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Illinois youth turkey hunters set new harvest record during 2026 season

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois youth turkey hunters set a new record, harvesting a preliminary total of 2,318 birds during the 2025 Illinois youth season. The total surpasses last year's record of 2,099 birds and marks the third consecutive year of record-setting youth turkey harvest in Illinois.

Participation also reached an all-time high this spring. Youth hunters purchased a record 7,369 permits in 2026, surpassing the previous record of 6,538 sold in 2025. Along with a success rate of over 30% for the third year in a row, the increasing totals reflect strong youth interest in turkey hunting, excellent hunting opportunities and a robust statewide turkey population.

This year's youth season was March 28-29 and April 4-5. The top five counties for youth harvest were Jefferson, 75; Fayette, 74; Marion, 68; Adams, 62; and Clay, 62. The following table shows preliminary harvest figures for the youth turkey season by county for 2025 and 2026.

County	2025	2026
ADAMS	50	62
ALEXANDER	14	29
BOND	20	26
BOONE	4	4
BROWN	38	34
BUREAU	19	12
CALHOUN	38	40
CARROLL	9	8
CASS	24	19
CHAMPAIGN	6	5
CHRISTIAN	8	13
CLARK	28	43
CLAY	50	62
CLINTON	30	37
COLES	7	7
CRAWFORD	38	34
CUMBERLAND	21	27
DEKALB	0	0
DEWITT	3	3

DOUGLAS	2	1
EDGAR	9	7
EDWARDS	11	15
EFFINGHAM	42	42
FAYETTE	63	74
FORD	1	0
FRANKLIN	27	35
FULTON	28	29
GALLATIN/HARDIN	31	48
GREENE	31	31
GRUNDY	4	4
HAMILTON	38	34
HANCOCK	30	43
HENDERSON	9	12
HENRY	25	18
IROQUOIS	7	7
JACKSON	28	45
JASPER	28	30
JEFFERSON	72	75
JERSEY	20	32
JO DAVIESS	47	34
JOHNSON	23	35
KANKAKEE	6	7
KENDALL	2	1
KNOX	15	6
LAKE	0	1
LASALLE	7	7
LAWRENCE	13	11
LEE	14	10
LIVINGSTON	3	5
LOGAN	4	7
MACON	1	3
MACOUPIN	60	57
MADISON	36	44
MARION	48	68
MARSHALL/PUTNAM	9	12
MASON	22	20
MASSAC	17	17
MCDONOUGH	8	11
MCHENRY	17	12
MCLEAN	9	11
MENARD	18	12
MERCER	12	12
MONROE	25	34
MONTGOMERY	34	40

MORGAN	11	15
MOULTRIE	5	6
OGLE	27	21
PEORIA	11	20
PERRY	34	42
PIATT	0	0
PIKE	71	59
POPE	30	38
PULASKI	18	23
RANDOLPH	66	55
RICHLAND	17	8
ROCK ISLAND	10	12
SALINE	26	34
SANGAMON	20	23
SCHUYLER	27	26
SCOTT	3	9
SHELBY	31	34
ST CLAIR	28	47
STARK	3	6
STEPHENSON	18	22
TAZEWELL	11	8
UNION	21	34
VERMILION	17	8
WABASH	6	8
WARREN	9	8
WASHINGTON	27	26
WAYNE	48	52
WHITE	34	36
WHITESIDE	27	25
WILL	4	5
WILLIAMSON	38	48
WINNEBAGO	25	26
WOODFORD	13	10
Total	2,099	2,318

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About IDNR

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources was established in 1925 as the Illinois Department of Conservation, bringing under one umbrella oversight of fish and game, forestry, public works, and lakes. Today, IDNR's work encompasses management of about 400 sites across Illinois, including state parks and historic sites; wildlife, fisheries, forestry, and natural heritage; Lake Michigan water allocation and coastal management; conservation police; mines and minerals; oil and gas; issuance of licenses, permits, and numerous grants; the World Shooting and Recreational Complex in Sparta; and the Illinois State Museum. Visit <https://dnr.illinois.gov> and follow us on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) and [LinkedIn](#).