

2010 VERMONT WILDLIFE HARVEST REPORT Wild Turkey



Tony Immediato



Ben Alexopoulos



Bill Crenshaw



VERMONT

FISH & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

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



2010 VERMONT WILD 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.

Contents

Wild Turkey Population Status	2
Spring Turkey Season	2
2010 Spring Turkey Harvest by WMU	3
2010 Spring Turkey Harvest by County and Age.....	4
2010 Legal Spring Turkey Harvest by Town	4-7
Fall Turkey Season	8
2010 Legal Fall Turkey Harvest by Town and Method	9-11
2010 Fall Turkey Harvest by County and Method	11



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

103 South Main Street, 10 South
Waterbury, Vermont 05671-0501

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

2010 Wild Turkey Report

Wild Turkey Population Status

Vermont's current wild turkey population is estimated at 50,000 to 60,000 birds in the fall. Wild turkeys occur throughout the state and are hunted in all 24 Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) during the spring season and all but three (3) northern WMUs during the fall season. Examination of long-term trends of harvest and hunter effort suggest 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.

Department staff conducts a brood survey during August and September and host a public "web" brood survey during August. The results of the surveys are important in tracking annual recruitment in the population as winter severity and spring weather conditions influence chick survival and overall population size. The wild turkey brood Production Index (PI) is the total poults/total adult hens (poults:hen ratio) compiled from August and September into one combined index and August only for the public web survey. In 2010, the statewide mean was 2.9 poults:hen (PI) for the department survey and 3.4 PI for the public survey. In both 2009 and 2010, results of the brood surveys indicated lower than average PI, but increasingly high numbers of overall turkey observations as well as an increased number of total birds observed per mile driven. This information indicates that the population is increasing.



2010 Harvest

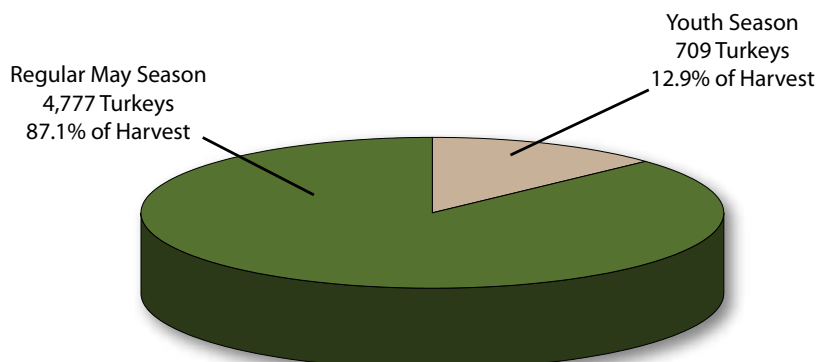
Eighteen thousand three hundred and sixty-five licensed hunters harvested 6,877 wild turkeys between the spring and fall hunting seasons, 5,742 of which were bearded turkeys. The overall success harvest for 2010 was 37.5%, based on license sales and total harvest. The majority of turkeys were harvested during the spring season (79.8%) while the fall season harvest increased substantially with the opening for the first time of four (4) northern WMUs (B, D1, D2, and H1). Vermont allows only half-day hunting during the spring season. The spring season is for the month of May while the fall season occurs as either a 9-day or a 16-day season in October with the length varying by WMU. The bag limit is 2 bearded birds in the spring and 1 bird of any sex in the fall. Harvest registration is mandatory.

Spring Turkey Season Summary

Vermont's 2010 spring season resulted in a harvest of 5,486 bearded birds, 10% less than the all-time record harvest of 6,107 bearded birds taken by hunters in 2009. The 2010 harvest includes the 709 birds taken in the 2-day, April youth turkey hunting weekend (Table 1). The youth season contribution to the total spring turkey harvest was 12.9%.

Season	Non-Resident	Resident	Total
Youth Turkey	20	689	709
Regular May	356	4,421	4,777
Total	376	5,110	5,486

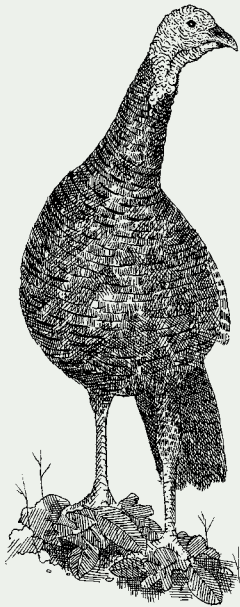
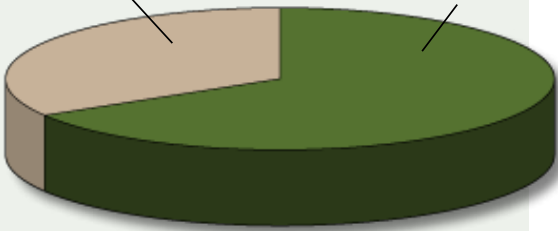
TURKEY HARVEST BY SEASON - 5,486 TOTAL SPRING HARVEST



TURKEY HARVEST BY AGE
5,486 TOTAL SPRING HARVEST

Immature Birds
 1,837 Turkeys
 34% of Harvest

Adult Birds
 3,649 Turkeys
 66% of Harvest



Hunter success rates remained quite high with 20.1% of hunters harvesting at least one turkey. Among these successful hunters, an impressive 12.2% of them harvested a second bearded bird to fill the 2-bird spring bag limit. Hunting pressure in 2010, measured in terms of spring turkey license sales (16,569) was only slightly higher (1.0%) than 2009 license sales of 16,418.

Adult birds comprised a higher percentage of the harvest (66%) while immature birds comprised the remaining 34% (Table 2). The 2010 season also included 54 bearded hens in the tally. Birds were harvested in an unprecedented 243 of Vermont's 253 towns, 4 more towns than were reported for 2009 (Table 5).

Table 2. Sex and Age of Spring 2010 Turkey Harvest

Sex	Adult	Immature	Total
Bearded Female	54	0	54
Male	3,595	1,837	5,432
Total	3,649 (66%)	1,837 (34%)	5,486

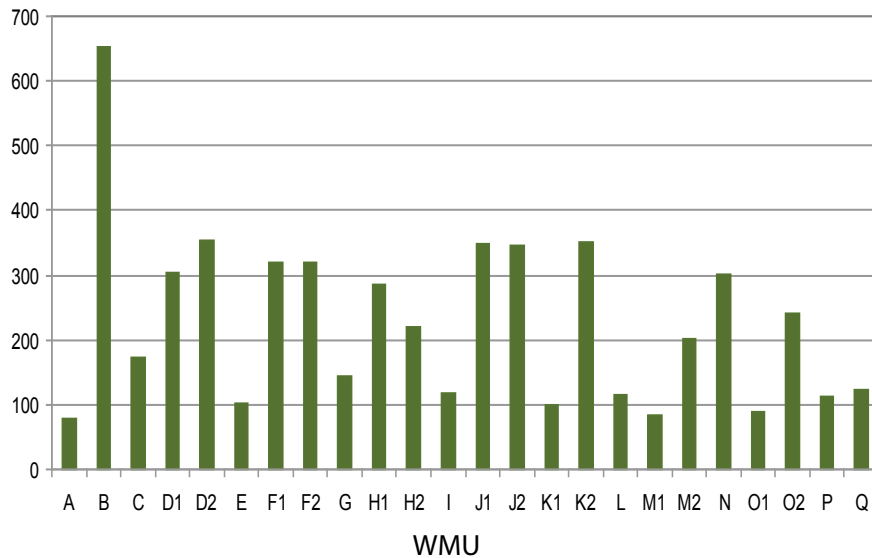
Wild turkeys were harvested again in all of Vermont's 24 Wildlife Management Units (WMUs). WMU B, with 653 birds reported, had the highest harvest followed by D2 in northeastern Vermont (354 birds) and K2 (351 birds reported) in western Vermont (Table 3).

Wildlife Management Unit A (Champlain Islands) recorded the highest density of turkeys taken with 3.76 turkeys harvested per square mile of habitat. As to county harvest, Rutland County led this year with the highest harvest numbers reported (626

Table 3. Spring 2010 Wild Turkey Harvest by WMU

WMU	Number Harvested	Turkeys Harvested Per Mi2 of Habitat
A	79	3.76
B	653	1.65
C	173	0.49
D1	304	0.88
D2	354	0.65
E	101	0.18
F1	321	3.19
F2	320	2.27
G	145	0.4
H1	285	0.72
H2	219	1.13
I	119	0.29
J1	348	0.73
J2	347	0.73
K1	99	1.16
K2	351	1.38
L	115	0.33
M1	84	0.34
M2	201	0.97
N	301	1.08
O1	88	0.45
O2	241	0.94
P	114	0.26
Q	124	0.45
Total	5,486	

Wild Turkey Harvest by WMUs



birds) followed closely by Windsor County (604), Franklin County (575), and Addison County (556) (Table 4).

Management strategies for wild turkeys in Vermont continue to emphasize high quality spring hunting. The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department believes this management strategy helped stimulate a three-fold population increase over subsequent years, resulting in an impressive string of record harvests. Examination of long-term trends of harvest and hunter effort suggest 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 Department believes it's most appropriate to continue our overall management strategy of a modest fall harvest structure but to allow some increased hunting opportunities for a fall harvest in additional WMUs where the spring harvest has increased in recent years.

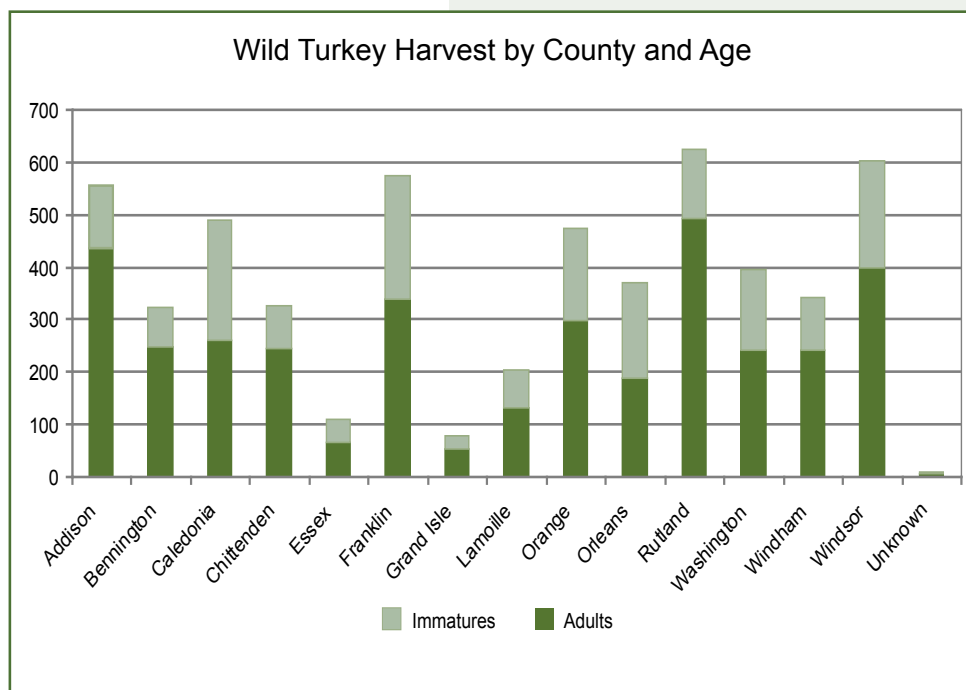


TABLE 5. 2010 LEGAL SPRING TURKEY HARVEST BY TOWN

County	Town	Harvest
ADDISON	Addison	46
	Bridport	36
	Bristol	22
	Cornwall	29
	Ferrisburg	46
	Goshen	2
	Granville	4
	Hancock	6
	Leicester	14
	Lincoln	17
	Middlebury	32
	Monkton	29
	New Haven	59
	Orwell	58
	Panton	14
	Ripton	6
	Salisbury	17
	Shoreham	71
	Starksboro	19
	Vergennes	2

County	Adult	Immature	Total
Addison	436	120	556
Bennington	249	74	323
Caledonia	262	228	490
Chittenden	246	81	327
Essex	67	44	111
Franklin	338	237	575
Grand Isle	52	27	79
Lamoille	132	73	205
Orange	299	175	474
Orleans	187	184	371
Rutland	494	132	626
Washington	243	151	394
Windham	241	102	343
Windsor	398	206	604
Unknown	5	3	8
TOTAL	3,649	1,837	5,486

continued on page 5

TABLE 5. 2010 LEGAL SPRING TURKEY HARVEST BY TOWN

County	Town	Harvest
ADDISON (CONT.)	Waltham	5
	Weybridge	12
	Whiting	10
	Total	556
BENNINGTON	Arlington	34
	Bennington	39
	Dorset	29
	Landgrove	1
	Manchester	18
	Peru	7
	Pownal	43
	Readsboro	7
	Rupert	50
	Sandgate	26
	Searsburg	1
	Shaftsbury	36
	Stamford	10
	Sunderland	11
	Winhall	3
	Woodford	8
	Total	323
CALEDONIA	Barnet	49
	Burke	16
	Danville	46
	Groton	20
	Hardwick	48
	Kirby	30
	Lyndon	49
	Newark	10
	Peacham	31
	Ryegate	56
	Sheffield	9
	St. Johnsbury	29
	Stannard	6
	Sutton	27
	Walden	21
	Waterford	38
Wheelock	5	
	Total	490
CHITTENDEN	Bolton	6

County	Town	Harvest
CHITTENDEN (CONT.)	Buels Gore	1
	Charlotte	47
	Colchester	38
	Essex	24
	Hinesburg	32
	Huntington	6
	Jericho	9
	Milton	42
	Richmond	24
	Shelburne	16
	St. George	3
	Underhill	18
	Westford	42
	Williston	19
		Total
ESSEX	Bloomfield	10
	Brighton	9
	Brunswick	2
	Canaan	4
	Concord	22
	East Haven	2
	Ferdinand	3
	Granby	3
	Guildhall	10
	Lemington	2
	Lunenburg	23
	Maidstone	7
Norton	10	
Victory	4	
	Total	111
FRANKLIN	Bakersfield	29
	Berkshire	50
	Enosburg	48
	Fairfax	57
	Fairfield	60
	Fletcher	27
	Franklin	44
	Georgia	18
	Highgate	86
	Montgomery	25
Richford	31	

TABLE 5. 2010 LEGAL SPRING TURKEY HARVEST BY TOWN

County	Town	Harvest
FRANKLIN (CONT.)	Sheldon	40
	St. Albans	27
	Swanton	33
	Total	575
GRAND ISLE	Alburg	21
	Grand Isle	22
	Isle La Motte	1
	North Hero	13
	South Hero	22
		Total
LAMOILLE	Belvidere	2
	Cambridge	36
	Eden	12
	Elmore	7
	Hyde Park	20
	Johnson	20
	Morristown	35
	Stowe	42
	Waterville	10
	Wolcott	21
		Total
ORANGE	Bradford	33
	Braintree	20
	Brookfield	37
	Chelsea	31
	Corinth	36
	Fairlee	12
	Newbury	74
	Orange	11
	Randolph	45
	Strafford	26
	Thetford	22
	Topsham	29
	Tunbridge	11
	Vershire	14
	West Fairlee	15
	Washington	6
	Williamstown	52
	Total	474

County	Town	Harvest
ORLEANS	Albany	6
	Barton	28
	Brownington	11
	Charleston	34
	Coventry	18
	Craftsbury	35
	Derby	17
	Glover	31
	Greensboro	34
	Holland	15
	Irasburg	22
	Jay	11
	Lowell	14
	Morgan	18
Newport	38	
Troy	26	
Westfield	7	
Westmore	6	
	Total	371
RUTLAND	Benson	42
	Brandon	39
	Castleton	21
	Chittenden	23
	Clarendon	36
	Danby	32
	Fair Haven	5
	Hubbardton	15
	Ira	11
	Mendon	6
	Middletown	25
	Springs	
	Mount Holly	12
	Mount Tabor	7
	Pawlet	66
	Pittsfield	10
	Pittsford	37
Poultney	47	
Proctor	10	
Rutland Town	21	
Sherburne	4	
Shrewsbury	16	
Sudbury	21	

TABLE 5. 2010 LEGAL SPRING TURKEY HARVEST BY TOWN

County	Town	Harvest
RUTLAND (CONT.)	Tinmouth	21
	West Haven	33
	West Rutland	20
	Wallingford	29
	Wells	17
	Total	626
WASHINGTON	Barre	36
	Berlin	48
	Cabot	31
	Calais	19
	Duxbury	7
	East Montpelier	53
	Fayston	9
	Marshfield	31
	Middlesex	16
	Montpelier	6
	Moretown	18
	Northfield	16
	Plainfield	28
	Roxbury	9
	Waitsfield	14
	Warren	10
	Waterbury	30
	Woodbury	6
	Worcester	7
	Total	394
WINDHAM	Athens	6
	Brattleboro	4
	Brookline	12
	Dover	15
	Dummerston	13
	Grafton	15
	Guilford	9
	Halifax	20
	Jamaica	18
	Londonderry	15
	Marlboro	9
	Newfane	25
	Putney	20
	Rockingham	35
	Somerset	1

County	Town	Harvest
WINDHAM (CONT.)	Stratton	7
	Townshend	38
	Vernon	5
	Wardsboro	7
	Westminster	12
	Whitingham	23
	Wilmington	25
	Windham	9
	Total	343
WINDSOR	Andover	9
	Baltimore	11
	Barnard	12
	Bethel	25
	Bridgewater	15
	Cavendish	15
	Chester	60
	Hartford	37
	Hartland	47
	Ludlow	13
	Norwich	20
	Plymouth	10
	Pomfret	41
	Reading	15
	Rochester	24
	Royalton	15
	Sharon	25
	Springfield	63
	Stockbridge	17
	West Windsor	18
Weathersfield	42	
Weston	14	
Windsor	23	
Woodstock	33	
Total	604	
UNKNOWN	Unknown	8
Statewide Total		5,486

Fall Turkey Season Summary

The 2010 fall season resulted in a harvest of 1,391 male and female turkeys, up 71% from the fall 2009 harvest of 812 birds and also greater than the previous three fall season's harvest average of 887 birds. The fall harvest accounted for 20.2% of the overall harvest for 2010. The opening of four new WMUs to fall hunting was largely responsible for most of the increase in harvest.

The 2010 fall archery-only season accounted for 143 (or 10.3%) of the harvested birds, with the balance of the birds (1,248) taken in the shotgun season. Fall birds were taken in 203 Vermont towns, 6 more than in 2009 (Table 8) reflecting the opening of four new WMUs - B, D1, D2, and H1. Wildlife Management Unit J1 reported the highest number of fall birds with 143 taken, followed by WMU D2 with 142 birds and B reporting 132 (Table 6). The newly opened WMUs accounted for 35.9% of the harvest while the region of the state open for a 16-day season (F1, F2, K1, K2 and N) reported 18.2% of the fall harvest total (Table 7).

Final tallies indicate immature birds comprised 30.3% of the fall hunting season harvest, while females accounted for 51.2% of the total harvest. The adult female to immature ratio was 1: 0.59. A total of 256 adult males (6.7% of the total males harvested) were taken in the fall season as compared to 3,592 adult males taken in the spring season for a total of 3,848 adult male birds in all of 2010.

FALL TURKEY HARVEST METHOD OF HARVEST 1,391 TURKEYS HARVESTED

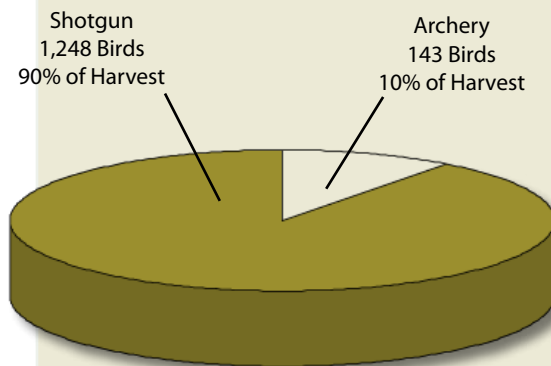


Table 7. 2010 Fall Wild Turkey Harvest by Region and Season Length

Region (WMUs)	Season Length	Birds Harvested
F1, F2, K1, K2, N	16-day season	253 (18%)
B, D1, D2, G, H1, H2, I, J1, J2, L, M1, M2, O1, O2, P and Q	9-day season	1,122 (82%)
New WMUs only (B, D1, D2 and H1)		499 (36%)

Table 6. 2010 Fall Wild Turkey Harvest by WMU

WMU	Harvest	% of Fall Harvest
B	132	9.5
D1	129	9.3
D2	142	10.2
F1	72	5.2
F2	55	4.0
G	79	5.7
H1	96	6.9
H2	74	5.3
I	15	1.1
J1	143	10.3
J2	110	7.9
K1	17	1.2
K2	69	5.0
L	20	1.4
M1	18	1.3
M2	42	3.0
N	40	2.9
O1	23	1.6
O2	44	3.2
P	30	2.2
Q	25	1.8
Unknown	16	1.1
Total	1,391	100%

SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF HARVEST 1,391 TURKEYS HARVESTED

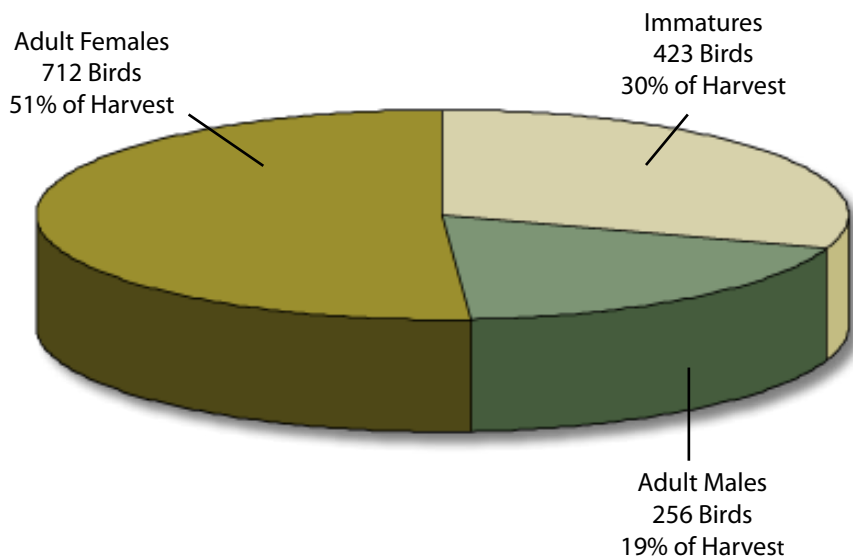


TABLE 8. 2010 LEGAL FALL TURKEY HARVEST BY TOWN AND METHOD

County	Town	Archery	Fall Gun	Total
ADDISON	Addison	2	6	8
	Bridport		6	6
	Cornwall	1	5	6
	Ferrisburg	1	3	4
	Hancock		1	1
	Leicester		5	5
	Lincoln		1	1
	Middlebury	1	2	3
	Monkton		8	8
	New Haven		11	11
	Orwell	1	7	8
	Panton		3	3
	Ripton		1	1
	Salisbury		1	1
	Shelburne		1	1
	Shoreham	1	15	16
	Starksboro		6	6
	Vergennes		1	1
	Waltham		2	2
Weybridge	1	8	9	
Whiting		4	4	
Total		8	97	105
BENNINGTON	Arlington		1	1
	Bennington	3	5	8
	Dorset		3	3
	Landgrove		1	1
	Manchester		1	1
	Peru		2	2
	Pownal		2	2
	Readsboro	1	2	3
	Rupert	1	12	13
	Shaftsbury		5	5
	Stamford	1		1
	Winhall		4	4
	Woodford		1	1
Total		6	39	45
CALEDONIA	Barnet	1	14	15
	Burke	1	14	15
	Danville	1	9	10
	Groton	2	4	6
	Hardwick	3	16	19
	Kirby		12	12

County	Town	Archery	Fall Gun	Total
CALEDONIA (CONT.)	Lyndon	4	18	22
	Newark		1	1
	Peacham		20	20
	Ryegate		16	16
	Sheffield		3	3
	Shelburne		1	1
	St. Johnsbury		8	8
	Sutton		11	11
	Walden		5	5
	Waterford		9	9
	Wheelock		3	3
Total		12	164	176
CHITTENDEN	Bolton		3	3
	Charlotte		12	12
	Colchester	1	7	8
	Essex		1	1
	Hinesburg	1	1	2
	Huntington		2	2
	Jericho	1		1
	Milton		9	9
	Richmond		6	6
	Shelburne		1	1
	Underhill		3	3
Westford		2	2	
Williston		6	6	
Total		3	53	56
ESSEX	Bloomfield	2		2
	Brighton		3	3
	Concord		2	2
	East Haven	1		1
Total		3	5	8
FRANKLIN	Bakersfield		9	9
	Berkshire		11	11
	Enosburg	3	3	6
	Fairfax	2	13	15
	Fairfield		15	15
	Fletcher		7	7
	Franklin		7	7
	Georgia	1	8	9
	Highgate	1	2	3
	Montgomery	2		2

TABLE 8. 2010 LEGAL FALL TURKEY HARVEST BY TOWN AND METHOD

County	Town	Archery	Fall Gun	Total
FRANKLIN (CONT.)	Richford		1	1
	Sheldon	3	6	9
	St. Albans	1	7	8
	Swanton	1	1	2
Total	14	90	104	
GRAND ISLE	Grand Isle	3	1	4
	South Hero	2		2
Total	5	1	6	
LAMOILLE	Cambridge	4	20	24
	Elmore	1	4	5
	Hyde Park	1	5	6
	Johnson	2	12	14
	Morristown	1	20	21
	Stowe	4	19	23
	Wolcott	4	9	13
Total	17	89	106	
ORANGE	Bradford		6	6
	Braintree		14	14
	Brookfield	2	14	16
	Chelsea	2	14	16
	Corinth		7	7
	Derby		1	1
	Fairlee		2	2
	Newbury		20	20
	Orange		6	6
	Randolph	3	13	16
	Ryegate		1	1
	Strafford	1	7	8
	Thetford		7	7
	Topsham		14	14
	Tunbridge	3	14	17
	Vershire		1	1
	West Fairlee		1	1
	Washington		9	9
	Williamstown	4	8	12
	Total	15	159	174
ORLEANS	Albany	1	4	5
	Barton	1	11	12
	Brownington		2	2
	Charleston	2	20	22
	Craftsbury	3	9	12

County	Town	Archery	Fall Gun	Total
ORLEANS (CONT.)	Derby		11	11
	Glover	1	6	7
	Greensboro		15	15
	Holland		9	9
	Irasburg	2	9	11
	Lowell		3	3
	Morgan	1	4	5
	Newport	1	22	23
	Troy		7	7
	Westmore		4	4
Total	12	136	148	
RUTLAND	Benson		9	9
	Brandon		5	5
	Castleton		3	3
	Chittenden		5	5
	Clarendon		4	4
	Danby		5	5
	Hubbardton		4	4
	Ira		3	3
	Middletown Springs		4	4
	Mount Holly	1	7	8
	Pawlet		11	11
	Pittsford	1	8	9
	Poultney	1	6	7
	Proctor		3	3
	Rutland Town		7	7
	Shrewsbury		5	5
	Sudbury		7	7
	Tinmouth		3	3
	West Haven	1	2	3
	West Rutland		7	7
Wallingford	1	2	3	
Wells		5	5	
Total	5	115	120	
WASHINGTON	Barre	4	7	11
	Berlin	3	11	14
	Bridgewater		1	1
	Cabot		11	11
	Calais	2	4	6
	Duxbury		3	3
	East Montpelier	4	12	16
Fayston	1	2	3	

TABLE 8. 2010 LEGAL FALL TURKEY HARVEST BY TOWN AND METHOD

County	Town	Archery	Fall Gun	Total	
WASHINGTON (CONT.)	Hartford		2	2	
	Ludlow		1	1	
	Marshfield	4	6	10	
	Middlesex	1	3	4	
	Montpelier		3	3	
	Moretown	1	5	6	
	Northfield		11	11	
	Plainfield		4	4	
	Rochester		1	1	
	Roxbury		3	3	
	Waitsfield		10	10	
	Warren		7	7	
	Waterbury	2	10	12	
	Worcester		5	5	
	Total		22	122	144
	WINDHAM	Brattleboro		2	2
Dover		1	3	4	
Dummerston			1	1	
Grafton		2	3	5	
Guilford		3	3	6	
Halifax		1	3	4	
Jamaica			3	3	
Londonderry			5	5	
Newfane			2	2	
Putney			3	3	
Rockingham			3	3	
Townshend		1	3	4	
Vernon			3	3	
Wardsboro			2	2	
Westminster			3	3	
Whitingham		1	15	16	

County	Town	Archery	Fall Gun	Total
WINDHAM (CONT.)	Wilmington	1	4	5
	Windham		1	1
	Total	10	62	72
WINDSOR	Andover		5	5
	Baltimore		2	2
	Barnard		1	1
	Bethel		6	6
	Bridgewater		4	4
	Cavendish	2	1	3
	Chester		11	11
	Hartford		9	9
	Hartland	1	6	7
	Ludlow		2	2
	Norwich		5	5
	Plymouth		2	2
	Pomfret		9	9
	Reading	1		1
	Rochester	1	5	6
	Royalton	1	8	9
	Sharon		2	2
	Springfield	1	11	12
	Stockbridge		3	3
	West Windsor		1	1
Wallingford		1	1	
Weathersfield	3	12	15	
Windsor		4	4	
Woodstock	1	5	6	
Total		11	115	126
UNKNOWN	Unknown		1	1
Statewide Total		143	1,248	1,391

