

UPPER PENINSULA GROUSE SURVEY - October - to 8, 1938

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A total of 65 birds were examined during the trip, of which 28 were sharp-tailed grouse, 28 ruffed grouse, 5 prairie chicken, 2 woodcock, and 2 ring-necked ducks. Of the sharp-tailed grouse handled the sex ratio was 1 female to 1.3 males, and the ratio of old birds to young was 1 old bird to 1.08 young. The sex ratio of ruffed grouse was 1 female to 1.08 males, and the ratio of young to old was 1 old to 1.3 young. Since the Bursa of Fabricius is for practical purposes 100% correct so far as is known, we are using this character as a final check against age determination by plumage characters.

No obviously diseased birds were handled. The following parasites were found: ticks, eye worm, gizzard worm, Ascaridia, and two species of tapeworms. Almost every bird examined was infested with a few small ticks, but in no case were there enough ticks to have caused the bird very serious trouble. Eye worms were about the same as last year, while gizzard worms were fewer in numbers and fewer birds were infected. Ascarids were noticeably fewer in number. The two species of tapeworms found are of little significance to the bird. The genus Rhabdometra are found in the sharp-tailed grouse, and the genus Davainia in ruffed grouse. An Echinostome trematode was collected from a ruffed grouse at Munuscong, but this is of interest only that it constitutes a new host record.

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