

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Game Division

Report No. 2619
December 5, 1967

1967 PHEASANT HUNTING SEASON

By
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The 1967 pheasant hunting season went according to the pre-season's gloomy predictions--success was well below last year and below the long-term average. A total of 4,397 hunters were contacted on the opening day (October 20) and the first Saturday (October 21). These hunters had spent 13,130 hours afield and had bagged 986 pheasants for a success rate of .22 pheasants per hunter. In 1966 hunters averaged .31 pheasants each in a similar two-day check.

Hunting success in 1967 by areas is tabulated in the attached table for both opening day and the first Saturday. Success in most areas was down from 1966. Hunting was best in Ottawa, Macomb and Berrien counties, but was poorer in all three areas than a year ago. Exceptions were in Ingham and Washtenaw counties, where a rather substantial increase in success was recorded. Hunters had about the same degree of success as last year at Fish Point and in Gladwin, Jackson, and Tuscola counties.

At the Rose Lake Wildlife Station, hunters took only 97 pheasants, down 44 percent from the 167 bagged in 1966 and 52 percent fewer than the five-year average. Hunting pressure at the station was 30 percent less than in 1966. The 2.8 pheasants bagged per 100 acres was similar to the 2.4 bagged in 1947 and 1948 at Rose Lake and far below the 17.4 pheasants per 100 gun hours taken in 1940.

The farm unit of the Allegan State Game Area had a recorded kill of 73 pheasants, down 26 percent from 1966, when 99 birds were taken. Wings and legs collected from bagged birds showed a ratio of 3.1 young cocks per adult cock, indicating a poor nesting season. However, a sample of 61 pheasants in southern Ottawa County suggested excellent production there. Fifty-eight of those birds (95 percent) were young of the year.

Biologists felt there were considerably fewer hunters in most of the pheasant range than a year ago. In a comparable effort they contacted 13 percent fewer hunters than in 1966. These hunters hunted a little longer this year, however, averaging 3.0 hours per hunt, compared to 2.7 last year.

The weather during the early part of the season was generally good for pheasant hunting, although too windy in some areas on opening day. Cool temperatures with moist ground conditions prevailed. However, principally because of wet grounds, most of the corn and much of the soybeans was still unharvested. Weather during the last part of the 22-day season was unpleasant for hunters, with considerable rain and snow. Crops were gradually being harvested, but at least half of the corn was still standing at the season's end.

Our pre-season forecast of a 40 percent decrease in the pheasant kill appears to be about right. We won't have better kill figures until June, when the mail survey data is tabulated.

1967 Pheasant Season
 October 20 (Opening Day) and October 21 (Saturday)*

<u>Area</u>	<u>Hunters checked</u>	<u>Hours hunted</u>	<u>Pheasants killed</u>	<u>Pheasants per hunter</u>	
				<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>
Allegan	22	42	6	.38	.27
	23	61	2	.24	.09
Barry	6	16	1	---	.17
	39	103	0	---	---
Bay	23	64	4	.31	.17
	20	57	1	---	.05
Berrien	76	267	57	.62	.75
	33	95	7	.28	.21
Branch	21	55	2	.23	.10
	26	88	7	.33	.27
Clinton	24	77	3	.30	.13
	17	71	1	.20	.06
Eaton	42	104	4	.18	.10
	16	33	1	.28	.06
Fennville	183	368	29	.32	.16
	184	368	6	.00	.03
Fish Point	84	207	37	.44	.44
	73	279	20	.23	.27
Genesee	41	104	12	.57	.30
	27	112	9	.26	.33
Gladwin	62	242	54	.67	.87
	46	139	10	.43	.22
Gratiot	8	33	1	.11	.13
	9	33	0	.50	---
Harsen's Island	87	207	9	.39	.10
	70	226	12	.11	.17
Hillsdale	55	138	9	.45	.16
	54	168	2	---	.04
Huron	17	9	0	.19	---
	20	114	2	---	.10

<u>Area</u>	<u>Hunters checked</u>	<u>Hours hunted</u>	<u>Pheasants killed</u>	<u>Pheasants per hunter</u>	
				<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>
Ingham	47	163	18	.23	.38
	14	54	4	.18	.28
Ionia (eastern)	54	161	14	.37	.26
	22	55	4	.17	.18
Jackson (eastern)	66	179	10	.15	.15
	33	123	5	.03	.15
Kalamazoo	31	59	6	.18	.20
	25	63	0	.08	---
Kent	22	45	0	---	---
	12	34	0	---	---
Lapeer	51	103	1	.51	.02
	34	83	1	.22	.03
Lenawee (eastern)	15	41	0	.36	---
	3	12	0	.38	---
Livingston	52	193	8	---	.15
	76	270	3	---	.04
Macomb (northeast)	222	1,024	102	.72	.46
	96	358	28	.34	.29
Monroe	146	417	42	.32	.29
	82	271	17	.23	.21
Oakland	31	60	2	.16	.07
	35	91	0	.04	---
Ottawa (central)	111	368	59	.40	.53
	51	113	9	.18	.18
Ottawa (southern)	257	603	130	.89	.51
	136	504	32	.52	.24
Rose Lake	373	1,011	34	.12	.06
	456	1,214	10	.04	.02
Saginaw	21	56	4	.26	.20
	11	21	0	.25	---

Area	Hunters checked	Hours hunted	Pheasants killed	Pheasants per hunter	
				1966	1967
Sanilac (southwest)	94	451	37	.38	.39
	32	162	10	.50	.31
St. Clair (northwest)	59	213	29	.48	.49
	55	143	13	.32	.24
Shiawassee	20	55	3	.20	.15
	14	38	4	.11	.29
Tuscola	17	62	4	.11	.24
	32	83	5	.08	.16
Washtenaw (western)	36	105	13	.13	.36
	<u>45</u>	<u>189</u>	<u>18</u>	---	<u>.40</u>
Total	2,476	7,302	743	.38	.30
	1,921	5,828	243	.16	.13

*Top figures are data from opening day; bottom figures are for the first Saturday of the season.

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