DIVISION OF WILDLIFE Ohio Department of Natural Resources



TURKEY SEASON RESULTS, SPRING 2013

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In 2013, 18,409 gobblers were harvested during the Ohio spring wild turkey hunting season, an increase of 4% compared to 2012 (Table 1). The total was composed of 1,802 turkeys harvested during the two-day youth spring wild turkey hunting season on April 20-21 (+10%), and 16,607 turkeys harvested during the four-week spring wild turkey hunting season open from April 22 through May 19 (+4%). Wild turkey abundance was expected to be somewhat higher in 2013 than in the previous year because the statewide reproductive index increased in response to favorable hatch and brood-rearing conditions in 2012.

Ashtabula County reported a harvest of 767 gobblers, which ranked first in the state during the 2013 spring turkey season (Figure 1). Rounding out the top five counties were Guernsey (n = 541), Muskingum (n = 535), Coshocton (n = 531), and Tuscarawas (n = 529). Compared to the 2012 spring turkey season, the 2013 harvest increased in 50 counties, decreased in 37 counties, and remained the same in one county (Table 1).

Based off spur measurements reported by hunters, the 2013 spring turkey harvest was composed of 69% adult gobblers and 31% jakes. Most hunters reported harvesting a turkey on private land (90%); only 10% reported harvesting a gobbler on public land. Landowners reported a harvest of 4,066 gobblers, representing 21% of the statewide total harvest.

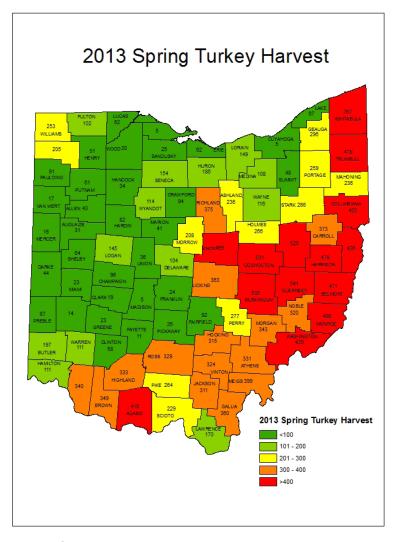


Figure 1. 2013 Spring Turkey Harvest by County

Seventy-six percent of the spring turkey harvest occurred during the first half of the 2013 season; 10% of the harvest occurred in the two-day youth season while 47%, 19%, 12%, and 12% of the harvest occurred during the first, second, third, and fourth weeks of the spring turkey season, respectively. A similar percentage of turkeys (22%) were harvested during the afternoon hours in the final two weeks of the season in 2013 as in 2012 (22%), 2011 (20%), and 2010 (25%), the first three years in which spring turkey hunting hours were extended from 12:00 p.m. until sunset.

Licensed hunters purchased 48,318 spring turkey permits, 10,934 youth spring turkey permits, 4,272 senior reduced-cost spring turkey permits, and 8,806 senior free spring turkey permits. The 72,330 spring turkey permits sold in 2013 were an increase of 5% above the 2012 spring turkey permit sales (Table 2). Success rates in 2013 were 22% for spring turkey permits, 21% for youth spring turkey permits, 19% for senior reduced-cost spring turkey permits, and 4% for senior free spring turkey permits. These success rates may be conservative (especially for the senior free spring turkey permits) because participation rates may be less than 100%.

Table 1. Spring turkey harvest 2012, 2013, and the percent change in the harvest in 88 Ohio counties.

| | County 2012 | | % Change | | |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------|--|--|
| Adams | 420 | 2013 418 | -1 | | |
| Allen | 45 | 43 | -4 | | |
| Ashland | 238 | 236 | -1 | | |
| Ashtabula | 762 | 767 | 1 | | |
| Athens | 335 | 331 | -1 | | |
| Auglaize | 34 | 31 | -9 | | |
| Belmont | 456 | 471 | 3 | | |
| Brown | 350 | 349 | -1 | | |
| Butler | 184 | 197 | 7 | | |
| Carroll | 385 | 373 | -3 | | |
| Champaign | 87 | 96 | 10 | | |
| Clark | 18 | 19 | 6 | | |
| Clermont | 338 | 340 | 1 | | |
| Clinton | 60 | 58 | -3 | | |
| Columbiana | 410 | 425 | 4 | | |
| Coshocton | 492 | 531 | 8 | | |
| | 77 | 94 | 22 | | |
| Crawford | 2 | 5 | 150 | | |
| Cuyahoga | 52 | 44 | -15 | | |
| Darke Defiance | 218 | 205 | | | |
| Delaware | 126 | 104 | -6 -17 | | |
| Erie | 60 | 62 | 3 | | |
| Fairfield | 111 | 92 | -17 | | |
| Fayette | 6 | 11 | 83 | | |
| Franklin | 21 | 24 | 14 | | |
| Fulton | 92 | 102 | 11 | | |
| Gallia | 289 | 360 | 25 | | |
| Geauga | 276 | 296 | 7 | | |
| Greene | 20 | 23 | 15 | | |
| Guernsey | 495 | 541 | 9 | | |
| Hamilton | 119 | 111 | -7 | | |
| Hancock | 23 | 34 | 48 | | |
| Hardin | 88 | 82 | -7 | | |
| Harrison | 451 | 479 | 6 | | |
| | 32 | 51 | 59 | | |
| Henry Highland | 402 | 333 | -17 | | |
| Hocking | 296 | 315 | 6 | | |
| | | | _ | | |
| Huron | 259 152 | 266 | 22 | | |
| Huron | 293 | 186 311 | 6 | | |
| Jackson | 365 | 426 | 17 | | |
| Jefferson | | 469 | 4 | | |
| Knox | 451 84 | 67 | | | |
| Lake | | | -20 | | |
| Lawrence | 179 | 170 | -5 | | |

| County | 2012 | 2013 | % Change |
|-----------------|----------|------------|-----------------|
| Licking | 380 | 363 | -4 |
| Logan | 166 | 145 | -13 |
| Lorain | 177 | 149 | -16 |
| Lucas | 46 | 62 | 35 |
| Madison | 1 | 5 | 400 |
| Mahoning | 238 | 236 | -1 |
| Marion | 49 | 41 | -16 |
| Medina | 120 | 108 | -10 |
| Meigs | 366 | 399 | 9 |
| Mercer | 20 | 16 | -20 |
| Miami | 12 | 23 | 92 |
| Monroe | 418 | 486 | 16 |
| Montgomery | 20 | 14 | -30 |
| Morgan | 292 | 343 | 17 |
| Morrow | 212 | 208 | -2 |
| Muskingum | 489 | 535 | 9 |
| Noble | 333 | 320 | -4 |
| Ottawa | 9 | 5 | -44 |
| Paulding | 99 | 91 | -8 |
| Perry | 247 | 277 | 12 |
| Pickaway | 26 | 26 | 0 |
| Pike | 280 | 264 | -6 |
| Portage | 234 | 259 | 11 |
| Preble | 91 | 87 | -4 |
| Putnam | 51 | 61 | 20 |
| Richland | 393 | 375 | -5 |
| Ross | 333 | 329 | -1 |
| Sandusky | 13 | 25 | 92 |
| Scioto | 210 | 229 | 9 |
| Seneca | 165 | 154 | -7 |
| Shelby | 42 | 64 | 52 |
| Stark | 213 | 266 | 25 |
| Summit | 42 | 48 | 14 |
| Trumbull | 428 | 479 | 12 |
| Tuscarawas | 531 | 529 | -1 |
| Union | 38 | 36 | -5 |
| Van Wert | 11 | 17 | 55 |
| Vinton | 263 | | 23 |
| Warren | 90 | 324 111 | 23 |
| Washington | 390 | | 13 |
| Wayne | 97 | 439 116 | 20 |
| Williams | 261 | | -3 |
| | | 253 | |
| Wood | 1 14 | 20 1 | hX |
| Wood Wyandot | 19 88 | 30 114 | <u>58</u> 30 |

 $Table\ 2.\ Ohio's\ spring\ turkey\ season\ dates,\ permits\ sold,\ and\ harvest,\ 1966-2013.$

| Year | Season Dates | Open Counties | Bag Limit | Permit Fee | Permits Sold ^a | Total Harvest ^b |
|------|----------------------|---------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1966 | 5/4-5/7 | 9 | 1 | Free | 500 | 12 |
| 1967 | 5/3-5/6 | 9 | 1 | Free | 898 | 18 |
| 1968 | 5/8-5/11 | 9 | 1 | Free | 914 | 20 |
| 1969 | 5/7-5/10 | 9 | 1 | Free | 945 | 37 |
| 1970 | 4/29-5/2 5/6-5/9 | 14 | 1 | Free | 909 896 | 30 36 |
| 1971 | 4/28-5/1 5/5-5/8 | 14 | 1 | Free | 1,000 1,000 | 37 17 |
| 1972 | 5/3-5/6 5/10-5/13 | 14 | 1 | \$5.35 | 917 881 | 32 25 |
| 1973 | 5/2-5/5 5/9-5/12 | 14 | 1 | \$5.35 | 1,034 1,034 | 39 32 |
| 1974 | 5/1-5/4 5/8-5/11 | 14 | 1 | \$10.50 | 999 184 | 61 10 |
| 1975 | 4/28-5/3 5/5-5/10 | 14 | 1 | \$10.50 | 996 267 | 75 19 |
| 1976 | 4/26-5/8 | 14 | 1 | \$10.50 | 1,471 | 139 |
| 1977 | 5/2-5/14 | 14 | 1 | \$10.50 | 1,751 | 137 |
| 1978 | 5/1-5/13 | 18 | 1 | \$10.50 | 2,000 | 147 |
| 1979 | 4/30-5/12 | 18 | 1 | \$10.50 | 2,000 | 265 |
| 1980 | 4/21-5/3 | 20 | 1 | \$10.75 | 2,097 | 387 |
| 1981 | 4/27-5/9 | 20 | 1 | \$10.75 | 3,458 | 577 |
| 1982 | 4/26-5/8 | 20 | 1 | \$10.75 | 4,262 | 651 |
| 1983 | 4/25-5/7 | 21 | 1 | \$10.75 | 5,141 | 764 |
| 1984 | 4/23-5/12 | 31 | 1 | \$10.75 | 6,935 | 1,233 |
| 1985 | 4/22-5/11 | 31 | 1 | \$10.75 | 10,084 | 1,583 |
| 1986 | 4/28-5/17 | 31 | 1 | \$10.75 | 11,913 | 1,816 |
| 1987 | 4/27-5/16 | 32 | 1 | \$10.75 | 13,396 | 2,268 |
| 1988 | 4/25-5/14 | 32 | 1 | \$11.00 | 16,208 | 2,629 |
| 1989 | 4/24-5/13 | 36 | 1 | \$11.00 | 18,887 | 3,171 |
| 1990 | 4/23-5/12 | 37 | 1 | \$16.00 | 19,613 | 4,096 |
| 1991 | 4/22-5/11 | 38 | 1 | \$16.00 | 22,898 | 5,009 |
| 1992 | 4/27-5/16 | 38 | 1 | \$16.00 | 28,974 | 5,678 |
| 1993 | 4/26-5/15 | 42 | 1 2 | \$16.00 \$32.00 | 29,538 4,106 | 7,470 |
| 1994 | 4/25-5/14 | 44 | 1 2 | \$16.00 \$32.00 | 29,334 5,187 | 9,098 |
| 1995 | 4/24-5/13 | 44 | 1 2 | \$20.00 \$40.00 | 30,837 6,136 | 10,892 |
| 1996 | 4/22-5/11 | 46 | 1 2 | \$20.00 \$40.00 | 31,003 7,700 | 12,098 |
| 1997 | 4/28-5/17 | 47 | 1 2 | \$20.00 \$40.00 | 30,511 8,130 | 12,393 |
| 1998 | 4/27-5/16 | 50 | 1 2 | \$20.00 \$40.00 | 31,037 8,133 | 13,251 |
| 1999 | 4/26-5/16 | 57 | 1 2 | \$20.00 \$40.00 | 42,363 7,846 | 14,419 |

Table 2. Continued.

| 2000 | 4/24-5/14 | 88 | 1 2 | \$20.00 \$40.00 | 49,982 9,720 | 20,276 |
|-------|-----------|----|--------|--------------------|------------------|--------|
| 2001 | 4/23-5/13 | 88 | 1 2 | \$20.00 \$40.00 | 54,841 11,092 | 26,156 |
| 2002 | 4/22-5/19 | 88 | 1 2 | \$20.00 \$40.00 | 48,821 24,633 | 22,190 |
| 2003° | 4/28-5/25 | 88 | 2 | \$20.00 | 94,989 | 20,368 |
| 2004 | 4/26-5/23 | 88 | 2 | \$24.00 | 74,119 | 16,927 |
| 2005 | 4/18-5/15 | 88 | 2 | \$24.00 | 85,053 | 18,833 |
| 2006 | 4/24-5/21 | 88 | 2 | \$24.00 | 85,248 | 20,023 |
| 2007 | 4/23-5/20 | 88 | 2 | \$24.00 | 75,408 | 18,584 |
| 2008 | 4/21-5/18 | 88 | 2 | \$24.00 | 79,962 | 20,389 |
| 2009 | 4/20-5/17 | 88 | 2 | \$24.00 | 80,644 | 20,710 |
| 2010 | 4/19-5/16 | 88 | 2 | \$24.00 | 78,388 | 23,421 |
| 2011 | 4/18-5/15 | 88 | 2 | \$24.00 | 74,957 | 18,162 |
| 2012 | 4/23-5/20 | 88 | 2 | \$24.00 | 68,952 | 17,657 |
| 2013 | 4/22-5/19 | 88 | 2 | \$24.00 | 72,330 | 18,409 |

^aIncludes youth and senior spring turkey permits (Ohio residents 66 years of age and older).

^bTotal recorded harvest by all hunter types (paid, youth, senior, and exempt).

^cThe special bonus wild turkey permit was eliminated in 2003 and hunters no longer could be classified as 1-bird or 2-bird permit holders.