

Table 2. Type of game hunted at least one time during the year prior to October 1971 as indicated by results of a questionnaire submitted to a sample of Middle Tennessee hunters.

	Percent Hunted			Total
	Rural Residents	Town Residents	City Residents	
Squirrel	73	65	50	61
Rabbit	65	68	41	58
Quail	43	22	34	34
Dove	30	34	30	31
Deer	27	24	22	24
Varmit	6	13	1	6
Water Fowl	1	2	4	3
Bear	0	11	0	3
Turkey	3	3	0	2
Boar	0	3	0	1

A QUICK METHOD TO ASSESS STREAMSIDE WOOD DUCK BREEDING HABITAT

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In response to a need for information on wood duck habitat in north Alabama for use in a TVA regional land-use planning report, a quick method of assessing overall streamside breeding habitat was developed and executed in 1970. Biologists from TVA and the Alabama Department of Conservation participated. All streams large enough to be noted on each road map of the 11 counties were visited at all points crossed by roads. The immediate habitat was rated as good, fair, or poor and/or none. The following criteria were used:

Good: Wide mix of 14" + dbh hardwoods, overmature trees visible, little human disturbance.

Fair: Good mix of hardwoods up to 14", few overmature trees, some human activity.

Poor and/or Non-habitat: Hardwoods generally 10" or less, high human activity; or habitat destroyed.

Results of the survey are given in Table 1.

Nearly 1,600 miles of such streams were visited in approximately two man-months' time. Twenty-one percent was rated good; 28 percent fair; and 51 percent poor or non-habitable for wood ducks throughout the 11-county north Alabama area. Habitat in individual counties ranged from Jackson County's 55 percent good to DeKalb's 87 percent poor and/or non-habitat rating.

About one man-month of office time was required to compute mileage of streams surveyed by habitat class (including mileage of streams not surveyed). Extra copies of maps were made for TVA and Alabama Department of Conservation files, adding another 1/2 man-month of extra work.

Table 1. Streamside wood duck breeding habitat, north Alabama, 1970.

County	Habitat Rating (Percent)			
	Potential habitat in miles ¹	Good	Fair	Poor or None
Colbert	190	0	31	69
DeKalb	158	5	8	87
Franklin	130	0	75	25
Jackson	148	55	6	39
Lauderdale	238	2	44	54
Lawrence	178	40	28	32
Limestone	160	49	8	43
Madison	150	48	25	37
Marion	20	0	61	39
Marshall	188	6	20	74
Morgan	28	38	62	0
Total Area	1,588	21	28	51

¹Larger streams as identified on county highway maps.

The author believes this inexpensive technique is useful for quickly gathering local information identifying best habitat, poorest habitat, and other areas where more intensive assessment may be warranted.

Further, it is a technique which can be taught quickly to anyone with a basic knowledge of bottomland hardwood forestry conditions.

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