

Wild Turkey Regulations

SPRING WILD TURKEY			
WMU(s)	Open Season	Bag Limit	Hours
42, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66A, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83A, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95	Residents and non-residents April 25 to May 31, 2014 Residents and non-residents April 27 to May 31, 2015	One bearded wild turkey per licence Two licences per hunter maximum. The two birds may not be taken on the same day.	1/2 hour before sunrise to 7:00 p.m.

FALL WILD TURKEY			
WMU(s)	Open Season	Bag Limit	Hours
59, 64, 65, 66A, 67, 68, 73, 76, 77, 78, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 87, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93	Residents and non-residents October 14 to October 26, 2014	One fall licence per hunter maximum. One wild turkey may be harvested – EITHER one male OR one female.	1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset



What we learned from wild turkey hunters in 2013:

- 8,272 wild turkeys were harvested in the spring and 240 in the fall season.
- Jakes composed 35 percent of males in the spring wild turkey harvest.
- Female wild turkeys made up 57 percent of the fall harvest.

Licence fees can be found on page 15. For more information on wild turkey biology and management in Ontario, please visit ontario.ca/wildturkey.

Turkey Hunting Requirements

Residents and non-residents wishing to hunt wild turkeys must have:

- A valid hunting version Outdoors Card;
- Completed the Ontario Wild Turkey Hunter Education Course and passed the exam;
- A valid small game licence tag or e-licence (for resident or non-resident as the case may be; must be purchased prior to the turkey licence);
- A wild turkey licence and game seal.

Turkey Hunter Education Course

The schedule of wild turkey course locations and dates is available from the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters at (705) 748-6324, or at www.ofah.org. A home study course is also available. Visit the OFAH website for details.

Individuals under the age of 16 must file a consent signed by one parent or guardian before attending the Ontario Hunter Education Course or the Ontario Wild Turkey Hunter Education Course. Consent forms are available at ontario.ca/hunting.

Over-the-Counter Licensing for Residents and Non-Residents

Wild turkey licences will be offered by licence issuers and participating ServiceOntario centres across Ontario.

Individuals wishing to purchase a wild turkey licence from a licence issuer must show one of the following at the time of purchase:

- Their Outdoors Card bearing a "T" insignia; OR
- Their valid hunting version Outdoors Card plus their Wild Turkey Hunter Education certificate or their Record of Wild Turkey Hunter Examination form; OR
- Their valid hunting version Outdoors Card plus a previous Ontario wild turkey licence bearing the hunter's name and Outdoors Card number.

Both spring licences may be purchased at the same time; however, only one wild turkey may be harvested in a day.

Internet Licensing for Residents and Non-Residents (Spring Season Only)

Spring wild turkey licences will be offered online at ontario.ca/outdoorscard. Your wild turkey licence(s) and game seal(s) will be mailed. Please allow time for your licence(s) and game seal(s) to reach you. To use this system, a hunter who has successfully completed the wild turkey hunter education course needs:

- A valid hunting version Outdoors Card number;
- A valid VISA, MasterCard or American Express credit card.

Automated Telephone Licensing (Spring Seasons Only) for Ontario Resident Turkey Hunters

Spring wild turkey licences are also available province-wide through the Ministry of Natural Resources' automated telephone licensing line. This line allows Ontario resident hunters to purchase a wild turkey hunting licence using a toll-free telephone line, 24 hours a day, seven days a week from March 1 to April 6. To use this system, a hunter who has successfully completed the wild turkey hunter education course needs:

- A valid hunting version Outdoors Card number;
- A valid VISA, MasterCard or American Express card;
- A Touch-Tone™ telephone.

PLEASE NOTE: This system does not accept spoken answers; only responses provided using the keypad can be processed.

To purchase a licence using the automated telephone line, call **1-800-288-1155 between March 1 and April 6.**

Hunters wishing to purchase two wild turkey licences by telephone must place two calls. Your wild turkey licence(s) and game seal(s) will be mailed. Please allow time for your licence(s) and game seal(s) to reach you.

If you do not receive your licence(s) and game seal(s) in the mail prior to the start of the season, please contact the Outdoors Card Centre at 1-800-387-7011.

Wild Turkey Hunting Regulations

You are permitted to call wild turkeys for another hunter after filling your own licence(s), but you must not be in possession of a firearm when doing so. It is illegal to use live decoys or electronic calls while wild turkey hunting in Ontario. Wild turkeys may be hunted using shotguns (including muzzle-loading shotguns) or bows. For details on legal firearms and ammunition, please refer to the chart on page 24.

Baiting

It is illegal to hunt wild turkeys within 400 metres of any place where bait has been deposited unless the place has been free of bait for at least seven days. Bait means corn, wheat, oats, other grain, pulse, any other feed that may attract wild turkey or any imitation of such feed. Standing crops, crops stacked in accordance with normal farming practices and grain scattered as a result of normal farming operations are not considered bait.

Sealing and Transporting

The holder of a licence who has killed a wild turkey shall:

- Immediately after the kill and at the site of the kill attach the game seal provided with the licence to the wild turkey in the manner indicated on the instruction panel attached to the seal (notch out the month, day and time).
- Keep the game seal attached to the wild turkey until it is prepared for consumption.

Mandatory Reporting of Turkey Harvest

Successful turkey hunters must report their harvested turkey by no later than 12:00 noon, the day after the bird was harvested. There are now two options for harvest reporting. Hunters may report their harvest online by selecting the reporting link at ontario.ca/harvestreporting or by calling toll-free 1-800-288-1155. If you complete your report online you can save or print the report you submitted as your record. If you complete your harvest report by telephone, record the confirmation number provided at the end of the call and keep it as a record that you have reported.

LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAVE!

Invasive species may be joining you on your hunting trip.



Photo credits: Key image: Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters; Asian Long-Horned Beetle: D. Copplestone

Invading Species Hotline 1-800-563-7711
ontarioinvasiveplants.ca invadingspecies.com
ontario.ca/invasivespecies

You could unknowingly be carrying stowaways to your favourite natural area.

Hunters, you can help!

- Watercraft** – Inspect and clean your boat and motor before moving to a new waterbody
- Pets** – Remove seeds and mud from your pets
- Firewood** – Buy firewood where you burn it
- Boots** – Clean seeds and mud from your boots
- ATV's** – Clean ATV's thoroughly before transport



Mandatory Turkey Harvest Reporting Worksheet

Fill in the worksheet before you call or go online to complete your report. Have a pen or pencil available to record your confirmation number if you complete your report by telephone. If you complete your report online you can print your submitted report as you won't be provided a confirmation number.

The illustrations to the right of the page have been provided to assist you in collecting important biological information from your bird. This information will be requested as part of your report.

CELL PHONE USERS: A common reason why hunters are unable to complete telephone reports is a poor cellular connection. You have until no later than 12:00 noon the day after the bird was harvested to report your harvest. Please wait until you receive a clear, strong signal before placing your call.

STEP 1 Select the harvest reporting link at ontario.ca/harvestreporting to login and file your report electronically OR call toll-free 1-800-288-1155 and when the system prompts you, use the keypad of your telephone to select the Turkey Harvest Reporting option.

STEP 2 Record your Outdoors Card number below or have your card available to login by phone or online.

Your Outdoors Card Number is:

7 0 8 1 5 8

STEP 3 What date did your harvest occur on?

Month _____ Day _____

STEP 4 What WMU did the harvest occur in? Only the valid WMUs listed on page 31 will be accepted.

WMU

STEP 5 How many days did you hunt in that WMU before harvesting a turkey? (NOTE: Report one day for each separate date you hunted in that WMU.)

STEP 6 Was the turkey a male or female (Figure 1)? _____

PLEASE NOTE: Only bearded turkeys are legal during the spring season. Any turkey is legal in the fall season.

STEP 7 Was the turkey an adult or juvenile (Figure 2)? _____

STEP 8 How long was the longer spur (Figure 3)? Indicate the following: no spur; spur less than one-half inch or 13 millimetres; spur is one-half inch (13 millimetres) to less than one inch (25 millimetres); or spur is greater than or equal to one inch or 25 millimetres. _____

STEP 9 If you reported online, print or save your submitted report as your record of reporting. If you reported by telephone, record your confirmation number in the space below and keep it as your record of having reported.

Figure 1: Determining the Sex of the Turkey

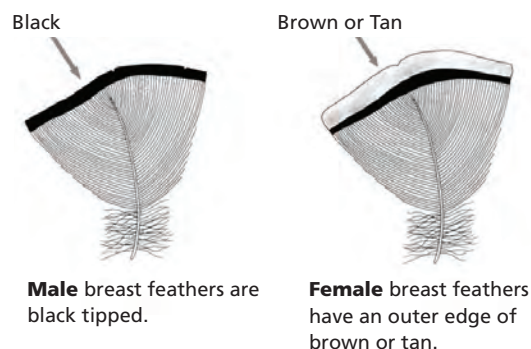


Figure 2: Determining the Age of the Turkey

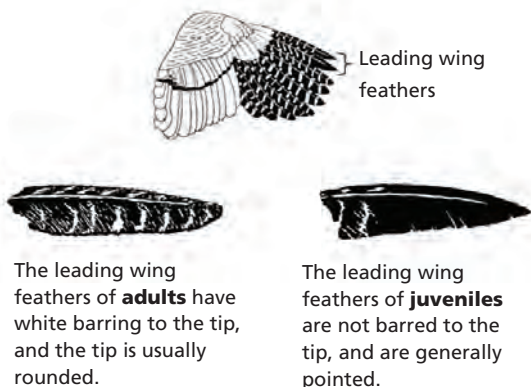


Figure 3: Measuring Spur Length



The spurs must be measured from the base of the spur to the tip along the bottom curve. A flexible tape or ruler provides a more accurate measurement.