



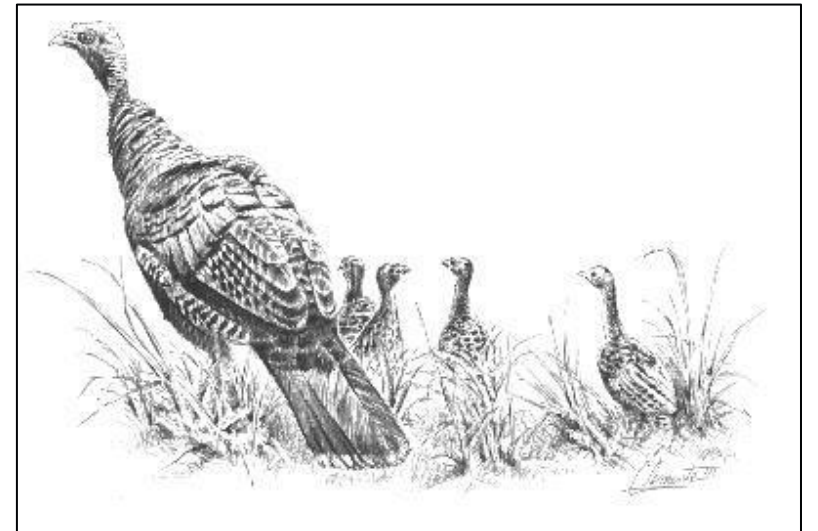
Tennessee Wild Turkey Management Program Status Report

TN-NWTF State Board Meeting
January 21, 2023

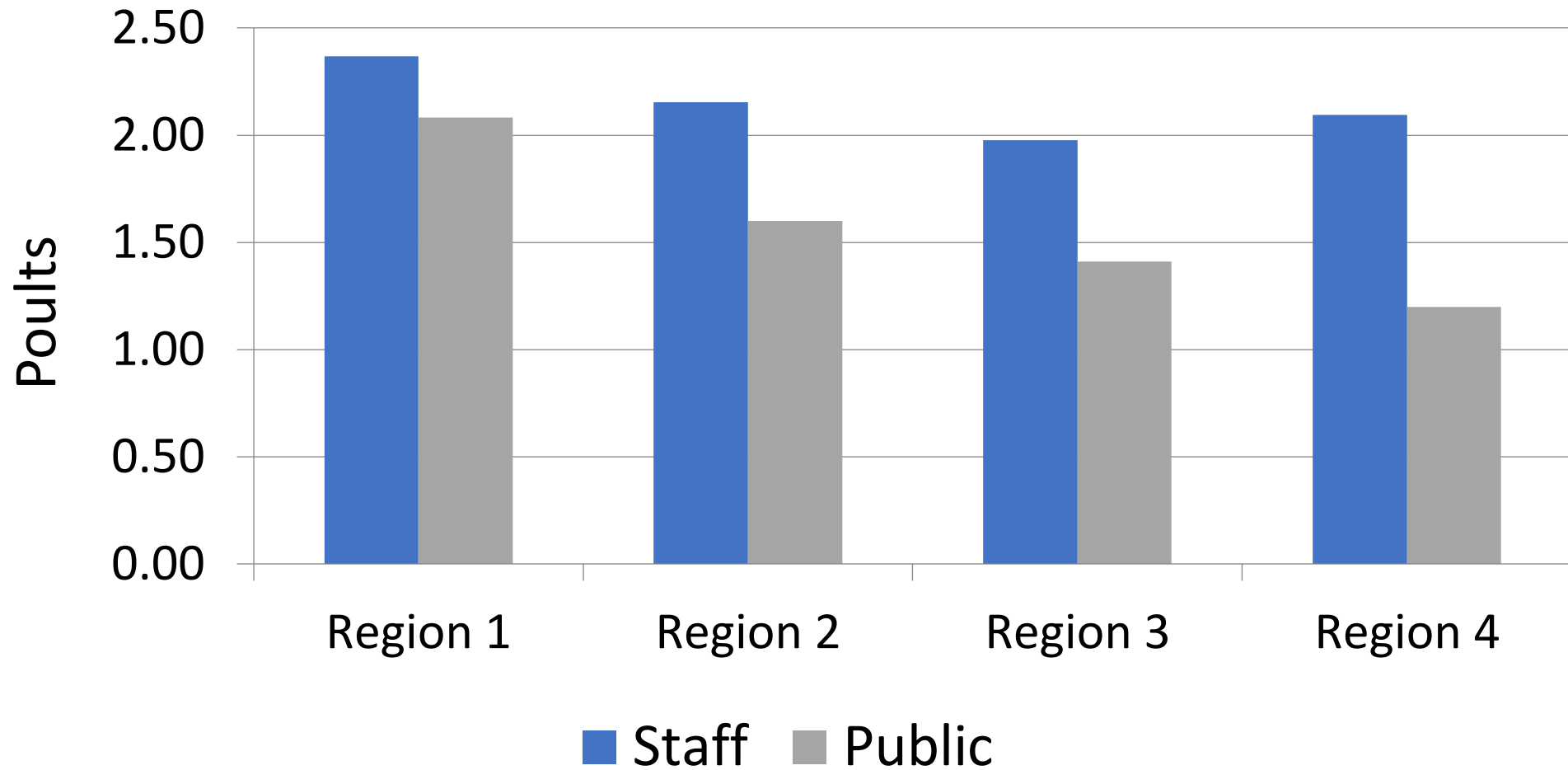
Roger Shields
Wild Turkey Program Coordinator
Wildlife and Forestry Division

2022 Summer Wild Turkey Survey

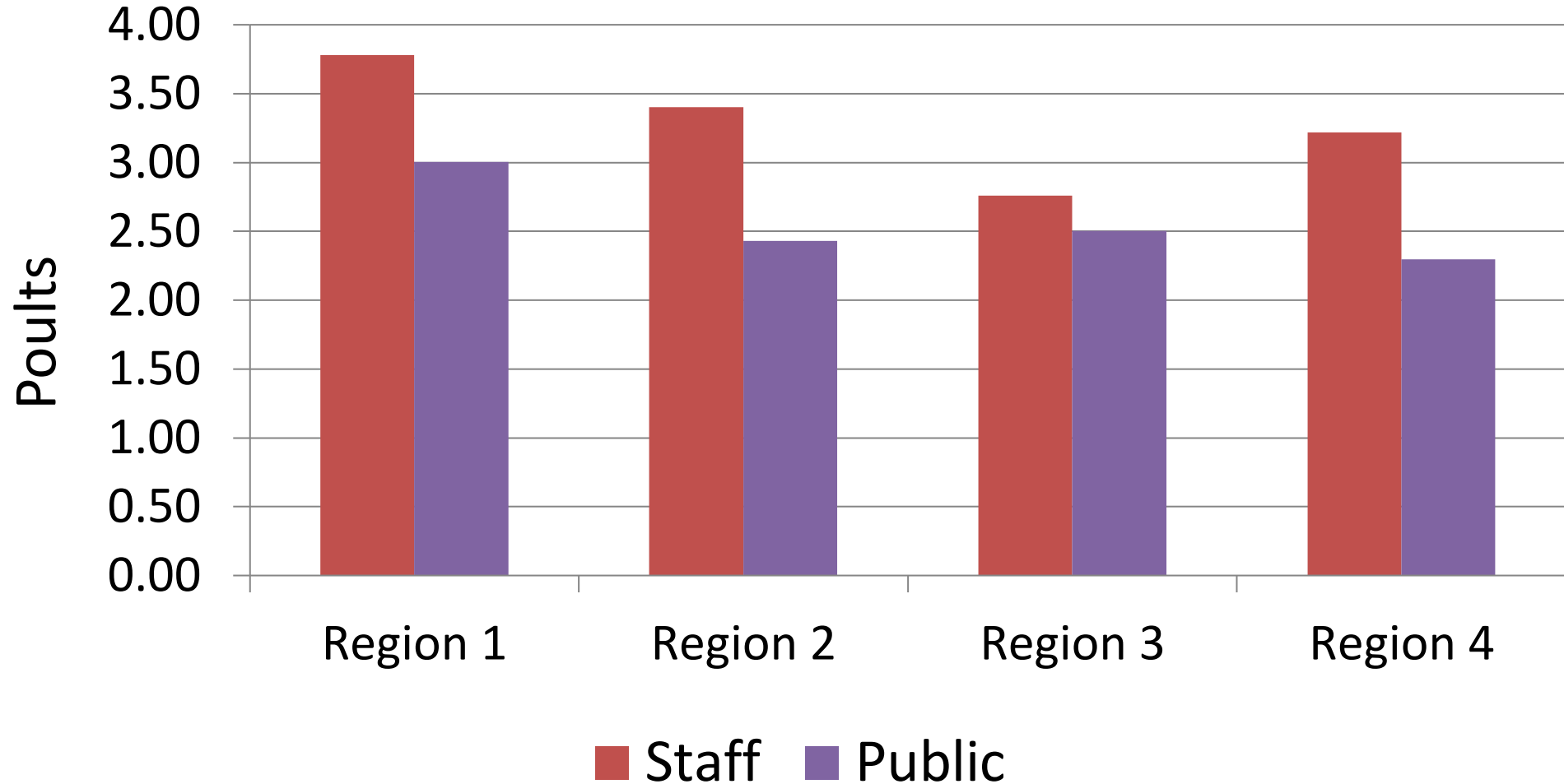
- First time allowing public participation
 - ~2,786 unique public observers (vs 133 Staff)
 - 4,217 observations (1,283 staff)
 - All 95 counties
- Estimates quite different
 - Staff estimates higher
 - Trends similar



Regional PPH Ratio, 2022



Regional PPB Ratio, 2022



2022 Statewide Wild Turkey Productivity*

- Overall good year, similar to 2021 but “patchier”
 - 2.2 PPH
 - 3.4 poults per brood
 - 64% of hens with broods
- Still regional disparity
 - Region 1 particularly good
 - Region 3 lowest

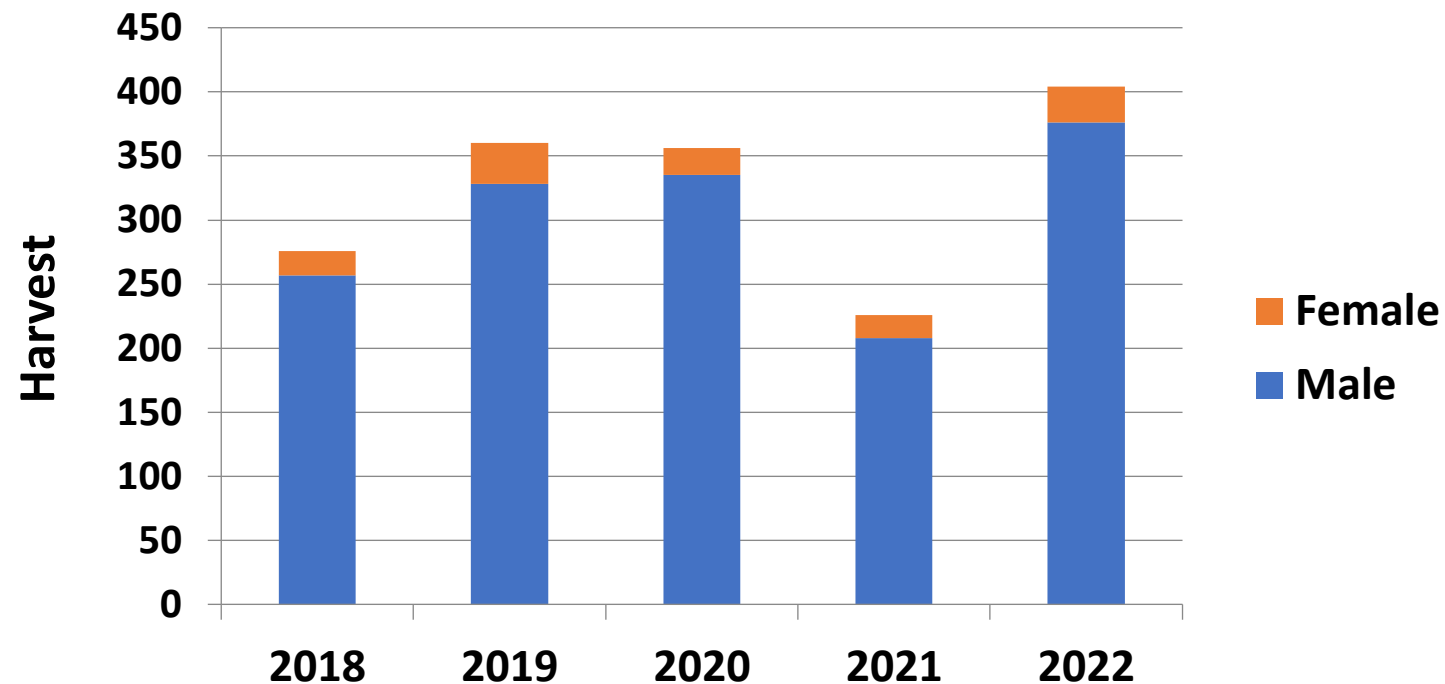


*Based on staff reported numbers



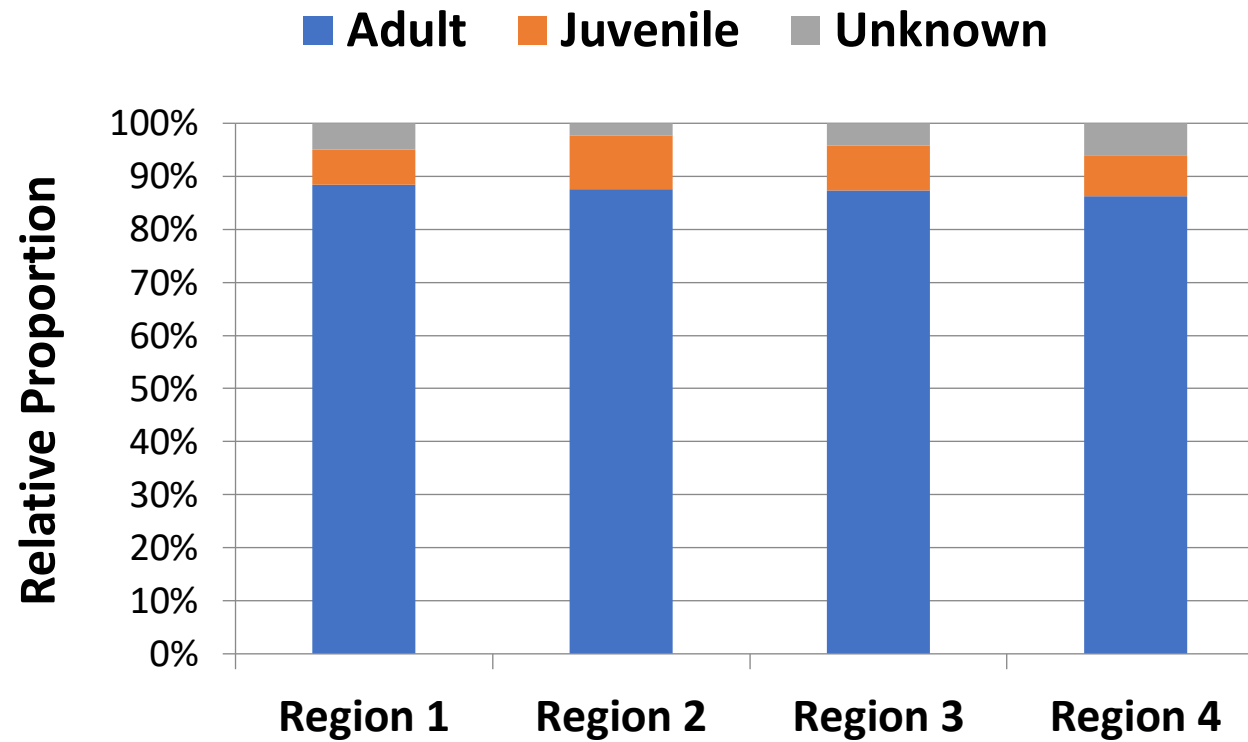
Fall Turkey Harvest 2022

- 404 birds; up 79% from 2021
- Only 28 (7%) hens



Fall Turkey Harvest 2022

- Jakes were 9% of gobbler harvest

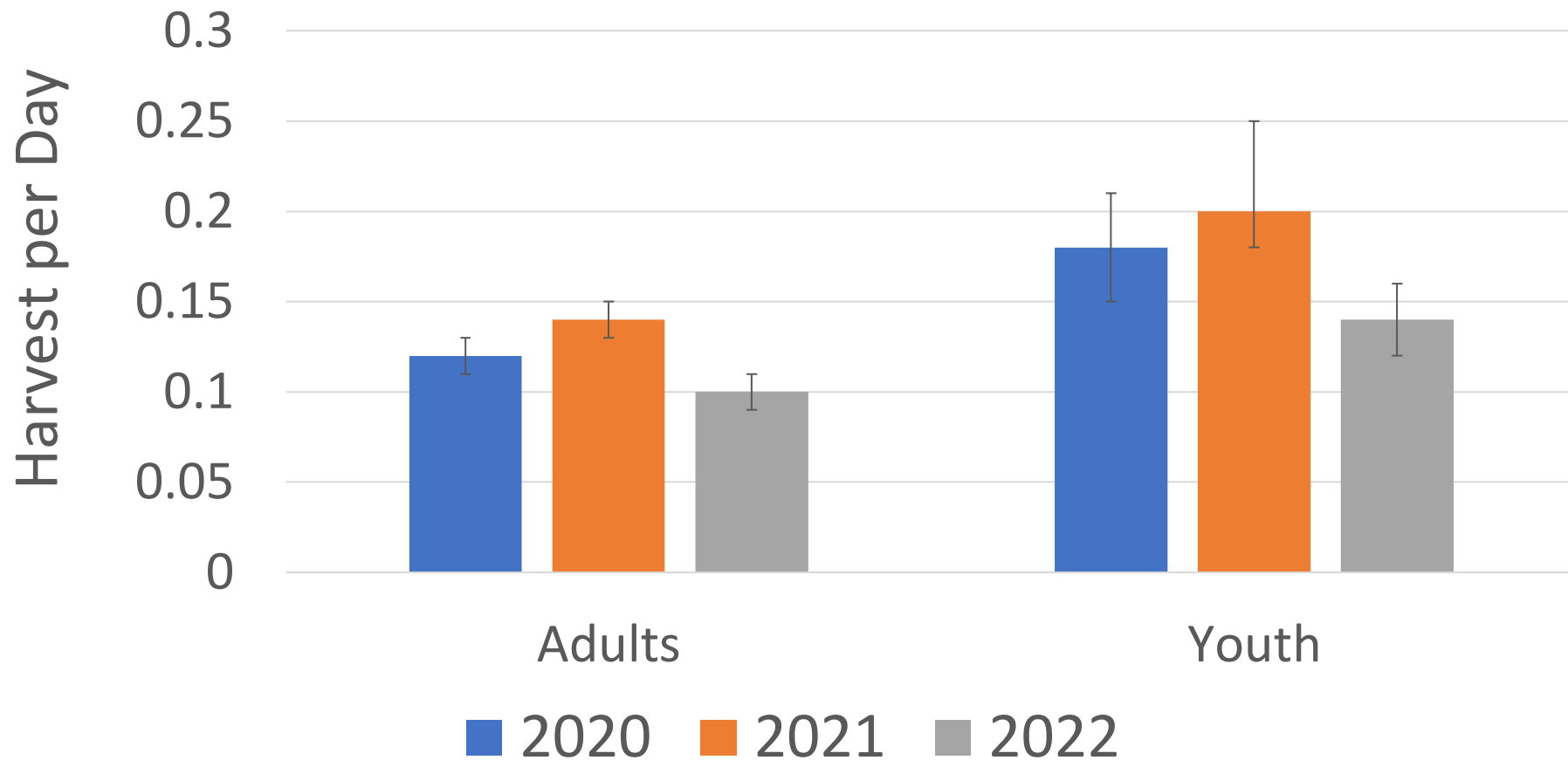


Post-season Hunter Harvest Survey, 2022

- 4,586 responses
- Estimated 95,905 hunters harvested 48,359 turkeys
 - More hunters and lower harvest than 2020 and 2021
- Total days afield similar to 2020 (Covid year)
 - Days afield averaged 9.3 (adults) and 4.0 (youth)
- Harvest rate dropped compared to 2020 and 2021
 - 0.10 birds/day for adult hunters; 0.14 for youth
- Overall, 53% of adults and 35% of youth harvested ≥ 1 turkey



Harvest Rate, 2020-2022



Human Dimensions Activities

- HD Opinion Surveys
 - Hunters
 - Landowners
 - Residents
- Meetings with Stakeholder Input Groups
 - Led by TTU researchers
 - Process to develop new approach for managing turkeys (and deer)



Middle TN Wild Turkey Research Project



- Did I previously say “6th (and final) year of study”?.....um, not!!
- Extended study 1 more year (again)
 - Further investigate season timing impacts
 - Explore correlations between predator abundance and survival of wild turkeys and nests
 - Finish study of habitat mgmt. on potential brood cover
- Thank you for SF support!



Chronic Wasting Disease

- Tested ~17,300 deer statewide (so far)
 - 670 deer tested positive (so far)
- Good news
 - Of 16 CWD-positive counties, 6 haven't had a detection this year
 - No new detections (so far)
- Bad news
 - Fayette and Hardeman approaching 20% overall prevalence



2022 High Path Avian Influenza Outbreak

- Outbreak continues to expand and worsen
 - Domestic flocks: 47 states; ~58 MILLION birds
 - Wildlife: waterfowl, shorebirds, scavengers/birds of prey, and ~marine mammals
- In TN wild birds
 - Mostly waterfowl, esp. along the Mississippi River
 - Black vultures detected in eastern TN (Regions 3 & 4)
- Wildlife elsewhere
 - Arkansas - major waterfowl die-off, mostly tied to Mississippi River and tributaries
 - Wild turkeys in MT, OR & WY
 - Red foxes in Ontario





Questions