

**NWTF Technical Committee Representatives' Report - PA Chapter NWTF
Board of Directors Meeting, August 2, 2008**

**Submitted by: Mary Jo Casalena, Wildlife Biologist II, and Robert C. Boyd, Assistant
Director, Bureau of Wildlife Management, Pennsylvania Game Commission**

Harvest Management

The preliminary spring 2008 harvest, calculated from report cards, not including special spring license, was approximately 40,182 (Table 1). This is up 2% from the 2007 preliminary harvest of 39,500, 4% above the 2006 preliminary harvest of 38,483, and 6% above the previous 3-year average preliminary harvest of 37,842.

Harvest results from the 2008 special spring turkey license holders are still being collected. A reminder letter was mailed on July 1st to 1,000 of the special turkey license holders that did not return their report cards. Reporting is mandatory regardless of whether these license holders harvested a turkey. Similar to the last 2 years we will determine the harvest of nonrespondents and add it to the harvest of respondents.

Final harvest figures for spring and fall 2007 will be available for the October Board meeting.

Wild Turkey Spring Harvest Rates and Annual Survival Rates Study

Data analyses are continuing for the third year of the 4-year study. The study is progressing well, with a fairly good distribution of banding across WMUs. We appreciate the state chapter's continued financial support, which allowed us to purchase the charges for this final winter of turkey trapping.

Turkey Summer Sighting Survey

All Wildlife Conservation Officers (WCOs) currently are conducting this annual survey where they record the number of turkeys seen and miles driven in their state vehicle on a daily basis during June, July and August. Survey results provide an index to the turkey population by Wildlife Management Unit, and will be reported at the October Board meeting.

Michaux State Forest Turkey Summer Sighting Surveys

These 6 survey routes (30 miles each) also are conducted June, July and August. The June surveys yielded the third highest number of turkeys seen per mile driven during June for the 11 years the surveys have been conducted (2004 and 2007 were higher). Also, even though Bureau of Forestry staff sightings have yielded slightly below average productivity data (poults seen per hen) during June for the 9 years we have been collecting these data, productivity is still relatively good with 4.9 poults seen per hen for June. We have 2 more months of data collection before conclusions can be made regarding the breeding season.

Table 1. PRELIMINARY Pennsylvania 2008 wild turkey harvests. First harvest are from general license sales and do not include harvests from the special turkey license, which allows harvest of a second spring turkey.

WMU	First Harvest	Harvest per Square Mile
1A	2,147	1.16
1B	2,875	1.36
2A	2,177	1.20
2B	1,440	1.06
2C	2,072	0.67
2D	3,015	1.21
2E	923	0.73
2F	1,304	0.54
2G	2,604	0.63
3A	1,390	0.92
3B	2,478	1.10
3C	2,619	1.21
3D	2,213	1.01
4A	1,520	0.88
4B	1,656	1.04
4C	2,504	1.38
4D	2,027	0.74
4E	2,554	1.47
5A	537	0.41
5B	768	0.28
5C	1,219	0.56
5D	60	0.07
Unknown	80	-
TOTAL	40,182	0.89