



2013 VERMONT WILDLIFE HARVEST REPORT – WILD TURKEY



VERMONT

FISH & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

(802) 828-1000 / www.vtfishandwildlife.com



Most of the programs described in this report are funded through the *Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program*. This program was initiated in 1937 as the Federal Aid in Wildlife Act and created a system whereby 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 uses these monies for acquiring land, and for restoring and managing wildlife. These excise tax dollars, coupled with state hunting license fees, have been the predominant source of money funding the successful restoration and management of Vermont's wildlife resources.

2013 Vermont Wild Turkey Harvest Report

Contents

Wild Turkey Population Status	1
2013 Harvest	1
2013 Spring Turkey Season Summary	2
2013 Fall Turkey Season Summary	4
Harvest by Town.....	6-12



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

1 National Life Drive, Davis 2

Montpelier, Vermont 05620-3702

(802) 828-1000 / www.vtfishandwildlife.com

2013 Wild Turkey Report

Wild Turkey Population Status

Vermont's wild turkey population was estimated at 45,000 to 50,000 birds in the fall of 2013. Wild turkeys occur throughout the state and are hunted in all 24 Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) during the spring and fall seasons. Examination of long-term trends of harvest and hunter effort suggests that Vermont's turkey population may have recently stabilized following a fairly dramatic population increase from the mid-1990s through 2008. The population also appears to have bounced back following a slight decline as a result of the severe winter of 2010.

Department staff conduct a brood survey during August and September. The results of the survey are important in tracking annual poult production 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 the August data. In 2013 the statewide ratio was 2.2 poults:hen (PI). Results of the August brood surveys indicate that overall production was down from the recent peak in 2012, and was below the 3-year average of 3.3 (Figure 1).

2013 Harvest

A total of 18,172 turkey licenses were purchased for the spring and fall turkey seasons, leading to a record annual harvest of 6,970 wild turkeys. Of those, 6,660 were bearded turkeys, including bearded females. Turkeys were harvested statewide in all 24 WMUs (Figure 2). The majority of turkeys were harvested during the regular spring season (80 percent). The 2013 fall season harvest was below the 3-year average of 1,077.



Wild Turkey

FIGURE 1. TOTAL WILD TURKEY HARVEST TRENDS BY SEASON IN VERMONT. SPRING NUMBERS INCLUDE YOUTH WEEKEND HARVEST

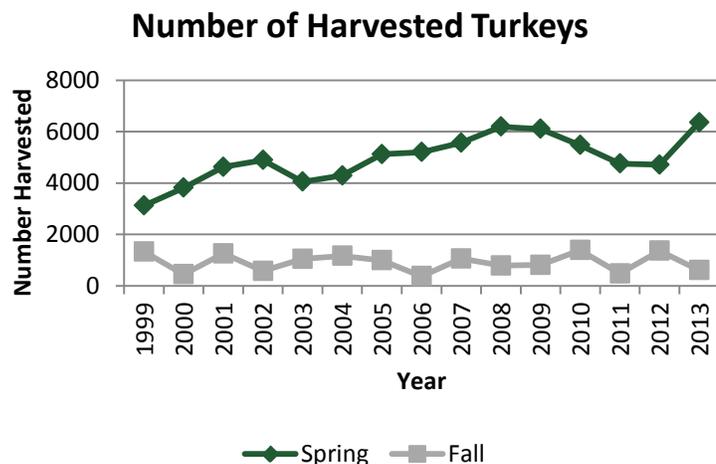
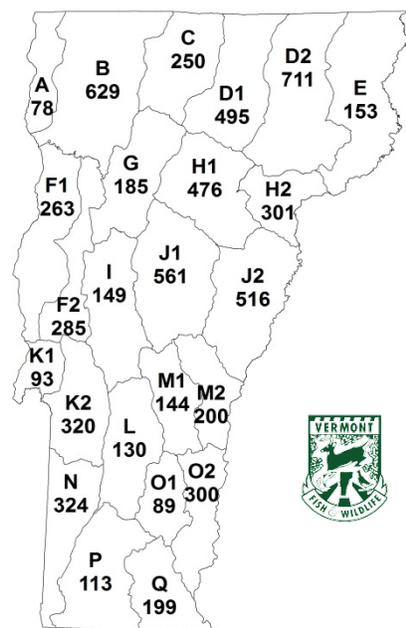


FIGURE 2. 2013 TURKEY HARVEST BY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT (WMU)



During the 2-day youth season, young hunters accompanied by older mentors harvested 782 bearded turkeys and enjoyed a success rate of 42 percent (Table 1). This is nearly double the 2012 success rate of 25 percent.

Vermont allows only half-day hunting during both the youth season and the regular spring season. The youth season is the last weekend in April, the regular 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 two bearded birds in the spring and one bird of any sex in the fall. Harvest registration is mandatory for all successful turkey hunters.

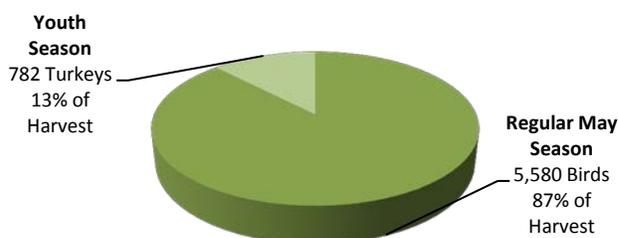
2013 Spring Turkey Season Summary

Vermont’s 2013 spring seasons resulted in a harvest of 6,362 bearded birds, which is well above the 3-year average of 4,977. The 2013 spring figure includes the 782 turkeys taken in the April youth hunting weekend (Table 1). The youth season contribution to the total spring turkey harvest was 13 percent, the same as seen in 2012 (Figure 3). Resident hunters took 93 percent of the total spring harvest.

Hunter success rates remained high in 2013 with 36 turkeys harvested for every 100 licensed hunters. In most years, an impressive 25 percent of successful hunters also harvest a second bearded bird to fill the two-bird spring bag limit. Hunting pressure in 2013, measured in terms of spring turkey license sales sold by June 1 (15,259) was down compared to the 3-year average of 16,853 licenses.

Adult turkeys comprised 61 percent of the total spring harvest, which is slightly lower than the 3-year average of 64 percent (Figure 4). The 2013 spring seasons also included 22 bearded hens in the tally (Table 2). Birds were harvested in 244 of Vermont’s 253 towns, 3 more towns than were reported for 2012 (Table 7).

**FIGURE 3.
TURKEY HARVEST BY SEASON
6,362 TOTAL SPRING HARVEST**



**FIGURE 4.
TURKEY HARVEST BY AGE
6,362 TOTAL SPRING HARVEST**

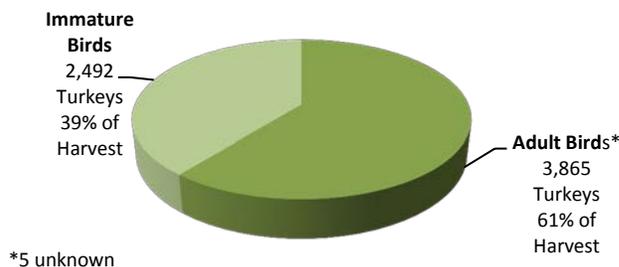


TABLE 1. 2013 SPRING TURKEY HARVEST BY SEASON

Season	Non-Resident	Resident	Unknown	Total
Youth Turkey Season	15	767	0	782
Regular May Season	416	5,164	0	5,580
TOTAL	431	5,931	0	6,362

Wild turkeys were harvested again in all of Vermont's 24 WMUs during the spring seasons. WMU B, with 585 birds reported, had the highest harvest followed by D2 in north-central Vermont (573 birds), and J1 (521 birds) in east-central Vermont (Table 3). WMU A (Champlain Islands) recorded the highest density of turkeys taken with 3.52 bearded turkeys harvested per square mile of forested habitat. Orange County led

TABLE 3. 2013 REGULAR AND YOUTH SPRING SEASON WILD TURKEY HARVESTS BY WMU

WMU	Number Harvested	Turkeys Harvested Per Mi ² of Habitat
A	74	3.52
B	585	1.48
C	246	0.70
D1	412	1.19
D2	573	1.04
E	152	0.28
F1	246	2.44
F2	255	1.85
G	170	0.46
H1	420	1.06
H2	256	1.37
I	144	0.35
J1	521	1.09
J2	483	1.01
K1	92	1.16
K2	306	1.18
L	123	0.35
M1	140	0.56
M2	191	0.94
N	305	1.10
O1	84	0.44
O2	278	1.08
P	108	0.24
Q	195	0.71
Unknown	6	—
TOTAL	6,362	—

TABLE 2. SEX AND AGE OF TOTAL SPRING 2013 HARVEST

Sex	Adult	Immature	Unknown	Total
Bearded Female	22	0	0	22
Male	3,843	2,492	5	6,340
TOTAL	3,865	2,492	5	6,362
	(61%)	(39%)		

among Vermont counties in 2013 with the highest harvest numbers reported (704 birds) followed by Windsor County (685 birds), Caledonia County (632 birds), and Rutland County (604 birds) (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 has helped stimulate a three-fold population increase over the history of the turkey project, resulting in an impressive string of record harvests.

TABLE 4. 2013 REGULAR SPRING AND YOUTH SEASON HARVEST BY COUNTY

County	Adult	Immature	Unknown	Total
Addison	306	163	1	470
Bennington	216	104	0	320
Caledonia	357	274	1	632
Chittenden	146	105	0	251
Essex	98	79	0	177
Franklin	290	270	0	560
Grand Isle	45	29	0	74
Lamoille	182	160	0	342
Orange	449	254	1	704
Orleans	304	265	0	569
Rutland	418	185	1	604
Washington	308	211	0	519
Windham	286	162	0	448
Windsor	453	231	1	685
Unknown	7	0	0	7
TOTAL	3,865	2,492	5	6,362

2013 Fall Turkey Season Summary

The 2013 fall season resulted in a harvest of 608 either-sex turkeys, below the 3-year average of 1,077. The fall harvest accounted for 9 percent of the overall harvest for 2013. The lower-than-average fall harvest is likely due to below average poult productivity and a high fall mast production year. This is in contrast to 2012 when mast crops were much lower than normal, resulting in a higher fall harvest of turkeys for that year.

The 2013 fall archery-only season accounted for 79 (13 percent) of the fall harvested birds, with the balance of the birds (529) taken in the shotgun season (Figure 5). Fall birds were taken in 155 Vermont towns. WMU D2 reported the highest number of fall birds with 138 taken, followed by WMU D1 with 83 birds, H1 with 56, and H2 reporting 45 (Table 5). The region of the state with a 9-day season reported 85 percent of the fall harvest, while the region of the state open for a 16-day season (WMUs F1, F2, K1, K2, and N) reported 13 percent of the total fall harvest in Vermont (Table 6). The archery-only portion of the state (open for a 21-day season) reported 9 birds or 2 percent of the fall harvest.

In 2010 four additional WMUs were opened to fall turkey hunting (B, D1, D2, H1). Turkey hunting has proven successful in these WMUs, with 53 percent of the fall harvest reported there.

Immature birds comprised 30 percent of the fall hunting season harvest, while the female cohort accounted for 50 percent of the fall harvest (Figure 6). The adult female to immature ratio for the fall harvest was 1:1.66. A total of 122 adult males were taken in the fall season and 3,843 adult males taken in the spring season, for a total of 3,965 adult male birds in all of 2013.

FIGURE 5. TURKEY HARVEST BY SEASON
608 TOTAL FALL HARVEST

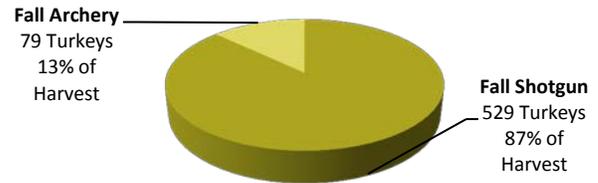


TABLE 5. 2013 FALL HARVEST BY WMU

WMU	Harvest	% of Fall Harvest
A	4	0.66%
B	44	7.24%
C	4	0.66%
D1	83	13.65%
D2	138	22.70%
E	1	0.16%
F1	17	2.80%
F2	30	4.93%
G	15	2.50%
H1	56	9.21%
H2	45	7.40%
I	5	0.82%
J1	40	6.58%
J2	33	5.43%
K1	1	0.16%
K2	14	2.30%
L	7	1.15%
M1	4	0.66%
M2	9	1.50%
N	19	3.13%
O1	5	0.82%
O2	22	3.62%
P	5	0.82%
Q	7	1.15%
TOTAL	608	100%

FIGURE 6. TURKEY HARVEST BY AGE
608 TOTAL FALL HARVEST

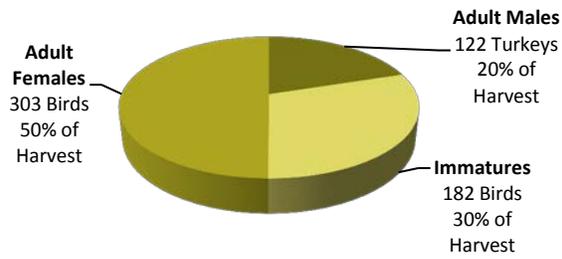


TABLE 6. FALL HARVEST BY REGION AND SEASON LENGTH

Region (WMUs)	Season Length	Birds Harvested (% Total Fall Harvest)
F ₁ , F ₂ , K ₁ , K ₂ , N	16-day season	81 (13%)
B, D ₁ , D ₂ , G, H ₁ , H ₂ , I, J ₁ , J ₂ , L, M ₁ , M ₂ , O ₁ , O ₂ , P, and Q	9-day season	518 (85%)
Archery-only A, C, and E	21-day season	9 (2%)

TABLE 7. HARVEST BY TOWN (SPRING 2013 AND FALL 2013)

County	Town	Spring 2013 Harvest	Fall 2013 Harvest	Town Total
ADDISON	Addison	33	2	35
	Bridport	20	3	23
	Bristol	15	0	15
	Cornwall	32	2	34
	Ferrisburgh	36	1	37
	Goshen	7	0	7
	Granville	11	0	11
	Hancock	5	2	7
	Leicester	19	3	22
	Lincoln	32	0	32
	Middlebury	39	6	45
	Monkton	17	1	18
	New Haven	37	5	42
	Orwell	36	2	38
	Panton	12	0	12
	Ripton	12	0	12
	Salisbury	15	2	17
	Shoreham	34	8	42
	Starksboro	26	3	29
	Vergennes	2	0	2
	Waltham	4	0	4
	Weybridge	9	1	10
	Whiting	17	0	17
TOTAL		470	41	511
BENNINGTON	Arlington	41	1	42
	Bennington	33	5	38
	Dorset	29	2	31
	Glastenbury	1	0	1
	Landgrove	1	0	1
	Manchester	11	0	11
	Peru	7	0	7
	Pownal	52	3	55
	Readsboro	6	0	6
	Rupert	48	1	49
	Sandgate	14	1	15
	Searsburg	1	0	1
	Shaftsbury	50	3	53
	Stamford	7	0	7
	Sunderland	5	0	5
	Winhall	9	0	9

TABLE 7. HARVEST BY TOWN (SPRING 2013 AND FALL 2013)

County	Town	Spring 2013 Harvest	Fall 2013 Harvest	Town Total
BENNINGTON (cont.)	Woodford	5	0	5
	TOTAL	320	16	336
CALEDONIA	Barnet	42	9	51
	Burke	23	11	34
	Danville	73	14	87
	Groton	38	4	42
	Hardwick	49	18	67
	Kirby	22	8	30
	Lyndon	66	30	96
	Newark	20	1	21
	Peacham	39	5	44
	Ryegate	62	14	76
	St. Johnsbury	47	7	54
	Sheffield	26	4	30
	Stannard	4	0	4
	Sutton	37	16	53
	Walden	27	7	34
	Waterford	40	4	44
	Wheelock	17	3	20
	TOTAL	632	155	787
	CHITTENDEN	Bolton	7	0
Charlotte		29	1	30
Colchester		20	2	22
Essex		9	0	9
Hinesburg		30	3	33
Huntington		13	3	16
Jericho		11	0	11
Milton		46	1	47
Richmond		20	1	21
Shelburne		12	1	13
Underhill		13	1	14
Westford		24	4	28
Williston		17	1	18
TOTAL	251	18	269	
ESSEX	Averill	1	0	1
	Bloomfield	10	1	11
	Brighton	30	1	31

TABLE 7. HARVEST BY TOWN (SPRING 2013 AND FALL 2013)

County	Town	Spring 2013 Harvest	Fall 2013 Harvest	Town Total
ESSEX (cont.)	Brunswick	5	0	5
	Canaan	12	0	12
	Concord	23	0	23
	East Haven	3	0	3
	Ferdinand	3	0	3
	Granby	4	0	4
	Guildhall	15	0	15
	Lemington	10	0	10
	Lewis	1	0	1
	Lunenburg	22	0	22
	Maidstone	13	0	13
	Norton	17	0	17
	Victory	8	0	8
	TOTAL	177	2	179
FRANKLIN	Bakersfield	20	1	21
	Berkshire	47	3	50
	Enosburg	58	1	59
	Fairfax	40	1	41
	Fairfield	63	5	68
	Fletcher	30	8	38
	Franklin	38	1	39
	Georgia	34	1	35
	Highgate	72	5	77
	Montgomery	33	1	34
	Richford	32	2	34
	St. Albans	14	4	18
	Sheldon	42	3	45
	Swanton	37	1	38
TOTAL	560	37	597	
GRAND ISLE	Alburgh	26	0	26
	Grand Isle	17	0	17
	Isle La Motte	3	0	3
	North Hero	10	1	11
	South Hero	18	3	21
	TOTAL	74	4	78
LAMOILLE	Belvidere	1	0	1
	Cambridge	53	1	54

TABLE 7. HARVEST BY TOWN (SPRING 2013 AND FALL 2013)

County	Town	Spring 2013 Harvest	Fall 2013 Harvest	Town Total
LAMOILLE (cont.)	Eden	27	0	27
	Elmore	15	0	15
	Hyde Park	33	4	37
	Johnson	43	1	44
	Morristown	80	6	86
	Stowe	40	5	45
	Waterville	14	0	14
	Wolcott	36	6	42
	TOTAL	342	23	365
ORANGE	Bradford	41	1	42
	Braintree	24	3	27
	Brookfield	49	1	50
	Chelsea	51	6	57
	Corinth	46	3	49
	Fairlee	12	3	15
	Newbury	85	6	91
	Orange	31	5	36
	Randolph	48	5	53
	Strafford	34	0	34
	Thetford	25	3	28
	Topsham	34	8	42
	Tunbridge	57	3	60
	Vershire	27	0	27
	Washington	28	1	29
	West Fairlee	23	0	23
	Williamstown	89	3	92
	TOTAL	704	51	755
ORLEANS	Albany	32	9	41
	Barton	55	8	63
	Brownington	28	6	34
	Charleston	44	13	57
	Coventry	35	3	38
	Craftsbury	52	12	64
	Derby	45	6	51
	Glover	34	11	45
	Greensboro	36	16	52
	Holland	30	1	31
	Irasburg	35	4	39

TABLE 7. HARVEST BY TOWN (SPRING 2013 AND FALL 2013)

County	Town	Spring 2013 Harvest	Fall 2013 Harvest	Town Total
ORLEANS (cont.)	Jay	8	0	8
	Lowell	20	2	22
	Morgan	25	4	29
	Newport	31	3	34
	Troy	32	1	33
	Westfield	16	1	17
	Westmore	11	6	17
	TOTAL	569	106	675
RUTLAND	Benson	37	1	38
	Brandon	26	2	28
	Castleton	28	2	30
	Chittenden	23	1	24
	Clarendon	26	0	26
	Danby	35	0	35
	Fair Haven	7	0	7
	Hubbardton	21	1	22
	Ira	13	0	13
	Killington	11	0	11
	Mendon	3	0	3
	Middletown Springs	33	2	35
	Mount Holly	21	3	24
	Mount Tabor	9	0	9
	Pawlet	52	5	57
	Pittsfield	10	2	12
	Pittsford	40	0	40
	Poultney	31	0	31
	Proctor	9	0	9
	Rutland	13	1	14
	Shrewsbury	25	2	27
	Sudbury	16	0	16
	Tinmouth	18	2	20
	Wallingford	25	3	28
	Wells	30	0	30
	West Haven	24	0	24
West Rutland	18	3	21	
TOTAL	604	30	634	
WASHINGTON	Barre	53	11	64
	Berlin	46	5	51

TABLE 7. HARVEST BY TOWN (SPRING 2013 AND FALL 2013)

County	Town	Spring 2013 Harvest	Fall 2013 Harvest	Town Total
WASHINGTON (cont.)	Cabot	47	5	52
	Calais	26	5	31
	Duxbury	11	0	11
	East Montpelier	45	8	53
	Fayston	8	0	8
	Marshfield	64	4	68
	Middlesex	22	0	22
	Montpelier	5	0	5
	Moretown	22	0	22
	Northfield	36	4	40
	Plainfield	36	6	42
	Roxbury	13	1	14
	Waitsfield	16	4	20
	Warren	9	2	11
	Waterbury	38	10	48
	Woodbury	8	1	9
	Worcester	14	3	17
		TOTAL	519	69
WINDHAM	Athens	8	0	8
	Brattleboro	22	0	22
	Brookline	14	1	15
	Dover	25	1	26
	Dummerston	26	0	26
	Grafton	13	0	13
	Guilford	37	0	37
	Halifax	21	1	22
	Jamaica	18	0	18
	Londonderry	21	1	22
	Marlboro	13	0	13
	Newfane	26	0	26
	Putney	15	0	15
	Rockingham	47	7	54
	Somerset	3	0	3
	Stratton	6	0	6
	Townshend	26	1	27
	Vernon	21	1	22
Wardsboro	8	0	8	
Westminster	21	3	24	
Whitingham	15	2	17	

TABLE 7. HARVEST BY TOWN (SPRING 2013 AND FALL 2013)

County	Town	Spring 2013 Harvest	Fall 2013 Harvest	Town Total
WINDHAM (cont.)	Wilmington	29	5	34
	Windham	13	0	13
	TOTAL	448	23	471
WINDSOR	Andover	12	0	12
	Baltimore	9	0	9
	Barnard	13	0	13
	Bethel	43	1	44
	Bridgewater	25	0	25
	Cavendish	34	1	35
	Chester	41	6	47
	Hartford	41	1	42
	Hartland	40	0	40
	Ludlow	22	1	23
	Norwich	33	2	35
	Plymouth	18	0	18
	Pomfret	36	0	36
	Reading	17	1	18
	Rochester	25	0	25
	Royalton	28	2	30
	Sharon	20	1	21
	Springfield	72	6	78
	Stockbridge	9	0	9
	Weathersfield	59	5	64
	West Windsor	25	3	28
	Weston	9	0	9
	Windsor	18	2	20
Woodstock	36	1	37	
	TOTAL	685	33	718
UNKNOWN	TOTAL	7	0	7
STATE TOTAL		6,362	608	6,970