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SPRING TURKEY HUNTER SURVEY**

Illinois Department of Conservation  
Division of Wildlife Resources  
Administrative Report  
23 August 91



William L. Anderson  
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RESULTS OF THE 1990 SPRING TURKEY HUNTER SURVEY

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**Abstract:** Holders of spring 1990 turkey hunting permits were surveyed via mail-letter questionnaire to determine characteristics of their activities and harvest, obtain their opinions of present and future hunting regulations, and compile their profiles. For the spring 1990 season, 15,932 individuals received a total of 16,764 (14,221 paid and 2,543 free landowner) permits. The mailing list included 2,247 permit holders, 1,771 (79%) of which returned usable questionnaires. 91% of the paid permit holders and 85% of the free landowner permittees hunted turkeys  $\geq 1$  days during the spring season. Paid permit holders hunted an average of 3.0 days during the 1st (5-day) season, 3.4 days during the 2nd (7-day) season, and 4.2 days during the 3rd (12-day) season, or 60%, 49%, and 35% of the days available to hunt. Free landowner permittees hunted an average of 2.7, 2.8, and 3.4 days, respectively, or 54%, 40%, and 28% of the days available. 2.3% of the paid permit holders statewide, and 12.3% of them in the North Region, paid someone for the right to hunt turkeys on their land. Statewide, 26% of the paid permit holders and 24% of the free landowner permittees experienced interference (usually from other hunters) while hunting; interference was low in the North Region (9%), much higher in the Central Region (25%), and highest in the South Region (33%). Collectively, paid permit holders and free landowner permittees claimed a success rate of 25.5 turkeys per 100 active hunters or 21.7 turkeys per 100 permits issued. The latter is 26% greater than the success rate reported at check stations. The crippling rate was estimated to be 26.2 turkeys per 100 harvested, and approximately 167 illegal hens (1 per 85 hunters) were killed during the spring season. Majorities of both paid permit holders and free landowner permittees were satisfied with the current 3-season framework and the dates used for the seasons. The "typical" spring turkey hunter is male (98%), 40 years of age, resides in a rural area or small town, earned \$33,000 in 1989, has hunted turkeys for 3.7 years and other species (predominantly deer) for 25 years, and has harvested 1.7 turkeys. 52% and 18% have harvested 0 and  $\geq 3$  turkeys, respectively. The "typical" hunter uses a 12-gauge shotgun loaded with #4 shot, wears camouflage clothing, and uses a box or diaphragm mouth call. Paid permit holders spent an average of \$200 and free landowner permittees spent \$85 (total \$2.76 million) to hunt turkeys during the spring 1990 season. The management implications of these findings are discussed.

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The wild turkey was originally native throughout the forested areas of Illinois. The species' disappearance from the state in the early 1900's is attributed to conversion of timberland to farmland, heavy logging, frequent forest fires, year-round hunting, and increasing numbers of people living in rural areas (Garver 1990a). Wild-trapped turkeys from several southern states were successfully introduced in the Shawnee National Forest in southern Illinois during the late 1950's and 1960's. Since that time, numerous birds have been transplanted to new locations in the state (Garver 1990a). Wild turkeys now occur in at least 73 of the states' 102 counties (Garver 1990b).

Illinois held its 1st modern-day turkey hunting season in the spring of 1970 and 25 turkeys were harvested. The spring harvest exceeded 100 birds for the 1st time in 1979, 1,000 birds in 1986, and 2,000 birds in 1989 (Garver 1988 and 1990c). The harvest totaled 2,880 turkeys during the spring 1990 season (Garver 1990c). A fall archery season for turkeys was initiated in 1984 and a fall firearms season was implemented in 1989. Clearly, the wild turkey is a valuable and expanding natural resource in Illinois.

To make sound management decisions and to develop bio-sociologically acceptable hunting regulations, the Illinois Department of Conservation (DOC) must have information on the activities, attitudes, and other characteristics of turkey hunters in the state. Therefore, the present survey was conducted to this end. Surveys such as this one improve the DOC's understanding of the rank-and-file turkey hunter and his feelings toward the wild turkey resource and the sport of spring turkey hunting.

## METHODS AND MATERIALS

The DOC Permit Office issued 15,932 individuals a total of 16,764 permits for the spring turkey hunting season in Illinois in 1990. These permit holders included 12,621 individuals (79%) who received 1 paid permit, 768 individuals (5%) who received 2 paid permits, and 2,481 individuals (16%) who received 1 free landowner permit. In addition, 60 individuals received 1 paid permit and 1 free landowner permit, and 2 individuals apparently received 2 paid permits and 1 free landowner permit. The mailing list for the 1990 Illinois Spring Turkey Hunter Survey included 2,247 individuals who were systematically selected from these permit holders. This represents a 14% sampling rate.

A questionnaire was developed specifically for spring turkey hunters (Fig. 1). A copy of the questionnaire and a letter of explanation (Fig. 2) were initially mailed to each individual on the mailing list on 8 June 1990. Non-respondents were sent a 2nd copy of the questionnaire and another letter (Fig. 3) on 19 July. As of 19 September 1990, 1,771 useable questionnaires were returned for a response rate of 79%.

Data were transferred from the questionnaires to a computer file using a data management program (IBM DBASE III+). The data were then analyzed with a statistical program (IBM SPSS/PC+ V2.0). The data were interpreted relative to permit type (paid or free landowner), season (1st, 2nd, or 3rd), and region (North, Central, or South). The North Region included Carroll and Jo Daviess counties; and the South Region was represented by Alexander, Gallatin, Hardin, Jackson, Johnson, Pope, Saline, Union, and

Williamson counties. The remaining 21 counties open to turkey hunting comprised the Central Region (Fig. 4).

#### HUNTING REGULATIONS IN SPRING 1990

Gobbler (male) turkeys and hens with visible beards were legal game during 3 consecutive spring seasons (9-13 April, 14-20 April, and 21 April-2 May) in 32 counties in Illinois in 1990. One legal turkey was allowed per permit. Shooting hours were 1/2 hour before sunrise to 12 noon. Legal weapons included shotguns (20 gauge to 10 gauge loaded with #7-1/2 to #4 size shot) or bow (long, recurve, or compound with a minimum pull of 40 pounds) and arrow. It is illegal to use live turkey decoys, recorded calls, dogs, or bait for hunting turkeys in Illinois.

#### FINDINGS

##### Permits Received

Of the 1,771 individuals who participated in the survey, 1,418 (80%) received 1 paid permit, 130 (7%) received 2 paid permits, and 223 (13%) received a free landowner permit (Table 1). There were 6 individuals who apparently had  $\geq 1$  paid permits and a free landowner permit. Six individuals also claimed that they had 3 paid permits. The paid permit holders (counting repeaters) included 598 (36%) for the 1st season, 512 (31%) for the 2nd season, and 560 (33%) for the 3rd season. The free landowner permits were valid for all 3 seasons.



## Hunter Activities

Percentage Hunting. 91% of the paid permit holders hunted turkeys  $\geq 1$  days during the spring season in 1990 (Table 2). The paid permit holders participated at a high level regardless of whether they were in the North Region (88%), Central Region (91%), or South Region (91%). However, when viewed relative to the entire state, paid permit holders participated at a lower level during the 1st season (86%) than during the 2nd (94%) or 3rd (92%) season.

In general, the free landowner permittees participated in spring turkey hunting at a somewhat lower level (85% statewide) than the paid permit holders (Table 2). Although sample sizes are small, free landowner permittees appeared to be less active in the North Region (68%) than in the Central Region (87%) or South Region (81%). Contrary to the paid permit holders, free landowner permittees participated at a higher level during the 1st season (71%) than during the 2nd (65%) or 3rd (65%) seasons. This trend is not surprising because the free landowner permittees were represented by the same individuals during all 3 seasons, some of which bagged their turkey during the 1st season and others undoubtedly tired or "burned out" as hunting progressed into the 2nd and 3rd seasons. In contrast, the paid permit holders were represented, for the most part, by "new" individuals at the beginning of each season.

Unless stated otherwise, all future references to "paid permit holders", "free landowner permittees", "turkey hunters", etc. in this report refers to those individuals who were issued permits and who hunted  $\geq 1$  days during the spring season in 1990.

Days Afield. Turkey hunters with paid permits spent an average of 3.8 days afield during the spring season in 1990 (Table 3). The paid permit holders spent fewer days afield in the North Region (3.0) than in the Central Region (3.9) or South Region (4.0). For these hunters, the average days afield increased from the 1st season to the 2nd season to the 3rd season--i.e., the days afield increased in direct proportion to the number of days available to hunt.

Because they could hunt during all 3 seasons, free landowner permittees spent, on the average, almost twice as many days afield (7.1) as the paid permit holders (Table 3). Otherwise, the number of days afield by free landowner permittees exhibited the same trends as the days afield for paid permit holders.

Paid Landowners to Hunt. Statewide, 2.3% of the paid permit holders paid someone for the right to hunt on their land during the spring 1990 season (Table 4). The percentage was relatively high in the North Region (12.3%), low in the Central Region (1.8%), and almost nonexistent in the South Region (0.2%) where considerable acreage of public land exists.

Interference and Conflicts. Statewide, 26% of the paid permit holders indicated that they experienced direct interference or conflicts while hunting turkeys during the spring 1990 season (Table 5). For these hunters, the rate of interference was relatively low in the North Region (9%), much higher in the Central Region (25%), and highest in the South Region (33%) where much of the turkey population is on public land.

Interestingly, the free landowner permittees experienced interference or conflicts at rates that were similar to or higher than those indicated by paid permit holders (Table 5). The free landowner permittees are restricted to their own land, where access is under their control and interference should be minimal.

The most frequently listed source of interference or conflicts was other hunters (Table 6). Off-road vehicles were a distant 2nd. This trend was characteristic of both paid permit holders and free landowner permittees, and for all 3 regions of the state.

#### Turkey Harvest

Hunting Success. The paid permit holders reported a success rate of 23.3% during the spring season in 1990. That is, 23.3% of these hunters claimed to have harvested  $\geq 1$  legal turkeys (Table 7). The free landowner permittees reported a success rate of 28.6%. When inactive hunters are included, the success rate becomes 21.1% for all paid permit holders, 24.2% for all free landowner permittees, and 21.6% for the 2 groups combined. The data in Table 7 also indicate that the number of turkeys harvested per 100 permits issued averaged 21.1 for paid permits, 25.2 for free landowner permits, and 21.7 for the 2 groups combined. According to records compiled at check stations, an average of 17.2 turkeys were harvested per 100 permits issued for the spring 1990 season (Garver 1990). If essentially all the turkeys harvested during the spring season were brought to check stations, participants in the present survey inflated the number of turkeys they supposedly killed and retrieved by an average of 26%.

For the paid permit holders, the reported success rate was highest in the North Region (34.0%), intermediate in the Central Region (25.7%), and lowest in the South Region (14.7%) (Table 7). The trend was reversed for the free landowner permittees. For paid permit holders statewide, the success rate was higher during the 1st season (30.0%) than during the 2nd season (21.5%) or the 3rd season (24.3%).

Turkeys Checked at Check Stations. For reasons not fully understood, the paid permit holders reported bringing  $\geq 1$  turkeys to check stations at a slightly higher rate than their reported hunting success rate (Tables 7 and 8). Although the differences are small, the trend is evident for virtually all regions and all seasons, as well as for the free landowner permittees. In this regard, it is believed that some unsuccessful permit holders counted turkeys that were harvested and checked in by their hunting partners. The unsuccessful hunters simply accompanied the successful hunters to the check station.

Illegal Hen Kill. When asked if they were aware of someone who had killed a protected (no beard) hen turkey during the spring 1990 season, 2.7% of the paid permit holders and 4.2% of the free landowner permittees answered affirmatively (Table 9). If we assume that the "average" hunter's knowledge about the activities of other hunters is limited to his immediate party and that the parties average 2.5 hunters each, then an estimated 167 hen turkeys were illegally killed during the 24-day spring season. This estimate equates to an average of 1 illegal hen per 85 hunters or 5 illegal hens per county open to spring turkey hunting.

Crippling Losses. 5.4% of the paid permit holders and 9.5% of the free landowner permittees reported crippling and losing  $\geq 1$  turkeys during the spring season in 1990 (Table 10). The crippling losses exhibited no detectable trends with respect to region or season. By taking into consideration hunters who crippled a 2nd turkey (no hunters reported crippling  $\geq 3$  birds), the data in Table 10 indicate that a total of 953 turkeys were crippled and lost during the spring season in 1990. This estimate equates to an average of 26.2 turkeys crippled and lost per 100 turkeys reported bagged in this survey. It also equates to 5.7 turkeys crippled and lost per 100 permits issued for the 1990 spring season. Successful hunters reported at check stations that they crippled and lost 2.8 birds per 100 bagged in spring 1990 (Garver 1990c). In Virginia, an average of 10 turkeys were crippled and lost per 100 bagged (Mosby and Handley 1943). In South Carolina, an estimated 20 turkeys were lost per 100 bagged during managed gobbler hunts (Shaffer and Gwynn 1967).

#### Opinions and Attitudes of Turkey Hunters

Season Framework. When asked to express their opinion of the 3-season framework used for spring turkey hunting in 1990, overwhelming majorities of the paid permit holders (75%) and free landowner permittees (63%) liked it (Table 11). In general, free landowner permittees were less inclined to like the 3-season framework than the paid permit holders, especially in the South Region.

However, both the paid permit holders (52%) and the free

landowner permittees (42%) were only moderately supportive of the idea of establishing a 4-season framework (Table 11). Again, the free landowner permittees were less supportive of this concept than the paid permit holders, especially in the South Region.

Season Dates. When asked what they thought of the dates used for the spring seasons in 1990, majorities of the paid permit holders (66%) and the free landowner permittees (69%) indicated the dates were about right (Table 11). Surprisingly, hunters in the South Region were more inclined to think the dates were too early than too late. Conversely, hunters in the North Region were more apt to indicate that the dates were too late than too early.

Hunter Density. Almost three-fourths of the paid permit holders (72%) and the free landowner permittees (73%) thought that the number of hunters in the area they were active was about right (Table 12). For both groups, the percentages that thought the number of hunters was about right were highest in the North Region (82-85%), lower in the Central Region (73-77%), and lowest in the South Region (61-62%). 35% of both the paid permit holders and the free landowner permittees in the South Region thought there were too many hunters in the woods. The percentages that liked the hunter density did not change appreciably from the 1st season to the 2nd season to the 3rd season.

#### Profile of Turkey Hunters

Personal Characteristics. Paid permit holders were male (98%), averaged 40 years of age, and probably were rural (39%) or small town (41%) residents (Table 13). Their median income was

about \$33,000 in 1989. Free landowner permittees included 11% who were female, they averaged 43 years of age, and they were strongly rural residents (69%). Their median annual income was about \$29,000.

Hunting Experience. Paid permit holders had hunted turkeys for an average of 3.7 years, and they had harvested an average of 1.7 turkeys (Table 14). Significantly, one-half (52%) of the paid permit holders had never harvested a turkey and only 18% had bagged  $\geq 3$  turkeys. The average number of turkeys harvested and the average number of years of experience at hunting turkeys increased from the North Region to the Central Region to the South Region for the paid permit holders. The years of experience and the number of turkeys harvested by free landowner permittees essentially duplicated those of paid permit holders (Table 14).

Both paid permit holders and free landowner permittees had hunted  $\geq 1$  species other than turkeys for an average of 25 years (Table 15). The species hunted by the highest percentages of hunters was deer, which was followed in descending order by squirrels, rabbits, quail, and pheasants.

Turkey Hunting Equipment. More than 80% of the paid permit holders and the free landowner permittees used a 12-gauge shotgun to hunt turkeys in Illinois during the spring 1990 season (Table 15). The 3-inch 12 gauge was more popular than the 2-3/4-inch 12 gauge. Only 6% of the paid permit holders and 3% of the free landowner permittees used 10-gauge shotguns. 82% of the paid permit holders and 76% of the free landowner permittees claimed that they had patterned their shotguns.

About one-half (49-55%) of the hunters used #4 shot for spring turkey hunting in 1990 (Table 17). An additional 30-32% used #6's. Surprisingly, 18% of the paid permit holders and 16% of the free landowner permittees indicated that the 1st shell in their gun was loaded with steel shot.

96% of the paid permit holders and 92% of the free landowner permittees used  $\geq 1$  calls to hunt turkeys during the spring 1990 season. The types of calls used by a majority of the turkey hunters were the box (61-62%) and the diaphragm mouth call (48-61%) (Table 18). Slate or glass calls were also relatively popular, being used by 29-30% of the hunters.

More than 70% of the turkey hunters used a camouflaged cap or hat, camouflaged coveralls or coat and pants, and headnet or face mask (Table 19). In addition, 52% of the paid permit holders and 34% of the free landowner permittees had camouflaged their shotguns. Only 6-7% of the hunters used blinds, and the use of camouflage orange was virtually nonexistent.

29% of the paid permit holders and 25% of the free landowner permittees said that they used a turkey decoy during the spring 1990 season (Table 20). Decoys appeared to be more popular in the Central Region than in the North Region or South Region.

#### Economics of Turkey Hunting

The paid permit holders indicated that they spent an average of \$200 each for the spring turkey hunting season in Illinois in 1990 (Table 21). The free landowner permittees spent much less--an average of only \$85 each. Expenditures for both groups combined



totaled an estimated \$2.76 million statewide. In comparison, an estimated 163,000 rabbit hunters spent an average of \$156 each and a total of \$25.6 million in Illinois in 1989 (Anderson and David 1991).

#### DISCUSSION

The findings of this survey indicate that the paid permit holders hunted turkeys an average of 3.0 days during the 1st (5-day) season, 3.4 days during the 2nd (7-day) season, and 4.2 days during the 3rd (12-day) season, in the spring of 1990 (Table 3). These averages equate to 60%, 49%, and 35% of the days available to hunt. Free landowner permittees hunted an average of 2.7, 2.8, and 3.4 days, respectively, during the 3 seasons, or 54%, 40%, and 28% of the days available. In other words, the turkey hunters made the greatest use of the days available to hunt during the shortest season and the least use of the days available during the longest season. From the standpoint of efficiency--i.e., utilizing days available--short seasons appear to be preferred to long seasons. There was no evidence that hunter conflicts or incidents of excessive hunters increased during the 1st (shortest) season (Tables 5 and 12).

The percentage of hunters who experienced interference (usually from other hunters) and the percentage who thought that hunter density was excessive were low in the North Region and high in the Central and South regions (Tables 5, 6, and 12). This trend was evident for both the paid permit holders, who hunt on private land (including their own) and public land, and for the free

landowner permittees, who are restricted to their own property. Thus, interference appeared to be as frequent on private property as on public lands, which suggests that many hunters trespass and/or that landowners do not (or cannot) regulate hunters on their own properties. Trespassing is no doubt aggravated in southern Illinois by the intermingled distribution of public and private lands. The problem with excessive hunters may, in part, be a matter of perception. That is, hunters in the North Region, where hunter densities are among the highest in the state, may be more tolerant of each other than hunters in the Central and South regions. In any event, the subject of interference should be more fully explored with landowners, hunters, and wildlife managers in the Central and South regions.

Based on data collected during this survey, an average of 26 turkeys are crippled and lost per 100 turkeys bagged during the spring hunting season in Illinois. Although gobblers are large, tough birds that often recover from shot wounds, every effort should be made to reduce crippling losses. An important factor contributing to crippling losses is hunters' tendency to underestimate distance to turkeys. Large birds such as turkeys appear to be closer than their actual distance, and Illinois turkey hunters are relatively inexperienced (Table 14). Moreover, inexperienced hunters frequently attempt to shoot through brush which destroys shot patterns, and they aim at the body of the turkey instead of the head and neck area.

The key to reducing crippling losses is a strong hunter-education program. Aspiring turkey hunters should practice

estimating distances to targets, test fire their shotguns to assure correct point of aim, and determine the patterns produced by various combinations of choke constrictions, shot sizes, and shell configurations. At distances beyond 40 yards, the relatively large #4 shot produces patterns of low density and the smaller #6 shot delivers inadequate energy. Thus, it is critical for each turkey hunter to use a quality shotgun and select the shot size, shot charge, and choke constriction that maximizes the performance of his firearm.

Most turkey hunters appear to be satisfied with the current 3-season framework and dates used for spring turkey hunting in Illinois (Table 11). Although some hunters thought the season should be earlier (13-18%), their feelings are offset by others who believed the season should be later (12-13%). The dates used for the spring 1990 season represent a compromise or "happy medium" that satisfies the maximum number of hunters. Changing the season to either earlier or later dates would not satisfy more hunters. Accordingly, the current policy for setting frameworks and season dates for spring turkey hunting in Illinois should be continued for the next several years.

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Table 1. Types of turkey hunting permits held by the 1,771 individuals who participated in the 1990 Illinois Spring Turkey Hunter Survey.

Season	Paid Permit Holders	Free Landowner Permit Holders
1st	598	223 <sup>a</sup>
2nd	512	223 <sup>a</sup>
3rd	560	223 <sup>a</sup>
Total	1,554 <sup>b,c</sup>	223 <sup>a,c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Same hunters. Each free landowner permit was valid for all 3 seasons.

<sup>b</sup> Includes 1,418 individuals who had 1 paid permit, 130 who had 2 paid permits, and 6 who (claimed that they) had 3 paid permits.

<sup>c</sup> There were 6 individuals who had  $\geq 1$  paid permits and a free landowner permit.

Table 2. Percentage of permit holders who hunted during the spring turkey hunting season in Illinois in 1990. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Region	Season	Paid Permit Holders		Free Landowner Permit Holders	
North	1st	85.1	(67)	52.6	(19)
	2nd	93.0	(43)	52.6	(19)
	3rd	86.0	(57)	57.9	(19)
	Total	87.9	(166) <sup>a</sup>	68.4	(19) <sup>b</sup>
Central	1st	84.9	(332)	74.4	(172)
	2nd	94.3	(261)	68.0	(172)
	3rd	93.8	(324)	66.9	(172)
	Total	90.9	(840) <sup>a</sup>	87.2	(172) <sup>b</sup>
South	1st	87.7	(203)	62.5	(32)
	2nd	93.4	(211)	56.3	(32)
	3rd	91.2	(181)	59.4	(32)
	Total	90.5	(548) <sup>a</sup>	81.2	(32) <sup>b</sup>
Entire State	1st	85.9	(602)	70.9	(223)
	2nd	93.8	(515)	65.0	(223)
	3rd	92.2	(562)	65.0	(223)
	Total	90.5 <sup>c</sup>	(1,554) <sup>a</sup>	84.8 <sup>d</sup>	(223) <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Sample sizes were less than the sum of the preceding values because some permit holders hunted during more than 1 season.

<sup>b</sup> All three seasons combined.

<sup>c</sup> 83.4% hunted 1 season, 6.9% hunted 2 seasons, and 0.2% (claimed that they) hunted 3 seasons.

<sup>d</sup> 18.0% hunted 1 season, 17.5% hunted 2 seasons, and 49.3% hunted 3 seasons.

Table 3. Mean number of days spent afield by active turkey hunters during the spring turkey hunting season in Illinois in 1990. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Region	Season	Paid Permit Holders		Free Landowner Permit Holders	
North	1st	2.8	(57)	2.3	(13)
	2nd	2.6	(40)	1.9	(13)
	3rd	3.7	(49)	2.4	(13)
	Total	3.0	(146)	6.6	(13)
Central	1st	3.0	(282)	2.2	(150)
	2nd	3.3	(246)	2.2	(150)
	3rd	4.3	(305)	2.8	(150)
	Total	3.9	(764)	7.2	(150)
South	1st	3.1	(178)	2.6	(26)
	2nd	3.7	(197)	1.9	(26)
	3rd	4.2	(165)	2.2	(26)
	Total	4.0	(496)	6.7	(26)
Entire State	1st	3.0	(517)	2.7	(158)
	2nd	3.4	(483)	2.8	(145)
	3rd	4.2	(519)	3.4	(145)
	Total	3.8	(1,406)	7.1	(189)

Table 4. Percentage of active turkey hunters who paid someone for the right to hunt on their land in Illinois during spring 1990. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

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Region	Paid Permit Holders
North	12.3 (146)
Central	1.8 (764)
South	0.2 (496)
Entire State	2.3 (1,406)

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Table 5. Percentage of active turkey hunters who experienced direct interference or conflicts from other sources in Illinois during spring 1990. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Region	Season	Paid Permit Holders		Free Landowner Permit Holders	
North	1st	12.3	(57)		
	2nd	7.5	(40)		
	3rd	6.1	(49)		
	Total	8.9	(146)	15.4	(13)
Central	1st	25.6	(281)		
	2nd	26.0	(246)		
	3rd	25.6	(305)		
	Total	25.2	(763)	22.7	(150)
South	1st	33.9	(177)		
	2nd	35.0	(197)		
	3rd	33.3	(165)		
	Total	32.7	(495)	34.6	(26)
Entire State	1st	27.0	(515)		
	2nd	28.2	(483)		
	3rd	26.2	(519)		
	Total	26.1	(1,406)	23.8	(189)

Table 6. Sources of interference or conflicts for active turkey hunters in Illinois during spring 1990. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Region	Source	Paid Permit Holders	Free Landowner Permit Holders
North		(146)	(13)
	Other hunters	6.2	7.7
	Off-road vehicles	1.4	7.7
	Non-hunters	1.4	7.7
	Other	1.4	0.0
Central		(763)	(150)
	Other hunters	17.1	18.7
	Off-road vehicles	3.1	1.3
	Non-hunters	4.8	1.3
	Other	6.3	5.3
South		(495)	(26)
	Other hunters	25.8	34.6
	Off-road vehicles	6.7	3.8
	Non-hunters	3.2	0.0
	Other	5.0	0.0
Entire State		(1,406)	(189)
	Other hunters	19.2	20.1
	Off-road vehicles	4.2	2.6
	Non-hunters	3.9	1.6
	Other	5.3	4.2

Table 7. Percentage of active hunters who reported harvesting  $\geq 1$  turkeys (gobblers or bearded hens) in Illinois during spring 1990. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Region	Season	Paid Permit Holders		Free Landowner Permit Holders	
North	1st	40.4	(57)		
	2nd	30.0	(40)		
	3rd	30.6	(49)		
	Total	34.0	(146)	23.1	(13)
Central	1st	25.6	(282)		
	2nd	24.7	(246)		
	3rd	24.8	(305)		
	Total	25.7	(764)	28.0	(150)
South	1st	26.5	(178)		
	2nd	9.2	(197)		
	3rd	12.8	(165)		
	Total	14.7	(496)	34.5	(26)
Entire State	1st	30.0	(517)		
	2nd	21.5	(483)		
	3rd	24.3	(519)		
	Total	23.3 <sup>a</sup>	(1,406)	28.6 <sup>b</sup>	(189)

<sup>a</sup> Included 21.9% who harvested 1 turkey and 1.4% who harvested 2 turkeys.

<sup>b</sup> Included 27.0% who harvested 1 turkey and 1.6% who harvested 2 turkeys.

Table 8. Percentage of active turkey hunters who reported checking  $\geq 1$  turkeys at a check station in Illinois during spring 1990. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Region	Season	Paid Permit Holders		Free Landowner Permit Holders	
North	1st	43.9	(57)		
	2nd	30.0	(40)		
	3rd	28.6	(49)		
	Total	34.9	(146)	23.1	(13)
Central	1st	27.0	(281)		
	2nd	24.6	(246)		
	3rd	25.6	(304)		
	Total	26.6	(762)	28.3	(149)
South	1st	28.1	(178)		
	2nd	10.4	(197)		
	3rd	14.5	(165)		
	Total	17.9	(496)	38.4	(26)
Entire State	1st	32.2	(516)		
	2nd	22.2	(483)		
	3rd	25.1	(518)		
	Total	24.3 <sup>a</sup>	(1,404)	29.3 <sup>b</sup>	(189)

<sup>a</sup> Included 23.1% who checked in 1 turkey and 1.2% who checked in 2 turkeys.

<sup>b</sup> Included 27.7% who checked in 1 turkey and 1.6% who checked in 2 turkeys.

Table 9. Percentage of active hunters who were aware that someone had killed a protected (no beard) hen turkey in Illinois during spring 1990. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Region	Season	Paid Permit Holders		Free Landowner Permit Holders	
North	1st	5.3	(57)		
	2nd	2.5	(40)		
	3rd	2.0	(49)		
	Total	3.4	(146)	15.4	(13)
Central	1st	3.2	(281)		
	2nd	4.1	(246)		
	3rd	3.9	(304)		
	Total	3.5	(762)	4.0	(150)
South	1st	1.1	(178)		
	2nd	1.0	(197)		
	3rd	1.2	(165)		
	Total	1.2	(496)	0.0	(26)
Entire State	1st	2.7	(516)		
	2nd	2.7	(483)		
	3rd	2.9	(518)		
	Total	2.7	(1,404)	4.2	(189)

Table 10. Percentage of active hunters who crippled and lost  $\geq 1$  turkeys in Illinois during spring 1990. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Region	Season	Paid Permit Holders		Free Landowner Permit Holders	
North	1st	7.1	(57)		
	2nd	2.5	(40)		
	3rd	4.0	(49)		
	Total	4.8	(146)	7.7	(13)
Central	1st	6.8	(282)		
	2nd	5.8	(245)		
	3rd	5.5	(305)		
	Total	6.3	(763)	11.4	(150)
South	1st	3.9	(178)		
	2nd	4.6	(197)		
	3rd	3.0	(165)		
	Total	4.2	(496)	0.0	(26)
Entire State	1st	6.4	(517)		
	2nd	5.6	(482)		
	3rd	5.6	(519)		
	Total	5.4 <sup>a</sup>	(1,405)	9.5 <sup>b</sup>	(189)

<sup>a</sup> Included 4.9% who crippled 1 turkey and 0.5% who crippled 2 turkeys.

<sup>b</sup> Included 7.9% who crippled 1 turkey and 1.6% who crippled 2 turkeys.

Table 11. Opinions of active turkey hunters as to the framework and dates for the spring turkey hunting season in Illinois. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Framework or Dates	Paid Permit Holders				Free Landowner Permit Holders			
3-season framework used in 1990	Like	Dislike	No Opinion		Like	Dislike	No Opinion	
North	78.5	8.3	13.2 (144)		61.5	7.7	30.8 (13)	
Central	75.1	11.6	13.3 (760)		65.8	6.7	27.5 (149)	
South	73.1	12.3	14.6 (494)		46.2	26.9	26.9 (26)	
Entire State	74.8	11.5	13.7 (1,398)		62.7	9.6	27.7 (188)	
Possible 4-season framework	Support	Not Support	No Opinion		Support	Not Support	No Opinion	
North	58.7	23.4	17.9 (145)		46.1	15.4	38.5 (13)	
Central	50.1	36.0	13.0 (762)		45.3	36.7	18.0 (150)	
South	54.0	33.0	13.0 (494)		23.1	57.7	19.2 (26)	
Entire State	52.4	34.1	13.5 (1,401)		42.3	38.1	19.6 (189)	
Dates used in 1990 <sup>a</sup>	Too Early	Too Late	About Right	No Opinion	Too Early	Too Late	About Right	No Opinion
North	13.1	15.9	68.3	2.8 (145)	7.7	15.4	53.8	23.1 (13)
Central	17.3	9.2	68.1	5.4 (763)	12.0	12.7	70.0	5.3 (150)
South	19.8	13.1	62.0	5.1 (495)	23.1	3.8	69.3	3.8 (26)
Entire State	17.7	11.3	66.0	5.0 (1,403)	13.2	11.6	68.9	6.3 (189)

<sup>a</sup> Dates for the 3 seasons were 9-13 April, 14-20 April, and 21 April-2 May, respectively.

Table 12. Opinions of active turkey hunters as to the number of hunters in the area they hunted in Illinois during spring 1990. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Region	Season	Paid Permit Holders			Free Landowner Permit Holders		
		Too Many	About Right	Too Few	Too Many	About Right	Too Few
North	1st	12.3	84.2	3.5			(57)
	2nd	12.5	77.5	10.0			(40)
	3rd	10.2	81.6	8.2			(49)
	Total	11.6	81.5	6.8	7.7	84.6	7.7 (13)
Central	1st	20.3	75.8	3.9			(281)
	2nd	22.0	76.4	1.6			(246)
	3rd	18.4	77.4	4.3			(305)
	Total	19.8	76.7	3.5	26.7	73.3	0.0 (150)
South	1st	39.0	56.5	4.5			(177)
	2nd	33.0	62.4	4.6			(197)
	3rd	35.8	61.2	3.0			(165)
	Total	34.7	60.9	4.4	34.6	61.5	3.8 (26)
Entire State	1st	25.8	70.1	4.1			(515)
	2nd	25.7	70.8	3.5			(483)
	3rd	23.1	72.7	4.2			(519)
	Total	24.2	71.6	4.2	26.5	72.5	1.1 (189)



Table 13. Some personal characteristics of active turkey hunters in Illinois during spring 1990. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Characteristic	Paid Permit Holders	Free Landowner Permit Holders
Type of residence	(1,402)	(189)
Rural (country, <500 residents)	39.2%	68.8%
Small town (500 to 20,000 residents)	40.8	21.7
Urban (>20,000 residents)	20.0	9.5
Sex	(1,403)	(189)
Male	98.1%	88.9%
Female	1.9	11.1
Mean years of age	(1,403) 40.3	(189) 42.9
Household income for 1989	(1,300)	(165)
<\$20,000	20.0%	33.3%
\$20,000-\$30,000	24.3	17.6
\$30,000-\$40,000	20.8	20.0
\$40,000-\$50,000	15.7	11.5
>\$50,000	19.0	17.6
Mean	\$34,300	\$31,200

Table 14. Number of years that active turkey hunters had hunted turkeys and the number of turkeys they had harvested during lifetime. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Region	Paid Permit Holders		Free Landowner Permit Holders	
<b>Mean years hunted turkeys</b>				
North	2.5	(145)	2.3	(13)
Central	3.2	(762)	3.3	(150)
South	4.6	(495)	5.6	(26)
Entire State	3.7	(1,402)	3.5	(189)
<b>Mean turkeys harvested</b>				
North	1.2	(145)	0.6	(13)
Central	1.8	(763)	1.7	(150)
South	1.9	(494)	3.4	(26)
Entire State	1.7 <sup>a</sup>	(1,402)	1.9 <sup>b</sup>	(189)

<sup>a</sup> 51.9% of the hunters had harvested 0 turkeys, 20.6% had harvested 1 turkey, 9.8% had harvested 2 turkeys, and 17.7% had harvested  $\geq 3$  turkeys.

<sup>b</sup> 48.7% had harvested 0 turkeys, 22.2 % had harvested 1 turkey, 10.6% had harvested 2 turkeys, and 18.5% had harvested  $\geq 3$  turkeys.

Table 15. Number of years that active turkey hunters had hunted  $\geq 1$  game species other than turkeys and the percentage who had hunted each species. Samples sizes are in parentheses.

Region or Species	Paid Permit Holders	Free Landowner Permit Holders
<b>Mean years hunted <math>\geq 1</math> other species</b>		
North	23.1 (145)	23.5 (13)
Central	25.0 (759)	24.5 (149)
South	24.7 (492)	29.1 (26)
Entire State	24.7 (1,396)	25.1 (188)
<b>Percentage of Hunters</b>		
	(1,406)	(189)
Deer	89.0	94.7
Squirrels	76.5	79.9
Rabbits	75.2	72.5
Quail	67.9	58.7
Pheasants	60.8	43.4
Geese	43.1	29.1
Ducks	42.7	33.9
Raccoons	17.0	27.5
Other	23.8	19.0

Table 16. Gauges of shotguns used by active turkey hunters in Illinois during spring 1990. 82.4% of the paid permit holders and 76.1% of the free landowner permit holders had patterned their shotguns. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Gauge of Shotgun	Paid Permit Holders	Free Landowner Permit Holders
	(1,385)	(188)
10	6.1%	2.7%
3-in. 12	50.0	46.3
2 3/4-in. 12	34.4	36.7
16	1.5	3.2
20	6.6	11.1
28 <sup>a</sup>	1.3	0.0
410 <sup>a</sup>	0.1	0.0

<sup>a</sup> Illegal for turkey hunting in Illinois.

Table 17. Sizes of shot used by active turkey hunters in Illinois during spring 1990. 17.9% of the paid permit holders and 16.3% of the free landowner permittees reported that the 1st shell in their gun was loaded with steel shot. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Size of Shot	Paid Permit Holders	Free Landowner Permit Holders
	(1,385)	(184)
7 1/2	0.5%	0.5%
6	31.9	29.9
5 1/2 <sup>a</sup>	0.1	0.0
5	8.1	8.7
4	49.2	55.0
Duplex (4x6)	10.0	5.4
2 <sup>b</sup>	0.2	0.5

<sup>a</sup> Not commercially available.

<sup>b</sup> Illegal for turkey hunting in Illinois.

Table 18. Types of calls used by active turkey hunters in Illinois during spring 1990. 96.2% of the paid permit holders and 91.5% of the free landowner permittees used  $\geq 1$  types of turkey calls. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Type of Call	Paid Permit Holders	Free Landowner Permit Holders
	(1,406)	(189)
Diaphragm mouth	60.5%	48.1%
Box	60.7	62.4
Slate or glass	30.3	28.6
Tube	3.7	2.6
Yelper	11.6	6.3
Own voice	5.3	0.5
Gobble	5.8	6.9
Other	1.8	3.2

Table 19. Forms of camouflage used by active turkey hunters in Illinois during spring 1990. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Forms	Paid Permit Holders	Free Landowner Permit Holders
	(1,406)	(189)
Cap or hat	83.5%	73.5%
Coat only	15.1	16.4
Pants only	0.1	9.5
Coveralls or coat and pants	81.9	75.7
Headnet, face mask	80.9	70.4
Face Paint	16.1	13.8
Camouflaged gun	52.2	34.4
Blind	5.8	7.4
Camouflaged orange	0.7	0.0
None	0.9	3.2

Table 20. Percentage of active turkey hunters who used a decoy in Illinois during spring 1990. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

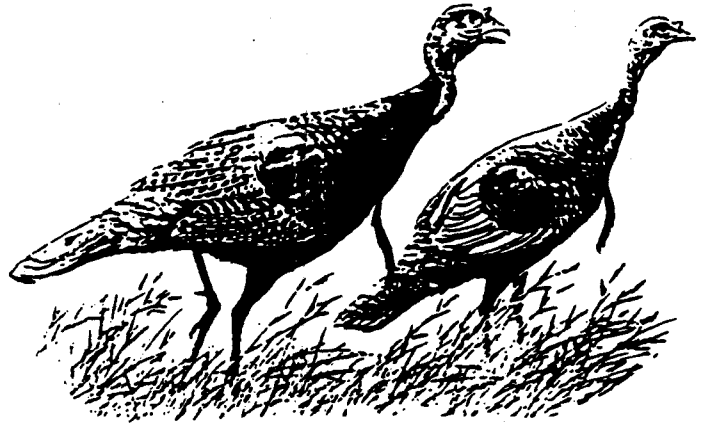
Region	Paid Permit Holders		Free Landowner Permit Holders	
North	26.0	(146)	7.7	(13)
Central	34.7	(763)	26.2	(149)
South	20.2	(494)	19.2	(26)
Entire State	28.7	(1,403)	25.4	(189)



Table 21. Expenditures by active turkey hunters in Illinois during spring 1990. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Expenditure	Paid Permit Holders	Free Landowner Permit Holders
	(1,401)	(189)
\$0 - \$25	9.6%	41.3%
\$26 - \$50	20.4	15.9
\$51 - \$100	26.6	17.5
\$101 - \$200	22.3	12.7
\$201 - \$300	10.6	5.8
≥\$300	10.5	6.8
Mean	\$200	\$85
Total	\$2,580,400	\$181,100 = \$2,761,500

1990 ILLINOIS SPRING TURKEY HUNTER SURVEY



INSTRUCTIONS

Please answer the questions beginning below about turkey hunting and about background information on yourself.

To properly manage the Illinois wild turkey population, the Department of Conservation needs more information about Illinois turkey hunters and their hunting experiences.

Your responses are strictly confidential and will never be associated with your name. Since you are part of a small, randomly selected group, your participation is very important.

When completed, insert questionnaire into the self-addressed envelope and mail. POSTAGE IS PREPAID.

YOUR COMMENTS ARE WELCOME BUT PLEASE WRITE THEM ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER TO RECEIVE PROPER ATTENTION.

PART I: 1990 SPRING TURKEY SEASON

- 1. How many permits did you have for turkey hunting during each of the 3 spring turkey seasons in Illinois in 1990? (Circle number or numbers for appropriate answer).

1st Season . . . . . 1 . . . . . 2
2nd Season . . . . . 1 . . . . . 2
3rd Season . . . . . 1 . . . . . 2

- 2. Did you hunt during the spring turkey season in Illinois in 1990? (Circle number or numbers for appropriate answer).

Yes No
1st Season . . . . . 1 . . . . . 2
2nd Season . . . . . 1 . . . . . 2
3rd Season . . . . . 1 . . . . . 2

IF YOU DID NOT HUNT IN ILLINOIS DURING THE 1990 SPRING TURKEY SEASON, SKIP TO PART II.

Figure 1. The questionnaire used for the 1990 Spring Turkey Hunter Survey.

Figure 1 - continued.

3. How many days did you actually hunt in Illinois during the 1990 Spring Turkey Season?
- 1st Season . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_ days  
 2nd Season . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_ days  
 3rd Season . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_ days
4. How many turkeys (gobblers or bearded hens) did you kill and retrieve in Illinois during the 1990 Spring Season? (Circle number for appropriate answer).
- 0 . . . . . 1 . . . . . 2
5. Are you aware of anyone who killed a protected hen (no beard) turkey in Illinois during the 1990 Spring Season? (Circle number for appropriate answer).
- Yes . . . 1      No . . . 2
6. How many turkeys did you cripple but could not retrieve in Illinois in 1990? (Circle number for appropriate answer).
- 0 . . 1 . . 2 . . 3 . . 4 . . 5 or more
7. If you used a shotgun, what gauge did you use? (Circle one number).
- #10 ga. . . . 1    #3-in. 12 ga. . . . 2    #2 3/4-in. 12 ga. . . 3  
 #16 ga. . . . 4    #20 ga. . . . . 5    Other \_\_\_\_\_ ga.
8. What size shot did you use for the first shell in your gun? (Circle one number).
- #7 1/2. . . . 1    #6. . . . . 2    #5 . . . . . 3  
 #4. . . . . 4    duplex #4 x #6. . . 5    other # \_\_\_\_\_
9. Was this first shell loaded with lead or steel shot? (Circle one number).
- lead. . . . . 1      steel . . . . . 2
10. Did you pay someone for the right to hunt turkeys on their land in Illinois in 1990? (Circle number for appropriate answer).
- Yes . . . . . 1      No . . . . . 2
11. What is your opinion of the number of hunters in the area you hunted most in Illinois in 1990? (Check number for appropriate answer).
- Too many . . 1      About right . . 2      Too few . . 3

12. Did you use a call while hunting in Illinois during the 1990 spring turkey season? (Circle number for appropriate answer).

Yes . . . . . 1      No . . . . . 2

If yes, what type did you use? (Circle all numbers that apply).

Diaphragm mouth call . . . . . 1	Yelper . . . . . 5
Box call . . . . . 2	Your own voice . 6
Slate or glass call . . . . . 3	Gobble call . . . 7
Tube call . . . . . 4	Other_____ . 8

13. Did you have any direct interference or conflicts from other sources while turkey hunting in Illinois during the 1990 Spring Season? (Circle number for appropriate answer).

Yes . . . . . 1      No . . . . . 2

If yes, what was the source? (Circle all numbers that apply).

Other hunters . . . . . 1	Non-hunters . . . . . 3
Off-road vehicles . . . . . 2	Other_____ . 4

14. What forms of camouflage did you use while hunting in Illinois during the 1990 Spring Turkey Season? (Circle all numbers that apply).

Cap or hat. . . . . 1	Face paint . . . . . 6
Coat only . . . . . 2	Camouflaged gun. . . . . 7
Pants only. . . . . 3	Blind. . . . . 8
Coveralls or coat and pants . . 4	Camouflage orange. . . . 9
Headnet, face mask. . . . . 5	None . . . . . 10

15. Have you ever patterned your shotgun on a (paper, cardboard, etc.) target? (Circle number for appropriate answer).

Yes . . . . . 1      No . . . . . 2

16. Did you use a decoy while hunting in Illinois during the 1990 spring turkey season? (Circle number for appropriate answer).

Yes . . . . . 1      No . . . . . 2

17. We would like an estimate of your turkey hunting expenses for spring turkey hunting in Illinois in 1990 only. Please include money spent on clothing, turkey calls, new gun, ammunition, transportation, lodging, food, leased hunting land, film, permits, taxidermy, etc. (Circle number for appropriate answer).

\$0 - \$25. . . . . 1	\$26 - \$50. . . . . 2	\$51 - \$100. . . . . 3
\$101 - \$200. . . . . 4	\$200 - \$300. . . . . 5	over \$300. . . . . 6

18. How many turkeys did you check in at one of the mandatory county turkey check stations in Illinois in 1990? (Circle number for appropriate answer).

0 . . . . . 1 . . . . . 2

PART II: Background Information and Opinions

1. How many years have you hunted one or more other game species? \_\_\_ Yrs.
2. How many years have you hunted turkeys? \_\_\_ Yrs.
3. How many turkeys have you successfully killed during your lifetime? \_\_\_
4. What other game species do you currently hunt? (Circle all numbers that apply).

Deer . . . . . 1	Quail . . . . . 4	Geese . . . . . 7
Squirrels . . 2	Rabbits . . . . . 5	Ducks . . . . . 8
Pheasants . . 3	Raccoons. . . . . 6	Other . . . . . 9
5. In what type of community do you now live? (Circle number for appropriate answer).

Rural (country, farm, town less than 500 residents) . . 1
Small town (500 to 20,000 residents). . . . . 2
Urban (city, over 20,000 residents, suburban) . . . . . 3
6. You are (circle appropriate number): Male . . . 1 Female . . . 2
7. What is your opinion of the present 3 season (5, 7 & 12 days) framework where most hunters are able to obtain at least 1 permit? (Circle number for appropriate answer).

Like . . . . . 1	Dislike . . . . . 2	No Opinion. . . . . 3
------------------	---------------------	-----------------------
8. If the demand for permits continues to increase, would you support or not support establishing a 4th turkey season? (Circle number for appropriate answer).

Support . . . 1	Not Support . . . 2	No Opinion . . . 3
-----------------	---------------------	--------------------
9. The 1990 Spring Turkey Season dates in Illinois were April 9-13, April 14-20, April 21-May 2. How do you feel about using similar dates for the 1991 Spring Turkey Season? (Circle number for appropriate answer).

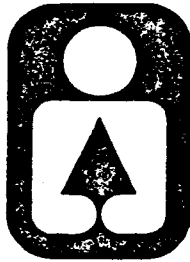
Too early . . 1	Too late . . 2	About right . . 3	No Opinion . . 4
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10. Which category best describes your total household income for 1989? (Circle number for appropriate answer).

Under \$10,000 . . . . . 1	\$30,000 to 40,000 . . 4
\$10,000 to 20,000 . . 2	\$40,000 to 50,000 . . 5
\$20,000 to 30,000 . . 3	Over \$50,000. . . . . 6

Thank you for your cooperation.

POSTAGE IS PREPAID

Illinois



Department of Conservation

life and land together

LINCOLN TOWER PLAZA • 524 SOUTH SECOND STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62701-1787  
CHICAGO OFFICE • ROOM 4-300 • 100 WEST RANDOLPH 60601  
MARK FRECH, DIRECTOR

Dear Fellow Sportsman:

You are one of a select group of Illinoisans asked to furnish information about your activities during the recent spring turkey hunting season.

The popularity of wild turkey hunting in Illinois has increased dramatically in the last 20 years. In 1970, 1,000 hunters harvested 25 gobblers during Illinois' first modern-day turkey season. During the 1990 spring season, a total of 16,355 permits were issued which resulted in a reported harvest of 2,854 turkeys.

With rapidly expanding wild turkey populations, increasing numbers of hunters and increasing hunting opportunities, your reply is extremely important, even if you did not hunt turkeys this past season or were not successful. Only a limited number of turkey hunters can be contacted, therefore, your response is urgently needed.

The information you provide will be used to better manage the Illinois wild turkey. Our goals are to safeguard turkey populations, to grant safe turkey hunting opportunity to the maximum number of license holders, and to maintain an attractive level of hunter success.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the parts of the questionnaire that apply to you. If you do not remember exact figures, please give your best estimate.

Drop the completed questionnaire in the mail. Postage is prepaid.

Sincerely,

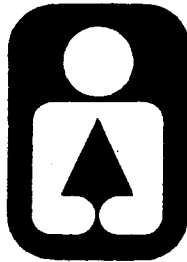
*Mark Frech*

Mark Frech  
Director

Enclosure

Figure 2. The letter that accompanied 1st mailing of the questionnaire.

Illinois



Department of Conservation

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LINCOLN TOWER PLAZA • 524 SOUTH SECOND STREET • SPRINGFIELD 62701-1787  
CHICAGO OFFICE • ROOM 4-300 • 100 WEST RANDOLPH 60601  
MARK FRECH, DIRECTOR

Dear Fellow Sportsman:

Recently we mailed you a spring turkey hunter questionnaire, and requested that you fill it out and return it as soon as possible. We have not received your form at this time. Perhaps you have misplaced the questionnaire or haven't found time to complete it.

We are enclosing another questionnaire which we hope you will complete and return to us. If you have already returned a questionnaire, please discard this one. The information supplied by you and other turkey hunters being sampled will be of great value to the Department of Conservation in better directing the management of our wild turkey resources.

Please fill out the questionnaire completely and return it even if you did not hunt turkeys, or were not successful, during the recent spring season.

Please drop the completed questionnaire in the mail. Postage is prepaid. Your prompt attention will be sincerely appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Mark Frech*

Mark Frech  
Director

Enclosure

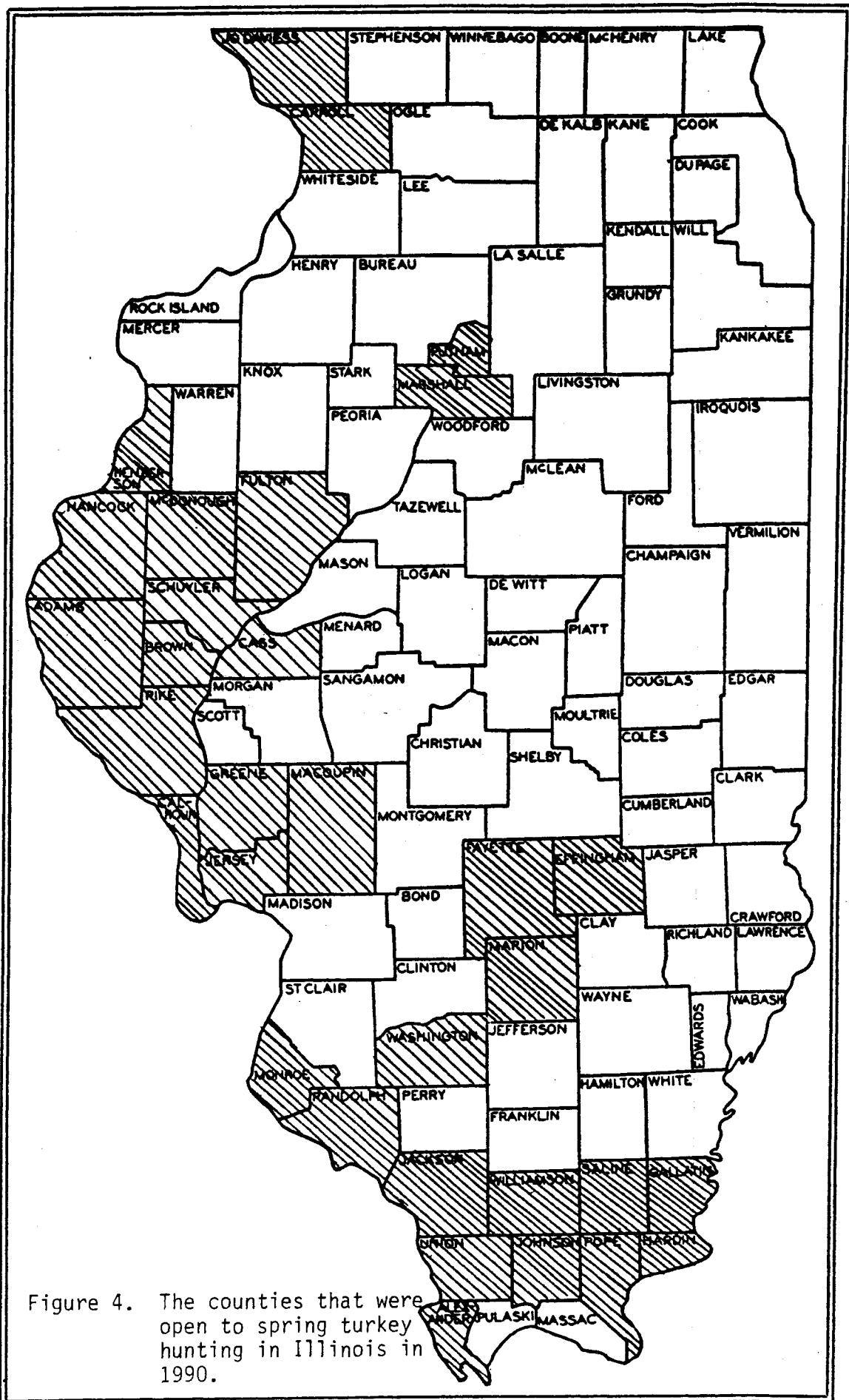


Figure 4. The counties that were open to spring turkey hunting in Illinois in 1990.