

Hunters in Illinois harvested 15,719 birds during 2017 Spring Turkey Season

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SPRINGFIELD – Hunters in Illinois harvested a preliminary statewide total of 15,719 wild turkeys during the 2017 Spring Turkey Season, including the youth season. The 2017 total compares with the statewide turkey harvest of 15,484 in 2016. The statewide preliminary total includes the record Youth Turkey Season harvest of 1,541 birds, compared with youth season harvest of 1,045 turkeys in 2016.

Spring turkey hunting was open in 100 of Illinois' 102 counties. The 2017 seasons were April 3-May 4 in the South Zone and April 10-May 11 in the North Zone. The Youth Spring Turkey Season was March 25-26 and April 1-2. This was the first year the youth turkey season was open for two weekends statewide, rather than one weekend for the South Zone and one for the North Zone.

Turkey hunters this spring took a preliminary total of 6,842 wild turkeys during all season segments in the South Zone, compared with 6,694 last year in the south. The North Zone preliminary harvest total this year was 8,877 wild turkeys, compared with 8,790 in the north in 2016.

“Weather always plays a big role in harvest numbers and 2017 was no different,” said Luke Garver, Illinois Department of Natural Resources Wild Turkey Project Manager. “For the first two-thirds of the season, harvest trends were well above average. The significant rain events we experienced across much of the state slowed harvest considerably. Despite a rainy end to the spring season, this year marked the third consecutive season of an increased harvest total. Additionally, we were encouraged to see the youth season being the success it was.”

The top counties for spring wild turkey harvest in the South Zone in 2017 were Jefferson (412), Jackson (359), Union (359), Randolph (349), and Pope (348). The top five North Zone counties for spring turkey harvest this year were Jo Daviess (610), Pike (404), Adams (395), Fulton (378), and Hancock (325).

The table below includes the preliminary 2017 county-by-county spring turkey harvest results with comparable totals for 2016:

Illinois Spring Turkey Season Harvest County Totals

County	2017	2016
Adams	395	389
Alexander	156	134
Bond	142	135
Boone	74	76
Brown	298	357
Bureau	163	157
Calhoun	239	210

Carroll	213	195
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Cass	210	213
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Champaign	26	22
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Christian	51	41
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Clark	181	158
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Clay	219	210
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Clinton	82	86
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Coles	45	39
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Crawford	210	166
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Cumberland	48	54
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DeKalb	16	21
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DeWitt	54	45
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Douglas	2	6
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Edgar	80	85
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Edwards	85	96
Effingham	117	86
Fayette	276	233
Ford	10	10
Franklin	166	152
Fulton	378	446
Gallatin	112	129
Greene	147	157
Grundy	56	56
Hamilton	252	234
Hancock	325	325
Hardin	134	145
Henderson	135	139
Henry	75	82

Iroquois	75	60
Jackson	359	313
Jasper	140	131
Jefferson	412	420
Jersey	187	187
JoDaviess	610	568
Johnson	264	278
Kane	5	2
Kankakee	35	34
Kendall	18	15
Knox	274	267
Lake	1	1
LaSalle	117	137
Lawrence	141	117

Lee	116	100
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Livingston	26	19
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Logan	43	37
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Macon	26	27
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Macoupin	275	303
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Madison	213	241
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Marion	337	380
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Marshall	82	69
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Mason	154	141
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Massac	104	103
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McDonough	140	137
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McHenry	83	62
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McLean	68	63
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Menard	101	105
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Mercer	203	192
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Monroe	157	169
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Montgomery	188	175
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Morgan	126	147
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Moultrie	29	24
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Ogle	214	189
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Peoria	153	153
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Perry	252	233
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Piatt	8	10
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Pike	404	393
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Pope	348	356
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Pulaski	114	95
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Putnam	45	37
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Randolph	349	372
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Richland	113	106
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Rock Island	202	191
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Saline	123	125
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Sangamon	133	110
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Schuyler	277	360
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Scott	98	73
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Shelby	120	117
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St. Clair	126	140
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Stark	13	6
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Stephenson	248	231
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Tazewell	57	65
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Union	359	354
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Vermilion	133	136
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Wabash	56	48
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Warren 68 75

Washington 131 149

Wayne 317 297

White 169 153

Whiteside 162 160

Will 73 51

Williamson 309 308

Winnebago 185 175

Woodford 79 103

Total: *1571915484*