



# Reporting Turkey Observations



## Why does DEM Fish & Wildlife document turkey broods?

We survey turkey broods from July 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup> each year to gather information on productivity (number of offspring produced per female) and compare long-term reproductive success. This survey also provides biologists with an index of recruitment (the number of turkeys that survive to adulthood).

## How to report an observation?

We rely on citizen scientists (that's you!) to collect state-wide turkey observations in Rhode Island each year.

You can submit observations via the following link, or the data sheet attached to this packet:

[Wild Turkey Survey](#)

Please submit paper data sheets by September 15<sup>th</sup> to the address listed below or email to [Elizabeth.Bonczek.ctr@dem.ri.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Bonczek.ctr@dem.ri.gov)

## What are other important considerations when recording an observation?

- Record all observations from July-August
- Record all wild turkeys seen including hens, poults, males (jakes and gobblers), and turkeys that you couldn't identify as hens or males.
- Record each observation on a single line (see examples on data sheets)
- Record "yes" in the "Seen Before" column if you believe you have recorded the turkey(s) before.



# Example Observations



*Note: Poults are numbered to help with identification*



Grey/blue head

## Example 1

Adult hen with older poults

**How to record:**

Adult hens: 1, Poults: 6



Photo: P. Topham

## Example 2

Poults no hen

**How to record:**

Adult hens: 0, Poults: 3

\* Females can have a beard, but they will always have a grey head





# Example Observations



## Example 3

Adult hens with poults

**How to record:**

Adult hens: 2, Poults:  
10



Photo: M. Black

## Example 4

Adult hen no poults

**How to record:**

Adult hens: 1, Poults: 0



Photo: M. Stultz



# Example Observations

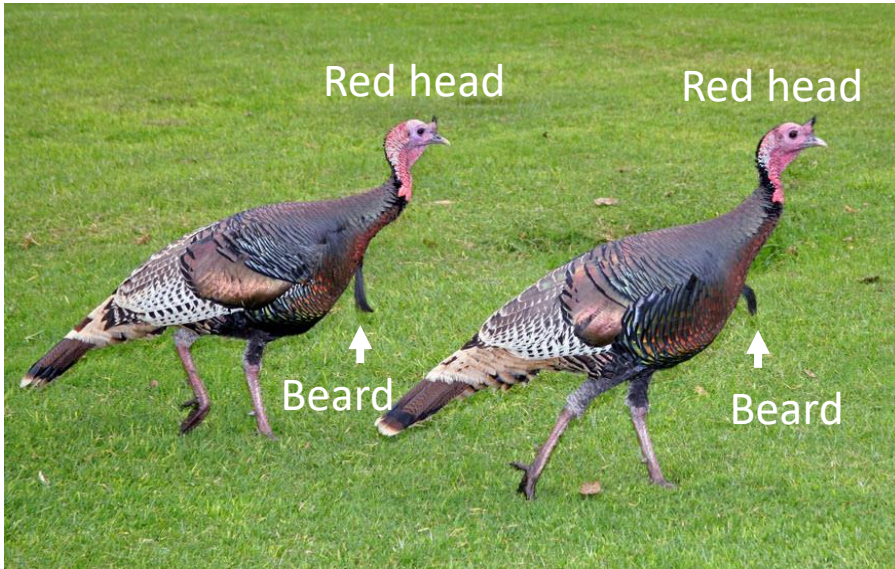


## Example 5

Adult males

**How to record:**

Males: 2



## Example 6

Adult hens no poults

**How to record:**

Adult hens: 5, Poults: 0







# Wild Turkey Observation Data Sheet



Name:

Year:

Obs. #	Date	County	# Hens	# Poults	# Males	# Unknown	Seen Before
Ex. 1	7/1/2021	Kent	1	5			
Ex. 2	7/1/2021	Washington			4		
Ex. 3	7/3/2021	Kent	1	5			yes
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							



# Wild Turkey Observation Data Sheet



Name:

Year:

Obs. #	Date	County	# Hens	# Poults	# Males	# Unknown	Seen Before
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							
20							
21							
22							
23							
24							
25							
26							
27							
28							
29							
30							
31							



# Wild Turkey Observation Data Sheet



Name:

Year:

Obs. #	Date	County	# Hens	# Poults	# Males	# Unknown	Seen Before
32							
33							
34							
35							
36							
37							
38							
39							
40							
41							
42							
43							
44							
45							
46							
47							
48							

