

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				Ruffed Grouse	
				Precipitation	Temperature	Cloud Cover	Total*	Ave. Per Station	Doves Total	Doves Ave. Per Station	Quail Total	Quail 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, intermittent	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.

EJG:njp