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# PROFILE OF WISCONSIN HUNTERS



Technical Bulletin No. 60  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
Madison, Wisconsin  
1972

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## **ABSTRACT**

To obtain more information about the users of Wisconsin's game resources, a 7-page questionnaire survey was mailed to a sample of 1,500 Wisconsin resident hunters drawn from the stubs of 1968 hunting licenses. Sixty-nine percent of the questionnaires were returned.

Responses were analyzed according to the type of game hunted: big game, small mammals, predators, upland birds and waterfowl. Data on characteristics, activities and attitudes of Wisconsin hunters were obtained. Findings included such information as: most hunters hunted in groups, most were raised in rural communities, most hunted primarily to enjoy nature (rather to bag a limit or a trophy), and most supported more arrests and larger fines. These and other survey results should provide resource managers and sportsmen with useful guidelines by which they can continue to manage the state's game resources and to transmit to the public, the principles of game management.

# **A PROFILE OF WISCONSIN HUNTERS**

**By**

**Lowell L. Klessig and James B. Hale**

Technical Bulletin No. 60  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
Madison, Wisconsin 53701  
1972

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# INTRODUCTION

Resource managers are becoming increasingly aware that management of natural resources involves management of the people who use the resources. Extensive research on the physical and biological aspects of natural resources has made scientific management of these resources possible. Our knowledge of the human users is less well developed. However, the ability to manage human behavior becomes more critical as increasing numbers of people seek outdoor recreation. If conflict among users is to be minimized and destruction of the resource base is to be averted, enlightened decisions must be made to regulate resource users.

This study was designed to obtain information on the characteristics, activities, and attitudes of the users of Wisconsin's game resources. The results should provide useful guidelines for resource managers, hunters and all other citizens concerned with the welfare of Wisconsin's wildlife.

The population of this study included all Wisconsin resident hunters. Names of 1,500 hunters were drawn from stubs of 1968 hunting licenses. A seven-page questionnaire was mailed to this sample of hunters. Sixty-nine percent of

the hunters completed the questionnaire.

In this bulletin the question asked is shown, followed by the distribution of responses from all hunters presented as simple frequency percentages and the responses by each of six types of hunters compared to each other and to the value obtained for "all hunters" (Table 1). To obtain the value for "all hunters", each hunter was simply counted once. To obtain the value for each of the six types of hunting, however, an individual's response was tallied under each type of game he hunted. Since most hunters hunt more than one type of game, there is a high degree of overlap between types. For example, if a particular individual was a big game (gun) hunter, a small mammal hunter, and a predator hunter his responses were included in the value for each of the three types. Because of this overlap, differences between types tend to be reduced and in a few cases the value for "all hunters" is outside the range of values for the individual hunting types.

Big game (gun) hunting was by far the most popular type of hunting followed by upland bird and small mammal hunting. Only one in four hunters was a waterfowl hunter.

**TABLE 1.** Definitions, Symbols and Relative Popularity of Six Types of Hunting

	All Hunters	Big Game (Gun)	Big Game (Archery)	Small Mammals	Upland Birds	Predators	Waterfowl
<b>Game Pursued</b>	All Legal Game	Deer Bear	Deer Bear	Squirrel Rabbits Raccoon	Pheasant Grouse Partridge Turkey	Fox Coyote Bobcat	Ducks Geese
<b>Percent Involved</b>	100	84	21	57	58	18	25

# CHARACTERISTICS OF HUNTERS

Rural residence and a farm background were found in the present or recent family heritage of most hunters. This was less likely to be the case for upland bird and waterfowl hunters than for other types of hunters. Big game (gun) hunters and predator hunters had the most rural backgrounds.

Bird hunters were most likely to have a father with a

white collar job and least likely to have a father who was a farmer. Bird hunters were the most likely to have started in a white collar occupation and were most apt to still be in a white collar position. Bird hunters had nearly the highest educational attainment and did have the highest income.

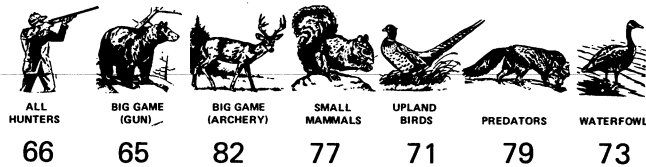
The responses to a full set of demographic variables are provided in this section.

## WHAT IS YOUR AGE?

Age Group	Percent
12-19 .....	20
20-29 .....	28
30-39 .....	18
40-49 .....	15
50-59 .....	11
60-69 .....	6
70-83 .....	2
Total .....	100

Almost half of Wisconsin resident hunters were under 30 years of age. Two thirds of Wisconsin hunters were under 40 years of age. Archery hunters were the youngest hunters; 82 percent were under 40 years of age compared to 66 percent of all hunters. Small mammal and predator hunters also tended to be young while big game (gun) hunters were the oldest group of hunters.

### PERCENTAGE UNDER 40

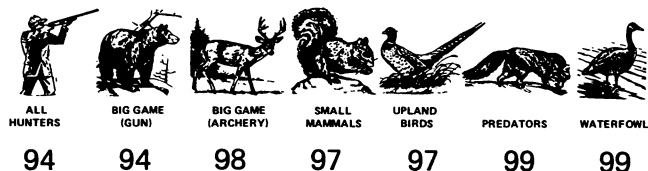


## WHAT IS YOUR SEX?

Sex	Percent
Male .....	94
Female .....	6
Total .....	100

Hunting is almost exclusively a male sport. The percentage of women hunters does vary by the type of hunting done. Women who hunt tend to be big game (gun) hunters.

### PERCENTAGE MALE

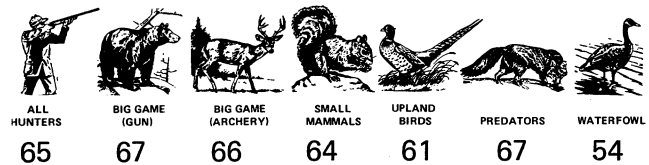


## WHERE WAS YOUR FATHER BROUGHT UP?

Type of Place	Percent
Farm . . . . .	65
Small town . . . . .	19
City . . . . .	16
Total . . . . .	100

If not raised on a farm, most hunters were no more than one generation removed from rural living. The farm background of the fathers of hunters was strongest among predator and big game hunters. It was weakest for bird hunters, particularly waterfowl hunters.

### PERCENT OF FATHERS REARED ON A FARM

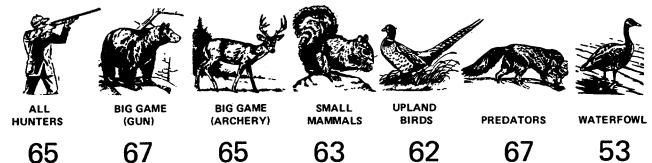


## WHERE WERE YOUR PARENTS LIVING WHEN YOU WERE BORN?

Size of Place	Percent
<i>Rural</i>	
Farm . . . . .	43
Open country but not farm . . . .	6
Town of less than 2,500 . . . . .	16
<i>Urban</i>	
City of 2,550-9,999 . . . . .	9
City of 10,000-49,999 . . . . .	13
City of more than 50,000 . . . . .	13
Total . . . . .	100

Most hunters were born to parents who were at the time residing in a rural area. Forty-three percent began their life on a farm. Bird hunters, especially waterfowl hunters, were the least rural in terms of their birthplace. However, even a majority of this group was born to parents who resided in a rural area.

### PERCENT RURAL

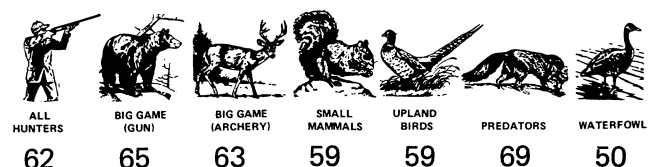


## HOW LARGE WAS THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH YOU SPENT MOST OF YOUR LIFE BEFORE AGE 18?

Size of Place	Percent
<i>Rural</i>	
Farm . . . . .	37
Open country but not farm . . . .	7
Town of less than 2,500 . . . . .	18
<i>Urban</i>	
City of 2,500 - 9,999 . . . . .	11
City of 10,000-49,999 . . . . .	14
City of more than 50,000 . . . . .	13
Total . . . . .	100

A majority of hunters were raised in a rural environment. A plurality were raised on a farm. Approximately equal numbers were raised in small, medium, and large-sized cities. Half of the waterfowl hunters were raised in an urban environment, and, for all other types of hunters, a clear majority had rural backgrounds. Predator hunters were most likely to have rural backgrounds.

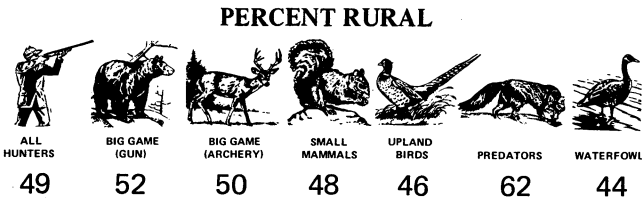
### PERCENT RURAL



WHAT IS THE SIZE OF THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH YOU NOW LIVE?

Size of Place	Percent
<i>Rural</i>	
Farm . . . . .	18
Open country but not farm . . . .	13
Town of less than 2,500 . . . . .	18
<i>Urban</i>	
City of 2,500-9,999 . . . . .	13
City of 10,000-49,999 . . . . .	17
City of 50,000-300,000 . . . . .	13
Milwaukee Metropolitan area . . .	8
Total . . . . .	100

The number of hunters presently living on farms was less than the number who were born or raised on farms. Nevertheless, an increase in nonfarm, open-country living helped maintain the percentage of hunters who live in rural areas. As would be anticipated from data on place of birth and childhood residence, bird hunters were the most urban in terms of present residence. Predator hunters were by far the most likely to be presently living in a rural area.



HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU LIVED WITHIN FIFTY MILES OF WHERE YOU NOW LIVE?

Number of Years	Percent
0-9 . . . . .	14
10-19 . . . . .	26
20-29 . . . . .	26
30-39 . . . . .	12
40-49 . . . . .	11
50-59 . . . . .	7
60-75 . . . . .	4
Total . . . . .	100

Hunters do not tend to move especially often. Since most hunters are young, the number of years that they have resided within 50 miles of present residence cannot be great. Only those hunters who have lived within 50 miles of home for less than 10 years, have definitely moved. Predator hunters were the least likely to have moved 50 miles or more within the past 9 years.

PERCENTAGE WHO MOVED 50 MILES OR MORE IN THE PAST NINE YEARS



HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU LIVED IN WISCONSIN?

Number of Years	Percent
0-9 . . . . .	3
10-19 . . . . .	4
20-29 . . . . .	5
30-39 . . . . .	3
40-49 . . . . .	2
50-59 . . . . .	1
60-69 . . . . .	1
All life . . . . .	81
Total . . . . .	100

Very few Wisconsin hunters were new to the state. Because of age differences, only those who lived here less than 10 years were definitely emigrants to the state. Eighty-one percent lived in Wisconsin all their lives.

PERCENTAGE WHO HAVE LIVED IN WISCONSIN FOR LESS THAN 10 YEARS



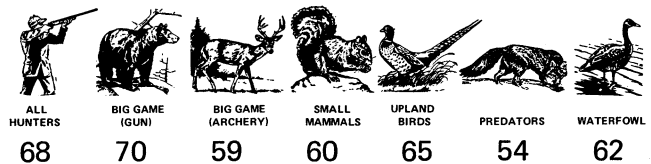


## WHAT IS YOUR MARITAL STATUS?

Martial Status	Percent
Married .....	68
Widowed .....	1
Divorced or separated ..	2
Never married .....	29
Total .....	100

Over two-thirds (68%) of Wisconsin hunters were married. Most of the remainder were never married which reflects the young age of hunters. Relatively few hunters were widowed, separated, or divorced. The percentage of married hunters was greatest among big game (gun) hunters. Other groups of hunters had substantially lower percentages of married hunters. Archery hunters and predator hunters were the least likely to be married.

### PERCENT MARRIED

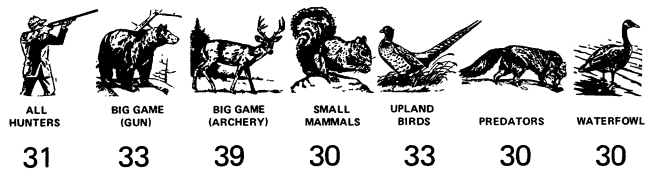


## IF MARRIED, HOW MANY CHILDREN, IF ANY, DO YOU HAVE UNDER 18?

Number of Children	Percent
0 .....	33
1 .....	16
2 .....	20
3 .....	14
4 .....	8
5 .....	4
6 .....	3
7 or more .....	2
Total .....	100

Of the married hunters, a plurality had no children under 18 years of age. Of those who had children two was the most common number. Hunters did, however, have a full range of family sizes. Except for the fact that archery hunters had the largest families, the difference between types of hunters and number of children is not dramatic.

### PERCENT OF MARRIED HUNTERS WITH THREE OR MORE CHILDREN UNDER 18



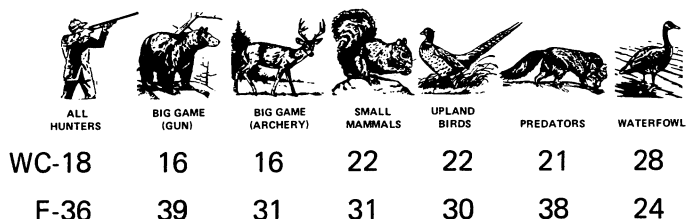
## WHAT WAS YOUR FATHER'S MAIN JOB WHILE YOU WERE GROWING UP?

Occupational Category	Percent
<i>White Collar</i>	
Professionals, technicians .....	3
Managers, officials, proprietors ..	11
Clerical workers .....	2
Sales workers .....	2
<i>Blue Collar</i>	
Farmers .....	36
Craftsmen, foremen .....	23
Operatives .....	14
Service workers .....	2
Laborers .....	4
Miscellaneous .....	3
Total .....	100

Most hunters come from blue collar backgrounds. Farmers, craftsmen, foremen, operatives and managers were common among fathers of Wisconsin hunters. The fathers of waterfowl hunters held the highest social status with 28 percent having had white collar jobs. Fathers of big game hunters had the lowest social status.

Farmers were especially prevalent among the fathers of big game (gun) hunters and predator hunters. Waterfowl hunters were least likely to have had fathers who were farmers.

### PERCENTAGE WHITE COLLAR (WC) PERCENTAGE FARMERS (F)










## WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST FULL-TIME JOB AFTER YOU FINISHED YOUR SCHOOLING?

Occupational Category	Percent
<i>White Collar</i>	
Professionals, technicians . . . . .	14
Managers, officials, proprietors . .	4
Clerical workers . . . . .	4
Sales workers . . . . .	4
<i>Blue Collar</i>	
Farmers . . . . .	13
Craftsmen, foremen . . . . .	20
Operatives . . . . .	20
Service workers . . . . .	2
Laborers . . . . .	8
Miscellaneous . . . . .	11
Total . . . . .	100

Most hunters began or planned to begin their employment in a blue collar job. However, over a quarter of their first jobs were white collar jobs. A higher percentage of waterfowl hunters started their careers in a white collar position than other types of hunters. Big game (gun) hunters were least likely to have started at the white collar level.

Big game (gun) hunters and predator hunters were most likely to have been farmers at some time in their career. Waterfowl hunters were least likely to have been farmers.

### PERCENTAGE WHITE COLLAR (WC)      PERCENTAGE FARMERS (F)

						
ALL HUNTERS	BIG GAME (GUN)	BIG GAME (ARCHERY)	SMALL MAMMALS	UPLAND BIRDS	PREDATORS	WATERFOWL
WC-26	24	29	29	28	29	34
F-13	14	8	11	8	14	6








## WHAT IS YOUR OCCUPATION?

Occupational Category	Percent
<i>White Collar</i>	
Professionals, technicians . . . . .	7
Managers, officials, proprietors . .	9
Clerical workers . . . . .	3
Sales workers . . . . .	4
<i>Blue Collar</i>	
Farmers . . . . .	8
Craftsmen, foremen . . . . .	21
Operatives . . . . .	17
Service workers . . . . .	3
Laborers . . . . .	3
Miscellaneous (students) . . . . .	25
Total . . . . .	100

Wisconsin resident hunters were predominantly students, craftsmen, or operatives. While only 23 percent were white collar workers, many students can be expected to enter this part of the labor force. Both upland bird and waterfowl hunters had the highest percentage of their group in the white collar occupations. Small mammal and predator hunters had the lowest probability of being white collar workers.

Big game (gun) hunters were most likely to be farmers although the percentage was not high (9%). Waterfowl hunters were least likely to be farmers.

### PERCENTAGE WHITE COLLAR (WC)      PERCENTAGE FARMERS (F)

						
ALL HUNTERS	BIG GAME (GUN)	BIG GAME (ARCHERY)	SMALL MAMMALS	UPLAND BIRDS	PREDATORS	WATERFOWL
WC-23	23	22	20	26	17	25
F-8	9	4	6	5	8	3








## WHAT WAS YOUR TOTAL FAMILY INCOME IN 1968?

Income	Percent
0-3,999 . . . . .	12
4,000-5,999 . . . . .	10
6,000-7,999 . . . . .	21
8,000-9,999 . . . . .	18
10,000-11,999 . . . . .	18
12,000-14,999 . . . . .	12
15,000 or over . . . . .	9
Total . . . . .	100

Hunters were found in all economic strata including the very lowest and the very highest. The majority of hunters came from the middle income groups.

Bird hunters, especially waterfowl hunters, had the highest social status based on income.

### PERCENTAGE WITH INCOMES OF \$8,000 OR MORE

						
ALL HUNTERS	BIG GAME (GUN)	BIG GAME (ARCHERY)	SMALL MAMMALS	UPLAND BIRDS	PREDATORS	WATERFOWL
57	57	56	58	61	57	66

## WHAT IS THE HIGHEST GRADE OF SCHOOL YOU FINISHED OR PLAN TO FINISH?

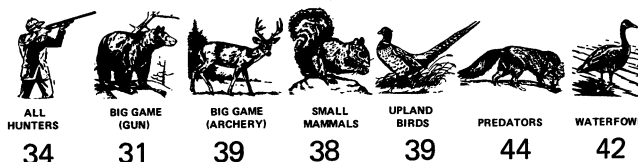
Years Completed	Percent
0-7 .....	2
8 .....	11
9-11 .....	12
12 .....	41
13-15 .....	13
16 .....	12
17 or more .....	9
Total .....	100

A plurality of Wisconsin hunters had completed high school but had not gone beyond 12 years of education.\* One third (34%) had or planned to obtain some post-high school education.

Big game (gun) hunters were the least educated group of hunters with only 31 percent having received post-high school training. Substantially larger percentages of archery, small mammal, and upland bird hunters had post-high school training. Predator and waterfowl hunters were even more highly educated, with 44 and 42 percent, respectively, having had more than 12 years of education.

\*One-fourth had less than 12 years of education.

### PERCENTAGE OBTAINING POST-HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION



## PARTICIPATION PATTERNS

In this section inquiry is made into many aspects of the past and present social support a hunter received for participation in the sport. Although hunting usually began during the teens, it was not a "spite" activity done in opposition to the wishes of parents. Both parents approved of hunting. In fact, the father usually hunted himself and, in the majority of cases, took the respondent on his first hunting experience. If the father did not initiate the individual, another member of the family, rather than a peer, was most likely to have taken the respondent hunting

the first time.

Family approval of hunting continued in adulthood with spouse support high for most aspects of hunting, including the time and money costs of the sport. Most hunters hunted with their relatives although friends were commonly included.

Since social support for hunting behavior was consistently very high, there were only small differences in support between the various groups of hunters.

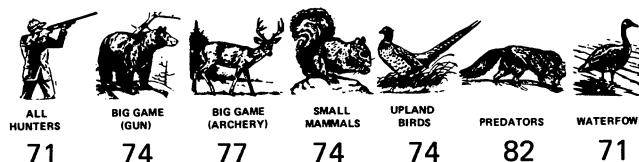
## DID YOUR FATHER HUNT WHILE YOU WERE GROWING UP?

Father Hunted	Percent
Yes .....	71
No .....	29
Total .....	100

Most hunters indicated that their father hunted while they were growing up. In 71 percent of the cases, the son had to look no farther than his father to find a model for hunting.

The presence of a father who hunted was greatest among predator hunters. The fathers of 82 percent of this group hunted while the respondents were growing up.

### PERCENT WHOSE FATHERS HUNTED

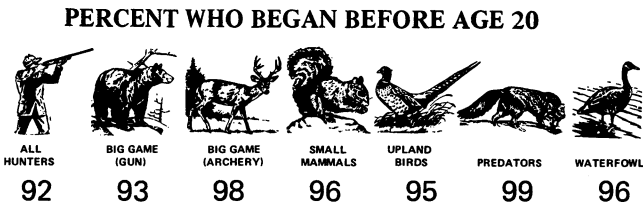


AT WHAT AGE DID YOU START HUNTING?

Age	Percent
0-9 .....	5
10-19 .....	87
20-29 .....	6
30-39 .....	1
40-60 .....	1
Total .....	100

Hunters began their sport early in life. The majority of hunters began hunting in their teens. Only two percent began hunting after they reached age 30.

All groups of hunters had an extremely early initiation. Better than 90 percent of every type began some kind of hunting before age 20.

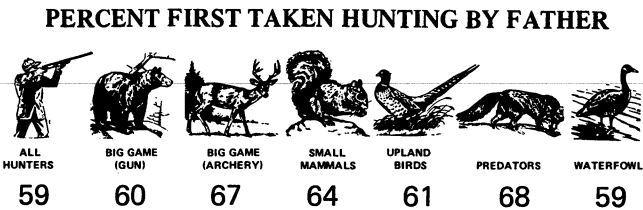


WHO FIRST TOOK YOU HUNTING?

Initiator	Percent
Father .....	59
Brother, brother-in-law .....	13
Neighbor, friend .....	10
No one, went alone .....	7
Uncle .....	5
Husband .....	3
Other relative, other .....	3
Total .....	100

Fathers were responsible for taking most hunters on their first experience. Most hunters who were not initiated by their fathers were initiated by other members of the family. At least in terms of initiation, hunting activity is dependent upon family recreation patterns.

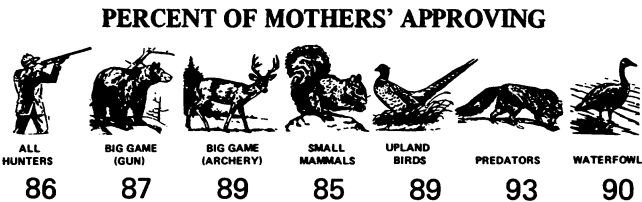
Fathers were the dominant initiating agent for all types of hunters.



WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP, DID YOUR MOTHER APPROVE OF HUNTING?

Support from Mother	Percent
Approved .....	86
Disapproved .....	14
Total .....	100

Most hunters indicated that their mother approved of their hunting activity when they were growing up.



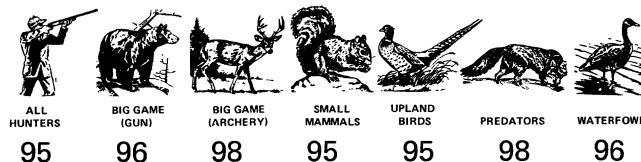
## WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP, DID YOUR FATHER APPROVE OF HUNTING?

### Support from Father      Percent

Approved .....	95
Disapproved .....	5
Total .....	100

Hunters reported that almost all of their fathers approved of their hunting activity when they were growing up. This is consistent with the fact that most of the fathers were hunters themselves.

### PERCENT OF FATHERS' APPROVING



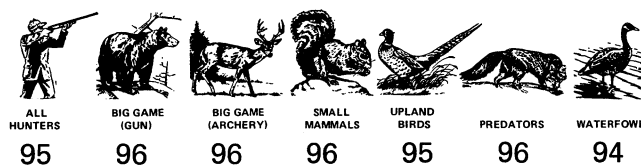
## DOES YOUR SPOUSE APPROVE OF YOUR PARTICIPATION IN HUNTING?

### Spouse Approval      Percent

Approves .....	95
Disapproves .....	5
Total .....	100

Most spouses approve of hunting participation. Only 5 percent of the married hunters had wives who disapproved.

### PERCENT WITH APPROVING SPOUSES



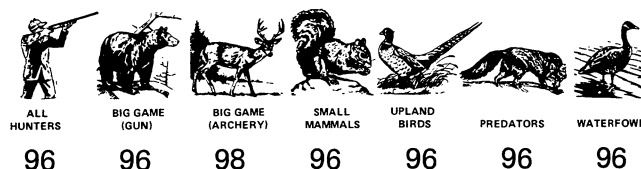
## DOES YOUR SPOUSE LIKE YOUR ASSOCIATION WITH YOUR HUNTING FRIENDS?

### Spouse Liking of Hunting Friends      Percent

Liked .....	96
Disliked .....	4
Total .....	100

Very few hunters reported that their spouses disliked their hunting friends.

### PERCENT WHOSE SPOUSES LIKED HUNTING FRIENDS

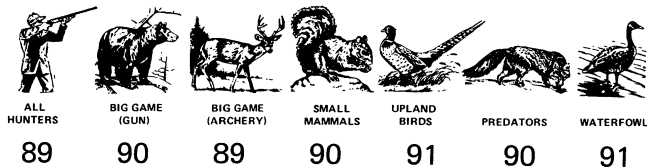


## IS YOUR SPOUSE OPPOSED TO THE KILLING OF ANIMALS BY HUNTING?

Spouse Opposition to Killing Animals	Percent
Wasn't opposed . . . . .	89
Was opposed . . . . .	11
Total . . . . .	100

Most hunters reported that their spouses were not opposed to the killing of animals by hunting.

### PERCENT WHOSE SPOUSES WERE NOT OPPOSED TO THE KILLING OF ANIMALS BY HUNTING



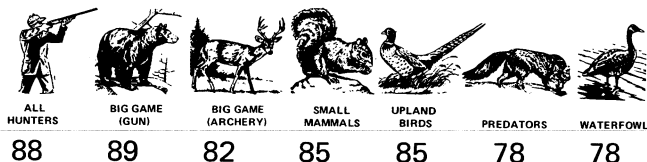
## DOES YOUR SPOUSE FEEL YOU SPEND TOO MUCH FAMILY RECREATION TIME PARTICIPATING IN HUNTING?

Spouse Feelings on Recreation Time Used for Hunting	Percent
Didn't feel too much spent . . . . .	88
Felt too much spent . . . . .	12
Total . . . . .	100

Hunters reported little objection from their spouses that hunting was cutting into family recreation time.

Waterfowl and predator hunters reported that substantial numbers (22%) of their spouses did object to the use of family recreation time for hunting.

### PERCENT WHOSE SPOUSES DID NOT FEEL TOO MUCH FAMILY RECREATION TIME WAS SPENT ON HUNTING

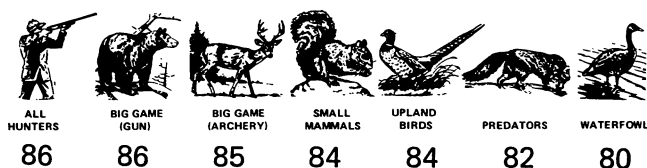


## DOES YOUR SPOUSE FEEL YOU SPEND TOO MUCH MONEY PARTICIPATING IN HUNTING?

Spouse Feelings on Money Spent for Hunting	Percent
Didn't feel too much spent . . . . .	86
Felt too much spent . . . . .	14
Total . . . . .	100

Spouses were reported to generally accept the expenses of hunting. Fourteen percent of the hunters indicated their wives felt they spent too much money on hunting.

### PERCENT WHOSE SPOUSES DID NOT FEEL TOO MUCH MONEY WAS SPENT ON HUNTING





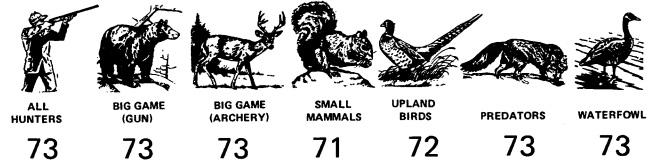
## DOES YOUR SPOUSE OBJECT TO YOUR BEING AWAY FROM HOME ON OVERNIGHT HUNTING TRIPS?

### Spouse Feelings on Overnight Hunting Trips

	Percent
Didn't object . . . . .	73
Objected . . . . .	27
Total . . . . .	100

Somewhat more than a quarter of Wisconsin resident hunters reported that their spouses objected to their being away on overnight hunting trips.

### PERCENT WHOSE SPOUSES DID NOT OBJECT TO OVERNIGHT HUNTING TRIPS



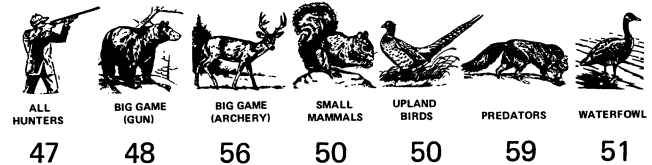
## DOES YOUR SPOUSE ACCOMPANY YOU ON AT LEAST SOME HUNTING TRIPS?

### Spouse Companionship on Hunting Trips

	Percent
Did accompany . . . . .	47
Didn't accompany . . . . .	53
Total . . . . .	100

Surprisingly, almost half (47%) of Wisconsin hunters reported that their spouses did accompany them on at least some hunting trips. This does not indicate whether the spouses actually hunted or even ventured into the field on these trips. Predator hunters were the most likely to have been accompanied by their spouses on at least some hunting trips.

### PERCENT WHOSE SPOUSES ACCOMPANIED THEM ON AT LEAST SOME HUNTING TRIPS



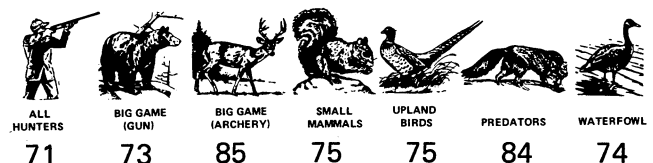
## HOW MANY OF YOUR CLOSE FRIENDS ARE HUNTERS?

### Friends Who Are Hunters

	Percent
All . . . . .	12
Most . . . . .	59
Some . . . . .	22
Few . . . . .	7
None . . . . .	0
Total . . . . .	100

Hunters associated with other hunters. Most of the close friends of hunters are hunters themselves. Archery hunters were most likely to have all or most of their friends as fellow hunters. Predator hunters also had especially high numbers of friends who are hunters.

### PERCENT WHOSE FRIENDS ARE ALL OR MOSTLY HUNTERS

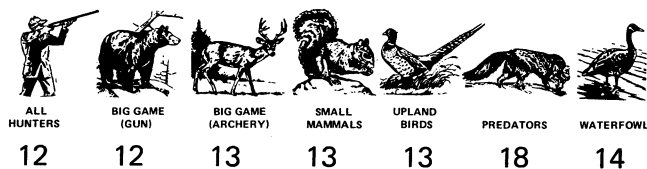


## WHO, IF ANYONE, USUALLY ACCOMPANIES YOU WHEN YOU GO HUNTING?

Companionship Category	Percent
Nobody (goes alone) . . . . .	12
One relative . . . . .	20
Group of relatives . . . . .	12
One friend . . . . .	17
Group of friends . . . . .	17
Group of friends and relatives . . .	22
Total . . . . .	100

Most hunters hunted in groups of three or more. A mixed group of friends and relatives was most popular. Hunting with one friend or one relative was also common. Hunting alone was least common. Predator hunters were the most likely to be found hunting alone.

### PERCENT WHO HUNTED ALONE

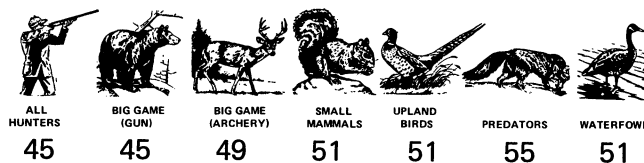


## DID YOU TAKE ANY OF YOUR CHILDREN HUNTING WITH YOU LAST YEAR?

Taking Children Along Hunting	Percent
Yes, took children . . . . .	45
No, didn't take children . . . . .	55
Total . . . . .	100

Almost half (45%) of those hunters who had children under 18 years of age took them hunting.

### PERCENT WHO TOOK THEIR CHILDREN HUNTING



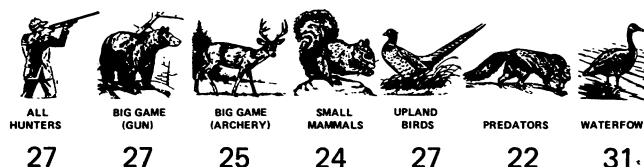
## ON WHAT TYPE OF PROPERTY DID YOU SPEND THE MOST TIME HUNTING?

Type of Property	Percent
Public lands . . . . .	27
Own personal property . . . . .	12
Property personally leased . . . . .	1
Property owned or leased through a club or group . . . . .	1
Relative's property . . . . .	12
Friend's property . . . . .	23
Other private property . . . . .	24
Total . . . . .	100

A plurality of hunters (27%) spent most of their hunting time on public lands, including county, state, and national forests. Almost as popular were friends' property and other private property. Very few hunters spent most of their time on leased land.

Waterfowl hunters were most likely to use public hunting grounds. Predator hunters were least likely to have used public areas for most of their hunting.

### PERCENT WHO SPENT THE MOST TIME ON PUBLIC HUNTING GROUNDS

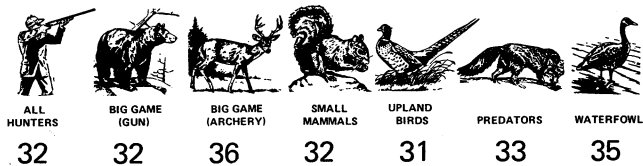


WHY DO YOU GO HUNTING? WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT REASON?

Reason for Hunting	Percent
Enjoy nature . . . . .	32
Stalk game . . . . .	11
Bag a trophy . . . . .	10
Get outdoors . . . . .	9
Have a good time with friends . . .	9
Enjoy a change of pace. . . . .	7
Bag a limit . . . . .	6
Participate in rugged sport . . . . .	4
Find solitude . . . . .	3
Provide low-cost meat . . . . .	3
Work with dogs . . . . .	3
Get physical exercise . . . . .	2
Enjoy economical recreation. . . .	1
Feel like frontiersman . . . . .	0
Total . . . . .	100

Enjoying nature was the reason most often given. Stalking game was a poor second. Bagging a trophy was given more often than bagging a limit. Other fairly common responses included having a good time with companions, getting outdoors, and changing pace by getting away from work and home.

PERCENT WHO WENT HUNTING TO ENJOY NATURE



HUNTING ACTIVITIES

In this section the data apply only to the type of hunters specified. No overall averages are available since the questions logically apply to only one type of hunting.

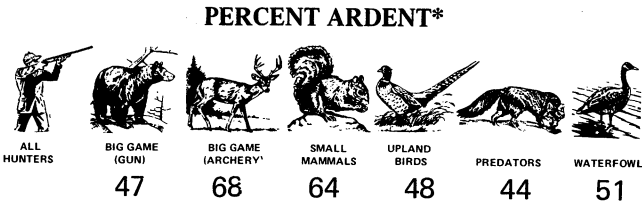
Four aspects of hunting were established. The first was the number of days spent hunting. The second was the number of hours. Since different types of hunters apparently had characteristic lengths to their hunting days, these first two measures were not perfectly correlated.

The third aspect was the number of miles traveled to the usual hunting spot. Variability of this aspect was large, with some types of hunters traveling great distances and other types hunting “in their backyard”.

The final aspect was success at hunting. This was determined by the number of animals bagged, but the criterion of success varied with the type of hunting.

ON HOW MANY DAYS DID YOU DO AT LEAST SOME HUNTING  
OF THE TYPE SPECIFIED IN 1968?

Archers spent the greatest number of days hunting. Over two thirds (68%) of them spent six days or more hunting. Small mammal hunters were nearly as ardent with 64 percent spending six days or more at their sport. Waterfowl hunters were less ardent but over half still spent six days or more at their sport. Almost half of the big game (gun) hunters and upland bird hunters spent six days or more at their sport. Since the gun season on deer typically lasts for only nine days, many deer hunters are apparently hunting on weekdays. Predator hunters spent the fewest days in the field.



\* Refers to hunters who spent six days or more hunting for the type of game specified.

Number of Days	Big game (gun)*	Big game (archery)	Small mammals	Upland birds	Predators	Waterfowl
1-2	11	13	13	20	24	23
3-5	42	19	23	32	32	26
6-10	43	25	29	27	21	26
11-20	1	30	20	16	10	19
21 or more	1	13	15	5	13	6
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

\*Percent

HOW MANY MILES FROM YOUR HOME (ONE WAY) IS YOUR  
USUAL HUNTING SPOT FOR THE TYPE SPECIFIED?

Travel for hunting varied greatly by the type of hunting being done. Deer hunting with the traditional trip up north was the type of hunting associated with the longest trips. Big game (gun) hunters traveled more than big game (archery) hunters. Over half of all other types of hunting was done within 20 miles of home. Waterfowl hunters traveled nearly as far as archery hunters. Predator hunters traveled the least distance to their usual hunting spot.

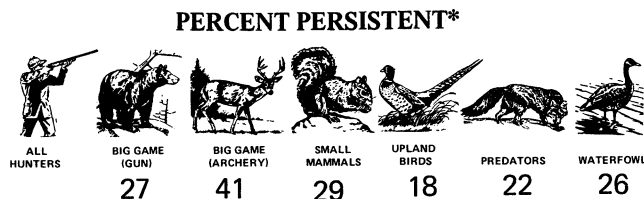


Number of Miles	Big game (gun)*	Big game (archery)	Small mammals	Upland birds	Predators	Waterfowl
0-19	37	49	72	62	77	50
20-39	11	13	16	18	13	18
40-59	6	10	6	7	5	10
60-79	4	2	2	3	1	6
80-99	4	3	1	2	0	3
100-119	4	6	1	1	0	3
120-139	5	3	1	1	0	2
140-159	5	3	1	1	2	2
160-179	3	2	0	1	0	0
180-199	2	3	0	0	0	0
200+	18	4	1	4	2	6
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

\*Percent

## HOW MANY TOTAL HOURS DID YOU SPEND HUNTING THE TYPE SPECIFIED IN 1968?

Archery hunters not only spent the most days hunting but also spent the most hours in the field. Twenty-three percent spent 70 or more hours and 41 percent spent at least 50 hours. Small mammal, big game (gun) and waterfowl hunters spent roughly equal amounts of time hunting. Predator hunters and upland bird hunters were the least persistent. Since upland bird hunters spent a modest number of days but very few hours hunting, they apparently hunt for a very few hours at a time.



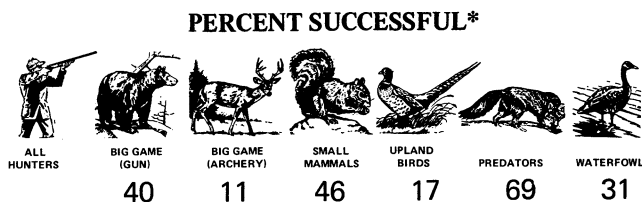
\* Refers to hunters who spent 50 hours or more hunting for the type of game specified.

Number of Hours	Big game (gun)*	Big game (archery)	Small mammals	Upland birds	Predators	Waterfowl
0-9	5	7	16	22	25	20
10-19	12	15	21	24	24	20
20-29	17	16	15	17	10	11
30-39	19	13	9	10	10	13
40-49	20	8	10	9	9	10
50-59	11	12	5	5	4	8
60-69	6	6	6	3	2	4
70 or more	10	23	18	10	16	14
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

\*Percent

## WHAT IS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ANIMALS YOU BAGGED OF THE TYPE SPECIFIED IN 1968?

Success, when measured by the number of game bagged, is of course different for the various types of hunting. A big game hunter is legally allowed to bag only one animal. Small game hunters were required to bag 10 animals before they were considered successful. When measured by these criteria, predator hunters were the most successful with 69 percent bagging at least one predator. Forty percent of big game (gun) hunters indicated that they bagged one animal or more. This figure is probably exaggerated since registration figures show a far lower success ratio. Archery and upland bird hunters were the least successful.



\* Refers to hunters who bagged one animal (big game and predator hunters) or 10 animals (small game hunters).

Number of Animals Bagged	Big game (gun)*	Big game (archery)	Small mammals	Upland birds	Predators	Waterfowl
0	60	89	10	20	31	16
1	33	10	5	12	20	8
2	5	1	5	17	19	8
3-5	1	0	17	23	19	22
6-9	1	0	17	11	5	15
10-19	0	0	25	12	3	16
20-39	0	0	13	4	1	12
40 or more	0	0	8	1	2	3
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

\*Percent

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

Most leisure activities have associated with them a set of related activities which indicate concern for the sport, anticipation in the off season, and sociability between members of the hunting "fraternity". In this section information seeking activities and participation in sportsmen's organizations were studied.

Among the information seeking activities were included sources of information on conservation and hunting and

attendance at public meetings held by the Department of Natural Resources.

Participation in sportsmen's and conservation clubs was measured by membership and by office holding.

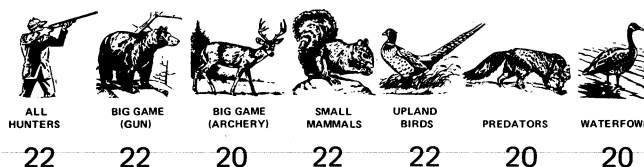
Predator hunters were most active in attending public meetings, belonging to clubs, and holding positions of leadership in those clubs.

### WHICH SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON CONSERVATION AND HUNTING IS MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?

Source of Information	Percent
Hunting regulations booklets . . .	36
Magazines and published reports .	20
Friends and relatives . . . . .	18
Newspapers . . . . .	12
Work associates . . . . .	4
Public officials and wardens . . . .	4
Other . . . . .	3
Television . . . . .	2
Club meetings . . . . .	1
Radio . . . . .	0
Total . . . . .	100

The DNR hunting regulations booklet was by far the most popular source of information on conservation and hunting. Magazines were second in popularity, and friends and relatives were third. Radio and television were not major sources of information for hunters. Public officials and club meetings were also of limited importance, at least as the prime source of information.

#### PERCENT USING INFORMAL SOURCES\*



\*Informal sources are friends, relatives, and work associates.

### HAVE YOU ATTENDED A COUNTY HEARING OR OTHER TYPE OF PUBLIC MEETING HELD BY THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE LAST FIVE YEARS?

Public Meetings	Percent
Has attended . . . . .	20
Has not attended . . . . .	80
Total . . . . .	100

The twenty percent of Wisconsin hunters who attended may be the most influential sportsmen. Therefore, the hearings may have had an impact on more than 20% of the hunters.

Predator hunters had the highest representation at the public meetings. Better than one-fourth of waterfowl and archery hunters also attended one or more public meetings within the past five years.

#### PERCENT WHO ATTENDED





## HOW MANY SPORTSMEN'S AND CONSERVATION CLUBS, IF ANY, DO YOU BELONG TO?

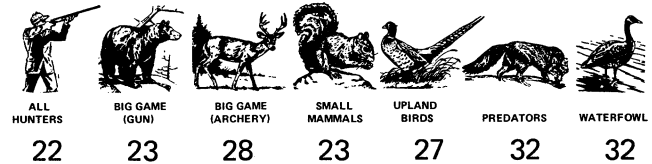
### Number of Clubs Percent

0 .....	78
1 .....	17
2 .....	4
3 .....	1
4 .....	0
Total .....	100

Membership in sportsmen's and conservation clubs was limited to less than one-fourth of the hunters.

Waterfowl and predator hunters were the most likely to belong to at least one club.

### PERCENT WHO HAD AT LEAST ONE CLUB MEMBERSHIP



## IN HOW MANY CLUBS ARE YOU NOW OR HAVE YOU BEEN AN OFFICER?

### Office Holding Percent

Not a member .....	78
Member but never an officer ..	18
Officer of at least one club ....	4
Total .....	100

Only a relative handful of hunters had been an officer of a sportsmen's or conservation club. Predator hunters were much more likely to have held an office than other hunters.

### PERCENT WHO HAVE BEEN AN OFFICER



## RELATED ATTITUDES

Attitudes were determined on issues of long-term interest and on several issues of current concern.

Included in the first category was a determination of the hunter's attitude toward the state's performance in managing its natural resources and on several related issues of game laws and their enforcement.

Attitudes toward two principles of game management were also ascertained. These principles referred to the

maintenance of proper deer herd size by doe hunting and to the recognition that predators are a vital part of the natural food chain. Wisconsin hunters did not score well on these questions.

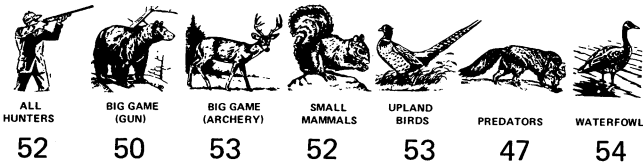
The final attitudes explored in this section are related to the current topic of violence in our society. Specifically attitudes on gun control and violence on television were ascertained.

IN GENERAL, HOW WELL DO YOU THINK THE STATE OF WISCONSIN IS MANAGING ITS FISH, GAME, AND FOREST RESERVES?

Rating of State's Performance	Percent
Very good	10
Good	42
Fair	33
Poor	6
Very Poor	4
Don't know	5
Total	100

Most hunters felt the State of Wisconsin was doing a good or a fair job in managing its resources. While only 10 percent felt it was doing a very good job, even fewer thought it was doing a very poor job.

PERCENT WHO FELT THE STATE WAS DOING A GOOD OR A VERY GOOD JOB

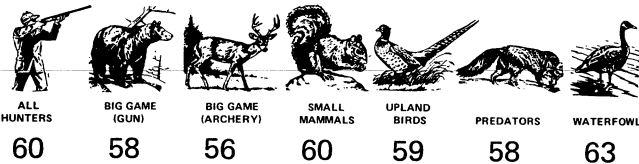


ARE WISCONSIN GAME LAWS TOO COMPLICATED OR TOO SIMPLE MINDED?

Attitude on Complexity of Game Laws	Percent
Too complicated	60
Too simple-minded	29
Okay	11
Total	100

A majority of Wisconsin hunters indicated that the state's game laws were too complicated. Eleven percent volunteered a response of "Okay", which was not provided on the checklist. Waterfowl hunters were most likely to feel Wisconsin game laws are too complicated. This may reflect increasing elaboration of duck hunting rules as game managers attempt to implement species management concepts.

PERCENT WHO FELT THE LAWS WERE TOO COMPLICATED

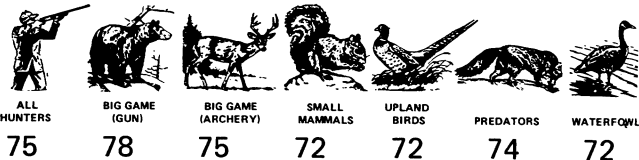


IS WISCONSIN GAME LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFECTIVE OR INEFFECTIVE?

Attitude on Effectiveness of Game Laws	Percent
Effective	75
Ineffective	25
Total	100

Three-fourths of Wisconsin resident hunters felt Wisconsin game law enforcement was effective. No definition of effectiveness was supplied.

PERCENT WHO FELT WISCONSIN GAME LAW ENFORCEMENT WAS EFFECTIVE



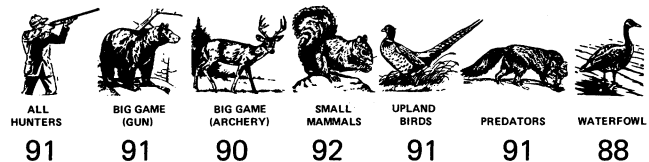
## IS WISCONSIN GAME LAW ENFORCEMENT FAIR OR UNFAIR?

### Attitude on Fairness of Law Enforcement

	Percent
Fair .....	91
Unfair .....	9
Total .....	100

Most hunters felt Wisconsin game laws are fairly enforced.

### PERCENT WHO FELT THE LAWS WERE FAIRLY ENFORCED



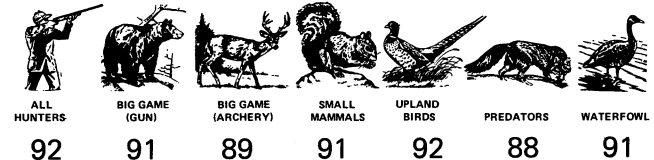
## ARE WISCONSIN GAME WARDENS COURTEOUS OR DISCOURTEOUS?

### Attitude on Courteousness of Wardens

	Percent
Courteous .....	92
Discourteous .....	8
Total .....	100

Over 90 percent of Wisconsin hunters considered game wardens to be courteous.

### PERCENT WHO FELT WISCONSIN GAME WARDENS ARE COURTEOUS



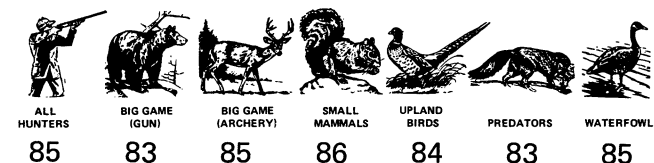
## DO WISCONSIN GAME WARDENS MAKE TOO FEW OR TOO MANY ARRESTS?

### Attitude on Number of Arrests Made

	Percent
Too few .....	85
Too many .....	12
Enough .....	3
Total .....	100

Most hunters felt Wisconsin game wardens made too few arrests. Three percent volunteered the response that "enough" arrests were being made.

### PERCENT WHO FELT MORE ARRESTS SHOULD BE MADE



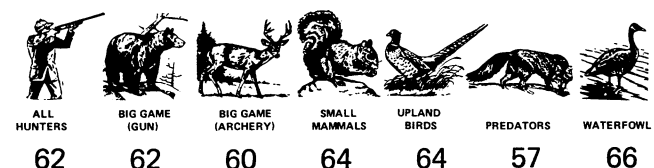
## ARE FINES FOR VIOLATION TOO HIGH OR TOO LOW?

### Attitude on Size of Violation Fines

	Percent
Too low .....	62
Too high .....	31
Just right .....	7
Total .....	100

A majority of hunters felt that fines for violations were too low. Seven percent volunteered a response of "just right".

### PERCENT WHO FELT THE VIOLATION FINES WERE TOO LOW

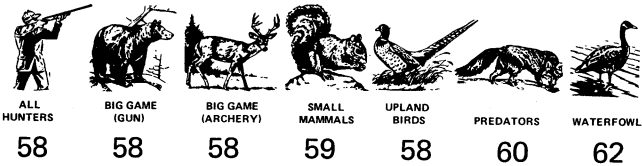


SHOULD DOE DEER EVER BE LEGALLY HUNTED IN THIS STATE?

Attitude on Doe Deer Hunting	Percent
Yes—sometimes . . . . .	58
No—never . . . . .	42
Total . . . . .	100

Fifty-eight percent of Wisconsin hunters agreed that doe deer should sometimes be hunted. In other words, 42 percent of Wisconsin hunters did not agree with the practice of deer management through doe seasons.

PERCENT WHO FELT DOE HUNTING SHOULD SOMETIMES BE ALLOWED

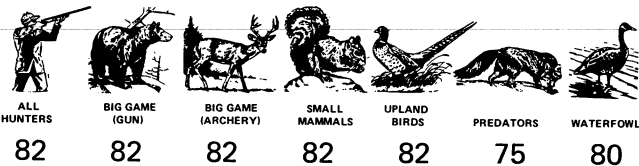


DO YOU FEEL THE NUMBER OF FOXES SHOULD BE CONTROLLED IN SOME WAY OR NOT?

Attitude on Fox Control	Percent
Yes—should be controlled . . . .	82
No—should not be controlled . .	18
Total . . . . .	100

Most Wisconsin hunters wanted the number of foxes controlled. Surprisingly, predator hunters were the group least likely to support control programs.

PERCENT WHO WANTED FOXES TO BE CONTROLLED

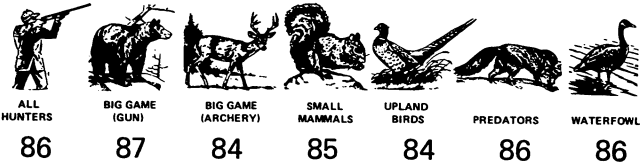


SHOULD WISCONSIN USE BOUNTIES TO CONTROL THE NUMBER OF FOXES?

Attitude on the Use of Bounties	Percent
Yes . . . . .	86
No . . . . .	14
Total . . . . .	100

Of those hunters who advocated control of foxes, 86 percent felt Wisconsin should use bounty payments to accomplish this goal.

PERCENT WHO FAVORED THE USE OF BOUNTIES



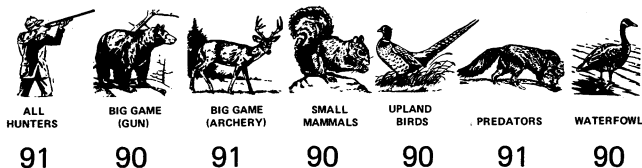
## SHOULD LANDOWNERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO PROHIBIT HUNTING ON THEIR LAND?

### Attitude on Landowners Right to Prohibit Hunting

	Percent
Yes—should have right . . . .	91
No—should not have right . . .	9
Total . . . . .	100

Over 90 percent of Wisconsin hunters, at least in theory, respect private property rights. Only nine percent felt landowners should not have the right to prohibit hunting on their land.

### PERCENT WHO FELT LANDOWNERS SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO PROHIBIT HUNTING



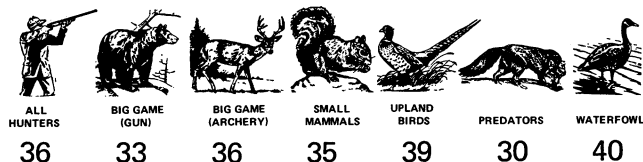
## ARE YOU WILLING TO PAY LANDOWNERS FOR THE RIGHT TO HUNT ON THEIR LAND?

### Willingness to Pay Landlord for Hunting Privileges

	Percent
Yes . . . . .	36
No . . . . .	64
Total . . . . .	100

Over one-third (36%) of Wisconsin hunters were willing to pay landowners for the right to hunt on their land. Bird hunters were the most willing to pay for the right to hunt on private land. Predator hunters were least willing to pay landowners.

### PERCENT WHO WERE WILLING TO PAY FOR HUNTING PRIVILEGES



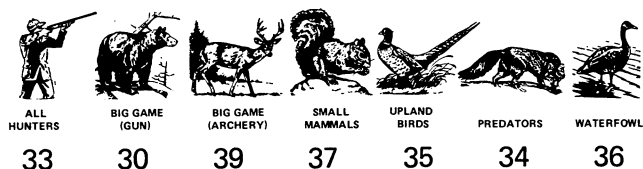
## WHAT IS THE MOST YOU ARE WILLING TO PAY LANDOWNERS TO HUNT ON THEIR LAND?

### Amount per Day

Amount per Day	Percent
Less than \$1.00 . . . . .	5
\$1.00-1.99 . . . . .	27
\$2.00-3.99 . . . . .	35
\$4.00-6.99 . . . . .	26
\$7.00 or more . . . . .	7
Total . . . . .	100

Of those hunters who are willing to pay for the right to hunt, about one-third were willing to spend two to four dollars, about one-third were not willing to spend two dollars, and another third were willing to spend more than \$4.00.

### PERCENT WILLING TO PAY \$4.00 OR MORE PER DAY

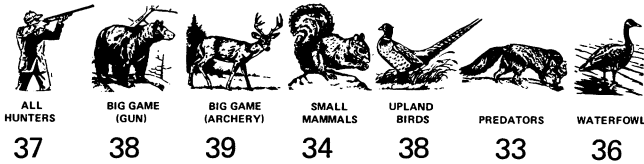


**CURRENTLY WE REGISTER BOTH AUTOMOBILES AND LICENSE DRIVERS;  
SIMILAR LEGISLATION HAS BEEN PROPOSED FOR GUNS AND GUN OWNERS.  
TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU SUPPORT GUN CONTROL?**

Extent of Support for Gun Control	Percent
Register all firearms, license all users . . . . .	10
Register all firearms, license hand-gun users . . . . .	9
Register hand-guns, license hand-gun users . . . . .	13
Register hand-guns, no licensing .	16
Gun control only for minors . . . .	15
Don't support any kind of gun control . . . . .	37
Total . . . . .	100

A plurality (37%) of Wisconsin hunters did not support any kind of gun control. At the other extreme, one-tenth of the hunters supported complete registration and complete licensing. Roughly equal percentages (9-16%) chose each of the gradations of control between these two extremes.

**PERCENT WHO DIDN'T SUPPORT ANY KIND OF GUN CONTROL**

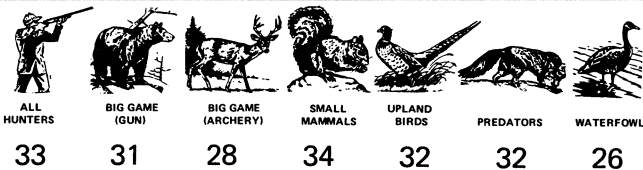


**WOULD YOU BE IN FAVOR OF GUN REGISTRATION IF HUNTERS WERE ALLOWED TO  
REGISTER ALL THEIR HUNTING GUNS AS PART OF BUYING A HUNTING LICENSE  
AND NOT BE REQUIRED TO PAY AN ADDITIONAL FEE?**

Reaction to Special Hunter Registration	Percent
Favorable . . . . .	33
Unfavorable . . . . .	67
Total . . . . .	100

One-third of Wisconsin hunters would favor registration if they were allowed to register their hunting guns without fee as part of purchasing a license. For the remaining two-thirds, opposition to registration is apparently based on philosophy rather than economics.

**PERCENT WHO FAVORED SPECIAL GUN REGISTRATION FOR HUNTERS**

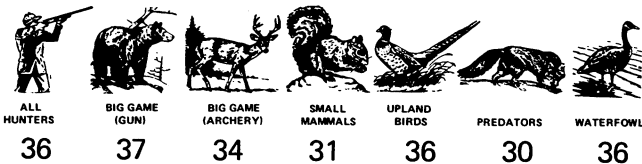


**IS THERE TOO MUCH VIOLENCE SHOWN ON TV?**

Attitude on the Amount of Violence on TV	Percent
There is too much . . . . .	36
It depends . . . . .	37
There is not too much . . . .	27
Total . . . . .	100

Wisconsin hunters were split into three roughly equal groups on this question.

**PERCENT WHO FELT THERE WAS TOO MUCH VIOLENCE ON TV**





## DOES THE VIOLENCE SHOWN ON TV HAVE A BAD INFLUENCE ON CHILDREN?

Attitude on the Influence of TV Violence on Children	Percent
Definitely does have a bad influence	28
May have a bad influence . . . . .	50
Doesn't have much of an influence .	22
Total . . . . .	100

When confronted with the question as to whether TV violence has a bad influence on children, 50 percent did not give a firm opinion but said it may have a bad influence.

### PERCENT WHO FELT TV VIOLENCE HAS A BAD INFLUENCE ON CHILDREN



## SUMMARY AND IMPLICATIONS

Wisconsin resident hunters are young, with almost half under 30 years of age. Most are born and raised in a rural community and about half still live in such a community. Bird hunters, especially waterfowl hunters, exhibit less of a rural bias than other types of hunters. Very few hunters have been geographically mobile. Most were high school graduates and one-third have had some post-high school training. Income and occupational data also showed that most hunters are members of the middle class. Since hunting is strongly associated with a rural childhood, increasing urbanization may forecast a decrease in the proportion of the population which hunts. However, the absolute number of hunters will probably not decline. In addition, bird hunting may increase in relative popularity.

Hunting was found to be a family activity participated in by the male members. Hunters are introduced to the sport by family members, especially their fathers. Mothers and spouses also generally support the activity. Adult friendship

patterns revealed that hunters tend to hunt in groups and to generally associate with other hunters. Almost half of those hunters with children under 18 years of age took them along hunting. Hunting may thus serve as an important social activity in strengthening family and friendship bonds.

Wisconsin hunters indicated that bagging a limit or a trophy was not their main motivation for hunting, but rather enjoying nature. If hunters obtain their greatest satisfaction from other aspects besides the actual taking of game, hunting regulations might be modified to increase satisfaction, while still maintaining the resource. In some cases, longer seasons with smaller bag limits might increase recreational benefits without jeopardizing game numbers.

Both private and public land are important to Wisconsin hunters as a place to enjoy their sport. About one in four hunters spends most of his time on public hunting grounds. Increasing urbanization may well increase the importance of these areas. Very few hunters spend most of their time

on leased land. This indicates that most posted land is probably posted by the owner rather than by a leaseholder. One solution to the posting problem might be to encourage the use of "No Hunting Without Permission" signs. The fact that one-third of Wisconsin resident hunters indicated a willingness to pay for the right to hunt should be an additional incentive to landowners to allow hunting.

Six types of hunters were defined in the study. Archery hunters are distinctive for spending the most days and the most hours at their sport with the lowest probability of success. Upland bird hunters tended to hunt only a few hours per day. Therefore, opening shooting hours a little later and closing them earlier probably would not substantially reduce the number of recreation hours and would eliminate those hours when sex and species identification are most difficult. Big game (gun) hunters are distinctive for commonly traveling over 100 miles to hunt. The other types of hunters are small mammal, predator and waterfowl hunters.

Questions on the attitudes of hunters revealed that they are generally pleased with the state's performance in resource management. A majority sentiment was expressed for stricter control of hunters, more arrests and larger fines.

Two issues in game management are, however, poorly understood. The first is the hunting of doe deer. Almost

half of the hunters oppose a doe season under any conditions, indicating a lack of understanding of the ecological principles of deer management. A related ecological principle was even more poorly understood. Eight of ten hunters felt the numbers of foxes should be controlled and most agreed that bounties should be used to achieve control. This illustrates that hunters do not understand that predators like the fox serve an important function in the web of life.

If game management is to be based on sound principles, both resource managers and enlightened sportsmen must transmit the basic principles of the science to the public. While public meetings and sportsmen's clubs are appropriate places for such education to take place, only about one hunter in five attends public information meetings or belongs to a sportsman's club. All hunters purchase a license and many indicated a heavy reliance on the information provided in the "regulations booklets" distributed with the licenses. A logical first step would be to include a few basic lessons in game ecology in the booklet.

Beyond such general measures, personal commitment and self education are essential if hunters are to successfully argue that their use of the state's wildlife resources is ecologically sound and morally acceptable.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A more elaborate presentation of some of the data presented here, additional comparative data on nonhunters and former hunters, and a more sociological interpretation with residence and social status breakdowns for all variables is presented in: *Hunting in Wisconsin: Initiation, Desertion, Activity Patterns, and Attitudes as Influenced by Social Class and Residence*. Lowell L. Klessig, 1970, M.S. thesis, University of Wisconsin (Memorial Library), and Working Paper No. 3, Center for Resource Policy Studies and Programs (215 N. Brooks, Madison).

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