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# MICHIGAN SPRING TURKEY SEASON HUNTING RESULTS, 1991\*

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
WILDLIFE DIVISION REPORT NO. 3146

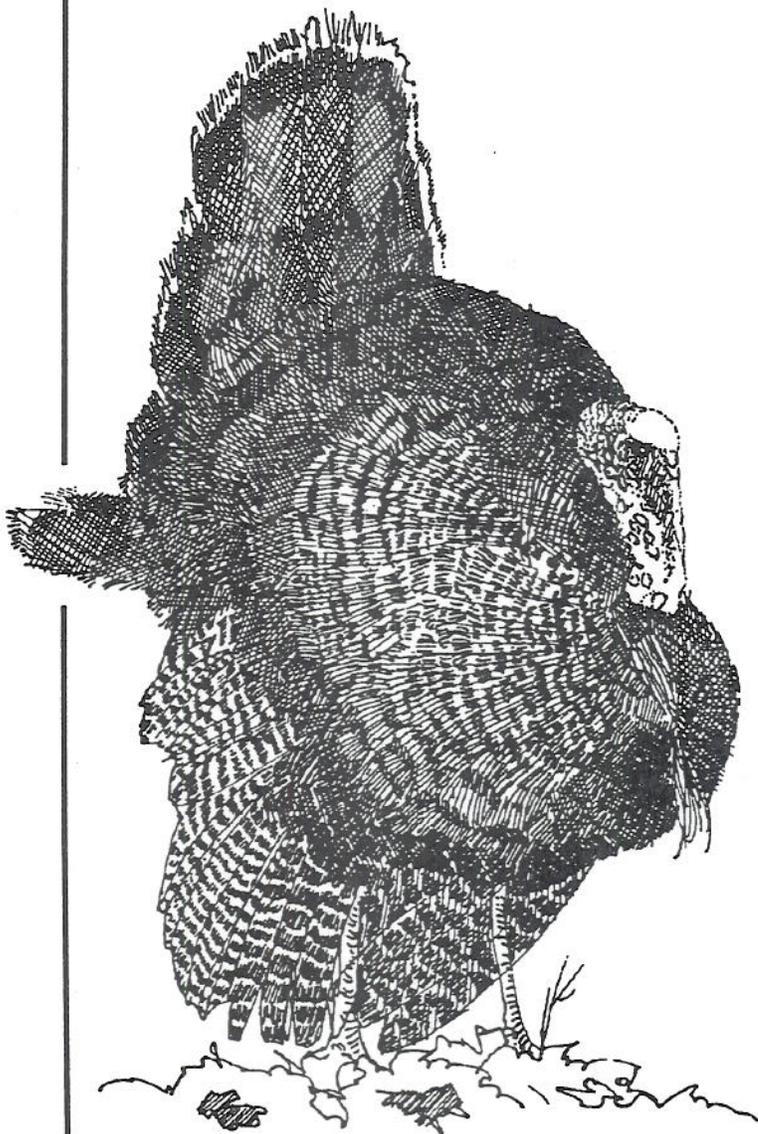
by Tim F. Reis

This report presents the results of a mail survey to hunters who were licensed to hunt wild turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*) in Michigan during the 1991 Spring Turkey Season. A random sample of 8,518 hunters were asked to summarize their turkey hunting results. Estimates were derived from 7,586 returned questionnaires. The 89 percent response rate was the result of an original mailing plus two follow-up mailings.

Statewide, an estimated 33,679 individuals hunted 138,402 days during the 1991 Spring Turkey Season. The number of hunters was a 21 percent increase compared to the previous season. Successful hunters spent 3.4 days afield, while unsuccessful hunters were afield 4.2 days. Nearly 43 percent of the respondents hunted exclusively on private land, whereas only 35 percent hunted exclusively on public land. The remaining 22 percent hunted on both private and public lands.

An estimated 9,636 turkeys were harvested, 15 percent more than in 1990. Hunter success decreased slightly from 30 to 29 percent. Hunter success was higher for those hunting on private land only (33%) than for hunters on either public land only (24%) or on a combination of private and public lands (28%).

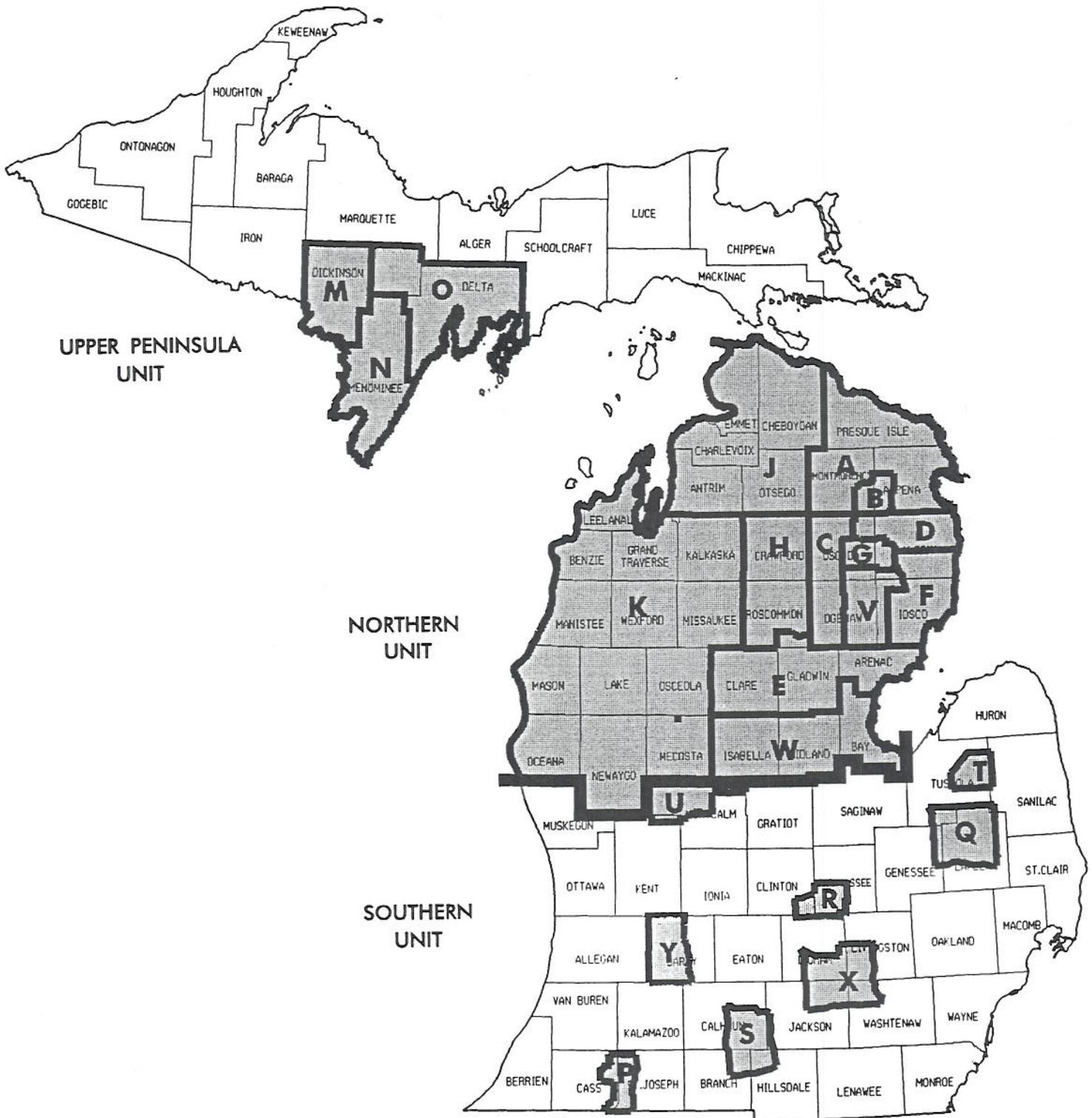
Most hunters were satisfied with their 1991 spring turkey hunting experience. The 1991 spring season was rated "very good" by 27 percent and "good" by 41 percent of the hunters. Only 20 percent rated the 1991 spring season "poor" or "very poor," while 12 percent were undecided.



\* A contribution of Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration, Michigan Project W-127-R.

# 1991 SPRING TURKEY MANAGEMENT UNITS

(Lettered Areas Only)



**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF HUNTERS, HARVEST  
AND HUNTING EFFORT BY AREA**

**1991 Spring Turkey Season**

Area	Licenses Issued	Number of Hunters	Harvest	Percent of			Hunter-days	Days Hunted Per Hunter
				Licenseses Hunting	Licenseses Successful	Hunters Successful		
M	478	421	110	88	23	26	1,524	3.6
N	1,524	1,410	538	93	35	38	5,435	3.9
O	434	382	98	88	23	26	1,391	3.6
<b>Upper Peninsula Unit</b>	2,436	2,213	746	91	31	34	8,350	3.8
A	2,500	2,325	730	93	29	31	11,068	4.8
B	1,500	1,257	316	84	21	25	5,797	4.6
C	2,350	2,221	576	95	25	26	8,426	3.8
D	4,000	3,584	935	90	23	26	16,033	4.5
E	2,700	2,478	743	92	28	30	9,241	3.7
F	2,700	2,498	681	93	25	27	9,539	3.8
G	1,500	1,348	319	90	21	24	4,981	3.7
H	900	862	319	96	35	37	3,396	3.9
J	2,000	1,843	700	92	35	38	10,198	5.5
K	9,000	8,437	2,399	94	27	28	33,159	3.9
V	1,650	1,523	366	92	22	24	5,505	3.6
W	1,800	1,634	470	91	26	29	6,439	3.9
<b>Northern Unit</b>	32,600	30,010	8,554	92	26	29	123,782	4.1
P	135	116	38	86	28	33	437	3.8
Q	95	77	16	81	17	21	279	3.6
R	101	87	33	86	33	38	381	4.4
S	152	122	44	81	29	36	459	3.8
T	136	126	33	93	24	26	527	4.2
U	263	232	37	88	14	16	948	4.1
X	471	417	65	89	14	16	1,906	4.6
Y	300	279	70	93	23	25	1,333	4.8
<b>Southern Unit</b>	1,653	1,456	336	88	20	23	6,270	4.3
<b>STATE TOTAL</b>	36,689	33,679	9,636	92	26	29	138,402	4.1

## HOW TURKEY HUNTERS RATED THEIR HUNTING EXPERIENCE

*Percentage of Turkey Hunters Rating Their 1991 Spring  
Turkey Hunting Experience as:*

Area	Hunt Number	Very Good	Good	Neither Good Nor Poor	Poor	Very Poor
A	01	27	48	10	13	2
B	02	25	36	14	17	8
C	03	30	46	8	10	6
	04	22	44	15	13	6
	05	19	46	10	15	10
	Area Mean	24	46	11	12	7
D	06	26	41	11	16	6
E	07	34	40	11	10	5
	08	28	39	13	15	5
	09	17	39	16	21	7
	Area Mean	27	39	13	15	6
F	10	33	47	10	7	3
	11	21	48	10	17	4
	12	19	42	15	19	5
	Area Mean	25	46	12	13	4
G	13	28	51	8	10	3
	14	18	39	10	26	7
	15	14	36	14	24	12
	Area Mean	22	44	10	18	6
H	16	55	35	4	5	1
	17	37	38	10	10	5
	18	25	49	12	10	4
	Area Mean	39	40	9	9	3
J	19	33	40	14	9	4

## HOW TURKEY HUNTERS RATED THEIR HUNTING EXPERIENCE (CONT.)

*Percentage of Turkey Hunters Rating Their 1991 Spring  
Turkey Hunting Experience as:*

Area	Hunt Number	Very Good	Good	Neither Good Nor Poor	Poor	Very Poor
K	20	39	43	6	8	4
	21	26	47	9	14	4
	22	25	41	13	17	4
	Area Mean	30	44	9	13	4
M	23	20	38	8	24	10
	24	20	42	15	13	10
	25	18	39	25	10	8
	Area Mean	19	40	14	18	9
N	26	28	46	10	14	2
	27	29	36	8	16	11
	28	21	38	13	13	15
	Area Mean	26	40	10	15	9
O	29	24	34	9	24	9
	30	19	32	17	24	8
	31	20	36	7	25	12
	Area Mean	21	34	11	24	10
P	32	60	20	20	0	0
	33	50	38	12	0	0
	34	75	25	0	0	0
	59	29	47	12	6	6
	60	14	14	72	0	0
	61	47	27	20	6	0
	Area Mean	43	32	20	3	2
Q	35	29	43	14	14	0
	36	25	38	12	0	25
	37	50	0	50	0	0
	62	39	35	4	9	13
	63	0	0	0	100	0
	64	25	75	0	0	0
	Area Mean	33	36	11	10	10

## HOW TURKEY HUNTERS RATED THEIR HUNTING EXPERIENCE (CONT.)

*Percentage of Turkey Hunters Rating Their 1991 Spring  
Turkey Hunting Experience as:*

Area	Hunt Number	Very Good	Good	Neither Good Nor Poor	Poor	Very Poor
R	38	71	29	0	0	0
	39	67	33	0	0	0
	40	30	70	0	0	0
	65	29	43	21	7	0
	66	56	33	0	11	0
	67	39	44	11	0	6
	Area Mean		44	44	8	3
S	68	41	32	15	10	2
	69	36	46	9	0	9
	70	20	30	30	10	10
	Area Mean		37	34	16	8
T	41	50	40	0	10	0
	42	50	30	10	0	10
	43	11	56	11	22	0
	71	33	40	17	10	0
	72	18	59	17	0	6
	73	23	23	23	16	15
	Area Mean		30	42	15	9
U	44	34	33	22	11	0
	45	6	44	19	12	19
	46	9	46	18	9	18
	74	23	39	9	13	16
	75	29	29	0	28	14
	76	6	47	18	23	6
	Area Mean		19	40	14	15
V	47	29	42	11	13	5
	48	27	43	13	10	7
	49	20	40	13	18	9
	Area Mean		26	42	12	13

## HOW TURKEY HUNTERS RATED THEIR HUNTING EXPERIENCE (CONT.)

*Percentage of Turkey Hunters Rating Their 1991 Spring  
Turkey Hunting Experience as:*

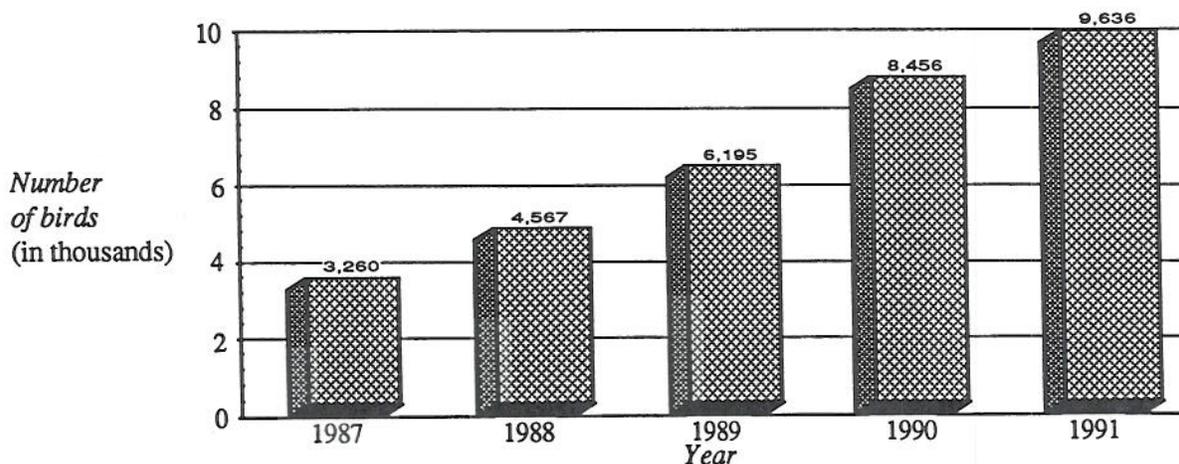
Area	Hunt Number	Very Good	Good	Neither Good Nor Poor	Poor	Very Poor
W	50	26	40	9	17	8
	51	16	34	16	23	11
	52	23	34	13	18	12
	Area Mean	22	36	12	19	11
X	53	23	35	18	16	8
	54	35	43	10	10	2
	55	27	29	10	24	10
	77	20	38	11	18	13
	78	37	27	6	17	13
	79	5	32	10	21	32
	Area Mean	26	35	11	17	11
Y	56	50	35	6	6	3
	57	34	23	13	27	3
	58	32	47	3	15	3
	80	25	41	9	19	6
	81	37	30	3	21	9
	82	31	39	14	11	5
	Area Mean	35	36	8	16	5
STATE MEAN		27	41	12	14	6

## HOW RECENT SPRING TURKEY SEASONS COMPARE

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
<b>UPPER PENINSULA UNIT</b>					
Licenses available	1,300	1,425	2,050	2,075	3,075
Licenses issued	1,035	1,308	1,819	2,075	2,436
Hunters [1]	884	1,100	1,656	1,852	2,213
Turkey harvest	334	393	709	735	746
Hunter-days	3,115	4,058	5,643	7,184	8,350
Hunter success	38%	36%	43%	40%	34%
<b>NORTHERN UNIT</b>					
Licenses available	15,940	18,235	21,830	27,150	32,600
Licenses issued	15,261	18,235	21,830	27,150	32,600
Hunters [1]	13,144	16,120	19,558	24,715	30,010
Turkey harvest	2,883	4,136	5,352	7,532	8,554
Hunter-days	53,449	64,985	77,692	101,263	123,782
Hunter success	22%	26%	27%	30%	29%
<b>SOUTHERN UNIT</b>					
Licenses available	400	600	1,200	1,350	2,205
Licenses issued	400	564	1,200	1,350	1,653
Hunters [1]	350	433	985	1,161	1,456
Turkey harvest	43	38	134	189	336
Hunter-days	1,550	1,787	3,900	4,660	6,270
Hunter success	12%	9%	14%	16%	23%
<b>TOTAL STATE</b>					
Licenses available	17,640	20,260	25,080	30,575	37,880
Licenses issued	16,696	20,107	24,849	30,575	36,689
Hunters [1]	14,378	17,653	22,199	27,728	33,679
Turkey harvest	3,260	4,567	6,195	8,456	9,636
Hunter-days	50,114	70,830	87,235	113,107	138,402
Hunter success	23%	26%	28%	30%	29%

[1] This is the number of license holders actually hunting.

### MICHIGAN SPRING WILD TURKEY HARVESTS



**COMPARISON OF HOW SUCCESSFUL VS. UNSUCCESSFUL  
TURKEY HUNTERS RATED THEIR HUNTING EXPERIENCE**

*Percentage of Turkey Hunters Rating Their 1991 Spring  
Turkey Hunting Experience as:*

Respondent Tagged a Turkey	Very Good	Good	Neither Good Nor Poor	Poor	Very Poor
Yes	57	36	4	3	0
No	15	43	14	19	9
<b>STATE MEAN</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>

