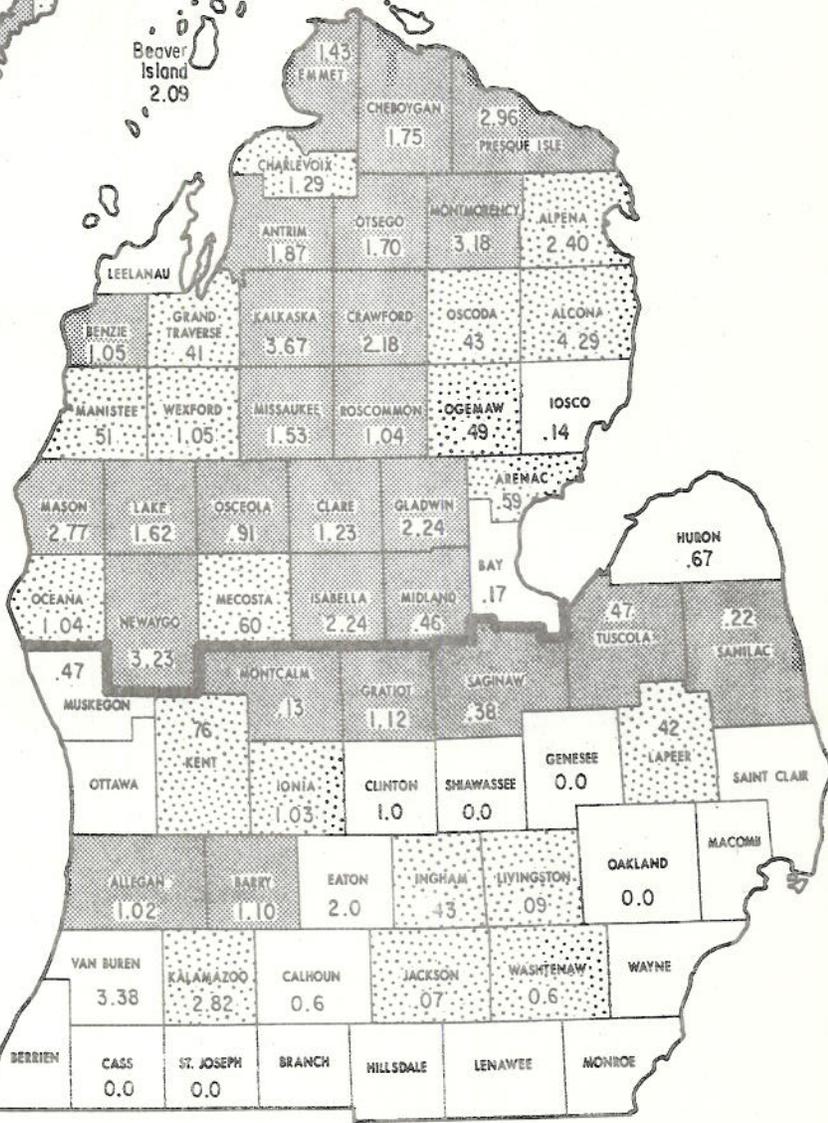
UPPER PENINSULA (Region I)

Average - 1.73



NORTHERN LOWER PENINSULA (Region II)

Average - 1.85



SOUTHERN LOWER PENINSULA (Region III)

Average - 0.72

