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	Title	
	2009 Spring Wild Turkey Harvest - Check Station Results	

Abstract: Hunters harvested 12,993 wild turkeys in 88 of the 92 counties. The 2009 harvest was the second highest harvest in 40 years, exceeding the 2008 harvest by 789 birds (+6% increase). 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 978 birds was taken during the youth-only weekend prior to the regular season (7.5% of the total statewide 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 51% 2-yr-olds, and 30% \geq 3 yr-olds. The south-central and southeastern regions supported 51% of the harvest followed by northern Indiana at 20%.

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The 40th wild turkey hunt was held 22 April to 10 May 2009 with harvest data collected at 342 check stations throughout the turkey range. Hunters harvested 12,993 wild turkeys in 88 of the 92 counties during the 19-day season. The 2009 harvest was the second highest harvest exceeding the 2008 harvest by 789 birds (+6% increase). Counties with high kills (>350 birds harvested) were Switzerland (530), Harrison (511), Jefferson (447), Dearborn (397), Franklin (355), and Perry (352) (**Table 1; Figure 1**).

Approximately 54% of the regular season's harvest occurred during the first 5 days with 38% occurring on weekends (**Figure 2**). A total of 978 birds was taken during the youth-only weekend (4/18 & 4/19) prior to the regular season (7.5% of the total statewide harvest). Approximately 70% of the harvest occurred by 1000 hrs and 80% by noon with 16% occurring after 1500 hrs (3 pm) to sunset (**Figure 3**). Unlicensed landowners/active military personnel accounted for 9% of the harvest. Based on spur measurements taken at check stations, juvenile gobblers (1 yr-old birds commonly referred to as "jakes") made up 19% of the 2009 harvest; 2 yr-olds (51%); \geq 3 yr-olds (30%) (**Table 2; Figure 4**). Juvenile and adult mean weights were up slightly (~ +0.5 lbs) compared to previous years. The low proportion of juveniles in the harvest probably reflects low production during the 2008 summer. Indiana has experienced below normal production the last 4 summers in the major portions of the turkey range. While the proportion of juveniles in the harvest doesn't necessarily reflect low production since it can also reflect hunters selection for an adult gobbler, hunters have reported encountering fewer jakes the last couple of years.

The south-central and southeast regions accounted for 51% of the harvest followed by the north region at 20% of the total harvest (**Figure 5**). The north region harvest continues to increase both in total numbers and proportionally as turkey numbers increase (**Table 3**). The north region (the largest region) surpassed the west-central region which was the only region of the state showing a net decline in harvest from 2008.

Reasons for the increased harvest (+6%) reflect a combination of general turkey population growth around the state, especially in some northern counties, and the continual increase in hunter numbers. There were some notable shifts in the top 20 county harvests with the primary trend being a decreased harvest in some west-central counties. Flooding in the west-central region the past few spring/summers, especially 2008, may have temporarily depressed local turkey populations. The total number of hunters in the field over the 19-day season was estimated at around 59,000 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 342 volunteer check station operators for their cooperation.

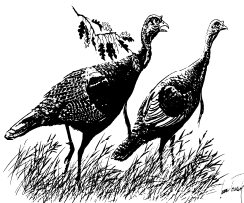


Table 1. Indiana wild turkey harvest by county, spring 2008 and 2009.

County	2008 Reported* Harvest	Percent of Harvest	2009 Reported* Harvest	Percent of Harvest	Difference from prior year	Percent Change
Adams	5	0.0%	9	0.1%	4	80%
Allen	15	0.1%	21	0.2%	6	40%
Bartholomew	105	0.9%	136	1.0%	31	30%
Benton	10	0.1%	10	0.1%	0	0%
Blackford	5	0.0%	2	0.0%	-3	-60%
Boone	2	0.0%	2	0.0%	0	0%
Brown	205	1.7%	175	1.3%	-30	-15%
Carroll	12	0.1%	12	0.1%	0	0%
Cass	34	0.3%	34	0.3%	0	0%
Clark	307	2.5%	293	2.3%	-14	-5%
Clay	134	1.1%	114	0.9%	-20	-15%
Clinton	0	0.0%	1	0.0%	1	---
Crawford	247	2.0%	312	2.4%	65	26%
Daviess	109	0.9%	113	0.9%	4	4%
Dearborn	353	2.9%	397	3.1%	44	12%
Decatur	51	0.4%	64	0.5%	13	25%
DeKalb	116	1.0%	157	1.2%	41	35%
Delaware	0	0.0%	1	0.0%	1	---
Dubois	213	1.7%	263	2.0%	50	23%
Elkhart	56	0.5%	92	0.7%	36	64%
Fayette	48	0.4%	58	0.4%	10	21%
Floyd	87	0.7%	102	0.8%	15	17%
Fountain	156	1.3%	141	1.1%	-15	-10%
Franklin	297	2.4%	355	2.7%	58	20%
Fulton	81	0.7%	105	0.8%	24	30%
Gibson	131	1.1%	126	1.0%	-5	-4%
Grant	6	0.0%	5	0.0%	-1	-17%
Greene	358	2.9%	343	2.6%	-15	-4%
Hamilton	0	0.0%	1	0.0%	1	---
Hancock	0	0.0%	1	0.0%	1	---
Harrison	428	3.5%	511	3.9%	83	19%
Hendricks	9	0.1%	9	0.1%	0	0%
Henry	Not Open	Not Open	2	0.0%	---	---
Howard	7	0.1%	9	0.1%	2	29%
Huntington	33	0.3%	44	0.3%	11	33%
Jackson	277	2.3%	293	2.3%	16	6%
Jasper	77	0.6%	64	0.5%	-13	-17%
Jay	7	0.1%	6	0.0%	-1	-14%
Jefferson	464	3.8%	447	3.4%	-17	-4%
Jennings	304	2.5%	326	2.5%	22	7%
Johnson	32	0.3%	33	0.3%	1	3%
Knox	103	0.8%	93	0.7%	-10	-10%
Kosciusko	63	0.5%	86	0.7%	23	37%
Lagrange	89	0.7%	139	1.1%	50	56%
Lake	10	0.1%	15	0.1%	5	50%
LaPorte	197	1.6%	242	1.9%	45	23%
Lawrence	301	2.5%	295	2.3%	-6	-2%

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

Table 1. Indiana wild turkey harvest by county, spring 2008 and 2009 *cont.*

County	2008 Reported* Harvest	Percent of Harvest	2009 Reported* Harvest	Percent of Harvest	Difference from prior year	Percent Change
Madison	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	-1	---
Marion	4	0.0%	0	0.0%	-4	---
Marshall	255	2.1%	310	2.4%	55	22%
Martin	241	2.0%	235	1.8%	-6	-2%
Miami	23	0.2%	26	0.2%	3	13%
Monroe	239	2.0%	215	1.7%	-24	-10%
Montgomery	62	0.5%	60	0.5%	-2	-3%
Morgan	86	0.7%	83	0.6%	-3	-3%
Newton	86	0.7%	99	0.8%	13	15%
Noble	53	0.4%	61	0.5%	8	15%
Ohio	188	1.5%	174	1.3%	-14	-7%
Orange	290	2.4%	297	2.3%	7	2%
Owen	246	2.0%	231	1.8%	-15	-6%
Parke	302	2.5%	278	2.1%	-24	-8%
Perry	320	2.6%	352	2.7%	32	10%
Pike	274	2.2%	322	2.5%	48	18%
Porter	25	0.2%	21	0.2%	-4	-16%
Posey	123	1.0%	143	1.1%	20	16%
Pulaski	94	0.8%	121	0.9%	27	29%
Putnam	150	1.2%	151	1.2%	1	1%
Randolph	6	0.0%	0	0.0%	-6	-100%
Ripley	234	1.9%	266	2.0%	32	14%
Rush	0	0.0%	2	0.0%	2	---
St. Joseph	170	1.4%	178	1.4%	8	5%
Scott	194	1.6%	207	1.6%	13	7%
Shelby	1	0.0%	4	0.0%	3	300%
Spencer	275	2.3%	311	2.4%	36	13%
Starke	266	2.2%	285	2.2%	19	7%
Steuben	299	2.5%	323	2.5%	24	8%
Sullivan	303	2.5%	265	2.0%	-38	-13%
Switzerland	533	4.4%	530	4.1%	-3	-1%
Tippecanoe	40	0.3%	46	0.4%	6	15%
Tipton	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0%
Union	56	0.5%	75	0.6%	19	34%
Vanderburg	19	0.2%	34	0.3%	15	79%
Vermillion	154	1.3%	120	0.9%	-34	-22%
Vigo	189	1.5%	193	1.5%	4	2%
Wabash	56	0.5%	49	0.4%	-7	-13%
Warren	139	1.1%	130	1.0%	-9	-6%
Warrick	269	2.2%	347	2.7%	78	29%
Washington	314	2.6%	275	2.1%	-39	-12%
Wayne	28	0.2%	41	0.3%	13	46%
Wells	7	0.1%	7	0.1%	0	0%
White	34	0.3%	51	0.4%	17	50%
Whitley	12	0.1%	16	0.1%	4	33%
Totals	12,204	100.0%	12,993	100.0%	789	6%

* Harvest totals from check station reports.

Fig. 2. Harvest by Day of Season

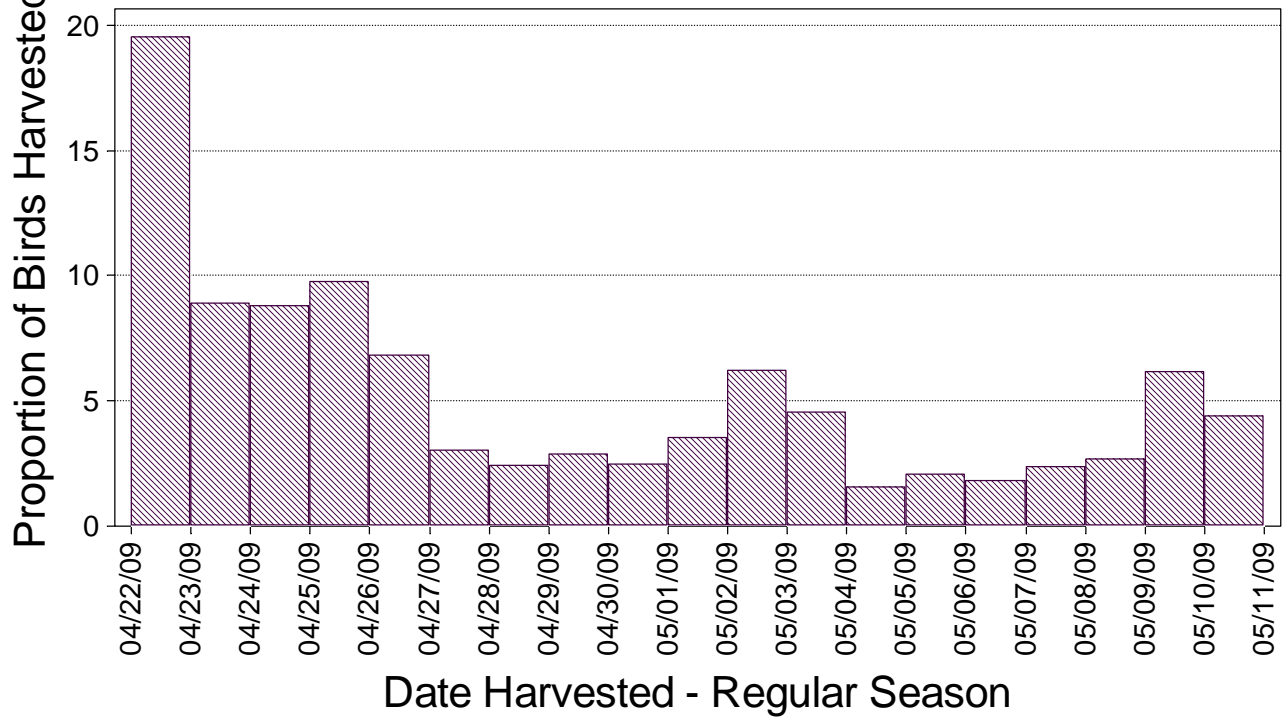


Fig. 3. Harvest by Time of Day

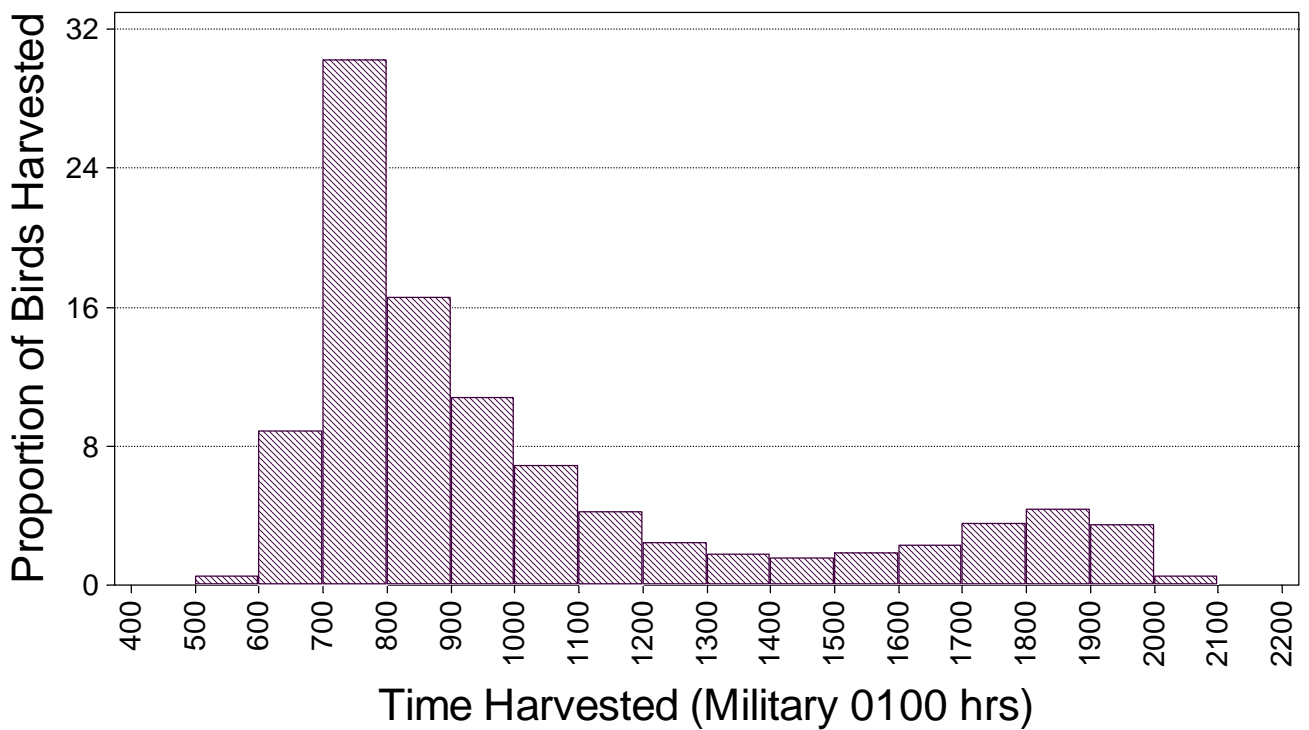


Table 2. Composition of Indiana's spring gobbler harvests, 1988-2009.

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
Previous Years' Means **		24%	15.4	49%	21.1	25%	22.4
2009	12,993	19%	16.0	51%	21.7	30%	22.9

* Based on longest spur measurement

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

Figure 4
Harvest Age Structure 1988-2009

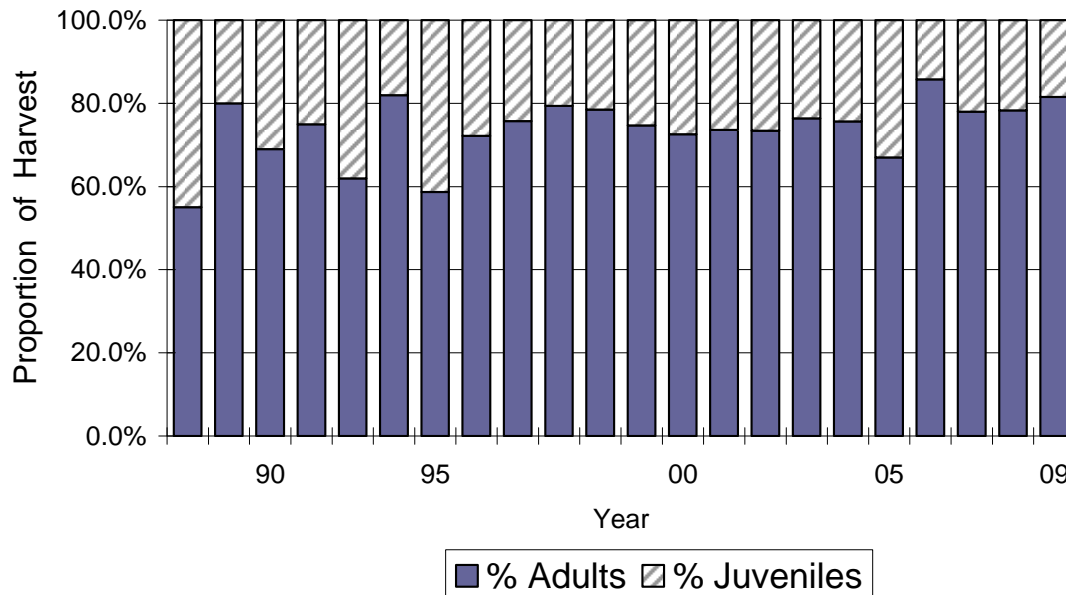


Fig. 5. 2009 Spring Wild Turkey Harvest by Regions

Table 3. Regional spring turkey harvest and age structure in Indiana, 2004 to 2008.

	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%

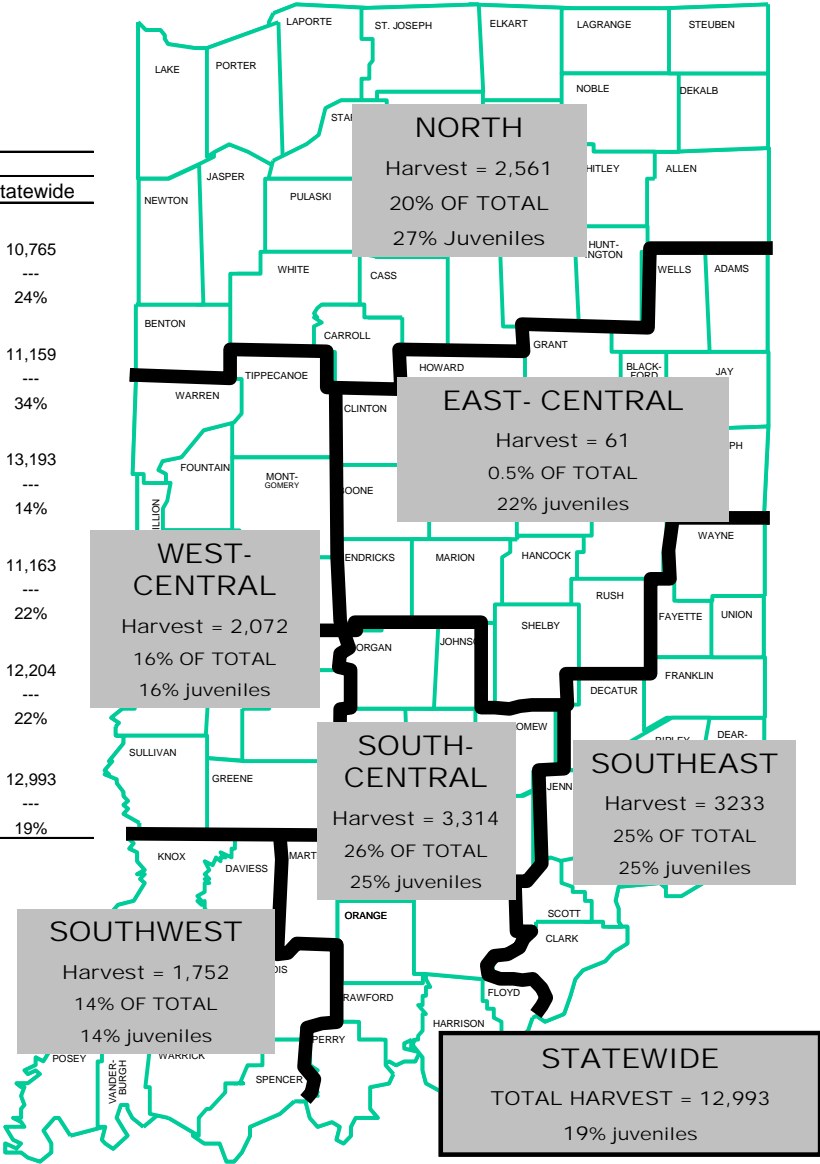


Table 4. Indiana's spring wild turkey hunting seasons, 1970 to 2009.

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				

* 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