Turkey hunting season begins today

HARRISBURG - Pennsylvania's 12th Spring gobbler hunting season got underway throughout the state one half hour before sunrise this morning (Saturday, April 28.) The season ends on May 19.

By late April and early May, gobblers can be removed without adversely affecting the future supply of birds. In most states which have only one turkey season, hunting is usually done in the Spring, rather than in the Fall.

Game Commission personnel urge hunters to be more conscious of safety requirements during the Spring gobbler season. A bird, to be legal, must have a beard. If the hunter positively identifies the beard, there can be no possibility of anyone being shot in mistake for a turkey during the spring gobbler season.

To make the Spring season even more sporting, hunters might choose to pass up bearded hens, although these birds are legal. A hen has a dull slate grey or

greyish-blue head, while gobblers usually have colorful red, white and blue heads.

Successful gobbler hunters are reminded that many tom turkeys have a soft breast sponge at this time of year. This is simply a mass of gelatinous material located under the skin on the breast of the turkey. It should be removed before cooking the bird. The presence of the breast sponge has no detrimental effect on the quality of flavor of the bird's meat.

Hunters are required to call in and properly identify a turkey. They should not shoot at birds which are flying or running and haven't been carefully identified.

Hunters are reminded of the following special regulations in effect for the Spring gobbler season:

Only bearded turkeys will be legal game. Hunting hours are from one half hour before sunrise until 11 a.m. Hunters should be out of the woods by 12 o'clock noon.

A hunter may enter the

woods prior to one half hour before sunrise providing no attempt is made to call, hunt for, or kill a turkey prior to the legal shooting hour.

Hunting shall be by calling only (manually operated hand and/or mouth calls).

The only firearm that may be used is a shotgun with shot no larger than No. 2. A combination over-under rifle-shotgun is permissible providing the hunter does not have single ball ammunition for the rifle in his or her possession. Bows and arrows can also be used, if the arrows are of a cuttingedge broadhead design.

A successful hunter who shoots a bearded turkey is required to detach the Spring turkey tag supplied with the hunting license and attach the tag to the leg of the bird within one hour, and before transporting or removing the turkey in any manner from where it was

for closed schools If the bird is lawfully taken by a person not required to HARRISBURG - Central obtain a license (such as a Pennsylvania school farmer hunting on his own or adjacent land), the hunter districts which closed during the Three Mile Island crisis must make and attach a would not have to make up homemade tag within the

time specified after such

killing. The tag must bear

the name and address of the hunter and the date, time

and county where the bird

Successful gobbler hunters

are required-to submit a

turkey kill report to the

Game Commission within

five days after the har-

vesting of the bird. Report

cards are available from

Game Commission field

division offices, game

was taken.

protectors, etc.

General Assembly. "This nuclear plant accident should not have any effect on school calendars and the money the schools receive from the state,"

lost days if legislation co-

sponsored by Rep. Kenneth

Brandt is passed by the

Brandt said. "These schools closed because of the many uncertainties which appeared. They remained closed when it became apparent that if they reopened during that first week in April the absentee rate would have been abnormally high.

Legislation considered

"People took their children and left the area. Those persons included many of the staff personnel from those schools.

"This legislation would allow these school districts to continue with their regular school calendar and not be required to make up any days which were lost on either March 30 or during the first week in April," Brandt said.

Seven central Pennsylvania legislators have joined Rep. Brandt as cosponsors of the bill.

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