

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE DIVISION
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909

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THE 1981 PHEASANT CROWING SURVEY

by
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The 1980-81 winter was quite mild throughout the pheasant range and we were hoping for a continuation in the upswing which began last year. Results of the crowing survey did not reflect this, however, with overall counts practically unchanged from 1980 (down 4 percent, Table 1).

The Thumb counties (Area 1, Table 2) continue to show improvement, although counts on the pheasant mini-areas were down somewhat, and the Fish Point count dropped from 203 to 103. No outstanding changes occurred in the other areas.

The survey was conducted the last three weeks in May in the primary range. Average of the 44 Region III routes was 5.8 calls per 2-minute stop. Three of the four Region II routes showed slight decreases from last year, but Isabella County registered 76 calls, which would place it in the top one-third of the Region III counties. Counts were as follows (1981 given first): Bay: 11-12, Isabella: 76-46, Mecosta: 21-22, and Newaygo: 27-32. Menominee County birds are holding up well, with a count of 22 this spring (29 last year) on a 20-stop route.

Nesting season weather has been generally favorable, but we are concerned that extremely heavy rains in the southern tier of counties may have flooded out some low-lying nesting sites. Wet weather has delayed haying operations throughout the Region.

TABLE 1
1981 Pheasant Crowing Survey
REGION III

County	No. of Pheasant Calls		Crowing Index	
	1980	1981	1980	1981
Allegan, NE	7	24	0.6	2.0
Allegan, NW	32	32	2.7	2.7
Allegan, S	45	36	3.8	3.0
Allegan, Fennville	297	-	24.8	-
Barry	68	90	5.7	7.5
Berrien	135	84	11.3	7.0
Branch	37	48	3.1	4.0
Calhoun	25	28	2.1	2.3
Cass	12	13	1.0	1.1
Clinton, E	58	69	4.8	5.8
Eaton, SE	137	48	11.4	4.0
Eaton, W	53	56	4.4	4.7
Genesee	186	112	15.5	9.3
Gratiot	14	11	1.2	0.9
Hillsdale, N	53	61	4.4	5.1
Hillsdale, S	59	74	4.9	6.2
Huron, N	94	138	7.8	11.5
*Huron (Peters-Kretzschmer)	83	73	20.8	18.3
Ingham, E	64	89	5.3	7.4
Ionia	42	41	3.5	3.4
Jackson, NE	19	69	1.6	5.8
Kalamazoo	45	30	3.8	2.5
Kalamazoo-Barry	35	19	2.9	1.6
Kent, SW	32	31	2.7	2.6
Lapeer	42	71	3.5	5.9
Lenawee, N	49	69	4.1	5.8
Lenawee, SE	59	42	4.9	3.5
Lenawee, SW	60	70	5.0	5.8
Livingston, NW	141	82	11.8	6.8
Macomb	37	34	3.1	2.8
Monroe, W	59	67	4.9	5.6
Montcalm	34	27	2.8	2.3
Muskegon	36	34	3.0	2.8
Ottawa	36	41	3.0	3.4
Saginaw	35**	35	3.5	2.9
St. Clair, N	121	123	10.1	10.3
St. Clair, S	35	34	2.9	2.8
St. Joseph	1	23***	0.1	1.9
Sanilac, W	130	203	10.8	16.9
Shiawassee, SE	227	195	18.9	16.3
*Tuscola (Findlay)	64	45	16.0	11.3
Tuscola (Fish Point)	203	103	16.9	8.6
Tuscola, S	125	140	10.4	11.7
Van Buren	119	108	9.9	9.0
Washtenaw	44	65	3.7	5.4
Average of the 43 comparable routes	73.1	67.2	5.7	5.6

*4 listening stops

**10 listening stops

***New route run

Pheasant Crowing Index by Areas
1979-1981

<u>Area 1:</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
Huron (Peters-Kretzschmer)	18.5	20.8	18.3
Huron, N	6.8	7.8	11.5
Sanilac, W	8.0	10.8	16.9
Tuscola, S	2.6	10.4	11.7
Tuscola (Findlay)	17.3	16.0	11.3
Tuscola (Fish Point)	17.3	16.9	8.6
St. Clair, N	<u>4.2</u>	<u>10.1</u>	<u>10.3</u>
Average:	8.9 (5.4)*	13.3 (9.8)*	<u>12.1</u> (12.6)*
<u>Area 2:</u>			
Hillsdale, N	4.0	4.4	5.1
Hillsdale, S	1.8	4.9	6.2
Macomb	4.2	3.1	2.8
Lenawee, N	3.0	4.1	5.8
Lenawee, SE	1.7	4.9	3.5
Lenawee, SW	<u>3.1</u>	<u>5.0</u>	<u>5.8</u>
Average:	3.0	4.4	4.9
<u>Area 3:</u>			
Clinton	7.2	4.8	5.8
Eaton, SE	13.5	11.4	4.0
Eaton, W	5.1	4.4	4.7
Ingham, E	3.0	5.3	7.4
Ionia	2.9	3.5	3.4
Shiawassee, SE	<u>12.1</u>	<u>18.9</u>	<u>16.3</u>
Average:	7.3	8.1	6.9
<u>Area 4:</u>			
Barry	5.7	5.7	7.5
Berrien	15.6	11.3	7.0
Branch	1.7	3.1	4.0
Calhoun	2.2	2.1	2.3
Cass	1.3	1.0	1.1
Kalamazoo	3.1	3.8	2.5
Kalamazoo-Barry	2.8	2.9	1.6
St. Joseph	0.1	0.1	1.9
Van Buren	<u>12.9</u>	<u>9.9</u>	<u>9.0</u>
Average:	3.7	4.4	4.1
<u>Area 5:</u>			
Allegan, NE	2.9	0.6	2.0
Allegan, NW	3.9	2.7	2.7
Allegan, S	2.2	3.8	3.0
Allegan, Fennville	24.1	24.8	-
Ottawa	<u>6.7</u>	<u>3.0</u>	<u>3.4</u>
Average:	8.0 (3.9)**	7.0 (2.5)**	<u>2.8</u>

*Excluding Fish Point and pheasant mini-areas

**Excluding Fennville - not run in 1981