MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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by Tim F. Reis

HUNTING RESULTS, MICHIGAN SPRING TURKEY SEASON, 1986*

This report presents estimates of the turkey kill and hunter numbers in Michigan for the 1986 spring turkey season. The estimates are derived from hunters' responses to a mail survey asking for a report of their turkey hunting in 1986. Hunters are selected for the survey by systematically selecting names from Department license files, and therefore, reflect kill and effort of licensed hunters only.

This report contains information tabulated from the results of 4,395 questionnaires returned out of 4,914 questionnaires mailed. The 89 percent response rate was the result of an original mailing plus four follow-up mailings.

An estimated 13,037 people hunted 50,451 days during the 1986 spring turkey season. This represents a 9 percent increase in hunter numbers from the previous season. Days hunted per hunter remained essentially the same, from 4.0 in 1985 to 3.9 in 1986.

The estimate of 2,361 turkeys harvested in 1986 was a 17 percent increase from the 1985 kill of 2,016 birds. Statewide, hunter success was 18 percent; up 1 percent from the previous season.

Tables presenting hunter numbers, effort, kill, and satisfaction are provided on pages 2 through 12.

*A contribution of Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration, Michigan Project W-124-R.

Table 1. Estimates of kill and hunting pressure by Area - 1986 Spring Turkey Season.

Area	Number of Hunters	Harvest	Hunter Days	Kill Per Hunter	Days Hunted Per Hunter
A	818	197	3,183	.24	3.9
B	932	200	3,299	.21	3.5
C	1,355	240	5,435	.18	4.0
D	2,389	422	9,046	.18	3.8
F	932	167	3,814	.18	4.1
G	861	143	3,298	.17	3.8
H	334	49	1,322	.15	4.0
J	129	33	765	.26	5.9
K	2,015	370	8,001	.18	4.0
S	467	77	2,009	.16	4.3
V	522	78	1,922	.15	3.7
W	1,362	195	4,857	.14	3.6
Northern Unit	12,116	2,171	46,951	.18	3.9
L					
Allegan Unit	312	44	1,445	.14	4.6
M	144	32	576	.22	4.0
N	465	114	1,479	.25	3.2
Upper Peninsula Unit	609	146	2,055	.24	3.4
STATE TOTAL	13,037	2,361	50,451	.18	3.9

Table 2. Licenses issued, percent of licensees hunting and percent successful licensees.

Area	Licenses Issued	Percent of Licensees Hunting	Percent of Successful Licensees	Successful Hunters
A	1,008	81	20	24
B	1,200	78	17	21
C	1,760	77	14	18
D	2,900	82	15	18
F	1,140	82	15	18
G	1,000	86	14	17
H	400	83	12	15
J	200	65	17	26
K	2,400	84	15	18
S	567	82	14	16
V	600	87	13	15
W	1,737	78	11	14
Northern Unit	14,912	81	15	18
L Allegan Unit	400	78	11	14
M	176	82	18	22
N	551	84	21	25
Upper Peninsula Unit	727	84	20	24
STATE TOTAL	16,039	81	15	18

Table 3. Estimated number of hunters grouped by the length of their hunt.

Days Hunted	Hunters Who Tagged a Turkey		Hunters Who Did Not Tag a Turkey		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	592	39	908	61	1,500	100
2	481	17	2,328	83	2,809	100
3	489	16	2,520	84	3,009	100
4	300	15	1,730	85	2,030	100
5	186	15	1,026	85	1,212	100
6	92	13	641	87	733	100
7	106	15	609	85	715	100
8	28	10	246	90	274	100
9	14	9	150	91	164	100
10	21	7	289	93	310	100
11	26	18	118	82	144	100
12+	26	19	111	81	137	100
TOTALS	2,361	18	10,676	82	13,037	100

Table 4. Estimated mean number of days hunted, turkeys heard per day, and hunters seen per day by hunt number by area.

Area	Hunt Number	Mean Number of Days Hunted	Mean Number of Turkeys Heard Per Day Hunted	Mean Number of Hunters Seen Per Day Hunted
A	01	3.6	1.6	1.3
	02	4.3	1.0	0.8
	Area Mean	3.9	1.3	1.1
B	03	3.5	1.9	1.3
C	04	3.4	1.7	2.3
	05	4.6	0.9	1.0
	Area Mean	4.0	1.3	1.6
D	06	3.8	1.6	1.5
F	07	4.2	1.9	1.4
	08	4.0	1.2	0.7
	Area Mean	4.1	1.6	1.1
G	09	3.4	1.8	2.2
	10	4.2	1.1	1.1
	Area Mean	3.8	1.5	1.6
H	11	3.5	1.5	0.7
	12	4.4	0.8	0.7
	Area Mean	4.0	1.2	0.7
J	13	4.9	1.0	0.6
	14	6.6	0.8	0.9
	Area Mean	5.9	0.9	0.8

Table 4. continued:

Area	Hunt Number	Mean Number of Days Hunted	Mean Number of Turkeys Heard Per Day Hunted	Mean Number of Hunters Seen Per Day Hunted
K	15	3.7	1.5	1.1
	16	4.7	1.1	1.0
	17	3.4	1.1	0.8
	Area Mean	4.0	1.3	1.0
L	18	4.5	0.9	2.4
	19	4.8	0.8	1.0
	Area Mean	4.6	0.9	1.7
M	20	4.3	2.3	0.7
	21	4.4	2.4	0.6
	22	3.2	1.7	0.5
	23	4.4	2.2	0.8
	Area Mean	4.0	2.2	0.6
N	24	3.2	1.8	0.8
	25	3.7	3.2	0.8
	26	2.7	2.9	0.8
	27	3.1	2.2	1.2
	Area Mean	3.2	2.6	0.8
S	28	4.8	1.4	0.7
	29	3.8	0.9	1.0
	30	3.6	0.6	0.3
	Area Mean	4.3	1.1	0.8
V	31	3.4	2.5	1.5
	32	3.9	1.6	0.9
	Area Mean	3.7	2.0	1.2

Table 4. continued:

Area	Hunt Number	Mean Number of Days Hunted	Mean Number of Turkeys Heard Per Day Hunted	Mean Number of Hunters Seen Per Day Hunted
W	33	3.5	1.7	1.4
	34	3.3	1.1	0.6
	35	3.8	0.8	0.9
	36	3.9	0.8	0.7
	Area Mean	3.6	1.2	1.0
STATE MEAN		3.9	1.5	1.2

Table 5. How Michigan turkey hunters rated their 1986 hunting experience.

Area	Hunt Number	Percentage of Turkey Hunters Rating Their 1986 Turkey Hunting Experience as: Very Good	Good	Neither Good Nor Poor	Poor	Very Poor
A	01	18.8	40.6	19.5	13.3	7.8
	02	11.5	31.7	26.9	15.4	14.4
	Area Mean	15.5	36.6	22.8	14.2	10.8
B	03	17.8	33.1	22.3	12.8	14.0
C	04	23.1	41.0	20.2	9.8	5.8
	05	9.3	32.8	28.4	16.4	13.1
	Area Mean	16.0	36.8	24.4	13.2	9.6
D	06	16.8	32.8	23.6	13.4	13.4
F	07	24.2	40.2	17.4	6.8	11.4
	08	10.4	33.0	24.5	21.7	10.4
	Area Mean	18.1	37.0	20.6	13.4	10.9
G	09	24.1	33.3	22.2	9.3	11.1
	10	7.1	32.1	28.6	15.2	17.0
	Area Mean	15.5	32.7	25.5	12.3	14.1
H	11	27.7	53.2	6.4	4.3	8.5
	12	8.5	29.8	36.2	12.8	12.8
	Area Mean	18.1	41.5	21.3	8.5	10.6
J	13	30.8	23.1	38.5	0.0	7.7
	14	29.4	23.5	23.5	23.5	0.0
	Area Mean	30.0	23.3	30.0	13.3	3.3

Table 5. continued:

Area	Hunt Number	Percentage of Turkey Hunters Rating Their 1986 Turkey Hunting Experience as: Very Good	Good	Neither Good Nor Poor	Poor	Very Poor
K	15	30.2	29.6	21.2	8.9	10.1
	16	17.9	41.5	19.5	10.3	10.8
	17	16.6	25.4	23.1	18.3	16.6
	Area Mean	21.5	32.6	21.2	12.3	12.3
L	18	6.8	25.0	27.3	20.5	20.5
	19	10.0	32.5	22.5	15.0	20.0
	Area Mean	8.3	28.6	25.0	17.9	20.2
M	20	33.3	41.7	16.7	0.0	8.3
	21	36.4	24.2	24.2	9.1	6.1
	22	37.8	24.3	24.3	8.1	5.4
	23	26.3	47.4	5.3	15.8	5.3
	Area Mean	34.4	32.8	19.2	7.2	6.4
N	24	40.0	40.0	14.3	2.9	2.9
	25	37.8	35.1	13.5	10.8	2.7
	26	15.2	36.4	30.3	6.1	12.1
	27	20.8	41.7	12.5	12.5	12.5
	Area Mean	29.5	38.0	17.8	7.8	7.0
S	28	20.3	40.7	10.2	13.6	15.3
	29	14.8	29.6	16.7	18.5	20.4
	30	12.5	25.0	25.0	12.5	25.0
	Area Mean	17.4	34.7	14.0	15.7	18.2
V	31	25.8	33.3	24.2	7.6	9.1
	32	18.9	37.8	21.6	10.8	10.8
	Area Mean	22.1	35.7	22.9	9.3	10.0

Table 5. continued:

Area	Number	Percentage of Turkey Hunters Rating Their 1986 Turkey Hunting Experience as: Hunt Very Good	Good	Neither Good Nor Poor	Poor	Very Poor
W	33	24.3	31.3	21.7	10.4	12.2
	34	21.7	31.1	24.5	6.6	16.0
	35	14.3	33.3	22.6	14.3	15.5
	36	9.4	30.2	17.0	17.0	26.4
	Area Mean	19.0	31.6	22.1	11.2	16.2
STATE MEAN		18.9	34.1	22.2	12.4	12.4

Table 6. Relationship between how turkey hunters rated their 1986 hunting experience and whether they tagged a turkey.

Respondent Tagged a Turkey	Percentage of Turkey Hunters Rating Their 1986 Turkey Hunting Experience as:				
	Very Good	Good	Neither Good Nor Poor	Poor	Very Poor
Yes	49.5	39.1	8.2	1.8	1.4
No	11.6	32.9	25.5	14.9	15.1
STATE MEAN	18.5	34.1	22.3	12.5	12.6

Table 7. Relationship between how turkey hunters rated their 1986 hunting experience and the mean number of turkeys heard per day and hunters seen per day.

Rating of the 1986 Turkey Hunting Experience	Mean Number of Turkeys Heard Per Day Hunted	Mean Number of Hunters Seen Per Day Hunted
Very Good	2.6	1.1
Good	1.8	1.3
Neither Good Nor Poor	1.1	1.2
Poor	0.6	1.3
Very Poor	0.3	1.1