

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
Game Division  
RIFLE RIVER AREA DEER SEASON 1955

Report No. 2080  
March 9, 1956

Twenty-seven legal bucks were taken in 2,001 hunter days during the 1955 gun season. Hunters came from 37 counties in Michigan, and from Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky and Ohio.

In the archery season 3 deer were taken in 1,498 hours. There were 414 hunter days expended during the archery season.

There was an increase of 1 illegal kill over that in the 1954 gun season. Every illegal deer kill reported was located in the field. Information on the illegal kill may be obtained in Table VII.

There was more snow and rain during the first days of the 1955 season in comparison to the same period in 1954. There was a 26% decrease in number of hunters, and 29% decrease in the number of hours of hunting. A light rain fell most of the opening day and visibility was poor on the second morning due to a heavy fog. In the afternoon the weather turned colder, and it became windy. The third day was windy and cold. The first three days of the 1954 season were in general - milder. In numerous trips around the area it was observed that during periods of inclement weather much time was spent by hunters sitting in their cars instead of hunting.

The following tables provide a statistical record:

Table	I	Deer Hunting Record by Years
	II	Age of Deer Killed
	III	Daily Record of Legal Deer Kill
	IV	County of Residence of Hunters
	V	Data on Each Deer Taken
	VI	Deer Hunting Record Archery Season
	VII	Illegal Kill During Gun Season

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TABLE I  
DEER HUNTING RECORD BY YEARS  
RIFLE RIVER AREA  
1955

Yr.	K i l l				Hunter Days	Hours Hunted	Bucks Seen	Other Deer Seen	Hours Hunted Per Deer Killed	Average Weight of Deer Killed				Illegal Kill
	B u c k s		D o e s							B u c k s		D o e s		
	Adults	Fawns	Adults	Fawns						Adults	Fawns	Adults	Fawns	
1945	54				1923	9346	364	4363	173	128				16
1946	51				2159	10262	256	4947	201	121				9
1947	48				1921	8806	238	5489	184	115				8
1948	32				1784	7915	169	3861	247	112				
1949	36				1535	6985	228	4405	194	107				8
1950	40				1519	7098	187	4893	177	109				8
1951	22				1226	5020	131	3426	228	105				12
1952	28	(1) 8	30	10	1527	6127	102	2801	81	110	(2) 56	105	55	2
1953	66	23	35	17	4445	21879	347	9797	155	(3) 109.5	51.4	90.6	47.6	38
1954	37	9	19	8	2708	12539	155	4753	171.7	111.1	49.6	86.5	51.8	9
1955	27	(4)	(4)	(4)	2001	8955	152	3512	331.6	107.0				10
11-yr. Aver.	40	13.3	28	11.6	2068	9539.2	211.7	4749.7	174.9	113.4	49.1	94.8	50.7	10.9

(1) Two of these were adult bucks with less than 3" spikes.

(2) Weight of 2 bucks with less than 3" spikes not included in average. They averaged 83 pounds.

(3) Two adult bucks with less than 3" spikes killed Dec. 1 included in these totals.

(4) There was no special any-deer season in 1955.



TABLE II  
AGE OF DEER KILLED  
Rifle River Area - 1955

	6 MONTHS				1½ YEARS				2½ YEARS				3½ to 4½ YEARS				5½ YEARS AND OVER			
	BUCKS		DOES		BUCKS		DOES		BUCKS		DOES		BUCKS		DOES		BUCKS		DOES	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1945 <sup>(1)</sup>					28	57			10	21			9	18			2	4		
1946					29	56			12	24			8	16			2	4		
1947					30	63			14	29			4	8			0	0		
1948					19	59			12	38			1	3			0	0		
1949					33	91			2	6			1	3			0	0		
1950					24	60			13	33			3	7			0	0		
1951 <sup>(2)</sup>					16	80			2	10			2	10			0	0		
1952	6	8	10	13	19 <sup>(3)</sup>	25	4	5	8	11	12	16	3	4	11	14	0	0	3	4
1953	23	16	17	12	47	33	10	7	12	9	4	3	7	5	9	6	0	0	12	9
1954	9	13	8	11	25	35	2	3	10	14	4	5	2	3	4	5			8	11
1955					10	37			14	52			3	11						

(1) No measurements available for 5 bucks killed in 1945

(2) No measurements available for 2 bucks killed in 1951.

(3) Includes 2 bucks killed during any-deer season with spikes less than 3" long.

NOTE: Age of bucks determined by antler measurements from 1945 to 1950.

Age of deer determined by tooth development from 1951 through 1955.

One adult doe does not appear in the above figures for 1954 - jaw was shot away making aging impossible.

TABLE III  
DAILY RECORD OF LEGAL DEER KILL  
RIFLE RIVER AREA -1955

Date	Bucks Killed	Bucks Seen	Other deer seen	Number hunters	Total hours hunted	Total Weight of deer	Number illegal deer found killed	Weather Conditions	
								Temperature Max. Min.	Remarks
11-15-55	12	67	1183	380	2173	1312	0	40° 28°	.09" rain. Cloudy - raining most of day
11-16-55	9	21	279	279	1214	967	5	45° 28°	Fog - poor visibility in A.M. - High wind in P.M.
11-17-55	2	11	228	162	720	200	0	36° 17°	.02"(snow) - windy,cloudy, and snow flurries. Scant tracking snow.
11-18-55	1	11	177	116	625	112	0	37° 29°	Trace snow. No wind. Visibility good. Light snow on ground.
11-19-55	2	12	392	238	1162	194	0	36° 26°	Light tracking snow. Visibility good. Cloudy in A.M., sunny in P. M.
11-20-55	0	16	279	154	583	-	1	39° 10°	Precipitation - .08"(melted snow). Clear. Light tracking snow in swamps.
11-21-55	0	0	47	42	124.5	0	1	37° 30°	Cloudy all day. Very light snow in woods.
11-22-55	0	0	78	40	160.5	0	0	36° 26°	.02" of snow. Light snow during night. Cloudy all day.
11-23-55	0	1	49	33	134	0	0	44° 34°	Rain and mist during night and morning. Cloudy & windy all day. .38" of snow.
11-24-55	0	3	195	105	429.5	0	0	35° 20°	Sun shone most all day.
11-25-55	0	4	190	104	463.5	0	1	29° 16°	Cloudy. Snowing - trace, starting at 2:00 p.m.
11-26-55	1	3	122	171	618	104	0	33° 23°	Cloudy. Light snow .03".
11-27-55	0	3	153	131	417	0	2	38° 19°	Cloudy. Snow starting at 4:00 P.M. .01" of snow.
11-28-55	0	0	82	23	65	0	0	33° 0°	Clear and cold. 7" of snow.
11-29-55	0	0	28	11	31	0	0	33° -7°	Partly cloudy. Trace of fluffy snow in morning and late afternoon.
11-30-55	0	0	30	12	35	0	0	33° 24°	Partly cloudy. Light snow in morning. Flurries. Trace.
TOTALS	27	152	3512	2001	8955	2889.0	10		



TABLE IV

Deer Season 1955  
Rifle River Area

## County of Residence of Hunters

County	Nov. 15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	TOTAL
Allegan					1												1
Arenac	4	1										3					8
Barry	2			2	2												6
Bay	14	11	9	2	13	3		3	3	20	2	16	6	1			103
Calhoun	7	7	1		1						2	1					19
Clare		1															1
Clinton			4	3	2	1						1	4				15
Genesee	83	63	36	26	41	44	8	1		10	9	12	26	1	2	2	364
Gladwin	1				1							1					3
Gratiot								1		1							2
Hillsdale	2	2				1							1	1			7
Huron	5	4	5	5	4	2		1	3	4	2	3	1	1	1		41
Ingham	8	3		2	11	9		1			4		2				40
Iosco				1								2	1				4
Isabella		1								1							2
Jackson	1	3	1	3	3	2	2	3	1	3	3	5	3	1			34
Kalamazoo	4	3	3				1										11
Kent	2	2	2					1		2			1				10
Lapeer	5	3	4	1	4	2				3	4	1					27
Leelanau														2			2
Lenawee	7	7	3	2	6					9	13	13	2				62
Livingston	3	9	5	4							3	3	2	1	1		31
Macomb	19	10	9	5	18	10	5	6	3	7	14	19	15	2			142
Midland	5	1	1		7							1	2				17
Monroe	6	3	2				3		3	5	8	5	1				36
Oakland	33	10	7	10	16	10	3	5		6	6	10	8	4	2	2	132
Ogemaw	20	14	5	4	8	9	1	2	1	12	5	15	8		5	2	111
Ottawa		2															2
Roscommon	1												1				2
Saginaw	36	25	16	3	24	23	6	6	2	8	2	10	14	5			180
Sanilac		2											4				6
Shiawassee	5	6	1		3	1		4	2			4	2				28
St. Clair	6	7	8	4	6	2											33
St. Joseph										2	2						4
Tuscola	14	2			4						2	5	6				33
Washtenaw	4	10	2	6	8	5	2	1	1	6	5	5					55
Wayne	77	62	35	29	53	30	11	5	14	6	18	36	19	3		4	402
Total (Res.)	374	274	159	112	236	154	42	40	33	105	104	171	129	22	11	10	1976
Illinois	1	1											1	1			4
Indiana	3	1	2		2											2	10
Kentucky	1	1															2
Ohio	1	2	1	4									1				9
GRAND TOTAL	380	279	162	116	238	154	42	40	33	105	104	171	131	23	11	12	2001

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TABLE V  
DATA ON EACH DEER TAKEN  
REGULAR & SPECIAL GUN SEASON  
RIFLE RIVER AREA - 1955

Date	Age	Sex	A N T L E R S		No. of Points	Weight Hog-dressed	Remarks:
			Beam Diam. mm.				
			L.	R.			
Nov. 15	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	M	20	20	5	98	Shot at 7:30 am
15	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	M	21	23	4	120	" " " "
15	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	M	29	28	5	104	" "11:00 "
15	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	M	16	15	3	85	
15	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	M	15	20	5	104	" "10:30 "
15	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	M	18	20	6	102	" " 8:00 "
15	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	M	20	20	2	109	
15	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	M	25	23	2	141	" " 7:30 "
15	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	M	21	19	4	97	" " 2:30 pm
15	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	M	17	18	3	96	
15	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	M	18	15	4	118	
15	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	M	22	23	8	138	" " 5:30 pm
16	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	M	21	20	4	110	" " 9:45 am
16	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	M	19	23	5	107	
16	17 mo.	M	11	11	2	101	" " 8:30 am
16	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	M	23	25	8	128	" "12:00 noon
16	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	M	19	19	4	114	
16	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	M	24	25	5	127	
16	17 mo.	M	20	20	6	108	" " 4:00 pm
16	17 mo.	M	14	13	2	85	" " 4:00 pm
16	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	M	14	16	3	87	" " 3:00 pm
17	17 mo.	M	19	18	5	87	" "11:30 am
17	17 mo.	M	18	18	3	113	" " 5:00 pm
18	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	M	20	21	2	112	" "10:30 am R. antler broken
19	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	M	20	19	2	91	Shot at 9:00 am
19	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	M	16	16	3	103	" " 12:00 noon
26	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	M	19	19	4	104	" " 12:30 pm

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TABLE VI  
DEER HUNTING RECORD  
ARCHERY SEASON  
RIFLE RIVER AREA - 1955

Date	Total Number Hunters	Total Hours Hunted	Deer Killed			Hog Dressed Weight
			Buck	Doe	Fawn	
Oct. 1	75	326.0				
2	55	207.0				
3	18	52.5				
4	13	23.5				
5	6	21.0				
6	7	15.5	x		1	41 lb. (Albino)
7	13	30.0				
8	27	94.0				
9	16	54.0				
10	7	11.5				
11	4	7.0				
12	2	4.5				
13	8	36.5				
14	4	14.5				
15	27	114.0		x		90 lb. (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ yrs.)
16	31	88.5				
17	7	16.5				
18	5	11.0				
19	4	13.0				
20	1	6.0				
21	8	17.0				
22	20	115.0				
23	19	101.5				
24	-	-				
25	-	-				
26	3	25.5				
27	3	7.0				
28	1	2.0				
29	7	15.0				
30	10	23.5				
31	3	6.0				
Nov. 1	1	1.5				
2	3	2.0				
3	-	-				
4	1	1.5				
5	5	34.5				

TOTAL          414          1498.5

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TABLE VII  
ILLEGAL KILL  
RIFLE RIVER AREA  
GUN SEASON - 1955

Date	Weight (if known)	Age	Sex
November 16	39 lbs.	7 mo.	F
" 16	50 "	6 mo.	B
" 16	31 "	6 mo.	B
" 16	82 "	3½ yrs.	F
" 16	50 "	7 mo.	B
" 20	87 "	1½ yrs.	D
" 21	80 " (Est.)	17 mo.	D
" 25	53 "	6 mo.	B
" 27	48 " (Est.)	6 mo.	D
" 27	90 "	1½ yrs.	D

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