

1974 Managed Hunting Season
at the
Alleghan State Game Area

by
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Wildlife Division
Report No. 2734

GENERAL

Waterfowl hunting in the Alleghan County Goose Management Area which includes the two managed hunting units of the Alleghan State Game Area opened on October 22. Limitation of hunter numbers and spatial distribution of the hunters using these two areas is necessary for the welfare of the goose flock and the safety and pleasure of the hunters. The goose and duck seasons on the Highbanks and Farm Units lasted 24 days, closing on November 14. The Farm Unit was open for pheasant hunting one day before the waterfowl opener. Details of seasons and bag limits may be found in the "1974 Rules for Hunting Waterfowl in Michigan" and in the rules and regulations for each of the managed hunting units which are appended to this report.

The Ottawa Marsh, though not a part of the permit hunting system, was closed to all hunting until October 22. As a part of the Alleghan County Goose Management Area it closed to goose hunting on November 14, but duck hunting continued through November 20. All hunting during waterfowl seasons closed at 3:00 p.m. in the Ottawa Marsh. This marsh remained open to other legal game after November 20.

WATERFOWL NUMBERS

The goose flock was up about 5 per cent from 1973. The 1973 peak count of 13,100 included about 100 blue and snow geese. The 1974 hunting season peak count of 13,800 included 550 blue and snow geese. The largest blue and snow geese concentration here was 550 and occurred from October 24 through 31 at the same time as the peak goose count. All blue and snow geese, except one snow observed intermittently, left the area around November 30.

175 Canada geese arrived on September 20 and 2,500 were present on September 30. Selected fall population counts were:

| <u>October</u> | <u>November</u> | <u>December</u> |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 - 5,000 | 6 - 12,300 | 6 - 10,000 |
| 4 - 7,500 | 14 - 12,300 | 19 - 5,100 |
| 10 - 10,000 | 21 - 5,000 | 23 - 10,000 |
| 14 - 13,000 | 29 - 10,300 | |
| 19 - 13,250 | | |
| 24 - 13,250 | | |
| 28 - 13,200 | | |

Daily goose flights between the Highbanks and the Farm Unit were consistently high throughout the season making for good shooting at both units as well as a magnificent sight for goose-watchers.

The duck population, largely mallards, was 500 on October 1. Selected fall population count were:

| <u>October</u> | <u>November</u> | <u>December</u> |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 - 500 | 7 - 13,500 | 6 - 10,000 |
| 3 - 2,300 | 14 - 13,500 | 19 - 8,600 |
| 7 - 6,500 | 21 - 10,000 | 23 - 10,000 |
| 10 - 8,700 | | |
| 14 - 10,000 | | |
| 27 - 10,000 | | |

The duck population was down about 3 per cent from the peak count of 14,000 in 1973. The population ratio is usually about 9 mallards to one black duck. In the Farm Unit harvest 12 mallards were taken for each black duck taken; 11 mallards taken for each duck of all other species taken.

HUNTING PERMITS

Highbanks managed hunting permits were available by pre-season application to Lansing for 65 party permits each hunting day. Days in the first week and all week end days were oversubscribed. The last five week days of the season were undersubscribed. Drawings were held to determine the 65 successful parties on oversubscribed days. Days that were undersubscribed were filled from the group of otherwise unsuccessful applicants requesting adjacent dates.

No-shows continued to occur as in past years. With 65 reservations issued for each day, the number of parties issued permits to hunt was as follows:

| <u>Posts occupied</u> | <u>No. of days</u> | <u>Posts occupied</u> | <u>No. of days</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 62 | 1 | 55 | 2 |
| 61 | 2 | 54 | 2 |
| 60 | 3 | 53 | 3 |
| 59 | 1 | 51 | 2 |
| 58 | 2 | 50 | 2 |
| 57 | 1 | 45 | 1 |
| 56 | 2 | | |

Most posts (62) were occupied on opening day (Tuesday). 61-59 posts were occupied on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursday of the second and third weeks of the season. Fewest posts (45) were occupied on the final day of the season (Thursday).

Farm Unit managed hunting permits, except on opening day of pheasant season, were available in a drawing open to all hunters present at the Farm Unit office about 1½ hours before shooting hour. Permits are available to all who show up for the drawing, but after the 38 blinds in Zone 8 and the 90 permits in Zones 2 through 7 are taken, interest dies down rather sharply and, especially on weekends, hunters leave without accepting a permit.

Opening day of goose season saw 281 parties present for permits at the Farm Unit. On the following six weekend days between 202 and 301 parties were present for the start of the drawing. Parties present on weekdays for the drawing ranged between 76 and 174.

The daily average number of hunter permits issued was 139 at the Highbanks and 371 at the Farm Unit, -up 7 per cent at the Highbanks and 10 per cent at the Farm. Thirty per cent of the Farm Unit waterfowl season permits were issued on weekends while 25 per cent of the Highbanks permits were issued on weekends. Heaviest weekday pressure was on Monday and lightest pressure was on Friday at the Farm Unit. Average weekday hunting variations at the Highbanks were minor. The largest issues of permits at the Farm Unit were 547 on opening day of goose season and 553 on Saturday, October 26. Between 388 and 506 permits were issued on other weekend days. Between 202 and 422 permits were issued on week days.

WATERFOWL HARVEST

The goose harvest on the game area increased 26 per cent from the 1973 harvest to 1,927 birds. The increase was 14 per cent at the Highbanks and 42 per cent at the Farm Unit. The age composition of the Canada goose harvest was in the ratio of about 50 after-hatching-year birds to 50 young-of-the-year. Six Hutchins', 14 blue, and 3 snow geese were taken. The proportion of banded geese in harvest was 3.1 per cent. Harvest at the two units has never been more nearly equal.

The greatest one-day harvest at the Farm Unit occurred on Tuesday, October 22, when 142 geese were shot. The next largest harvest was 99 on Thursday, October 24. At the Highbanks, the highest one-day harvest was 79 on Thursday, October 24, and the second highest of 66 occurred on Friday, October 25. No less than 10 geese were harvested at each unit each day of the season.

Most geese at the Farm Unit were taken in Zones 8, 5, 7, and 2. At least 11 geese were taken in every zone. Most successful blinds in Zone 8 were blind 5 with 48 geese, blind 3 with 44 geese, and blind 7 with 39 geese. Most successful posts at the Highbanks were post 36 with 52 geese, and post 37 with 50 geese. All 22 posts from number 25 through 46 registered 23 or more geese taken.

The duck kill decreased 2 per cent from the 1973 harvest of 492. The highest one-day harvest of 145 on Thursday, November 14, was almost triple that of any other day of the season. Only 8 ducks were taken at the Highbanks. The harvest included 434 mallards and 35 black ducks.

PHEASANTS

Pheasant hunting pressure climbed again to a record opening day figure of 653 permits issued on Monday, October 21. The opening day harvest, contrary to expectations, declined to a three-year low of 179 birds taken. Still, the harvest was higher than any year from 1964 through 1971. Sixty-two per cent of the season's total harvest was taken on opening day and eighty per cent (233) was taken through the first weekend (seven days). The season's total harvest was 291. Opening day harvest was 53 per cent of the 1973 total.

Zone 8 yielded 91 pheasants and Zones 4, 7, 9, and 10 each yielded from 27 to 34 pheasants. During the last ten days of the season the daily harvest did not exceed five birds on the Farm Unit. The age ratio determined by wing and leg examination of 288 cock birds was 1 adult to 3.2 juveniles. Fifty per cent of the young birds hatched in the two-week period of June 10-23.

SOURCE OF PERMITTEES

Both the Highbanks and the Farm Unit serve hunters from southwestern Michigan almost equally. Kent, Ottawa, Kalamazoo, Berrien, and Allegan Counties ranked highest at both units, each providing more than 9 per cent of the hunters. Van Buren County was sixth on both lists. Calhoun, muskegon, Wayne, Cass, and Jackson Counties ranked 7th through 11th at both units, each providing from 1.8 per cent to 5.8 per cent of the hunters at each unit.

Permit and Game Kill Summary - 1974

| | <u>Highbanks</u> | <u>Farm</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--|------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Permits issued | 3,332 | 9,279 | 12,611 |
| Geese harvested | 1,001 | 926 | 1,927 |
| Ducks | 8 | 474 | 482 |
| Pheasants | -- | 291 | 291 |
| Rabbits | -- | 17 | 17 |
| Woodcock | -- | 13 | 13 |
| Ruffed Grouse | -- | 6 | 6 |
| Raccoon | -- | 3 | 3 |
| Fox | -- | 2 | 2 |
| Wilson's Snipe, Quail, & Fox Squirrel | -- | 1 each | 3 |

24-day goose and duck season (Oct. 22 - Nov. 14)
at both units, plus opening day of small game
season on Monday, October 21, at Farm Unit.

DAILY RECORD OF PERMITS ISSUED AND GAME KILLED - 1974

| DATE | PERMITS ISSUED | | GEESE | | DUCKS | | PHEASANTS | | OTHER GAME | | |
|--------|----------------|------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-----------|------|------------|---------------------|--|
| | HIGHBANKS | FARM | TOTAL | HIGHBANKS | FARM | TOTAL | HIGHBANKS | FARM | TOTAL | R | |
| OCT 21 | | 653 | 653 | | | | | 179 | 11 | 3 pat, 2 wdck, 1 sn | |
| 22 | 152 | 547 | 699 | 58 | 142 | 200 | 2 | 14 | 1 | 1 pat | |
| 23 | 139 | 361 | 500 | 58 | 68 | 126 | 0 | 22 | 1 | 1 wdck | |
| 24 | 143 | 390 | 533 | 79 | 99 | 178 | 0 | 11 | 5 | 5 wdck | |
| 25 | 137 | 371 | 508 | 66 | 23 | 89 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 1 pat, 2 wdck | |
| 26* | 133 | 553 | 686 | 43 | 16 | 59 | 0 | 5 | 1 | | |
| 27* | 139 | 506 | 645 | 35 | 26 | 61 | 2 | 6 | 1 | | |
| 28 | 124 | 283 | 407 | 53 | 43 | 96 | 0 | 8 | 2 | | |
| 29 | 144 | 337 | 481 | 57 | 51 | 108 | 0 | 32 | 5 | | |
| 30 | 151 | 422 | 573 | 46 | 40 | 86 | 0 | 15 | 5 | 1 squirrel | |
| 31 | 157 | 305 | 462 | 56 | 40 | 96 | 0 | 10 | 7 | | |
| NOV 1 | 139 | 301 | 440 | 35 | 15 | 50 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 fox | |
| 2* | 140 | 428 | 568 | 31 | 18 | 49 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 3 wdck, 1 qu, 1 fox | |
| 3* | 130 | 457 | 587 | 37 | 21 | 58 | 1 | 23 | 4 | | |
| 4 | 132 | 326 | 458 | 42 | 34 | 76 | 0 | 15 | 2 | | |
| 5 | 150 | 323 | 473 | 35 | 25 | 60 | 0 | 18 | 4 | | |
| 6 | 154 | 288 | 442 | 58 | 21 | 79 | 0 | 10 | 4 | | |
| 7 | 144 | 269 | 413 | 22 | 10 | 32 | 1 | 2 | 3 | | |
| 8 | 135 | 202 | 337 | 21 | 19 | 40 | 0 | 8 | 2 | | |
| 9* | 136 | 388 | 524 | 10 | 12 | 22 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | |
| 10* | 154 | 410 | 564 | 42 | 34 | 76 | 0 | 12 | 5 | 1 1 pat, 3 rac | |
| 11 | 122 | 329 | 451 | 25 | 62 | 87 | 0 | 31 | 31 | | |
| 12 | 136 | 270 | 406 | 25 | 30 | 55 | 0 | 12 | 12 | | |
| 13 | 136 | 304 | 440 | 34 | 42 | 76 | 0 | 58 | 58 | | |
| 14 | 105 | 256 | 361 | 33 | 35 | 68 | 0 | 145 | 145 | | |
| TOTALS | 3332 | 9279 | 12611 | 1001 | 926 | 1927 | 8 | 474 | 482 | 291 | 17 rabbit 13 woodcock 6 grouse 3 raccoon 2 fox 1 snipe 1 quail 1 squirrel |

*A Saturday or Sunday

PERMITS ISSUED IN 1974 BY CALENDAR WEEK (DAILY AVERAGE)

| | <u>Highbanks</u> | <u>Farm</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>% of 1973</u> |
|----------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------------|
| October 22-26 | 141 | 444 | 585 | 119.9 |
| Oct. 27-Nov. 2 | 142 | 369 | 511 | 107.4 |
| November 3-9 | 140 | 322 | 462 | 105.7 |
| 10-14 | 131 | 314 | 445 | 110.7 |

PERMITS ISSUED IN 1974 BY DAY OF THE WEEK (SEASON AVERAGE)

| | <u>Highbanks</u> | <u>Farm</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>% of 1973</u> |
|---------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Sunday (3) | 141 | 458 | 599 | 100.5 |
| Monday (4)* | 126 | 398 | 524* | 131.7 |
| Tuesday (4) | 145 | 369 | 514 | 126.0 |
| Wednesday (4) | 145 | 344 | 489 | 122.2 |
| Thursday (4) | 137 | 305 | 442 | 96.5 |
| Friday (3) | 136 | 291 | 427 | 112.1 |
| Saturday (3) | 136 | 456 | 592 | 98.5 |
| Season | 139 | 371 | 510 | 109.4 |

*No Hunting Monday, October 21, at the Highbanks.

29.6 per cent of Farm Unit permits were issued on weekends.
25.0 per cent of Highbanks permits were issued on weekends.

HARVEST DATA - 1974
ALLEGAN STATE GAME AREA

GOOSE KILL BY AGE

CANADA GEESE:

| | <u>Highbanks</u> | <u>Farm</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------|------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Adult | 592 (59%) | 363 (40%) | 955 (50%) |
| Immature | 407 (41%) | 540 (60%) | 947 (50%) |
| Unknown | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Totals | 1,001 | 903 | 1,904 |

1974
GOOSE KILL BY AGE (CONT'D)

BLUE GEESE:

| | <u>Highbanks</u> | <u>Farm</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------|------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Adult | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| Immature | 0 | 8 | 8 |
| Totals | 0 | 14 | 14 |

SNOW GEESE:

| | | | |
|----------|---|---|---|
| Adult | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Immature | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Totals | 0 | 3 | 3 |

HUTCHINS' GEESE:

| | | | |
|----------|---|---|---|
| Adult | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Immature | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| Totals | 0 | 6 | 6 |

GOOSE AND DUCKS KILLED AND PERMITS ISSUED
 PER ZONE AT FARM

| <u>ZONE</u> | <u>Geese Killed</u> | <u>Ducks Killed</u> | <u>Permits Issued</u> | <u>% Permits This Group</u> | <u>Permits Per Goose</u> |
|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 | 66 | 13 | 593 | 17.0 | 9.0 |
| 3 | 63 | 32 | 575 | 16.4 | 9.1 |
| 4 | 34 | 7 | 524 | 15.0 | 15.4 |
| 5 | 184 | 53 | 789 | 22.5 | 4.3 |
| 6 | 27 | 12 | 395 | 11.3 | 14.6 |
| 7 | 90 | 29 | 622 | 17.8 | 6.9 |
| Total | 464 | 146 | 3,498 | 100.0 | 7.5 |

The above group of zones borders the refuge and the number of permits for each zone is limited.

| | | | | | |
|-------|----|----|-------|-------|------|
| 1 | 12 | 1 | 478 | 20.1 | 39.8 |
| 9 | 31 | 11 | 811 | 34.2 | 26.2 |
| 10 | 11 | 42 | 1,085 | 45.7 | 98.6 |
| Total | 54 | 54 | 2,374 | 100.0 | 44.0 |

This group of zones does not touch the refuge, permits were not limited, and dogs may be used.

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-------|---|-----|
| 8 | 408 | 274 | 3,407 | - | 8.4 |
|---|-----|-----|-------|---|-----|

There are 38 blinds in this zone.

| | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-----|-------|---|------|
| Grand Total | 926 | 474 | 9,279 | - | 10.0 |
|-------------|-----|-----|-------|---|------|

1974

GEESE KILLED PER BLIND - FARM ONLY
(ZONE 8 - 38 BLINDS)

| <u>Blind</u> | <u>Geese</u> | <u>Blind</u> | <u>Geese</u> | <u>Blind</u> | <u>Geese</u> |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1 | 4 | 14 | 8 | 27 | 6 |
| 2 | 7 | 15 | 19 | 28 | 8 |
| 3 | 44 | 16 | 4 | 29 | 6 |
| 4 | 26 | 17 | 9 | 30 | 0 |
| 5 | 48 | 18 | 14 | 31 | 2 |
| 6 | 1 | 19 | 14 | 32 | 2 |
| 7 | 39 | 20 | 6 | 33 | 6 |
| 8 | 3 | 21 | 6 | 34 | 6 |
| 9 | 2 | 22 | 16 | 35 | 0 |
| 10 | 12 | 23 | 16 | 36 | 2 |
| 11 | 1 | 24 | 11 | 37 | 3 |
| 12 | 36 | 25 | 7 | 38 | 1 |
| 13 | 4 | 26 | 6 | Total | 408 |

HIGHBANKS GOOSE KILL BY POST

| <u>Post</u> | <u>Geese</u> | <u>Post</u> | <u>Geese</u> | <u>Post</u> | <u>Geese</u> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1 - 7 | 0 | 28 | 24 | 49 | 4 |
| 8 | 1 | 29 | 26 | 50 - 58 | 0 |
| 9 | 3 | 30 | 30 | 59 - 63 | 0 |
| 10 | 4 | 31 | 32 | 64 | 2 |
| 11 | 2 | 32 | 35 | 65 | 1 |
| 12 | 5 | 33 | 35 | 66 | 5 |
| 13 | 4 | 34 | 40 | 67 | 12 |
| 14 | 3 | 35 | 39 | 68 | 7 |
| 15 | 8 | 36 | 52 | 69 | 8 |
| 16 | 5 | 37 | 50 | 70 | 9 |
| 17 | 14 | 38 | 44 | 71 | 7 |
| 18 | 6 | 39 | 49 | 72 | 4 |
| 19 | 10 | 40 | 38 | 73 | 10 |
| 20 | 9 | 41 | 29 | 74 | 9 |
| 21 | 17 | 42 | 34 | 75 | 4 |
| 22 | 14 | 43 | 31 | 76 | 6 |
| 23 | 14 | 44 | 30 | 77 | 3 |
| 24 | 18 | 45 | 23 | 78 | 1 |
| 25 | 32 | 46 | 23 | 79 - 80 | 0 |
| 26 | 33 | 47 | 9 | Total | 1,001 |
| 27 | 26 | 48 | 8 | | |

1974
BANDED WATERFOWL HARVESTED

| | Canada Geese | | | | Ducks | |
|-----------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| | <u>F & WS</u> | <u>Miner</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>% of Unit Kill</u> | <u>F & WS</u> | <u>% of Unit Kill</u> |
| Highbanks | 27 | 6 | 33 | 3.3 | 0 | - |
| Farm | <u>15</u> | <u>8</u> | <u>23</u> | <u>2.5</u> | <u>17</u> | <u>3.6</u> |
| Totals | 42 | 14 | 56 | 2.9 | 17 | 3.6 |

An additional 4 bands from Thunderbird, Genoa City, Wisconsin, at Farm Unit.

DUCK KILL BY SPECIES

| | <u>Highbanks</u> | <u>Farm</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Mallard | 5 | 434 | 439 |
| Black duck | 2 | 35 | 37 |
| Green-winged Teal | - | 2 | 2 |
| Wood duck | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Pintail | - | 1 | 1 |
| Mallard x Black | <u>-</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> |
| | 8 | 474 | 482 |

PHEASANTS KILLED PER ZONE - FARM ONLY

| | | | |
|--------|----|---------|----|
| Zone 1 | 17 | Zone 6 | 14 |
| Zone 2 | 20 | Zone 7 | 32 |
| Zone 3 | 16 | Zone 8 | 91 |
| Zone 4 | 27 | Zone 9 | 28 |
| Zone 5 | 12 | Zone 10 | 34 |

Total Pheasant Kill - 291

TIME-DISTRIBUTION OF PHEASANT KILL

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| First day (October 21) | (179) | 61.5% |
| First 7 days (thru the first weekend) | (233) | 80.1% |
| Last 7 days (November 4-10) | (21) | 7.2% |

WEATHER AT THE GAME AREA HEADQUARTERS - 1972-1974

| | PRECIPITATION (Total) | | | TEMPERATURE (Average) | | |
|----------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | <u>1972</u> | <u>1973</u> | <u>1974</u> | <u>1972</u> | <u>1973</u> | <u>1974</u> |
| October | 3.93 | 4.27 | 3.18 | 47.4 | 55.8 | 49.0 |
| November | 3.06 | 4.45 | 3.70 | 36.5 | 42.4 | 37.7 |

1974

HUNTERS' COUNTY OF RESIDENCE

| <u>HIGHBANKS</u> | | <u>FARM</u> | |
|--------------------|------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Kent | 14.7% | Allegan | 14.9% |
| Kalamazoo | 14.3% | Ottawa | 13.3% |
| Ottawa | 13.2% | Kalamazoo | 12.0% |
| Allegan | 10.3% | Berrien | 11.0% |
| Berrien | 9.8% | Kent | 10.9% |
| Van Buren | 4.8% | Van Buren | 7.3% |
| Calhoun | 3.7% | Calhoun | 5.8% |
| Wayne | 3.1% | Muskegon | 3.8% |
| Muskegon | 3.0% | Cass | 3.4% |
| Cass | 2.5% | Wayne | 1.9% |
| Jackson | 2.1% | Jackson | 1.8% |
| Barry | 2.1% | St. Joseph | 1.6% |
| Ingham | 1.8% | Barry | 1.5% |
| Eaton | 1.7% | Mason | 1.0% |
| St. Joseph | 1.4% | Other Michigan | 5.8% |
| Oakland | 1.2% | Indiana | 2.7% |
| Other Michigan | 7.9% | Other Out-of-State | 1.3% |
| Indiana | 1.5% | | <u>100.0%</u> |
| Other Out-of-State | <u>.9%</u> | | |
| | 100.0% | | |
| | | | |
| Total Permits | 3,332 | | 9,279 |

Highbanks Other Michigan includes 34 counties;
Other Out-of-State includes 5 states.

Farm Other Michigan includes 33 counties;
Other Out-of-State includes 9 states.

ALLEGAN STATE GAME AREA

In 1964, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources created the Allegan State Game Area by combining the Allegan State Forest, the Swan Creek Wildlife Experiment Station, and the Fennville State Game Area. The 45,000-acre unit provides a wide variety of recreation for everyone with an outdoor interest.

The Game Area is located in the oak and pine covered sand plains of west-central Allegan County between Allegan and Fennville about 10 miles east of Lake Michigan. Highway M-89 crosses the area from east to west and the Kalamazoo River flows northwesterly through it toward Lake Michigan. It may be reached from I-196 via the Glenn or Fennville exits, and from US-131 via the Martin or Otsego exits.

Every season offers a wealth of recreational opportunities. There are four campgrounds provided with picnic tables, toilets, and drinking water. From April through September, camping is limited to designated camp sites in campgrounds and to other designated areas within the Game Area. The Old Nursery, south of the Iron Bridge, has been set aside and developed for use of large groups beginning each Memorial Day. Other areas are available for use by smaller groups by arranging for a permit through the Game Area office. Except for these reserved camp areas, no permit is required for camping, but each camp must fill out a registration tag.

Hiking trails, extending four miles along both sides of Swan Creek, and three more miles cross-country, connect Ely Lake Campground, Pine Point Campground, and Swan Creek Campground. The Northwest Trail extends the trail system an additional five miles. These marked trails may be used in all seasons, but they are especially beautiful in the spring when the flowering dogwood is in blossom and in the early autumn after frost.

Swimming is available in Swan Creek Pond and at Ely Lake. Canoeing on the Kalamazoo River from the Allegan Dam to New Richmond or Saugatuck is a rewarding experience. Special use areas for snowmobiles, dogsleds, and horseback riding have been designated. A horsemen's campground is in Special Use Area 3. A cross-country ski trail is available.

Bird-watchers enjoy the spring and fall migrations of waterfowl, warblers, and many other birds. Some fortunate ones may glimpse the courtship antics of wild turkeys and ruffed grouse. Thousands of Canada geese and mallards may be seen from October through March on the Farm Unit, three miles south of Fennville, and in the Swan Creek Marsh west of the Kalamazoo River along Highway M-89. Cameras are welcome, but photographers must respect the refuge borders.

The hunting season offers a wide variety of game to the sportsman. The waterfowl season affords an opportunity to shoot geese at the famed Swan Creek Highbanks and at The Fennville Farm Unit. Waterfowl hunting is also available in the Ottawa and Koopman marshes, along Swan, Bear, and Sand creeks, and along the Kalamazoo River.

The small game season offers pheasant and woodcock hunting at the Farm Unit, and ruffed grouse, squirrel, and woodcock hunting on the remainder of the Game Area. Deer may be taken during the southern Michigan shotgun and bow and arrow seasons. Raccoons are abundant throughout the lowland forest.

The Department introduced wild turkeys into the area in 1954. The carefully controlled season in November of 1965, limited to 400 permit holders, marked the return of turkey hunting to Michigan. Turkey gobbler hunting in the spring may be permitted when populations are large enough to warrant a season.

Trout may be caught in Swan, Sand, Bear, and Silver creeks. Pike, trout, and panfish are caught in Swan Creek Pond. Panfish are taken in Little Tom Lake, and panfish and trout are in Ely Lake. Coho may be caught in the Kalamazoo River, Swan, Bear, and Sand creeks.

Wild blueberries and morels occur throughout the area during the proper season.

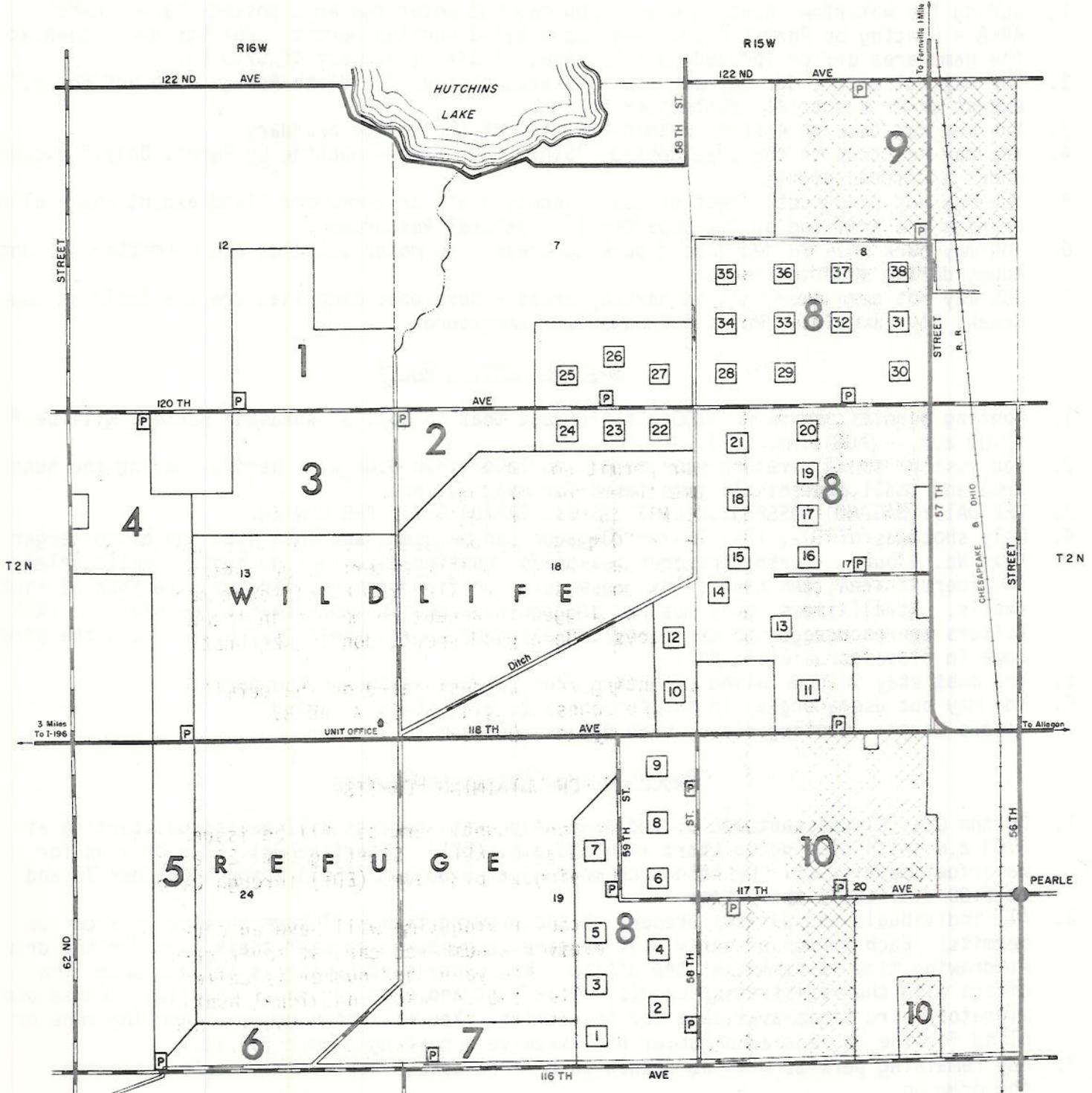
Maps and information are available at the Game Area Headquarters, 4590 118th Avenue. Inquiries may be addressed to the Allegan State Game Area, RFD No. 3, Allegan, Michigan 49010.

ALLEGAN STATE GAME AREA

FENNVILLE FARM MANAGED HUNTING UNIT



- Legend**
- PAVED ROAD
 - GRAVEL ROAD
 - DIRT ROAD
 - DRAIN
 - PARKING AREA
 - BLIND
 - WILDLIFE REFUGE - Do not enter.
 - MANAGED HUNTING ZONE 8 - Hunting by permit only. (Party Permits - 2 or 3 hunters per party) Use of dogs prohibited.
 - MANAGED HUNTING ZONES 1 through 7, 9 and 10 - Hunting by permit only (individual permits) You may use a dog only in Zone 1, 9 and 10.



ALLEGAN STATE GAME AREA

FENVILLE FARM UNIT

1974 MANAGED HUNTING SEASON - OCTOBER 22 THROUGH NOVEMBER 14

No Waterfowl Hunting on Farm Unit prior to October 22
Pheasant and other Upland Hunting Permits issued on October 21

GENERAL RULES

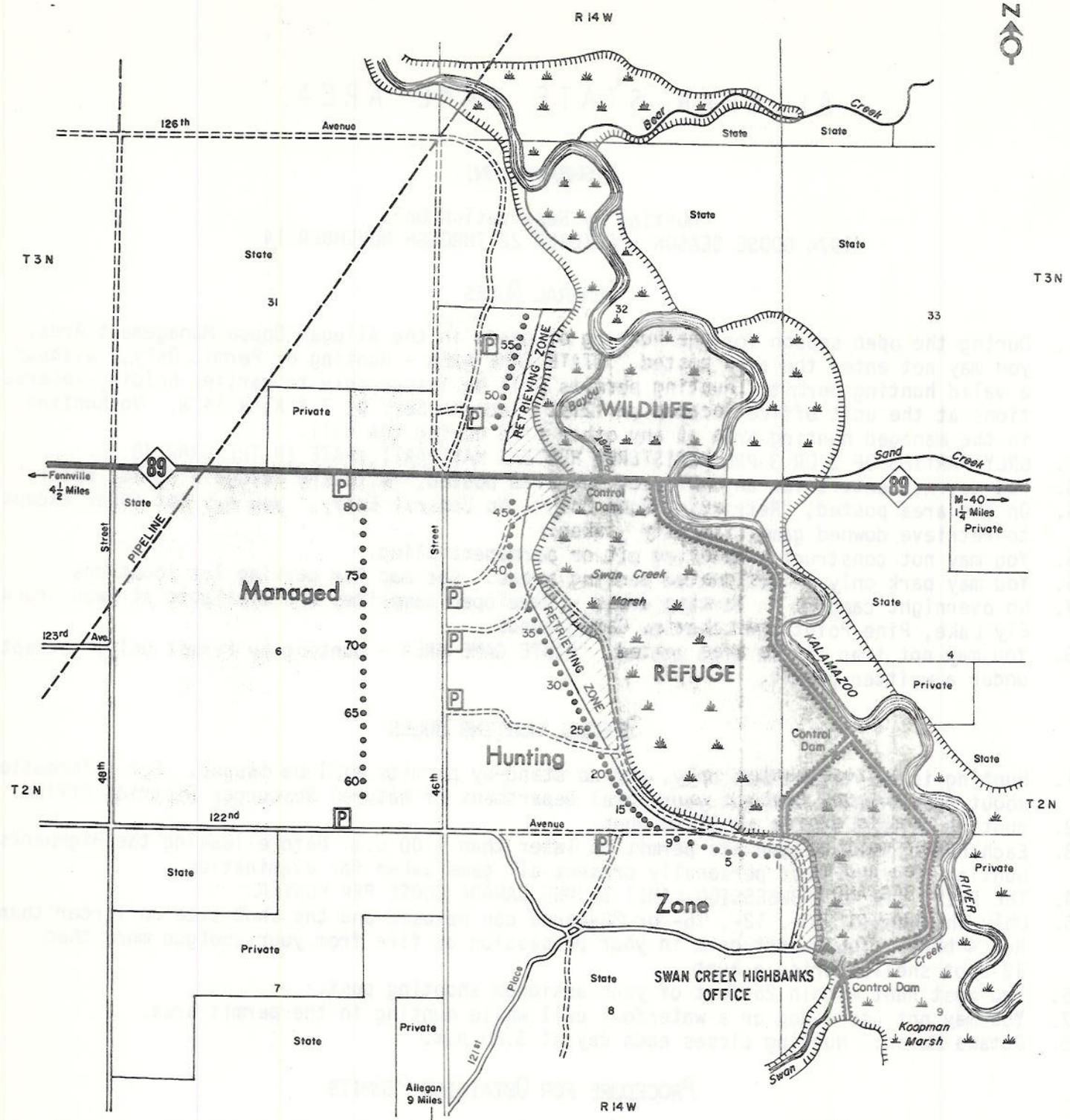
1. During the waterfowl hunting season you may not enter the area posted, "STATE GAME AREA - Hunting by Permit Only," without a valid hunting permit. Permits are issued at the game area office located on 118th Ave., 1 3/4 miles west of 57th St.
2. You may not enter, for any purpose, the area posted, "Wildlife Refuge - Do Not Enter," except under a special written permit.
3. You may not take up a stand within 250 feet of the Refuge boundary.
4. You may not trap in the area posted, "STATE GAME AREA - Hunting by Permit Only," except under a written permit.
5. You may not construct, erect or use a shooting pit or permanent blind except where blind or pits are provided by the Department of Natural Resources.
6. You may park only in designated parking areas. No motor vehicles are permitted in hunting zones during shooting hours.
7. You may not camp overnight in parking areas - developed campsites are available at Swan Creek, Ely Lake, Pine Point and Lakeview Campgrounds.

SPECIAL HUNTING RULES

1. Hunting permits expire at 3:00 p.m. (except that on Oct. 21 pheasant hunting will be from 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. EDT).
2. You must personally return your permit no later than 4:00 p.m. before leaving the hunting area and shall present all game taken for examination.
3. THE DAILY BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT IS ONE CANADA GOOSE PER HUNTER.
4. Only shotguns of 10-, 12-, 16- or 20-gauge can be used, and shot size can be no larger than No. 4 buck. During the open season for hunting waterfowl no hunter, while afield in a permit area, can have in his possession or fire from his firearm more than 12 shot shells. At all times, guns must be plugged to accept no more than three shells. (All hunters are encouraged to use decoys. Be a good sport, don't "sky bust." Let the birds come in close for a clean kill.)
5. You must stay in your blind or hunting zone as designated on the permit.
6. You may not use a dog(s) in hunting zones 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8.
7. Ottawa Marsh: Hunting closes each day at 3:00 p.m.

PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING PERMITS

1. On the Oct. 21 pheasant and upland game only hunt, permits will be issued starting at 8:00 a.m. with hunting to start at 10:00 a.m. (EDT). Starting Oct. 22 a drawing for waterfowl permits will be held each morning at 6:30 a.m. (EDT) through October 26 and at 5:30 a.m. (EST) thereafter.
2. All individuals and parties present at the drawing time will have an equal chance for permits. Each person or party will be given a numbered card at their cars for the drawing. At drawing time, assemble at the office. When your card number is called, enter the office with the registration card(s) filled out and each individual hunting license and migratory bird stamp available for inspection. You will then choose a hunting zone or blind for the day and each hunter will receive a hunting permit for it.
3. Any remaining permits will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis following the drawing.
4. No permits will be issued after 2:00 p.m.



MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ALLEGAN STATE GAME AREA

SWAN CREEK HIGHBANKS MANAGED HUNTING UNIT



LEGEND

- Hard surfaced road
- Good dirt road
- Poor dirt road
- Trail
- Parking area
- Shooting post
- Escarpment
- Dike
- WILDLIFE REFUGE - DO NOT ENTER
- RETRIEVING ZONE ONLY - NO GENERAL ENTRY
- MANAGED HUNTING ZONE - HUNTING BY PERMIT ONLY

ALLEGAN STATE GAME AREA

HIGHBANKS UNIT

Hunting by Reservation Only
1974 GOOSE SEASON - OCTOBER 22 THROUGH NOVEMBER 14

GENERAL RULES

1. During the open season for the hunting of geese in the Allegan Goose Management Area, you may not enter the area posted, "STATE GAME AREA - Hunting by Permit Only," without a valid hunting permit. Hunting permits will be issued only to parties holding reservations at the unit office located on 121st Place in Sec. 9, T 2 N, R 14 W. No hunting in the managed hunting area at any other time during the fall.
2. ONLY PARTIES OF 2 OR 3 PRE-REGISTERED HUNTERS MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE DRAWING.
3. You may not enter, for any purpose, the area posted, "Wildlife Refuge - Do Not Enter."
4. On the area posted, "Retrieving Zone Only - No General Entry," you may not enter except to retrieve downed game, lawfully taken.
5. You may not construct a shooting pit or permanent blind.
6. You may park only in designated parking areas. See map for parking lot locations.
7. No overnight camping in parking areas - developed campsites are available at Swan Creek, Ely Lake, Pine Point and Lakeview Campgrounds.
8. You may not trap in the area posted, "STATE GAME AREA - Hunting by Permit Only," except under a written permit.

SPECIAL HUNTING RULES

1. Hunting is by reservation only, and no stand-by permits will be issued. For information about reservations contact your local Department of Natural Resources District Office.
2. Hunting permits expire at 12:00 noon.
3. Each hunter must return his permit no later than 1:00 p.m. before leaving the Highbanks hunting area and must personally present all game taken for examination.
4. THE DAILY BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT IS ONE CANADA GOOSE PER HUNTER.
5. Only shotguns of 10-, 12-, 16- or 20-gauge can be used and the shot size no larger than No. 4 buck. You cannot have in your possession or fire from your shotgun more than 12 shot shells during a hunt.
6. You must hunt within 25 feet of your assigned shooting post.
7. You may not use a dog or a waterfowl call while hunting in the permit area.
8. Ottawa Marsh: Hunting closes each day at 3:00 p.m.

PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING PERMITS

1. A drawing will be held each morning at 6:30 a.m. (EDT) through October 26; at 5:30 a.m. (EST) thereafter.
2. Persons holding reservations for a particular date will have equal chances at the start of each drawing for choosing shooting posts. At drawing time, assemble at the office. When the number on the reservation card is called, the hunting party shall enter the office with the reservation card and each individual hunting license and migratory bird stamp available for inspection. The party will then choose a shooting post for the day and each party member will receive a hunting permit for that post.
3. No permits will be issued after 10:00 a.m.