

Introduction to **DOCUMENTING TURKEY BROODS**



Why do we document turkey broods?

We survey turkey broods in the summer because the number of poults (young turkeys) produced by wild turkey hens, and the survival of poults helps us assess annual brood production and wild turkey population trends over time.

What do we do with the information you help us collect?

We aim to collect 3,000 brood observation reports from citizens across the state. Our goal is to collect at least 25 observations in each county. These observations and the resulting wild turkey population trend assessment inform the DFW's wild turkey management decisions.

What information is needed to report an observation?

We are interested in collecting information on the number of adult hens and the number of poults found together OR the number of adult hens found without poults. When you observe this situation, please be prepared to record the following information:

- Number of adult hens with the number of poults or
- Number of adult hens without poults and
- County and date of each observation.

What are other important considerations when observing or reporting data?

- Please provide as accurate a count of both hens and poults as possible.
- It is just as important to record observations of hens without poults.
- One observation is one report submission. Even if you observe different broods from the same county on the same day, record each submission on the website separately.
- If you suspect that you are observing the same brood of turkeys repeatedly, only report your observation one time each month.
- By mid- to late-August, turkey poults are normally about two-thirds the size of an adult, and a juvenile gobbler (jake) can be about the same size as an adult hen. Use the photos on the following pages to help guide your reporting.

If you have any questions about your observations, please visit:
on.IN.gov/turkeybrood

EXAMPLE OBSERVATIONS

You may encounter several different scenarios when you are documenting turkey broods. We have included photographs of those common scenarios in order to help you feel more confident about counting the number of hens and poults you have observed. Remember, documenting hens without poults is an equally important observation as a hen with poults.

Note: The poults in each photo are numbered to help with identification.



Photo: J. Thomas

Example 1

Adult hen with no poults.

HOW TO RECORD:

Adult hen: 1, Poults: 0

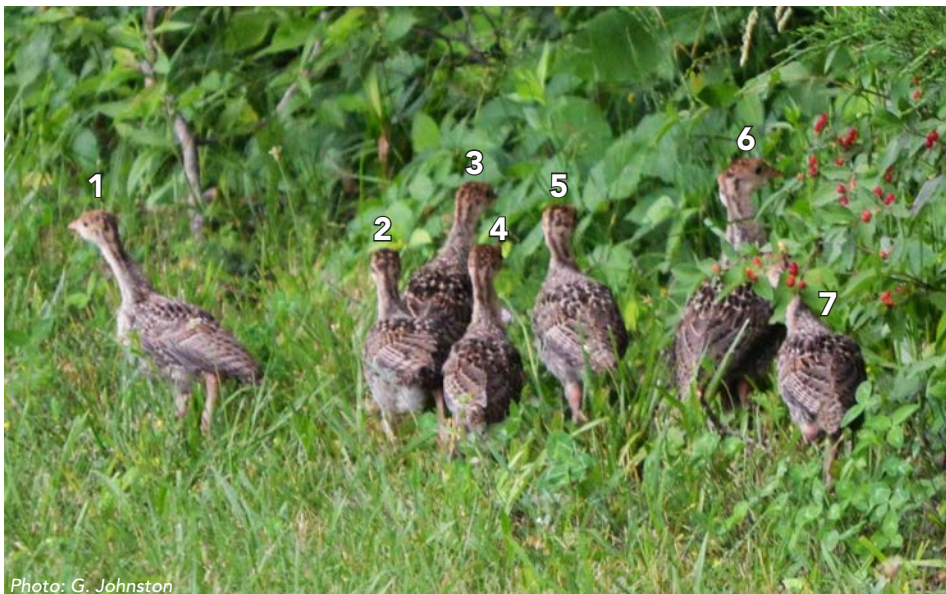


Photo: G. Johnston

Example 2

Poults with no adult hen.

HOW TO RECORD:

Adult hen: 0, Poults: 7



Photo: J. Castrale

Example 3

Adult hen with very young poults.

HOW TO RECORD:

Adult hen: 1, Poults: 3



Photo: D. Gorney

Example 4

Adult hen with one week old poults.

HOW TO RECORD:

Adult hen: 1, Poults: 7



Example 5

Adult hen with two week old poults.

HOW TO RECORD:
Adult hen: 1, Poults: 5



Example 6

Adult hen with young poults.

HOW TO RECORD:
Adult hen: 1, Poults: 7



Example 7

Adult hen with poults.

HOW TO RECORD:

Adult hen: 1, Poults: 8



Example 8

Adult hen with poults.

HOW TO RECORD:

Adult hen: 1, Poults: 9



Example 9

Adult hen with nearly grown poults.

HOW TO RECORD:

Adult hen: 1, Poults: 6



Example 10

Adult hen with nearly grown poults.

HOW TO RECORD:

Adult hen: 1, Poults: 4

Example 11

Two adult hens with poults.

HOW TO RECORD:

Adult hen: 2, Poults: 3



Example 12

Two adult hens with poults.

HOW TO RECORD:

Adult hen: 2, Poults: 11





Photo: T. Hyndman, DNR

Example 13

Four adult hens with poults.

HOW TO RECORD:

Adult hen: 4, Poults: 4