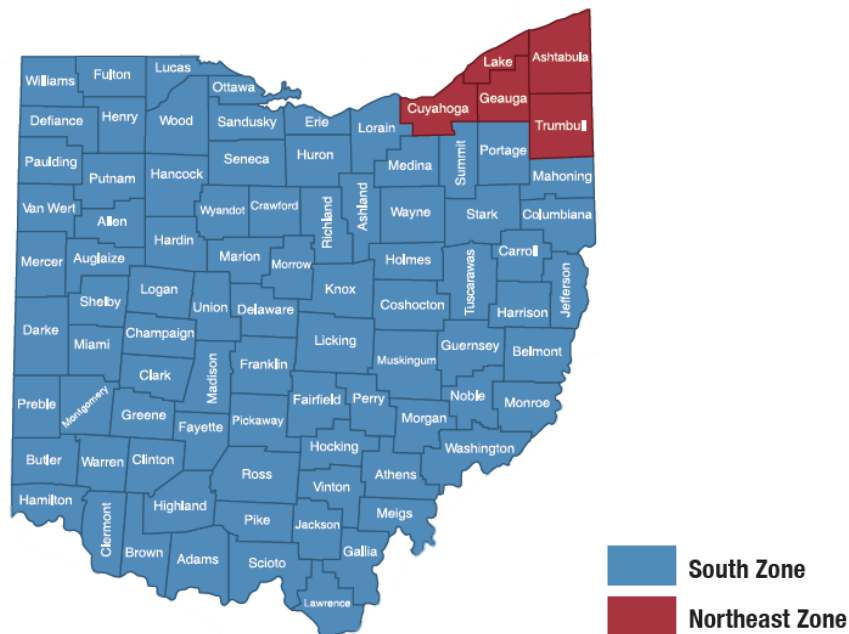




2018 SPRING WILD TURKEY SEASON RESULTS

Ohio's 2018 spring wild turkey season included two separate regular season zones with offset dates (Figure 1). The south zone was open April 23 to May 20. The northeast zone was open April 30 to May 27. The two-day youth season was open statewide during April 21-22. A spring turkey permit was required of residents (\$24) and nonresidents (\$29) in addition to a valid Ohio hunting license (resident = \$19, nonresident = \$140.50). Neither a permit nor license was required for landowners hunting on property they own. All turkeys harvested in Ohio were required to be reported to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) by 11:30 p.m. on the day of harvest. The season bag limit was two bearded turkeys (one turkey per permit and per day). Hunting hours were 30 minutes before sunrise to noon during the first two weeks, and 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset during the last two weeks of the regular season.

Figure 1. Ohio's spring wild turkey zones for 2018.



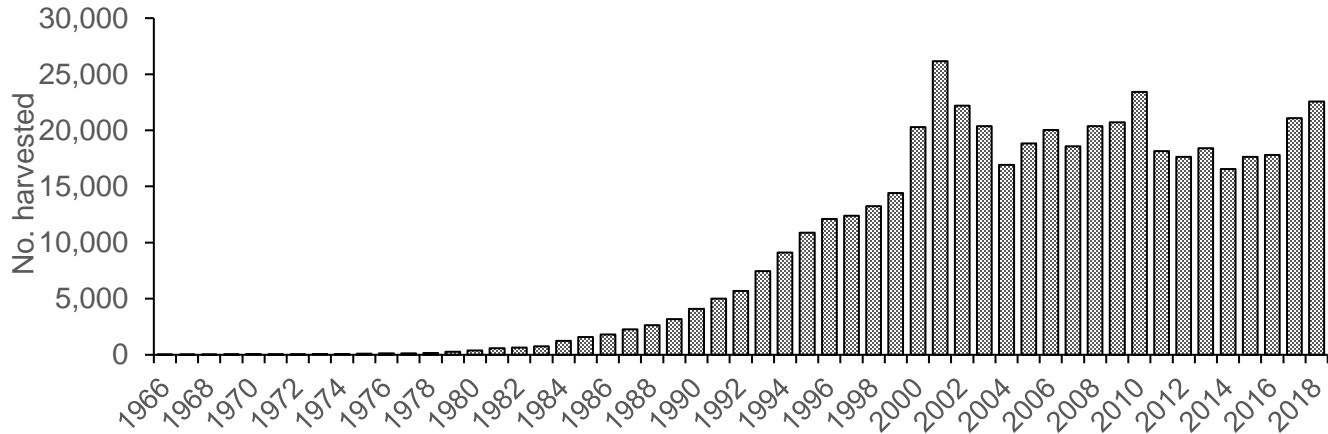
In total, 63,838 spring permits were issued in 2018, which is 2.5% below the 2017 spring season and 3.4% below the 5-year average (66,121). Of all 2018 spring permits, 64.4%, 7.3%, and 13.1% were resident, nonresident, and youth permits, respectively. Approximately 15.1% of all permits issued were reduced cost or free permits (Table 1).

Table 1. Total spring turkey permit sales in Ohio during 2014-2018.

Year	Resident		Nonresident		Youth		Reduced Cost		Free		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
2014	42,501	61.6	3,542	5.1	10,030	14.5	4,424	6.4	8,463	12.3	68,960
2015	41,395	62.8	3,628	5.5	9,245	14.0	4,680	7.1	6,935	10.5	65,883
2016	41,876	63.0	3,975	6.0	9,304	14.0	5,139	7.7	6,142	9.2	66,436
2017	41,851	63.9	4,311	6.6	9,167	14.0	5,503	8.4	4,654	7.1	65,486
2018	41,122	64.4	4,669	7.3	8,376	13.1	5,698	8.9	3,973	6.2	63,838

Total turkey harvest during Ohio's combined spring hunting seasons was 22,612 in 2018, an increase of 7.2% from 2017 and the third highest spring harvest total on record. Total spring harvest increased annually from 1980-1999, a period when both hunting opportunity and the turkey population were expanding. Since 2000, spring turkey harvest has stabilized and fluctuates around an average statewide harvest of 19,883 birds (2000-2018). Notable upticks in harvest follow years with high reproductive indices (e.g. 2001, 2010, 2018; Figure 2).

Figure 2. Total spring turkey harvest in Ohio during 1966-2018.



In 2018, 18,595 hunters reported a turkey harvest. Of those, 4,013 (21.6%) reported harvesting more than one turkey. Most turkey harvest occurred on private land (90.1%), while 9.9% of turkey harvest occurred public land. Landowner tags were used to take 5,158 turkeys, or 22.8% of the total spring harvest.

In 2018, the percentage of adult male birds in the total harvest increased considerably and the percentage of juvenile male birds decreased by more than half. The percentage of bearded hens in the spring harvest was nearly identical to previous years (Table 2). The percentages of turkeys taken by shotgun, vertical bow (compound, recurve, etc.), and crossbow remained consistent with previous years (Table 3). In 2018, hunters reported larger proportions of harvested male turkeys with spur lengths greater than ½ inch (Table 4).

Table 2. Summary of spring turkey harvest by turkey type during 2014-2018 in Ohio.

Year	Adult male		Juvenile male		Bearded female		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
2014	12,791	77.2	3,588	21.7	191	1.2	16,570
2015	13,731	77.8	3,728	21.1	194	1.1	17,653
2016	13,426	75.4	4,176	23.5	203	1.1	17,805
2017	15,401	73.0	5,426	25.7	270	1.3	21,097
2018	20,045	88.6	2,286	10.1	281	1.2	22,612

Table 3. Summary spring turkey harvest by hunting implement during 2014-2018 in Ohio.

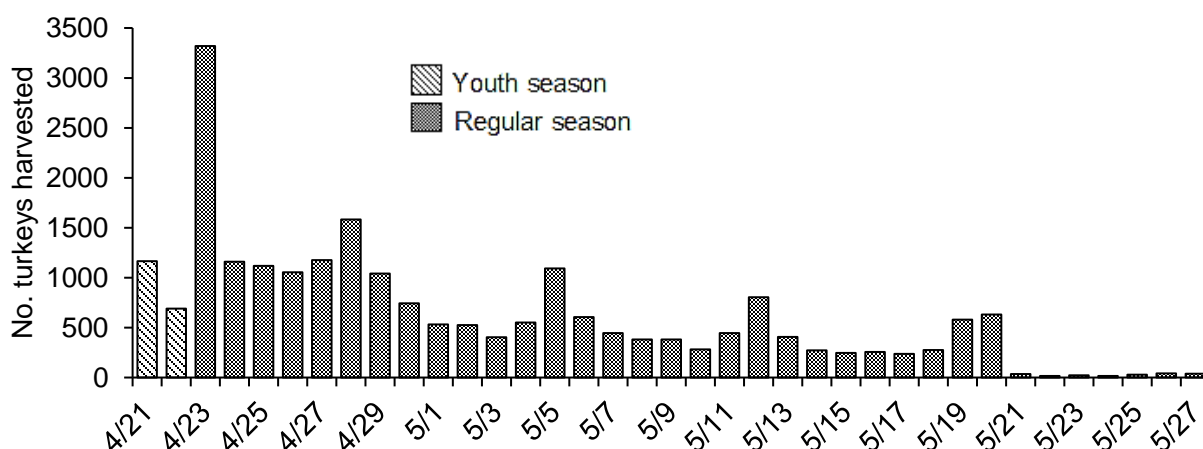
Year	Shotgun		Vertical bow		Crossbow		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
2014	16,228	97.9	243	1.5	99	0.6	16,570
2015	17,251	97.7	280	1.6	122	0.7	17,653
2016	17,384	97.6	297	1.7	124	0.7	17,805
2017	20,617	97.7	311	1.5	169	0.8	21,097
2018	22,092	97.7	359	1.6	161	0.7	22,612

Table 4. Summary of reported spur length for male turkeys harvested in Ohio during 2014-2018.

Year	1/2 inch or less		>1/2 inch but <1 inch		1 inch or greater		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
2014	4,202	25.7	4,336	26.5	7,843	47.9	16,381
2015	4,382	25.1	4,892	28.0	8,184	46.9	17,458
2016	4,813	27.3	4,441	25.2	8,352	47.4	17,606
2017	6,048	29.0	4,604	22.1	10,214	49.0	20,866
2018	2,817	12.6	6,511	29.1	13,019	58.3	22,347

Hunters checked 1,855 turkeys during the two-day youth season in 2018, a 1.7% decrease from 2017 (1,886). The youth season accounted for 8.2% of the total spring harvest in 2018. Turkeys taken opening day of the regular season in the south zone (April 23) accounted for 14.7% of the total spring harvest. Nearly half (46.2%) of the total spring harvest occurred during the first week of the regular season in the south zone (April 23-29). Spikes in harvest were apparent on weekends throughout the season (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Total turkey harvest by day during the 2018 spring season in Ohio.



Approximately 29.0%, 33.7% and 28.1% of resident, nonresident and youth spring turkey permits, respectively, resulted in a reported harvest during 2018. Reduced cost permit holders were slightly less successful (24.3%) while only 5.1% of free permits resulted in a reported harvest. The percentage of reported harvest for each permit type increased slightly from 2017 to 2018 (Table 5). We cannot determine landowner success rate since permits are only issued to landowners that report a harvest.

Table 5. Spring turkey permit success rate (%) during 2014-2018 in Ohio.

Year	Resident	Nonresident	Youth	Reduced cost	Free
2014	21	22	20	17	4
2015	23	24	24	19	4
2016	23	22	22	19	4
2017	27	28	27	21	5
2018	29	34	28	24	5

Counties in east-central and southeast Ohio reported the highest turkey harvest in the state in 2018. The top five Ohio counties were Tuscarawas (811), Monroe (809), Muskingum (804), Coshocton (803), and Guernsey (803; Figure 3). East-central and southeast Ohio saw increases in harvest from 2017 to 2018, while most other counties saw slight increases or decreases (Figure 4). East-central and southeast Ohio had evidence of excellent reproduction and poult survival in 2016, coinciding with a periodical cicada emergence in that region.

Figure 3. Total spring wild turkey harvest by Ohio county during 2018.

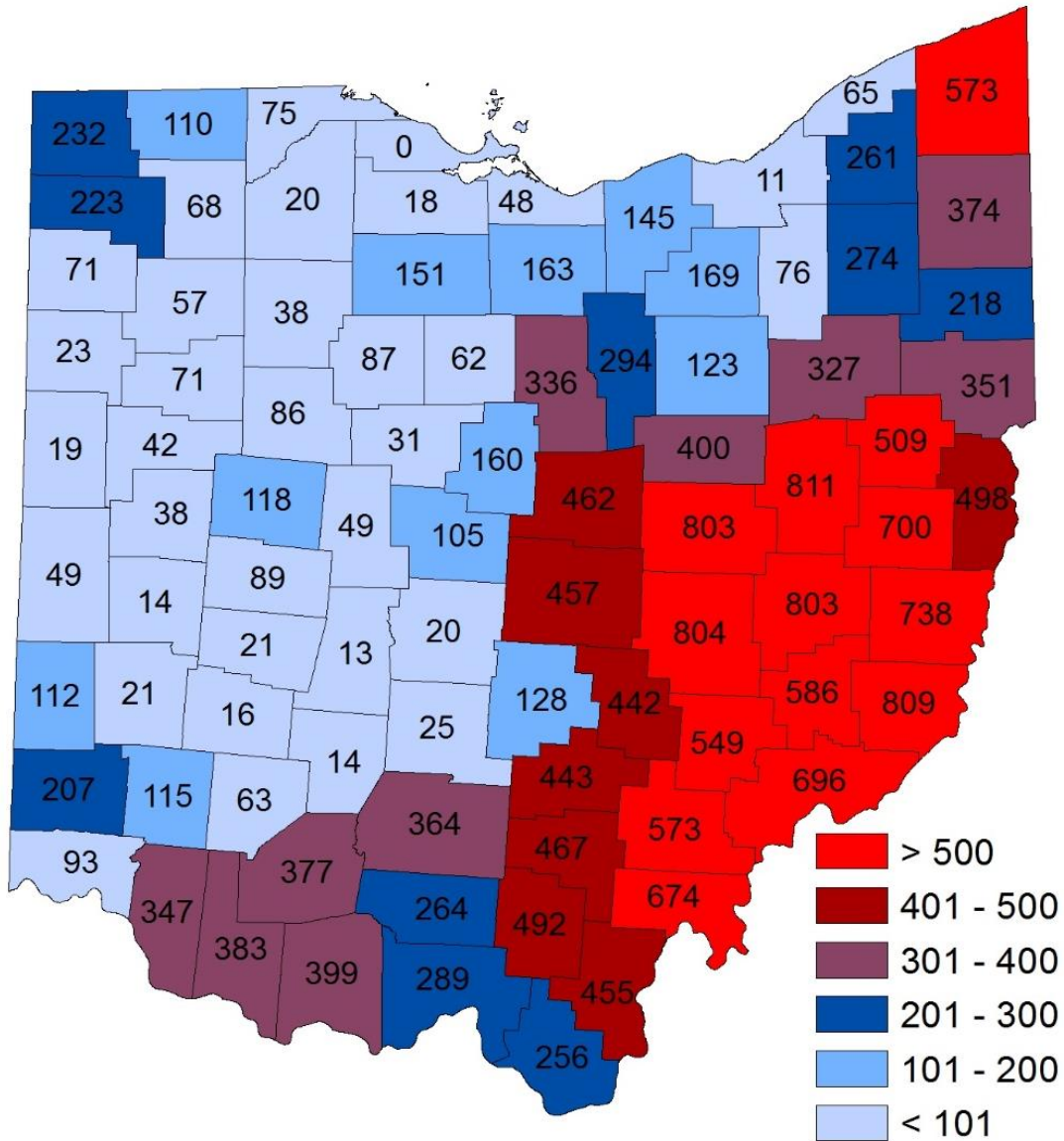
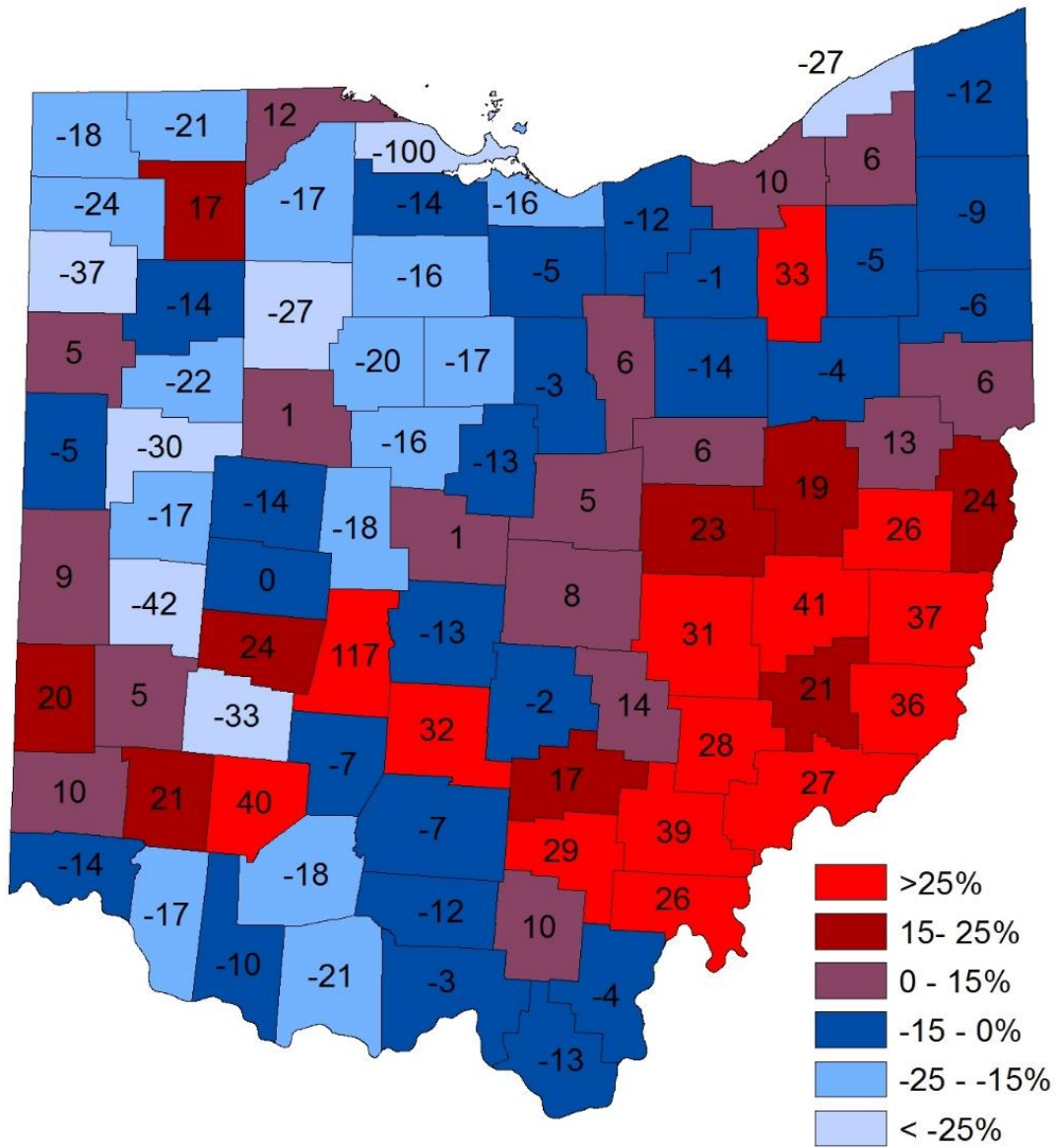


Figure 4. Percentage change in spring wild turkey harvest by Ohio county from 2017 to 2018.



Appendix A. Spring wild turkey harvest totals for Ohio counties in 2018

County	Adult male	Juvenile male	Bearded female	TOTAL	County	Adult male	Juvenile male	Bearded female	TOTAL
Adams	341	52	6	399	Licking	411	43	3	457
Allen	54	16	1	71	Logan	98	20	0	118
Ashland	266	25	3	294	Lorain	126	19	0	145
Ashtabula	433	125	15	573	Lucas	58	15	2	75
Athens	553	17	3	573	Madison	12	1	0	13
Auglaize	38	3	1	42	Mahoning	181	34	3	218
Belmont	702	27	9	738	Marion	21	9	1	31
Brown	332	48	3	383	Medina	145	22	2	169
Butler	168	34	5	207	Meigs	647	23	4	674
Carroll	464	33	12	509	Mercer	12	5	2	19
Champaign	73	16	0	89	Miami	11	3	0	14
Clark	16	5	0	21	Monroe	780	26	3	809
Clermont	302	41	4	347	Montgomery	12	8	1	21
Clinton	42	21	0	63	Morgan	512	31	6	549
Columbiana	281	64	6	351	Morrow	105	50	5	160
Coshocton	750	40	13	803	Muskingum	774	25	5	804
Crawford	51	11	0	62	Noble	549	29	8	586
Cuyahoga	10	1	0	11	Ottawa	0	0	0	0
Darke	28	20	1	49	Paulding	57	13	1	71
Defiance	178	41	4	223	Perry	420	22	0	442
Delaware	76	28	1	105	Pickaway	21	3	1	25
Erie	32	15	1	48	Pike	256	6	2	264
Fairfield	116	11	1	128	Portage	215	53	6	274
Fayette	8	5	1	14	Preble	74	36	2	112
Franklin	19	1	0	20	Putnam	41	12	4	57
Fulton	85	23	2	110	Richland	271	57	8	336
Gallia	399	53	3	455	Ross	327	33	4	364
Geauga	189	69	3	261	Sandusky	12	6	0	18
Greene	12	4	0	16	Scioto	264	24	1	289
Guernsey	769	30	4	803	Seneca	119	27	5	151
Hamilton	86	7	0	93	Shelby	27	11	0	38
Hancock	31	4	3	38	Stark	298	23	6	327
Hardin	63	21	2	86	Summit	67	9	0	76
Harrison	667	26	7	700	Trumbull	293	68	13	374
Henry	50	18	0	68	Tuscarawas	740	61	10	811
Highland	310	62	5	377	Union	37	12	0	49
Hocking	429	14	0	443	Van Wert	15	6	2	23
Holmes	356	35	9	400	Vinton	443	23	1	467
Huron	116	42	5	163	Warren	90	24	1	115
Jackson	466	19	7	492	Washington	658	31	7	696
Jefferson	469	25	4	498	Wayne	99	20	4	123
Knox	398	58	6	462	Williams	185	41	6	232
Lake	52	13	0	65	Wood	13	7	0	20
Lawrence	205	50	1	256	Wyandot	64	22	1	87
					State Total	20,045	2,286	281	22,612

Appendix B. Ohio's spring wild turkey season dates, permits sold, and total harvest, 1966-2017.

Year	Season Dates	Open Counties	Bag Limit	Permit Fee	Permits Issued ^a	Total Harvest ^b
1966	05/04 – 05/07	9	1	Free	500	12
1967	05/03 – 05/06	9	1	Free	898	18
1968	05/08 – 05/11	9	1	Free	914	20
1969	05/07 – 05/10	9	1	Free	945	37
1970	04/29 – 05/02	14	1	Free	909	30
	05/06 – 05/09				896	36
1971	04/28 – 05/01	14	1	Free	1,000	37
	05/05 – 05/08				1,000	17
1972	05/03 – 05/06	14	1	\$5.35	917	32
	05/10 – 05/13				881	25
1973	05/02 – 05/05	14	1	\$5.35	1,034	39
	05/09 – 05/12				1,034	32
1974	05/01 – 05/04	14	1	\$10.50	999	61
	05/08 – 05/11				184	10
1975	04/28 – 05/03	14	1	\$10.50	996	75
	05/05 – 05/10				267	19
1976	04/26 – 05/08	14	1	\$10.50	1,471	139
1977	05/02 – 05/14	14	1	\$10.50	1,751	137
1978	05/01 – 05/13	18	1	\$10.50	2,000	147
1979	04/30 – 05/12	18	1	\$10.50	2,000	265
1980	04/21 – 05/03	20	1	\$10.75	2,097	387
1981	04/27 – 05/09	20	1	\$10.75	3,458	577
1982	04/26 – 05/08	20	1	\$10.75	4,262	651
1983	04/25 – 05/07	21	1	\$10.75	5,141	764
1984	04/23 – 05/12	31	1	\$10.75	6,935	1,233
1985	04/22 – 05/11	31	1	\$10.75	10,084	1,583
1986	04/28 – 05/17	31	1	\$10.75	11,913	1,816
1987	04/27 – 05/16	32	1	\$10.75	13,396	2,268
1988	04/25 – 05/14	32	1	\$11.00	16,208	2,629
1989	04/24 – 05/13	36	1	\$11.00	18,887	3,171
1990	04/23 – 05/12	37	1	\$16.00	19,613	4,096
1991	04/22 – 05/11	38	1	\$16.00	22,898	5,009
1992	04/27 – 05/16	38	1	\$16.00	28,974	5,678
1993	04/26 – 05/15	42	1	\$16.00	29,538	7,470
			2	\$32.00	4,106	
1994	04/25 – 05/14	44	1	\$16.00	29,334	9,098
			2	\$32.00	5,187	
1995	04/24 – 05/13	44	1	\$20.00	30,837	10,892
			2	\$40.00	6,136	
1996	04/22 – 05/11	46	1	\$20.00	31,003	12,098
			2	\$40.00	7,700	
1997	04/28 – 05/17	47	1	\$20.00	30,511	12,393
			2	\$40.00	8,130	
1998	04/27 – 05/16	50	1	\$20.00	31,037	13,251
			2	\$40.00	8,133	
1999	04/26 – 05/16	57	1	\$20.00	42,363	14,419
			2	\$40.00	7,846	
2000	04/24 – 05/14	88	1	\$20.00	49,982	20,276
			2	\$40.00	9,720	
2001	04/23 – 05/13	88	1	\$20.00	54,841	26,156
			2	\$40.00	11,092	
2002	04/22 – 05/19	88	1	\$20.00	48,821	22,190
			2	\$40.00	24,633	
2003 ^c	04/28 – 05/25	88	2	\$20.00	94,989	20,368
2004	04/26 – 05/23	88	2	\$24.00	74,119	16,927

2005	04/18 – 05/15	88	2	\$24.00	85,053	18,833
2006	04/24 – 05/21	88	2	\$24.00	85,248	20,023
2007	04/23 – 05/20	88	2	\$24.00	75,408	18,584
2008	04/21 – 05/18	88	2	\$24.00	79,962	20,389
2009	04/20 – 05/17	88	2	\$24.00	81,049	20,710
2010	04/19 – 05/16	88	2	\$24.00	78,388	23,421
2011	04/18 – 05/15	88	2	\$24.00	76,665	18,162
2012	04/23 – 05/20	88	2	\$24.00	70,291	17,657
2013	04/22 – 05/19	88	2	\$24.00	73,914	18,409
2014	04/21 – 05/18	88	2	\$24.00	68,960	16,568
2015	04/20 – 05/17	88	2	\$24.00	65,883	17,652
2016	04/18 – 05/15	88	2	\$24.00	66,436	17,805
2017 ^d	04/24 – 05/21	83	2	\$24.00 ^e	65,486	21,097
	05/01 – 05/28	5				
2018 ^d	04/23 – 05/20	83	2	\$24.00 ^e	63,838	22,612
	04/30 – 05/27	5				

^aIncludes all permit types.

^bTotal recorded harvest by all hunter types.

^cThe special bonus wild turkey permit was eliminated in 2003. Hunters no longer classified as one-bird or two-bird permit holders.

^dSouth and Northeast Zones established in 2017 with offset dates

^eIncludes resident permit fee only