

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH NOTES

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2064	Title: Spring Wild Turkey Harvest Results - 2020	5/22/2020

Abstract: Hunters harvested a record 14,492 wild turkeys in 90 of Indiana’s 92 counties during the 2020 spring season. This represents a 21 % increase from the 2019 harvest of 12,014 and 5% more than previous record spring harvest of 13,742 birds in 2010. Spring harvests increased from 2019 in 76 counties with 12 counties exceeding 300 birds compared to three in 2019. Most birds were harvested in the early part of the season during early morning hours. A total of 1,635 birds (11% of harvest) was taken during the youth-only weekend prior to the regular season. The proportion of juveniles in the harvest was 13% with 44% 2-year-olds, and 44% ≥ 3-year-olds. All regions of the state had proportional increases in harvests ranging from 9% in the southcentral to 47% in east-central Indiana. The estimated number of hunters afield was 74,500 with an estimated success rate of 19%. Chronic low summer production and the low proportion (13%) of juvenile gobblers in recent harvests continue to raise concerns about future harvest levels, hunter success, and hunter satisfaction.

Project ID/Activity: W36R5/W36R511

Hunters harvested a record 14,492 wild turkeys during Indiana’s 51st spring wild turkey season (April 22 – May 10, 2020) as reported to the “Check-IN-Game” reporting system (98% on-line; 2% tele-check). At least one turkey was harvested in 90 of Indiana’s 92 counties. The 2020 harvest was a 21% increase (2,480 birds) from 2019 (12,012 birds) and 5% (750 birds) more than the previous record in 2010 (13,742 birds). Twelve counties had harvests ≥ 300 birds compared to three in 2019. Overall, 76 counties had increased harvests, 11 decreased, and five experienced no change. The top 10 counties were Greene, Dearborn, Harrison, Switzerland, Kosciusko, Steuben, Perry, Noble, Franklin and Jefferson (Table 1; Figure 1).

A total of 1,635 birds (11% of harvest) was taken during the youth-only weekend (April 18-19) with 56% of the regular season harvest (12,857 birds) occurring during the first five days of the 19-day season and 32% occurring on the three weekends. About 65% of the harvest occurred by 10 am, 75% by noon, 11% from noon to 5 pm, and 14% occurred from 5 pm to sunset. Resident licensees harvested 48% of the birds, followed by lifetime (26%), youth (16%), qualifying license exempt landowners/military (7%), and non-resident (3%) licensees. The harvest occurred primarily on private land (94%), followed by state lands (4%) and federal lands (3%).

Male gobblers comprised 98% (14,184) of the harvest with 2% (308) bearded hens. The age structure of the male harvest was 13% juvenile (*i.e.*, 1-year-old birds, subadults, and jakes), 44% 2-year-olds, and 44% ≥ 3-year-olds (Table 2). The proportion of juveniles was considerably less than 18% in 2019 and equal to the previous low of 13% in 2017. Compared to the previous 10 seasons, there were proportionally fewer jakes and more ≥ 3-year-old birds ($P < 0.05$). This age structure reflects variation in brood production from 2016 to 2019 (Backs 2019) and the greater vulnerability of adult gobblers to harvest (Wright and Vangilder 2005, Chamberlain et al. 2012). Summer brood production in 2017 and 2018 improved over 2016, but another drop in production followed in 2019. The relative success of summer production in Indiana is often manifested in the proportion of 2-year-old gobblers harvested two springs afterwards (Backs and McCallen, *in prep*). The shift toward older gobbler age classes in Indiana’s harvests began about 15 years ago, when summer brood production declined following the wild turkey restoration era (1956-2004 in Indiana). Post-restoration populations are frequently characterized by reduced brood productivity and declining or stable spring harvests (Casalena et al. 2016, Byrne et al. 2016, Eriksen et al. 2016, Parent et al. 2016). The mean proportion of juveniles in Indiana’s spring harvest from 1988 to 2005 was 28% and has since declined substantially to a mean of 18% ($F_{1,31} = 21.5$; $P < 0.01$; Fig. 2).

The lower proportion of juveniles in the recent spring harvests raises concern for future hunter success and satisfaction (Vangilder 1992, Wright and Vangilder 2005, Chamberlain et al. 2012). Two-year-old gobblers are the most active gobbler cohort, generally the most vulnerable to harvest, and a main factor influencing the level of Indiana’s spring harvests (Backs and McCallen, *in prep*). The shift toward an older age structure in the spring harvest likely reflects multiple, consecutive years of poor production and will likely translate into decreasing hunter success and satisfaction, unless turkey production improves dramatically for several years. The higher harvest rates for adult gobblers may, however, be offset by a greater recruitment of juveniles into adult age classes in subsequent years, thus allowing for a sustainable harvest level (Deifenbach et al. 2012). More importantly, fewer juveniles in spring harvests also suggests a concurrent decrease in the proportion of the adult hen cohort that influences production and statewide populations levels for several years, even if weather and habitat conditions are conducive to poult survival. The substantial influx of new or reactivated turkey hunters in 2020 related to the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) virus shutdown, many of whom may have been inexperienced and generally less selective in taking an adult gobbler (Isabelle and Reitz 2015).

Given this experienced based hunter selection, the proportion of juveniles in the 2020 harvest may have actually been < 13% in a normal spring turkey season, when hunters had less free or discretionary time to hunt due to work, school, and other competing recreational activities.

All regions of the state had proportional increases in harvests ranging from 9% in the southcentral to 47% in east-central Indiana (Table 3). As stated, the proportion of juveniles in the statewide harvest decreased to 13% (5% less than 2019) with the greatest decrease (12%) in east-central Indiana and no change in the southwest region, where it remains low (11%). The north region (the largest region) accounted for 33% of the harvest with the southeast region having the highest harvest density (0.74/mi²), with the greatest increases in density in the southeast (13%) and west-central (12%). Since 2010, the north region, and to a much lesser degree the east-central region, increased in harvest density while other regions with generally older restored populations, have stabilized at lower levels. The southern regions had the highest higher harvests/mi² (Figure 4). Prior to 2020, the statewide harvest/mi² was leveling off or trending slightly downward (Figure 5) with the 2020 statewide harvest density of 0.47 birds 20% more than the mean of 2010-19 (0.37) and 8% above the 2019 harvest/mi² yet well below the approximate upper removal limit of 1 male/mi² suggested to maintain long term hunter satisfaction (Wakefield et al. 2020).

Annual statewide spring harvests had generally stabilized since 2010, with harvests ranging from 11,000 to 12,000 birds and 56,000 to 61,000 hunters in the field experiencing success rates of 18-22% (Table 4; Figure 6). The 2020 spring turkey season was marked with an unprecedented increase in permit sales and likely greater hunter participation rates among youth permit holders, lifetime licensees, and exempt landowners due to the COVID19 shutdown. A relatively accurate estimate of hunter numbers actually afield was difficult because trends from previous hunter effort and success surveys (2016 and 2018) likely did not apply to this atypical spring. Using a combination of changes in 2018, 2019, and 2020 permit sales and subsequent changes in the reported harvests by permit types, estimates of the potential eligible permittees and hunters afield were calculated, with increases of 18% and 25% respectively over 2019. The estimated 74,500 hunters experienced an estimated 19% success, further suggesting a continued general decline in hunter success over the last 25 years despite a record high harvest in 2020 (Figure 7). Relative hunter success and harvest levels, however, may not accurately reflect trends in wild turkey abundance unless effort is taken into account (Parent et al. 2016). The 2020 COVID19 shutdown likely provided more opportunities to make more than five hunting trips/season and expend more than five hours/trip than previously reported for 2012-18 (Backs and McCallen, *in prep*).

Reasons for the 21% increase in the 2020 spring harvest are primarily related to the significant increase in hunter numbers afield, who likely expended more total effort facilitated by generally favorable weather (abnormally cooler and relatively dry) statewide through the 19-day season. Prior to the advent of the COVID19, harvest projections were below 12,000, based on declining trends in summer brood production (Backs 2019), the low proportion of juveniles in the recent harvests, and the slightly declining harvest density observed prior to 2020 (Figures 2 and 7). The concern is what sustainable harvest levels can be maintained or will be experienced in 2021 and potentially 2022, with continued declines in brood production and the possible increased hunter demand, albeit likely temporary in 2020. Turkey populations in the southern half of the state could receive a much needed boost in production in 2021 if the weather is conducive to brood survival and coincides with the expected emergence of 17-yr periodical cicada (*Magicicada spp.*) Brood X (Kritsky et al. 2005). The 2004 Brood X emergence appeared to significantly increase production that year in southcentral and southeast Indiana (Backs 2004) and was subsequently manifested in a record 2006 spring harvest (Backs 2006) that carried over to a lesser degree into the 2007 spring harvest (Backs 2007). The 2021 possible increase in production also assumes there are enough adult females across the Brood X cicada range to capitalize on the cicada emergence.

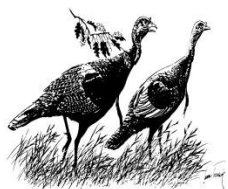
A general decline in turkey production has been evident in southern Indiana for at least 15 years and throughout the eastern United States (US), as older post-restoration populations stabilized with subsequent declines in harvests to levels below peak years (Porter et al. 2011, Eriksen et al. 2016). The apparent increased sensitivity or influence of annual turkey production on subsequent spring turkey harvests had already created a level of uncertainty about sustainable harvest levels across the eastern U.S. prior to 2020 and future management strategies (Byrne et al. 2016, Stevens et al. 2017). Although the higher proportion of adult gobblers in recent spring harvests is likely welcomed by hunters, the continued lower summer production and the lower proportion of juveniles in the spring harvests raises concerns about future harvest trends and hunter success, unless there is a significant upswing in turkey production for several consecutive years.

Special thanks go to Linnea Petercheff, Kyle Smith, Karl Eliason, and Scott Davis who facilitated the data transfer from the Check-IN-Game harvest reporting system and who along with the Division's communication staff made the virtual web-based turkey harvest tracking system <https://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/10340.htm> a reality that allows anyone to check the harvest progress by county and statewide.

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Table 1. Indiana wild turkey harvest by county, spring 2019 and 2020.

County	2019 Reported* Harvest	Percent of Harvest	2020 Reported* Harvest	Percent of Harvest	Difference from prior year	Percent Change
Adams	13	0.1%	29	0.2%	16	123%
Allen	85	0.7%	137	0.9%	52	61%
Bartholomew	94	0.8%	97	0.7%	3	3%
Benton	15	0.1%	15	0.1%	0	0%
Blackford	14	0.1%	16	0.1%	2	14%
Boone	8	0.1%	10	0.1%	2	25%
Brown	165	1.4%	155	1.1%	-10	-6%
Carroll	46	0.4%	59	0.4%	13	28%
Cass	72	0.6%	96	0.7%	24	33%
Clark	226	1.9%	270	1.9%	44	19%
Clay	129	1.1%	159	1.1%	30	23%
Clinton	10	0.1%	7	0.0%	-3	-30%
Crawford	223	1.9%	224	1.5%	1	0%
Daviess	106	0.9%	134	0.9%	28	26%
Dearborn	306	2.5%	396	2.7%	90	29%
Decatur	45	0.4%	74	0.5%	29	64%
DeKalb	264	2.2%	295	2.0%	31	12%
Delaware	5	0.0%	10	0.1%	5	100%
Dubois	173	1.4%	175	1.2%	2	1%
Elkhart	221	1.8%	244	1.7%	23	10%
Fayette	69	0.6%	69	0.5%	0	0%
Floyd	83	0.7%	100	0.7%	17	20%
Fountain	106	0.9%	151	1.0%	45	42%
Franklin	271	2.3%	325	2.2%	54	20%
Fulton	165	1.4%	220	1.5%	55	33%
Gibson	109	0.9%	191	1.3%	82	75%
Grant	9	0.1%	22	0.2%	13	144%
Greene	285	2.4%	402	2.8%	117	41%
Hamilton	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	-1	---
Hancock	7	0.1%	5	0.0%	-2	-29%
Harrison	316	2.6%	379	2.6%	63	20%
Hendricks	46	0.4%	64	0.4%	18	39%
Henry	14	0.1%	9	0.1%	-5	-36%
Howard	8	0.1%	10	0.1%	2	25%
Huntington	69	0.6%	76	0.5%	7	10%
Jackson	188	1.6%	184	1.3%	-4	-2%
Jasper	185	1.5%	234	1.6%	49	26%
Jay	58	0.5%	83	0.6%	25	43%
Jefferson	276	2.3%	322	2.2%	46	17%
Jennings	191	1.6%	226	1.6%	35	18%
Johnson	38	0.3%	31	0.2%	-7	-18%
Knox	104	0.9%	141	1.0%	37	36%
Kosciusko	289	2.4%	354	2.4%	65	22%
Lagrange	235	2.0%	226	1.6%	-9	-4%
Lake	56	0.5%	77	0.5%	21	38%
LaPorte	184	1.5%	239	1.6%	55	30%
Lawrence	222	1.8%	260	1.8%	38	17%

Table 1. continued on next page.

Table 1. Indiana wild turkey harvest by county, spring 2019 and 2020. *Continued.*

County	2019 Reported* Harvest	Percent of Harvest	2020 Reported* Harvest	Percent of Harvest	Difference from prior year	Percent Change
Madison	3	0.0%	1	0.0%	-2	-67%
Marion	1	0.0%	1	0.0%	0	0%
Marshall	270	2.2%	296	2.0%	26	10%
Martin	216	1.8%	209	1.4%	-7	-3%
Miami	79	0.7%	110	0.8%	31	39%
Monroe	151	1.3%	169	1.2%	18	12%
Montgomery	64	0.5%	109	0.8%	45	70%
Morgan	130	1.1%	159	1.1%	29	22%
Newton	138	1.1%	139	1.0%	1	1%
Noble	275	2.3%	336	2.3%	61	22%
Ohio	112	0.9%	138	1.0%	26	23%
Orange	209	1.7%	222	1.5%	13	6%
Owen	201	1.7%	278	1.9%	77	38%
Parke	192	1.6%	274	1.9%	82	43%
Perry	285	2.4%	338	2.3%	53	19%
Pike	195	1.6%	224	1.5%	29	15%
Porter	75	0.6%	98	0.7%	23	31%
Posey	132	1.1%	147	1.0%	15	11%
Pulaski	190	1.6%	237	1.6%	47	25%
Putnam	179	1.5%	248	1.7%	69	39%
Randolph	13	0.1%	19	0.1%	6	46%
Ripley	216	1.8%	237	1.6%	21	10%
Rush	4	0.0%	15	0.1%	11	275%
Saint Joseph	167	1.4%	209	1.4%	42	25%
Scott	128	1.1%	154	1.1%	26	20%
Shelby	14	0.1%	32	0.2%	18	129%
Spencer	184	1.5%	180	1.2%	-4	-2%
Starke	212	1.8%	312	2.2%	100	47%
Steuben	330	2.7%	345	2.4%	15	5%
Sullivan	220	1.8%	260	1.8%	40	18%
Switzerland	283	2.4%	364	2.5%	81	29%
Tippecanoe	67	0.6%	59	0.4%	-8	-12%
Tipton	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0%
Union	62	0.5%	77	0.5%	15	24%
Vanderburg	60	0.5%	81	0.6%	21	35%
Vermillion	73	0.6%	114	0.8%	41	56%
Vigo	151	1.3%	199	1.4%	48	32%
Wabash	86	0.7%	140	1.0%	54	63%
Warren	108	0.9%	122	0.8%	14	13%
Warrick	282	2.3%	301	2.1%	19	7%
Washington	166	1.4%	172	1.2%	6	4%
Wayne	74	0.6%	98	0.7%	24	32%
Wells	10	0.1%	16	0.1%	6	60%
White	94	0.8%	137	0.9%	43	46%
Whitley	109	0.9%	114	0.8%	5	5%
Totals	12,014		14,492		2478	21%

* Harvest data collected from hunter reports to "Check-IN-Game" (web-based and telephone).

Figure 1. Distribution of 2020 Spring Turkey Harvest

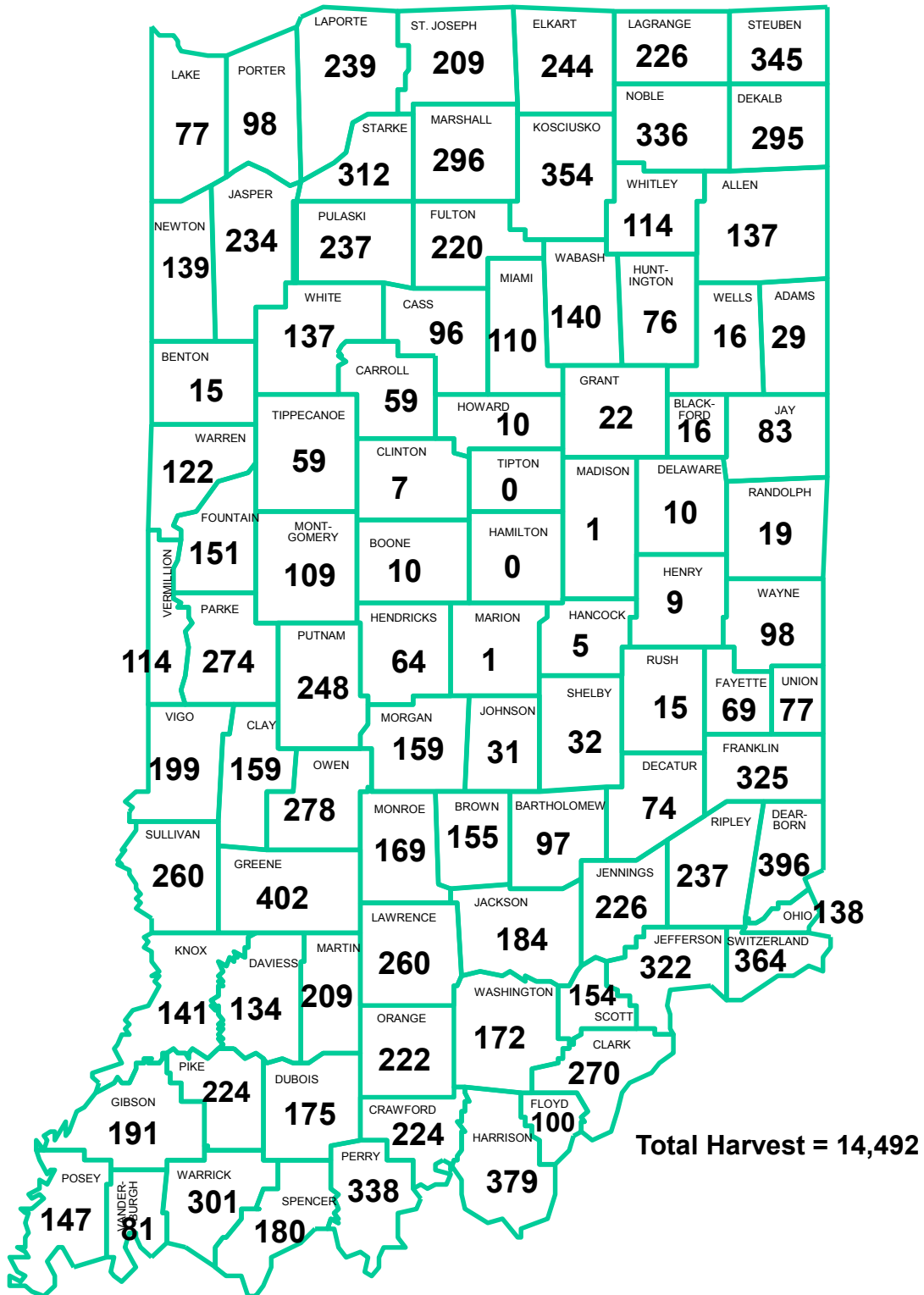


Table 2. Age structure of Indiana's spring gobbler harvests, 1988-2020.

Year	No. Age Determined	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
2013	11,374	24%	16.1	38%	21.8	38%	23.2
2014	10,872	17%	15.4	53%	21.7	30%	24.4
2015	11,853	21%	16.6	46%	22.0	33%	23.4
2016	12,081	19%	---	42%	---	39%	---
2017	13,069	13%	---	39%	---	48%	---
2018	11,306	15%	---	38%	---	47%	---
2019	12,014	18%	---	39%	---	43%	---
Previous 10 Year Means	12,239	18%		45%		37%	
2020	14,184	13%[‡]		44%		44%[‡]	

* Starting in 2016, age determination based primarily on spur length with secondary verification, if needed, using beard length class. Weights collected at check stations 1988-2015 were discontinued with implementation of web/telephone based "Check-IN-Game" system in 2016. Age class percentages based on harvested male turkeys only; legally harvested female turkeys generally make up <2% (range 1.3 to 2.0%) of harvest.

[‡] Value is different from previous 10 year mean ($P < 0.05$)

Figure 3. Proportion of Subadult Wild Turkeys in Indiana Spring Harvests, 1979-2020

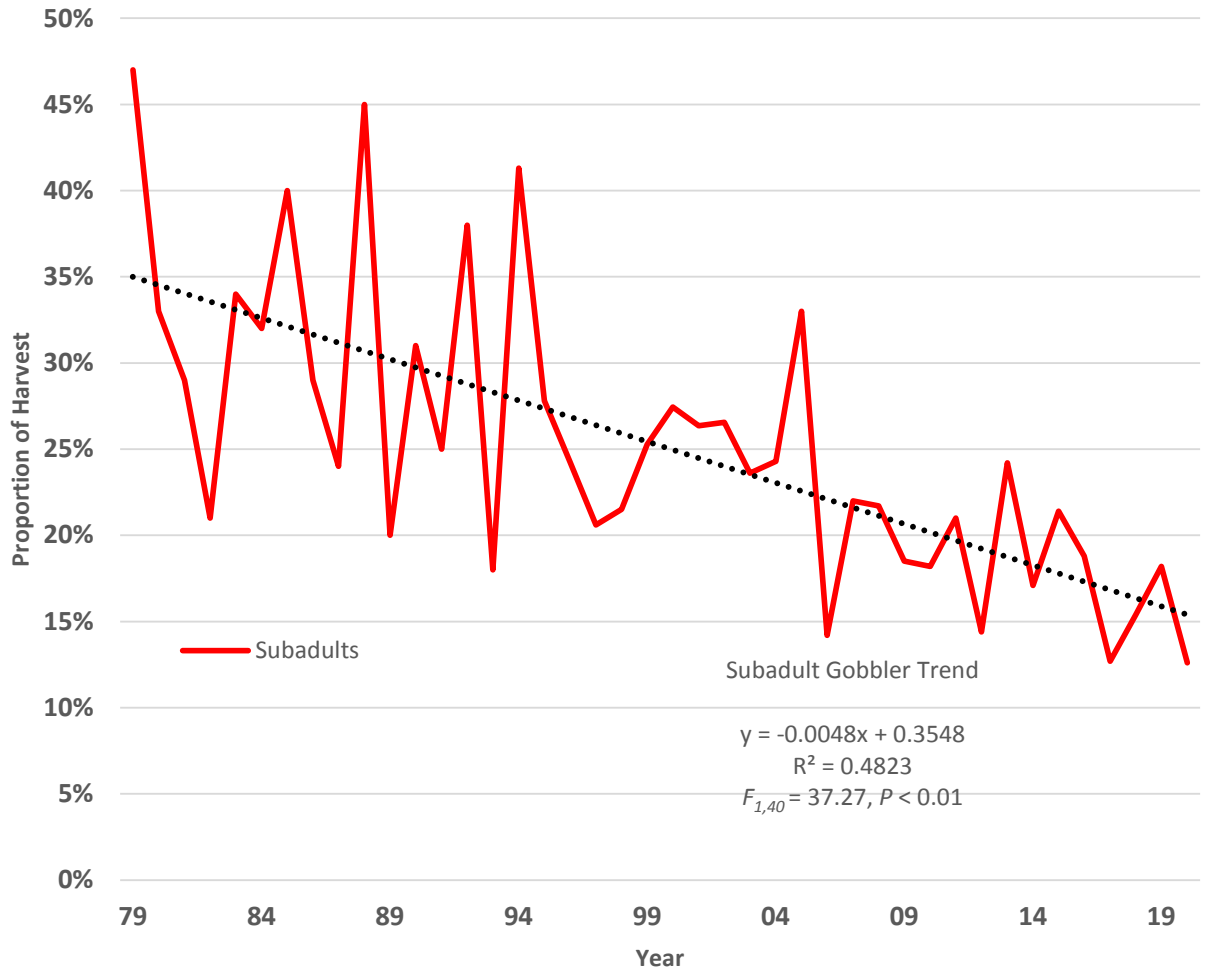


Table 3. Regional spring turkey harvest parameters and age structure in Indiana, 2008-2019.

	Region (% Forest Cover)						
	N (11%)	EC (6%)	WC (23%)	SC (47%)	SE (32%)	SW (19%)	State (19%)
2010							
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%
Hunt Range (SqMi)	9,625	6,178	4,854	4,994	3,705	3,380	32,738
Harvest/SqMI	0.32	0.02	0.42	0.68	0.90	0.53	0.42
2011							
Harvest	2,589	77	1,739	2,902	2,800	1,562	11,669
% of Total Harvest	22%	0.7%	15%	24%	24%	13%	---
Juvenile %	25%	27%	24%	20%	19%	16%	21%
Hunt Range (SqMi)	9,625	6,178	4,854	4,994	3,705	3,380	32,738
Harvest/SqMI	0.27	0.01	0.36	0.58	0.76	0.46	0.36
2012							
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%
Hunt Range (SqMi)	9,625	6,178	4,854	4,994	3,705	3,380	32,738
Harvest/SqMI	0.31	0.02	0.41	0.61	0.77	0.47	0.39
2013							
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%
Hunt Range (SqMi)	9,625	6,178	4,854	4,994	3,705	3,380	32,738
Harvest/SqMI	0.29	0.02	0.36	0.53	0.70	0.42	0.35
2014							
Harvest	2,733	142	1,658	2,510	2,517	1,312	10,872
% of Total Harvest	25%	1%	15%	23%	23%	12%	---
Juvenile %	22%	28%	18%	14%	15%	15%	17%
Hunt Range (SqMi)	9,625	6,178	4,854	4,994	3,705	3,380	32,738
Harvest/SqMI	0.28	0.02	0.34	0.50	0.68	0.39	0.33
2015							
Harvest	3,297	167	1,742	2,712	2,485	1,450	11,853
% of Total Harvest	28%	1%	15%	23%	21%	12%	---
Juvenile %	28%	24%	24%	18%	18%	17%	21%
Hunt Range (SqMi)	9,625	6,178	4,854	4,994	3,705	3,380	32,738
Harvest/SqMI	0.34	0.03	0.36	0.54	0.67	0.43	0.36
2016							
Harvest	3,727	215	1,855	2,574	2,390	1,320	12,081
% of Total Harvest	31%	2%	15%	21%	20%	11%	---
Juvenile %	20%	22%	18%	18%	18%	19%	19%
Hunt Range (SqMi)	9,625	6,178	4,854	4,994	3,705	3,380	32,738
Harvest/SqMI	0.39	0.03	0.38	0.52	0.65	0.39	0.37
2017							
Harvest	4,068	216	1,974	2,901	2,486	1,424	13,069
% of Total Harvest	31%	2%	15%	22%	19%	11%	---
Juvenile %	17%	21%	12%	8%	12%	10%	13%
Hunt Range (SqMi)	9,625	6,178	4,854	4,994	3,705	3,380	32,738
Harvest/SqMI	0.42	0.03	0.41	0.58	0.67	0.42	0.40
2018							
Harvest	3,825	191	1,756	2,162	2,142	1,230	11,306
% of Total Harvest	34%	2%	16%	19%	19%	11%	---
Juvenile %	15%	20%	17%	15%	16%	15%	15%
Hunt Range (SqMi)	9,625	6,178	4,854	4,994	3,705	3,380	32,738
Harvest/SqMI	0.40	0.03	0.36	0.43	0.58	0.36	0.35
2019							
Harvest	3,911	238	1,775	2,486	2,259	1,345	12,014
% of Total Harvest	33%	2%	15%	21%	19%	11%	---
Juvenile %	18%	27%	22%	15%	16%	16%	18%
Hunt Range (SqMi)	9,625	6,178	4,854	4,994	3,705	3,380	32,738
Harvest/SqMI	0.41	0.04	0.37	0.50	0.61	0.40	0.37
Previous 10-Year (2010-19) Means							
Harvest	3,308	156	1,827	2,739	2,588	1,446	12,064
% of Total Harvest	25%	1%	14%	21%	20%	11%	---
Juvenile %	22%	25%	20%	16%	16%	16%	18%
Hunt Range (SqMi)	9,625	6,178	4,854	4,994	3,705	3,380	32,738
Harvest/SqMI	0.34	0.03	0.38	0.55	0.70	0.43	0.37
2020							
Harvest	4,745	349	2,375	2,699	2,750	1,574	14,492
% of Total Harvest	33%	2%	16%	19%	19%	11%	---
Juvenile %	12%	16%	12%	13%	11%	15%	13%
Hunt Range (SqMi)	9,625	6,178	4,854	4,994	3,705	3,380	32,738
Harvest/SqMI	0.49	0.06	0.49	0.54	0.74	0.47	0.44
2019 to 2020 Differences							
Change in Harvest	834	111	600	213	491	229	2,478
Percent change in Harvest	21%	47%	34%	9%	22%	17%	21%
Change in percent Juveniles	-7%	-12%	-10%	-2%	-5%	0%	-5%
Change in harvest mi ²	9%	2%	12%	4%	13%	7%	8%

* Square miles of open hunting range; does not include closed areas (e.g., Henry County in 2007-2008) or large unhunttable parks and municipal areas.

Figure 4. Indiana Regional Spring Wild Turkey Harvests Per Square Mile, 2007 to 2020

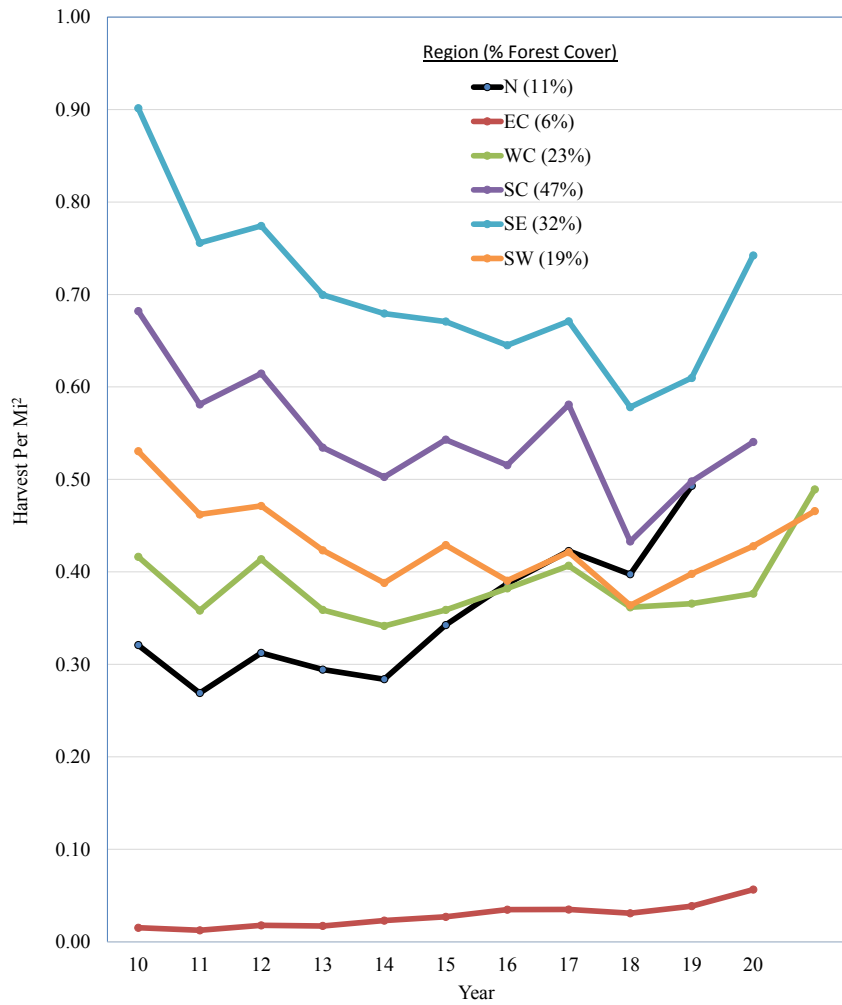


Figure 5. Wild turkeys harvested per square during spring seasons, Indiana.

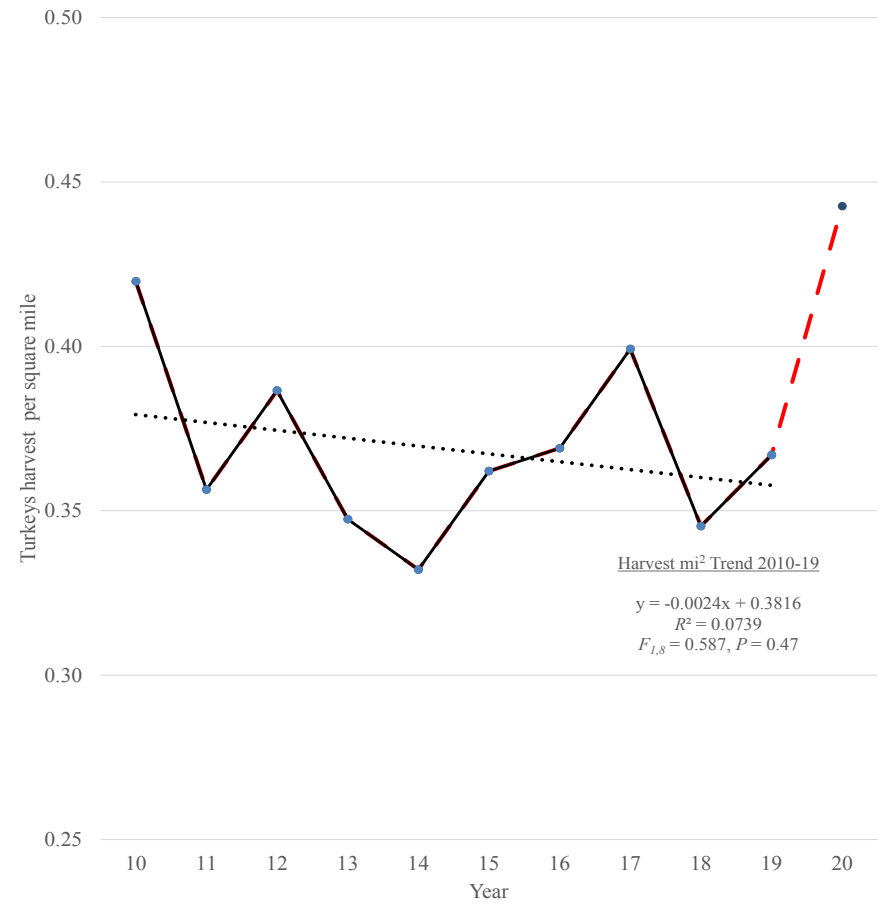


Table 4. Indiana's spring wild turkey hunting seasons, 1970 to 2020.

Year	Regular Season Dates	Season Length (Days)	No. of Counties	No. of Permits Sold ^a	Est. No. of Hunters ^b	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%

continued next page

Table 4. Indiana's spring wild turkey hunting seasons, 1970 to 2020. *continued*

Year	Regular Season Dates	Season Length (Days)	No. of Counties	No. of Permits Sold ^a	Est. No. of Hunters ^b	Reported Harvest	Hunter Success
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 ^c	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 ^d	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	73,089	56,891	13,742	24%
2011	4/27-5/15	19	92	72,323	56,220	11,669	21%
2012	4/25-5/13	19	92	71,836	60,561	12,655	21%
2013	4/24-5/12	19	92	74,966	60,889	11,374	19%
2014	4/23-5/11	19	92	73,279	59,237	10,872	18%
2015	4/22-5/10	19	92	69,192	55,531	11,853	21%
2016	4/27-5/15	19	92	72,484	56,561	12,081	21%
2017	4/26-5/14	19	92	72,775	58,980	13,069	22%
2018	4/25-5/13	19	92	72,120	60,267	11,306	19%
2019	4/24-5/12	19	92	71,623	59,789	12,014	20%
2020 ^e	4/22-5/10	19	92	84,500	74,500	14,492	19%

^a Includes all allowable license types (e.g., lifetime, youth licenses sold by May, non-residents, and apprentice).

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

^c "All-day" turkey hunting initiated; 1/2 hr prior to sunrise to sunset.

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

^e Estimates of potential permits and unknown participations rates confounded by COVID19 virus outbreak factors.

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

Figure 6. Indiana Spring Turkey Seasons

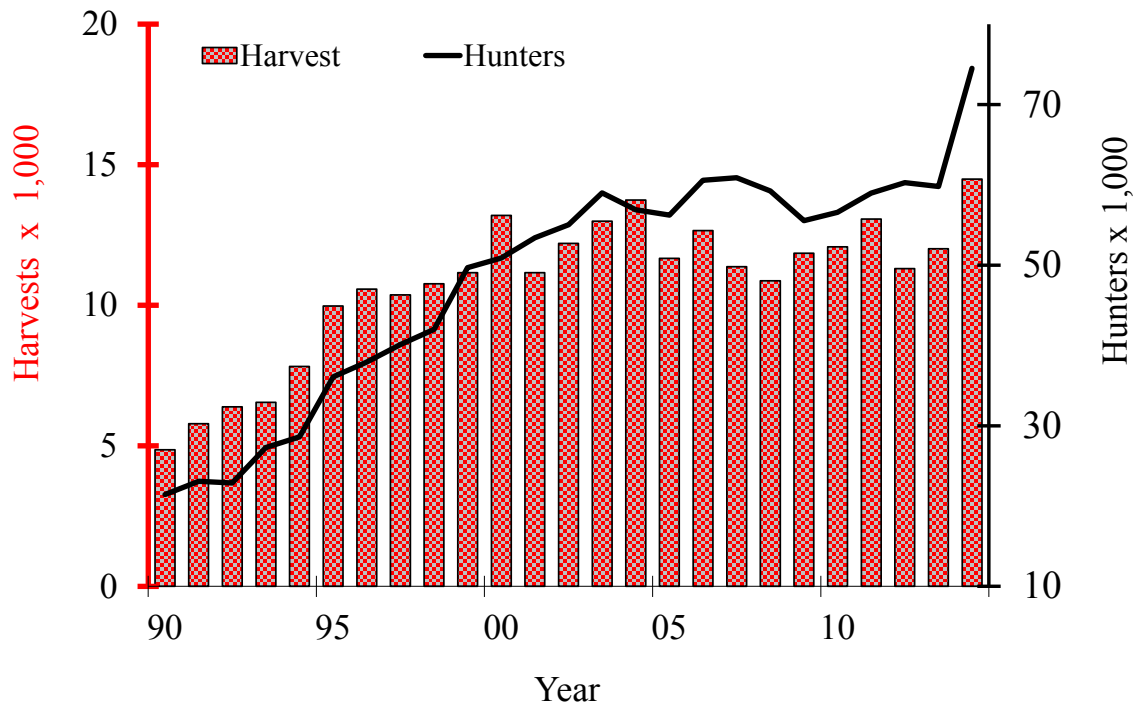


Figure 7. Estimated Indiana Spring Turkey Hunter Success

