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1064	Title 2013 Spring Wild Turkey Harvest Results	

**Abstract:** Hunters harvested 11,374 wild turkeys in 89 of the 92 counties. The 2013 harvest was 10% less than the 2012 harvest of 12,655. The majority of the birds was harvested in the early part of the season and the early morning hours. A total of 1,403 birds (12% of total harvest) was taken during the youth-only weekend prior to the regular season. The proportion of juvenile turkeys in the harvest was 24% with 38% 2-yr-olds, and 38%  $\geq 3$  yr-olds. The northern region had the least notable decrease (-6%) and supported 25% of the harvest, with 47% of the harvest occurring in the south-central and southeast regions. The estimated number of hunters afield increased by nearly 3,000 to 59,092 in 2013, with an estimated hunter success of 19%, the lowest success rate since 1992.

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Hunters harvested 11,374 wild turkeys in 89 of the 92 counties during the 44<sup>th</sup> spring wild turkey hunt based on reports from 362 check stations (73% of the harvest records) with the remaining 37% of the harvest records from the web-based "Check-IN-Game" system implemented in 2012. The 2013 harvest was 10% less than the 2012 harvest of 12,655 but close to the 2011 harvest of 11,669. There were 24 counties with harvests  $\geq 200$  birds. Overall, 64 counties showed declines in harvests (-1 to -50%), 5 counties showed no change, and the harvests increased in 23 counties (1% to 200%). The top 10 counties were Harrison (408), Switzerland (366), Jefferson (363), Dearborn (319), Steuben (308), Warrick (291), Clark (283), Marshall (282), Perry (270), and Franklin (269) (**Table 1; Figure 1**).

Approximately 53% of the regular season harvest (9,952 birds; 24 April to 12 May 2013; 19 days) occurred during the first 5 days, with 38% occurring on the 3 weekends. A total of 1,403 birds (12% of total harvest) was taken during the youth-only weekend (4/20 & 4/21) prior to the regular season and 9 birds were taken during the "Wounded Warrior" hunt at Camp Atterbury prior to the youth weekend. Approximately 80% of the harvest occurred by noon, 6% from noon to 3 pm with 14% occurring from 3 pm to sunset. Landowners/active military personnel (license exempt) accounted for 14% of the harvest.

Juvenile gobblers (1 yr-old birds; "jakes") made up 24% of the 2013 harvest; 2 yr-olds (38%);  $\geq 3$  yr-olds (38%) (**Table 2**). Mean weights were up slightly from the previous year. Bearded hens made up 1% of the harvest. All regions showed net decreases in harvest, reflecting the overall 10% decrease in the total harvest (**Table 3**). The northern region had the least notable decrease (-6%) which likely reflected either continued general population growth or regional differences in productivity. The northern region, the largest region, supported 25% of the harvest with 47% of the harvest occurring in the south-central and southeast regions (**Figure 2**).

Reasons for the 10% decrease in 2013 were generally related to inclement wet & cool weather that prevailed through much of the season, especially during the first 5 days of the season. Low summer production over the last decade continues to be an underlying factor. Annual harvest levels have been fluctuating up and down the last decade around a mean of 12,000 birds with a mean hunter success of 23% (**Table 4; Figure 3**). The estimated number of hunters afield increased by nearly 3,000 to 59,092 in 2013, with an estimated hunter success of 19%, the lowest success rate since 1992.

Special thanks go to Roger Hunter and Steve Burcham who handle the check station logistics. Steve along with Susan Pierce handled the data entry from check stations. Kevin Hoffman facilitated the data transfer from the Check-IN-Game system. Acknowledgment also goes to the 362 volunteer check station operators for their cooperation.

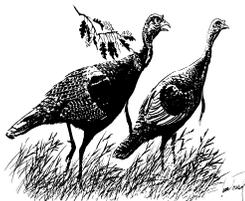


Table 1. Indiana wild turkey harvest by county, spring 2012 and 2013.

County	2012 Reported* Harvest	Percent of Harvest	2013 Reported* Harvest	Percent of Harvest	Difference from prior year	Percent Change
Adams	10	0.1%	8	0.1%	-2	-20%
Allen	24	0.2%	41	0.4%	17	71%
Bartholomew	100	0.8%	131	1.2%	31	31%
Benton	13	0.1%	12	0.1%	-1	-8%
Blackford	9	0.1%	7	0.1%	-2	-22%
Boone	6	0.0%	3	0.0%	-3	-50%
Brown	159	1.3%	186	1.6%	27	17%
Carroll	19	0.2%	19	0.2%	0	0%
Cass	50	0.4%	54	0.5%	4	8%
Clark	260	2.1%	283	2.5%	23	9%
Clay	128	1.0%	107	0.9%	-21	-16%
Clinton	3	0.0%	2	0.0%	-1	-33%
Crawford	259	2.0%	240	2.1%	-19	-7%
Daviess	116	0.9%	98	0.9%	-18	-16%
Dearborn	405	3.2%	319	2.8%	-86	-21%
Decatur	66	0.5%	61	0.5%	-5	-8%
DeKalb	162	1.3%	163	1.4%	1	1%
Delaware	0	0.0%	3	0.0%	3	---
Dubois	229	1.8%	171	1.5%	-58	-25%
Elkhart	138	1.1%	148	1.3%	10	7%
Fayette	57	0.5%	65	0.6%	8	14%
Floyd	107	0.8%	103	0.9%	-4	-4%
Fountain	157	1.2%	118	1.0%	-39	-25%
Franklin	326	2.6%	269	2.4%	-57	-17%
Fulton	134	1.1%	132	1.2%	-2	-1%
Gibson	156	1.2%	157	1.4%	1	1%
Grant	12	0.1%	11	0.1%	-1	-8%
Greene	291	2.3%	258	2.3%	-33	-11%
Hamilton	2	0.0%	1	0.0%	-1	-50%
Hancock	2	0.0%	4	0.0%	2	100%
Harrison	512	4.0%	408	3.6%	-104	-20%
Hendricks	20	0.2%	25	0.2%	5	25%
Henry	2	0.0%	2	0.0%	0	0%
Howard	5	0.0%	4	0.0%	-1	-20%
Huntington	44	0.3%	27	0.2%	-17	-39%
Jackson	246	1.9%	214	1.9%	-32	-13%
Jasper	153	1.2%	131	1.2%	-22	-14%
Jay	17	0.1%	12	0.1%	-5	-29%
Jefferson	380	3.0%	363	3.2%	-17	-4%
Jennings	191	1.5%	240	2.1%	49	26%
Johnson	45	0.4%	23	0.2%	-22	-49%
Knox	107	0.8%	108	0.9%	1	1%
Kosciusko	137	1.1%	154	1.4%	17	12%
Lagrange	165	1.3%	160	1.4%	-5	-3%
Lake	16	0.1%	18	0.2%	2	13%
LaPorte	204	1.6%	189	1.7%	-15	-7%
Lawrence	252	2.0%	223	2.0%	-29	-12%

\* Harvest totals from check station reports and web-based Check-IN-Game (2013). *Table 1 continued next page.*

Table 1. Indiana wild turkey harvest by county, spring 2012 and 2013; *continued*.

County	2012 Reported* Harvest	Percent of Harvest	2013 Reported* Harvest	Percent of Harvest	Difference from prior year	Percent Change
Madison	1	0.0%	3	0.0%	2	200%
Marion	2	0.0%	0	0.0%	-2	---
Marshall	288	2.3%	282	2.5%	-6	-2%
Martin	166	1.3%	155	1.4%	-11	-7%
Miami	44	0.3%	22	0.2%	-22	-50%
Monroe	193	1.5%	140	1.2%	-53	-27%
Montgomery	70	0.6%	73	0.6%	3	4%
Morgan	102	0.8%	89	0.8%	-13	-13%
Newton	115	0.9%	80	0.7%	-35	-30%
Noble	119	0.9%	137	1.2%	18	15%
Ohio	154	1.2%	119	1.0%	-35	-23%
Orange	288	2.3%	254	2.2%	-34	-12%
Owen	243	1.9%	213	1.9%	-30	-12%
Parke	249	2.0%	219	1.9%	-30	-12%
Perry	332	2.6%	270	2.4%	-62	-19%
Pike	247	2.0%	226	2.0%	-21	-9%
Porter	63	0.5%	38	0.3%	-25	-40%
Posey	129	1.0%	124	1.1%	-5	-4%
Pulaski	168	1.3%	120	1.1%	-48	-29%
Putnam	174	1.4%	172	1.5%	-2	-1%
Randolph	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	---
Ripley	266	2.1%	219	1.9%	-47	-18%
Rush	4	0.0%	3	0.0%	-1	-25%
St. Joseph	203	1.6%	185	1.6%	-18	-9%
Scott	196	1.5%	176	1.5%	-20	-10%
Shelby	7	0.1%	10	0.1%	3	43%
Spencer	268	2.1%	206	1.8%	-62	-23%
Starke	262	2.1%	256	2.3%	-6	-2%
Steuben	289	2.3%	308	2.7%	19	7%
Sullivan	267	2.1%	215	1.9%	-52	-19%
Switzerland	437	3.5%	366	3.2%	-71	-16%
Tippecanoe	46	0.4%	33	0.3%	-13	-28%
Tipton	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	---
Union	87	0.7%	61	0.5%	-26	-30%
Vanderburg	35	0.3%	50	0.4%	15	43%
Vermillion	118	0.9%	82	0.7%	-36	-31%
Vigo	168	1.3%	160	1.4%	-8	-5%
Wabash	79	0.6%	55	0.5%	-24	-30%
Warren	97	0.8%	92	0.8%	-5	-5%
Warrick	306	2.4%	291	2.6%	-15	-5%
Washington	308	2.4%	233	2.0%	-75	-24%
Wayne	43	0.3%	51	0.4%	8	19%
Wells	8	0.1%	8	0.1%	0	0%
White	77	0.6%	69	0.6%	-8	-10%
Whitley	41	0.3%	34	0.3%	-7	-17%
Totals	12,655		11,374		-1,281	-10%

\* Harvest totals from check station reports and web-based Check-IN-Game (2013).

Figure 1. 2013 Spring Turkey Harvest

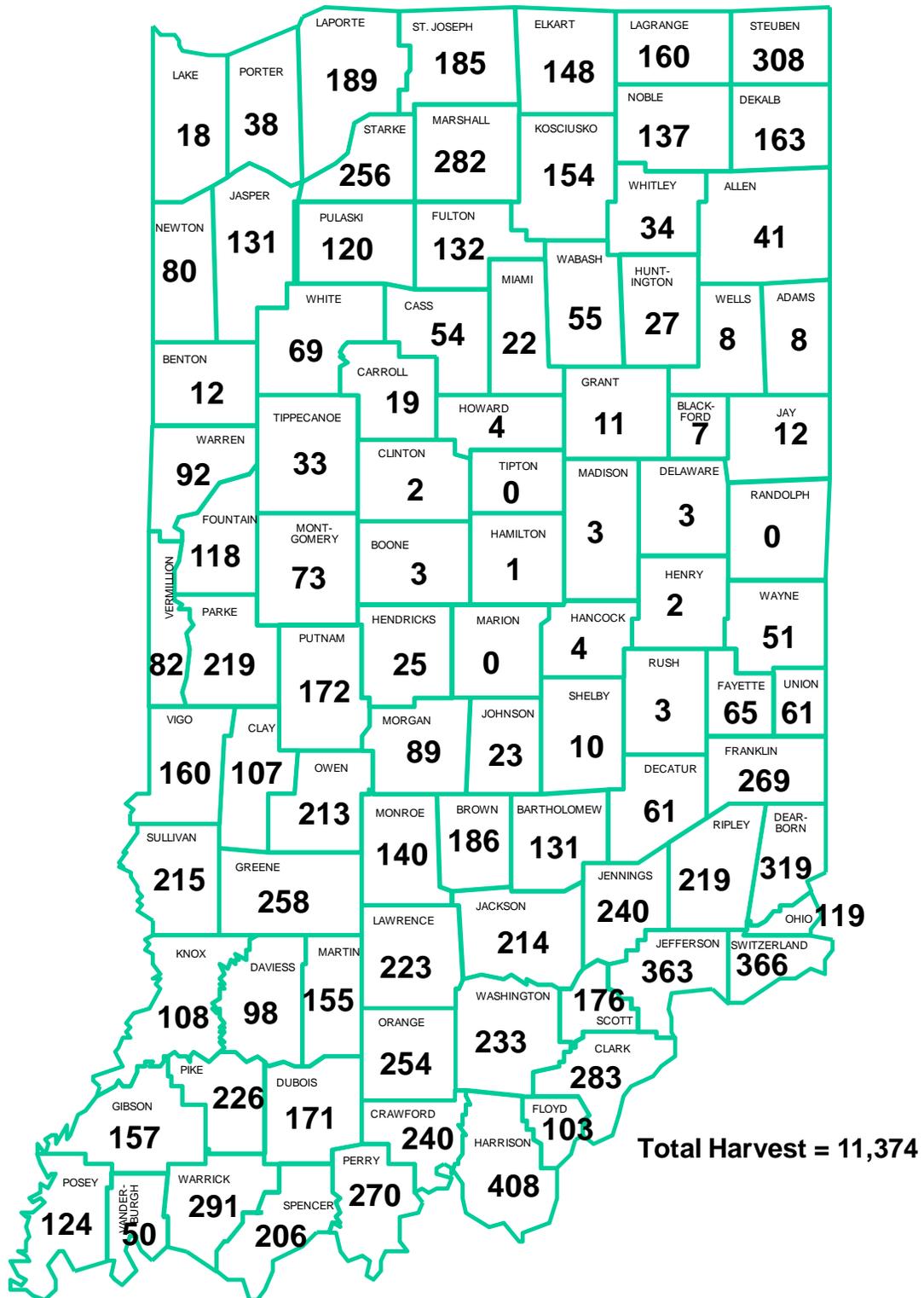


Table 2. Composition of Indiana's spring gobbler harvests, 1988-2013.

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	12,993	19%	16.0	51%	21.7	30%	22.9
2010	13,742	18%	15.6	54%	21.4	28%	22.6
2011	11,669	21%	15.6	48%	21.3	31%	22.4
2012	12,655	14%	15.9	52%	21.1	34%	22.3
<b>Previous 10 Year Means</b>		<b>21%</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>22.5</b>
2013	11,374	0.242	16.1	0.375	21.8	0.383	23.2

\* Age based on longest spur length from check stations and spur length category selected on web-based "Check-IN-Game" combined starting in 2012; weights based on check station data only.

Table 3. Regional spring turkey harvest and age structure in Indiana, 2004 to 2013.

	Region						Statewide
	North	East-central	West-central	South-central	Southeast	Southwest	
<b>2004</b>							
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%
<b>2005</b>							
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%
<b>2006</b>							
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%
<b>2007</b>							
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%
<b>2008</b>							
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%
<b>2009</b>							
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%
<b>2010</b>							
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%
<b>2011</b>							
Harvest	2,589	77	1,739	2,902	2,800	1,562	11,669
% of Total Harvest	22%	0.7%	15%	25%	24%	13%	---
Juvenile %	25%	27%	24%	20%	19%	16%	21%
<b>2012</b>							
Harvest	3,007	110	2,008	3,069	2,868	1,593	12,655
% of Total Harvest	24%	0.9%	16%	24%	23%	13%	---
Juvenile %	22%	20%	15%	11%	11%	12%	14%
<b>2013</b>							
Harvest	2,834	106	1,742	2,669	2,592	1,431	11,374
% of Total Harvest	25%	1%	15%	24%	23%	13%	---
Juvenile %	25%	31%	29%	22%	22%	24%	24%
<b>2012 to 2013 Differences</b>							
Change in Harvest	-173	-4	-266	-400	-276	-162	-1,281
Percent change in Harvest	-6%	-4%	-13%	-13%	-10%	-10%	-10%

Figure 2. 2013 Spring wild turkey harvest and age structure by region.

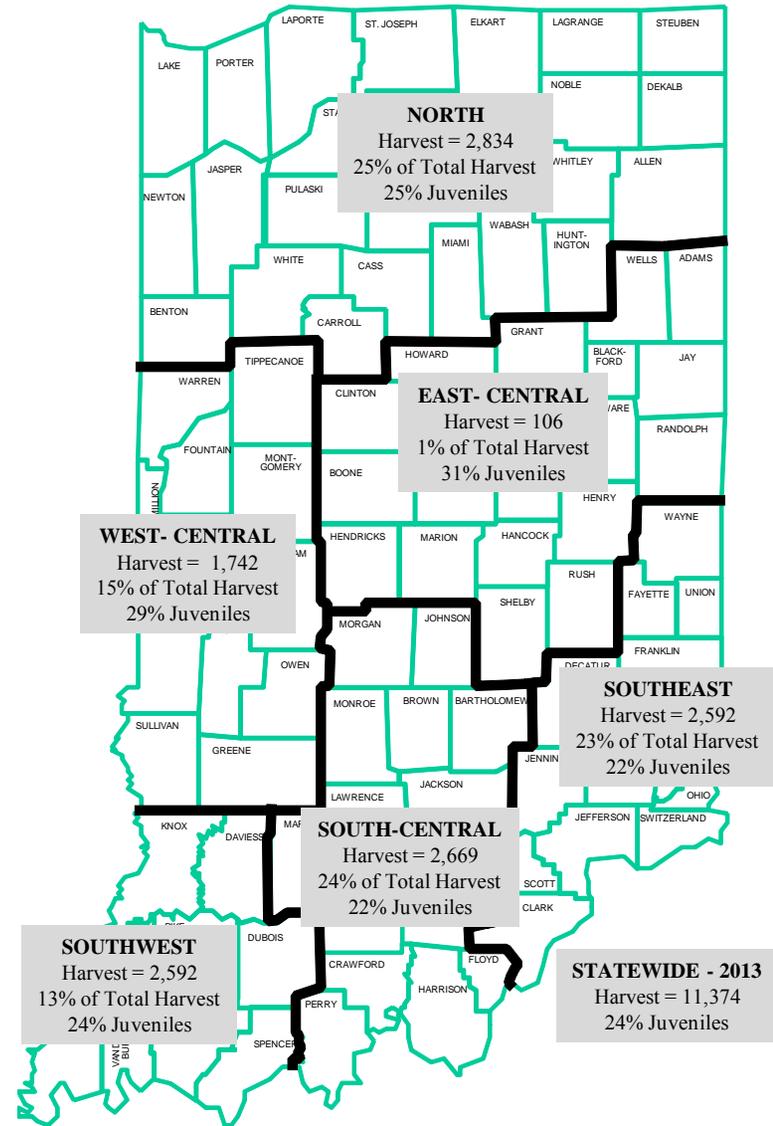


Table 4. Indiana's spring wild turkey hunting seasons, 1970 to 2013.

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	<b>40,801</b>	<b>28,615</b>	7,822	<b>27%</b>
2001	4/25-5/13	19	74	<b>43,815</b>	<b>36,103</b>	9,975	<b>28%</b>
2002	4/24-5/12 <sup>†</sup>	19	90	44,333	37,919	10,575	28%
2003	4/23-5/11	19	90	<b>48,857</b>	<b>40,110</b>	10,366	<b>26%</b>
2004	4/21-5/9	19	90	<b>50,839</b>	<b>41,996</b>	10,765	<b>26%</b>
2005	4/27-5/15	19	88	<b>50,839</b>	<b>49,684</b>	11,159	<b>22%</b>
2006	4/26-5/14	19	88	<b>67,290</b>	<b>50,880</b>	13,193	<b>26%</b>
2007	4/25-5/13 <sup>††</sup>	19	91	69,861	53,402	11,163	21%
2008	4/23-5/11	19	91	<b>71,052</b>	<b>55,022</b>	12,204	<b>22%</b>
2009	4/22-5/10	19	92	<b>75,161</b>	<b>59,000</b>	12,993	<b>22%</b>
2010	4/21-5/9	19	92	<b>73,089</b>	<b>56,891</b>	13,742	<b>24%</b>
2011	4/27-5/15	19	92	<b>72,323</b>	<b>56,220</b>	11,669	<b>21%</b>
2012	4/25-5/13	19	92	<b>71,836</b>	<b>56,144</b>	12,655	<b>23%</b>
2013	4/24-5/12	19	92	<b>74,966</b>	<b>59,092</b>	11,374	<b>19%</b>
2014	4/23-5/11	19	92				

\* Includes all allowable license types (e.g., lifetime, youth licenses sold by May, non-residnets, and apprentice).

\*\* No. of hunters includes those permit holders who hunted ≥1 day and since 1986, the number of hunters includes an estimate of license exempt landowners or military hunters on active leave participating in the spring season.

<sup>†</sup> "All-day" turkey hunting initiated; 1/2 hr prior to sunrise to sunset.

<sup>††</sup> 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

Figure 3. Indiana Spring Turkey Seasons

