

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
GAME DIVISION
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48926

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Fall, 1969 Turkey Hunting Season
by
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The fall, 1969 turkey hunting season was held in the 2,782-square mile Mio area, comprising Oscoda County and portions of Alcona, Alpena, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Otsego, and Roscommon counties. No season was held in the Baldwin area this fall in an effort to provide maximum opportunity to trap turkeys from this area and move them to other potential turkey habitat in the northern Lower Peninsula.

The Mio area season consisted of two four-day hunts with 500 persons eligible to participate in each hunt. We received a total of 4,103 applications--2,669 for the October 31-November 3 hunt and 1,434 for the November 7-10 period.

A total of 29 turkeys were bagged during the two hunting periods--23 in the October 31-November 3 period, and 6 in the November 7-10 period. This equals the number taken in 1967 in the Mio area but is below the 44 birds bagged last fall. The poorer success in the latter period this fall can perhaps be partly explained by fewer permittees hunting (Table 2) and by the birds being somewhat more wild and scattered.

Weather during the first period was generally rainy and cool, while the second period saw clear, mild weather the first two days and overcast skies the last two days, with considerable fog in the mornings. No snow was present on any of the hunting days. Without snow, no tracking was possible.

Sex, age, and weight data for the total season are shown in the following table:

Table 1

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Average weight</u>	<u>Range in weight</u>
Adult Toms	9	16 lb. 9 oz.	11-0 to 20-12
Immature Toms	7	10 lb. 7 oz.	9-0 to 12-11
Adult Hens	7	9 lb. 2 oz.	8-8 to 10-0
Immature Hens	6	6 lb. 4½ oz.	4-14 to 7-12

The 23 successful hunters in the first period hunted a total of 253 hours (average of 11 hours per hunter) and saw a total of 387 turkeys (17 turkeys per hunter average). The 1968 hunters averaged 11.2 hours per hunter, and 15 turkeys seen per hunter. Too few hunters were successful during the second period this year to justify computing these averages.

A questionnaire requesting information regarding the hunt was sent to all permittees who did not bag a turkey. Only one mailing was sent. Information was received from 782 permittees (78 per cent of the 1,000 permits issued). Of these, 419 were from the first hunt and 363 from the second hunt. Twenty-six per cent of the permittees did not hunt; 25 per cent in the October 31-November 3 period and 28 per cent in the November 7-10 period. Table 2 below shows results of data gathered from the questionnaire and includes interviews with all successful hunters.

Table 2

Fall, 1969 Turkey Season

<u>1st Hunt</u>	<u>Hunters</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Turkeys Seen</u>	<u>Crippled</u>	<u>Killed</u>
October 31	160	1,018	311	0	4
November 1	253	1,650	323	0	8
November 2	226	1,346	326	1	4
November 3	<u>69</u>	<u>347</u>	<u>147</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>7</u>
TOTALS	708	4,361	1,107	2	23
 <u>2nd Hunt</u>					
November 7	113	710	243	0	3
November 8	224	1,497	116	0	0
November 9	215	1,245	142	1	0
November 10	<u>71</u>	<u>377</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTALS	623	3,829	661	2	6
Grand Totals	1,331	8,190	1,768	4	29

Hunters have provided records of a number of turkey flocks seen in the open hunting area during the season.

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