

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks

# Spittin' & Drummin'



2007 Mississippi  
Wild Turkey Report

# REWARD

Up to \$500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons exceeding the turkey bag limit, baiting turkeys, or illegally killing a wild turkey in the state of *Mississippi*.

Maximum  
Fine  
\$500  
and/or



6  
Months  
In Jail

---

*To report a violation contact:*  
**TOLL FREE: 1-800-BE-SMART**  
**(1-800-237-6278)**

For more information on the  
Mississippi Wildlife Federation  
Call: 1-601-206-5703



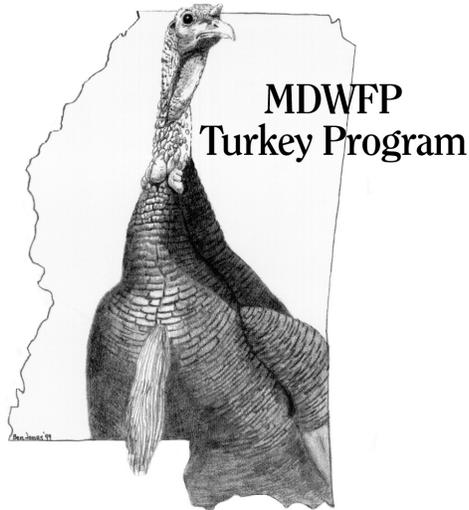
Mississippi  
Chapter



*Join The N.W.T.F. - Call 1-800-THE-NWTF*

13754-63337

VOSS SIGNS, LLC. MANLIUS, NY 13104-0553 1-800-473-0698 www.vossigns.com



# Spittin' & Drummin'

2007 MISSISSIPPI  
WILD TURKEY REPORT



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS  
*1505 Eastover Drive ■ Jackson, MS 39211*



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements .....	ii
Introduction .....	1
MDWFP Turkey Regions Map .....	2
<b>How are Turkeys in My Neck of the Woods?</b> .....	3
Mississippi Wild Turkey Population Statistics .....	4
Statewide.....	6
Turkey Region 1 – North MS .....	8
Turkey Region 2 – Delta .....	10
Turkey Region 3 – East-central MS .....	12
Turkey Region 4 – Southwest MS .....	14
Turkey Region 5 – Southeast MS .....	16
Join Our Spring Gobbler Hunting Survey Team .....	18
<b>Magnolia State Turkey Talk</b> .....	19
<b>Ways I Can Help Conserve Mississippi’s Wild Turkey</b> .....	33
Spring Gobbler Hunting Survey Application .....	35
Wild Turkey Disease Mortality Form .....	37
MS Wild Turkey Records Registration Form.....	39
2007 Turkey Report Evaluation .....	41

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**T**HIS REPORT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE TIRELESS EFFORTS OF THE MISSISSIPPI Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks Wildlife Bureau Technical Staff and district field personnel. Jason Price deserves a special thanks for all of his hard work and patience as we worked together on this project - his data entry and analysis program makes putting this report together possible. Dene Smith also deserves a very special thanks for all that she does to make the turkey program run smoothly – she was instrumental in many facets of this project. James Austin, Kevin Brunke, Scott Edwards, Susan Hardy, Marnia Hazlewood, Ron Seiss and Jim Willcutt also helped with this report and their efforts are greatly appreciated! A big thanks also goes to Cindy W. Clark for her continued hard work in helping us make this report look great.

The Mississippi Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation deserves special recognition for their special partnership with the MDWFP over the years. The Mississippi Chapter of the NTWF continues to play a vital role in the MDWFP Turkey Program and their support is greatly appreciated. Funds from the Mississippi Chapter Super Fund were used to help produce this publication and to make it available to thousands of Mississippi turkey hunters.

Finally, Mississippi's turkey hunters deserve a special thank you for helping collect the data needed to produce this report. Your data collection efforts, comments, input and concern of the wild turkey resource helps us best manage our Great State's wild turkey resource!!

## FEATURED PHOTOGRAPHER

**Paul T. Brown**, of Brandon, Mississippi, is a widely published, award winning and nationally acclaimed wildlife photographer and outdoors writer. His work regularly appears in numerous state, regional, and national publications.

P.O. Box 5066 • Brandon, MS 39047 • 601.829.1222 • 800.323.3398  
trueexposures@bellsouth.net • www.trueexposures.com

Other photos provided by the **National Wild Turkey Federation**, **Henry Zeman**, and **Steve Gullede**.

**FEDERAL AID  
IN WILDLIFE  
RESTORATION**



**A PITTMAN-  
ROBERTSON  
FUNDED PROJECT**

This report is produced by the Technical Guidance Project, the Statewide Wildlife Development Project and the Statewide Wildlife Investigations Project and is primarily funded by Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration.



paulbrown.com

## 2007 Mississippi Wild Turkey Report

**T**HIS PUBLICATION IS A COMPREHENSIVE SUMMARY OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND Parks' (MDWFP) Turkey Program. The purpose of this report is to provide turkey hunters and others with information concerning Mississippi's wild turkey resource. The report contains biological and sociological data used by the MDWFP to monitor and manage the state's turkey population. The Turkey Program report is one of the primary methods used by the MDWFP to educate and inform turkey hunters and landowners. Because of technical difficulties associated with data analysis, this year's report is much more condensed than the report you have received in previous years. These changes were made in an effort to produce and mail the report as quickly as possible. The report will return to its original format next year.

We personally invite all turkey hunters to become partners with the MDWFP to conserve and manage Mississippi's wild turkeys. The best ways you can do this are by participating in the Spring Gobbler Hunting Survey (**page 35**), joining the National Wild Turkey Federation (**page 31**), and reporting wildlife violations by calling **1-800-BE-SMART**. The annual spring gobbler hunting survey is conducted by volunteer hunters and is providing a tremendous database that we can use to monitor turkey numbers and to make and evaluate management decisions. The Mississippi Chapter of the NWTf is an indispensable part of the MDWFP's turkey management program. They annually support numerous educational, habitat, law enforcement and research projects to benefit the state's wild turkeys and turkey hunters.

If you have any questions or comments concerning turkeys, please call or write.



**Dave Godwin**

Small Game & Wild Turkey Coordinator

Wild Turkey Management Program  
1505 Eastover Drive ■ Jackson, MS 39211  
662.325.5119 ■ dgodwin@cfr.msstate.edu

# MDWFP Turkey Regions

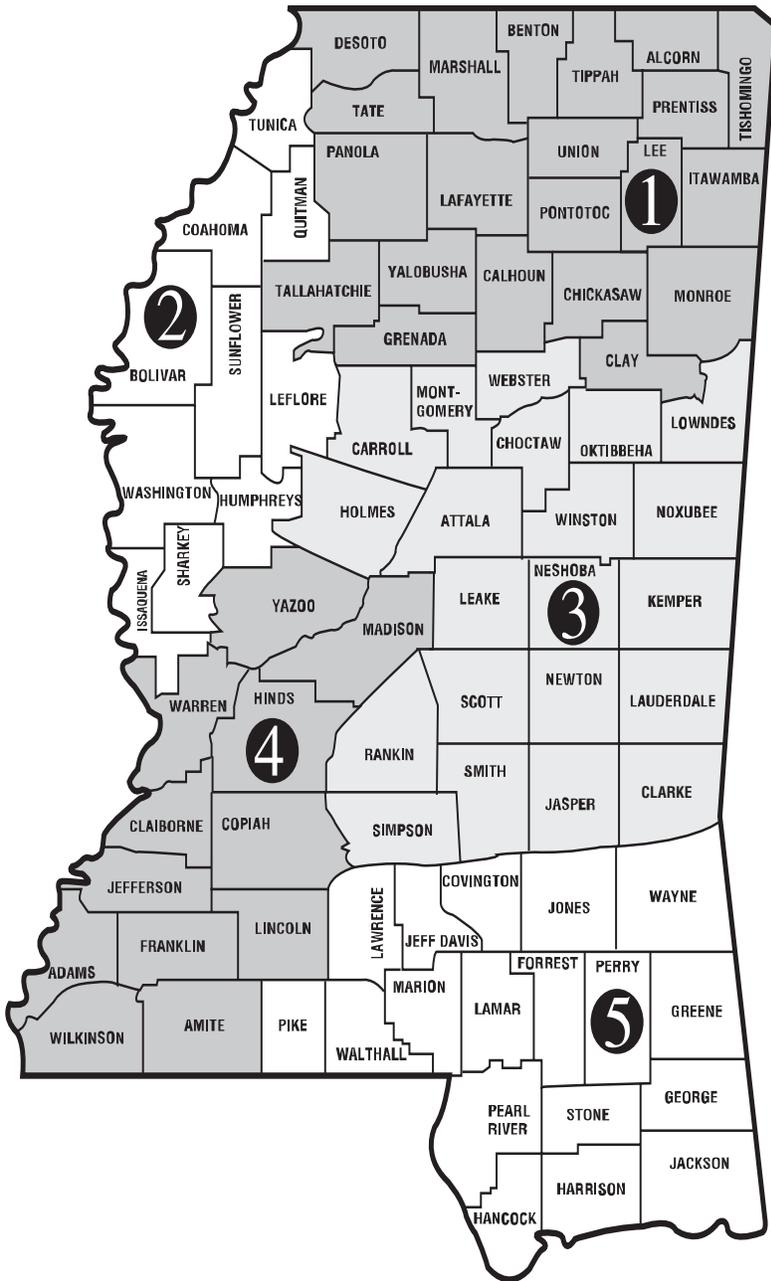




Photo by Joe Mac Hudspeth, Jr.

# How are Turkeys in My Neck of the Woods?



paulbrown.com

## Mississippi Wild Turkey Population Statistics

*based on Spring Gobbler Hunting & Brood Surveys*

**T**HE SPRING GOBBLER HUNTING SURVEY (SGHS) WAS INITIATED IN 1996 TO PROVIDE THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP) biological information about the state's wild turkey resource. Each year, cooperating hunters record information about their spring gobbler hunts. The database obtained from this survey assists the MDWFP in monitoring populations and making management decisions in the best interest of the turkey resource and turkey hunters. The Agency appreciates the data collection efforts and comments from all individual hunters and hunting clubs who participate in the SGHS. All turkey hunters, regardless of their ability or experience, are encouraged to participate. This is an opportunity to be directly involved in the conservation and management of the wild turkey in Mississippi. An application for participation in the SGHS is provided in this report.

Private land data from the 1999 – 2006 SGHSs are presented graphically in the following two-page statewide and regional summaries. The remainder of this introduction describes how the data were collected and summarized, along with important points to consider during inter-

---

*This is an opportunity  
to be directly involved  
in the conservation  
& management of  
the wild turkey in  
Mississippi.*

---



Photo by Joe Mac Hudspeth, Jr.

pretation. Most parameters are expressed as an average number per every 10 or 100 hours of hunting. Standardizing values by a specific number of hours hunted allows the rates to be compared among regions and years even though hunter effort varies.

### Reproduction

During June, July and August, the annual wild turkey brood survey (initiated in 1994) is conducted by personnel from the MDWFP, Mississippi Forestry Commission, U.S. Forest Service and other cooperators. Brood surveys provide indices to reproduction and are valuable in monitoring turkey population trends. Hens observed with at least one poult are considered successful. Hens without poults are considered unsuccessful and either did not attempt to nest, abandoned their

nest, lost their nest to predation or human disturbance or had no poults survive. Average brood size is the total number of poults divided by number of successful hens and is an index to poult survival. "Poults per total hens" is defined as the number of poults observed divided by total number of hens seen. "Poults per total hens" is the most practical reproductive index because it considers successful hens, unsuccessful hens and poult survival.

## Harvest Rates & Age Structure

Harvest rates provide an index to hunter success and population size. Spur lengths generally increase with age and therefore provide an index to age structure of harvested gobblers. Spurs are classified into four length categories based on the longer of the two spur measurements for each harvested gobbler. Spurs less than half an inch long are classified as jakes or 1-year-old gobblers. Lengths between a half and one inch are generally 2 years old. Gobblers at least 3 years old have spur lengths of one inch or longer. Monitoring spur length distribution should reflect changes in gobbler age structure over time. If age structure is increasing, a higher percentage of the gobblers harvested should be in the larger spur length categories. Spur length distributions are used to monitor the impact of harvest on the gobbler population and to evaluate season lengths and bag limits.



## Gobbling Activity

The number of individual gobblers heard and the total number of gobblers heard are used as indices to gobbling activity. Gobbling activity is reported as the average number of gobblers (and gobbles) heard during 10 hours of hunting. Gobbling activity is considered an indicator of hunting quality and may show a trend reflecting the number of gobblers in the population.

## Turkey Observations

Turkey observations are classified as gobblers, jakes, hens or unknowns. Observation rates are reported as the average number of gobblers, jakes or hens seen during 100 hours of hunting. Total observations combine all turkeys seen, including unknowns. Observation rates provide indices to sex ratios, gobbler age ratios, population size and population trends. Jake observations reflect the recruitment of males into the population from the previous year's hatch and provide an index to the potential number of 2-year-old gobblers in the population during the next spring turkey season.



# Statewide

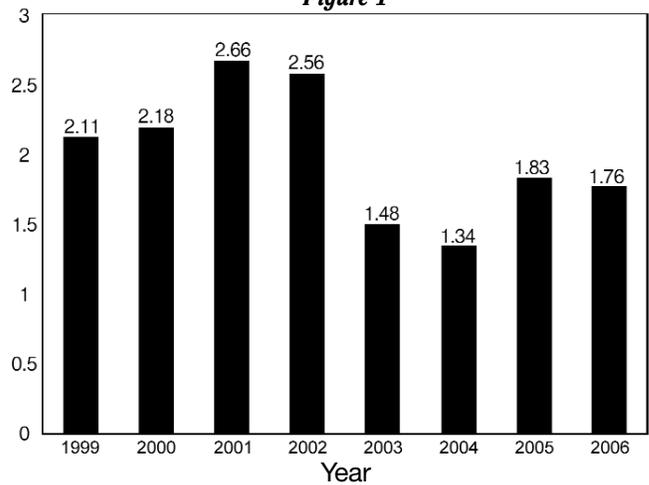
**S**TATEWIDE PRIVATE LAND DATA WERE COLLECTED DURING THE 2006 SEASON BY OVER 60 HUNTING CLUBS AND OVER 600 INDIVIDUAL HUNTERS. DATA WERE RECORDED DURING 19,253 HOURS OF TURKEY HUNTING ON PRIVATE LANDS DURING THE 2006 SEASON.



## Reproduction

During the 2006 wild turkey brood survey, 2,894 hens were seen. Of these hens, 1,332 (46%) successfully nested and were observed with at least one poult. A total of 5,089 poults were observed and the average brood size was 3.8 poults. The average number of poults for all hens was 1.76 (**Figure 1**), which was similar to the 2005 hatch. During the past 8 years of the survey, poults per total hens has averaged 2.0 and ranged from 1.3 in 2004 to 2.7 in 2001.

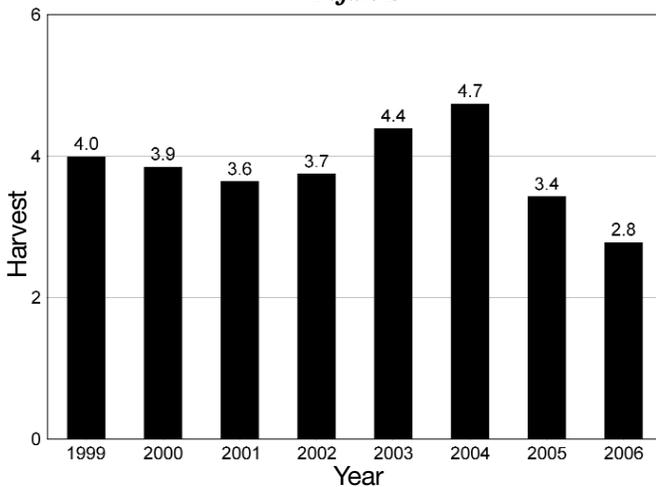
**Poults Per Total Hens**  
*Figure 1*



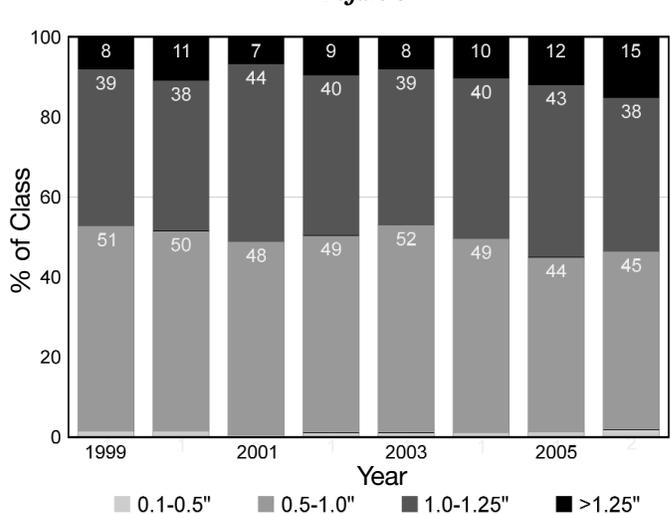
## Harvest Rates & Age Structure

The 2006 season showed a decline in harvest rates. On average, hunters harvested 2.8 gobblers for every 100 hours hunted (**Figure 2**). Over the past 8 years, harvest rates have averaged 3.8 gobblers per 100 hours hunted. Age structure was relatively constant with 53% of harvested gobblers being 3+ year-old toms with spur lengths of greater than one inch (**Figure 3**). Of the gobblers harvested, 15% had “limb-hanging” spurs greater than 1.25 inches.

**Harvest Per 100 Hours Hunted**  
*Figure 2*



**Spur Length Classes (%)**  
*Figure 3*

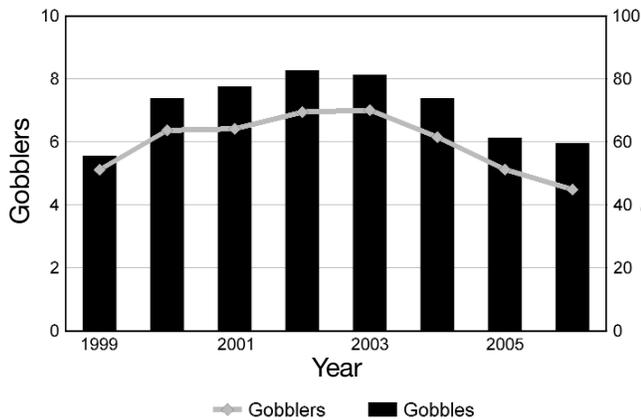


## Gobbling Activity

During 2006, seasonal gobbling activity declined somewhat with hunters hearing an average of 4.5 gobblers and 59.6 gobbles for every 10 hours of hunting (Figure 4). Gobblers started off the season slow, with under 50 gobbles heard per 10 hours hunted during the first week of the season (Figure 5). However, gobbling activity increased gradually to a peak of nearly 75 gobbles per 10 hours hunted during week 6.

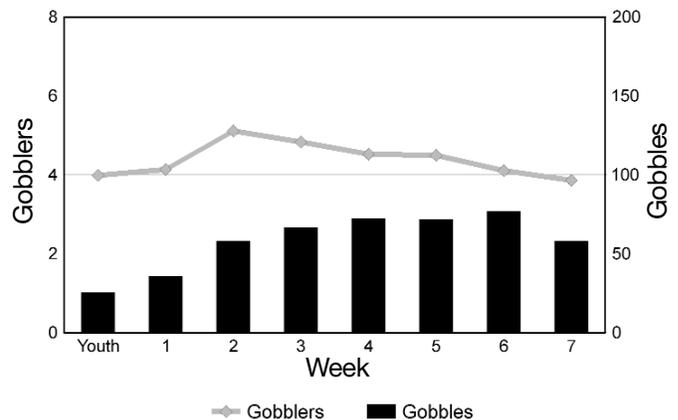
**Gobblers & Gobbles Heard Per 10 Hours Hunted By Year**

Figure 4



**Gobblers & Gobbles Heard Per 10 Hours Hunted By Week**

Figure 5

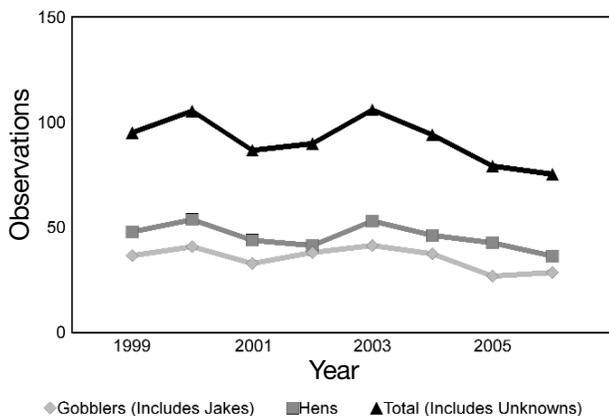


## Turkey Observations

During the 2006 season, hunters observed an average of 28.4 adult gobblers, 11.9 jakes, 36.2 hens and 9.8 unknowns for every 100 hours hunted (Figure 6). Jake observations increased from 2005 but were below the average level observed during the past 8 years (Figure 7). Hen observations were down from last year, while gobbler observations were up slightly.

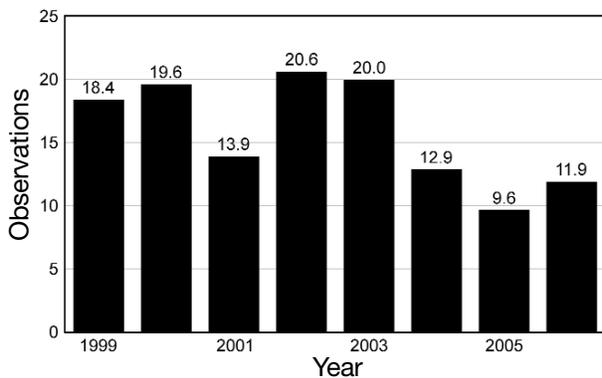
**Turkey Observations Per 100 Hours Hunted**

Figure 6



**Jake Observations Per 100 Hours Hunted**

Figure 7



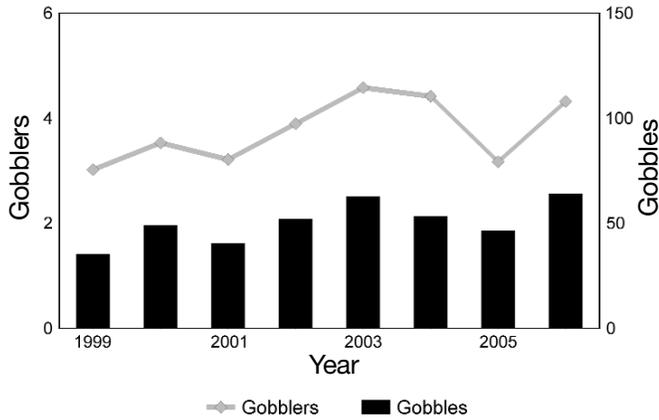


## Gobbling Activity

During the 2006 season, hunters heard an average of 4.3 gobblers gobble a total of 64.1 times for every 10 hours hunted (**Figure 4**). Gobbling activity was up from the previous year and was near the 8-year average for this region. Gobbling activity got off to a slow start during 2006 and did not peak until week 6 of the season when hunters heard over 100 gobbles for every 10 hours of hunting (**Figure 5**). Gobbling activity declined during the final week of the season.

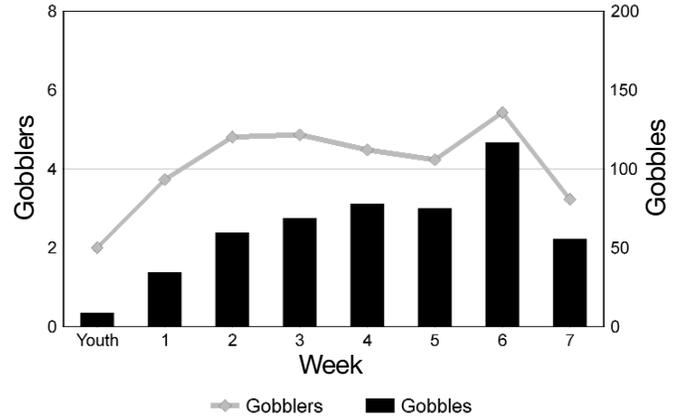
**Gobblers & Gobbles Heard Per 10 Hours Hunted By Year**

*Figure 4*



**Gobblers & Gobbles Heard Per 10 Hours Hunted By Week**

*Figure 5*

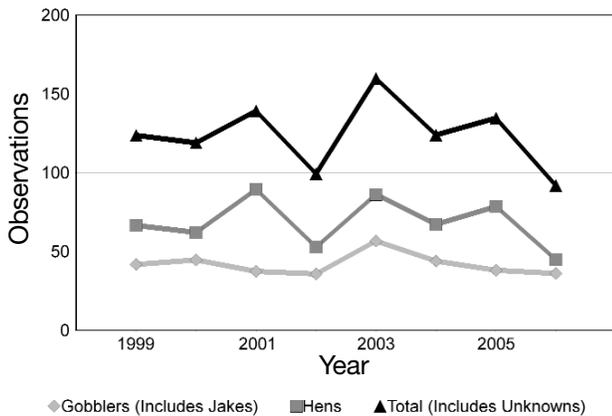


## Turkey Observations

On average, hunters observed 91.9 turkeys per 100 hours hunted during the 2006 season (**Figure 6**), which was down from last year. Although gobbler observations in this region were down, they were still the highest in the state at 36.0 per 100 hours hunted. Jake observations decreased to 14.2 per 100 hours hunted (**Figure 7**). Hen observations were the highest in the state at 44.7 per 100 hours hunted.

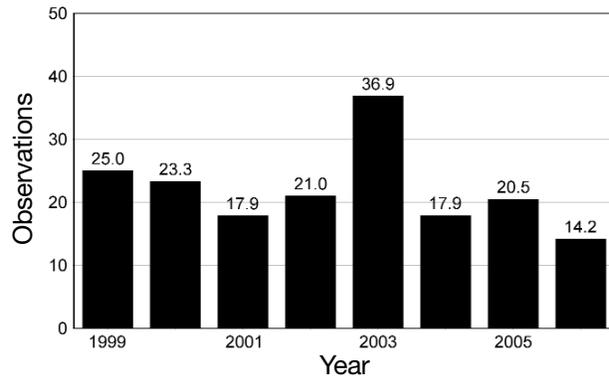
**Turkey Observations Per 100 Hours Hunted**

*Figure 6*



**Jake Observations Per 100 Hours Hunted**

*Figure 7*



# Turkey Region 2

**T**HIS REGION COMPRISES THE TEN DELTA COUNTIES AND IS SUBJECT TO EXTENSIVE, ANNUAL spring flooding that has a major impact on turkey reproduction. The dominant forest type in the Delta is oak-gum-cypress. This region can be subdivided into the batture lands (west of the mainline Mississippi River levee) and the interior floodplain. The batture area is dominated by sugarberry, sycamore, cottonwood, sweetgum, elm, and cypress. Pecan is the only hard mast producer of any significance. The interior Delta consists of extensive agricultural areas containing fragmented hardwood forests interspersed with cypress swamps. The major tree species include overcup oak, Nuttall oak, water oak, green ash, sweetgum and cottonwood.

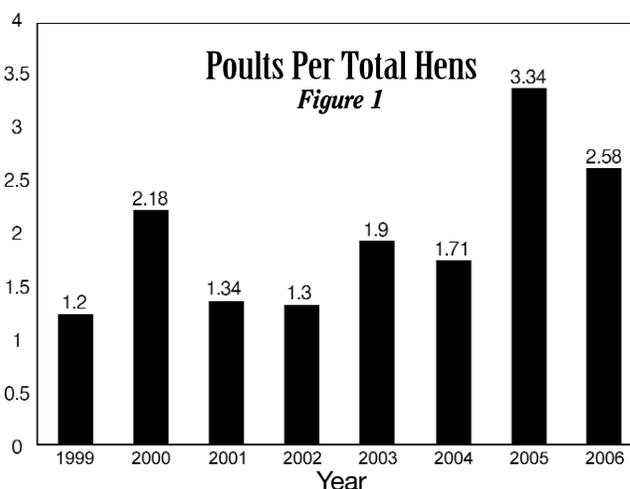


*Region 2 is unique in that most of the turkey habitat in the interior Delta is on public lands (national forest, wildlife management areas, and wildlife refuges) and the vast majority of the private land habitat is located in the batture lands west of the Mississippi River levee. Therefore, data from the annual brood survey is biased by the majority of turkey observations coming from public lands in the interior Delta, while all the other information in this section is almost exclusively from private lands between the levees.*

Data were recorded during 2,113 hours of turkey hunting on private land in this region during the 2006 season.

## Reproduction

Region 2 had a good hatch during 2006, with an average of 2.6 poults produced per hen (**Figure 1**). This is the fourth consecutive year Region 2 has led the state in reproduction. Reproduction was down somewhat from an excellent hatch in 2005 when 3.3 poults were observed per hen. The average brood size for Region 2 in 2006 was 5.8 and 43.9% of hens observed were successful in producing poults. The good hatches of the past 2 years should result in good hunting in this region for the next few years!

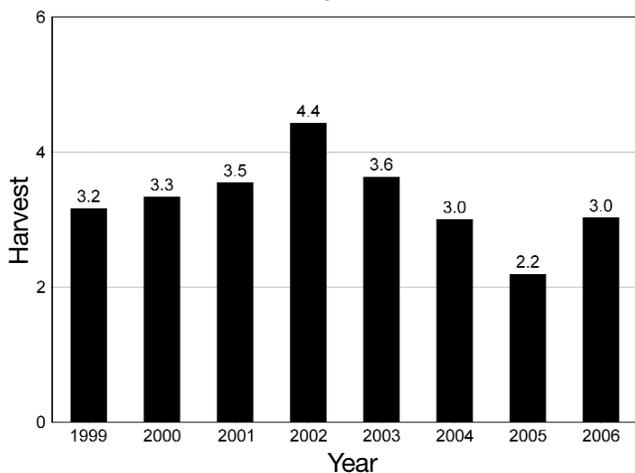


## Harvest Rates and Age Structure

An average of 3.0 gobblers was harvested for every 100 hours of hunting (**Figure 2**), which was slightly below the 8-year regional average of 3.3 gobblers per 100 hours hunted. Harvest rates for this region should go up during 2007 based on the outstanding hatch during 2005. The percentage of 2-year-old birds in the harvest was down from last year with 35% of the gobblers harvested having spurs from one-half to one inch long (**Figure 3**). Forty-four percent of the turkeys harvested were 3-year-olds and 19% were 4 years old or older.

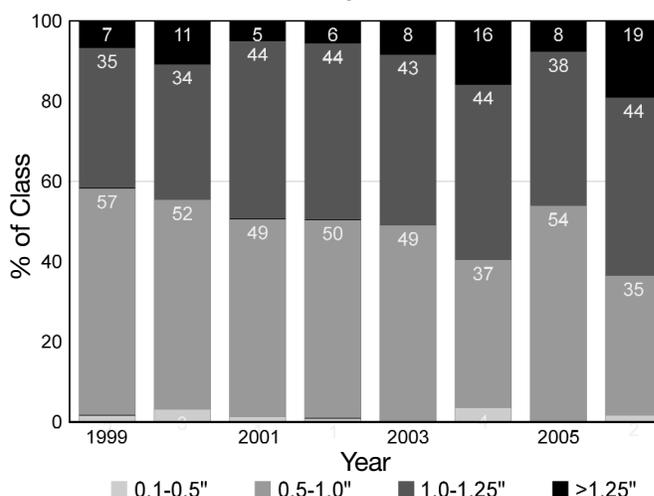
### Harvest Per 100 Hours Hunted

Figure 2



### Spur Length Classes (%)

Figure 3

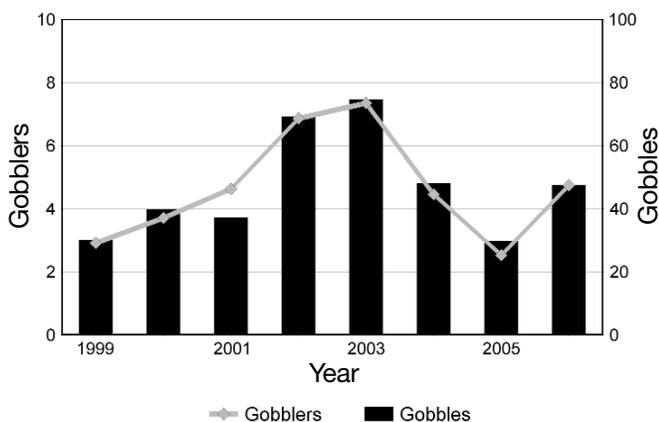


## Gobbling Activity

Gobbling activity was up from last year with an average of 4.8 gobblers and 47.5 gobbles heard per 10 hours hunted (**Figure 4**). Gobbling activity peaked during weeks 3 and 5 of the season, and was relatively low during most of the season (**Figure 5**).

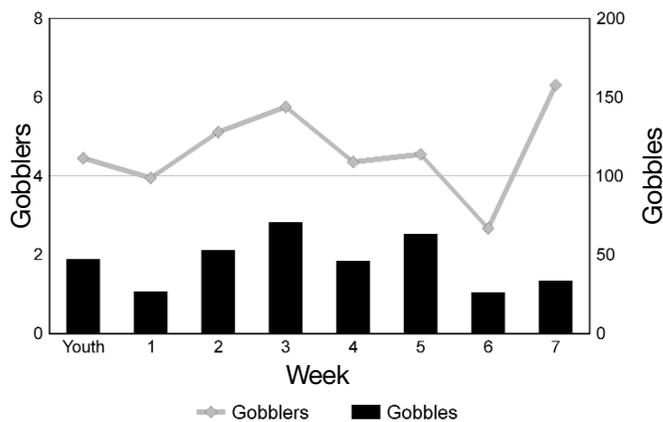
**Gobblers & Gobbles Heard Per 10 Hours Hunted By Year**

*Figure 4*



**Gobblers & Gobbles Heard Per 10 Hours Hunted By Week**

*Figure 5*

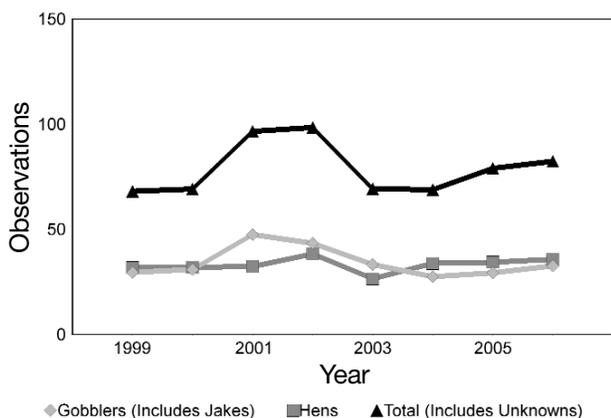


## Turkey Observations

Overall, turkey observations increased slightly during the 2006 season. Hunters saw an average of 82.3 turkeys per 100 hours hunted (**Figure 6**). Adult gobbler observations were up from last year with an average of 32.6 observed per 100 hours hunted. Jake observations decreased slightly during 2006 with 15.9 jakes observed per 100 hours hunted (**Figure 7**). Hen observations held steady with hunters seeing an average of 35.6 hens per 100 hours hunted.

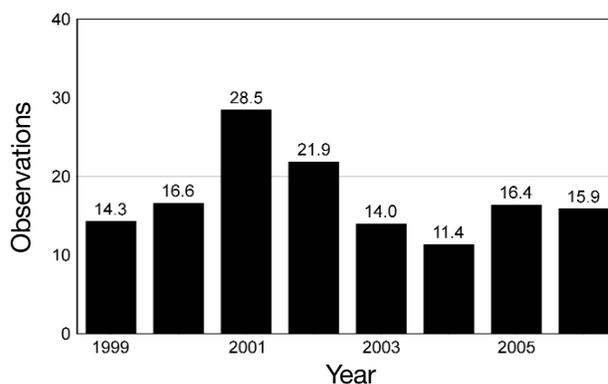
**Turkey Observations Per 100 Hours Hunted**

*Figure 6*



**Jake Observations Per 100 Hours Hunted**

*Figure 7*



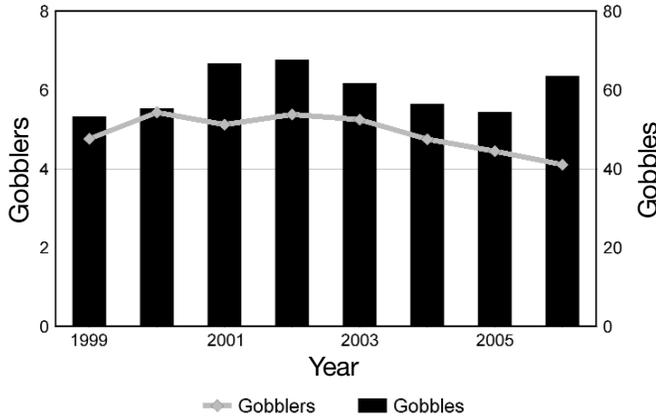


## Gobbling Activity

During the 2006 season, hunters heard an average of 4.1 gobblers gobble 63.7 times for every 10 hours hunted, which was up from last year (**Figure 4**). Gobbling activity gradually increased to a peak during week 4 of the season, and then peaked again in week 6 (**Figure 5**).

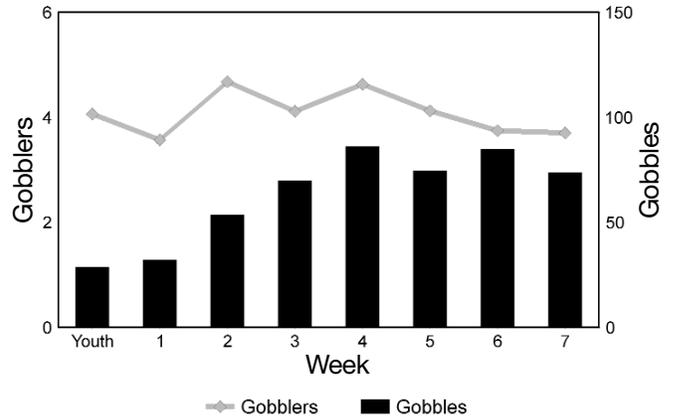
**Gobblers & Gobbles Heard Per 10 Hours Hunted By Year**

*Figure 4*



**Gobblers & Gobbles Heard Per 10 Hours Hunted By Week**

*Figure 5*

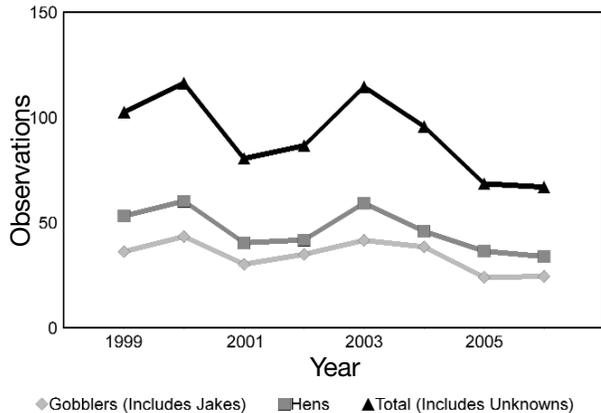


## Turkey Observations

During 2006, hunters averaged seeing 67.0 turkeys for every 100 hours of hunting (**Figure 6**), which was down slightly from 2005. In fact, turkey observations in Region 3 have been on the decline for the past 4 years. Hunters observed 24.5 adult gobblers and 9.8 jakes per 100 hours hunted (**Figure 7**). Hen observations were the lowest recorded for the region at 34.0 per 100 hours hunted.

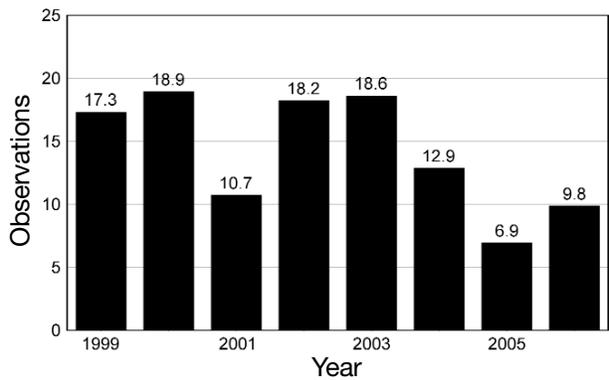
**Turkey Observations Per 100 Hours Hunted**

*Figure 6*



**Jake Observations Per 100 Hours Hunted**

*Figure 7*



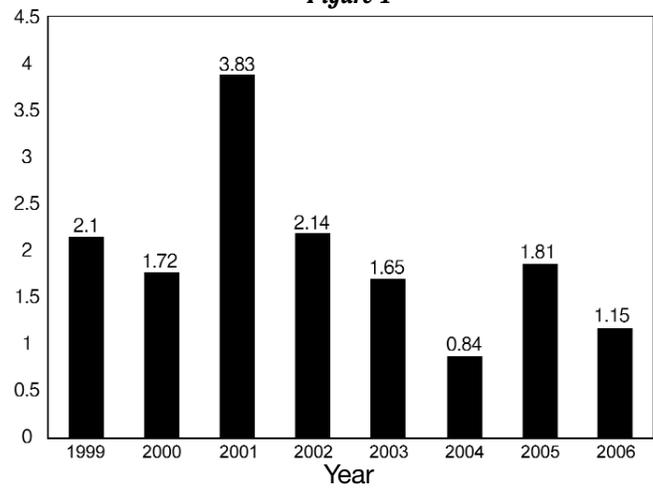
# Turkey Region 4

**T**WELVE COUNTIES IN THE SOUTHWEST PORTION OF THE STATE COMPRISE REGION 4. THE OAK-hickory forest type is located along the loess hills bordering the Mississippi River floodplain. Adjacent to the loess hills is a narrow transition zone consisting of the oak-pine forest type. The eastern and southern section of the region is made up of the loblolly-shortleaf pine forest community. Descriptions for these forest types are provided in previous regions.

Data were recorded during 3,899 hours of turkey hunting on private land in this region during the 2006 season.



**Poults Per Total Hens**  
*Figure 1*



## Reproduction

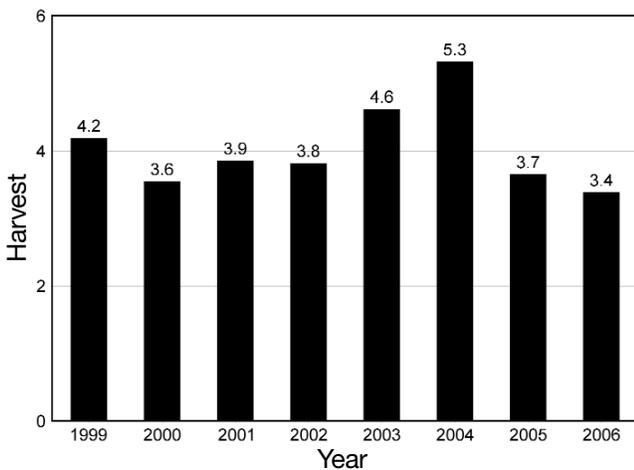
The 2006 brood survey results showed a decline from last year with an average of 1.2 poults produced per hen (**Figure 1**). This level of reproduction is below the 12-year average of 1.9 poults per total hens. Thirty-eight percent of observed hens reproduced successfully and average brood size was 3.1 poults.

## Harvest Rates and Age Structure

During 2006, the harvest rate in Region 4 was the highest in the state at 3.4 gobblers taken per 100 hours of hunting (**Figure 2**). However, this was the lowest harvest rate on record for this region since 1999. The average harvest rate for Region 4 over the past 8 years was 4.1 gobblers harvested per 100 hours hunted. Age structure continued to be quite impressive, with 61% of the harvested gobblers classified as being at least 3 years old since they had spur lengths greater than or equal to 1 inch (**Figure 3**).

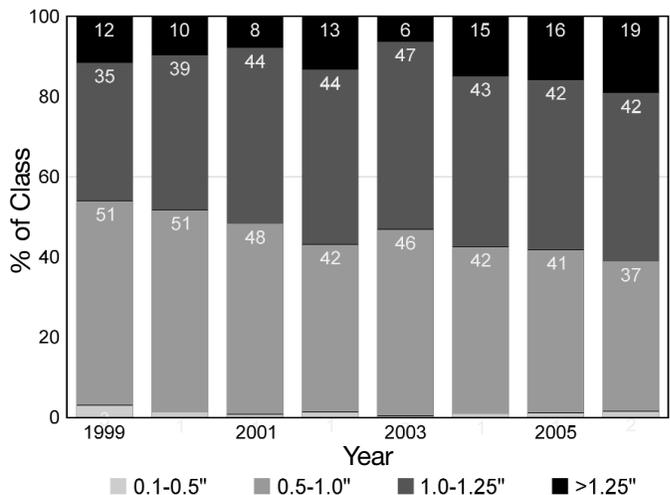
### Harvest Per 100 Hours Hunted

*Figure 2*



### Spur Length Classes (%)

*Figure 3*

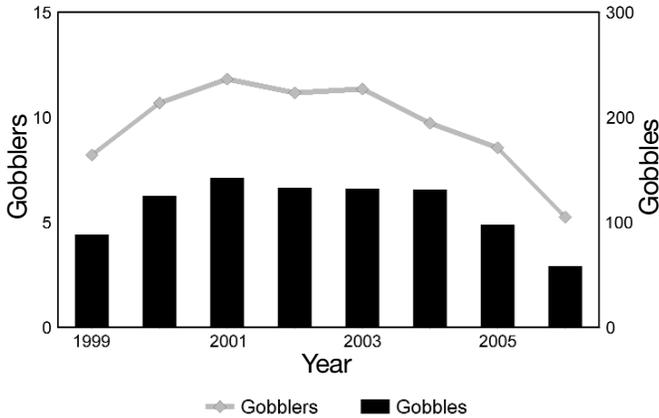


## Gobbling Activity

On average, hunters in Region 4 heard 5.3 gobblers gobble 58.3 times for every 10 hours of hunting (**Figure 4**) which was down from last year. Although gobbling activity showed a slight peak during week 2, it was fairly consistent throughout most of the season (**Figure 5**).

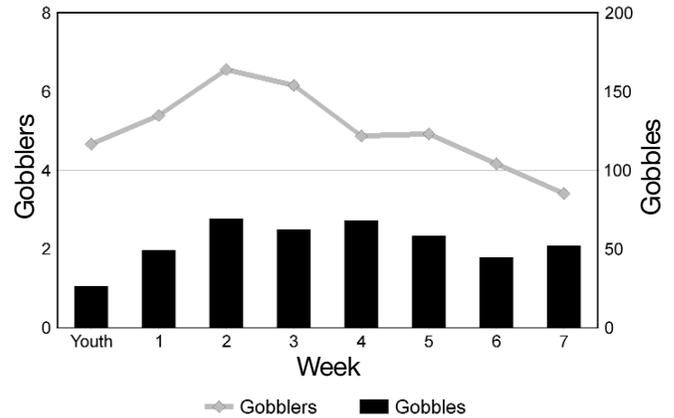
**Gobblers & Gobbles Heard Per 10 Hours Hunted By Year**

*Figure 4*



**Gobblers & Gobbles Heard Per 10 Hours Hunted By Week**

*Figure 5*

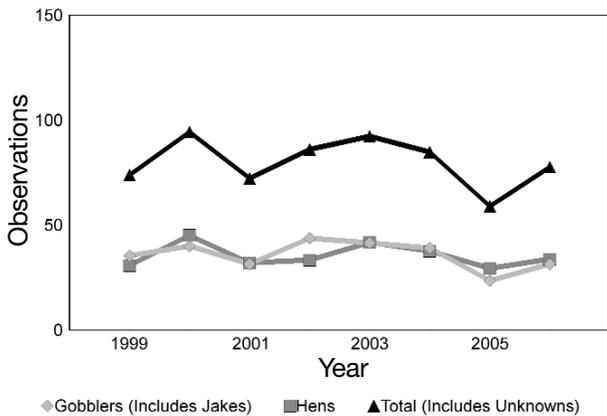


## Turkey Observations

Turkey observations increased in all categories in Region 4 during the 2006 season (**Figure 6**). Hen observations during 2006 averaged 33.8 per 100 hours of hunting. Hunters observed 31.4 adult gobblers and 13.8 jakes per 100 hours hunted (**Figure 7**). This increase in turkey observations is likely the result of a better hatch during 2005.

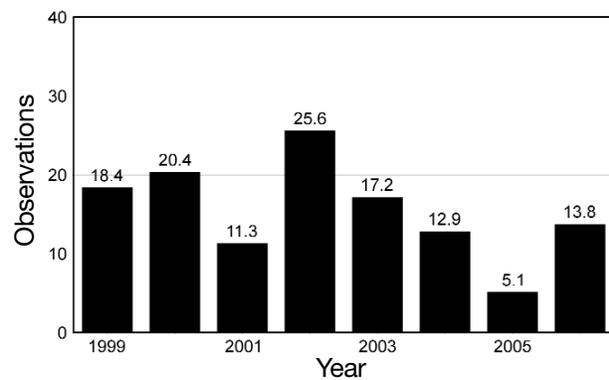
**Turkey Observations Per 100 Hours Hunted**

*Figure 6*



**Jake Observations Per 100 Hours Hunted**

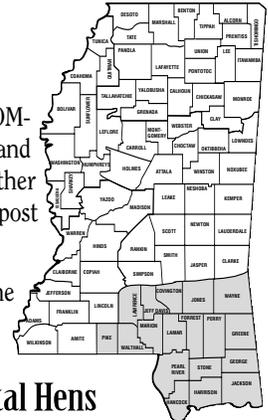
*Figure 7*



# Turkey Region 5

**T**HIS REGION CONSISTS OF 18 COUNTIES IN SOUTHEAST MISSISSIPPI. FORESTS IN REGION 5 ARE DOMINATED BY longleaf and slash pine. This habitat type includes the pine flatwoods of the coastal counties and the adjoining, rolling, pine hills. Longleaf pine and slash pine compose at least 50% of the forest community. Other common tree species include dogwood, beech, magnolia and sweet bay along creek bottoms and blackjack oak, post oak and southern red oak on the drier sites.

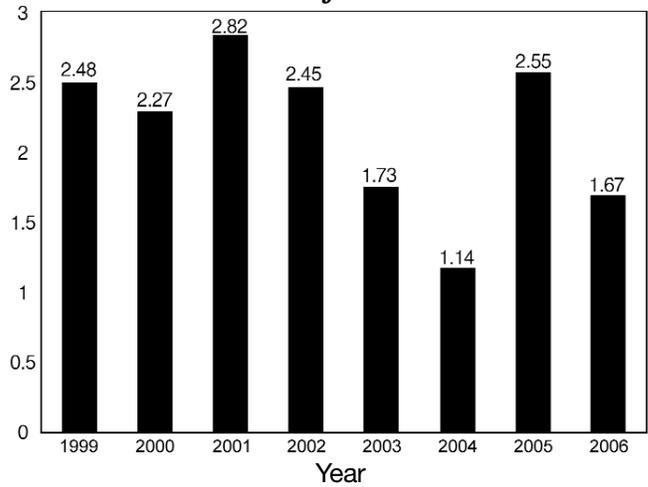
Data were recorded during 2,029 hours of turkey hunting on private land in this region during the 2006 season.



## Reproduction

The 2006 hatch was down from 2005 in Region 5. Forty percent of observed hens nested successfully and had an average brood size of 4.2 poults. The average number of poults produced for every hen in the population was 1.7 (**Figure 1**). This level of reproduction was lower than the 12-year regional average of 2.3 poults per hen.

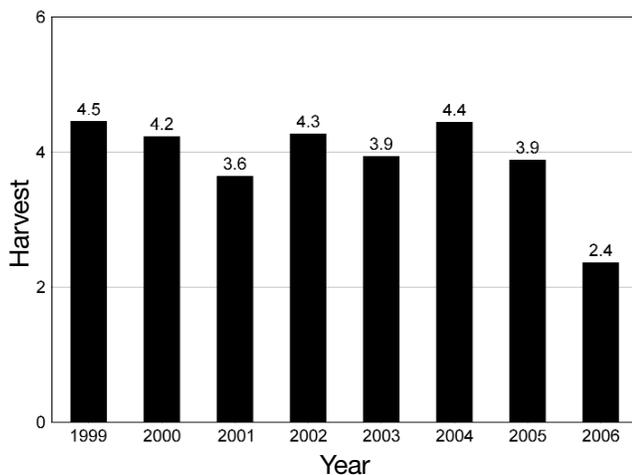
**Poults Per Total Hens**  
*Figure 1*



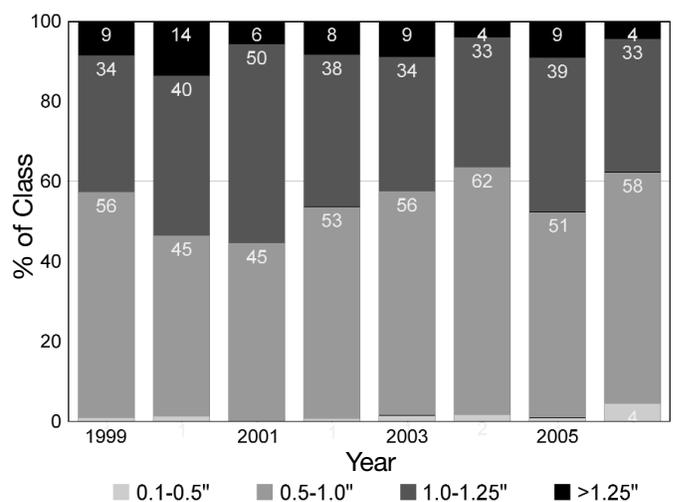
## Harvest Rates and Age Structure

Harvest rates in Region 5 declined from the previous season with hunters harvesting an average of 2.4 gobblers for every 100 hours hunted (**Figure 2**). Fifty-eight percent of the birds harvested in Region 5 during the 2006 season were 2 years old with spurs from .5 - 1 inch in length (**Figure 3**). Thirty-three percent of harvested gobblers were 3 years old with spurs from 1 - 1.25 inches long and 4% of harvested gobblers had spurs > 1.25 inches long.

**Harvest Per 100 Hours Hunted**  
*Figure 2*



**Spur Length Classes (%)**  
*Figure 3*

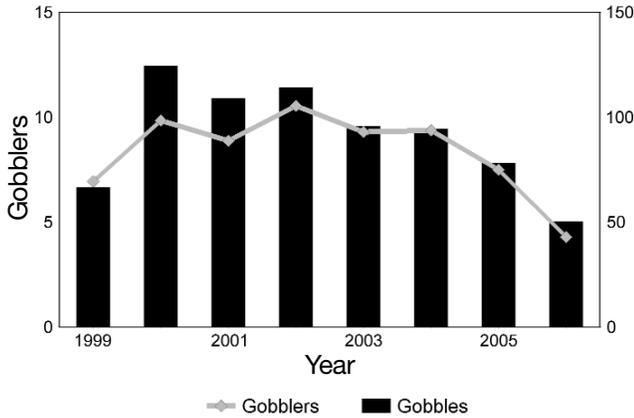


## Gobbling Activity

Gobbling activity in Region 5 declined during the 2006 season. On average, hunters heard 4.3 gobblers gobble 50.5 times for every 10 hours hunted (Figure 4). This level of gobbling was slightly below the regional average for the past 8 years. Gobbling activity was greatest weeks 5 and 6 (Figure 5).

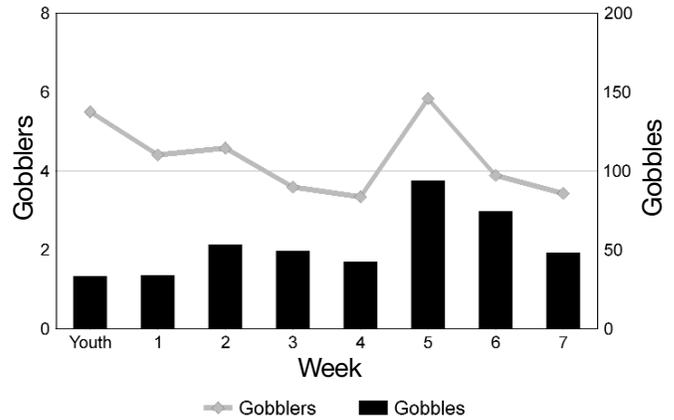
**Gobblers & Gobbles Heard Per 10 Hours Hunted By Year**

Figure 4



**Gobblers & Gobbles Heard Per 10 Hours Hunted By Week**

Figure 5

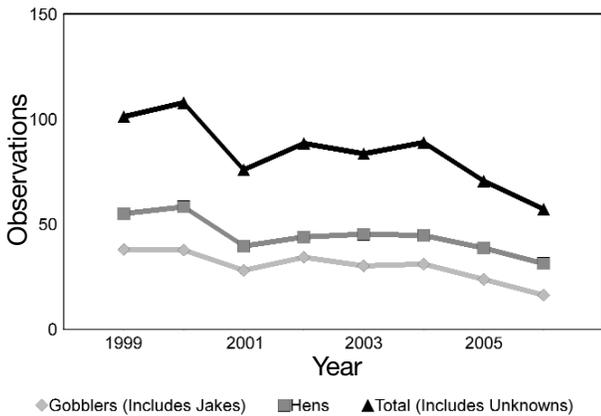


## Turkey Observations

Turkey hunters saw an average of 57.3 turkeys per 100 hours of hunting during the 2006 season (Figure 6), which was down from 2005. On average, 16.3 adult gobblers were observed for every 100 hours of hunting, which was well below the regional average. Jake observations were the lowest on record for Region 5 at 6.7 jakes observed per 100 hours hunted (Figure 7). Hen observations also were at an all-time low with hunters observing an average of 31.3 hens per 100 hours hunted.

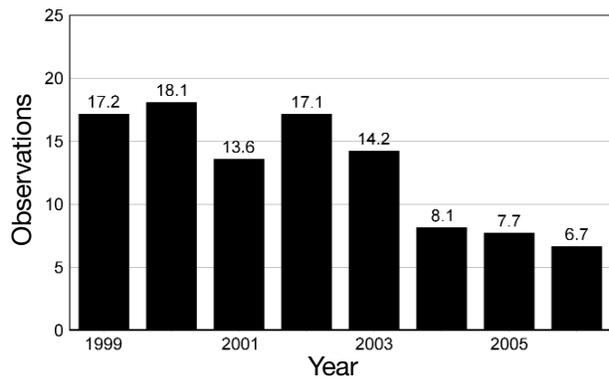
**Turkey Observations Per 100 Hours Hunted**

Figure 6



**Jake Observations Per 100 Hours Hunted**

Figure 7



# Join Our Spring Gobbler Hunting Survey Team

*An Enjoyable, Important & Easy Way to Enhance Your Turkey Hunting Experience While Contributing to the Conservation & Management of Mississippi's Wild Turkey*

**T**HE SPRING GOBBLER HUNTING SURVEY (SGHS) WAS STARTED IN 1996 TO OBTAIN LONG-TERM POPULATION DATA THAT will be useful for monitoring and managing Mississippi's wild turkey resource. Subsequent management efforts by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP) have largely been possible because of help from hunters who voluntarily record information about their turkey hunts. The MDWFP gathers this information from our cooperators at the end of each Spring season and analyzes it to gain detailed knowledge about gobbling activity, hunter effort, harvest rates, age structure, sex ratios, and characteristics of harvested gobblers. This survey helps us learn about Mississippi turkey populations on a local, regional and statewide basis. In turn, of course, we share this analyzed information with all our volunteers. All sportsmen who turkey hunt anywhere in Mississippi are eligible and encouraged to participate.

## Five Ways That I Can Benefit from Participating

How will it benefit me to become a cooperator with MDWFP's wild turkey program? Well, whether you hunt private or public lands, hunt one day or every day of the season, you can benefit from participating in the survey. Here are a few examples of how...

- A free copy of the Mississippi Wild Turkey Report will automatically be sent to you each year.
- Hunting clubs and landowners will receive a specialized report summarizing data they have collected that can be used to tailor management decisions on their own property.
- Individual hunters participating in the survey will receive an individualized report summarizing their hunting experience.
- You can improve your turkey hunting knowledge and skills by keeping track of your own hunting experiences and habits.
- The MDWFP will provide you with cutting-edge analysis of various topics that will be highlighted for you in special reports and articles.
- You will be provided with quality turkey management decisions statewide that enhance your recreational experiences as both a sportsman and conservationist. You will become a part of our natural resource's history by gathering evidence that stands for or against questions such as should season dates be set earlier, later, or left the same? Should we allow a controlled fall season in areas with high turkey densities? Will certain regulations improve hunting quality, carry-over more gobblers, or increase gobbling activity?

## How Do I Participate?

If you turkey hunt anywhere in Mississippi, you are eligible and encouraged to participate. There will be absolutely no cost to you to take part in the program. The only thing you will be asked to do is take approximately a minute or two of your time after each hunt to record information on what you observed. Before turkey season starts, we will send you a data collection booklet that will make it easy and fast for you to document your hunting experience.

If you would like to participate, please fill out the SGHS application provided on **page 35** of this report. Thank you for your cooperation. Your efforts will assist the MDWFP in monitoring Mississippi's turkeys and making management decisions in the best interest of the resource and turkey hunters.

Date mm/dd	Start Time	End Time	County Code	Number of Gobbling Turkeys Heard	Total Gobblers Heard	Number of Turkeys Seen				For harvested birds record lengths in 1/16 inch increments			
						Gobblers	Jakes	Hens	Unknowns	Harvest Time	Beard	Right Spur	Left Spur
/	: am	: am								: am			
/	: am	: am								: am			
/	: am	: am								: am			
/	: am	: am								: am			
/	: am	: am								: am			
/	: am	: am								: am			
/	: am	: am								: am			
/	: am	: am								: am			
/	: am	: am								: am			
/	: am	: am								: am			
/	: am	: am								: am			
/	: am	: am								: am			
/	: am	: am								: am			
/	: am	: am								: am			
/	: am	: am								: am			
/	: am	: am								: am			

Page from SGHS data collection booklet



# Magnolia State Turkey Talk





## The Mississippi Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation

**F**irst, I would like to thank the members and volunteers of the National Wild Turkey Federation for the GREAT WORK you have done in the State of Mississippi. Through your hard work we have raised approximately \$1.3 million in Super Fund Dollars for projects and events for the State of Mississippi through the Hunting Heritage Banquets being held throughout our state. Through the co-operation of the State Board of Directors and the local Chapters we come together to put on a wide range of events such as Jakes, Women-In-The Outdoors and Wheelin' Sportsmen. I believe no other organization has the capability to offer such a wide variety of events and outdoor opportunities.

In November your Mississippi Chapter along with Bass Pro Shops held a Wheelin' Sportsmen Celebrity/Youth Hunt. There were 29 children paired with Celebrities from the NFL, Major League Baseball, B.A.S.S. and professionals from the hunting industry to go on deer hunts. For many of these disabled youth it was their first hunting experience and opportunity to harvest a deer. These young men and women showed everyone who volunteered and helped sponsor the event what being in the great outdoors was all about. They did their very best...and harvested 21 deer! A Special Thank You goes to everyone who helped volunteer or sponsor this event.

If you would like to become more involved in the NWTF please contact our two Regional Directors, your local Chapter President or one of our Officers and Board Members. If you are not a member, join now, and be a part of the greatest organization in the world. It is only through the help and dedication of the members that make the Mississippi Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation what it is and what it will become.

Thank You for the opportunity to serve the Mississippi Chapter and the NWTF.

---

***Through your hard  
work we have raised  
\$1.3 million in Super  
Fund Dollars for  
projects and events...***

---

**Alan Sumrall – President**  
*Mississippi Chapter of the  
National Wild Turkey Federation*

## 67 Land Managers Attend NWTf Sponsored Field Tour

**W**ITHOUT A DOUBT, WORKSHOPS ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION'S HUNTING Heritage Landowner Program. On Friday, May 19, 2006, sixty-seven landowners/leaseholders attended the NWTf sponsored workshop and field tour at Coontail Farm located near Aberdeen, Miss. The participants not only received helpful information about various wildlife management issues they also got to see the results of putting the techniques into practice on this extremely well-managed property owned by Bobby Watkins and family.

During the workshop, attendees received information on prescribed burning, managing pine plantations for wildlife, managing hardwoods for wildlife, wildlife food plots, and cost-sharing programs for private landowners. They also learned where they could obtain wildlife management services.

As a group, workshop attendees indicated they owned over 10,000 acres and managed (i.e. through leasing, etc) an additional 50,000 acres. The land managers are now better armed to improve wildlife habitat management on the lands that they manage.

Workshop partners who provided assistance in the form of instruction, financing, etc. are listed as follows: Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, Natural Resource Conservation Service, BASF, Mississippi Forestry Commission, Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Biologic, MSU Cooperative Extension Service, and the Miss. Chapter NWTf.



Photo by Steve Gullede

**Prescribed burning of pine stands was discussed and demonstrated at the Wild Turkey Woodlands Field Tour.**

## First Celebrity/Youth Team-Up Hunt a Big Success

**F**RIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2006 WAS A HISTORIC DAY FOR THE NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION'S WHEELIN' SPORTSMEN (NWTf/WS) Program in Mississippi. On that day, a formal partnership agreement was executed between NWTf/WS and the



**After signing an agreement forming a partnership for the first Celebrity/Youth Team-Up Hunt for disabled youth, Kirk Thomas (left), NWTf's National Coordinator for Wheelin' Sportsmen and Kenny Neely MDWFP "seal the deal" with a handshake.**

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP). Signing the agreement on behalf of NWTf/WS was Kirk Thomas, National Coordinator for Wheelin' Sportsmen. Signing on behalf of the MDWFP was Kenny Neely. The signing ceremony took place at the Bass Pro Shop in Pearl, Miss.

The immediate result of the agreement was a cooperative effort between the two entities in the planning for and conducting Mississippi's first ever Celebrity/Youth Team-Up Hunt. This event was designed to give young people with disabilities a weekend to deer hunt and associate with celebrities from sports, music, BASS members and the hunting industry. A special thanks goes out to the Bass Pro Shop, under the direction of Store Manager Pat Renegar, who not only helped sponsor the event but served as the host site for the hunt that was held November 10-12, 2006.

Twenty-five young people participated in some or all of the activities offered throughout the hunt weekend. Hunter success proved to be very good with 21 deer being harvested.

One landowner Roy Noble Lee, Jr. of Scott County reported that he was pleasantly surprised when all four youth hunters that he hosted on Saturday afternoon harvested a deer.

By all accounts the Celebrity/Youth Team-Up Hunt was a very worthwhile and successful event that was enjoyed by the support personnel just as much as the hunt participants. Improvements are already being planned for next year's event.

One major change for the 2007 event is the approval by Mississippi's Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks for the dates of November 2-4, 2007. By doing this, the Commissioner's have eliminated any conflicts that could have arisen with the opening weekend for Youth Gun Season for Deer November 10-11, 2007. Thanks goes out to the Commissioners for their continued support of this very special youth hunt.

In retrospect, there are so many people to thank for the success of Mississippi's first Celebrity/Youth Team-Up Hunt that it is impossible for NWTF/WS to do so. However, to all the landowners/leaseholders and guides, to the celebrities who took time to hunt with a child, to the officers and commissioners of MDWFP and Bass Pro Shops we the Mississippi Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, and the Wheelin' Sportsmen want to THANK YOU!



**Big smiles attest to the fun (left to right): Preston Pittman-Celebrity Guide, Dee Walsh-Sponsor, Mary Beth James-Participant, Mike Blanenship-Guide had at the Celebrity/Youth Team-Up Hunt near Pearl, Miss**

## Celebrities Join Youth Hunters with Disabilities for Hunt

**T**WENTY-FIVE YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES SPENT A WEEKEND DEER HUNTING WITH CELEBRITIES FROM SPORTS, music and entertainment at the first Wheelin' Sportsmen NWTF Celebrity-Youth Team Up in Pearl, Miss., Nov. 10 to Nov. 12.

The hunts took place in the Pearl, Miss., area on private landowners' property. All meals and other weekend activities, including archery, paintball, fishing and air rifle, took place at the Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World in Pearl.

Mary Beth James, 14, of Madison, Miss., found out about the Wheelin' Sportsmen program when a teacher at her school told the class about the event. The teacher reserved eight spots for students.

"It's the best day of my life," Mary Beth said. "It's the first deer I've ever killed. It's exciting and I had a great time. I'm definitely going to do it again."

James, who has a learning disability, grew up in a family that hunts and has always shown interest in the outdoors. This was her first hunt where she handled a firearm. For her mother, this weekend provided James the chance to do something she normally doesn't.

"It's amazing to see these people who've donated their time and resources," said Mary Beth's mother, Diane Lisenbe. "I thank everybody. You try to do a lot for your kids as a parent, but there are some things you can't provide. It means a lot to watch other people step up and do that."

## Large Crowd Attends State Awards Banquet

**M**ISSISSIPPI CHAPTER VOLUNTEERS ONCE AGAIN FLOCKED TO JACKSON TO CELEBRATE THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS and to be recognized by their peers. Besides enjoying a delicious meal, attendees were able to participate in a raffle and auction for the 2007 banquet items. Tom Kelly, author of the *Tenth Legion* and other notable books entertained the crowd with his narrative about turkey hunting in the early years of the sport. Photos of some of the winners follow. *Awards banquet photos by Steve Gulledge.*



**Outstanding Regular Membership:** Vince Torrance(photo, left), Lappatubby Chapter, first place and third place, Miss-Lou Chapter, (photo, right) Jody Rutter (left) and Yates McGraw accepting. Not pictured Panola County Chapter, second place.



**Best % Net-to-Gross, first place, (left to right) Greater Jackson Chapter, Brian Sartain, second place, Bubba Campbell, Three Rivers Chapter, and third place, Chickasawhay Chapter, Dodd Cain.**



**Outstanding WITO Membership, first place, Grenada County Chapter, Ashley Osborne. Not pictured, second place, Leake County Chapter, and third place, Tylertown Chapter.**



**Highest Net Dollars Raised, first place, (left to right) Greater Jackson Chapter, Brian Sartain, second place, Three Rivers Chapter, Rocky Steen, and third place, Pearl River County Chapter, Dent Mikell.**



**(Photo far left) Outstanding Sponsor Membership, first place, Marion County Chapter, Eddie Ray Breakfield and (right) second place, Greater Jackson Chapter, Brian Sartain. Not pictured, third place, Tenn-Tom Chapter.**



Outstanding Banquet Chairman, (left) South winner, Tommy White, Pike-Amite Chapter and North winner, Rocky Steen, Three Rivers Chapter.



MDWFP Conservation Officer Ray Darty (right) being congratulated by MCNWTF President Alan Sumrall on being named Conservation Officer of the Year.



Outstanding JAKES Membership, third place, Strong River Chapter, Sammie Tebo. Not pictured, first place, Tri-County Chapter and second place, Greene County Chapter.



Mississippi turkey call makers providing turkey calls to the 2007 Mississippi Call Makers Collection, (l-r, back) Burt Wallace, Gary Joffrion, Neil Hall, Dave Godwin, Tom Watson, (l-r, middle) Daniel Jones, Albert Paul, Mark McPhail, high bidder, Paul Meek, Mike Powell, Primos Game Calls, (l-r, front) Preston Pittman and Dean Brock.



Outstanding State Chapter Board Member, Scott Cumbest, Singing River Chapter.



Alan Sumrall, (left) MCNWTF president, congratulates Phil Difatta, Hattiesburg, Communicator of the Year.



The Bob Spell Award for Outstanding Local Chapter President, (right) Brian Sartain, Greater Jackson Chapter, Bob Spell presenting.

## Lucky Seven — JAKES Hunt of a Lifetime Jinx Broken

**S** EVEN WAS THE LUCKY AGE FOR YOUNG KNEELAND GAMMILL JR., FROM MEMPHIS TENN., TO SHOOT A HOLE THROUGH the jinx that had haunted the first six winners of the Mississippi JAKES Hunt of a Lifetime and harvest his first turkey.

Mississippi NWTF chapters held special raffles to raise money to provide JAKES memberships FREE with one winner from each local chapter going into the drawing for the state grand prize. Kneelands' grandparents got his name in the drawing for the hunt by winning the JAKES raffle at the Hunting Heritage Banquet hosted by the Copiah County Women In the Outdoors.

Special recognition to the folks who helped the NWTF truly fulfill its mission to pass along the hunting tradition: Tara Wildlife, Vicksburg MS, host, Bobby Culbertson, guide, for his patience & persistence, Primos Hunting Calls, Kevin Meacham, videographer, Mossberg, for donating a youth-model shotgun, Mossy Oak, for donating camo clothing and Tommy Armstrong, taxidermist.

**Kneeland Gammill Jr (right) proudly shows off the gobble he took on the JAKES Hunt of a Lifetime. What a hunt it was! Kneeland's grandfather (center), Frank Gammill, and his father Kneeland Gammill Sr. also took gobblers.**



## Miss. Chapter Education Efforts Target Students & Teachers

**T** HE 2006 WILDLIFE EXTRAVAGANZA IN JACKSON PROVIDED AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE Mississippi Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (MCNWTF) to meet school teachers and talk to them about the organization's conservation efforts.

To encourage teachers to visit the Mississippi Chapter booth, free drawings were held for two "Wild About Turkey" Education Boxes and two books entitled "Field Guide to native Oak Species of Eastern North America." The drawing for the award winning education boxes was provided for teachers, grades K-6, and the drawings for the books were provided to teachers of grades 7-12. These drawings were available for the Friday and Saturday sessions of the Extravaganza and seventy-nine teachers participated. Winning teachers were also given the option to have their books or boxes presented by a MCNWTF representative along with a conservation program. "Wild

About Turkey" Education Boxes tell the story of the successful restoration and return of the wild turkey. The boxes not only contain lesson plans but also bulletin board kit, CD Rom of wild turkey sounds, a video, "Return of the Wild Turkey", posters, NWTF rulers, pencils and bookmarks.

As a result, the boxes or books and a conservation program were presented at the following schools: Pilate Middle School (Newton), Porters Chapel Academy



**Robert Doolittle, Calhoun County Chapter, presented a "Wild About Turkey" Education Box to Mrs. Tyanne Bailey's sixth grade class at Vardaman Elementary School.**

Photo by Steve Gullede

(Vicksburg), and Woodville Heights (Jackson). NWTF volunteers were assisted by the Mississippi Forestry Commission in making the presentations.

The Mississippi Chapter through its Hunting Heritage Super Fund not only provided “Wild About Turkey” Education Boxes for participating local chapters that wanted to present a box to their local school but also presented a box to each teacher attending the Miss. Forestry Association’s popular Teacher Conservation Workshops. Through these efforts 105 “Wild About Turkey” Education Boxes were put in the hands of educators in 2006.



During the 2005-2006 school year, third grade students at Sylva-Bay Academy participated in a poster contest entitled “Hurricane Katrina: Wildlife Are Victims Too!” Overseeing the contest were (back row, left to right) Ed Brown, Public Outreach Forester, Mississippi Forestry Commission, James Bryant, President, Leaf River Chapter, NWTF, Jane Bryant, Secretary/Treasurer, Leaf River Chapter NWTF, Pam Goings, Third Grade Teacher, Jim Bush, Forest Technician, Mississippi Forestry Commission and Dr. Lavahn Moss, Headmaster, Sylva-Bay Academy.

## Mississippi Turkey Calling Championship Moves To New Location in 2007

**O**N FEBRUARY, 17, 2007 THE BASS PRO SHOP IN PEARL, MISS. BECOMES THE NEW LOCATION FOR THE ANNUAL MISSISSIPPI Turkey Calling Championship. Formally, the contest was held at the Frank Cochran Center in Meridian and was hosted by the Okatibee Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. The Okatibee Chapter, will however, continue to work closely with the contest in its new location.

Along with the location change, hopefully, will come greater participation and spectator attendance because of Bass Pro Shop’s plans to publicize the event each year through its mass mailing capabilities. They also plan to provide prizes for the annual event and booth space for those vendors who have been loyal supporters of the contest in past years.

Callers should note that the Mississippi Turkey Calling Championship is a NWTF sanctioned contest, and State winners will be qualified to participate in the granddaddy of all calling contests, the U.S. Grand Nationals.

Persons needing more details about the contest can visit the “Events” section of the Mississippi Chapter NWTF Website at: [www.nwtfchapter.org/mississippichapter](http://www.nwtfchapter.org/mississippichapter).

**2006 Mississippi Champion Turkey Caller, Jason Conrad of Conehatta shows his winning form. The 2007 Championship will be held at Bass Pro Shop in Pearl, Miss.**



Photo by Steve Gullede

## Mississippi Turkey Call Makers Make Big Contribution

**M**ISSISSIPPI HAS A LONG AND RICH TRADITION TURKEY OF HUNTING AND BEING HOME TO SOME OF THE NATION'S BEST turkey call makers. Not only are the Magnolia State's call makers talented but they are generous as well.

Each year the state's top call makers are asked to contribute two special turkey calls to the Mississippi Chapter and the NWTF.

One of each of the calls goes into the Mississippi Call Makers' Collection. One of the collections is auctioned to the highest bidder at the state chapter's annual Awards Banquet held in January each year. Less than a month later the second collection goes on the auction block at the NWTF's National Convention.

The 2006 collection brought \$1,000 at the state banquet and \$3,000 at the national convention. Winning bidder for the prized collection sold in Mississippi was Dylan Breland.

Call makers that contributed calls this year were: Bill Collum, Tommy Collum, Tommy "Slick" Gilmer, Dave Godwin, Neil Hall, Steve Heflin, Greg Hood, Gary Jofrion, Will Lawrence, Bill Lester, Bob Martin, Paul Meek, Mike Mitchell, Albert Paul, Preston Pittman, Primos Game Calls, and Tom Watson.



Photo by Steve Gulledge

Mississippi Call Makers attending the 2006 State Awards Banquet were Standing left to right: Tommy Collum, Preston Pittman, NWTF President Jere Peak, Will Lawrence of Primos Game Calls, Steve Heflin, Bob Martin, Albert Paul and Paul Meek. Seated left to right: Bill Collum, Bill Lester, Dylan Breland who bought the collection, Neil Hall, and Tom Watson.

## Turkey Callers Compete at Mississippi Championship

**S**OME OF MISSISSIPPI'S TOP TURKEY CALLERS COMPETED SATURDAY MARCH 4, 2006 AT THE FRANK COCHRAN CENTER IN Meridian for cash prizes and the prestige of being the state's best turkey caller. Hosted by the Okatibbee Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) the Mississippi Championship attracted seventeen callers for the Senior Division. Spectators were also treated to the Owling and Friction Calling Championships.

Jason Conrad of Conehatta was winner of the Senior Division, placing second was Glenn Buffkin of Forest and Cory Melton of Holcomb was third. In the Intermediate/Junior Division 14 year old Jacob Johnson of Louisville won first place, Dalton Davidson, 12, of Energy placed second, and Daniel Smith, 16, of Monticello was third. In the owl hooting competition Cory Melton, Holcomb, was winner with Jason Thayer of Kosciusko and Sam Byrd of Woodville finishing second and third, respectively. Glenn Buffkin claimed first place in the Friction contest with Jason Conrad coming in second, and Tim Giles in third place. *Photos by Steve Gullede*



Shown above are the winners of the Intermediate/Junior Division in the 2006 Mississippi Turkey Calling Championship. (left to right): Dalton Davidson, second place, Jimmy Primos, Primos Game Calls, an event sponsor, Jacob Johnson, first place, and Daniel Smith, third place.



Winners in the Owl Hooting competition (2006 Mississippi Turkey Calling Championship) are left to right: Jimmy Primos of Primos Game Calls, an event sponsor, Cory Melton, first place, Sam Byrd, third place, and Jason Thayer, second place.



Senior Division winners in the 2006 Mississippi Turkey Calling Championship were (center) Jason Conrad, first place, (left) Glenn Buffkin second place, and (right) Cory Melton, third place.

## Higginbotham Wins State Chapter Scholarship

**K**IEL HIGGINBOTHAM WINNER OF THE STATE CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP ALSO WAS THE RECIPIENT OF THE EAST MISS (local) Chapter award in Louisville. The NWTF and the State Chapter of Miss funds local scholarships for EVERY chapter in the state. Each local winner is then entered into the State contest for a \$1,000 scholarship and each state winner is entered into the national competition for a \$10,000 one time scholarship.

Each entry must write an essay why hunting is important to them and why he/she feels they are a good investment to receive the scholarship.

Kiel has been a JAKES member since he could hardly walk and attributes his passion for hunting, conservation and the NWTF to his dad.



**Kiel Higginbotham (left) receives the State Chapter Scholarship Award as presented to him by past president Steve Gullege.**

# National Wild Turkey Federation Membership Application

My \$30.00 annual membership dues are enclosed. Please send my free cap and turkey hunting video, six issues of *Turkey Call* magazine and the quarterly *Caller* newsletter to the address provided below.

Also, I would like to get more involved. Please let me know how I can learn more about your banquet program.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Office) \_\_\_\_\_

■ Mail to: National Wild Turkey Federation / P.O. Box 530 Edgefield, SC 29824

## 1-800-THE-NWTF



National Wild Turkey Federation  
P.O. Box 530  
Edgefield, SC 29824

Place  
Stamp  
Here

FOLD

*To mail this form, please remove it from the report by tearing or cutting along the perforation. Fold the page as indicated so the mailing address is showing. Use a small piece of transparent tape to keep the form closed during mailing. Attach a stamp where indicated. No envelope is necessary.*

FOLD



# Ways I Can Help Conserve Mississippi's Wild Turkey



# Spring Gobbler Hunting Survey Application

**T**HE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS IS LOOKING FOR INDIVIDUAL hunters and hunting clubs interested in participating in the annual Spring Gobbler Hunting Survey. Cooperators are asked to record various information about their spring gobbler hunts. Harvest and population data provided by cooperators will be used to monitor and manage Mississippi's wild turkey resource. Results will be summarized in the annual Mississippi Wild Turkey Report. A copy of this report will be sent to all cooperators. Hunting clubs also will receive a summary report for their individual property.

If your hunting club or any individual members are interested, please complete and return the application below. If you participated in the survey last year, you will automatically receive data collection materials and do not have to complete this application. This is an opportunity to be directly involved with conservation and management of the wild turkey in Mississippi. Please encourage other turkey hunters to participate. This application may be copied. Data collection instructions and materials, along with the turkey program report will be sent to you prior to spring gobbler season.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Office) \_\_\_\_\_

***Please complete the following information only if your hunting club wants to participate.***

Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Forested Acres: (including food plots) \_\_\_\_\_

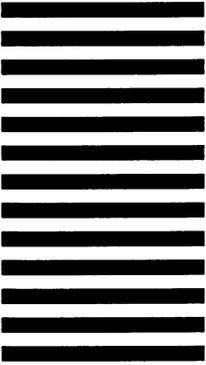
Estimate Total Number of Hunts Anticipated on this Property During the Turkey Season: \_\_\_\_\_

■ Mail application to: Spring Gobbler Hunting Survey / 1505 Eastover Dr. / Jackson, MS 39211-6322





JACKSON, MS 39211-9940  
1505 EASTOVER DRIVE  
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS



POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 37 JACKSON, MS  
**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**

NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES



FOLD

*To mail this form, please remove it from the report by tearing or cutting along the perforation. Fold the page as indicated so the "business reply mail" panel is showing. Use a small piece of transparent tape to keep the form closed during mailing. No envelope or postage is necessary.*

FOLD

# Wild Turkey Disease Mortality Form

**T**HE MDWFP IS TRYING TO DOCUMENT WILD TURKEY MORTALITY CAUSED BY DISEASE. MONITORING DISEASE mortality will provide information to assess the impacts of disease and to better manage the wild turkey resource. Sportsmen can play an important role by reporting sick or dead turkeys and assisting the MDWFP with obtaining birds for examination. If you find any sick or dead wild turkey, please follow the procedures listed below. If you are unable to collect the carcass, reporting details about the dead birds will provide valuable information. Also, please contact the MDWFP if you observe or have previously observed a sharp decline in a local turkey population.

■ **Handling Turkeys:** Sick turkeys may be submitted alive if they can be humanely restrained for transport. Carcasses should be cooled as soon as possible by refrigeration or by putting the bird on ice in a cooler. It is best not to freeze the turkey and to submit the bird as soon as possible. If the turkey cannot be obtained by the MDWFP within 48 hours, it can be frozen as long as necessary.

■ **Contacting the MDWFP:** Contact Turkey Program Coordinator James Austin at 601-432-2229 as soon as possible. If you are unable to contact James Austin, please contact your local MDWFP district office (**page iii**). Arrangements will be made to transport the turkey to the Mississippi Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Jackson or to the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine.

■ **Recording Information:** Please record the following information and submit this form with the turkey.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Office) \_\_\_\_\_

Date Turkey(s) Found: \_\_\_\_\_

Location (county and nearest town): \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Turkey(s) When Found: \_\_\_\_\_

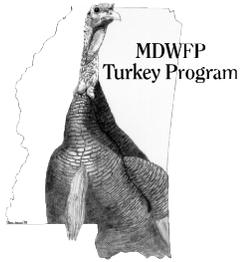
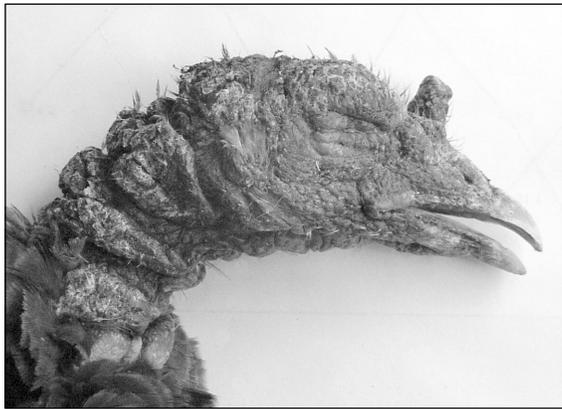
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Turkey hen with avian pox.**



# Mississippi Wild Turkey Records Registration Form

Hunter's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work)

Hunting License Number: \_\_\_\_\_

■ **How to measure your turkey:** *Weight should be measured to the nearest ounce on certified scales. Beards are measured in 1/16 inch increments from the center point of the beard's base where it attaches to the skin to the end of the longest bristle that is fully attached to the skin. Spurs are measured in 1/16 inch increments along the outside center of the spur from the point at which the spur protrudes from the scaled leg skin to the tip of the spur.*

\*\*Weight of Turkey (in pounds and ounces): \_\_\_\_\_

Total Beard Length (measure in 1/16 inch increments): \_\_\_\_\_

For multiple beards: Beard 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Beard 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Beard 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Beard 4: \_\_\_\_\_ Beard 5: \_\_\_\_\_ Beard 6: \_\_\_\_\_

Spur Length (measure in 1/16 inch increments): Left: \_\_\_\_\_ Right: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Harvest: \_\_\_\_\_ County of Harvest: \_\_\_\_\_

■ **Certification by Hunter:** *I hereby certify that the above information is correct and that I harvested this wild turkey in the spirit of fair chase and in compliance with all applicable wildlife laws. I further certify that this turkey was a wild and free-ranging bird, was not confined by any artificial barrier, and was not released for the purpose of commercial hunting.*

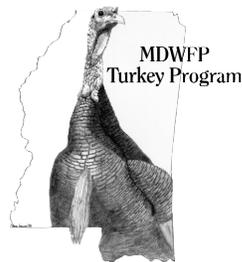
Hunter's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Turkeys weighing over 21 pounds must be weighed to the nearest ounce on certified scales. Turkeys with a weight of over 21 pounds, spurs greater than 1.25 inches *or* beard length greater than 12 inches must be witnessed by a current employee of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

Signature of MDWFP Employee: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

■ Mail to: Wild Turkey Records / 1505 Eastover Dr. / Jackson, MS 39211



Wild Turkey Records  
1505 Eastover Drive  
Jackson, MS 39211

Place  
Stamp  
Here

FOLD

*To mail this form, please remove it from the report by tearing or cutting along the perforation. Fold the page as indicated so the mailing address is showing. Use a small piece of transparent tape to keep the form closed during mailing. Attach a stamp where indicated. No envelope is necessary.*

FOLD

# 2007 Turkey Report Evaluation

**T**HE STATEWIDE TURKEY PROGRAM CONTINUALLY STRIVES TO IMPROVE THE ANNUAL TURKEY REPORT. YOUR input is important and will be considered when preparing future reports. Please complete this evaluation and return it to the MDWFP according to mailing instructions on back of the form. Comments may also be provided by contacting Small Game & Wild Turkey Program Coordinator Dave Godwin at 662.325.5119 or dgodwin@cfr.mdwfp.state.ms.us.com.

1. Please rate the following turkey report sections:

<b>2007 MISSISSIPPI WILD TURKEY REPORT</b>					
<i>Please Circle Your Rating</i>					
	Poor		Neutral		Excellent
■ <b>Overall Section:</b> <i>How are Turkeys in My Neck of the Woods?</i>	1	2	3	4	5
■ <b>Overall Section:</b> <i>Ways I Can Help Conserve Mississippi's Wild Turkey</i>	1	2	3	4	5
■ <b>Overall Section:</b> <i>Magnolia State Turkey Talk</i>	1	2	3	4	5

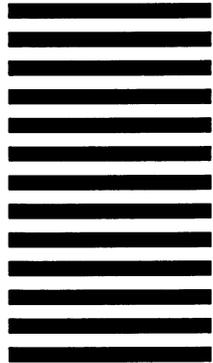
2. What kind of articles and subject matter would you like to see in future reports? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

3. Please provide any ideas you may have that could improve future reports: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you want to receive the 2007 Mississippi Wild Turkey Report? \_\_\_\_\_



JACKSON, MS 39211-9940  
1505 EASTOVER DRIVE  
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS



POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 37 JACKSON, MS  
**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**

NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES



FOLD

*To mail this form, please remove it from the report by tearing or cutting along the perforation. Fold the page as indicated so the "business reply mail" panel is showing. Use a small piece of transparent tape to keep the form closed during mailing. No envelope or postage is necessary.*

FOLD

# Take a Walk on the 'Wild' Side... (of the Web, that is.)



Everything  
you want to  
know...

Photo Gallery

Management & Biology

Deer & Turkey Records

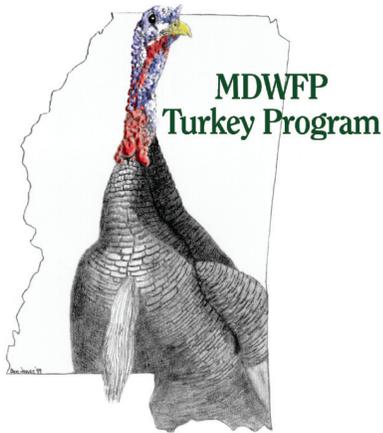
Interactive Q&A

Hunting Forecasts

**F**OR COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION ABOUT MISSISSIPPI'S WILD TURKEY AND OTHER WILDLIFE, visit our website at [www.mdwfp.com](http://www.mdwfp.com). On the home page, click '*Everything you want to know about your favorite wildlife.*' You will find: ■ Interactive question and answer forums ■ Management and biology articles ■ Turkey and deer records ■ Photo galleries, hunting forecasts, and more.

MS Chapter NWTF  
610 Hospital Road  
Starkville, MS 39759

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Jackson, MS  
Permit 593



**The 2007 Mississippi Wild Turkey Report is a cooperative effort between the MDWFP Turkey Program and the Mississippi Chapter of the NWTF.**



The MDWFP is an equal opportunity employer and provider of programs and services. If anyone believes they have been subjected to discrimination on the basis of political affiliation, race, color, national origin, marital status, sex, religion, creed, age, or disability, they may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, Office of Administrative Services, P.O. Box 451, Jackson, MS 39205-0451, or the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 1801 L. Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20507.