

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE DIVISION REPORT NO. 3111**

by Tim F. Reis

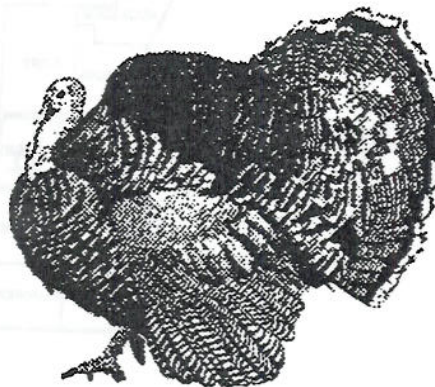
HUNTING RESULTS, MICHIGAN SPRING TURKEY SEASON, 1989*

This report presents the results of a mail survey to hunters who were licensed to hunt wild turkeys (Meleagris gallopavo) in Michigan during the 1989 Spring Turkey Season. Hunters were selected for the survey by randomly selecting names from Department files of license holders. Estimates were derived from the results of 6,966 questionnaires returned out of 7,649. The 91 percent response rate was the result of an original mailing plus four follow-up mailings.

An estimated 22,199 individuals hunted during the 1989 Spring Turkey Season; 26 percent more hunters than in 1988. Hunting effort increased to 87,235 hunter-days, whereas days hunted per hunter remained unchanged (3.9 days afield). There were 6,195 turkeys harvested in 1989 compared to 4,567 in 1988. Hunter success increased from 26 to 28 percent. Two out of three hunters rated their spring turkey hunting experience as good or very good.

In the Upper Peninsula Unit (refer to map on page 2), the number of areas open to hunting was increased from two to four. As a result, 51 percent more hunters (1,656) harvested 80 percent more birds (709). Hunter success was 43 percent. More area was also open to hunting in the Northern Unit. For 17 management areas, hunter numbers increased 21 percent to 19,558. Their harvest of 5,352 birds was 29 percent more than the previous year. In the Southern Unit, turkey hunting was expanded to three areas. There were twice as many hunters (985) as in 1988. Their harvest of 134 turkeys was a three-fold increase from last season. Hunter success, in this unit, increased from 9 to 14 percent.

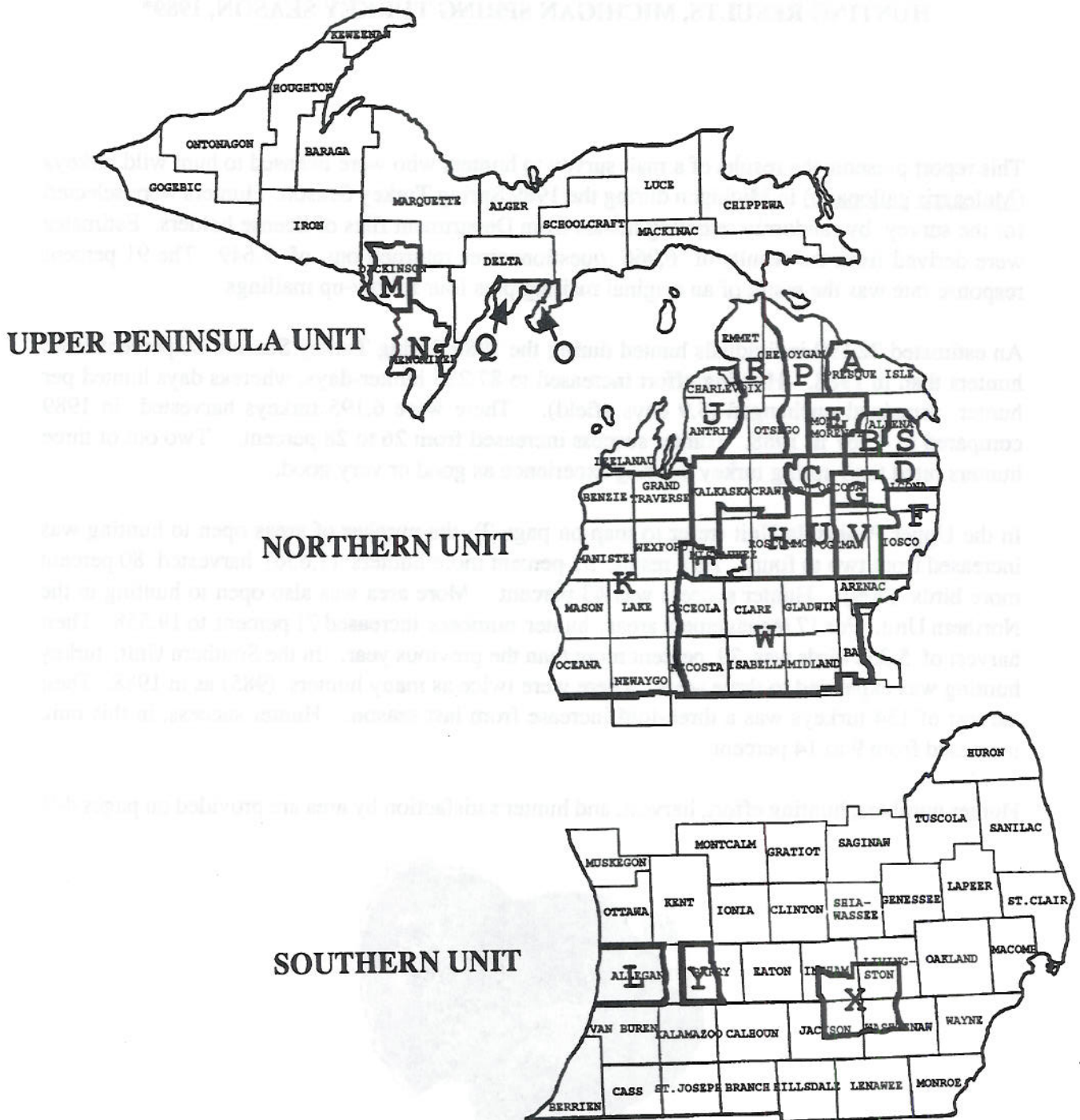
Hunter numbers, hunting effort, harvest, and hunter satisfaction by area are provided on pages 4-9.



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

1989 WILD TURKEY MANAGEMENT UNITS

(LETTERED AREAS ONLY)



HOW RECENT SPRING TURKEY SEASONS COMPARE

| | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| UPPER PENINSULA UNIT | | | | | |
| Licenses available | 600 | 800 | 1,300 | 1,425 | 2,050 |
| Licenses issued | 600 | 727 | 1,035 | 1,308 | 1,819 |
| Hunters [1] | 484 | 609 | 884 | 1,100 | 1,656 |
| Turkey harvest | 144 | 146 | 334 | 393 | 709 |
| Hunter-days | 1,689 | 2,005 | 3,115 | 4,058 | 5,643 |
| Percentage of hunters successful | 30% | 24% | 38% | 36% | 43% |
| NORTHERN UNIT | | | | | |
| Licenses available | 13,910 | 15,450 | 15,940 | 18,235 | 21,830 |
| Licenses issued | 13,910 | 14,912 | 15,261 | 18,235 | 21,830 |
| Hunters [1] | 11,117 | 12,116 | 13,144 | 16,120 | 19,558 |
| Turkey harvest | 1,835 | 2,171 | 2,883 | 4,136 | 5,352 |
| Hunter-days | 44,936 | 46,951 | 53,449 | 64,985 | 77,692 |
| Percentage of hunters successful | 16% | 18% | 22% | 26% | 27% |
| SOUTHERN UNIT | | | | | |
| Licenses available | 500 | 400 | 400 | 600 | 1,200 |
| Licenses issued | 500 | 400 | 400 | 564 | 1,200 |
| Hunters [1] | 381 | 312 | 350 | 433 | 985 |
| Turkey harvest | 37 | 44 | 43 | 38 | 134 |
| Hunter-days | 1,426 | 1,445 | 1,550 | 1,787 | 3,900 |
| Percentage of hunters successful | 10% | 14% | 12% | 9% | 14% |
| TOTAL STATE | | | | | |
| Licenses available | 15,010 | 16,650 | 17,640 | 20,260 | 25,080 |
| Licenses issued | 15,010 | 16,039 | 16,696 | 20,107 | 24,849 |
| Hunters [1] | 11,982 | 13,037 | 14,378 | 17,653 | 22,199 |
| Turkey harvest | 2,016 | 2,361 | 3,260 | 4,567 | 6,195 |
| Hunter-days | 48,051 | 50,451 | 50,114 | 70,830 | 87,235 |
| Percentage of hunters successful | 17% | 18% | 23% | 26% | 28% |

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

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

1989 Spring Turkey Season

| Area | Licenses Issued | Number of Hunters | Harvest | Percent of | | Hunters Successful | Hunter- days | Days Hunted Per Hunter |
|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| | | | | Licenses Hunting | Licenses Successful | | | |
| A | 600 | 518 | 189 | 86 | 32 | 36 | 1,965 | 3.8 |
| B | 1,000 | 826 | 240 | 83 | 24 | 29 | 3,583 | 4.3 |
| C | 1,050 | 952 | 168 | 91 | 16 | 18 | 3,746 | 3.9 |
| D | 3,000 | 2,629 | 616 | 88 | 20 | 23 | 11,711 | 4.4 |
| E | 1,200 | 1,100 | 271 | 92 | 23 | 25 | 4,284 | 3.9 |
| F | 1,300 | 1,170 | 357 | 90 | 27 | 30 | 4,356 | 3.7 |
| G | 1,000 | 911 | 149 | 91 | 15 | 16 | 3,558 | 3.9 |
| H | 450 | 393 | 128 | 87 | 28 | 33 | 1,558 | 4.0 |
| J | 60 | 52 | 20 | 86 | 33 | 38 | 302 | 5.8 |
| K | 4,800 | 4,406 | 1,167 | 92 | 24 | 26 | 17,845 | 4.0 |
| P | 185 | 166 | 73 | 90 | 40 | 44 | 513 | 3.1 |
| R | 185 | 158 | 62 | 85 | 33 | 39 | 706 | 4.5 |
| S | 900 | 781 | 233 | 87 | 26 | 30 | 2,957 | 3.8 |
| T | 300 | 265 | 78 | 88 | 26 | 29 | 912 | 3.4 |
| U | 300 | 276 | 94 | 92 | 31 | 34 | 1,073 | 3.9 |
| V | 700 | 659 | 238 | 94 | 34 | 36 | 2,172 | 3.3 |
| W | 4,800 | 4,296 | 1,269 | 89 | 26 | 29 | 16,451 | 3.8 |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | | |
| Northern Unit | 21,830 | 19,558 | 5,352 | 90 | 24 | 27 | 77,692 | 4.0 |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | | |
| L | 600 | 489 | 50 | 81 | 8 | 10 | 1,970 | 4.0 |
| X | 450 | 363 | 51 | 81 | 11 | 14 | 1,385 | 3.8 |
| Y | 150 | 133 | 33 | 89 | 22 | 25 | 545 | 4.1 |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | | |
| Southern Unit | 1,200 | 985 | 134 | 82 | 11 | 14 | 3,900 | 4.0 |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | | |
| M | 475 | 425 | 136 | 89 | 29 | 32 | 1,575 | 3.7 |
| N | 1,199 | 1,110 | 522 | 93 | 43 | 47 | 3,571 | 3.2 |
| O | 95 | 74 | 31 | 78 | 33 | 42 | 257 | 3.5 |
| Q | 50 | 47 | 20 | 93 | 39 | 42 | 240 | 5.1 |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | | |
| Upper Peninsula Unit | 1,819 | 1,656 | 709 | 91 | 39 | 43 | 5,643 | 3.4 |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | | |
| STATE TOTAL | 24,849 | 22,199 | 6,195 | 89 | 25 | 28 | 87,235 | 3.9 |

HOW TURKEY HUNTERS RATED THEIR HUNTING EXPERIENCE

*Percentage of Turkey Hunters Rating Their 1989 Spring
Turkey Hunting Experience as:*

| Area | Hunt Number | Very Good | Good | Neither Good Nor Poor | Poor | Very Poor |
|------|----------------|-----------|------|--------------------------|------|-----------|
| A | 01 | 32.7 | 49.0 | 12.2 | 6.1 | 0.0 |
| | 02 | 26.0 | 26.0 | 22.0 | 14.0 | 12.0 |
| | 03 | 20.0 | 28.9 | 35.6 | 8.9 | 6.6 |
| | Area Mean | 26.4 | 34.7 | 22.9 | 9.7 | 6.3 |
| B | 04 | 23.1 | 33.1 | 23.6 | 12.7 | 7.5 |
| C | 05 | 28.6 | 42.9 | 18.5 | 8.4 | 1.6 |
| | 06 | 22.3 | 43.8 | 18.7 | 9.4 | 5.8 |
| | Area Mean | 25.2 | 43.4 | 18.6 | 8.9 | 3.9 |
| D | 07 | 21.1 | 41.4 | 20.1 | 11.9 | 5.5 |
| E | 08 | 36.8 | 48.2 | 9.4 | 4.7 | 0.9 |
| | 09 | 24.7 | 42.0 | 21.5 | 7.5 | 4.3 |
| | 10 | 17.9 | 40.0 | 29.5 | 6.3 | 6.3 |
| | Area Mean | 26.9 | 43.6 | 19.7 | 6.1 | 3.7 |
| F | 11 | 46.2 | 34.4 | 9.7 | 5.2 | 4.5 |
| | 12 | 26.3 | 35.0 | 23.8 | 11.9 | 3.0 |
| | Area Mean | 36.0 | 34.7 | 16.9 | 8.6 | 3.8 |
| G | 13 | 32.0 | 41.8 | 17.2 | 7.4 | 1.6 |
| | 14 | 19.2 | 33.3 | 29.2 | 12.5 | 5.8 |
| | Area Mean | 25.6 | 37.7 | 23.1 | 9.9 | 3.7 |

HOW TURKEY HUNTERS RATED THEIR HUNTING EXPERIENCE (CONT.)

*Percentage of Turkey Hunters Rating Their 1989 Spring
Turkey Hunting Experience as:*

| Area | Hunt Number | Very Good | Good | Neither Good Nor Poor | Poor | Very Poor |
|------|----------------|-----------|------|--------------------------|------|-----------|
| H | 15 | 55.5 | 25.9 | 13.0 | 3.7 | 1.9 |
| | 16 | 25.5 | 25.5 | 23.6 | 14.5 | 10.9 |
| | Area Mean | 40.4 | 25.7 | 18.3 | 9.2 | 6.4 |
| J | 17 | 37.8 | 37.7 | 8.9 | 8.9 | 6.7 |
| K | 18 | 35.4 | 42.5 | 13.7 | 4.7 | 3.7 |
| | 19 | 25.1 | 42.7 | 21.6 | 8.3 | 2.3 |
| | 20 | 21.4 | 41.7 | 21.1 | 11.7 | 5.1 |
| | Area Mean | 27.0 | 42.3 | 18.8 | 8.2 | 3.7 |
| L | 21 | 16.3 | 25.5 | 23.3 | 14.0 | 20.9 |
| | 22 | 12.5 | 20.8 | 22.9 | 18.8 | 25.0 |
| | 23 | 2.3 | 9.1 | 9.1 | 34.1 | 45.4 |
| | Area Mean | 10.4 | 18.5 | 18.5 | 22.2 | 30.4 |
| M | 24 | 26.8 | 39.1 | 24.4 | 7.3 | 2.4 |
| | 25 | 15.8 | 39.4 | 13.2 | 18.4 | 13.2 |
| | 26 | 18.2 | 36.3 | 18.2 | 18.2 | 9.1 |
| | 27 | 3.6 | 46.4 | 25.0 | 14.3 | 10.7 |
| | Area Mean | 16.9 | 40.7 | 20.3 | 13.6 | 8.5 |
| N | 28 | 41.5 | 39.0 | 10.4 | 6.5 | 2.6 |
| | 29 | 40.0 | 40.0 | 13.3 | 2.7 | 4.0 |
| | 30 | 25.3 | 46.8 | 12.7 | 10.1 | 5.1 |
| | 31 | 22.4 | 43.2 | 22.4 | 9.0 | 3.0 |
| | Area Mean | 32.6 | 42.3 | 14.4 | 7.0 | 3.7 |

HOW TURKEY HUNTERS RATED THEIR HUNTING EXPERIENCE (CONT.)

*Percentage of Turkey Hunters Rating Their 1989 Spring
Turkey Hunting Experience as:*

| Area | Hunt Number | Very Good | Good | Neither Good Nor Poor | Poor | Very Poor |
|------|----------------|-----------|------|--------------------------|------|-----------|
| O | 32 | 51.3 | 17.9 | 25.6 | 2.6 | 2.6 |
| | 33 | 25.9 | 51.9 | 18.5 | 3.7 | 0.0 |
| | Area Mean | 41.0 | 31.8 | 22.7 | 3.0 | 1.5 |
| P | 34 | 47.7 | 33.3 | 19.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| | 35 | 31.8 | 41.0 | 9.1 | 13.6 | 4.5 |
| | Area Mean | 39.5 | 37.2 | 14.0 | 7.0 | 2.3 |
| Q | 36 | 25.5 | 46.5 | 14.0 | 7.0 | 7.0 |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| R | 37 | 50.0 | 37.5 | 12.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| | 38 | 27.3 | 45.5 | 18.2 | 4.5 | 4.5 |
| | Area Mean | 39.1 | 41.3 | 15.2 | 2.2 | 2.2 |
| S | 39 | 36.4 | 37.6 | 13.0 | 7.8 | 5.2 |
| | 40 | 27.0 | 40.5 | 17.6 | 9.5 | 5.4 |
| | 41 | 6.9 | 46.6 | 27.6 | 10.3 | 8.6 |
| | Area Mean | 24.9 | 41.1 | 18.7 | 9.1 | 6.2 |
| T | 42 | 44.7 | 47.4 | 5.3 | 2.6 | 0.0 |
| | 43 | 22.2 | 36.2 | 22.2 | 19.4 | 0.0 |
| | Area Mean | 33.8 | 41.9 | 13.5 | 10.8 | 0.0 |
| U | 44 | 36.8 | 42.1 | 10.5 | 5.3 | 5.3 |
| | 45 | 25.0 | 35.0 | 20.0 | 15.0 | 5.0 |
| | Area Mean | 30.8 | 38.4 | 15.4 | 10.3 | 5.1 |

HOW TURKEY HUNTERS RATED THEIR HUNTING EXPERIENCE (CONT.)

*Percentage of Turkey Hunters Rating Their 1989 Spring
Turkey Hunting Experience as:*

| Area | Hunt Number | Very Good | Good | Neither Good Nor Poor | Poor | Very Poor |
|------------|----------------|-----------|------|--------------------------|------|-----------|
| V | 46 | 34.4 | 44.5 | 13.3 | 5.6 | 2.2 |
| | 47 | 33.3 | 41.6 | 14.3 | 6.0 | 4.8 |
| | Area Mean | 33.9 | 43.2 | 13.8 | 5.7 | 3.4 |
| W | 48 | 36.2 | 39.4 | 16.9 | 4.9 | 2.6 |
| | 49 | 25.8 | 39.1 | 21.5 | 9.1 | 4.5 |
| | 50 | 19.2 | 36.7 | 19.5 | 16.9 | 7.7 |
| | Area Mean | 27.3 | 38.6 | 19.3 | 10.0 | 4.8 |
| X | 51 | 45.2 | 25.7 | 16.1 | 6.5 | 6.5 |
| | 52 | 34.4 | 43.7 | 21.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| | 53 | 28.6 | 50.0 | 7.1 | 3.6 | 10.7 |
| | Area Mean | 36.3 | 39.5 | 15.4 | 3.3 | 5.5 |
| Y | 54 | 38.2 | 35.7 | 19.0 | 0.0 | 7.1 |
| | 55 | 42.2 | 42.1 | 10.5 | 2.6 | 2.6 |
| | 56 | 47.5 | 25.0 | 20.0 | 7.5 | 0.0 |
| | Area Mean | 42.5 | 34.2 | 16.7 | 3.3 | 3.3 |
| State Mean | | 27.5 | 39.2 | 18.8 | 9.4 | 5.1 |

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

*Percentage of Turkey Hunters Rating Their 1989 Spring
Turkey Hunting Experience as:*

| Respondent Tagged a Turkey | Very Good | Good | Neither Good Nor Poor | Poor | Very Poor |
|----------------------------------|-----------|------|--------------------------|------|-----------|
| Yes | 56.4 | 35.6 | 6.2 | 1.4 | 0.4 |
| No | 16.2 | 40.7 | 23.7 | 12.4 | 7.0 |
| STATE MEAN | 27.5 | 39.2 | 18.8 | 9.4 | 5.1 |

