



2007 VERMONT WILDLIFE HARVEST REPORT Wild Turkey



VERMONT

FISH & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

(802) 241-3700 / www.vtfishandwildlife.com



2007 VERMONT TURKEY HARVEST REPORT

Most of the programs described in this report are funded through the *Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program*. This program initiated in 1937 as the Federal Aid In Wildlife Act and created a system where by taxes are paid on firearms, ammunition and archery equipment by the public who hunts. Today this excise tax generates over a hundred million dollars each year that are dedicated to state wildlife restoration and management projects across the United States. The State of Vermont use these monies for acquiring land, and for restoring and managing wildlife. These excise tax dollars, coupled with state hunting license fees have been the predominate source of money funding the successful restoration and management of Vermont’s wildlife resources.

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The MISSION of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is the conservation of fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the people of Vermont.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

Agency of Natural Resources

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2007 Wild Turkey Report

Spring Turkey Season

Vermont's 2007 spring season, once again set new, all-time record harvest of 5,024 bearded birds, topping the previous record harvest of 4,672 birds established in 2006. The 2007 record tally includes the 544 birds taken during the April youth turkey season, which also established a new record harvest for that two-day season.

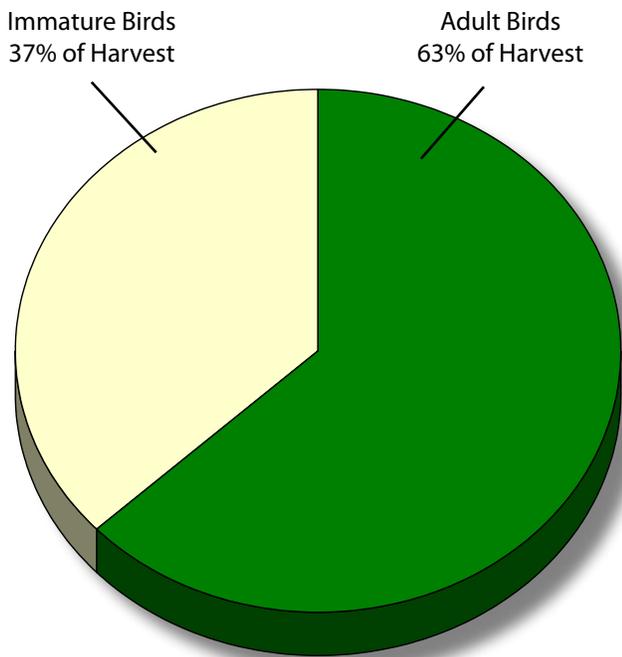
Weather always plays a significant role in the turkey harvest. The excellent spring weather and hunting conditions experienced throughout May undoubtedly contributed to the 2007 record harvest. Hunter success rates were very high with 28.3 % of hunters harvesting at least one turkey. Among these successful hunters, 28.2 % harvested a second bearded bird to fill the two-bird spring bag limit.

Hunting pressure in 2007, measured in terms of spring turkey license sales (13,861) was slightly lower (3%) than 2006 license sales of 14,294 and 2005 sales of 13,999 turkey tags. The number of turkey license sales during the last four to five years has remained almost unchanged. It appears that Vermont maintains a fairly stable and skilled cadre of turkey hunting enthusiasts.



Joel Fewelling

5,024 TURKEYS HARVESTED



Adult birds comprised a relatively high percentage (63%) of the harvest, while immature birds comprised the remaining 37 %. The 2007 season also included 34 bearded hens in the tally. The 2007 season was the fourth consecutive year that the entire state of Vermont was open to spring hunting for all licensed turkey hunters. Birds were harvested in an unprecedented 237 of Vermont's 253 towns, by 3,919 successful hunters.



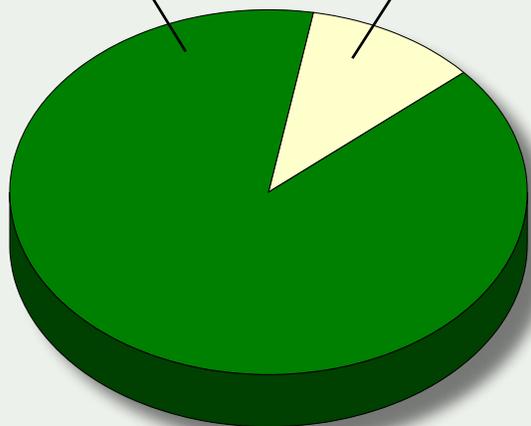
2007 LEGAL SPRING TURKEY HARVEST BY TOWN AND RESIDENCY

Town of Kill	Non-resident	Resident	Total
ADDISON	6	36	42
ALBANY		4	4
ALBURG		18	18
ANDOVER		13	13
ARLINGTON		30	30
ATHENS		5	5
BAKERSFIELD		15	15
BALTIMORE		7	7
BARNARD	7	13	20
BARNET	1	41	42
BARRE		43	43
BARTON		8	8
BELVIDERE		1	1
BENNINGTON	3	30	33
BENSON	6	35	41
BERKSHIRE		19	19
BERLIN	1	28	29
BETHEL	3	32	35
BLOOMFIELD	1	7	8
BOLTON	1	5	6
BRADFORD	6	23	29
BRAINTREE	1	27	28
BRANDON		18	18
BRATTLEBORO	1	19	20
BRIDGEWATER		22	22
BRIDPORT	1	41	42
BRIGHTON		4	4
BRISTOL		21	21
BROOKFIELD	1	41	42
BROOKLINE		6	6
BROWNINGTON		8	8
BRUNSWICK		4	4
BURKE		16	16
CABOT	1	33	34
CALAIS		18	18
CAMBRIDGE		19	19
CANAAN		5	5
CASTLETON	2	38	40
CAVENDISH		23	23
CHARLESTON	1	29	30
CHARLOTTE	2	59	61
CHELSEA	2	29	31
CHESTER	1	50	51
CHITTENDEN	2	16	18
CLARENDON	2	28	30
COLCHESTER		21	21
CONCORD	3	17	20
CORINTH	2	31	33

TURKEY HARVEST BY SEASON 5,024 TOTAL SPRING HARVEST

Regular May Season
4,480 Turkeys
89% of Harvest

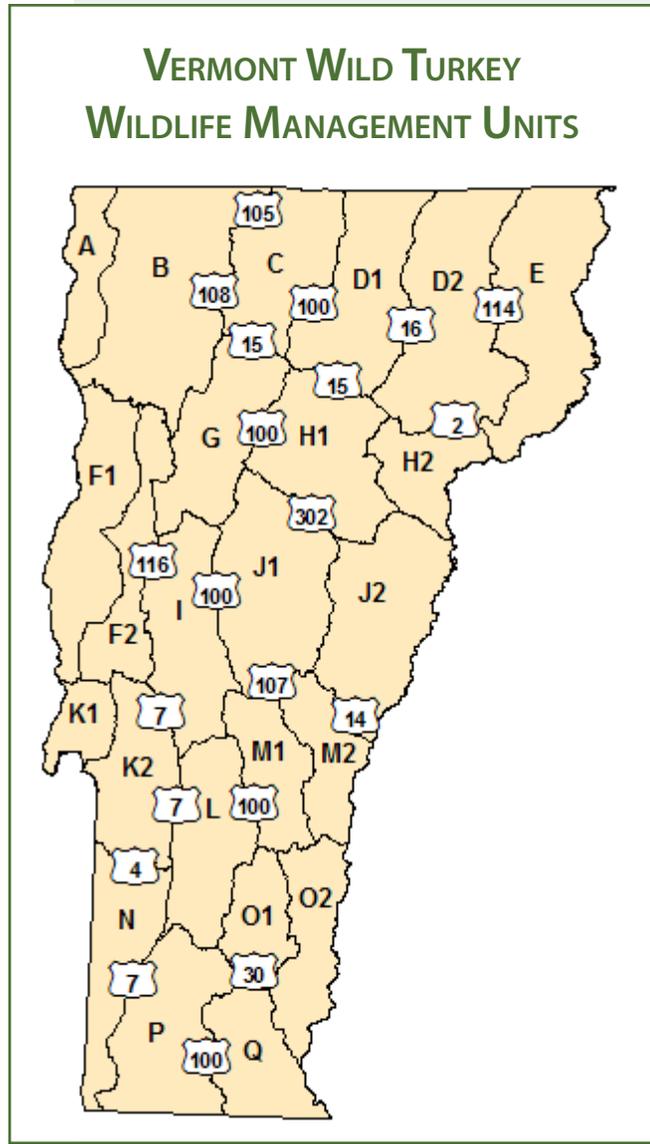
Youth Season
544 Turkeys
11% of Harvest



2007 LEGAL SPRING TURKEY HARVEST BY TOWN AND RESIDENCY

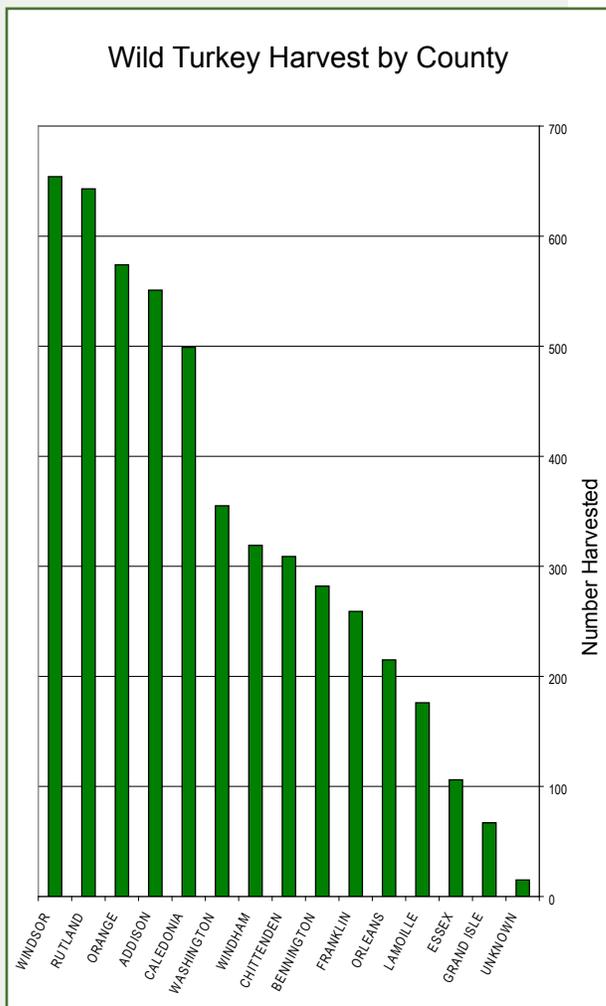
Town of Kill	Non-resident	Resident	Total
CORNWALL		23	23
COVENTRY		6	6
CRAFTSBURY		21	21
DANBY	1	36	37
DANVILLE	2	43	45
DERBY	1	13	14
DORSET	3	23	26
DOVER	3	13	16
DUMMERSTON	2	19	21
DUXBURY		4	4
E HAVEN		1	1
E MONTPELIER		34	34
EDEN		9	9
ELMORE		12	12
ENOSBURG		21	21
ESSEX		16	16
FAIR HAVEN	2	8	10
FAIRFAX		32	32
FAIRFIELD		29	29
FAIRLEE		13	13
FAYSTON		5	5
FERDINAND		3	3
FERRISBURG		55	55
FLETCHER		15	15
FRANKLIN		10	10
GEORGIA		23	23
GLASTENBURY		2	2
GLOVER		17	17
GOSHEN		2	2
GRAFTON		14	14
GRANBY		7	7
GRAND ISLE		23	23
GRANVILLE		5	5
GREENSBORO		22	22
GROTON	2	31	33
GUILDHALL	10	7	17
GUILFORD	4	22	26
HALIFAX		11	11
HANCOCK		5	5
HARDWICK		36	36
HARTFORD	3	26	29
HARTLAND	7	23	30
HIGHGATE		32	32
HINESBURG		41	41
HOLLAND	1	12	13
HUBBARDTON	2	30	32
HUNTINGTON		6	6
HYDE PARK		10	10

The 2007 harvest was up over last year's record in 18 of Vermont's 24 Wildlife Management Units (WMU's) lead by WMU J1 with 427 birds reported, followed by J2 (394 birds) and K2 (328 birds reported) in central Vermont. Harvests were down slightly in the northeast in WMU's D1, D2, E and H1.





Windsor County led with the highest harvest numbers reported (654 birds) followed closely by Rutland County (643) Orange County (574) and Addison (551).



2007 LEGAL SPRING TURKEY HARVEST BY TOWN AND RESIDENCY

Town of Kill	Non-resident	Resident	Total
IRA		16	16
IRASBURG		6	6
JAMAICA		9	9
JAY		3	3
JERICO		8	8
JOHNSON		20	20
KIRBY	5	21	26
LANDGROVE		1	1
LEICESTER		9	9
LINCOLN		10	10
LONDONDERRY		11	11
LOWELL		8	8
LUDLOW		16	16
LUNENBURG	9	20	29
LYNDON	1	34	35
MAIDSTONE	1		1
MANCHESTER		14	14
MARLBORO	1	8	9
MARSHFIELD	1	19	20
MENDON		7	7
MIDDLEBURY		33	33
MIDDLESEX		13	13
MIDDLETOWN		36	37
SPRINGS	1		1
MILTON		49	49
MONKTON		34	34
MONTGOMERY		18	18
MONTPELIER		3	3
MORETOWN		16	16
MORGAN	2	6	8
MORRISTOWN		37	37
MT HOLLY		13	13
MT TABOR	1	3	4
N HERO		8	8
NEW HAVEN	2	52	54
NEWARK		11	11
NEWBURY	26	54	80
NEWFANE	2	22	24
NEWPORT		19	19
NORTHFIELD		25	25
NORTON	1	3	4
NORWICH	10	17	27
ORANGE	2	26	28
ORWELL	5	50	55
PANTON	1	19	20
PAWLET	12	49	61
PEACHAM	1	25	26
PERU		4	4
PITTSFIELD	1	5	6

2007 LEGAL SPRING TURKEY HARVEST BY TOWN AND RESIDENCY

Town of Kill	Non-resident	Resident	Total
PITTSFORD	4	39	43
PLAINFIELD		25	25
PLYMOUTH	1	12	13
POMFRET	9	36	45
POULTNEY	1	43	44
POWNAI	2	36	38
PROCTOR		7	7
PUTNEY		7	7
RANDOLPH	4	45	49
READING	1	13	14
READSBORO		9	9
RICHFORD		17	17
RICHMOND		22	22
RIPTON		11	11
ROCHESTER	4	20	24
ROCKINGHAM	8	26	34
ROXBURY		10	10
ROYALTON	1	26	27
RUPERT	11	40	51
RUTLAND TOWN		8	8
RYEGATE	18	58	76
S HERO	1	17	18
SALISBURY		21	21
SANDGATE	1	21	22
SHAFTSBURY		27	27
SHARON	4	25	29
SHEFFIELD	1	13	14
SHELBURNE		20	20
SHELDON		15	15
SHERBURNE		2	2
SHOREHAM	1	54	55
SHREWSBURY		21	21
SPRINGFIELD	7	46	53
ST ALBANS		8	8
ST GEORGE		2	2
ST JOHNSBURY		33	33
STAMFORD	1	5	6
STANNARD		8	8
STARSBORO		18	18
STOCKBRIDGE	1	22	23
STOWE	3	34	37
STRAFFORD	7	22	29
STRATTON	2	4	6
SUDBURY	2	12	14
SUNDERLAND	2	4	6
SUTTON		15	15
SWANTON		5	5
THETFORD	4	14	18

The 2007 harvest is the seventh new spring turkey harvest record produced in the past ten years. In 1998, the Department's Wild Turkey Management Team initiated structural changes in the turkey hunting season to strongly emphasize high quality spring hunting over providing more fall hunting opportunities. The Team believes this management strategy helped stimulate a three-fold population increase over subsequent years, resulting in this string of record harvests. Examination of longer-term harvest trends suggests that after a fairly dramatic population increase through the period of mid- to late-1990s and into early 2000s, Vermont's turkey population may be stabilizing in the last few years near peak historic levels.

In the interest of maintaining Vermont's high quality spring turkey hunting seasons, and in light of our recent record harvests, the management team feels our current, conservative fall harvest structure is most appropriate and should be continued.



2007 LEGAL SPRING TURKEY HARVEST BY TOWN AND RESIDENCY

Town of Kill	Non-resident	Resident	Total
TINMOUTH		20	20
TOPSHAM	8	14	22
TOWNSHEND		29	29
TROY		19	19
TUNBRIDGE	4	39	43
UNDERHILL		16	16
UNKNOWN	5	11	16
VERNON	1	9	10
VERSHIRE	2	20	22
VICTORY		3	3
W FAIRLEE		18	18
W HAVEN	1	27	28
W RUTLAND		31	31
W WINDSOR	4	18	22
WAITSFIELD		11	11
WALDEN		30	30
WALLINGFORD		30	30
WALTHAM		12	12
WARDSBORO		11	11
WARREN		20	20
WASHINGTON	3	26	29
WATERBURY		29	29
WATERFORD	3	41	44
WATERVILLE		2	2
WEATHERSFIELD	18	48	66
WELLS	4	21	25
WESTFIELD	1	4	5
WESTFORD		22	22
WESTMINSTER	4	15	19
WESTMORE		4	4
WESTON		6	6
WEYBRIDGE		11	11
WHEELOCK		9	9
WHITING		13	13
WHITINGHAM	2	8	10
WILLIAMSTOWN	2	58	60
WILLISTON		19	19
WILMINGTON	1	12	13
WINDHAM		8	8
WINDSOR	4	18	22
WINHALL		8	8
WOLCOTT		29	29
WOODBURY		5	5
WOODFORD		4	4
WOODSTOCK	2	35	37
WORCESTER		11	11
TOTALS	355	4,669	5,024



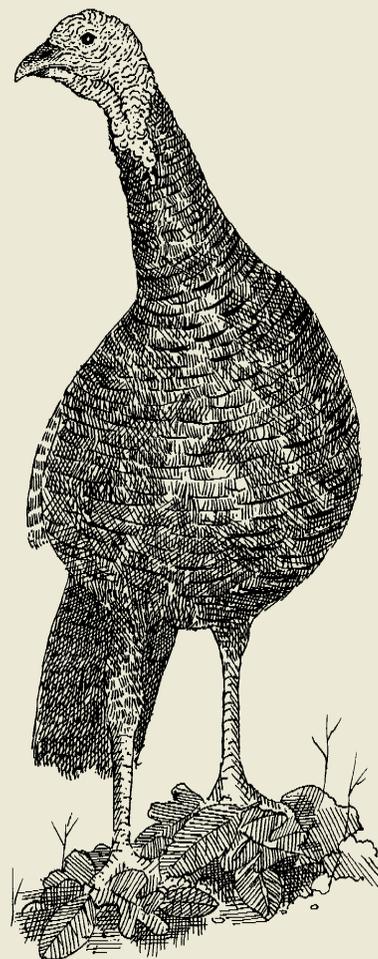
Wayne Laroche

2007 LEGAL FALL TURKEY HARVEST BY TOWN AND METHOD

Town of Kill	Bow	Shotgun	Total
ADDISON		11	11
ANDOVER		1	1
ARLINGTON		4	4
ATHENS	1	1	2
BALTIMORE		3	3
BARNARD		4	4
BARNET		23	23
BARRE	1	6	7
BENNINGTON	1	7	8
BENSON		5	5
BERLIN	2	11	13
BETHEL	1	11	12
BRADFORD		4	4
BRAINTREE	1	15	16
BRANDON	1	8	9
BRATTLEBORO	3	4	7
BRIDGEWATER	1	8	9
BRIDPORT		12	12
BRISTOL		15	15
BROOKFIELD		21	21
BROOKLINE		1	1
CABOT	2	16	18
CAMBRIDGE	1	10	11
CASTLETON		2	2
CAVENDISH		3	3
CHARLOTTE		11	11
CHELSEA		18	18
CHESTER		5	5
CHITTENDEN		1	1
CLARENDON		6	6
CORINTH		10	10
CORNWALL		5	5
DANBY		8	8
DANVILLE	1	5	6
DORSET	1	1	2
DOVER	1	3	4
DUMMERSTON		2	2
DUXBURY		2	2
E MONTPELIER	1		1
FAIR HAVEN		1	1
FAIRLEE		1	1
FAYSTON		3	3
FERRISBURG		16	16
GEORGIA		1	1
GRAFTON		5	5
GRANVILLE		2	2

Fall Turkey Season

The 2007 fall season resulted in a harvest of 1,060 either-sex birds, up 283 % from the fall 2006 harvest of 374 birds and substantially higher than the previous three fall season's harvest average of 844 birds. A very poor fall hard mast crop coupled with successful spring nesting conditions in 2007 are two significant factors which likely contributed to this increased harvest. It is important to note however that fall harvests typically are poor indicators of Vermont's turkey population trend.



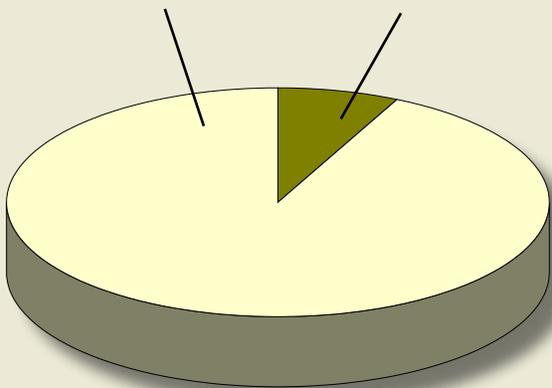
The 2007 fall archery-only season accounted for 78 of the harvested birds, with the balance of the birds (982) taken in the shotgun season. Fall birds were taken in 147 Vermont towns.

FALL TURKEY HARVEST METHOD OF HARVEST

1,060 TURKEYS HARVESTED

Shotgun
982 Birds
93% of Harvest

Archery
78 Birds
7% of Harvest



2007 LEGAL FALL TURKEY HARVEST BY TOWN AND METHOD

Town of Kill	Bow	Shotgun	Total
GROTON	3	13	16
GUILFORD	1	1	2
HALIFAX	1	2	3
HARTFORD	1	7	8
HARTLAND	1	6	7
HINESBURG		12	12
HUBBARDTON		4	4
HUNTINGTON		2	2
IRA		4	4
JOHNSON	1	5	6
LEICESTER		2	2
LINCOLN	1	2	3
LONDONDERRY		9	9
LUDLOW	1	2	3
MANCHESTER		7	7
MARLBORO		3	3
MENDON		1	1
MIDDLEBURY		8	8
MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS		9	9
MONKTON	1	8	9
MORETOWN	2	10	12
MORRISTOWN	2	16	18
MT HOLLY		4	4
NEW HAVEN		14	14
NEWBURY	1	18	19
NEWFANE		2	2
NORTHFIELD		3	3
NORWICH	1	4	5
ORANGE		2	2
ORWELL		13	13
PAWLET		25	25
PEACHAM	1	13	14
PERU		1	1
PITTSFORD		30	30
PLAINFIELD	1		1
PLYMOUTH		2	2
POMFRET		11	11
POULTNEY		10	10
POWNAI		6	6
PROCTOR		3	3
PUTNEY		1	1
RANDOLPH		21	21
READSBORO		2	2
RICHMOND	2	5	7
ROCHESTER		16	16
ROCKINGHAM		8	8

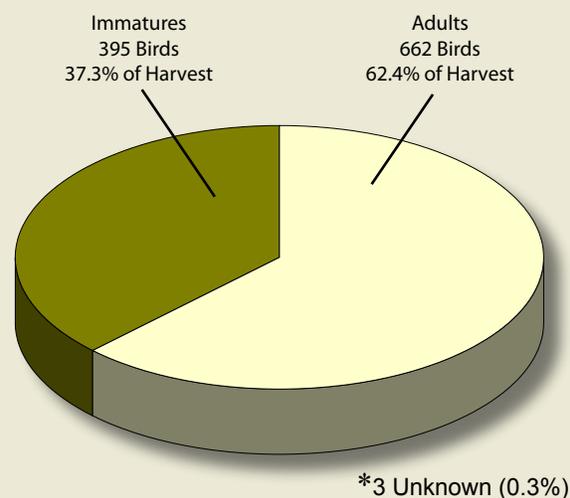


2007 LEGAL FALL TURKEY HARVEST BY TOWN AND METHOD

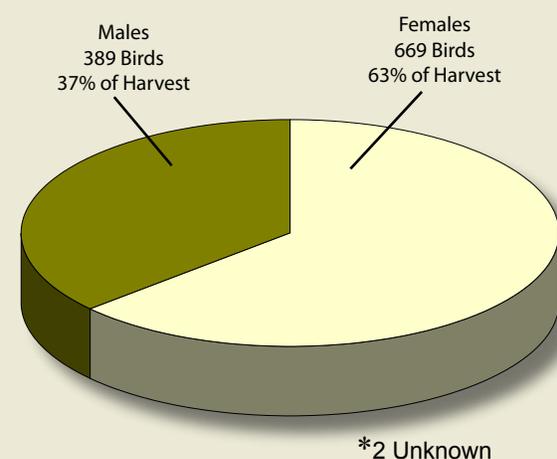
Town of Kill	Bow	Shotgun	Total
ROXBURY		2	2
ROYALTON		8	8
RUPERT	3	12	15
RUTLAND TOWN		3	3
RYEGATE	3	28	31
SALISBURY		3	3
SANDGATE		1	1
SHAFTSBURY		7	7
SHARON	1	3	4
SHELBURNE		4	4
SHOREHAM		9	9
SHREWSBURY	1	5	6
SPRINGFIELD	3	11	14
ST GEORGE		2	2
ST JOHNSBURY		5	5
STARSBORO		7	7
STOCKBRIDGE	1	4	5
STOWE	5	9	14
STRAFFORD		6	6
SUDBURY	1	3	4
THETFORD	1	5	6
TINMOUTH		7	7
TOPSHAM	1	8	9
TOWNSHEND		9	9
TUNBRIDGE	2	11	13
UNDERHILL		4	4
UNKNOWN		4	4
VERNON	1		1
VERSHIRE		7	7
W HAVEN		3	3
W RUTLAND		6	6
W WINDSOR		7	7
WAITSFIELD	2	7	9
WALLINGFORD		4	4
WALTHAM		2	2
WARDSBORO	1	3	4
WARREN		3	3
WASHINGTON		2	2
WATERBURY		3	3
WATERFORD	2	22	24
WEATHERSFIELD	2	12	14
WELLS		6	6
WESTMINSTER	1	2	3
WESTON		1	1
WEYBRIDGE		3	3
WHITING		3	3

As many of our reporting agents (and hunters) have a difficult time discerning the sex and age of fall harvested birds (particularly immature birds) we have learned to view the accuracy of our fall sex and age reported data with caution and some skepticism. Final tallies indicate immature birds comprised 37% of the harvest, while the female cohort accounted for 63% of the total harvest. Of this female component, 71% were adult birds and 29% immature. The immature to adult female ratio was 1: 2.4.

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF HARVEST*



SEX DISTRIBUTION OF HARVEST*





2007 LEGAL FALL TURKEY HARVEST BY TOWN AND METHOD

Town of Kill	Bow	Shotgun	Total
WHITINGHAM		5	5
WILLIAMSTOWN	2	22	24
WILLISTON		5	5
WILMINGTON	1	5	6
WINDSOR		3	3
WINHALL	1	4	5
WOLCOTT	2		2
WOODSTOCK		2	2
WORCESTER	1	1	2
Total	78	982	1,060

Wildlife Management Unit J1 reported the highest number of fall birds with 178 taken, followed by WMU H2 with 129 birds and K2 reporting 107.

Wild Turkey Harvest by WMU

