



2008 VERMONT WILDLIFE HARVEST REPORT Wild Turkey



photo courtesy of NWTf.org



FISH & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
(802) 241-3700 / www.vtfishandwildlife.com



2008 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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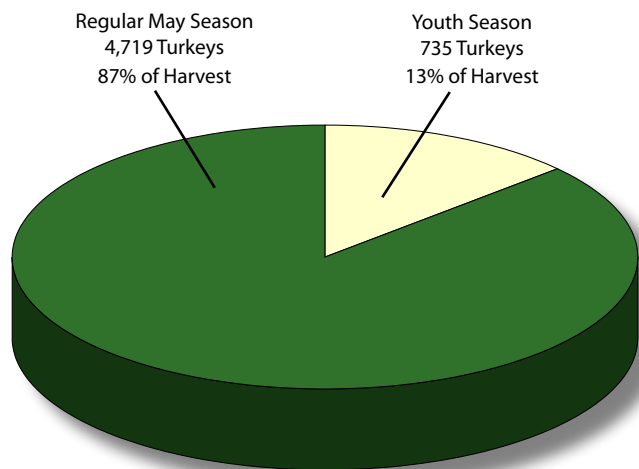
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2008 Wild Turkey Report

Spring Turkey Season

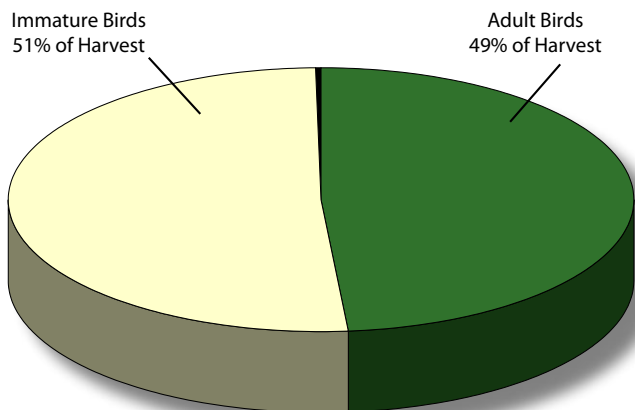
Vermont's 2008 spring turkey season once again established a new, all-time record harvest of 5,454 bearded birds. The new record topped the previous record harvest of 5,024 birds established in 2007. The 2008 tally includes the 735 birds taken in the April youth turkey season, which also established another record harvest for that 2-day season and comprised 13.5% of the total spring harvest.

TURKEY HARVEST BY SEASON 5,454 TOTAL SPRING HARVEST



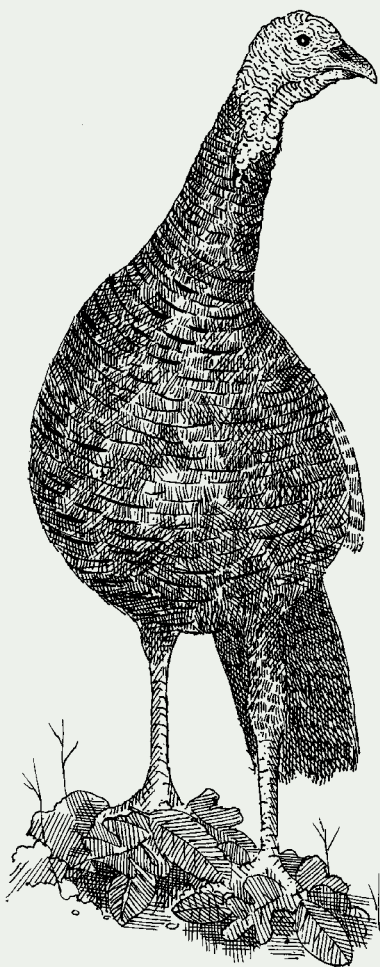
Adult birds comprised the typical percentage (49%) of the harvest while immature birds comprised the remaining 51%. The 2008 season also included 45 bearded hens in the tally. Birds were harvested in an unprecedented 238 of Vermont's 253 towns, by 4,300 successful hunters.

TURKEY HARVEST BY AGE 5,454 TOTAL SPRING HARVEST



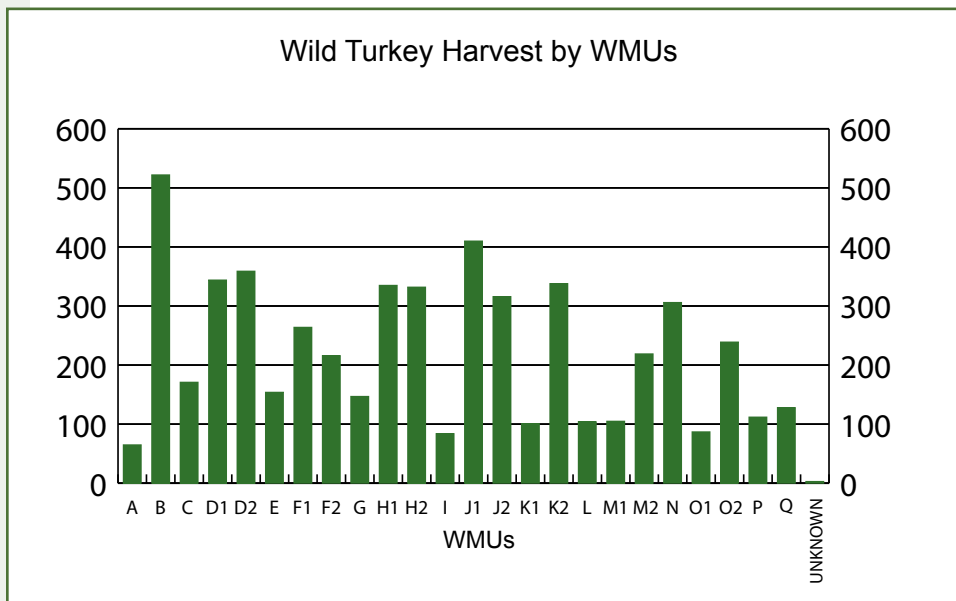
Hunter success rates were very high with 28.1% of hunters harvesting at least one turkey. Among these successful hunters, 26.7% harvested a second bearded bird to fill the two-bird spring bag limit. Hunting pressure in 2008, measured in terms of spring turkey license sales (15,303) was somewhat higher (10%) than 2007 license sales of 13,861 and undoubtedly contributed to the increased harvest in 2008.

2008 LEGAL SPRING TURKEY HARVEST BY TOWN AND RESIDENCY



Town of Kill	Non-Resident	Resident	Total
ADDISON	2	32	34
ALBANY		9	9
ALBURG		24	24
ANDOVER		6	6
ARLINGTON	3	30	33
ATHENS		3	3
BAKERSFIELD		19	19
BALTIMORE	1	11	12
BARNARD	3	15	18
BARNET	4	52	56
BARRE		39	39
BARTON	1	33	34
BENNINGTON	2	37	39
BENSON	7	36	43
BERKSHIRE		36	36
BERLIN		31	31
BETHEL	1	35	36
BLOOMFIELD	1	13	14
BOLTON	1	1	2
BRADFORD	1	22	23
BRAINTREE	3	18	21
BRANDON		21	21
BRATTLEBORO	2	8	10
BRIDGEWATER	3	17	20
BRIDPORT	1	32	33
BRIGHTON	2	11	13
BRISTOL		9	9
BROOKFIELD	1	30	31

The 2008 harvest was up over last year's record in 14 of Vermont's 24 Wildlife Management Units (WMU's) led by a record harvest in WMU B with 522 birds reported, followed by J1 in central Vermont (410 birds) and D2 (359 birds reported) in the northeast.

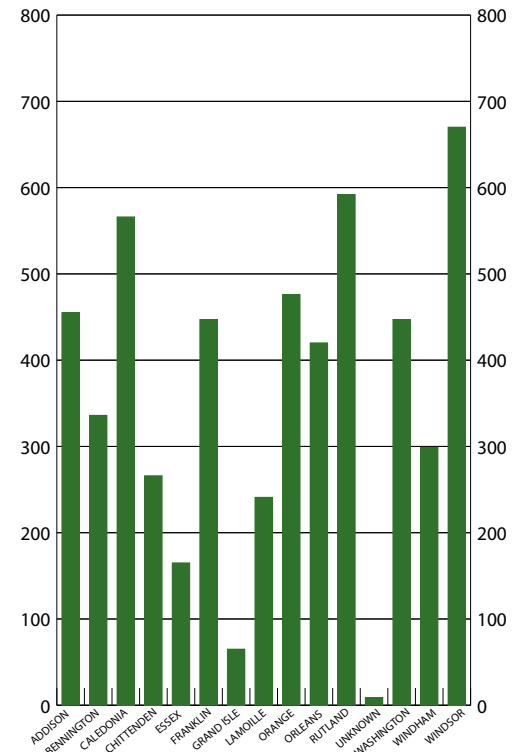


2008 LEGAL SPRING TURKEY HARVEST BY TOWN AND RESIDENCY

Town of Kill	Non-Resident	Resident	Total
BROOKLINE		3	3
BROWNINGTON	2	18	20
BRUNSWICK	5	6	11
BURKE		15	15
CABOT		61	61
CALAIS		25	25
CAMBRIDGE		46	46
CANAAN		3	3
CASTLETON		35	35
CAVENDISH	3	20	23
CHARLESTON		31	31
CHARLOTTE	1	24	25
CHELSEA	3	31	34
CHESTER	6	49	55
CHITTENDEN	1	14	15
CLARENDON		37	37
COLCHESTER		29	29
CONCORD	10	20	30
CORINTH	5	25	30
CORNWALL		20	20
COVENTRY		21	21
CRAFTSBURY		44	44
DANBY		26	26
DANVILLE	3	45	48
DERBY	4	20	24
DORSET	3	31	34
DOVER	2	6	8
DUMMERSTON	2	22	24
DUXBURY		6	6
E HAVEN		4	4
E MONTPELIER	2	47	49
EDEN		11	11
ELMORE		18	18
ENOSBURG		44	44
ESSEX	1	23	24
FAIR HAVEN		8	8
FAIRFAX		45	45
FAIRFIELD		42	42
FAIRLEE		11	11
FAYSTON		10	10
FERDINAND		4	4
FERRISBURG	1	47	48
FLETCHER		23	23

As in 2007, Windsor County led again this year with the highest harvest numbers reported (670 birds), followed by Rutland County (592), Caledonia County (566), and Orange County (476).

Wild Turkey Harvest by County





John Hafner - NWTF.org

The 2008 harvest established the fifth consecutive spring turkey harvest record, along with the eighth spring record produced over the past eleven 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 impressive string of record harvests.

2008 LEGAL SPRING TURKEY HARVEST BY TOWN AND RESIDENCY

Town of Kill	Non-Resident	Resident	Total
FRANKLIN		21	21
GEORGIA		49	49
GLOVER		23	23
GOSHEN		2	2
GRAFTON	1	7	8
GRANBY	3	5	8
GRAND ISLE	1	16	17
GRANVILLE		7	7
GREENSBORO		34	34
GROTON	5	35	40
GUILDHALL	14	6	20
GUILFORD	8	21	29
HALIFAX	5	11	16
HANCOCK	1	8	9
HARDWICK	2	50	52
HARTFORD	1	24	25
HARTLAND	6	35	41
HIGHGATE		50	50
HINESBURG		20	20
HOLLAND		9	9
HUBBARDTON		13	13
HUNTINGTON		21	21
HYDE PARK		21	21
IRA	1	12	13
IRASBURG	1	42	43
ISLE LA MOTTE		1	1
JAMAICA	1	12	13
JAY		6	6
JERICO		8	8
JOHNSON		33	33
KIRBY	1	35	36
LANDGROVE		1	1
LEICESTER		16	16
LEMINGTON		4	4
LINCOLN		14	14
LONDONDERRY		12	12
LOWELL	1	20	21
LUDLOW		11	11
LUNENBURG	16	21	37
LYNDON	1	31	32
MAIDSTONE	3	5	8
MANCHESTER		13	13

2008 LEGAL SPRING TURKEY HARVEST BY TOWN AND RESIDENCY

Town of Kill	Non-Resident	Resident	Total
MARLBORO	2	6	8
MARSHFIELD	2	24	26
MENDON		3	3
MIDDLEBURY		25	25
MIDDLESEX		17	17
MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS	2	33	35
MILTON		47	47
MONKTON		18	18
MONTGOMERY		27	27
MONTPELIER		3	3
MORETOWN		17	17
MORGAN		23	23
MORRISTOWN	1	40	41
MT HOLLY		14	14
MT TABOR	1	2	3
N HERO		11	11
NEW HAVEN		22	22
NEWARK		6	6
NEWBURY	25	63	88
NEWFANE		16	16
NEWPORT	2	36	38
NORTHFIELD	1	33	34
NORTON		3	3
NORWICH	10	15	25
ORANGE		22	22
ORWELL	2	44	46
PANTON		22	22
PAWLET	10	58	68
PEACHAM	7	41	48
PERU	2	3	5
PITTSFIELD		4	4
PITTSFORD	1	40	41
PLAINFIELD		44	44
PLYMOUTH		14	14
POMFRET	7	42	49
POULTNEY	2	33	35
POWNAI	3	39	42
PROCTOR		8	8
PUTNEY	3	10	13
RANDOLPH	10	43	53
READING	2	15	17
READSBORO	3	8	11
RICHFORD		26	26

Examination of longer-term harvest trends suggests that after a fairly dramatic population increase through the 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 management strategy of a more conservative fall harvest structure is most appropriate and should be continued.



2008 LEGAL SPRING TURKEY HARVEST BY TOWN AND RESIDENCY

Town of Kill	Non-Resident	Resident	Total
RICHMOND	1	15	16
RIPTON		6	6
ROCHESTER	1	18	19
ROCKINGHAM	4	36	40
ROXBURY	1	11	12
ROYALTON	2	27	29
RUPERT	8	37	45
RUTLAND TOWN		9	9
RYEGATE	27	46	73
S HERO		12	12
SALISBURY		11	11
SANDGATE	5	18	23
SHAFTSBURY	1	44	45
SHARON	5	22	27
SHEFFIELD	1	13	14
SHELBURNE		7	7
SHELDON		33	33
SHERBURNE		4	4
SHOREHAM	2	56	58
SHREWSBURY	1	19	20
SPRINGFIELD	11	64	75
ST ALBANS		16	16
ST GEORGE		5	5
ST JOHNSBURY		38	38
STAMFORD	4	10	14
STANNARD		4	4
STARKSBORO		24	24
STOCKBRIDGE		13	13
STOWE		34	34
STRAFFORD	4	12	16
STRATTON		2	2
SUDBURY		7	7
SUNDERLAND	1	11	12
SUTTON	1	26	27
SWANTON		16	16
THETFORD	2	13	15
TINMOUTH		12	12
TOPSHAM	1	11	12
TOWNSHEND		16	16
TROY	1	27	28
TUNBRIDGE	7	17	24
UNDERHILL		16	16



NWTF.org

2008 LEGAL SPRING TURKEY HARVEST BY TOWN AND RESIDENCY

Town of Kill	Non-Resident	Resident	Total
UNKNOWN		9	9
VERGENNES		2	2
VERNON	2	11	13
VERSHIRE		6	6
VICTORY		6	6
W FAIRLEE		8	8
W HAVEN	4	25	29
W RUTLAND		25	25
W WINDSOR	9	24	33
WAITSFIELD		17	17
WALDEN	2	20	22
WALLINGFORD		40	40
WALTHAM		5	5
WARDSBORO		4	4
WARREN		6	6
WASHINGTON	5	23	28
WATERBURY	1	28	29
WATERFORD		50	50
WATERVILLE		3	3
WEATHERSFIELD	15	45	60
WELLS	2	22	24
WESTFIELD		8	8
WESTFORD		31	31
WESTMINSTER	2	12	14
WESTMORE		4	4
WESTON	1	10	11
WEYBRIDGE		9	9
WHEELOCK		5	5
WHITING		15	15
WHITINGHAM	4	13	17
WILLIAMSTOWN	4	50	54
WILLISTON		15	15
WILMINGTON	2	21	23
WINDHAM		7	7
WINDSOR	3	13	16
WINHALL		9	9
WOLCOTT	1	33	34
WOODBURY		3	3
WOODFORD	1	9	10
WOODSTOCK	4	31	35
WORCESTER	2	16	18
TOTAL	418	5,036	5,454



Joe Blake - NWTf.org

Fall Turkey Season

The 2008 fall season resulted in a harvest of 790 either-sex birds, down 25% from the fall 2007 harvest of 1,060 birds, and just slightly lower than the previous three fall season's harvest average of 809 birds. Increased availability of fall hard mast crop in 2008 compared to the fall of 2007 may have been a factor, resulting in the lower harvest. It is important to note, however, that fall harvests typically are poor indicators of Vermont's turkey population trend.

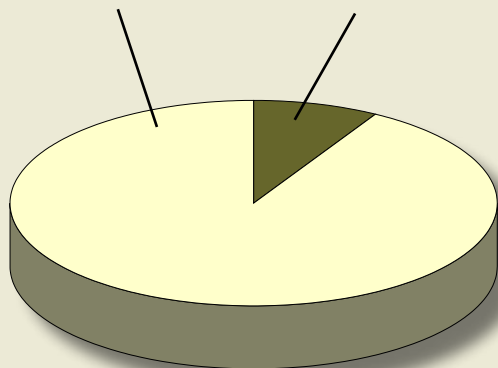
The 2008 fall archery-only season accounted for 65 of the harvested birds, with the balance of the birds (725) taken in the shotgun season. Fall birds were taken in 131 Vermont towns.

FALL TURKEY HARVEST METHOD OF HARVEST

790 TURKEYS HARVESTED

Shotgun
725 Birds
92% of Harvest

Archery
65 Birds
8% of Harvest



2008 LEGAL FALL TURKEY HARVEST BY TOWN AND METHOD

Town of Kill	Bow	Shotgun	Total
ADDISON	1	20	21
BARNARD	1	4	5
BARNET	1	17	18
BARRE	4	10	14
BENNINGTON	1	8	9
BENSON		7	7
BERLIN	2	11	13
BETHEL	2	3	5
BOLTON		1	1
BRADFORD		5	5
BRAINTREE		10	10
BRANDON		5	5
BRATTLEBORO		1	1
BRIDGEWATER		4	4
BRIDPORT		14	14
BRISTOL		8	8
BROOKFIELD	1	9	10
BROOKLINE		1	1
CABOT	3	25	28
CALAIS	2		2
CAMBRIDGE	1	6	7
CASTLETON		4	4
CHARLOTTE		16	16
CHELSEA	2	10	12
CHESTER		3	3
CLARENDON		2	2
CORINTH		3	3
CORNWALL		7	7
DANBY		2	2
DANVILLE		7	7
DORSET		2	2
DUXBURY	1		1
E MONTPELIER	1		1
FAIR HAVEN		1	1
FAYSTON		1	1
FERRISBURG	1	8	9
GRAFTON		2	2
GROTON	2	9	11
GUILFORD		1	1
HALIFAX		2	2
HARDWICK	1		1
HARTFORD	2	3	5
HARTLAND		5	5
HINESBURG	1	8	9
HUBBARDTON		4	4

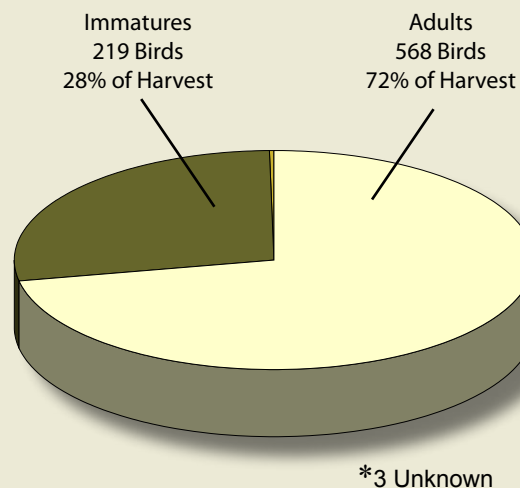
2008 LEGAL FALL TURKEY HARVEST BY TOWN AND METHOD

Town of Kill	Bow	Shotgun	Total
HUNTINGTON	2	1	3
IRA		3	3
JOHNSON		11	11
LEICESTER		9	9
LINCOLN		1	1
LONDONDERRY		2	2
MANCHESTER		1	1
MARLBORO		1	1
MIDDLEBURY		6	6
MIDDLESEX	1		1
MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS		4	4
MONKTON		12	12
MONTPELIER	1		1
MORETOWN		4	4
MORRISTOWN	5	4	9
MT HOLLY		2	2
NEW HAVEN		10	10
NEWBURY		15	15
NEWFANE		1	1
NORTHFIELD		6	6
NORWICH		2	2
ORANGE		5	5
ORWELL		8	8
PAWLET		15	15
PEACHAM		20	20
PITTSFORD		16	16
PLAINFIELD		1	1
PLYMOUTH	1	1	2
POMFRET	1	3	4
POULTNEY		2	2
PROCTOR		2	2
PUTNEY	1		1
RANDOLPH	2	24	26
READING		1	1
READSBORO		2	2
RICHMOND		2	2
ROCHESTER		8	8
ROCKINGHAM	1	5	6
ROXBURY		2	2
ROYALTON		7	7
RUPERT	1	3	4
RUTLAND TOWN		5	5
RYEGATE	2	16	18
SALISBURY		6	6
SHAFTSBURY	2	7	9

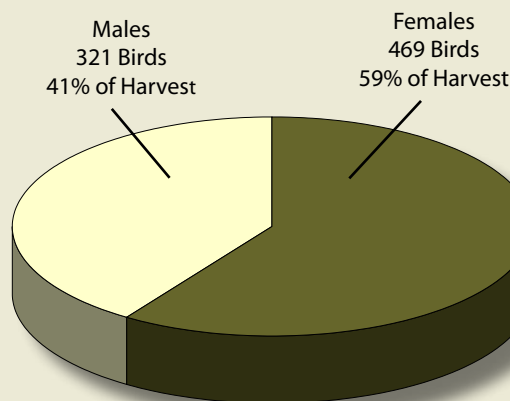
As many of our reporting agents (and hunters) have a difficult time discerning the sex and age of fall harvested birds-particularly immature birds-we have learned to view the accuracy of our fall sex and age reported data with caution and some skepticism.

Final tallies indicate immature birds comprised 28% of the harvest, while the female cohort accounted for 59% of the total harvest. Of this female component, 87% were adult birds and 23 % immature. The immature to adult female ratio was 1: 1.8.

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF HARVEST*



SEX DISTRIBUTION OF HARVEST



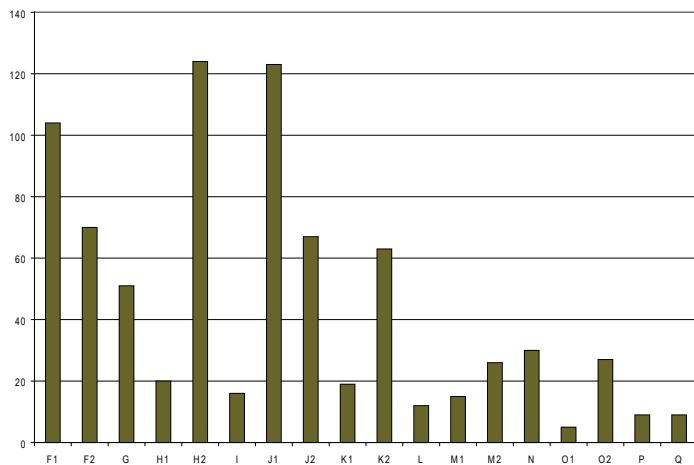
2008 LEGAL FALL TURKEY HARVEST BY TOWN AND METHOD



Larry Price - NWTF.org

Wildlife Management Unit H2 reported the highest number of fall birds with 124 taken, followed by WMU J1 with 123 birds and F1 reporting 104.

Wild Turkey Harvest by WMU



Town of Kill	Bow	Shotgun	Total
SHELBURNE		5	5
SHOREHAM		9	9
SHREWSBURY		7	7
SPRINGFIELD	2	8	10
ST GEORGE		3	3
ST JOHNSBURY		5	5
STARCKSBORO		12	12
STOCKBRIDGE		1	1
STOWE	3	7	10
STRAFFORD		1	1
SUDBURY	1	2	3
THETFORD		3	3
TINMOUTH		7	7
TOPSHAM	1	6	7
TUNBRIDGE	2	12	14
UNDERHILL		1	1
VERGENNES		1	1
VERNON		1	1
VERSHIRE		4	4
W HAVEN		5	5
W RUTLAND		2	2
W WINDSOR		2	2
WAITSFIELD		7	7
WALLINGFORD		5	5
WALTHAM		1	1
WARREN		3	3
WASHINGTON	1	3	4
WATERFORD	3	17	20
WEATHERSFIELD		9	9
WELLS		3	3
WESTMINSTER		1	1
WEYBRIDGE		3	3
WHITING		11	11
WHITINGHAM		3	3
WILLIAMSTOWN	1	13	14
WILLISTON		6	6
WILMINGTON		3	3
WINDSOR		2	2
WOODBURY	1		1
WOODFORD		1	1
WOODSTOCK		5	5
Total	65	725	790