

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Game Division

Report #1181

June 24, 1953

GAME BIRD COUNTS ON STATE GAME AREAS

Method:

Game bird counts were made in 16 state game areas between May 7 and May 22, 1953. Listening stations were located so that all sizeable parcels of state ownership could be sampled. Observers started one half-hour before sunrise at station one and ran a fixed route from station to station, listening for four minutes at each station. For the first two minutes, the observer counted the number of pheasant crows heard, and during the same interval noted the number and direction of cooing doves, whistling quail, and drumming grouse. During the second two-minute interval, pheasant crowing was ignored while the observer concentrated on establishing the total number of individual doves, quail, and ruffed grouse heard during the full four minutes of listening.

Discussion:

Comparable data for May, 1952, available for only five game areas, are substantially the same as those in Table 1. Any definite population trends should be readily apparent after this type of survey has been carried on for a few years.

The information presented here should help to clarify the relative importance of these game birds on the 16 areas surveyed.

E. J. Gordinier

Table 1.

1953 Game Bird Surveys in State Game Areas

| Area | Date | No. of Stations | Wind Velocity | Weather Conditions | | | Cock Pheasants | | Game Birds Heard | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------|--------------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|---------------------|
| | | | | Precipi- tation | Temper- ature | Cloud Cover | Total* | Ave. Per Station | Total | Ave. Per Station | Total | Ave. Per Station | Total | Ave. Per Station |
| Barry (north) | 5/7 | 12 | 0-3 | None | 60 | Cloudy | 12 | 1.0 | 26 | 2.2 | 3 | .25 | 3 | .25 |
| Barry (south) | 5/10 | 10 | 4-7 | None | 60 | Clear | 14 | 1.4 | 32 | 3.2 | 0 | -- | 7 | .7 |
| Dansville | 5/12 | 9 | 0-3 | None | 60 | Over- cast | 168 | 18.7 | 21 | 2.3 | 8 | .9 | 3 | .3 |
| Deford | 5/9 | 10 | 4-7 | None. Heavy rain recently | 65 | Clear | 72 | 7.2 | 22 | 2.2 | 1 | .1 | 13 | 1.3 |
| Flat River | 5/9 | 14 | 0-3 | None | 60 | Clear | 79 | 5.6 | 37 | 2.6 | 1 | .1 | 12 | .9 |
| Gourdneck | 5/12 | 7 | 4-7 | None | 55 | Clear | 3 | .4 | 14 | 2.0 | 0 | -- | 1 | .1 |
| Gratiot-Saginaw | 5/15 | 12 | 0 | None | 55 | Clear | 62 | 5.2 | 44 | 3.7 | 0 | -- | 23 | 1.9 |
| Gregory | 5/7 | 10 | 0-7 | Light Drizzle | 60 | Cloudy | 88 | 8.8 | 14 | 1.4 | 9 | .9 | 0 | -- |
| Lapeer | 5/17 | 9 | 1-3 | Light Sprinkle | 60 | Over- cast | 15 | 1.7 | 8 | .9 | 0 | -- | 3 | .3 |
| Petersburg | 5/17 | 10 | 13-18 | Misting | 50 | Cloudy | 60 | 6.0 | 16 | 1.6 | 11 | 1.1 | 0 | -- |
| Pinckney | 5/17 | 10 | 1-3 | None | 65 | Cloudy | 105 | 10.5 | 28 | 2.8 | 4 | .4 | 3 | .3 |
| Port Huron | 5/10 | 11 | 1-3 | None. Heavy rain recently | 65 | Clear | 43 | 3.9 | 27 | 2.5 | 0 | -- | 9 | .8 |
| Sharonville | 5/22 | 9 | 4-7 | None | 55 | Partly Cloudy | 61 | 6.8 | 20 | 2.2 | 7 | .8 | 1 | .1 |
| Stanton | 5/8 | 9 | 0-3 | Light, inter- mittent | 60 | Cloudy | 36 | 4.0 | 9 | 1.0 | 0 | -- | 1 | .1 |
| Three Rivers & Crane Pond | 5/20 | 10 | 1-3 | None | 50 | None | 8 | .8 | 15 | 1.5 | 12 | 1.2 | 0 | -- |
| Waterloo | 5/15 | 12 | 0-3 | None | 45 | Clear | 68 | 5.7 | 14 | 1.2 | 8 | .7 | 3 | .25 |
| | | 164 | | | | | 894 | 5.5 | 347 | 2.1 | 64 | .4 | 82 | .5 |

*Denotes the number of "crows" heard.