

Hunters in Illinois harvested 13,500 turkeys during 2018 Spring Turkey Season

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SPRINGFIELD, IL – Hunters in Illinois harvested a preliminary statewide total of 13,500 wild turkeys during the 2018 Spring Turkey Season, including the youth season, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) announced today. The 2018 total compares with the statewide turkey harvest of 15,720 in 2017. The statewide preliminary total includes the Youth Turkey Season harvest of 1,139 birds, compared with the record youth harvest of 1,539 turkeys in 2017. The statewide record total was set in 2006 when 16,569 turkeys were harvested.

Spring turkey hunting was open in 100 of Illinois' 102 counties. The 2018 season dates were April 9-May 10 in the South Zone and April 16-May 17 in the North Zone. The Youth Spring Turkey Season was March 31-April 1 and April 7-8. This was the second year the youth turkey season was open for two weekends statewide.

Turkey hunters this spring took a preliminary total of 5,514 wild turkeys during all season segments in the South Zone, compared with 6,842 last year in the south. The North Zone preliminary harvest total this year was 7,986 wild turkeys, compared with 8,878 in northern counties in 2017.

The top counties for spring wild turkey harvest in the South Zone in 2018 were Jefferson (362), Randolph (303), Jackson (287), Marion (269), and Pope (261). The top five North Zone counties for spring turkey harvest this year were Jo Daviess (584), Fulton (336), Adams (331), Pike (310), and Hancock (296).

Multiple factors likely contributed to the reduction in harvest totals this season.

“We anticipated some declines as a result of the poor production of young turkeys noted during our 2017 Brood Survey last summer,” said Luke Garver, IDNR Wild Turkey Program Manager. “Youth season hunters experienced cold and wet weather during both weekends in much of the state, and winter-like conditions continued into the early

season segments in both the North and South Zones. It is not often Illinois turkey hunters can say they've had the opportunity to experience both snowfall and 90-degree weather in one season."

The table below includes the preliminary 2018 county-by-county spring turkey harvest results with comparable totals for 2017:

County	2018	2017
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Adams	331	395
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Alexander	135	156
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Bond	116	141
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Boone	55	75
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Brown	246	299
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Bureau	182	163
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Calhoun	194	239
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Carroll	219	213
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Cass	217	211
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Champaign	17	26
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Christian	38	51
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Clark	160	181
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Clay	189	219
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Clinton	89	82
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Coles	33	45
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COOK	0	1
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Crawford	178	210
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Cumberland	44	48
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DeKalb	16	16
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DeWitt	38	54
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Douglas	3	2
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Edgar	65	80
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Edwards	83	85
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Effingham	99	117
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Fayette	219	276
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Ford	13	10
Franklin	147	166
Fulton	336	378
Gallatin	84	112
Greene	137	147
Grundy	66	56
Hamilton	194	252
Hancock	296	325
Hardin	92	134
Henderson	141	135
Henry	82	75
Iroquois	60	75
Jackson	287	359
Jasper	104	140

Jefferson	362	412
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Jersey	163	187
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Jo Daviess	584	610
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Johnson	185	264
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Kane	4	5
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Kankakee	47	35
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Kendall	16	18
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Knox	262	274
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Lake	6	1
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LaSalle	126	117
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Lawrence	129	141
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Lee	86	116
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Livingston	26	26
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Logan	40	43
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Macon	22	26
Macoupin	224	275
Madison	151	213
Marion	269	337
Marshall	60	82
Mason	167	154
Massac	86	103
McDonough	123	140
McHenry	87	82
McLean	71	68
Menard	84	101
Mercer	219	203
Monroe	134	157
Montgomery	139	188

Morgan	123	126
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Moultrie	22	29
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Ogle	182	214
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Peoria	119	153
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Perry	214	252
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Piatt	9	8
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Pike	310	404
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Pope	261	348
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Pulaski	104	114
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Putnam	39	45
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Randolph	303	349
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Richland	90	113
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Rock Island	191	202
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Saline	88	123
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Sangamon	111	133
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Schuyler	256	277
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Scott	57	98
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Shelby	118	120
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St. Clair	111	126
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Stark	19	13
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Stephenson	182	248
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Tazewell	55	57
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Union	247	359
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Vermilion	124	133
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Wabash	37	56
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Warren	65	68
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Washington	118	131
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Wayne	260	317
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White	139	169
Whiteside	156	162
Will	71	73
Williamson	210	309
Winnebago	167	185
Woodford	65	79
<i>Total</i>	13500	15720