

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Game Division

Report No. 2017
July 6, 1954

Game Bird Counts in State Game Areas in 1952-53 and 1954

METHOD:

Game bird counts have been made in May and early June for the past three years in southern Michigan state game areas. Starting one-half hour before sunrise an observer drives a route stopping to listen for four minutes at each designated listening station. Pheasant "crows" and ruffed grouse "drums" are counted during the first two minutes, and mental notes are made of individual doves and quail that are calling. During the final two minutes the number of individual grouse, doves and quail heard during the entire four minute period are estimated and recorded. Sight observations of game seen on the route are recorded also.

DISCUSSION:

Data are summarized in the accompanying tables.

Pheasant Populations

The number of crows per station rose from 5.5 in 1953 to 8.7 in 1954. Eleven routes showed an increase, 4 a decrease, while 1 was the same.

Ruffed Grouse Populations

Drums per station was about the same in 1954 as in 1953. Both years were better than 1952 when drums per station was .6. From 1953 to 1954 seven routes showed an increase while 5 showed a decrease, and one route was the same. Routes where no drums have been heard were ignored in this comparison.

Dove Populations

The increase in doves heard was small from 1953 to 1954. Seven routes showed an increase in the number of doves heard per station from 1953 to 1954 while 8 showed a decrease and one was the same.

Quail Populations

Counts indicate that quail, although numerous in 1952 and 1953, are showing a substantial increase over the past two years. Eleven routes showed quail higher in 1954 than 1953, 2 showed populations as lower, and one was the same for both years.

EJG:vr

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TABLE 1

1954 GAME BIRD SURVEYS IN STATE GAME AREAS

Area	Date	No. of Stations	Wind Velocity	<u>Weather Conditions</u>				<u>Game Birds Heard</u>							
				Precipitation	Temperature	Cloud Cover	Pheasants		Ruffed Grouse		Doves		Quail		
							* Total	Ave. Per Station	** Total	Ave. Per Station	*** Total	Ave. Per Station	*** Total	Ave. Per Station	
ry (North)	5/9	12	0-1	Frost	35	Hazy	30	2.5	8	.7	40	3.3	10	.8	
ry (South)	5/14	10	1-3	None	40	Clear	30	3.0	7	.7	33	3.3	5	.5	
sville	4/30	9	1-3	None	50	Cloudy	284	31.6	3	.3	12	1.3	13	1.4	
ord	5/30	10	0-3	Dew	45	Clear	125	12.5	1	.1	16	1.6	0	.0	
t River	5/15	13	1-3	Dew	40-45	Clear	24	1.8	32	2.5	33	2.5	5	.4	
rdneck	5/29	7	4-7	Recent Rain	50	Overcast	3	.4	0	.0	8	1.1	7	1.0	
tiot-Saginaw	5/13	12	1-3	None	35-40	Clear	164	13.7	29	2.4	40	3.3	1	.1	
gory	5/20	10	4-7	Frost	30-35	Clear	179	17.9	0	.0	20	2.0	11	1.1	
eer	5/15	9	0-3	Dew	40-45	Clear	24	2.7	25	2.6	22	2.4	1	.1	
ersburg	5/15	10	0-1	None	40-45	Clear	173	17.3	0	.0	30	3.0	11	1.1	
ekney	5/19	10	1-3	None	40	Cloudy	62	6.2	4	.4	27	2.7	8	.8	
t Huron	5/16	11	0-3	None	50	Overcast	39	3.5	15	1.4	22	2.0	0	.0	
ronville	5/6	9	1-3	None	35-40	Overcast	94	10.4	2	.2	23	2.6	14	1.5	
nton	5/16	9	1-3	None	50	Cloudy	83	9.2	13	1.4	9	1.0	0	.0	
ee Rivers and	5/16	10	8-12	None	50	Hazy	5	.5	0	.0	25	2.5	7	.7	
ane Pond															
erloo	5/17	12	1-7	None	45	Cloudy	104	8.7	5	.4	13	1.1	13	1.1	
Total		163					1423	8.7	144	.9	373	2.3	106	.7	

*No. of Pheasant Crows heard in 2-minute listening periods at each station.

**No. of Ruffed Grouse Drums heard in 4-minute listening periods.

***No. of individual Doves or Quail heard in 4-minute listening periods.

TABLE 2

GAME BIRD COUNTS IN STATE GAME AREAS*

Area	Number of Pheasant Crows per Station			Number of Ruffed Grouse Drums per Station			Number of Cooing Doves Per Station			Number of Whistling Quail Per Station		
	1952	1953	1954	1952	1953	1954	1952	1953	1954	1952	1953	1954
Barry (North)		1.0	2.5		0.3	0.7		2.2	3.3		0.3	0.8
Barry (South)		1.4	3.0		1.1	0.7		3.2	3.3		0.0	0.5
Dansville	13.6	18.7	31.6	0.2	0.6	0.3	2.2	2.3	1.3	0.6	0.9	1.4
Deford	6.1	7.2	12.5	1.4	2.1	0.1	0.8	2.2	1.6	0.0	0.1	0.0
Flat River	1.6	5.6	1.8	0.1	1.8	2.5	0.8	2.6	2.5	0.0	0.1	0.4
Gourdsneck		0.4	0.4		0.3	0.0		2.0	1.1		0.0	1.0
Gratiot-Saginaw	6.2	5.2	13.7	1.3	2.5	2.4	2.4	3.7	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.1
Gregory	15.4	8.8	17.9	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.9	1.4	2.0	1.3	0.9	1.1
Lapeer		1.7	2.7		0.6	2.6		0.9	2.4		0.0	0.1
Petersburg		6.0	17.3		0.0	0.0		1.6	3.0		1.1	1.1
Pinckney		10.5	6.2		0.3	0.4		2.8	2.7		0.4	0.8
Port Huron		3.9	3.5		1.1	1.4		2.5	2.0		0.0	0.0
Sharonville		6.8	10.4		0.1	0.2		2.2	2.6		0.8	1.5
Stanton		4.0	9.2		0.1	1.4		1.0	1.0		0.0	0.0
Three Rivers and Crane Pond		0.8	0.5		0.0	0.0		1.5	2.5		1.2	0.7
Waterloo		5.7	8.7		0.4	0.4		1.2	1.1		0.7	1.1
Average	7.6	5.5	8.7	0.6	0.8	0.9	1.6	2.1	2.3	0.3	0.4	0.7

*In these counts we record the number of pheasant crows heard in a 2 minute period, the number of ruffed grouse drums heard in a 4 minute period, and the number of individual doves and quail heard in a 4 minute period.