



DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

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Ohio Department of Natural Resources

TURKEY SEASON RESULTS, FALL 2015

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Hunters harvested 1,535 wild turkeys in fall 2015 (24% more than in 2014 and the largest harvest since 2009 (Fig. 1, Table 1). Ashtabula County had the highest reported fall harvest ( $n = 73$ ), followed by Hocking ( $n = 52$ ), Gallia ( $n = 50$ ), Trumbull ( $n = 50$ ), and Geauga ( $n = 45$ ) counties (Table 2).

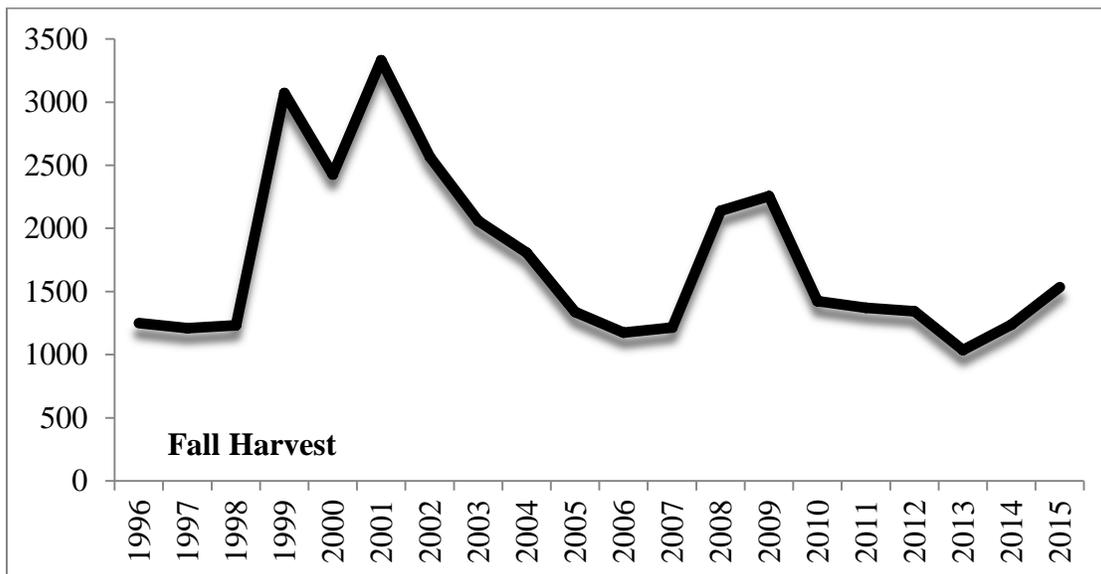


Figure 1. Fall wild turkey harvest, 1996-2015.

Resident and non-resident fall turkey permit sales ( $n = 6,200$ ) increased 8% from 2014 sales ( $n = 5,762$ ). Youth fall turkey permit sales ( $n = 812$ ) increased by 6% and resident reduced-cost senior fall turkey permit sales ( $n = 1,115$ ) increased by 5%. Resident free senior fall turkey permits ( $n = 3,562$ ) declined (-17%) for the eleventh consecutive year.

Adult female turkeys made up the largest proportion of the total fall harvest in 2015 (45%; Figure 2). Well over half of the total harvest was taken with a shotgun (63%; Figure 3). The majority of turkeys were harvested on private land (91%), and 41% of the harvest was checked by landowners.

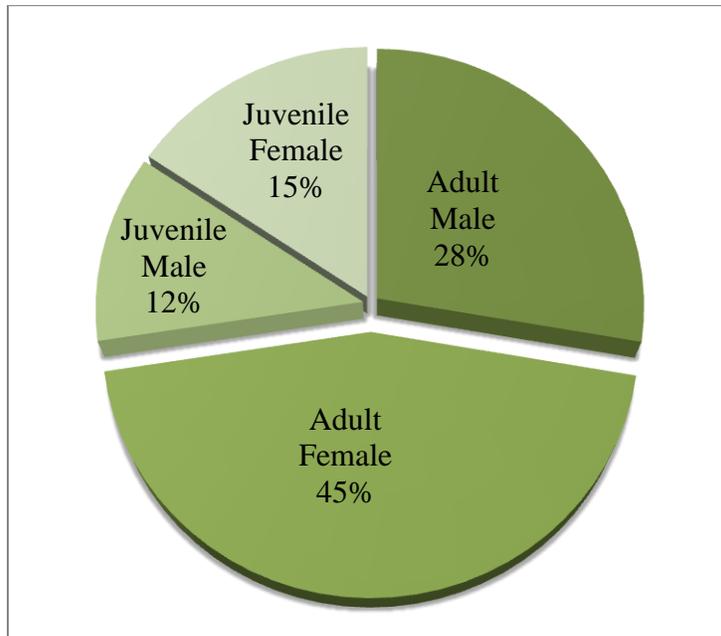


Figure 2. Composition of wild turkey sex and age in the 2015 Ohio fall turkey harvest.

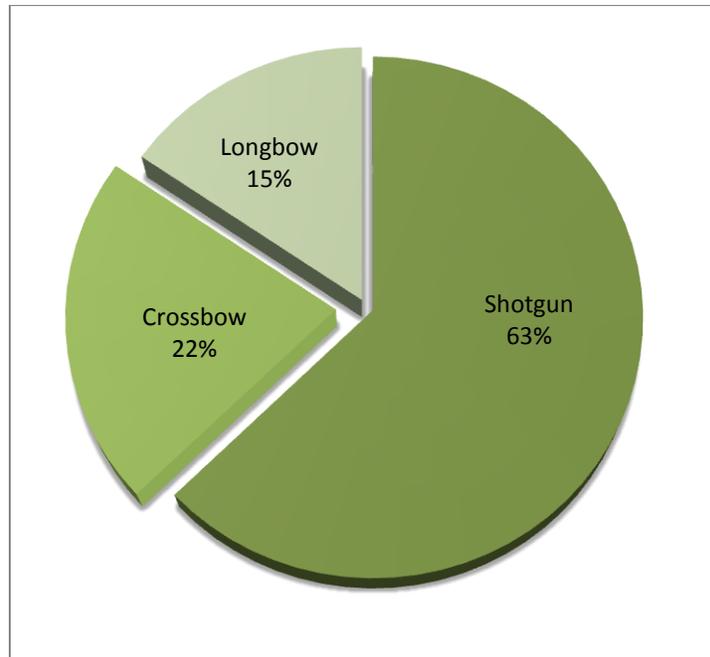


Figure3. Proportion of wild turkeys harvested by hunting implement in the 2015 Ohio fall turkey harvest.

The first week of the fall turkey season had the highest number of turkeys harvested (Fig. 4). Harvest remained relatively stable for the remaining 6 weeks of the season.

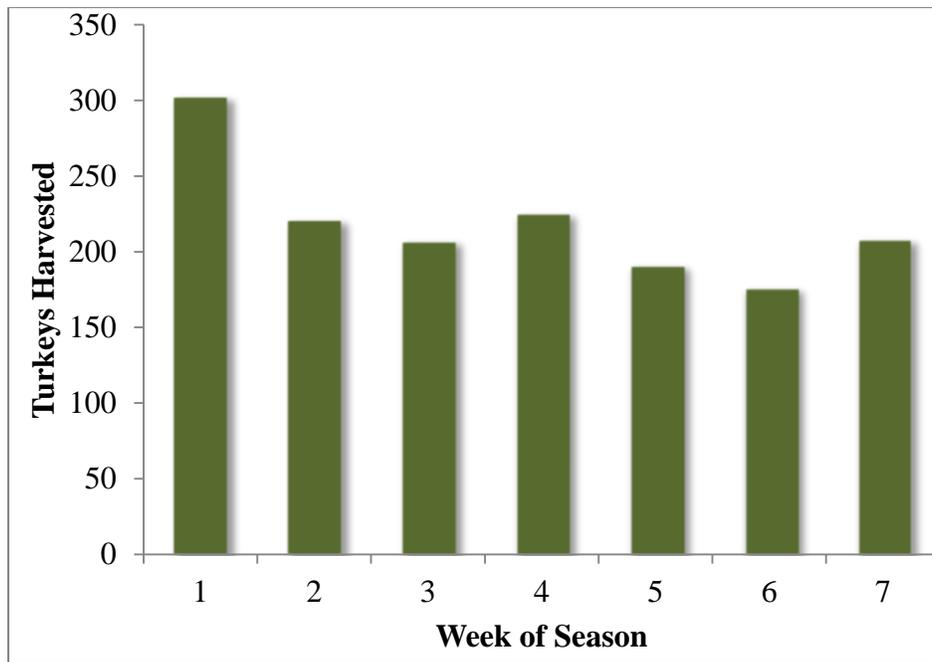


Figure 4. Weekly harvest for the 2015 Ohio fall turkey season.

Success rates of resident and non-resident fall turkey permit holders were similar in 2015 (11%) and 2014 (11%). Success rates for youth and resident reduced cost senior fall turkey permits were slightly higher in 2015 than 2014 (10% vs. 8% for both permit types). Resident free senior fall turkey permits had the lowest success and were similar in 2015 and 2014 seasons (1.2% vs. 1.1%). Note that success rates are likely conservative because participation rates for each permit type are unknown.

It is unclear why fall turkey hunting success rates have been relatively low as compared to spring turkey hunting success in Ohio. Furthermore, the number of licensed fall turkey hunters is far fewer than the number of spring turkey hunters. The proportion of turkeys killed with archery equipment is significantly higher in fall than during spring turkey seasons. This supports the notion that wild turkeys may be ancillary targets for archery deer hunters or other small game hunters in Ohio during the fall season.

Table 1. Summary of Ohio's fall wild turkey hunting seasons, 1996-2015.

Year	Counties open	Bag limit	Permits sold <sup>a</sup>	Total harvest
1996	22	1	10,050	1,250
1997	22	1	8,240	1,210
1998	22	1	4,804	1,234
1999	25	1	7,008	3,071
2000	28	1	9,861	2,428
2001	32	1	13,447	3,331
2002	35	1	15,469	2,394
2003	36	1	10,989	2,060
2004	36	1	8,455	1,808
2005	37	1	8,000	1,339
2006	37	1	7,422	1,175
2007	37	1	6,847	1,216
2008	46	1	9,223	2,139
2009	48	1	9,536	2,255
2010	48	1	8,594	1,425
2011	48	1	8,023	1,375
2012	48	1	7,892	1,345
2013	56	1	8,005	1,037
2014	56	1	7,591	1,239
2015	56	1	8,127	1,535

<sup>a</sup>Total includes fall turkey permits, fall turkey youth permits, and fall turkey reduced cost senior permits, but not fall turkey free senior permits.

Table 2. Fall 2015 either-sex wild turkey harvest in 56 Ohio counties and comparisons with 2014 and 2013.

County	Sex and age of turkeys harvested, 2015				Total harvest		
	Adult male	Adult female	Juvenile male	Juvenile female	2015	2014	2013
Adams	12	18	4	10	44	23	23
Ashland	4	17	4	2	27	14	18
Ashtabula	18	35	10	10	73	54	41
Athens	6	16	6	3	31	21	12
Belmont	12	8	2	11	33	23	14
Brown	5	12	4	5	26	16	22
Butler	6	4	1	2	13	11	10
Carroll	6	8	1	6	21	24	18
Clermont	14	11	7	11	43	29	33
Columbiana	10	11	9	13	43	29	52
Coshocton	10	15	2	16	43	45	31
Cuyahoga	2	0	0	0	2	8	1
Defiance	4	8	4	2	18	20	19
Delaware	4	4	0	1	9	17	6
Fairfield	3	5	3	3	14	8	8
Franklin	0	1	0	0	1	3	2
Gallia	12	22	7	9	50	30	16
Geauga	10	22	4	9	45	36	24
Guernsey	11	15	4	5	35	45	28
Hamilton	5	3	1	1	10	7	18
Harrison	8	18	4	2	32	23	33
Highland	7	18	8	7	40	27	24
Hocking	7	31	7	7	52	18	13
Holmes	4	14	5	4	27	35	29
Huron	0	2	1	3	6	7	11
Jackson	13	19	3	8	43	25	15
Jefferson	7	17	5	1	30	36	21
Knox	7	14	3	10	34	35	44
Lake	5	5	1	0	11	14	7
Lawrence	14	15	1	1	31	23	14
Licking	14	17	2	3	36	30	22
Lorain	12	11	4	2	29	18	20
Mahoning	7	10	1	5	23	27	21
Medina	6	12	3	1	22	7	13
Meigs	10	10	6	7	33	23	14
Monroe	7	12	1	1	21	15	19
Morgan	5	4	3	1	13	19	9
Morrow	8	3	3	3	17	12	9
Muskingum	9	10	3	5	27	26	13
Noble	5	23	2	5	35	26	20
Perry	5	20	3	1	29	26	12
Pike	12	12	5	6	35	17	18

Table 2. Fall 2015 either-sex wild turkey harvest in 56 Ohio counties and comparisons with 2014 and 2013 (continued).

County	Sex and age of turkeys harvested, 2015				Total harvest		
	Adult male	Adult female	Juvenile male	Juvenile female	2015	2014	2013
Portage	10	21	5	2	38	19	20
Richland	3	10	1	7	21	21	25
Ross	9	10	1	4	24	22	21
Scioto	9	16	2	0	27	20	8
Seneca	2	2	2	0	6	12	7
Stark	6	11	3	7	27	21	23
Summit	3	6	1	2	12	18	11
Trumbull	17	24	4	5	50	32	29
Tuscarawas	10	8	4	1	23	35	28
Vinton	7	20	3	5	35	21	6
Warren	2	6	0	1	9	9	12
Washington	9	8	5	1	23	14	17
Wayne	4	5	1	3	13	12	9
Williams	8	10	2	0	20	31	24
Totals	425	689	181	240	1,535	1,239	1,037