

## TURKEY SEASON RESULTS, FALL 2008

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A total of 2,139 birds, 76% more than in 2007, was harvested during the 2008 Ohio fall wild turkey season (Table 1). The increase in the fall turkey harvest can partly be attributed to increased hunting opportunity. Since 2005, Ohio has had a 16-day fall shotgun season followed by a 28- to 35-day fall archery season; however, the use of shotguns was expanded for the entire fall turkey season of October 11 to November 30, 2008. Nine new counties in northeastern Ohio were also added to increase the number of counties open to fall turkey hunting to 46 (Fig. 1).

Ashtabula County had the highest reported fall harvest (165 turkeys), followed by Adams (98), Harrison (85), Brown (81), and Coshocton (79) counties. The top 5 counties collectively accounted for nearly 24% of the 2008 fall turkey harvest.

Adult females ( $n = 691$ ) comprised 36.4% of the harvest with a known age and sex, followed by juvenile females ( $n = 479$ , 25.2%), adult males ( $n = 421$ , 22.2%), and juvenile males ( $n = 309$ , 16.3%). The majority of turkeys were harvested on private land (55.5%) or the hunter's own land (34.4%).

The fall turkey harvest was well distributed throughout the season with 15% of turkeys harvested during opening weekend and 21% harvested during the next full week of the season. Each of the remaining 6 weeks of the season accounted for 7-14% of the total harvest.

Fall turkey permit sales ( $n = 7,482$ ) increased 32% over 2007 sales, but were 52% below the record fall turkey permit sales of 2002. Youth fall turkey permit sales ( $n = 1,019$ ) increased 44% and have been generally increasing since being introduced in 2004. Resident reduced-cost senior fall turkey permit sales ( $n = 722$ ) increased 55% and have also steadily increased since being introduced in 2004. Resident free senior fall turkey permits ( $n = 14,377$ ) declined (-9%) for the fifth consecutive year. A turkey hunter survey will be mailed in 2009 to estimate hunter participation and success rates.



Fig. 1. Counties open to fall either-sex wild turkey hunting in Ohio, 2008.

Table 1. Fall 2008 either-sex wild turkey harvest in 46 Ohio counties and comparisons with 2006 and 2007.

County	Number of turkeys harvested, 2008						Total harvest	
	Adult male	Adult female	Juvenile male	Juvenile female	Unknown age/sex	Total	2006	2007
Adams	12	40	13	19	14	98	44	42
Ashland	11	17	6	7	3	44	11	23
Ashtabula	45	41	26	46	7	165	70	97
Athens	8	12	2	2	2	26	31	21
Belmont	16	8	3	6	6	39	21	23
Brown	15	29	13	16	8	81	39	45
Carroll	10	13	9	10	5	47	34	33
Clermont	12	31	12	12	2	69	19	42
Columbiana	7	19	10	11	8	55	36	29
Coshocton	16	22	10	17	14	79	56	52
Cuyahoga	0	1	0	0	0	1		
Gallia	9	21	8	13	2	53	40	41
Geauga	9	21	17	17	7	71	24	32
Guernsey	11	24	2	22	4	63	35	56
Harrison	19	27	8	25	6	85	45	31
Highland	12	24	14	10	5	65	28	29
Hocking	4	8	1	3	4	20	27	21
Holmes	3	9	7	6	5	30	28	30
Jackson	5	9	3	9	2	28	40	43
Jefferson	8	12	2	6	7	35	28	23
Knox	11	22	5	19	12	69	40	46
Lake	3	2	2	4	2	13		
Lawrence	4	12	5	12	1	34	16	24
Licking	16	23	8	7	6	60	28	35
Lorain	9	9	5	6	4	33		
Mahoning	7	3	7	2	12	31		
Medina	11	7	5	6	2	31		
Meigs	5	9	4	11	4	33	27	30
Monroe	5	13	9	7	1	35	33	33
Morgan	2	3	8	8	2	23	28	9
Morrow	6	13	3	7	0	29	14	27
Muskingum	8	13	5	7	2	35	37	34
Noble	9	13	2	11	4	39	24	30
Perry	3	12	6	9	4	34	27	24
Pike	5	8	5	11	1	30	25	17
Portage	5	7	5	5	13	35		
Richland	8	18	8	8	13	55	33	23
Ross	11	12	9	7	8	47	27	20
Scioto	3	17	5	8	8	41	18	12
Stark	8	10	4	6	2	30		
Summit	2	2	1	2	0	7		
Trumbull	10	12	15	22	7	66	27	46
Tuscarawas	16	29	8	13	9	75	52	36
Vinton	4	20	4	12	2	42	38	33
Washington	16	12	4	10	1	43	25	24
Wayne	2	2	1	2	8	15		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>2,139</b>	<b>1,175</b>	<b>1,216</b>