

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Lansing, Michigan 48926

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Summary of the 1970 Waterfowl Season
at the Pte. Mouillee State Game Area

by
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The 1970 season was much poorer than the 1969 season as evidenced by the harvest records. The optimistic predictions preceding the season resulted in disappointment to many hunters who expected a better season than in 1969.

Except for the opening day, there were no days which could be considered "good" hunting at Pte. Mouillee during the 1970 season.

A drawdown of the refuge was successful in creating an ideal situation for duck use. The exposed mud flats seeded profusely into smartweed and when reflooded the refuge was used by as many as 12,000 ducks (mostly mallards) for much of the season. High water in the rest of the marsh caused a loss of cattail vegetation to an extent that we had a definite lack of cover for hunting.

The following factors are considered significant in affecting the hunting at Pte. Mouillee this year:

- 1) Very poor weather for most of the season
- 2) Lack of cover in much of the marsh
- 3) Refuge provided everything needed for ducks so there was little movement outside of diked area
- 4) Less scaup use of area
- 5) Less blue-wing teal here on opening day
- 6) Higher hunting pressure due to optimistic forecast and General Motors strike
- 7) Static population in refuge with little influx of new birds after first 3 days of season
- 8) Lack of hunter participation in pheasant season.

Law enforcement effort was reduced this year because of the transfer of Conservation Officers during the season. Violations were normal.

The two students from the University of Michigan were of considerable help again this year in the operation of the checking station.

A near disaster occurred on the 20th and 22nd of November when wind changes and low temperatures stranded hunters in the marsh due to low water. U. S. Coast Guard helicopters were called in and worked with Department personnel to bring hunters to safety.

The regulations were accepted with little comment. Shooting hours were satisfactory to most of the hunters and officers.

SUMMARY OF 1970 SEASON WITH COMPARISON TO 1969 and 1968 SEASONS

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>
Hunters Reporting	2,818	2,015	1,266
Hours Hunted	18,320	12,110	8,229
Total Game Killed	1,323	1,516	585
Kill per Hunter	.46	.61	.63
Waterfowl Lost	209	358	154

(Total Permits Issued - 3,183)

COMPOSITION OF KILL FOR 1970 WATERFOWL SEASON AT PTE. MOUILLEE SGA

	<u>Age Ratio</u> <u>Adult/Immature</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>% of Kill</u>
Mallard	95/158	253	20%
Lesser Scaup	107/114	221	17½%
Green-Wing Teal	105/106	211	16½%
Pintail	18/50	68	5%
Black Duck	30/37	67	5%
Ruddy Duck	17/48	65	5%
Redhead	20/42	62	5%
Blue-Wing Teal	22/24	46	3½%
Baldpate	10/28	38	3%
Bufflehead	15/23	38	3%
Greater Scaup	15/21	36	3%
Goldeneye	12/18	30	2½%
American Merganser	2/20	22	2%
Canvasback	5/15	20	1½%
Red-breasted Merganser	10/6	16	1¼%
Gadwall	4/7	11)	
Hooded Merganser	5/6	11)	
Ringneck	1/10	11)	
Shoveler	4/6	10)	6¼%
Wood Duck	3/6	9)	
Old Squaw	1/5	6)	
Scoter	1/2	3)	
	<u>502/752</u>	<u>1254</u>	
Canada Goose		2	
Coot		67	
		<u>1323</u>	