

Year	Mean Days Hunted per Hunter
1988	3.4
1989	3.4
1990	3.4
1991	3.4
1992	3.4
1993	4.1
1994	4.5
1995	5.1
1996	5.1

## How Recent Fall Wild Turkey Seasons Compare

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1995 <sup>a</sup>	1996
Licenses Available	1,350	5,900	15,600	12,375	17,335	14,925	4,207	4,128
Licenses	1,022	5,497	11,903	11,634	17,335	14,925	4,207	4,128
Hunters	891	4,393	10,393	10,152	14,975	12,867	3,430	3,406
Turkey Harvest	837	2,015	4,785	5,014	5,805	4,443	1,194	1,009
Percent Juveniles	65	55	50	59	50	44	44	<sup>c</sup>
Percent Adults	35	45	50	41	50	56	56	<sup>c</sup>
Hunter-days	3,246	15,422	35,157	33,890	54,081	50,026	-16,146	17,647
Hunter Success	58%	35% <sup>b</sup>	42% <sup>b</sup>	44% <sup>b</sup>	39% <sup>b</sup>	35% <sup>b</sup>	35%	30%
Area Open to Hunting (sq. mi.)	973	6,566	12,247	15,437	16,334	14,897	4,955	5,469

<sup>a</sup> There was no fall turkey season in 1994.

<sup>b</sup> Percentage of hunters who took at least one bird.<sup>c</sup> Not available for 1996.

**Turkey trivia:** *The largest wild turkey registered in Michigan weighed 30.0 pounds. It was taken in Spring 1995.*



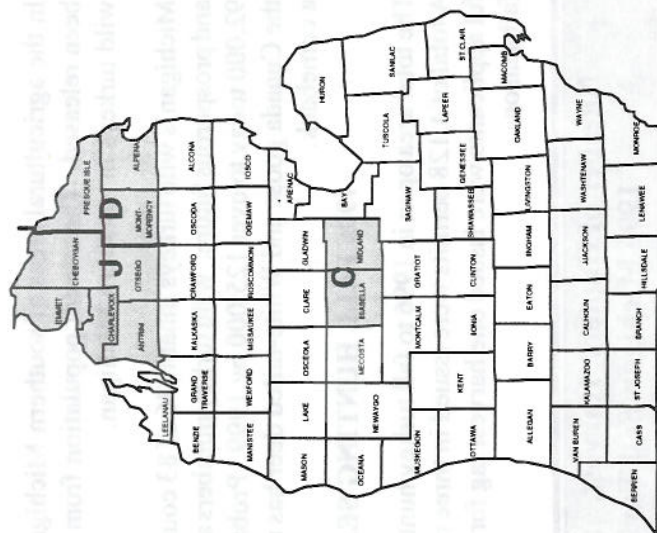
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Michigan Department of Natural Resources

# 1996 Michigan Fall Turkey Hunter Survey Results

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## 1996 Fall Wild Turkey Hunting Areas

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## WILD TURKEY MANAGEMENT

Northern Michigan wild turkey densities average about 2.2 birds per square mile. The northern Michigan population is estimated (1996-1997 winter count) at over 53,300 birds in an area encompassing some 24,000 square miles open to spring hunting. Between 1983 and 1996, 4,129 northern Michigan turkeys were trapped and released at new locations in both the Upper Peninsula and the northern Lower Peninsula. Because of these increases in both numbers and range, the wild turkey has become an important member of Michigan's wildlife community, both for recreational hunting and viewing enjoyment.

In the agricultural areas of southern Michigan, 3,139 wild turkeys have been released. The current population from these efforts is over 38,900 wild turkeys in southern Michigan.

Michigan's wild turkeys inhabit 76 of 83 counties and should have a long and prosperous future. Wild turkey numbers are expected to increase from 92,000 today to over 125,000 by 1999. Probably no other species except the Canada goose and White-tailed deer has made, or will make, as great a comeback.

### 1996 FALL HUNTING SEASON

The total area open in 1996 to fall turkey hunting was 5,469 square miles. A total of 4,128 permits were issued in three management units. Successful applicants were issued one harvest tag for a bird of any sex during the fall season.

### Number of Hunters, Harvest, and Hunting Effort 1996 Michigan Fall Turkey Season

Unit	Number of Licenses	Number of Hunters	Harvest	Days of Effort	Days Hunted Per Hunter
C	450	333	66	1,153	3.5
D	991	781	170	4,225	5.4
J	2,687	2,292	773	12,269	5.4
STATE TOTAL	4,128	3,406	1,009	17,647	5.2

Hunter numbers, hunting effort, and harvest are listed by management area. Eighty-three percent (3,406) of the licenses actually hunted, averaging 5.2 days of hunting effort. Hunters had a 30 percent success rate and harvested an estimated 1,009 turkeys.

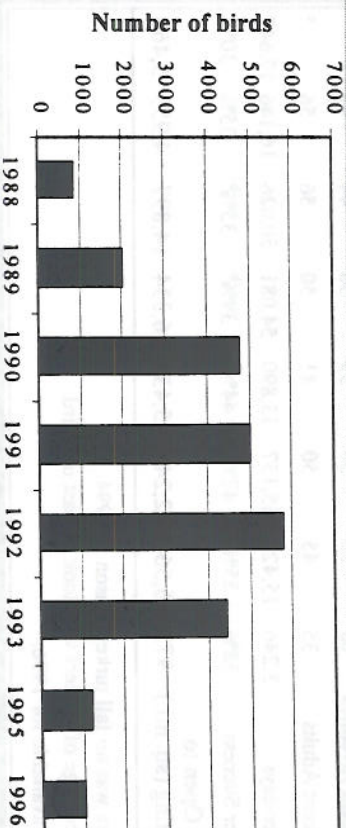
Hunter satisfaction is used in the evaluation of the turkey management program. For the 1996 fall season, most hunters (74 percent) reported their hunting as good, fair, or poor, while 26 percent rated their fall turkey hunting as excellent or very good. Hunters rated their fall turkey hunting differently based on their hunting success.

### How Successful vs. Unsuccessful Turkey Hunters Rated Their Hunting Experience

Tagged a Turkey	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
No	4%	8%	29%	28%	31%
Yes	31%	36%	22%	9%	2%
All Hunters	11%	15%	27%	23%	24%

The 1996 fall turkey hunting results are compared with the 1988-93 and 1995 seasons below and on the following page.

### Michigan Wild Turkey Harvest Fall Seasons \*



\* There was no fall turkey season in 1994.