

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

by Tim F. Reis

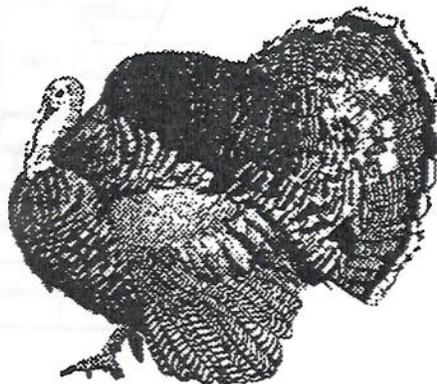
HUNTING RESULTS, MICHIGAN SPRING TURKEY SEASON, 1989*

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.



HOW RECENT SPRING TURKEY SEASONS COMPARE

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
<i>UPPER PENINSULA UNIT</i>					
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%
<i>NORTHERN UNIT</i>					
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%
<i>SOUTHERN UNIT</i>					
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%
<i>TOTAL STATE</i>					
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			Hunter- days	Days Hunted Per Hunter
				Licenses Hunting	Licenses Successful	Hunters 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
Northern Unit	21,830	19,558	5,352	90	24	27	77,692	4.0
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
Southern Unit	1,200	985	134	82	11	14	3,900	4.0
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
Upper Peninsula Unit	1,819	1,656	709	91	39	43	5,643	3.4
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

