



TWRA NEWS

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RULES TO KEEP TURKEY HUNTING SAFE

Tennessee’s 2007 Spring Turkey Hunting Season will open thirty minutes before sunrise on Saturday, March 31. Due to the tremendous success of Tennessee’s turkey restoration efforts, the interest in turkey hunting is on the increase.

As with any hunting, there are certain rules needed to keep turkey hunting safe for the participants, reminds the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA). Of primary concern is the occasional accident when a turkey hunter does properly identify his or her target. Even one accident is too many. The TWRA encourages all turkey hunters to follow defensive turkey hunting tactics recommended by the National Wild Turkey Federation.

If you plan to hunt wild turkeys in Tennessee this season follow these safety rules:

- Select the largest stump, blow-down, tree trunk or rock that is wider than your shoulders and higher than your head to place your back against when calling; a

hunter is more likely to spot another hunter when moving to the front or side than from behind.

- Eliminate the colors white, red, black and blue from your hunting outfit; this includes handkerchiefs, socks, underwear, etc... these are the colors of a turkey gobbler.
- Select your calling spot in open timber rather than thick brush; eliminating movement is the key to success, not concealment.
- Be discreet when imitating the sound of a gobbling turkey.
- A good woodsman can always detect movement in the woods by watching other game or listening for the alarm cries of blue jays, crows, squirrels or woodpeckers. Be alert.
- When songbirds, crows or your turkey shuts up, be alert. There's a good chance another hunter may be moving in on the same turkey.
- Never move, wave or make turkey sounds to alert another hunter of your presence. Remain still and speak in a loud, clear voice to announce your presence. These tactics are safer than quick movements. Use common sense.

For all the rules and regulations about the 2007 turkey season, pick up a copy of the 2006 Tennessee Hunting and Trapping Guide available wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold or visit the TWRA website at www.tnwildlife.org.

TURKEY HUNTERS – REMEMBER TO TAG BIRDS

The wild turkey is the only bird classified as a big game animal in Tennessee. Hunters should remember that all big game animals, including wild turkeys, must, upon harvest, be tagged immediately with a temporary harvest tag, according to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA).

When a hunter harvests a wild turkey, the month and day of harvest must be punched or marked on the temporary harvest tag and the tag attached to the bird. The turkey must then be taken to the nearest big game checking station, where a permanent harvest tag and a new temporary harvest tag will be issued to the hunter.

Landowners hunting without a license, senior citizens, hunters under 13 years of age, and others legally hunting without temporary tags are not required to tag turkeys, but must still take them to the nearest checking station and be issued a permanent harvest tag.

For all the rules and regulations on hunting wild turkeys, refer to the *2006 Tennessee Hunting and Trapping Guide*. Guides are available at all TWRA regional offices and wherever licenses are sold. Hunting regulations can also be found on the TWRA web page at <http://www.tnwildlife.org/> MACROBUTTON HtmlResAnchor www.tnwildlife.org.

HOW DOES YOUR TURKEY SCORE

Lucky turkey hunters often wonder how their trophy stacks up against other turkeys. The National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) has an official wild turkey records program.

According to the NWTF, the purpose of the program is to provide hunters throughout the world with a permanent record keeping system that will preserve information on all legally harvested wild turkeys taken in the spirit of fair chase.

Records are kept for Eastern, Florida, Rio Grande, and Merriam's subspecies. The Eastern subspecies is found in Tennessee.

Weight, beard length, and spur length are considered to determine a total score for wild turkeys.

The formula for overall score is: weight (lbs. and oz.) plus 10 times spur length (right plus left) plus 2 times the beard length. The beard must be measured, to the nearest 1/16 inch, from the center point of the protrusion from the skin to the end of the longest bristle. Spurs must be measured, to the nearest 1/16 inch, along the outside center, from the point at which the spur protrudes from the scaled leg skin to the tip of the spur. Ounces and fractions of inches need to be converted to decimals.

Persons submitting records must be current members of the NWTF. Hunters may join when the record is submitted.

For rules or an official application form, contact: National Wild Turkey Federation, P.O. Box 530, Edgefield, SC 29824, or check out the NWTF web page at: www.nwtf.org.

TURKEY HUNTERS CAN SHARE THE EXPERIENCE

Experienced wild turkey hunters are encouraged to share the excitement of their sport with new hunters, according to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA).

The increase and distribution of the state's wild turkey population has caused hunters, who have not hunted turkeys before, to become interested in the sport. Giving these new hunters a few pointers can make their first experiences more enjoyable and they are more likely to continue to be a turkey hunter.

Regulations passed by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission allow a licensed turkey hunter who has filled his bag limit to accompany another turkey hunter and assist him in calling. The hunter who has filled his bag limit may not possess a gun or bow. Remember that callers must have appropriate hunting licenses.

Regulations also allow a caller without a quota permit to accompany a hunter drawn for a hunt on a Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The non-permitted caller may not possess a gun or bow.

A complete list of all rules and regulations covering the hunting of wild turkeys may be found in the *2006 Tennessee Hunting & Trapping Guide*. This guide is available anywhere hunting licenses are sold, at all TWRA Regional Offices or on line at <http://www.tnwildlife.org/> www.tnwildlife.org.

WEST TENNESSEE FISHING REPORT

REELFOOT LAKE:

Creel Limits- Largemouth Bass/Spotted Bass – 5 (minimum length 15 inches/ no length limits on Spotted Bass), Crappie – 30 (no size limit). Bass fishing is fair. Fish being caught on jig & pig combos fished slow. Crappie fishing is good, water temperature is in the 60's. Fish being caught on minnows and jigs in both deep and shallow water. Most fish being caught on south end of lake

KENTUCKY LAKE:

Creel Limits- Largemouth Bass/ Smallmouth Bass/ Spotted Bass – 5 (minimum length 15 inches/ no length limit on Spotted Bass), Redear – 30, Crappie – 30 (minimum length 10 inches) Sauger – 10 (minimum length 14 inches), Catfish (only one catfish over 34 inches per day. No limit on fish under 34 inches)

North of I-40: Lake has been on a slow fall. Water temps are in the 60's. Bass fishing is good. Some small fish being caught around stumps along the edge of creek channels on crawfish colored crankbaits. Crappie fishing is good. Should improve with warmer temps this weekend. Catfishing is fair in the New Johnsonville Steam Plant Harbour. Fish being caught using turkey livers or night crawlers.

South of I-40: Water temps in the 60's. Bass fishing is fair. Some fish being caught off of the river points using jig & pig combos. Crappie fishing is good. Fish being caught in 6 ft.-12ft. water in the creek channels on minnows and jigs. Catfishing is good. Fish being caught on the main channel in 35 ft.-40 ft. water. White Bass are good. Some fish being caught off points at the mouth of creeks on live crawfish.

PICKWICK LAKE:

Creel Limits: Largemouth Bass/Smallmouth Bass/Spotted Bass – 5 (minimum length 15 inches/ no length limit on Spotted Bass). Redear – 20, Crappie – 30 (minimum length 9 inches). Water temps are in the 60's. Largemouth bass fishing is good. Fish being caught along shore lines on crank baits in 6 – 8 ft. water. Smallmouth fishing is fair. White bass fishing is good. Crappie fishing is improving. Lake level is on a slow fall.

LAKE BARKLEY:

Creel Limits: Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass/Spotted Bass – 5 (minimum length limit 15 inches/ no length limit on Spotted Bass), Redear – 20, Crappie – 30 (minimum length limit 10 inches). Water temps in the mid 60's. Bass fishing is fair. Fish being caught on jig & pig combos. Crappie fishing is good. Large fish are being taken around stumps and other cover along edge of creek channels on small jigs and minnows.

REGION I TWRA FAMILY FISHING LAKE REPORT

BROWNS CREEK LAKE (located ten miles south of I-40 in Natchez Trace State Park):

Creel Limits- Bass- 5 (16"-21" PLR) only one per day greater than 21", Blue and Channel Catfish - 5, Crappie - 30 (10" minimum). Bass fishing is fair, fish are being caught on crank baits. Crappie fishing is fair, being caught on small minnows and red & white jigs around the fish attractors. Catfish are being caught on turkey livers. Bream fishing is slow.

CARROLL LAKE (located on Hwy. 22 between McKenzie and Huntingdon):

Creel Limits- Bass- 5, Blue and Channel Catfish -5, Crappie - 30 (10"minimum). Bass fishing is fair, fish are being caught on jig & pig combos. Crappie fishing is fair, being caught on small minnows. Catfish are being caught on turkey livers. Bream fishing is slow.

DAVY CROCKETT LAKE (located 4 miles west of Humboldt off Hwy. 152):

Creel Limits- Bass-10, Blue and Channel Catfish- 5, Crappie-30 (10" minimum).). Catfish are being caught chicken/turkey livers and night crawlers. Bass fishing is fair in shallow water using pig & jig combos. Crappie fishing is good, fish being caught in deep water on small minnows and blue and white jigs. Some bream are being caught on redworms in 4 - 5 ft of water.

GARRETT LAKE (located on Hwy. 190 near Dresden):

Creel Limits- Bass- 5, Blue and Channel Catfish - 5, Crappie-30 (10" minimum).). Catfish are being caught chicken/turkey livers and night crawlers. Bass fishing is fair using crank baits. Crappie fishing is good, fish being caught in deep water on small minnows and red and white jigs. Bream fishing is slow.

GIBSON CO. LAKE (located at Trenton)

Creel Limits – Bass – 5 (14"-18" PLR) only one per day greater than 18", Bluegill/Redear (in combination) – 20, Blue and Channel Catfish - 5, Crappie- 30 (10" minimum). Catfishing is slow. Bass fishing is good using black & blue jig & pig combos and crank baits in 10 to 15 ft. water. Crappie fishing is excellent, lots of keepers are being caught in deep water on small minnows and blue and white jigs. Bream fishing is slow. Some are being caught off the bottom using wax worms.

GLENN SPRINGS LAKE (located on Glenn Springs Rd, 12 miles northeast of Millington):

Creel Limits- Bass - 5 (14"-18" PLR) only one per day greater than 18", Bluegill/Redear (in combination) – 20, Blue and Channel Catfish - 5, Crappie- 30 (10" minimum). Catfish are being caught chicken/turkey livers and night crawlers. Bass fishing is good using jig & pig combos and Crank baits in 10 to 12 ft. water. Several 6-7 lb. fish caught this week. Crappie fishing is good, fish being caught in deep water on small minnows and white jigs. Some bream are being caught on the bottom using wax worms.

HERB PARSONS LAKE (located 8 miles north of Collierville off Collierville-

Arlington Road): Creel Limits- Bass - 10 (14"-18" PLR) only one per day greater than 18", Blue and Channel Catfish -5, Crappie - 30 (10" minimum). Bass fishing is good, being caught on minnows and crank baits. Catfishing is good, being caught on chicken/turkey liver and large minnows in 6-8ft water. Crappie are good, being caught on medium minnows and chartreuse jigs tipped with wax worms around fish attractors .in 4-6 ft water. Bream is fair in deep water on wax worms and red worms.

LAKE GRAHAM (located 5 miles east of Jackson on Cotton Grove Road):

Creel Limits- Bass - 10 (14"-18" PLR) only one bass per day greater than 18", Blue and Channel Catfish -5, Crappie- 30 (10" minimum). Bass fishing is good, fish being caught on crank baits and jig and pig combos. Crappie fishing is good, fish being caught on red & black jigs and minnows in 4-6 ft. water. Catfishing is slow, some being caught on turkey livers and night crawlers. Bream fishing is slow.

MAPLES CREEK LAKE (located 4 miles north of I-40 in Nathez Trace State Park):

Creel Limits- Bass -5, Blue and Channel Catfish - 5, Crappie - 30 (10" minimum). Bass fishing is good, fish are being caught on jig & pig combos. Crappie fishing is fair, being caught on small minnows around the fish attractors. Catfish are being caught on turkey livers. Bream fishing is slow.

WHITEVILLE LAKE (located 2 miles south of Whiteville off Hwy. 64):

Creel Limits- Bass - 5, Blue and Channel Catfish- 5, Crappie- 30 (10" minimum). Bass fishing is good, fish are being caught on crank baits. Crappie fishing is fair, being caught on small minnows and chartreuse jigs around the fish attractors. Catfish are being caught on turkey livers. Bream fishing is slow.

