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Pheasant Crop Best Since '66

Southern Michigan pheasant hunters this fall should score their highest harvest since 1966, if they can take advantage of the birds' upswing in numbers from last season.

This summer's pheasant brood survey by some 600 rural mail carriers indicates that the birds' over-all population last season when hunters took an estimated 423,000 ringnecks in lower Michigan.

The latest brood counts, recorded by mail carriers while they traveled some 400,000 miles along their

regular delivery routes, point to improvements in pheasant numbers in all major areas of the birds' primary southern range.

THE BIRDS made their biggest gains, averaging about 30 per cent higher than last year, in Branch, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, and Calhoun counties of south-western Michigan.

In Ottawa County, the state's top area for pheasant production, the birds were measuring up to last year's levels. Elsewhere in western Michigan, Allegan County holds a better supply of pheasants than a year ago.

In the southeastern part of the state, this fall's promising outlook reflects some solid increases among pheasants in Hillsdale County, and another good crop of birds comparable to last year in Lenawee County.

This summer's mail carrier counts are also generally encouraging for the southern part of Michigan's pheasant hunting prospects stand out in Ingham, Eaton, and Shiawassee counties.

SOUTHERN Michigan's Thumb area, the state's prime pheasant country in the 1940s and early '50s, showed a slight improvement from last year in brood sightings. However, its production of birds still remains well below the level of other areas which make up Michigan's major pheasant range.

The bulk of the Thumb area's pheasants are making their home in St. Clair County, judging from latest brood survey returns.

This fall's pheasant hunting possibilities remain relatively slim in the fringe area of the birds' range which covers Gladwin, Isabella, Mecosta, Midland, and Newaygo counties.



NELSON SCHRADER

Psychologists have for a long time been interested in the effects of color on our personality. And it is a fact that the colors you choose for a room go a long way toward shaping your feelings about the room. Warm colors, cool colors, exciting ones, quiet ones - use them where you think they will do the most good. Make use of colors as you would textures: suit the choice to the mood and to the furniture the room will contain.

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TRASH, SNAGS and discarded grocery carts all seem to have been dumped from this bridge near Middle Belt Road into the Middle Rouge River. It's one of the worst sections of a 25-mile stretch of the stream that will be the target of the Sept. 16 "Rescue the Rouge" project. (Observer photo)

WANTED

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Get Bear, Waterfowl Permits

The application period is running short for Michigan hunters who want some early-season action on waterfowl at the Shiawassee River and Maple River state game areas, and those sportsmen hoping to take part in the Oct. 13-19 bear season in the Gaylord and Mio districts of the northern Lower Peninsula.

Sept. 18 marks the last day to apply through the Dept. of Natural Resources for reservations to hunt geese at the Shiawassee River area during the Oct. 1-3 period. It also stands as the deadline for registration requests covering the first three days of the waterfowl season (Oct. 6-8) in the eastern flooded unit of the Maple River State Game Area.

Instructions for filling out these applications may be obtained by contacting DNR field offices throughout the state, or by writing the Department's Wildlife Division Office in Lansing (ZIP Code 48226).

Sept. 20 is the cut-off point for seeking permits covering this fall's short bear season in the Gaylord and Mio districts. As the first step toward submitting requests for these permits, hunters must buy their 1972 bear or sportsman's licenses. The number of either license must be included in each application, which is to be made with a regular government postcard.

On the message side of each postcard, the applicant is required to specify the district in which he wishes to hunt. Below this information, he is to sign his name in ink. On the postage side of the same card, each applicant must type or print his name and address for return-mailing.

The completed postcard application is then to be mailed in an envelope bearing eight-cent postage addressed to: Bear Permit, P.O. Drawer M, Lansing, Michigan 48226.

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Consumers Power Company neither sells nor installs insulation, but for a number of years has encouraged its customers to investigate the benefits of insulating their homes.

