



# Compliments of the Hunter Education Program

Summer is in full swing! That means teaching at camp, sending out supplies for classes, registering new classes, and doing some fishing on our time off. Just so you all know, if you don't get us in the office when you call, give us a day or two. We are spending a lot of time on the road delivering supplies, at camp teaching, and then catching up with office stuff. This issue of our newsletter includes press releases and articles written by staff. If you have any articles, pictures, or comments, please e-mail them to Nicole.

## Changes Happening in Hunter Ed!

*By Nicole Corrao*

Big changes are happening in Hunter Education! Well, not really in Hunter Ed, but with our staff. Consider this article your warning about those changes.

The biggest change, happening across all of state government, is the change of our e-mail addresses. Starting August 1st, all State of Vermont employees will now have an e-mail address in this format: `firstname.lastname@vermont.gov`

If you don't remember to change our e-mail addresses right away, that's fine, but please get them updated in your address book soon, because from what I've heard, e-mails will only be forwarded for a few days.

As if that doesn't make things hard enough, I'll be changing my last name on August 1st as well (sorry for my timing)! As of August 1, you can contact me by e-mailing `Nicole.Meier@vermont.gov`. My phone number will remain the same.

Unfortunately, Dylan has had to pull back on his weekly hours in order to remain under the total hours he can work for the year. We love Dylan, and he does a great job. Unfortunately, he will only be here about three days each week through the end of the year. He will still be our main office contact, but if you are having trouble getting in touch with him, just give it a day or two. We will get back to you as soon as possible. If Dylan isn't available, Kim Barrett is usually around, too. Although Kim works partially for camps and outreach, she can help you with your Hunter Education needs as well. She and Dylan both sit in the Dewey building and answer the phones in there, so they are on the same page.

Lastly, I will be teaching at camp on July 28th and 29th, and then out of the office starting July 30th. I will return on August 11th, but will be teaching at camp that day. While I am out of the office, I will have no access to phone or e-mail, so please contact the main line if you need immediate assistance.

# Hammond Cove Range to Re-Open Under New Rules on Thursday, July 23

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The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department has completed its upgrades and will be re-opening the Hammond Cove Shooting Range in Hartland, Vermont on Thursday, July 23 at 10:00 a.m.

Upgrades to the range include a new berm for the pistol range, improved acoustic tiling in the covered shooting ports, the installation of security cameras, and access road work.

The range will also be operating under new rules set by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. Range users will be required to sign in with an onsite range officer and have a valid Vermont hunting or fishing license or be the guest of someone who does. New hours and dates of operation, are listed below.

New range rules include:

- A Vermont hunting or fishing license is required for users 15 years and older.
- License holders can bring one guest, but after three visits that guest must purchase a license.
- Shooting more than one round per second is prohibited.
- Shooting long rifles or shotguns from the pistol bench is prohibited, as is shooting pistols from the rifle benches.
- Unless otherwise posted, the range will be open April 1 to December 14, Thursday through Monday.
- On Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, the range hours will be 10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- On Sundays, the range will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- The range will be closed from December 15 through March 31 and on all Vermont State and Federal Holidays, except for special events approved by the Commissioner.

To ensure, these rules are followed, a range officer will be present when the range is open.

Before using the range, shooters are urged to review the range rules on Vermont Fish & Wildlife's website: [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

"Vermont has some of the safest and most conservation-minded hunters anywhere," said Vermont Fish & Wildlife Commissioner Louis Porter. "They need a publicly accessible place where they can sight in their rifles and practice their shooting skills. Hammond Cove Range provides that. The updates to this facility and our new range rules also reflect the need to be good neighbors and careful stewards of this facility. We appreciate the tremendous community support we've received for this project."



Photo by VTFWD

# New Deer Hunting Regulations Effective in 2016

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The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department says several changes in Vermont's deer hunting regulations will become effective in 2016. None of the changes will be effective this year.

In 2016, archery deer hunting season will be extended five days. It will begin the first Saturday in October, run for 28 days, and then continue for nine days beginning the first Saturday after completion of the November rifle deer season.

The archery season limit on deer will be reduced from three to two in 2016. No more than two deer may be taken during the archery season only one of which may be a legal buck, not to exceed the annual limit of three for all deer seasons. One legal buck may be taken during the two-part October and December archery season anywhere in the state. Fish & Wildlife will announce if antlerless deer may be taken during the 2016 archery season.

Beginning in 2016, hunters 50 and older will be allowed to use a crossbow without first obtaining a crossbow disability permit. Hunters 49 or younger will need a disability permit to hunt with a crossbow. The crossbow disability permit is available to a person so physically impaired that he or she cannot operate a standard bow.

This year, as in the past, any hunter who wants to use a crossbow will need the crossbow disability permit.

Also effective in 2016, no person may possess while hunting or use for the purposes of taking or attempting to take, attracting, surveillance or scouting deer -- any product that contains any urine, blood, gland oil, feces, or other bodily fluids from a deer, elk or moose.

# Women in the Outdoors Event

## Aug. 15 at Buck Lake

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The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department and Vermont chapters of the National Wild Turkey Federation are putting on a one-day “Women in the Outdoors” introductory course on Saturday, August 15 at Buck Lake in Woodbury.

“This is a great opportunity if you want to learn about some of the exciting outdoor activities we have in Vermont that enable us to actively enjoy our fish and wildlife resources,” said Nicole Corrao, a Fish & Wildlife Education Specialist. “We will have a guided wildlife identification walk, basic shooting instruction, turkey hunting tactics, fly fishing basics, and more – all taught by highly experienced instructors.”

The 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. course will be held at the Green Mountain Conservation Camp at Buck Lake in Woodbury. Women must be 18 years of age or older, although anyone younger may attend if accompanied by parent or guardian. Information is available on the Vermont Fish & Wildlife website (<http://www.register-ed.com/events/view/65227>). Pre-registration through Ron Lafreniere with the National Wild Turkey Federation costs \$35. Registration fee includes lunch and all materials for the day.

For more information and to register, contact Ron at 802-434-4274.

“One of the nice take-away benefits of the course is that you will meet other women you will be able to network with in the future to share knowledge about these outdoor activities,” said Corrao.



Photo by VTFWD

# Fish & Wildlife Dept Celebrates Opening of New Conserved Lands



More land in Western Addison County will soon be available to the public, and protected for wildlife. The public is invited to attend a celebration of the Lemon Fair Wildlife Management Area, and the 330 acres being added to it, on Tuesday, July 28, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The celebration will include a reception with refreshments and speakers, followed by a short tour of the lands. Speakers include Agency of Natural Resources Secretary Deb Markowitz and Fish & Wildlife Department

Commissioner Louis Porter, among others.

The Lemon Fair Wildlife Management Area contains a slow-moving stream that meanders through wetlands, farm fields, and some of the most productive wildlife habitat in this region of Vermont. The \$325,000 addition will bring the wildlife management area to a total of 744 acres.

“These lands provide rich habitat for a variety of species, including deer, waterfowl, grassland birds, and the federally endangered Indiana bat,” said Commissioner Porter. “These additional parcels will provide new roadside access to this wildlife management area to allow bird-watchers, hunters and anglers the opportunity to get out and enjoy the outdoors.”

The lands were purchased in partnership with the U.S.D.A. Natural Resource Conservation Service, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Vermont Land Trust. This acquisition also represents one of the largest investments of funds from the Vermont Duck Stamp Program on a single project. In Vermont, waterfowl hunters are required to purchase a federal migratory waterfowl stamp and a Vermont duck stamp, but many non-hunters also choose to purchase a duck stamp in order to contribute to wildlife and wetland conservation.

Part of the funding for the purchase of these conserved lands came from sales of the new Vermont Habitat Stamp. Modeled after the success of the federal duck stamp, the Vermont Habitat Stamp is a voluntary purchase that raises funds for the conservation and management of lands throughout Vermont. It is available with the purchase of a hunting or fishing license, or directly on the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department’s website at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

“This major expansion of the Lemon Fair Wildlife Management Area would not have been possible without the help of our many partners in conservation,” said Porter. “We’d especially like to thank all of those Vermonters who pitched in to help contribute to our state’s conservation legacy.”

This event is free and open to the public, and will be held at 1683 West Street, Cornwall, VT. For more information, contact Jane Lazorchak with the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department at 802-505-0561.

# Waterfowl Meetings

## — Aug 4, Whitehall, NY — Aug 5, Essex, VT

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Public meetings on the status of waterfowl populations and waterfowl hunting seasons for the State of Vermont and Lake Champlain zone in New York will be held Tuesday, August 4, in Whitehall, New York, and Wednesday, August 5, in Essex, Vermont. The annual meetings are being held by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.

The August 4 meeting will be held at the Skenesborough Rescue Squad building in Whitehall, New York. The August 5 meeting will be held at Memorial Hall, 5 Towers Road, Essex, Vermont. Both meetings will run from 7 to 9 p.m.

Vermont and New York waterfowl hunters are encouraged to attend one of these meetings and share their preferences and opinions with other waterfowl hunters and Vermont and New York wildlife personnel.

Under Federal regulations, waterfowl seasons, bag limits, and shooting hours in the Lake Champlain Zone must be uniform throughout the entire zone. Therefore, waterfowl seasons in New York's portion of the Lake Champlain Zone must be identical to the waterfowl season in Vermont's portion of the Zone.

Comments received at the August meetings, as well as input and recommendations from the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, will be reviewed by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Board.

GPS Address for the Vermont meeting:

5 Tower Road

Essex, VT 05452

44.512346 073.059717

Additional parking can be found at a park and ride located at 3 Jericho Road (Route 15).

Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request at the Vermont meeting. Please include a description of the accommodation you will need. Individuals making such requests must include their contact information. Requests should be made as early as possible, for example an interpreter must be requested at least two weeks in advance, if possible. Please send an e-mail to: [David.Sausville@state.vt.us](mailto:David.Sausville@state.vt.us) or call office staff at 802-878-1564 (voice), 1-800-253-0191 (TTY).

Photo by VTFWD



# **Two NEK Men Charged in Deer Poaching Case**

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Vermont state game wardens charged two Northeast Kingdom men recently for allegedly poaching several deer during March and April in the Stannard area.

On June 22, game wardens, assisted by officers from the Hardwick Police Department, executed a search warrant at the residence of Shawn Bell, 37, of Greensboro and based on evidence gathered during the investigation charged him with taking deer in closed season during the spring of this year. Arraignment for Bell will be on July 20 in Caledonia Superior Court.

On July 7, Kasey Ainsworth, 22, of Coventry was arrested and charged with possessing and transporting deer taken in closed season. Arraignment for Ainsworth will be held on August 4 in Orleans Superior Court.

Additional arrests are anticipated as a result of the investigation.

Each big game violation carries with it the potential for up to 60 days in jail, a minimum fine of \$400 (\$1000 maximum) and an additional \$2000 restitution for each of the illegally killed animals. If convicted, the men will lose their rights to hunt, fish and trap in Vermont and 43 other states for a period of three years and would be required to pass a remedial outdoor ethics course prior to reinstatement.

Citizens who have further information relating to these cases or who wish to report a wildlife crime may contact Operation Game Thief by calling 1-800-75ALERT (1-800-752-5378) or online at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com). Users may choose to remain anonymous. Rewards are paid for information leading to an arrest.

“We work to protect Vermont’s wildlife and fish,” noted Col. Jason Batchelder, chief game warden. “Our partnership with private citizens and sister police agencies ensures that these resources are conserved for all Vermonters.”

## **FAQ with Nicole**

**Q: Are there going to be more Getting Started Seminars and Instructor Trainings this year?**

**A:** Yes! We will have a Getting Started in Black Bear hunting seminar this August, and several Getting Started in Deer Hunting/Deer Processing Seminars early this fall. We will update you when we have more information and set the dates.

We will also hold a New Instructor Training on August 22nd at Kehoe. If you know someone interested, they can sign up here: <http://www.register-ed.com/events/view/61036>

# Vermont Moose Hunting Permit Winners Are Drawn

The winners of Vermont's 2015 moose hunting permits were determined Thursday, July 16, at a lottery drawing in Barre.

Governor Peter Shumlin, standing alongside Fish & Wildlife Commissioner Louis Porter, started the computer-generated selection process that randomly picked 265 winners from more than 9,500 lottery applicants.

The drawing is done by a random sort of applications that were submitted by a June 17, 2015 deadline.

As part of the regular lottery drawing, a "special priority drawing" was held for five permits to go to applicants who have received, or are eligible to receive, a Campaign Ribbon for Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. The unsuccessful applicants from the Iraqi-Afghanistan drawing were included in the larger regular drawing that followed. All applicants for both drawings who did not receive a permit were awarded a bonus point to improve their chances in future moose permit lotteries.

The lottery was held for 40 moose permits to be used in the Vermont's October 1-7 archery moose hunting season and 225 moose permits for the October 17-22 regular moose season.

"Today's lottery drawing helps celebrate one of Vermont's successes in science-based wildlife management," said State Wildlife Biologist Cedric Alexander. "Vermont's first moose hunt was in 1993, when 25 moose were taken with 30 permits issued. We expect close to 120 moose will be taken this fall in a carefully regulated hunt."

Winners in this year's moose hunting lottery are posted in a searchable database on the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department's website ([www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)).

If your name wasn't drawn, you can still bid in Vermont's auction for five moose hunting permits, which is open until August 13. Sealed bids must be received by Vermont Fish & Wildlife by 4:30 p.m. that day. Contact the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department to receive a moose permit bid kit. Telephone 802-828-1190 or email ([cheri.waters@state.vt.us](mailto:cheri.waters@state.vt.us)).

Vermont has about 2,400 moose statewide with the greatest concentration in the Northeast Kingdom.



**Kevin Rice of South Pomfret, VT with the archery record 919 lb. bull moose he took last year during VT's archery moose hunt. Winners of moose permits for this year are on Vermont Fish & Wildlife's website.**

**Photo by Steve Schaefer**



# Seminar for Landowners on New Forestry, Wildlife Management Practices August 8

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A free seminar for landowners entitled “Managing your land for wildlife and forestry, a guide to U.S.D.A. Farm Bill Programs” will be offered on Saturday, August 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Cobb Hill Cohousing Community Room at the Hartland Four Corners.

The seminar is offered by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation, and the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Staff from all three agencies will provide participants with an understanding of forestry and wildlife practices related to Farm Bill programs available to landowners. They will review the process of developing a forest management plan, controlling invasive species, and enhancing food and cover sources for wildlife, as well as funding sources that are offered through U.S.D.A. for this work.

“With more than 80 percent of Vermont’s land in private hands, landowners can do much to promote sustainable forestry practices and improve habitat for wildlife,” said Mary Beth Adler, wildlife habitat technician for Vermont Fish & Wildlife. “The programs we will highlight can give landowners the funding and skills they need to improve the health of their forests and provide food and cover for wildlife.”

The morning will be spent on presentations and discussion. The group will head out after lunch for a field trip to see management practices in action on the Cobb Hill lands, which have been enrolled in Farm Bill programs for several years. The walk will highlight wildlife habitat and forest management practices that have been completed and others that are in progress. Participants are encouraged to preregister at by emailing Mary Beth Adler at [marybeth.adler@state.vt.us](mailto:marybeth.adler@state.vt.us) or call 802-885-8836. They should plan to bring a lunch, a water bottle, and to dress appropriately for the weather and to guard against ticks.

# Woodbury Man Guilty of Shooting Canada Geese

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A Woodbury, Vt. man has pled no contest to shooting at Canada geese on his property with a high-powered pellet rifle.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife Wardens charged John Fricke, 56, with taking game by unlawful methods following an anonymous tip placed to Operation Game Thief. The call indicated that one goose was floating dead in Nelson Pond. Wardens found a second severely injured goose that needed to be euthanized.

Fricke stated he only intended to scare the geese away and had no intention of killing them. He pled no contest on June 24th in Washington County District Court and as a result will lose his privilege to hunt, fish and trap in Vermont and 43 other states for one year, thanks to the Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact.

Migratory waterfowl are also protected by federal regulations. Homeowners who are facing problems with Canada geese are urged not to harass or harm the birds but to contact the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal Damage Control Unit in Berlin at 802-223-8690.

Operation Game Thief (OGT) is a joint, non-profit program sponsored by the Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and administered by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. The program provides a way for people to help protect Vermont's wildlife by reporting wildlife law violators without using their name.

Citizens who wish to report a wildlife crime may contact Operation Game Thief by calling 1-800-75ALERT (1-800-752-5378) or online at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com). Users may choose to remain anonymous. Rewards are paid for information leading to an arrest.

"We work to protect Vermont's wildlife and fish," noted Col. Jason Batchelder, chief game warden, "Our partnership with private citizens ensures that these resources are conserved for all Vermonters."

# Monarch Butterflies Decline to Dangerously Low Levels

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Monarch butterflies are in decline nationwide, and may be approaching dangerously low levels.

Monarchs have declined nearly 80% in the 21 years researchers have been monitoring their wintering populations, from a high of up to one billion butterflies in the 1990s to roughly 56 million today, according to a recent report from the Xerces Society.

But according to Mark Ferguson, a biologist for the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, Vermont may play an important role in the continued efforts at monarch conservation.

"Vermont's meadows and old fields provide habitat for milkweed, which is a critical food source for monarchs," said Ferguson. "In contrast, increasing levels of herbicide use in large-scale agriculture in the Midwest appear to have greatly reduced the abundance of milkweed in that part of the country, which historically produced half of the monarchs in eastern North America."

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# ***Monarch Butterflies Decline to Dangerously Low Levels***

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Monarchs lay eggs on milkweed and feed on milkweed as caterpillars. Most eastern monarchs overwinter at a single site in the mountains of central Mexico. According to Ferguson, monarchs need to reproduce several times during their north-bound migration, and require milkweed at each of these sites.

“A monarch that leaves its wintering grounds in Mexico will never make it to Vermont,” said Ferguson. “Instead, several generations are born and die along the way, meaning that the grandchildren or great-grandchildren of the monarchs leaving Mexico eventually arrive in Vermont each summer. Because monarchs need milkweed to reproduce, anything we can do in Vermont to promote this vitally important species will help monarchs thrive.”

In addition to declines in milkweed, the widespread use of a group of insecticides referred to as neonicotinoids may threaten monarch conservation. These pesticides are used on agricultural crops, and are also used in concentrated doses on home gardens, lawns, and ornamental trees.

Ferguson says that there are several things that Vermonters can do to help foster healthy monarch populations. “One of the best things people can do for monarchs is to provide milkweed for caterpillars and nectar plants for adults,” said Ferguson. “Many of the best nectar plants are actually wildflowers that grow naturally and will provide monarchs with a good source of food if left uncut during the growing season.”

Ferguson also recommends that people limit the use of insecticides and herbicides in order to allow Vermont’s residential yards, meadows, old fields and pastures to support monarchs and their habitat.

According to a recent White House report, pollinators such as monarchs contribute more than 24 billion dollars to the U.S. economy, by promoting fruits and vegetables as well as agricultural crops like



Monarchs are in decline nationwide, but Vermont Fish & Wildlife’s Mark Ferguson says that Vermont contains essential monarch habitat that may play an important role in the butterfly’s conservation.

Photo by Dwain Harrelson, Wikimedia Commons

# Vermont Ads Nine Species to Threatened and Endangered List

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources recently added nine species to the list of state threatened and endangered species. The listing included four plants, three bumble bees, one amphibian, and one bird.

Three pollinators were listed - the rusty-patched bumble bee, yellow-banded bumble bee, and Ashton cuckoo bumble bee. Pollinators such as bees, moths, and butterflies are critically important to Vermont's agriculture, but many are in decline nationwide. According to a survey by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, beekeepers reported losing 42 percent of their honeybee colonies between April 2014 and April 2015.

Vermont's bumble bee species appear to be in decline due to a parasite infestation. Another concern for pollinator conservation is the widespread use of a group of systemic insecticides referred to as 'neonicotinoids.' These pesticides are used on agricultural crops, and are also used in concentrated doses on home gardens, lawns, and ornamental trees. Several types of neonicotinoids are highly toxic to bees, in addition to making them more susceptible to parasites and pathogens. The federal Environmental Protection Agency is currently considering legislation that would limit the use of these chemicals.

"Pollinators are essential to our farms and also to our meadows and wild orchards," said Deb Markowitz, Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. "Adding them to the endangered species list is only one of many steps we can take to help protect them. Additional techniques, such as integrated pest management and planting more native flowering plants, are others."

The bumble bee listings do not come with restrictions against currently legal activities such as applying pesticides in accordance with state and federal regulations, although the Secretary may notify a landowner that a permit is required in cases where one of these bumble bee species is likely present. More information on pollinators, including a list of pesticides for homeowners to avoid, is available on The Xerces Society's website at [www.xerces.org](http://www.xerces.org).

In addition to pollinators, the Fowler's toad and rusty blackbird were listed as endangered in Vermont.

The Fowler's toad is dependent on scoured sand banks along the Connecticut River, a limited habitat type in Vermont, and has always been extremely rare in Vermont. However, the toad had been detected in the state with infrequent regularity until 2007 when the toad was last heard.

Rusty blackbird populations have declined regionally by more than 90 percent during the past five decades, according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey. Vermont is at the southern edge of the bird's boreal forest breeding habitat.

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The rusty-patched bumble bee, one of the three pollinators recently listed under Vermont's Endangered Species Act.

Photo by Johanna James Heinz, courtesy of the Xerces Society.

## ***Vermont Ads Nine Species to Threatened and Endangered List (Continued from Previous Page)***

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Four plant species were also listed as endangered in Vermont. These include the dwarf birch, tulip tree, whorled milkweed, and green mountain quillwort. These plants were previously not thought to exist in the wild in Vermont, but single specimens or single populations of all four species were found recently in the state.

“While we are delighted to have located these rare species, their endangered status reminds us that many of these plants can only survive where there is habitat to support them,” said Markowitz. “We are fortunate in our state that Vermonters value the bees, birds, and plants that enrich our experience of nature and have worked to conserve lands so that future generations might enjoy them as well. It is critical that we continue to protect not only endangered species but the places where they thrive.”

Vermont currently has 51 state threatened and endangered animals, and 163 state threatened and endangered plants. Three well-known birds were removed from the list in 2005 –the peregrine falcon, osprey, and common loon –following the birds’ recovery as a result of conservation efforts.

## **Vermont Turkey Brood Survey Starts Aug. 1**

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Wild turkeys are found throughout most of Vermont, but their reproductive success is monitored annually by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department with a little help from “citizen scientists” who report the number and size of turkey families they see during August.

Fish & Wildlife is again asking the public for help. If you see a group of young turkeys in Vermont during August, the department wants you to go to the turkey brood survey on its website ([www.vermontfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vermontfishandwildlife.com)) where you can record where and when you observed the number of adult and young turkeys, or poults.

“Data gathered from the survey will help establish long-term trends in Vermont’s turkey population,” says Vermont Fish & Wildlife’s wild turkey biologist Amy Alfieri. “It will also answer questions about the impacts of spring and winter weather on the survival of poults and adult turkeys, which helps in setting turkey seasons and harvest limits.”

Over-abundant turkey populations can damage crops and food stored for livestock in bunker silos.

“We monitor Vermont wild turkey numbers annually in order to maximize the benefits of having turkeys while minimizing the liabilities,” says Alfieri. “Turkey hunting is a mechanism for managing Vermont’s turkey population within these limits.”

Nearly 5,000 wild turkeys were taken by hunters in Vermont’s 2015 spring hunt. Alfieri says this is slightly less than average, likely due to the harsh winter conditions in many areas of the state in 2014.

Alfieri says this year’s online turkey brood survey will be especially important in determining the overall impacts of a harsh winter followed by a wet spring on the state’s turkey reproduction.

“Please help us scientifically manage the turkey population by reporting your Vermont turkey sightings during August,” added Alfieri.

## **Contact Us!**

Hunter Education Program Main Office:

**(802) 828-1193**

1 National Life Drive

Dewey Building

Montpelier, VT 05620

## **Sound Off!**

This is YOUR newsletter! Have a photo or story you'd like to share? Is there something that's missing in the newsletter? E-mail [Nicole.Meier@vermont.gov](mailto:Nicole.Meier@vermont.gov) with your suggestions, stories, pictures or other input!.

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