

2004 Minnesota Eastern Wild Turkey Fall Harvest Report

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The 2004 Fall Turkey Season took place from 13 October through 24 October (2, 5-day periods). There were 4,380 permits available in the 24 permit areas open to fall hunting, with a total of 5,878 applicants (Table 1). Available permits increased by 510 permits from 2003 (3,870). One new permit area was opened to fall hunting (PA 449).

This year's harvest of 758 was down from 2003 (889), but still above the 5-year average of 718 (Table 1). The highest harvest occurred in Permit Area 341 with a total of 89 turkeys registered (Table 2). Hunter success rate was 26% overall, which is below the long-term average of 32%. Fifty-one percent of the harvest occurred during Season A (October 13-17), and 49% during Season B (October 20-24).

The numbers of juvenile versus adult birds were similar across sex (Table 3). Females comprised 50% of the overall reported harvest. Juveniles made up 23% of the harvest (Table 4), this is lower than 2003 (32%). In the newest permit area open to hunting (PA 449), 5 adult males, 1 adult female, and 1 sex/age unknown turkey were registered.

Table 1. Fall wild turkey applications, permits, harvest and adjusted hunter success rates in Minnesota, 1990-2004.

Year	# Applicants	# Permits Available	# Permits Issued	# Turkeys Registered	Hunter Success (%) ¹
1990	4,522	1,000	951	326	38
1991	2,990	2,200	2,020	552	30
1992	2,782	2,200	2,028	588	32
1993	3,186	2,400	2,094	605	32
1994	3,124	2,500	2,106	601	32
1995	3,685	2,500	2,125	648	34
1996	4,453	2,500	2,289	685	33
1997	4,574	2,580	2,378	698	33
1998	4,526	2,710	2,483	828	37
1999	5,354	2,890	2,644	865	36
2000	5,263	3,090	2,484	735	33
2001	4,501	2,870	2,262	629	31
2002	5,180	3,790	2,945	594	22
2003	5,264	3,870	2,977	889	33
2004	5,878	4,380	3,277	758	26

¹ Success rates adjusted using a 10% non-participation rate based on hunter survey data.

Table 2. Fall wild turkey harvest and hunter success rates by permit area, 2004.

Permit Area	# Permits Available	# Permits Issued	# Turkeys Registered	Hunter Success (%) ¹
228	60	52	14	27
236	80	61	14	23
337	90	64	18	28
338	140	105	20	19
339	140	106	21	20
341	500	412	89	22
342	450	320	61	19
343	130	102	38	37
344	200	168	29	17
345	250	149	37	25
346	390	247	59	24
347	150	116	37	32
348	300	226	56	25
349	560	411	80	19
442	250	209	53	25
443	100	73	15	21
448	10	9	3	33
449	10	12	7	58
461	160	123	38	31
462	160	119	27	23
464	40	30	7	23
465	60	42	9	21
466	80	64	17	27
467	70	57	9	16
Total	4,380	3,277	758	23

¹ Success rates not adjusted for non-participants.

Table 3. Age and sex structure of fall wild turkey harvest by permit area, 2004.

Permit Area	Male		Female		Unknown	Total
	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult		
228	0	3	1	10		14
236	3	8	1	2		14
337	1	9	0	8		18
338	2	11	0	7		20
339	1	7	4	8	1	21
341	7	32	9	35	6	89
342	8	12	10	31		61
343	3	19	2	14		38
344	3	7	2	17		29
345	0	12	5	20		37
346	7	20	6	26		59
347	5	20	2	10		37
348	13	17	7	19		56
349	13	26	12	29		80
442	3	24	4	21	1	53
443	1	1	5	7	1	15
448	0	1	0	2		3
449	0	5	0	1	1	7
461	10	16	5	7		38
462	1	9	4	10	3	27
464	0	4	1	2		7
465	1	4	1	3		9
466	7	5	2	3		17
467	1	4	0	4		9
Total	90	276	83	296	13	758

Table 4. Age and sex structure of fall wild turkey harvest in Minnesota, 1990-2004.

Year	Male			Female			Unknown Age/Sex	Total
	Juvenile	Adult	Unknown	Juvenile	Adult	Unknown		
1990	67 (21%)	83 (25%)		85 (26%)	91 (28%)			326
1991	121 (22%)	80 (15%)		211 (38%)	140 (25%)			552
1992	120 (20%)	86 (15%)		208 (35%)	174 (30%)			588
1993	110 (18%)	112 (19%)		184 (30%)	196 (32%)		3(<1%)	605
1994	105 (17%)	83 (14%)		210 (35%)	203 (34%)			601
1995	131 (20%)	136 (21%)		194 (30%)	187 (29%)			648
1996	96 (14%)	141 (20%)		224 (33%)	224 (33%)			685
1997	115 (16%)	130 (19%)		215 (31%)	238 (34%)			698
1998	152 (18%)	139 (17%)		261 (32%)	274 (33%)		2(<1%)	828
1999	141 (16%)	213 (25%)		253 (29%)	258 (30%)			865
2000	101 (14%)	175 (24%)		206 (28%)	253 (34%)			735
2001	81 (13%)	119 (19%)		178 (28%)	251 (40%)			629
2002	94 (16%)	109 (18%)	2 (<1%)	169 (28%)	205 (35%)	3 (<1%)	12 (2%)	594
2003	121 (14%)	237 (27%)		164 (18%)	347 (39%)	1 (<1%)	19 (2%)	889
2004	90 (12%)	276 (36%)		83 (11%)	296 (39%)		13 (2%)	758