



No. 1000	Author Steven E. Backs, Wildlife Research Biologist	Date 6/15/2010
	Title 2010 Spring Wild Turkey Harvest - Check Station Results	

Abstract: *Hunters harvested 13,742 wild turkeys in 88 of the 92 counties. The 2010 harvest was highest harvest since spring hunting began in 1970, exceeding the previous high of 13,193 in 2006 by 4%. Estimated hunter success was around 22%. The majority of the birds were harvested in the early part of the season and the early morning hours. A total of 1,554 birds was taken during the youth-only weekend prior to the regular season. The 2010 youth harvest made up 11.3% of the total harvest and was a 59% increase over the 2009 youth season harvest. Juvenile and adult weights were up slightly compared to the mean weights of previous years. The proportion of juvenile turkeys in the harvest was 19% with 54% 2-yr-olds, and 28% ≥ 3 yr-olds. The south-central and southeastern regions supported 49% of the harvest followed by northern Indiana at 23%. West-central Indiana has shown a decline since 2008.*

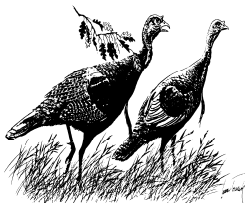
Project ID/Activity: 300FWIWR36R01000/W36R512.

The 41st wild turkey hunt was held 21 April to 9 May 2010 with harvest data collected at 410 check stations throughout the turkey range. Hunters harvested 13,742 wild turkeys in 88 of the 92 counties during the 19-day season. The 2010 harvest was the highest harvest exceeding the previous high of 13,193 birds in 2006 by 4% (549 birds) and the 2009 harvest of 12,993 birds by 6% (749 birds). The top 10 counties were Harrison (607), Switzerland (508), Jefferson (451), Dearborn (426), Warrick (368), Franklin (366), Marshall (363), Steuben (363), Perry (355), and Clark (347) (**Table 1; Figure 1**). There were 30 counties with harvests ≥ 200 birds.

Approximately 56% of the regular season’s harvest occurred during the first 5 days with 31% occurring on weekends (**Figure 2**). The proportion of the harvest occurring on weekends declined slightly (~7%) reflecting the inclement weather that generally occurred on weekends during the 2010. A total of 1,554 birds was taken during the youth-only weekend (4/17 & 4/18) prior to the regular season and amounted to 11.3% of the total statewide harvest with a 59% (579 birds) increase over the 2009 youth season harvest. Approximately 65% of the harvest occurred by 1000 hrs and 78% by noon with 17% occurring after 1500 hrs (3 pm) to sunset (**Figure 3**). Unlicensed landowners/active military personnel accounted for 9% of the harvest.

Based on spurs measured at check stations, juvenile gobblers (1 yr-old birds; "jakes") made up 19% of the 2010 harvest; 2 yr-olds (54%); ≥ 3 yr-olds (28%) (**Table 2**). Juvenile and adult mean weights were up slightly (~ +0.5 lbs) compared to previous years. Indiana has experienced below normal production the last 5 summers in the major portions of the turkey range. The relatively low proportion of juveniles in the harvest doesn’t necessarily reflect low production since it also reflects hunter selection for adult gobblers. However, hunters have reported encountering fewer jakes the last couple of years.

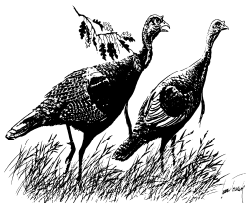
The north region harvest continues to increase both in total numbers and proportionally as turkey numbers continue to increase post restoration (**Table 3**). The south-central and southeast regions accounted for 49% of the harvest followed by the north region at 23% of the total harvest (**Figure 4**). The north region (the largest



region) surpassed the west-central region in 2009, with the west-central region showing a decline in harvest since 2008. Flooding in the west-central region the past few spring/summers, especially 2008, may have temporarily depressed this region's turkey populations.

Reasons for the increased harvest (+6%) reflect a combination of general turkey population growth around the state, especially in northern counties, and the continual increase in hunter numbers. The total number of hunters in the field over the 19-day season was estimated at around 63,000 with an estimated hunter success of 22% **(Table 4)**.

Special thanks go to Roger Hunter, Mitchell office, who put together the check station materials and to Steve Burcham and Becky Wilson who handled various aspects of the data entry. Acknowledgment also goes to the 410 volunteer check station operators for their cooperation.



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Table 1. Indiana wild turkey harvest by county, spring 2009 and 2010.

County	2009 Reported* Harvest	Percent of Harvest	2010 Reported* Harvest	Percent of Harvest	Difference from prior year	Percent Change
Adams	9	0.1%	10	0.1%	1	11%
Allen	21	0.2%	21	0.2%	0	0%
Bartholomew	136	1.0%	123	0.9%	-13	-10%
Benton	10	0.1%	10	0.1%	0	0%
Blackford	2	0.0%	8	0.1%	6	300%
Boone	2	0.0%	6	0.0%	4	200%
Brown	175	1.3%	169	1.2%	-6	-3%
Carroll	12	0.1%	18	0.1%	6	50%
Cass	34	0.3%	49	0.4%	15	44%
Clark	293	2.3%	347	2.5%	54	18%
Clay	114	0.9%	107	0.8%	-7	-6%
Clinton	1	0.0%	1	0.0%	0	0%
Crawford	312	2.4%	328	2.4%	16	5%
Daviess	113	0.9%	130	0.9%	17	15%
Dearborn	397	3.1%	426	3.1%	29	7%
Decatur	64	0.5%	82	0.6%	18	28%
DeKalb	157	1.2%	170	1.2%	13	8%
Delaware	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	-1	---
Dubois	263	2.0%	237	1.7%	-26	-10%
Elkhart	92	0.7%	96	0.7%	4	4%
Fayette	58	0.4%	68	0.5%	10	17%
Floyd	102	0.8%	113	0.8%	11	11%
Fountain	141	1.1%	127	0.9%	-14	-10%
Franklin	355	2.7%	366	2.7%	11	3%
Fulton	105	0.8%	157	1.1%	52	50%
Gibson	126	1.0%	154	1.1%	28	22%
Grant	5	0.0%	5	0.0%	0	0%
Greene	343	2.6%	310	2.3%	-33	-10%
Hamilton	1	0.0%	1	0.0%	0	0%
Hancock	1	0.0%	2	0.0%	1	100%
Harrison	511	3.9%	607	4.4%	96	19%
Hendricks	9	0.1%	16	0.1%	7	78%
Henry	2	0.0%	2	0.0%	---	0%
Howard	9	0.1%	11	0.1%	2	22%
Huntington	44	0.3%	49	0.4%	5	11%
Jackson	293	2.3%	291	2.1%	-2	-1%
Jasper	64	0.5%	119	0.9%	55	86%
Jay	6	0.0%	11	0.1%	5	83%
Jefferson	447	3.4%	451	3.3%	4	1%
Jennings	326	2.5%	310	2.3%	-16	-5%
Johnson	33	0.3%	33	0.2%	0	0%
Knox	93	0.7%	89	0.6%	-4	-4%
Kosciusko	86	0.7%	108	0.8%	22	26%
Lagrange	139	1.1%	154	1.1%	15	11%
Lake	15	0.1%	13	0.1%	-2	-13%
LaPorte	242	1.9%	259	1.9%	17	7%
Lawrence	295	2.3%	287	2.1%	-8	-3%

* Harvest totals from check station reports. Table 1 continued next page.

Table 1. Indiana wild turkey harvest by county, spring 2009 and 2010. *con't.*

County	2009 Reported* Harvest	Percent of Harvest	2010 Reported* Harvest	Percent of Harvest	Difference from prior year	Percent Change
Madison	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	---
Marion	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	---
Marshall	310	2.4%	363	2.6%	53	17%
Martin	235	1.8%	225	1.6%	-10	-4%
Miami	26	0.2%	40	0.3%	14	54%
Monroe	215	1.7%	205	1.5%	-10	-5%
Montgomery	60	0.5%	69	0.5%	9	15%
Morgan	83	0.6%	73	0.5%	-10	-12%
Newton	99	0.8%	128	0.9%	29	29%
Noble	61	0.5%	84	0.6%	23	38%
Ohio	174	1.3%	180	1.3%	6	3%
Orange	297	2.3%	287	2.1%	-10	-3%
Owen	231	1.8%	224	1.6%	-7	-3%
Parke	278	2.1%	280	2.0%	2	1%
Perry	352	2.7%	355	2.6%	3	1%
Pike	322	2.5%	302	2.2%	-20	-6%
Porter	21	0.2%	34	0.2%	13	62%
Posey	143	1.1%	170	1.2%	27	19%
Pulaski	121	0.9%	148	1.1%	27	22%
Putnam	151	1.2%	158	1.1%	7	5%
Randolph	0	0.0%	1	0.0%	1	---
Ripley	266	2.0%	269	2.0%	3	1%
Rush	2	0.0%	4	0.0%	2	100%
St. Joseph	178	1.4%	227	1.7%	49	28%
Scott	207	1.6%	209	1.5%	2	1%
Shelby	4	0.0%	7	0.1%	3	75%
Spencer	311	2.4%	298	2.2%	-13	-4%
Starke	285	2.2%	318	2.3%	33	12%
Steuben	323	2.5%	363	2.6%	40	12%
Sullivan	265	2.0%	273	2.0%	8	3%
Switzerland	530	4.1%	508	3.7%	-22	-4%
Tippecanoe	46	0.4%	50	0.4%	4	9%
Tipton	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0%
Union	75	0.6%	90	0.7%	15	20%
Vanderburg	34	0.3%	45	0.3%	11	32%
Vermillion	120	0.9%	127	0.9%	7	6%
Vigo	193	1.5%	153	1.1%	-40	-21%
Wabash	49	0.4%	78	0.6%	29	59%
Warren	130	1.0%	143	1.0%	13	10%
Warrick	347	2.7%	368	2.7%	21	6%
Washington	275	2.1%	310	2.3%	35	13%
Wayne	41	0.3%	34	0.2%	-7	-17%
Wells	7	0.1%	9	0.1%	2	29%
White	51	0.4%	61	0.4%	10	20%
Whitley	16	0.1%	21	0.2%	5	31%
Totals	12,993	100.0%	13,742	100.0%	749	6%

* Harvest totals from check station reports.

Figure 1. 2010 Spring Turkey Harvest

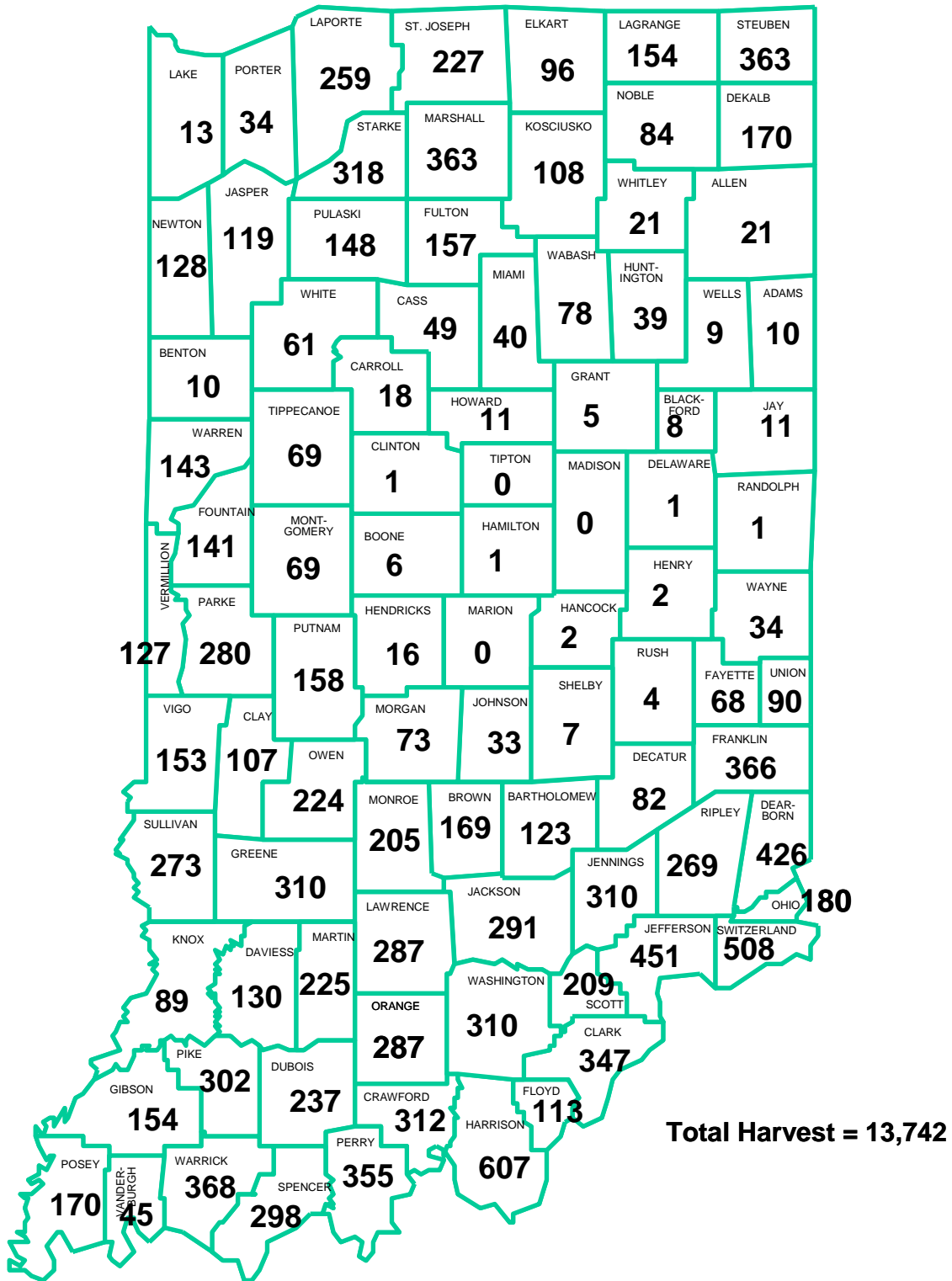


Fig 2. Harvest by Time of Day

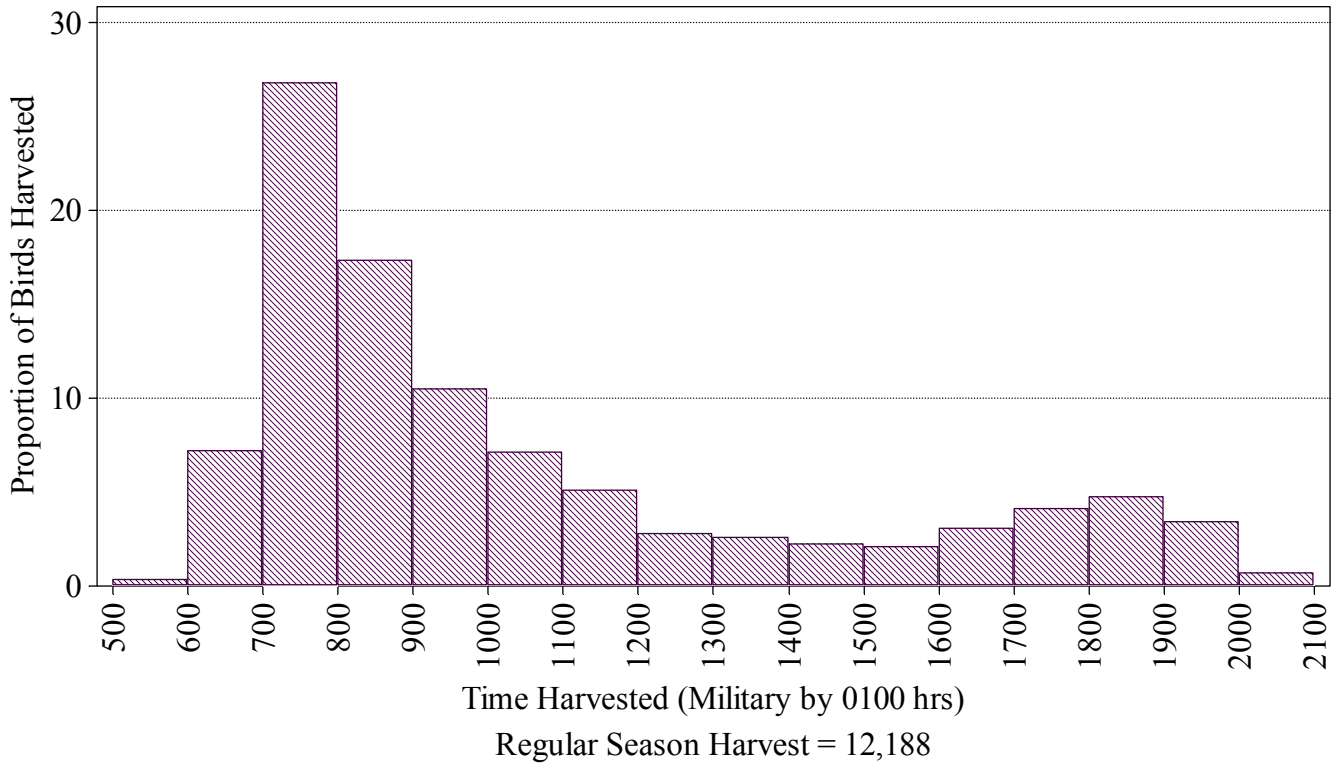


Fig 3. Harvest by Day of Regular Season

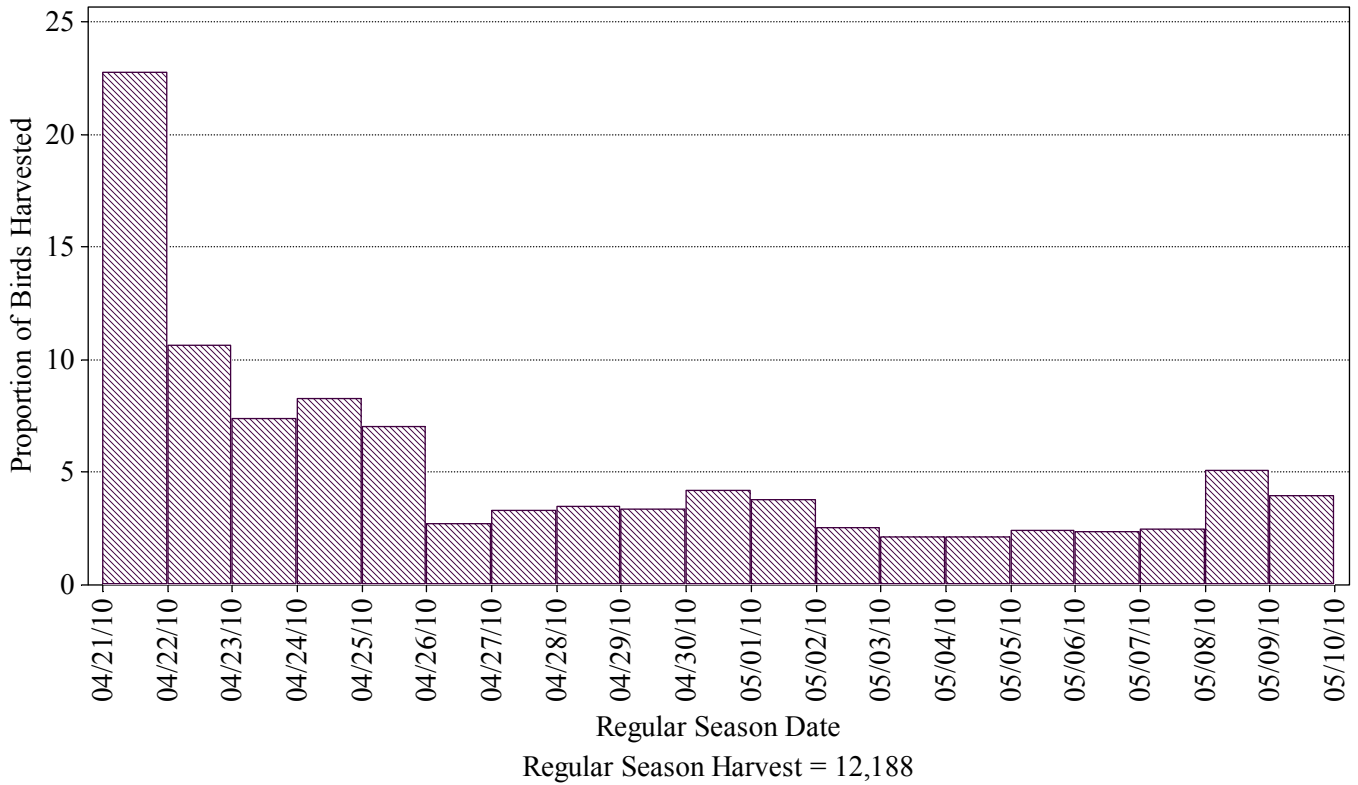


Table 2. Composition of Indiana's spring gobbler harvests, 1988-2010.

Year	Reported Harvest	Age Class Percentages* and Mean Weights (lbs)					
		1Yr	Wt.	2Yr	Wt	3+Yr	Wt
1988	905	45%	15.4	39%	20.7	16%	21.8
1989	1,359	20%	15.5	63%	20.7	17%	22.2
1990	1,505	31%	15.2	41%	21.0	28%	21.9
1991	2,318	25%	15.5	53%	21.1	22%	22.2
1992	2,531	38%	15.1	43%	20.8	19%	22.2
1993	3,500	18%	15.9	60%	20.9	22%	22.4
1994	3,741	41%	15.2	37%	21.2	22%	22.4
1995	4,706	28%	15.6	55%	20.6	18%	22.1
1996	4,859	24%	15.6	53%	21.6	23%	22.7
1997	5,790	21%	15.7	56%	21.5	24%	22.7
1998	6,384	22%	15.5	51%	21.1	28%	22.5
1999	6,548	25%	15.5	49%	21.1	26%	22.6
2000	7,822	27%	15.2	44%	20.7	28%	21.9
2001	9,975	26%	15.7	50%	20.1	24%	22.1
2002	10,575	27%	15.7	47%	21.3	27%	22.5
2003	10,366	24%	15.3	49%	21.3	28%	22.4
2004	10,765	24%	15.8	49%	21.4	27%	22.8
2005	11,159	33%	14.9	44%	20.9	23%	22.3
2006	13,193	14%	14.5	67%	20.7	19%	22.1
2007	11,163	22%	15.5	42%	21.5	26%	22.6
2008	12,204	22%	16.0	52%	21.7	26%	22.9
2009	12993	19%	16	51%	21.7	30%	22.9
Previous Years' Means **		24%	15.4	49%	21.1	25%	22.4
2010	13,742	18%	16.0	54%	21.7	28%	22.9

* Based on longest spur measurement

** Mean percents and weights based on previous 10 years.

Table 3. Regional spring turkey harvest and age structure in Indiana, 2004 to 2010.

	Region						Statewide
	North	East-central	West-central	South-central	Southeast	Southwest	
<u>2004</u>							
Harvest	1,303	18	2,074	3,125	2,681	1,511	10,765
% of Total Harvest	12%	0.2%	19%	29%	25%	14%	---
Juvenile %	37%	28%	24%	22%	23%	20%	24%
<u>2005</u>							
Harvest	1,346	21	2,076	3,277	2,945	1,480	11,159
% of Total Harvest	12%	0.2%	19%	29%	26%	13%	---
Juvenile %	37%	48%	38%	33%	26%	30%	34%
<u>2006</u>							
Harvest	1,533	23	2,566	3,946	3,458	1,667	13,193
% of Total Harvest	12%	0.2%	20%	30%	26%	13%	---
Juvenile %	34%	9%	12%	10%	13%	13%	14%
<u>2007</u>							
Harvest	1,758	51	2,104	2,919	2,831	1,500	11,163
% of Total Harvest	16%	0.5%	19%	26%	25%	13%	---
Juvenile %	32%	38%	23%	18%	18%	22%	22%
<u>2008</u>							
Harvest	2,166	60	2,233	3,172	3,057	1,516	12,204
% of Total Harvest	18%	0.5%	18%	26%	25%	12%	---
Juvenile %	34%	25%	22%	19%	18%	18%	22%
<u>2009</u>							
Harvest	2,561	61	2,072	3,314	3,233	1,752	12,993
% of Total Harvest	20%	0.5%	16%	26%	25%	14%	---
Juvenile %	27%	22%	16%	25%	25%	14%	19%
<u>2010</u>							
Harvest	3,088	94	2,021	3,406	3,340	1,793	13,742
% of Total Harvest	23%	0.7%	15%	25%	24%	13%	---
Juvenile %	25%	28%	20%	15%	14%	17%	18%

Fig. 4. 2010 Spring Wild Turkey Harvest by Regions

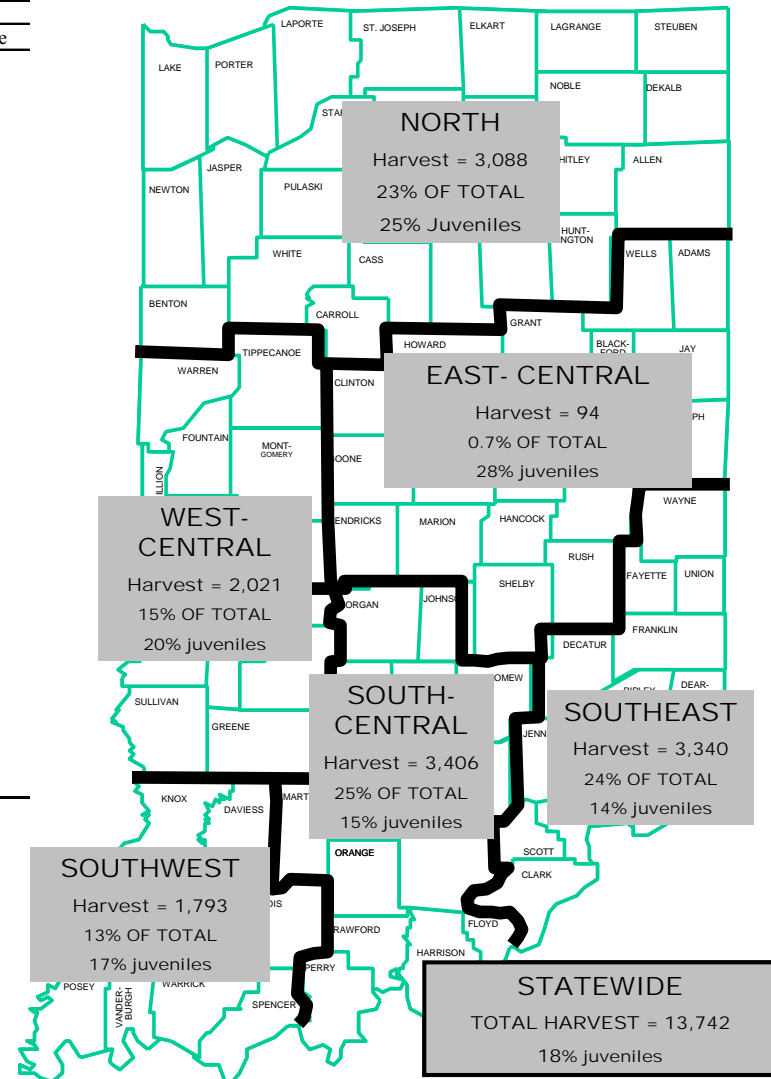


Table 4. Indiana's spring wild turkey hunting seasons, 1970 to 2010.

Year	Regular Season Dates	Season Length (Days)	No. of Counties	No. of Permits Sold*	Est. No. of Hunters**	Reported Harvest	Hunter Success
1970	5/2-5/5	4	3	75	62	6	9.7%
1971	5/1-5/5	5	9	298	224	11	4.9%
1972	4/26-4/30	5	9	585	422	12	2.8%
1973	4/25-4/29	5	11	625	503	27	5.4%
1974	4/24-4/28	5	11	665	496	26	5.2%
1975	4/29-5/5	7	11	722	501	15	3.0%
1976	4/29-5/5	7	13	666	500	32	6.4%
1977	4/28-5/5	8	16	668	520	46	8.8%
1978	4/26-5/7	12	18	852	619	33	5.3%
1979	4/25-5/6	12	19	932	860	48	5.6%
1980	4/23-5/4	12	17	706	670	54	8.1%
1981	4/22-5/3	12	18	922	814	90	11.1%
1982	4/21-5/2	12	18	1,125	696	73	10.5%
1983	4/20-5/1	12	18	1,218	984	93	9.5%
1984	4/25-5/6	12	18	1,320	1,205	104	8.6%
1985	4/24-5/5	12	25	1,882	1,302	255	19.6%
1986	4/23-5/4	12	25	2,523	1,648	293	17.8%
1987	4/22-5/6	15	33	3,348	2,619	741	28.3%
1988	4/27-5/11	15	33	10,894	4,677	905	19.4%
1989	4/26-5/10	15	39	11,442	6,068	1,359	22.4%
1990	4/25-5/9	15	39	14,379	7,860	1,505	19.1%
1991	4/24-5/8	15	43	16,387	9,643	2,318	24.0%
1992	4/22-5/6	15	43	18,735	13,110	2,531	19.3%
1993	4/28-5/16	19	48	21,078	15,673	3,500	22.3%
1994	4/27-5/15	19	48	23,357	18,622	3,741	20.1%
1995	4/26-5/14	19	52	28,858	20,861	4,706	22.6%
1996	4/24-5/12	19	52	28,733	21,442	4,859	22.6%
1997	4/23-5/11	19	74	32,703	23,085	5,790	25.1%
1998	4/22-5/10	19	74	32,889	22,876	6,384	27.9%
1999	4/21-5/9	19	74	38,730	27,285	6,548	24.0%
2000	4/26-5/14	19	74	40,801	28,615	7,822	27%
2001	4/25-5/13	19	74	43,815	36,103	9,975	28%
2002	4/24-5/12 [†]	19	90	44,333	37,919	10,575	28%
2003	4/23-5/11	19	90	48,857	40,110	10,366	26%
2004	4/21-5/9	19	90	50,839	41,996	10,765	26%
2005	4/27-5/15	19	88	50,839	49,684	11,159	22%
2006	4/26-5/14	19	88	67,290	50,880	13,193	26%
2007	4/25-5/13 ^{††}	19	91	69,861	53,402	11,163	21%
2008	4/23-5/11	19	91	71,052	55,022	12,204	22%
2009	4/22-5/10	19	92	75,161	59,000	12,993	22%
2010	4/21-5/9	19	92	79,000	63,000	13,742	22%
2011	4/27 - 5/15	19	92				

* After 1986, totals include lifetime licenses. After 1987, total includes youth licenses sold from Jan-May.

** No. of hunters includes those permit holders who hunted ≥ 1 day and since 1986 has been adjusted for non-licensed landowners or military hunters

[†] "All-day" turkey hunting initiated; 1/2 hr prior to sunrise to sunset.

^{††} Beginning with the spring 2007 season, a special 2-day youth-only season is held the weekend prior to the regular season opening.

Bold italics = preliminary estimates based on projecting previous years' trends or means