

# STATUS OF WILDLIFE POPULATIONS, FALL 2013

(Including 2003-2013 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>

March, 2014 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. 2013. Status of wildlife populations, fall 2013. Unpub. Rep., Division of Fish and Wildlife, Minn. Dept. Nat. Res., St. Paul, Minnesota. 338 pp.

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



## Status of Wildlife Populations, Fall 2013

(Including 2003-2013 Hunting and Trapping Harvest Statistics)

This is the 37<sup>th</sup> 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. Due to staffing changes and workload considerations some reports were not available at time of publication.

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

<b>Farmland Wildlife</b> .....	1-32
2013 Minnesota August Roadside Survey .....	3-16
Monitoring Population Trends Of White-Tailed Deer In Minnesota, 2013 .....	17-26
2013 White-Tailed Deer Surveys .....	27-31
<b>Wildlife Damage Complaints</b> .....	33-58
Wildlife Damage Complaints, 2011 .....	35-45
Wildlife Damage Complaints, 2012 .....	46-57
<b>Carnivore Scent Station Survey And Winter Track Indices</b> .....	59-76
Carnivore Scent Station Survey Summary, 2012 .....	61-68
Furbearer Winter Track Survey Summary, 2012 .....	69-76
<b>Forest Wildlife</b> .....	77-102
2013 Minnesota Spring Grouse Surveys .....	79-88
2013 Minnesota Prairie-Chicken Survey.....	89-95
Aerial Moose Survey, 2013.....	96-101
<b>Wetland Wildlife</b> .....	103-174
2013 Waterfowl Breeding Population Survey Minnesota.....	105-121
Excerpt from <i>Waterfowl Population Status, 2013</i> .....	122-124
Minnesota Spring Canada Goose Survey, 2013 .....	125-130
Excerpt from <i>Mourning Dove Population Status, 2013</i> .....	131-135
Excerpt from <i>American Woodcock Population Status, 2013</i> .....	136-140
Ring-necked duck breeding pair survey, 2013 .....	141-157
Estimating Numbers of Breeding Sandhill Cranes in NW Minnesota, 2013 .....	158-174
<b>Hunting and Trapping Harvest Statistics</b>	
<b>Hunting</b> .....	175-292
2012 Small Game Hunter Mail Survey .....	177-187
Excerpt from <i>Migratory Bird Harvest Information, 2012: preliminary estimates</i> .....	188-191
2012 September Canada Goose Hunt .....	192-198
2013 Light Goose Conservation Order Harvest .....	199-202
Minnesota's Wild Turkey Harvest, 2013 .....	203-208
Prairie-Chicken Harvest in Minnesota During 2012.....	209-212
Status of Minnesota Black Bears .....	213-237
2012 Minnesota Deer Harvest Report.....	238-280
2012 Minnesota Elk Harvest Report .....	281-285
2012 Minnesota Moose Harvest Report.....	286-289
Minnesota Sandhill Crane Harvest Report, 2012.....	290-291
<b>Trapping</b> .....	293-306
2012 Trapper Harvest Survey .....	295-303
Minnesota Fur Buyers Survey for the 2012-13 Hunting and Trapping Season .....	304-305
<b>Registered furbearers</b> .....	307-338
Registered Furbearer Harvest Statistics, 2012-13 Report .....	307-337

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Farmland Wildlife Populations and Research Group  
35365 800<sup>th</sup> 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 .....	1-16
2013 data .....	10-12
grassland habitat.....	9
historical summary .....	10-16
weather summary .....	4, 5
 Badger	
Hunting	
harvest.....	185, 186
hunter success .....	185
number of hunters .....	183
take per hunter .....	184, 185
pelt prices .....	304, 305
trapping	
harvest.....	300, 302
number of trappers .....	299
take per trapper .....	299
 Bald eagle.....	7
 Bear	
hunting harvest and status report .....	213-237
food abundance index .....	227-231
harvest .....	213, 214, 216 221, 222, 223, 232-235, 237
number of hunters .....	213, 216
permits / applicants .....	213, 216, 218, 219
population estimates.....	215, 236, 237
success .....	216, 218, 222
management units .....	213, 214, 217, 219, 221, 222
pelt prices.....	304, 305
wildlife damage complaints.....	35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 43, 46, 47, 48, 50, 55, 224, 225
 Beaver	
pelt prices.....	304, 305
trapping	
harvest.....	300, 301
number of trappers .....	299
take per trapper .....	299
wildlife damage complaints .....	35, 46
 Black duck	
breeding population .....	113, 114, 115, 116
hunting, harvest, Minnesota, 2011-2012 .....	189
 Bobcat	
harvest	
areas open to trapping .....	310
by county.....	313, 314, 315
Bobcat (cont.)	

by method of take.....	318
distribution among takers by year.....	317
distribution by sex and date .....	316
registered take .....	300, 303, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318
pelt prices.....	304, 305
survey	
scent post indices .....	62, 68
winter track indices.....	71, 75
 Bufflehead	
breeding population .....	113, 114, 115, 116
hunting, harvest, Minnesota, 2011-2012 .....	189
 Canvasback	
breeding populations	
Minnesota .....	113, 114, 115, 116, 123
North America .....	123
hunting, harvest, Minnesota, 2011-2012 .....	189
 Carnivore scent station survey .....	59-68
 Cat, domestic	
survey, scent post indices .....	62, 65, 66, 67
 Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) .....	3, 5, 9
 Coot, American	
Breeding population .....	107, 108, 113, 114, 115, 116
hunting	
harvest.....	185, 186
number of hunters .....	183
take per hunter .....	184, 185
 Cooper's hawk .....	7
 Cottontail, eastern	
hunting	
harvest.....	185, 186
number of hunters .....	183
take per hunter .....	184, 185
survey, August roadside .....	3, 4, 6, 10, 11, 12, 15
 Cougar, wildlife damage complaints .....	35, 46
 Coyote	
hunting	
harvest.....	185 186
number of hunters .....	183
take per hunter .....	184, 185
Coyote (cont.)	
pelt price .....	304, 305

survey	
scent post indices .....	62, 65, 66, 67
winter track indices .....	70, 71, 76
trapping	
harvest.....	300, 301
number of trappers .....	299
take per trapper .....	299
Crane, sandhill	
harvest.....	290-291
survey	
August roadside .....	3, 7, 10, 11, 12
breeding population in NW Minnesota.....	158-174
wildlife damage complaints .....	35, 46
Crow, American	
hunting	
harvest.....	185, 186
number of hunters .....	183
take per hunter .....	184, 185
Deer, white-tailed	
population trends.....	17-26
management units .....	18-20, 21
permit areas.....	21
pre-fawning deer density.....	22-26
hunting harvest report.....	238-280
archery harvest by permit area.....	249-250
archery harvest by bonus and disease management permit areas .....	251
archery landowner harvest by permit area .....	252
archery special hunts summary.....	252
estimated hunters .....	241, 260-261
firearms harvest by permit area.....	241, 242-245
firearms bonus and disease management harvest by permit area .....	246
firearms landowner harvest by permit area.....	248
firearms special hunt summary .....	247
firearms youth hunt summary .....	257
harvest and success rates.....	238, 240
harvest per square mile .....	242-245, 262-264
licenses sold (firearms) .....	240
licenses sold (archery).....	240
muzzleloader harvest by permit area .....	253-254
muzzleloader bonus permit harvest by permit area .....	255
muzzleloader landowner harvest by permit area.....	256
muzzleloader special permit area.....	256
total deer harvest by permit area .....	258-259
zones / permit areas.....	239
Deer (cont.)	
lottery distributions	
antlerless lottery distribution, 2012.....	265-271



firearms special permit area lottery distribution .....	277-279
muzzleloader special permit area lottery distribution .....	272-276, 280
pelt prices .....	304, 305
survey	
August roadside .....	3, 7, 10, 11, 12, 16
Aerial population .....	27-31
wildlife damage complaints .....	35, 36, 38, 39, 44, 46, 47, 48, 50, 51, 56
Dog, domestic	
survey, scent post indices .....	62, 65, 66, 67
Dove, mourning	
breeding population survey .....	131-135
hunting	
harvest .....	185, 186
number of hunters .....	183
take per hunter .....	184, 185
survey, August roadside .....	3, 7, 10, 11, 12, 16
Duck stamp sales	
Minnesota (federal and state).....	186
Ducks	
breeding populations	
Minnesota.....	105-120
North America .....	122-123
hunting	
harvest	
Minnesota.....	181, 184, 185, 186
nonresidents in Minnesota.....	187
take per hunter, Minnesota .....	184
top 10 states, 2011, 2012.....	190
number of hunters	
Minnesota.....	183, 190
nonresidents in Minnesota.....	187
Mississippi flyway	
active hunters .....	190
hunter days.....	190
top 10 states, 2011, 2012 .....	190
Elk	
harvest report .....	281-285
wildlife damage complaints.....	38, 39, 50
Ermine (see Weasel)	
Fisher	
pelt prices.....	304, 305
trapping	
areas open to trapping .....	310

distribution among takers.....	323
registered take .....	300, 303, 311, 312, 319, 320, 321, 322
take by county .....	319, 320, 321
take by county and sex.....	320
take by date and sex .....	322
Survey, winter track indices .....	69, 70, 71, 75
Fox, gray	
hunting	
harvest.....	185, 186
number of hunters .....	183
take per hunter .....	184, 185
hunter success .....	185
pelt prices.....	304, 305
trapping	
harvest.....	300, 302
number of trappers .....	299
take per trapper .....	299
Fox, red	
hunting	
harvest.....	185, 186
number of hunters .....	183
take per hunter .....	184, 185
hunter success .....	185
pelt prices.....	304, 305
survey	
scent post indices .....	62, 65, 66, 67
winter track indices.....	69, 70, 71, 76
trapping	
harvest.....	300, 302
number of trappers .....	299
take per trapper .....	299
Furbuyers survey.....	304-305
Gadwall	
breeding populations,	
Minnesota .....	105, 407, 113, 114, 115, 116, 122
North America .....	122
hunting, harvest, Minnesota, 2011-2012 .....	189
Gallinules (see Rails and Gallinules)	

Goldeneye	
breeding population .....	113, 114, 115, 116
hunting harvest, Minnesota, 2011-2012.....	189
Goose, Canada	
Hunting	
September early season, 2012.....	192-198
harvest, Minnesota.....	181 184, 185, 186
harvest by flyway .....	191
hunter days.....	191
number of hunters, Minnesota .....	183, 191
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, 2012 .....	191
breeding populations	
Eastern Prairie Population breeding survey, 1971-72 thru 2012-13 .....	124
Minnesota .....	105, 107, 108, 110, 113, 114, 115, 116, 119, 163
survey, spring population .....	125-130
wildlife damage complaints.....	35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 57
Goose, other than Canada	
hunting	
harvest, Minnesota.....	185, 186
number of hunters .....	183
take per hunter .....	184, 185
hunter success .....	185
Light goose conservation order.....	199-202
Grouse, ruffed	
hunting	
harvest.....	181, 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.....	70, 79-88
Grouse, sharp-tailed	
hunting	
harvest.....	185, 186, 209, 210
number of hunters .....	183
take per hunter .....	184, 185
hunter success .....	185
survey, Spring.....	79-88
Grouse, spruce	
hunting	
harvest.....	185, 186

number of hunters .....	183
take per hunter .....	184, 185
hunter success .....	185
Hare, snowshoe	
hunting	
harvest.....	185, 186
number of hunters .....	183
take per hunter .....	184, 185
hunter success .....	185
survey, winter track indices .....	37, 38, 39, 44
Hunters, deer	
hunting success.....	238, 240
licenses sold (firearms, archery).....	238
Hunters, small game	
harvest.....	185, 186
license sales.....	177, 180, 186
mail survey .....	177-187
estimated hunters .....	182, 183
take per hunter .....	184, 185
success rates.....	185
Hunters, nonresident small game	
harvest.....	187
licenses sold.....	187
mail survey response .....	187
Jackrabbit, white-tailed	
hunting	
harvest.....	185, 186
hunter success .....	185
number of hunters .....	183
take per hunter .....	184, 185
survey, August roadside .....	3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 15
Lynx	
trapping, registered harvest, .....	300
Mallard (domestic)	
hunting, harvest, Minnesota.....	189
Mallard (wild)	
breeding populations	
Minnesota.....	105, 107, 108, 110, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 122, 146
North America .....	122
Mallard (cont.)	
hunting, harvest, Minnesota, 2011-2012 .....	189
Marten, pine	

pelt prices.....	304, 305
trapping	
areas open to trapping .....	310
distribution of harvest among takers.....	328, 329
registered harvest .....	300, 303, 311, 312, 324-328
take by county .....	324, 325, 326
take by county and sex.....	325
take by date and sex .....	327
winter track indices.....	69, 70, 71, 75
May ponds.....	110, 112, 123
Merganser, hooded	
breeding population .....	113, 114, 115, 116
hunting	
harvest, Minnesota, 2011-2012.....	189
Merganser, other than hooded	
breeding population .....	113, 114, 115, 116
hunting	
harvest, Minnesota, 2011-2012.....	189
Mink	
pelt prices.....	304, 305
trapping	
harvest.....	300, 301
number of trappers .....	299
take per trapper .....	299
survey, August roadsides .....	7
Moose	
hunting, .....	286-289
harvest.....	286, 287, 288
permit areas .....	286, 287, 288, 289
permit applications.....	286, 287, 288
permits issued .....	286, 287, 288
party success .....	286, 287, 288
survey, aerial – population estimate .....	96-101
Muskrat	
pelt prices.....	304, 305
trapping	
harvest.....	300, 301
number of trappers .....	299
take per trapper .....	299
Opossum	
pelt prices.....	304, 305
trapping	
harvest.....	300, 301
number of trappers .....	299

take per trapper .....	299
Otter	
pelt prices.....	304, 305
trapping	
area open to trapping.....	310
distribution among takers.....	337
registered take .....	300, 303, 311, 312, 330-337
take by county .....	330, 331, 333
take by county and sex.....	331-335
take by date and sex .....	336
Partridge, gray	
hunting	
harvest.....	185, 186
hunter success .....	185
number of hunters .....	183
take per hunter .....	184, 185
survey, August roadside .....	3, 4, 6, 10, 11, 12, 14
Pelt prices of furbearers, 2002-03 thru 2012-13 .....	304-305
Pheasant, ring-necked	
hunting	
harvest.....	14, 181, 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.....	3, 5, 10, 11, 12, 14
broods	
observed per 100 miles driven .....	3, 6, 10
observed per 100 hens.....	10
cocks observed per 100 miles driven.....	5, 10
hatch date.....	6, 10
hens observed per 100 miles driven .....	5, 9
Pheasant stamp sales.....	186

Pintail, Northern	
breeding populations	
Minnesota .....	113, 114, 115, 116, 123
North America .....	123
hunting, harvest, Minnesota, 2011-2012 .....	189
Ponds, May (Minnesota, North Central U.S. and Prairie Canada) .....	110, 112, 123
Prairie chicken, greater	
survey	
August roadside .....	7
Hunter harvest .....	209-212
Spring .....	89-95
hunting	
applicants .....	211, 212
area open to hunting .....	212
harvest .....	210, 211
lottery results .....	210, 211
number of permits available .....	210, 211, 212
number of permits issued .....	210, 211
success rate .....	210, 211, 212
Rabbit (see Cottontail, eastern; Hare, snowshoe; and Jackrabbit, white-tailed)	
Raccoon	
hunting	
harvest .....	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 .....	304, 305
trapping	
harvest .....	300, 301
number of trappers .....	299
take per trapper .....	299
survey, scent post indices .....	62, 65-67
Rails/gallinules	
hunting	
harvest .....	185, 186
hunter success .....	185
number of hunters .....	183
take per hunter .....	184, 185

Redhead	
breeding populations	
Minnesota .....	113, 114, 115, 116, 123
North America .....	123
hunting, harvest, Minnesota, 2011-2012 .....	189
Registered furbearers .....	309-337
harvest.....	311
Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) .....	5, 9
Ring-necked duck	
breeding population .....	105, 107, 113, 114, 115, 116
hunting, harvest, Minnesota, 2011-2012 .....	189
survey, breeding pairs.....	141-157
Ruddy duck	
breeding population .....	113, 114, 115, 116
hunting, harvest, Minnesota, 2011-2012 .....	189
Sandhill crane.....	3, 7, 10, 11, 12
harvest .....	290-291
survey, breeding population in NW Minnesota .....	158-174
wildlife damage complaints .....	35, 46
Sandpiper, upland .....	7
Scaup, greater / lesser	
breeding populations	
Minnesota .....	105, 107, 108, 113, 114, 115, 116, 119-120, 123
North America .....	123
hunting, harvest, Minnesota, 2011-2012 .....	189
Scent post survey (see Carnivore scent station survey )	
Scoter	
hunting, harvest, Minnesota, 2011-2012 .....	189
Shoveler, northern	
breeding populations	
Minnesota .....	105, 107, 113, 114, 115, 116, 123
North America .....	123
hunting, harvest, Minnesota, 2011-2012 .....	189
Skunk, spotted	
trapping, harvest .....	300



Skunk, striped	
pelt prices.....	304, 305
survey	
scent post indices .....	62, 65, 66, 67
trapping	
harvest.....	300, 301
number of trappers .....	299
take per trapper .....	299
Snipe, common	
hunting	
harvest.....	185, 186
hunter success .....	185
number of hunters .....	183
take per hunter .....	184, 185
Squirrel, fox	
hunting	
harvest.....	185, 186
hunter success .....	185
number of hunters .....	183
take per hunter .....	184, 185
Squirrel, gray	
hunting	
harvest.....	185, 186
hunter success .....	185
number of hunters .....	183
take per hunter .....	184, 185
Swan, trumpeter .....	7, 46, 108
Teal, blue-winged	
breeding populations	
Minnesota.....	105, 107, 108, 110, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 122, 146
North America .....	122
hunting, harvest, Minnesota, 2011-2012 .....	189
Teal, green-winged	
breeding populations	
Minnesota .....	113, 114, 115, 116, 122
North America .....	122
hunting	
harvest, Minnesota, 2011-2012.....	189
Trappers	
Mail survey.....	295-303
harvest.....	299, 300-303
license sales.....	295, 297, 298, 300
mail survey response .....	297, 298
Trappers (cont.)	

number trapping.....	298, 299
take per trapper .....	299
Turkey, wild	
Fall hunting, 2012.....	203-208
harvest.....	203, 204, 205, 208
permits .....	203, 204, 205, 208
success rate .....	203, 204, 205
Spring hunting, 2013 .....	203-208
area open to hunting by zone .....	207
harvest.....	203, 205, 206, 208
permits .....	203, 205, 206, 207, 208
success rate .....	203, 205, 206
wildlife damage complaints .....	35, 38, 39, 46, 49, 50
Walk-In Areas (WIAs).....	177, 181
Waterfowl (see Ducks; duck by species name; Geese; and Hunters, waterfowl)	
Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA).....	5, 9
Weasel, long-tailed	
pelt prices.....	304, 305
trapping	
harvest.....	300
number of trappers .....	299
take per trapper .....	299
winter track indices.....	71, 76
Weasel, short-tailed	
pelt prices.....	304, 305
trapping	
harvest.....	300
number of trappers .....	299
take per trapper .....	299
winter track indices.....	71, 76
Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) .....	5, 9
Wigeon, American	
breeding populations	
Minnesota .....	113, 114, 115, 116, 122
North America .....	122
hunting, harvest, Minnesota, 2011-2012 .....	189
Wildlife Damage Complaints.....	33-57
Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) .....	5, 9
Winter track survey .....	69-76

Wolf, gray (timber)	
survey	
scent post indices .....	62, 68
winter track indices.....	70, 71, 75
wildlife damage complaints .....	35, 46
Woodcock, American	
singing ground survey results .....	136-140
breeding range .....	136
hunting	
days afield.....	139
harvest.....	139, 185, 186
hunter success .....	185
number of hunters .....	139, 183
take per hunter .....	184, 185
recruitment.....	137, 138
Wood duck	
Breeding population .....	105, 107, 113, 114, 115, 116, 146
hunting, harvest, Minnesota, 2011-2012 .....	189
Woodpecker, red-headed .....	7