

Instructions for the Kentucky Wild Turkey Brood Survey



INTRODUCTION

This document explains how to report observations of wild turkeys for a survey conducted by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Every year since 1984, KDFWR has used this survey to track changes in wild turkey populations. Volunteers and staff keep track of wild turkey seen during routine travels within the state during July and August, then report those sightings to KDFWR. The resulting tally of turkeys, particularly those of hens with and without young turkey "poults", provides an indication of the annual turkey "hatch" – the relative success of hen turkeys at producing and rearing poults from April through August.

Fluctuations in nesting success and brood survival strongly influence turkey populations. Years of conducting this survey show that when reproduction in a given year improves, turkey populations (reflected in spring harvest totals) tend to increase in subsequent years. The brood survey provides a practical way to gauge wild turkey reproduction annually at a statewide level, so maintaining and increasing public participation will be vital to understanding wild turkey population dynamics. If you have questions about the survey, or for results of previous years' surveys, please contact KDFWR's turkey program coordinator Zak Danks at <u>zak.danks@ky.gov</u> or 1-502-892-4544.

GENERAL NOTES

Brood Survey participants have 3 options for reporting wild turkey observations:

- 1. <u>mobile phone app</u> on your phone's web browser, click <u>HERE</u> or type "https://tinyurl.com/KYTurkeyBroodSurvey"
- website on your computer's web browser, click <u>HERE</u> or type "https://arcg.is/1qD0Sm" in your web browser
- 3. paper form (click <u>HERE</u> to download for printing; you need a PDF viewer like <u>Adobe Acrobat</u>¹)

Below we provide instructions for getting and using the app (page 2), website (page 8), and paper form (page 9), and for identifying turkeys (page 2).

Note that the turkey observations you submit, by either method, are kept anonymous. If you would like to receive an email containing a summary of survey results, please enter your email in the Email box in the app or website or provide your name and mailing address on the paper form. If using the app, once you enter your email the first time it should show up by default on your next submission. In addition to facilitating communication, your email allows us to track the number of survey participants each year.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VIEWING TURKEYS

For this survey, we need you to record all wild turkeys you see in July and August, including hens with poults (young turkeys), lone hens (females), gobblers and jakes (males), and turkeys of unknown age or sex (you see them well enough to distinguish). The following page provides a simple guide to viewing wild turkeys.

¹ Mention of brand names is simply for public assistance and clarity and does not imply endorsement in any way by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources or the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

GUIDE TO IDENTIFYING WILD TURKEYS FOR SUMMER TURKEY SURVEY

Gobblers:

- Body appears black; In sunlight, metallic iridescence is noticeable
- Head brightly colored but variable with red, white, and blue
- ✓ 6+ inch beard protruding from chest
- During summer, gobblers do <u>not</u> typically display with tail fan open
- Often travel alone or in bachelor groups with other gobblers in summer



Typical gobbler in summer. Look for darker body and more brightly colored head than hens and poults. Adults gobblers almost always have a 6+ inch beard.

<u>Hens:</u>

- Body brown and tan; duller than gobblers
- Head gray or pale blue sometimes with light pink evident
- Hens typically beardless but some have thin beard
- Smaller than gobblers but usually larger than poults
- Several hens (with or without young) will often travel together in summer

Poults (young of year):

- Young can vary in size from baseball-sized to almost fullgrown
- Will almost always be seen with 1 or more adult hens
- Size difference is best way to identify poults
- ✓ Sexes not discernable
- ✓ No visible beard
- Older poults can be similar in size to adult hens, especially in late summer



Hen with poults. Note the dull brown body and gray or pale blue head.



Bearded hen with poults. About 5-10% of hens will have beards, making other characteristics more important in sex determination.



Older poults can be similar in size to adult hens, making age determination difficult. When in doubt, record flocks of older poults and hens as "unknown."

Source: Maryland Department of Natural Resources

INSTRUCTIONS FOR GETTING THE APP

The app we use is called Survey123 by ESRI, which is available for free from the Apple Store for iPhones and from Google Play for Android phones². We hope use of the app and website described here will result in more citizens observing and reporting turkeys, but we welcome paper forms mailed to us as well!

<u>Viewing this document within your smart phone's web browser</u> should make the installation process easier (for example, through Safari on iPhones or Chrome on Android phones). Keep the browser page open so you can refer back to this document after the app is installed.

² Mention of brand names is simply for public assistance and clarity and does not imply endorsement in any way by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources or the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Install/download the Survey123 app by clicking <u>HERE</u> within your smart phone browser (for example, Safari on iPhones or Chrome on Android phones) or by typing "<u>https://tinyurl.com/KYTurkeyBroodSurvey</u>". This should prompt you to install the app. If the link doesn't work, manually search for and download the Survey123 app from the App Store or Google Play. You should see one of the following screens depending on your type of phone: (see next page)

iPhones:

Android phones:



<u>After downloading the Survey123 app, do not open it directly</u>; doing so may ask you to login, which you won't ever need to do. If you get to a screen that asks you to sign in with a user name and password, you have accidentally gotten to the wrong place. If that happens, go back to the screen above in your internet browser and click the link **"Open in the Survey123 field app".** If you accidentally closed the above screen or lose it for some reason, type the following URL in your internet browser: <u>https://tinyurl.com/KYTurkeyBroodSurvey</u>.

With iPhones, this may prompt the following the screen, but just click OK. After that, you should then get the "Allow" screen, to which you should answer "ALLOW".



After doing this once, clicking the Survey123 app in the future should open the survey properly within the app. The following screenshots should be similar on iPhone and Android phones.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING THE APP

When you open the survey through the app, you should see the screen below.

First, enter you name and email. Next select when you saw the turkey(s). The current day's date should display by default. If the date displayed is not when you actually saw the turkeys (perhaps because you saw them earlier in the day or on a previous day), select the date you saw the turkeys by clicking the down arrow to the right of date, then choosing the appropriate date.

Next, to enter the number of each kind of turkey you saw, click in the appropriate box(es) and type the number(s).

Kentucky Wild Turkey Brood Su	rvey
 Survey Questions 	
First Name	
Last Name	
Email address Your email address we be used to send you the resu	Ilts
of the survey.	
Date turkeys seen *	
📋 Wednesday, June 11, 2025	\otimes
Number of Hens (female turkeys)	
Number of Poults (young turkeys)	
Number of Males (gobblers or jakes)	
Number of Turkeys of Unknown Age o Sex	r
	1
	~

You will be recording each time you see a turkey or group of turkeys (that is, each individual observation).

TURKEY OBSERVATION EXAMPLES:

Example 1:

Let's say you see 1 hen with 5 poults in the morning, then you see 2 hens without poults in the afternoon of the same day. Consider these as two separate observations and should be recorded as two separate survey entries. Record the morning observation by entering 1 for hens and 5 for poults, followed by the other appropriate information including whether you've seen those turkeys before, the size of the poults, your email address [optional, in case you wish to have a results summary emailed to you], and the location of the observation. Here are some screenshots:

 Survey Questions 					
First Name					
Joe	\otimes				
Last Name					
Schmoe	\otimes				
Email address Your email address we be used to send you the results of the survey.					
Joe.Schmoe@yahoo.com	\otimes				
Date turkeys seen * Image: Wednesday, June 11, 2025 Number of Hens (female turkeys)	\otimes				
1	\otimes				
Number of Poults (young turkeys)					
5	\otimes				
Number of Males (gobblers or jakes)				
Number of Turkeys of Unknown Age or Sex					

A commonly asked question is whether to record turkeys that you have seen several times before, such as on a route you travel often. The answer is YES; please record any turkeys any time you see them. Checking "Yes" on the "Seen Before" question allows us to identify repeated observations for the analysis.

Seen and Reported Before? Have you seen and reported the turkey(s) before?" Yes No Uncertain

Polt Sizing Chart
Limit Marries Limit Marries <thlimit marries<="" thr=""> <thlimit mar<="" td=""></thlimit></thlimit>
 Size of poults (young turkey) Sparrow size (chicks) Robin size (2 weeks old) Quail size (3 weeks old) Pigeon size (4 weeks old) Grouse size (6 weeks old) Pheasant size or larger (8+ weeks old)
Comments
Saw turkeys feeding in my backyard 🛞
County * Please either enter the Kentucky county or enter the more exact location below.
Adair 🛞 🗸

Feel free to enter any pertinent comments about the observations in the "Comments" box. Indicate the county where you observed the turkeys, the size of any poults you saw. The app can determine your exact location, which would be most valuable. In the website you can navigate to where you saw the turkey(s).



When done making selections, click the check mark to Submit the observation.

After clicking the check mark to submit an observation, you should get this screen:

\bigcirc
Survey Completed
Your device is online.
⇒ Send now
\hookrightarrow Continue this survey
🖹 Save in Outbox

If you have cell service you should click "Save in Outbox" so the data will be shared automatically with KDFWR. If you don't have cell service, you can click "Send Later," and you should see this:



Later when you have cellular or wifi internet access, go into the "Outbox" within the App:



...and click "Send"

<	Outbox	
= Q Search		
Jun 11, 2025 1 hens 5 poults 0.0 ft Modified 6/11/25		
≗ <u>−</u> List	[2] Map	 Send

That's it! The observation will be recorded.

Example 2:

If you see two hen turkeys in a field at the same time, this is a single observation. Record as one observation. In a fresh new page, record the afternoon observation by entering 2 for hens and 0 for poults, as seen next, then repeat the remaining steps and submit that separate observation.

Date turkeys seen * Monday, July 1, 2019	\sim	0
Number of hens (female turkeys) 2		0
Number of poults (young turkeys) 0		0

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING THE WEBSITE

Instead of or in addition to using the mobile phone app, consider using the Survey123 website to report summer turkey observations.

Click <u>HERE</u> or type "<u>https://tinyurl.com/KYTurkeyBroodSurvey</u>" in your web browser to get to the survey website. Report turkeys as instructed on page 2 above.

To report the location of the turkeys you see, use the interactive map window to pan (click and drag the mouse) and zoom in to where you saw the turkeys. You can also search for a specific location by typing an address in the box, as seen here:

Location*

Let your mobile device fill in the location (must be outdoors) or find on the r



If you are using the browser on a device with GPS, the button will position you where you are. It may ask you if you want to share your location. When you are done be sure to click "Submit".

Submit

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING A PAPER FORM

If you'd rather use paper instead of the phone app or web site to record your turkey observations for this survey, you can download and print a paper form by clicking <u>HERE</u> or typing the following URL in your web browser: <u>https://fw.ky.gov/Hunt/Documents/2018 KY Wild Turkey Survey form.pdf</u> for the form.

The next page gives an example of how to record those example observations described above. Note that each observation is listed on its own row (line), as shown by my hand-writing below. Also note the example situations highlighted in gray on the form.

	Kentucky Wild Turkey Brood Survey Record all wild turkeys you see from July 1 through August 31						For the website version of this form or a smart phone app, go to fw.ky.gov & search "spring turkey".		
Observa- tion #	Date	County	# Hens	# Poults	# Males	# Unknown Sex or Age	Size of Poults vs. Hen (circle one)	Seen Before (circle one)	Comments
(Ex. 1)	7/1/2017	Logan	1	5	0	0	1/4 1/2 3/4		Seen past 3 days
(Ex. 2)	7/1/2017	Logan	2	11	0	0	1/4 1/2 3/4	YN	
(Ex. 3)	8/1/2017	Butler	0	0	3	0	1/4 1/2 3/4	YIN	Saw yesterday
(Ex. 4)	8/22/2017	Muhlenberg	0	0	0	3	1/4 1/2 3/4	YIN	
1	7/1/2019	Franklin	1	5	0	0	1/4 1/2 3/4	YICK	9:15 x.m.
2	7/ 1/2019	Frankin	2	0	0	0	1/4 1/2 3/4	YION	3:23 p.m.
3							1/4 1/2 3/4	YIN	
4				1			1/4 1/2 3/4	YIN	L
5							1/4 1/2 3/4	YIN	
6							1/4 1/2 3/4	YIN	
7							1/4 1/2 3/4	YIN	
8							1/4 1/2 3/4	YIN	L
9							1/4 1/2 3/4	YIN	
10					_		1/4 1/2 3/4	YIN	

Return paper forms as soon as possible after the survey concludes on August 31st. You can scan forms and send by email to <u>KyTurkey@ky.gov</u>, or you can mail them to Turkey Survey, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601.

Check for results at <u>https://fw.ky.gov/Hunt/Pages/Spring-Turkey-Hunting.aspx</u>, probably by late September or October. You'll probably need to scroll to the bottom of the page.

As stated above, if you have questions about the survey or for results of previous years' surveys, please contact KDFWR's turkey program coordinator Zak Danks at <u>zak.danks@ky.gov</u> or 1-502-892-4544.

Your turkey observations are valuable, so THANKS AND PLEASE SHARE with friends!

