



Illinois spring wild turkey season harvest totals 15,484 birds

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SPRINGFIELD – Hunters in Illinois harvested a preliminary statewide total of 15,484 wild turkeys during the 2016 Spring Turkey Season, including the youth seasons. The 2016 total compares with the statewide turkey harvest of 15,000 in 2015. The statewide preliminary total includes Youth Turkey Season harvest of 1,045 birds, compared with youth season harvest of 896 turkeys in 2015.

Spring turkey hunting was open in 100 of Illinois’ 102 counties. The 2016 seasons were April 4-May 5 in the South Zone and April 11-May 12 in the North Zone. The Youth Spring Turkey Season was March 26-27 in the South Zone and April 2-3 in the North Zone.

Turkey hunters this spring took a preliminary total of 6,694 wild turkeys during all season segments in the South Zone, a slight increase over the harvest of 6,387 last year in the south. The North Zone preliminary harvest total of 8,790 wild turkeys was also higher than the 2015 total of 8,613 in the north.

“This is the second consecutive year of improved harvest numbers in Illinois,” said **IDNR Forest Wildlife Biologist Paul Shelton**. “The 2014 spring season marked a low point in recent turkey harvest after a number of consecutive years of poor reproduction, particularly in the North Zone. We’re encouraged to see that harvest numbers are rebounding – numbers in the North Zone were almost 20 percent higher than in 2014. Harvest in west-central Illinois, which seems to have been most affected by poor reproduction in recent years, was about 30 percent higher than 2014 figures.”

The top counties for spring wild turkey harvest in the South Zone in 2016 were Jefferson (420), Marion (380), Randolph (372), Pope (356), and Union (354). The top five North Zone counties for spring turkey harvest this year were Jo Daviess (568), Fulton (446), Pike (393), Adams (389), and Schuyler (360).

The table below includes the preliminary 2016 county-by-county spring turkey harvest results with comparable totals for 2015.

Illinois Spring Turkey Harvest - Preliminary Results

County	2016	2015
Adams	389	389
Alexander	134	143
Bond	135	159

Boone	76	74
Brown	357	319
Bureau	157	171
Calhoun	210	201
Carroll	195	184
Cass	213	257
Champaign	22	26
Christian	41	52
Clark	158	170
Clay	210	165
Clinton	86	101
Coles	39	26
Crawford	166	135
Cumberland	54	59

DeKalb	21	13
DeWitt	45	52
Douglas	6	5
Edgar	85	83
Edwards	96	109
Effingham	86	109
Fayette	233	224
Ford	10	12
Franklin	152	187
Fulton	446	401
Gallatin	129	120
Greene	157	165
Grundy	56	49

Hamilton	234	223
Hancock	325	259
Hardin	145	159
Henderson	139	144
Henry	82	93
Iroquois	60	63
Jackson	313	280
Jasper	131	128
Jefferson	420	433
Jersey	187	184
JoDavie	568	601
Johnson	278	260
Kane	2	1
Kankakee	34	36

Kendall	15	18
Knox	267	246
Lake	1	3
LaSalle	137	115
Lawrence	117	110
Lee	100	96
Livingston	19	24
Logan	37	40
Macon	27	25
Macoupin	303	328
Madison	241	246
Marion	380	333
Marshall	69	69

Mason	141	143
Massac	103	99
McDonough	137	139
McHenry	62	68
McLean	63	54
Menard	105	114
Mercer	192	178
Monroe	169	162
Montgomery	175	183
Morgan	147	210
Moultrie	24	21
Ogle	189	191
Peoria	153	142
Perry	233	221

Piatt	10	7
Pike	393	341
Pope	356	366
Pulaski	95	81
Putnam	37	46
Randolph	372	300
Richland		