



DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

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Ohio Department of Natural Resources

TURKEY SEASON RESULTS, FALL 2014

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Fall wild turkey hunters harvested 19 percent more turkeys in 2014 than 2013 (Figure 1) despite a 4% decline in permit sales (Table 1). Ashtabula County had the highest reported fall harvest in 2014 ($n = 54$), followed by Coshocton ($n = 45$), Guernsey ($n = 45$), Geauga ($n = 36$), and Jefferson ($n = 36$) counties (Table 2).

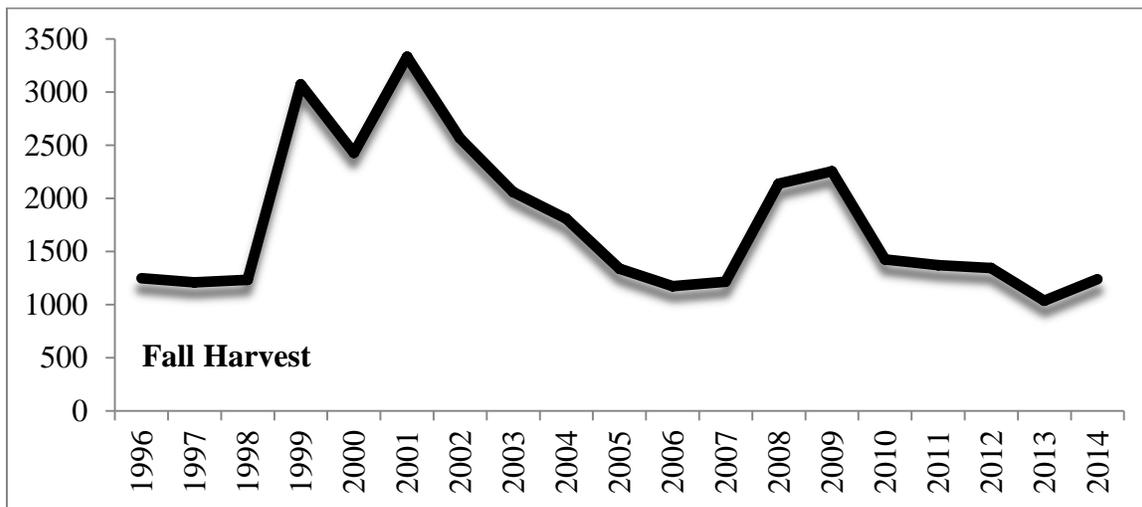


Figure 1. Fall wild turkey harvest, 1996-2014.

Youth fall turkey permit sales ($n = 778$) decreased by 9%. Resident and non-resident fall turkey permit sales ($n = 4,987$) decreased 5% from 2013 sales. Resident reduced-cost senior fall turkey permit sales ($n = 1070$) increased by 6% while resident free senior fall turkey permits ($n = 3580$) declined (-15%) for the tenth consecutive year.

Most hunters harvested an adult female (43%, Figure 2) using a shotgun (63% Figure 3). The majority of turkeys were harvested on private land (92%), and 41% of the harvest was checked by landowners.

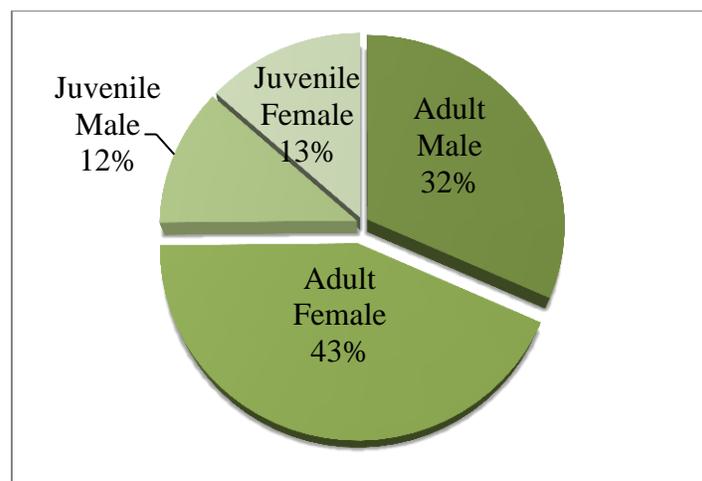


Figure 2. 2014 fall turkey harvest by turkey age and sex

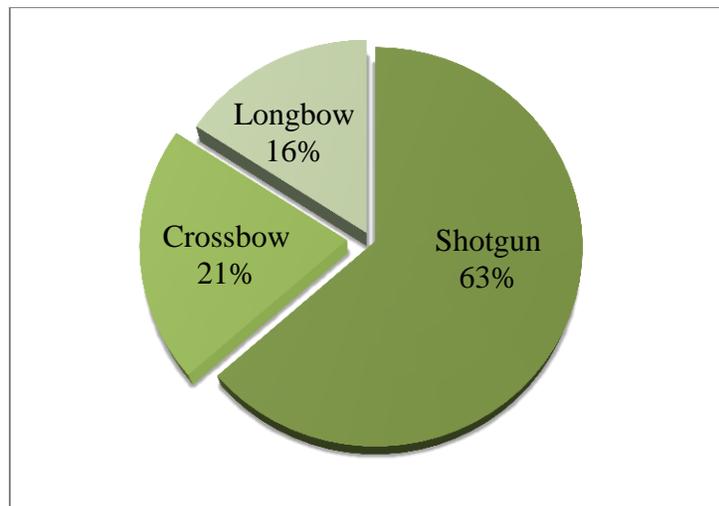


Figure3. 2014 fall turkey harvest by hunting weapon.

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

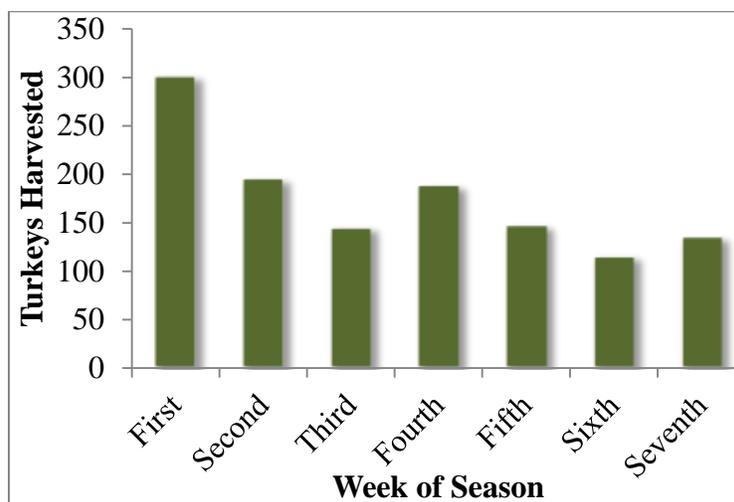


Figure 4. Weekly harvest for the 2014 fall turkey season.

Success rates of resident and non-resident fall turkey permit holders was higher lower in 2014 (11%) than in 2013 (5%) and 2012 (9%). Success rates for youth fall turkey permits (8% vs. 6%) were higher in 2014 than 2013. Success rates for resident reduced cost senior permits (8% vs. 7%), and resident free senior fall turkey permits (1.1% vs. 0.9%) were similar in 2014 and 2013. 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. Fall turkey hunting in Ohio may be ancillary to archery hunting for deer or other small game hunting seasons. Hunters may be harvesting turkeys when the opportunity is presented, but not actively seeking turkeys in the fall.

Table 1. Summary of Ohio's fall wild turkey hunting seasons, 1996-2014.

Year	Counties open	Bag limit	Permits sold ^a	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	8,064	1,375
2012	48	1	7,924	1,345
2013	56	1	8,023	1,037
2014	56	1	7,695	1,239

^aTotal 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 2014 either-sex wild turkey harvest in 56 Ohio counties and comparisons with 2013 and 2012.

County	Sex and age of turkeys harvested, 2014				Total harvest		
	Adult male	Adult female	Juvenile male	Juvenile female	2014	2013	2012
Adams	5	15	2	1	23	23	37
Ashland	3	10	1	0	14	18	22
Ashtabula	20	18	8	8	54	41	61
Athens	7	7	2	5	21	12	32
Belmont	6	6	3	8	23	14	27
Brown	2	8	0	6	16	22	21
Butler	4	4	2	1	11	10	NA
Carroll	8	11	4	1	24	18	29
Clermont	12	9	3	5	29	33	43
Columbiana	12	13	3	1	29	52	29
Coshocton	14	19	7	5	45	31	56
Cuyahoga	5	2	1	0	8	1	2
Defiance	4	12	2	2	20	19	20
Delaware	4	8	2	3	17	6	NA
Fairfield	3	3	0	2	8	8	NA
Franklin	0	2	1	0	3	2	NA
Gallia	7	17	4	2	30	16	25
Geauga	11	14	8	3	36	24	53
Guernsey	17	18	5	5	45	28	40
Hamilton	4	2	1	0	7	18	NA
Harrison	8	12	3	0	23	33	34
Highland	6	12	5	4	27	24	32
Hocking	6	8	0	4	18	13	28
Holmes	9	16	4	6	35	29	38
Huron	2	4	1	0	7	11	NA
Jackson	4	10	4	7	25	15	21
Jefferson	15	11	3	7	36	21	24
Knox	14	14	3	4	35	44	46
Lake	5	5	3	1	14	7	9
Lawrence	10	13	0	0	23	14	14
Licking	10	12	5	3	30	22	41
Lorain	6	10	0	2	18	20	9
Mahoning	8	12	5	2	27	21	23
Medina	2	3	1	1	7	13	11
Meigs	6	9	5	3	23	14	30
Monroe	2	9	3	1	15	19	34
Morgan	7	8	0	4	19	9	17
Morrow	3	5	3	1	12	9	16
Muskingum	9	11	1	5	26	13	35
Noble	9	11	2	4	26	20	31
Perry	6	14	4	2	26	12	29
Pike	4	5	4	4	17	18	21

Table 2. Fall 2014 either-sex wild turkey harvest in 56 Ohio counties and comparisons with 2013 and 2012 (continued).

County	Sex and age of turkeys harvested, 2014				Total harvest		
	Adult male	Adult female	Juvenile male	Juvenile female	2014	2013	2012
Portage	5	8	3	3	19	20	19
Richland	4	12	3	2	21	25	37
Ross	9	8	1	4	22	21	20
Scioto	10	9	1	0	20	8	25
Seneca	4	8	0	0	12	7	NA
Stark	7	7	3	4	21	23	18
Summit	5	5	3	5	18	11	9
Trumbull	6	15	3	8	32	29	36
Tuscarawas	15	15	2	3	35	28	53
Vinton	8	7	3	3	21	6	34
Warren	3	5	1	0	9	12	NA
Washington	3	6	1	4	14	17	24
Wayne	3	3	1	5	12	9	7
Williams	11	15	3	2	31	24	22
Totals	392	535	146	166	1,239	1,037	1,345