

STATUS OF WILDLIFE POPULATIONS, FALL 2011

(Including 2001-2011 Hunting and Trapping Harvest Statistics)



edited by
Margaret H. Dexter

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Research Unit
Saint Paul, Minnesota
1 (888) 646-6367
<http://www.mndnr.gov>

January, 2012 State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is available to all individuals regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, age, sexual orientation, membership or activity in a local commission, or disability. Discrimination inquiries should be sent to MN-DNR, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4031; or the Equal Opportunity Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240.

Printed on recycled paper containing a minimum of 30% post-consumer waste and soy-based ink

This report should be cited as follows:

Dexter, M.H., editor. 2011. Status of wildlife populations, fall 2011. Unpub. Rep., Division of Fish and Wildlife, Minn. Dept. Nat. Res., St. Paul, Minnesota. 327 pp.

Note: Data in this report may change as a result of future verification and more comprehensive analysis.

Status of Wildlife Populations, Fall 2011

(Including 2001-2011 Hunting and Trapping Harvest Statistics)

This is the 35th year that the DNR has compiled this booklet; it is primarily an administrative document intended for DNR personnel. Since 1984 we have also generated a companion volume, *Summaries of Wildlife Research Findings*, containing annual summaries of activities and findings from ongoing research projects in the Wildlife Policy and Research Unit. This publication will be posted on the DNR website and available in other formats upon request. In the on-line format links are available to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Migratory Bird Management to access their reports for Waterfowl Population Status; Migratory Bird Harvest Information Preliminary Estimates; American Woodcock Population Status; and Mourning Dove Population Status.

Most of the fieldwork associated with collection of census and survey data for farmland, wetland, and forest wildlife is performed by wildlife biologists and managers (conservation officers also participate in August roadside counts). The Farmland, Wetland, and Forest Wildlife Population and Research groups coordinate these activities, analyze and interpret data, and prepare recommendations for harvest regulations and season setting.

Most of the hunting and trapping harvest estimates are calculated and summarized by St. Paul central office personnel.

Compiling and publishing this report was funded in part under the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, Minnesota project W-69-S.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Wildlife Populations And Surveys

Farmland Wildlife.....	1-40
2011 Minnesota August Roadside Survey	3-15
Population Trends of White-Tailed Deer in Minnesota's Farmland/Transition Zone, 2011	16-24
2010 Spring Wild Turkey Hunter Survey Report	25-36
Wildlife Damage Complaints	37-50
Carnivore Scent Station Survey And Winter Track Indices	51-68
Carnivore Scent Station Survey Summary, 2010	53-60
Furbearer Winter Track Survey Summary, 2010	61-68
Forest Wildlife	69-118
Grouse Surveys In Minnesota Spring 2011	71-80
Prairie-Chicken Survey In Minnesota Spring 2011	81-87
Registered Furbearer Population Modeling	88-102
Population Trends Of White-Tailed Deer In The Forest Zone, 2011.....	103-112
Aerial Moose Survey, 2011	113-118
Wetland Wildlife	119-174
2011 Minnesota Waterfowl Breeding Population Survey.....	121-134
Excerpt from <i>Waterfowl Population Status, 2011</i>	135-139
Minnesota Spring Canada Goose Survey, 2011.....	140-144
Excerpt from <i>Mourning Dove Population Status, 2011</i>	145-149
Excerpt from <i>American Woodcock Population Status, 2011</i>	150-154
Ring-necked duck breeding pair survey, 2011.....	155-166
Ring-necked duck breeding pair counts in 14 lakes in North-central Minnesota, 1975-2011.....	167-173

Hunting and Trapping Harvest Statistics

Hunting.....	175-288
2010 Small Game Hunter Mail Survey.....	177-187
Excerpt from <i>Migratory Bird Harvest Information, 2010: preliminary estimates</i>	188-191
2010 September Special Canada Goose Hunt	192-199
2011 Light Goose Conservation Order Harvest	200-202
2010 Fall Wild Turkey Harvest Report	203-210
2011 Spring Turkey Harvest Report.....	211-219
2010 Minnesota Prairie-Chicken Hunting Season and Hunter Survey	220-223
2010 Bear Harvest Report	224-236
2010 Deer Harvest Report	237-278
2010 Elk Harvest Population and Harvest Report	279-282
2010 Moose Harvest Report.....	283-286
2010 Sandhill Crane Harvest Report	287
Trapping.....	289-298
2010 Trapper Harvest Survey	291-296
Minnesota Fur Buyers Survey for the 2010-11 Hunting and Trapping Season	297-298
Registered furbearers.....	299-327
Registered Furbearer Harvest Statistics, 2010-11 Report	313-327

CONTACT INFORMATION

Farmland Wildlife Populations and Research Group
35365 800th Avenue
Madelia, MN 56062-9744
(507) 642-8478

Forest Wildlife Populations and Research Group
1201 East Highway 2
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
(218) 327-4432

Wetland Wildlife Populations and Research
102 23rd Street
Bemidji, MN 56601
(218) 308-2282

Division of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Policy and Research Unit
500 Lafayette Road, Box 20
Saint Paul, MN 55155 - 4020
(651) 259-5199

INDEX

	Page
August farmland roadside survey	1-15
2010 data.....	9-11
grassland habitat.....	4, 8
historical summary.....	9-15
weather summary.....	3, 4, 5
 Badger	
Hunting	
harvest	186
hunter success	185
number of hunters	183
take per hunter.....	184, 185
pelt prices	297, 298
survey, August roadside	7
trapping	
harvest	296
number of trappers	294
take per trapper.....	295
 Bald eagle.....	7
 Bear	
hunting harvest report	224-236
harvest	224, 227, 231 233, 234, 235
number of hunters	224, 227, 228
permits / applicants.....	224, 227, 229
population estimates.....	224-225, 236
success.....	225, 227, 228, 232
management units.....	226
pelt prices.....	297, 298
wildlife damage complaints	39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 47
 Beaver	
pelt prices.....	101, 297, 298
trapping	
harvest	296
number of trappers	294
take per trapper.....	295
wildlife damage complaints.....	39
 Black duck	
breeding population	128, 129, 130, 131
hunting	
harvest, Minnesota, 2009-2010	189
 Bobcat	
carcass examination data.....	89, 92-94
harvest	

Bobcat (cont.)	
areas open to trapping	302
by county.....	304, 305, 306
by method of take.....	309
distribution among takers by year.....	308
distribution by 5-day increments	307
registered take	89, 92, 93, 94, 296, 303, 304-307, 308, 309
pelt prices.....	92, 297, 298
population data.....	89, 92-94
population model	88, 89, 92-94
scent post indices	54, 60, 88, 89, 94
winter track indices	62, 66, 88, 89, 94
Bufflehead	
breeding population	128, 129, 130, 131
hunting, harvest, Minnesota, 2009-2010	189
Canvasback	
breeding populations	
Minnesota	128, 129, 130, 131
North America.....	139
hunting, harvest, Minnesota, 2009-2010	189
Carnivore scent station survey.....	53-60, 88
Cat, domestic	
survey, scent post indices.....	54, 57, 58, 59
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	3, 4, 8
Coot, American	
Breeding population.....	123, 128, 129, 130, 131
hunting	
harvest	184, 185, 186
number of hunters	183
take per hunter.....	184, 185
Cottontail, eastern	
hunting	
harvest	184, 185, 186
number of hunters	183
take per hunter.....	184, 185
survey, August roadside	3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 11, 14
Cougar.....	39
Coyote	
hunting	
harvest	184, 185, 186
number of hunters	183

Coyote (cont.)	
take per hunter.....	184, 185
pelt price	297, 298
survey	
August roadsides	7
scent post indices.....	54, 57, 58,59
winter track indices	62, 67
trapping	
harvest	296
number of trappers	294
take per trapper.....	295
Crane, sandhill	
harvest	287
survey, August roadside	3, 7, 9, 10, 11
wildlife damage complaints.....	39
Crow, American	
hunting	
harvest	184, 185, 186
number of hunters	183
take per hunter.....	184, 185
Deer, white-tailed	
farmland/transition zone	
management units	17, 18
permit areas	19
population trends.....	16-24
survey, August roadside	3, 6, 9, 10, 11, 15
forest zone	
permit areas	103, 104, 106, 107, 108, 109
harvest	
antlerless	104, 111
archery	104
buck	104, 110
muzzleloader.....	104
total	104, 109
spring population modeling, density estimates	103-112
hunting harvest report	237-278
archery harvest by permit area.....	250-251
archery harvest by bonus permit area	252
archery landowner harvest by permit area	253
archery special hunts summary.....	253
early antlerless harvest by permit area.....	247
estimated hunters.....	239, 240
firearms harvest by permit area	241, 244, 261-262
firearms bonus permit harvest by permit area.....	245, 246
firearms landowner harvest by permit area.....	249
firearms special hunt summary.....	248
firearms youth hunt summary.....	258

Deer, white-tailed (cont.)	
harvest and success rates	104, 109-111, 239, 240
harvest per square mile.....	263-265
licenses sold (firearms).....	239
licenses sold (archery)	239
muzzleloader harvest by permit area	254-255
muzzleloader bonus permit harvest by permit area	256
muzzleloader landowner harvest by permit area.....	257
muzzleloader special permit area.....	257
total deer harvest by permit area	259-260
zones / permit areas	238
lottery distributions	
antlerless lottery distribution, 2010	266-271
firearms special permit area lottery distribution	276-277
muzzleloader special permit area lottery distribution	272-275, 278
pelt prices	297, 298
wildlife damage complaints	39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 48
Dog, domestic	
survey, scent post indices.....	54, 57, 58, 59
Dove, mourning	
breeding population survey.....	145-149
hunting	
harvest	184, 185, 186
number of hunters	183
take per hunter.....	184, 185
survey, August roadside	3, 6, 9, 10, 11, 15
Duck stamp sales	
Minnesota (federal and state).....	186
Ducks	
breeding populations	
Minnesota.....	121-139
North America.....	138-139
hunting	
harvest	
Minnesota	184, 185, 186, 189
nonresidents in Minnesota	187
take per hunter, Minnesota	184, 185
top 10 states, 2010	190
number of hunters	
Minnesota	183, 190
nonresidents in Minnesota	187
Mississippi flyway	
active hunters	190
hunter days	190
top 10 states, 2010	190

Elk	
harvest	280
area open to hunt.....	281, 282
wildlife damage complaints	39, 42, 43
Ermine (see Weasel)	
Fisher	
carcass examination data.....	89, 95
pelt prices.....	95, 297, 298
population data.....	89, 90, 95
population model	88, 89, 90, 95-97
trapping	
areas open to trapping	302
distribution among takers	314
registered take	89, 95, 96, 97, 296, 303, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314
take by county	310, 311, 312
take by county and sex	311
take by date and sex	313
Survey, winter track indices.....	61, 62, 63, 66, 88, 90, 97
Fox, gray	
hunting	
harvest	184, 185, 186
number of hunters	183
take per hunter.....	184, 185
hunter success	185
pelt prices.....	297, 298
trapping	
harvest	296
number of trappers	294
take per trapper.....	295
Fox, red	
hunting	
harvest	184, 185, 186
number of hunters	183
take per hunter.....	184, 185
hunter success	185
pelt prices.....	297, 298
survey	
August roadsides	7
scent post indices.....	54, 57-59
winter track indices	61, 62, 67
trapping	
harvest	296
number of trappers	294
take per trapper.....	295
Furbuyers survey	297-298

Gadwall	
breeding populations,	
Minnesota	121, 123, 128, 129, 130, 131
North America.....	138
hunting, harvest, Minnesota, 2009-2010	189
Gallinules (see Rails and Gallinules)	
Goldeneye	
breeding population	128, 129, 130, 131
hunting harvest, Minnesota, 2009-2010	189
Goose, Canada	
Hunting	
September early season, 2010	192-199
harvest, Minnesota	1184 185, 186, 191, 192
harvest by flyway	191
hunter days	191
number of hunters, Minnesota.....	183, 191, 192
number of hunters, nonresident in Minnesota	187
hunter success	185
take per hunter, Minnesota	184, 185, 191
take per nonresident hunter	187
Top 10 states, 2010	191
breeding populations	
Eastern Prairie Population breeding survey, 1971-72 thru 2010-11	135, 136
Minnesota	121, 123, 124, 125, 128, 129, 130, 133
wildlife damage complaints	39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 49
survey, spring population	140-144
Goose, other than Canada	
hunting	
harvest, Minnesota	184, 185, 186
number of hunters	183
take per hunter.....	184, 185
hunter success	185
Light goose conservation order	200-202
Grouse, ruffed	
hunting	
harvest	184, 185, 186
number of hunters	183
number of nonresident hunters	187
hunter success	185
take per hunter.....	184, 185
take per nonresident hunter	187
survey, Spring	71-80
Grouse, sharp-tailed	

hunting	
harvest	184, 185, 186
number of hunters	183
take per hunter.....	184, 185
hunter success	185
survey	
August roadside.....	7
Spring.....	71-80
Grouse, spruce	
hunting	
harvest	184, 185, 186
number of hunters	183
take per hunter.....	184, 185
hunter success	185
Hare, snowshoe	
hunting	
harvest	184, 185, 186
number of hunters	183
take per hunter.....	184, 185
hunter success	185
survey, winter track indices.....	61, 62, 67
Hawk, Coopers	7
Heron, great blue	7
Hunters, deer	
hunting success	104, 239, 240
licenses sold (firearms, archery).....	239
Hunters, small game	
harvest.....	184, 185, 186
license sales	180, 182
mail survey.....	177-187
numbers hunting and not hunting	180
take per hunter	184, 185
success rates	185
Hunters, nonresident small game	
harvest.....	187
licenses sold.....	187
mail survey response	187
Indigo bunting	7
Jackrabbit, white-tailed	

hunting	
harvest	184, 185, 186
hunter success	185
number of hunters	183
take per hunter.....	184, 185
survey, August roadside	3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 11, 14
Kingfisher, belted	7
Lynx	
trapping	
registered harvest,	296
Magpie	7
Mallard (domestic)	
hunting	
harvest, Minnesota	189
Mallard (wild)	
breeding populations	
Minnesota.....	121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132
North America.....	138
hunting	
harvest, Minnesota, 2009-2010	189
Marten, pine	
carcass examination data.....	98
pelt prices.....	98, 297, 298
population data.....	90, 98-100
population model	88, 90, 98-100
trapping	
areas open to trapping	302
distribution of harvest among takers.....	319
registered harvest.....	90, 98, 99, 100, 296, 303, 315-320
take by county	315, 316, 317
take by county and sex	316
take by date and sex	318
winter track indices	61, 62, 63, 66, 88, 90, 100
May ponds.....	125, 126, 137, 139
Merganser, hooded	
breeding population	128, 129, 130, 131
hunting	
harvest, Minnesota, 2009-2010	189
Merganser, other than hooded	
breeding population	128, 129, 130, 131
hunting	

harvest, Minnesota, 2009-2010	189
Mink	
pelt prices.....	297, 298
trapping	
harvest.....	296
number of trappers	294
take per trapper.....	295
Moose	
hunting,	283-286
harvest	283, 284, 285
permit areas	286
permit applications	283, 284, 285
permits issued.....	283, 284, 285
party success.....	283, 284, 285
survey, aerial – population estimates.....	113-118
Muskrat	
pelt prices.....	297, 298
trapping	
harvest	296
number of trappers	294
take per trapper.....	295
Opossum	
pelt prices.....	297, 298
trapping	
harvest	296
number of trappers	294
take per trapper.....	295
Otter	
pelt prices.....	101, 297, 298
population data.....	90, 101, 102
population model	88, 90, 101-102
trapping	
area open to trapping	302
distribution among takers	327
registered take	90, 101, 102, 296, 303, 331-327
take by county	321, 322-323, 324-325, 326, 327
take by county and sex	322-323
take by date and sex	326
Wildlife damage complaints.....	43
Partridge, gray	
hunting	
harvest	184, 185, 186
hunter success	185
number of hunters	183
take per hunter.....	184, 185

survey, August roadside	3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13
Pelt prices of furbearers, 1999-00 thru 2010-11	297-298
Pheasant, ring-necked	
hunting	
harvest	13, 184, 185, 186
harvest by nonresident hunters	187
hunter success	185
number of hunters	183
number of nonresident hunters	187
take per hunter	184, 185
take per nonresident hunter	187
survey	
August roadside	
agricultural region data	3, 4
birds observed per 100 miles driven	5, 9, 10, 11, 13
broods	
observed per 100 miles driven.....	5, 9
observed per 100 hens.....	9
cocks observed per 100 miles driven	5, 9
hatch date.....	5, 9
hens observed per 100 miles driven.....	5, 9
Pheasant stamp sales	186
Pintail, Northern	
breeding populations	
Minnesota	128, 129, 130, 131
North America.....	139
hunting, harvest, Minnesota, 2009-2010.....	189
Ponds, May (Minnesota, North Central U.S. and Prairie Canada)	125, 126, 137, 139
Prairie chicken, greater	
survey	
August roadsides	7
Hunter harvest	220-223
Spring.....	81-87
hunting	
applicants	221, 223
area open to hunting	223
harvest	221, 222, 223
lottery results	221, 222
number of permits available	221, 222, 223
number of permits issued	221, 222
success rate.....	221, 222, 223
Predator / furbearer scent station survey summary	53-60

Rabbit (see Cottontail, eastern; Hare, snowshoe; and Jackrabbit, white-tailed)

Raccoon	
hunting	
harvest	184, 185, 186
harvest by nonresident hunters	187
hunter success	185
number of hunters	183
number of nonresident hunters	187
take per hunter.....	184, 185
take per nonresident hunter	187
pelt prices.....	297, 298
trapping	
harvest	296
number of trappers	294
take per trapper.....	295
survey, scent post indices.....	54, 57-59
Rails/gallinules	
hunting	
harvest	184, 185, 186
hunter success	185
number of hunters	183
take per hunter.....	184, 185
Redhead	
breeding populations	
Minnesota	121, 123, 128, 129, 130, 131
North America.....	139
hunting, harvest, Minnesota, 2009-2010.....	189
Registered furbearers.....	301-327
harvest.....	303
population modeling	88-102
Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM).....	4, 8
Ring-necked duck	
breeding population	121, 123, 128, 129, 130, 131
hunting, harvest, Minnesota, 2009-2010.....	189
survey, breeding pairs	155-166, 167-173
Ruddy duck	
breeding population	128, 129, 130, 131
hunting, harvest, Minnesota, 2009-2010.....	189
Sandhill crane.....	3, 7, 9, 10, 11
harvest	287
Sandpiper, upland	7

Scaup, greater / lesser	
breeding populations	
Minnesota	121, 123, 124, 128, 129, 130, 131, 133
North America.....	139
hunting, harvest, Minnesota, 2009-2010	189
Scent post survey (see Carnivore scent station survey summary)	
Scoter	
hunting, harvest, Minnesota, 2009-2010.....	189
Shooting permits	39, 42, 43, 44
Shoveler, northern	
breeding populations	
Minnesota	128, 129, 130, 131
North America.....	139
hunting, harvest, Minnesota, 2009-2010.....	189
Skunk, spotted	
trapping	
harvest	296
number of trappers	294
take per trapper.....	295
Skunk, striped	
pelt prices.....	297, 298
survey	
scent post indices.....	54, 57-59
trapping	
harvest	296
number of trappers	294
take per trapper.....	295
Snipe, common	
hunting	
harvest	184, 185, 186
hunter success	185
number of hunters	183
take per hunter.....	184, 185
Squirrel, fox	
hunting	
harvest	184, 185, 186
hunter success	185
number of hunters	183
take per hunter.....	184, 185
Squirrel, gray	
hunting	
harvest	184, 185, 186

hunter success	185
number of hunters	183
take per hunter.....	184, 185
Swan, trumpeter	7, 124
Teal, blue-winged	
breeding populations	
Minnesota.....	121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132
North America.....	138
hunting, harvest, Minnesota, 2009-2010.....	189
Teal, green-winged	
breeding populations	
Minnesota	128, 129, 130, 131
North America.....	138
hunting	
harvest, Minnesota, 2009-2010	189
Trappers	
Mail survey	291-296
harvest.....	296
license sales.....	291, 293, 296
mail survey response.....	292, 293
number trapping.....	293, 294
take per trapper	295
Turkey, wild	
Fall hunting, 2010.....	203-210
harvest	203, 204, 205-208, 210
number of permits available	203, 204, 205-208, 210
number of permits issued	203, 204, 205-208, 210
success rate.....	203, 204, 205-208
Spring hunting, 2011	211-219
area open to hunting by zone.....	218
harvest	211, 213, 214-216, 219
number of permits applicants	211, 213, 219
number of permit available.....	211, 213, 216, 217
number of persons hunting	214-216
success rate.....	211, 213, 214-216
Survey,	
August roadside.....	7
Wildlife damage complaints.....	39, 42, 43
Waterfowl (see Ducks; duck by species name; Geese; and Hunters, waterfowl)	
Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA).....	4, 5

Weasel, long-tailed	
pelt prices.....	297, 298
trapping	
harvest.....	296
number of trappers	294
take per trapper.....	295
winter track indices.....	62, 63, 67
Weasel, short-tailed	
pelt prices.....	297, 298
trapping	
harvest.....	296
number of trappers	294
take per trapper.....	295
winter track indices.....	62, 63, 67
Wetland Reserve Program (WRP).....	4, 8
Wigeon, American	
breeding populations	
Minnesota	128, 129, 130, 131
North America.....	138
hunting, harvest, Minnesota, 2009-2010	189
Wildlife damage complaints	37-50
Wildlife Management Areas (WMA).....	4, 5
Winter severity index	104, 105
Winter track survey summary	61-67
Wolf, gray (timber)	
survey	
scent post indices.....	54, 60
winter track indices	61, 62, 66
Wildlife damage complaints	39
Woodcock, American	
singing ground survey results	150-154
breeding range.....	150
hunting	
days afield	153
harvest	153, 184, 185, 186
hunter success	185
number of hunters	153, 183
take per hunter.....	184, 185
recruitment.....	152

Wood duck	
Breeding population	121, 123, 128, 129, 130, 131
hunting, harvest, Minnesota, 2009-2010	189

