

Connecticut Wild Turkey Program Report

2019 Spring and Fall Seasons

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Photo by Stephen LaRoche: Brooke LaRoche's first wild turkey harvest.



THIS PROJECT WAS SUPPORTED by Wildlife Restoration Grants administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program:
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3/2020

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Introduction

The wild turkey is an important component of our state's wildlife diversity. The goal of the Connecticut Wild Turkey Management Program is to manage the wild turkey population at a level compatible with available habitat and various land uses, and to allow for a sustained yield of turkeys for use by the people of Connecticut. Wild turkeys continue to be fairly abundant throughout the state, providing the public with hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities.

In 1975, Steve Jackson, Connecticut's first wild turkey biologist, started the wild turkey restoration effort with 22 wild turkeys captured in New York. Before Steve hung up his biologist hat, he was asked, "What inspired the initial Connecticut wild turkey releases?" The answer was unexpected; he replied that the primary motivation was to enhance biodiversity and return a once native species to our state. Although wild turkey hunting was part of the equation, at that time, Steve was not sure whether wild turkeys would ever reach a large enough population size to institute a hunting season. Fortunately, wild turkeys responded well to available habitat and the population grew to numbers that exceeded expectations. Currently, Connecticut residents can enjoy springtime gobbling activity, gobblers strutting for their harem, and the antics of turkey poult running to and fro, attempting to capture grasshoppers in grassy meadow.

Also, as a result of Steve's and other's efforts, Connecticut maintains three wild turkey hunting seasons, which include spring, fall archery, and fall firearms. For the majority of Connecticut's wild turkey hunters, spring is the most popular season, and for this reason, the 2019 spring season highlights are presented first, followed by the spring turkey hunter survey information, annual brood survey data, fall firearms season highlights, and fall archery season information.

2019 Spring Gobbler Season

Overall Results

The 38th annual statewide spring turkey season was open from April 24 – May 25, 2019. A total of 7,260 Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamps were issued and 1,324 birds were harvested. The harvest decreased by 12.0% from 2018 (Table 1).

In an effort to provide a quality turkey hunting experience for Connecticut's junior hunters (ages 12 to 15), the 15th annual Youth Wild Turkey Junior Hunter Training Days took place from Saturday, April 13 to Saturday, April 20, 2019 (excluding Sunday, April 14). Participants harvested 48 wild turkeys, 8 birds more than the previous year. Junior Wild Turkey Hunter Training Days have been well received by all participants, both youth hunters and mentors.

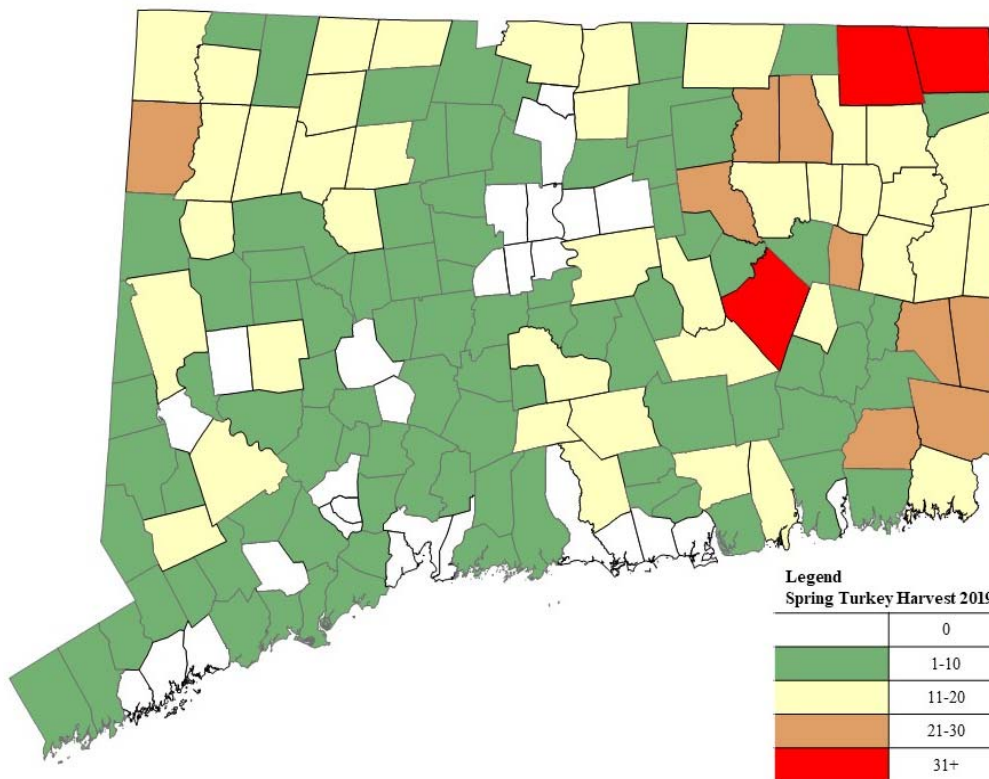
Harvest by Town

At least 1 bird was taken from 141 of Connecticut's 169 towns (Figure 1, Appendix A). Twenty or more birds were taken from 12 towns, and 30 or more birds were taken from 3 towns. The towns of Lebanon (36), Thompson (35), and Woodstock (31) had the highest reported turkey harvest.

Table 1. Connecticut’s spring turkey harvest on private and state lands, 2018 and 2019.

Land Type	Total Harvest		
	2018	2019	% Change
Private Land	1,193	1,052	-11.8%
State Land	311	272	-12.5%
Overall Total	1,504	1,324	-12.0%

Figure 1. Distribution of the 2019 spring turkey harvest in Connecticut.



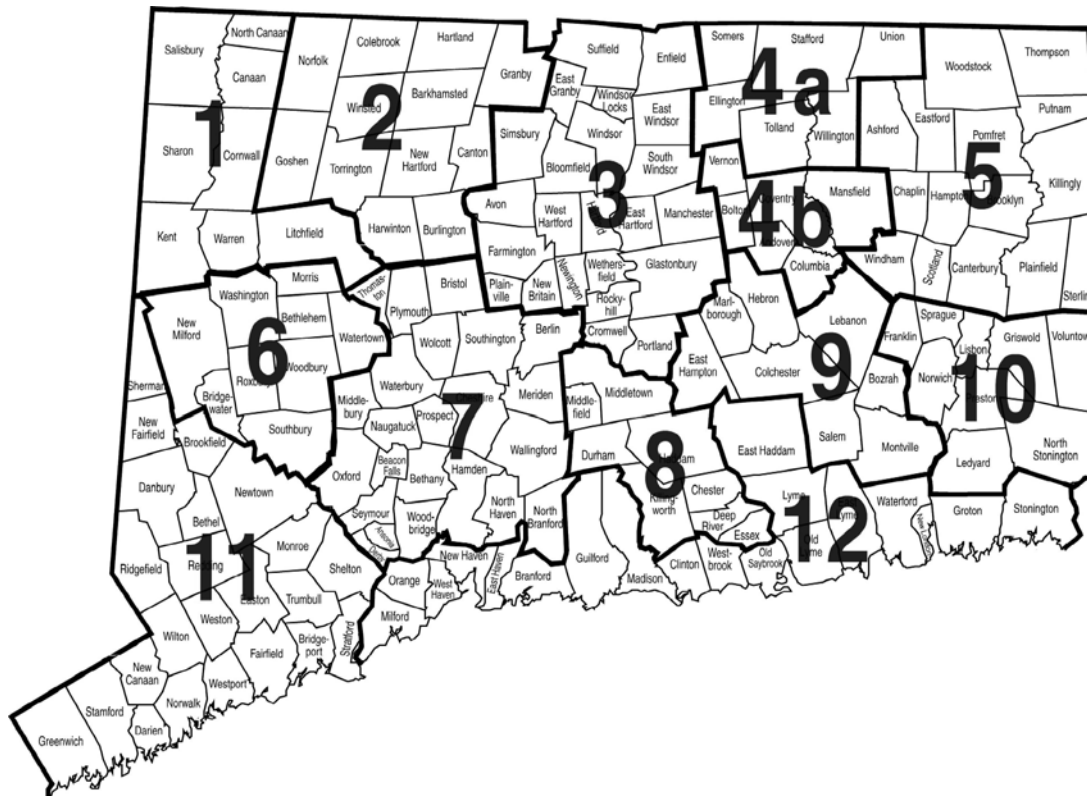
Zonal Harvest

Similar to 2018, the northeastern corner of the state (Turkey Management Zone 5) reported the highest harvest among Connecticut’s 13 Turkey Management Zones (TMZs) during 2019 (Table 2, Figure 2). Prior to 2004, northwest Connecticut (Zone 1) had typically held this distinction. Zones 4A and 4B recorded the lowest harvest. Zones 1 and 3 showed the largest increase in harvest from 2018 to 2019. Although harvest was variable among zones, locally abundant turkey populations existed in all zones, and harvest is a function of hunter access and turkey numbers.

Table 2. Gobblers harvested during the spring 2018 and 2019 seasons by Turkey Management Zone.

Zone	Harvest 2018	Harvest 2019	Percent Change
1	93	110	+18.3%
2	148	137	-7.4%
3	95	108	+13.7%
4A	112	69	-38.4%
4B	75	56	-25.3%
5	301	242	-19.6%
6	80	79	-1.3%
7	104	77	-26.0%
8	74	73	-1.4%
9	112	104	-7.1%
10	117	117	0.0%
11	86	74	-14.0%
12	107	78	-27.1%
Total	1,504	1,324	-12.0%

Figure 2. Connecticut's 13 Turkey Management Zones, 2019.



Private and State Land Hunting

Private land accounted for the majority of the harvest (79.5%). Private land encompasses the largest amount of land, includes the best turkey habitat, and may have more experienced hunters with lower hunter densities than state land. Of the state-managed properties, Pachaug State Forest (31), Natchaug State Forest (20), Cockaponset State Forest (18), and Meshomasic State Forest (18) yielded the most turkeys in 2019. The most productive state land turkey hunting areas (≥ 5 birds harvested/mi² and a minimum harvest of 4 birds) were Algonquin State Forest and Talbot Wildlife Management Area (Appendix B).

Population Dynamics

The 2019 spring harvest consisted of 353 juvenile and 967 adult male birds, and 4 bearded hens. During the last 10 years, juvenile to adult ratios, spring season harvest, and hunter perception population growth index indicated that Connecticut's wild turkey population has been variable; 2010 and 2019 showed lower productivity whereas 2000 and 2011 indicated higher productivity (Figures 3, 4, and 5). This also correlates well with brood survey indices. In 2009, the brood index was the second lowest reported value (1.7), which was reflected in the 2010 spring harvest as a reduction in juvenile take. In contrast, the 2010 brood index (3.6) was the highest reported brood index and the 2011 spring harvest had a high proportion of juvenile birds. The 2019 ratio of juvenile to adult gobbler harvest of 0.37 was higher than that of 2018, though still lower than the previous several years. This also correlated to the overall trend of lower brood index (1.6) and lower population growth index (2.6). Turkey abundance is expected to vary annually, depending on conditions during the nesting and brood rearing seasons.

Figure 3. Ratio of juvenile to adult gobblers taken during Connecticut's spring wild turkey seasons, 1995 – 2019.

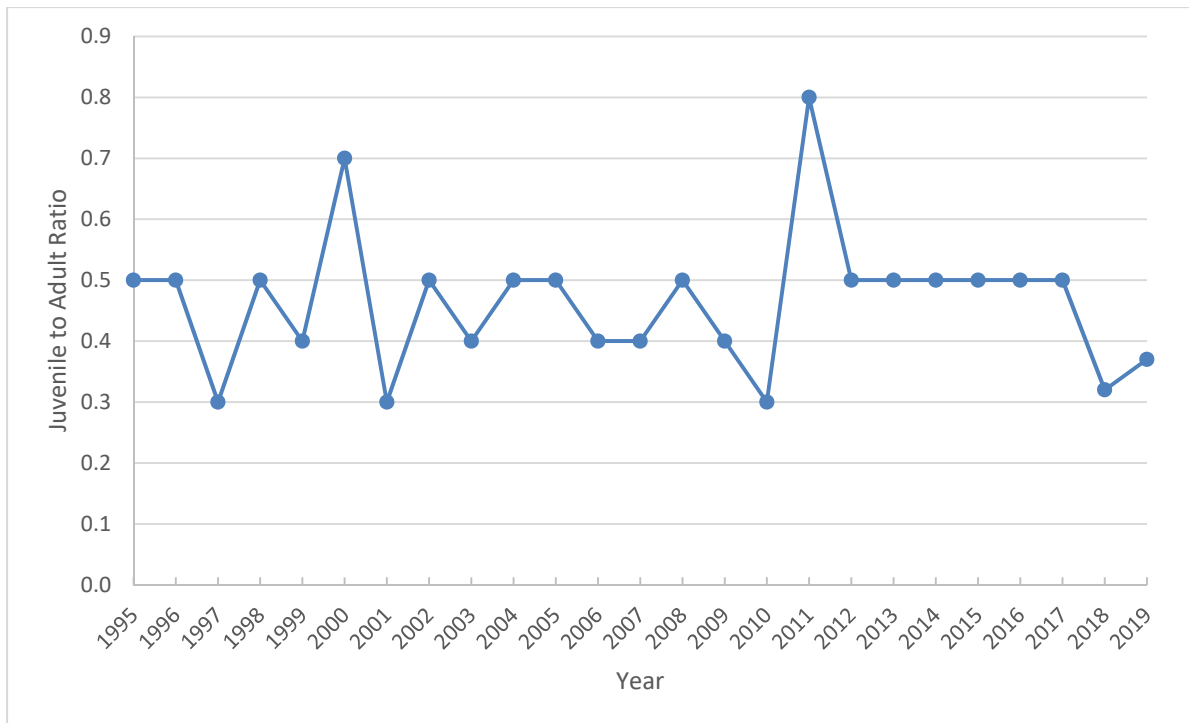


Figure 4. Connecticut's spring wild turkey season harvest, 1981 – 2019.

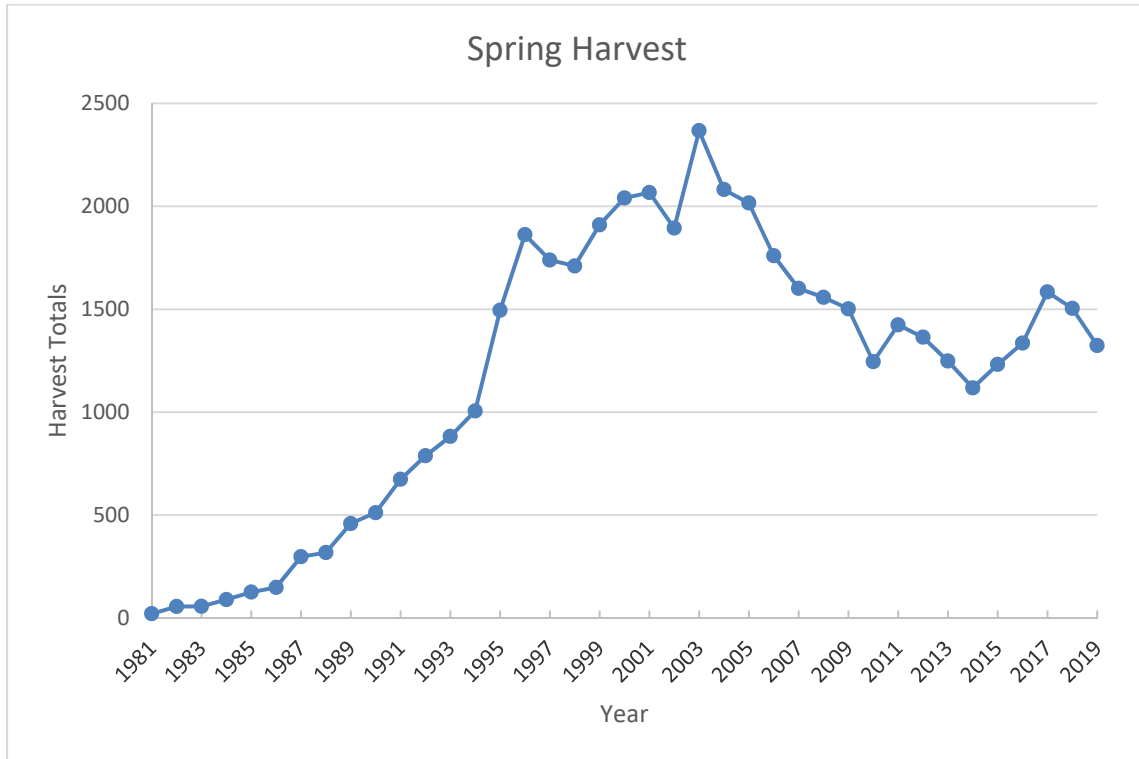
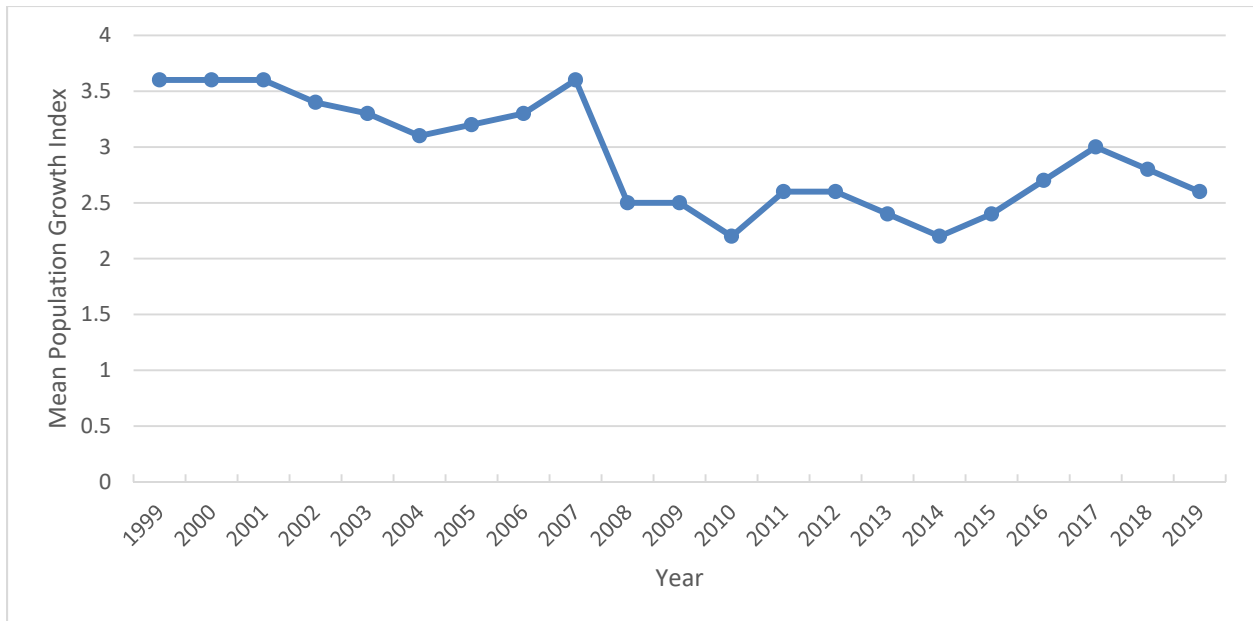


Figure 5. Perception of hunters regarding wild turkey population growth from 2000 – 2019.



Spring Turkey Hunter Survey Results

The spring Wild Turkey Hunter Survey is used to obtain a variety of information to better manage Connecticut's wild turkey resource. The survey provides valuable insight into population growth trends, economic expenditures, and recreational benefits. It also provides turkey hunters a forum to weigh in on proposed regulation changes and overall satisfaction with the Wildlife Division's management of Connecticut's wild turkey population. Prior to 2010, each spring turkey hunter received a mail-in survey attached to their permit. Since then, in an effort to streamline the survey process, all individuals who purchase a Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp (RGBCS) and provided an email address receive a survey.

In 2019, a total of 4,056 surveys were emailed to spring turkey hunters and 32% of those hunters responded. Twenty-five percent of the respondents had obtained a RGBCS, but did not participate in the 2019 spring turkey hunting season. Of those that did hunt (5,445), most of their hunting activity occurred in Turkey Management Zones 2, 5, and 7 (Figure 2; Table 3). Sales of RGBCS as of June 1, 2019, generated \$174,426 of revenue (Table 4).

Forty-nine percent of spring turkey hunters responding to the survey believed the turkey population was stable. Of the remainder, 17% believed it was increasing and 34% believed it was decreasing. The 2019 mean statewide rank of Connecticut's turkey population growth index was 2.6, based on hunter opinions (a rank of 3.0 suggests the population is stable). Based on the spring turkey hunter survey, hunters indicated that in most zones, populations were declining. The turkey population growth index dropped in 2008, and then has remained relatively stable over the past 8 years (Figure 2).

To collect data on ruffed grouse distribution in Connecticut, an additional question was added to the turkey hunter survey in 2005. Hunters are asked to report whether they observed ruffed grouse or heard grouse drumming and, if so, to provide the town in which the encounter occurred. During 2019, hunters reported 70 encounters with ruffed grouse in 41 towns. The towns with the highest number of grouse encounters was Hartland (Appendix C). A grouse population index was derived by dividing total grouse observations into the total number of surveys returned and then multiplying by 100. This represents the average number of grouse encountered by 100 spring turkey hunters. The 2019 index was 5.4 (Figure 6). Data trends since 2005 suggest that Connecticut's grouse numbers continue to decline. Only 6% of the spring turkey hunters encountered a grouse during the season.

The survey is also used to assess hunter preferences and activities. The majority of hunters who purchased a RGBCS intended to pursue wild turkeys (95%), 58% indicated they would hunt only wild turkeys, 37% wild turkeys and other gamebirds, 2% pheasants and other gamebirds, 3% only pheasants, and three individuals purchased the RGBCS to only hunt ruffed grouse. Ninety-one percent of the hunters identified themselves as spring turkey hunters, 32% as fall archery turkey hunters, and 34% as fall firearms turkey hunters. Of these spring hunters, 52% hunted turkeys on private land only, 24% on both private and state lands, and 24% on state land only. On average, 2019 spring turkey hunters spent approximately 4.2 days pursuing turkeys on private land and 3.0 days on state land.

Wild turkey hunters were queried regarding their opinions on current regulations and hunter satisfaction. The majority of these hunters indicated that they would be satisfied with a 3-bird total spring bag limit (88% satisfied, 12% not satisfied). A majority of survey respondents indicated that hearing a gobbler (86%), working a gobbler (82%), and no disturbance from the public or other hunters (79%) was extremely or very important. In contrast, only 39 percent of the respondents reported that harvesting a gobbler was extremely or very important. This contrast indicates that Connecticut turkey hunters value a quality hunt over harvesting a bird. The 2019 state land spring turkey hunters encountered nearly three

times more hunter interference than private land hunters (20% vs. 7%). For those private land hunters that encountered hunter interference, the majority indicated that it was the same amount as previous years (69%), 12% indicated less interference, and 19% more interference. For state land hunters, 60% encountered the same amount of interference, 10% less interference, and 30% more interference. This information indicates that with 48% of our spring turkey hunters spending some time on limited state lands, overcrowding during the spring turkey season may be becoming a problem. Overall, it appears that most 2019 spring hunters were satisfied with the quality of the Connecticut hunt experience: excellent – 16%, good – 35%, fair – 27%, poor – 14%, very poor – 7%, and no opinion – 1%.

Table 3. Number of survey respondents hunting in each Turkey Management Zone in Connecticut, 2019.

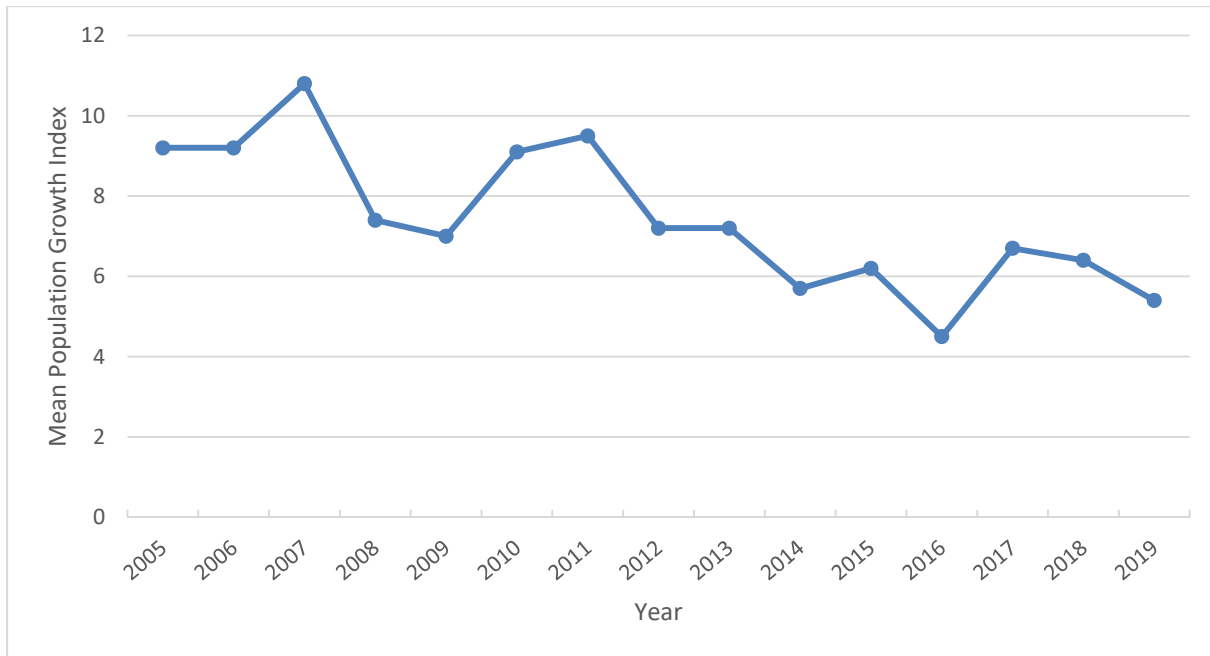
Zone	Hunters	%
1	70	7
2	96	10
3	82	9
4A	40	4
4B	28	3
5	142	15
6	61	7
7	96	10
8	64	7
9	79	8
10	70	7
11	62	7
12	60	6
Total	950	100

Table 4. Economic benefits provided by the 2019 Connecticut spring turkey hunting season.

Permit	Total Permits	
	No. Issued	Revenue
Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp	7,260	\$174,426*

* Excludes landowner permits issued free-of-charge.

Figure 6. Ruffed grouse population growth index reported on the spring turkey hunter surveys from 2005 - 2019.



2019 Fall Firearms Turkey Season

The fall firearms season was open statewide in 2019 for the 24th year in Connecticut. Hunters who purchased a Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp were able to hunt on any state land open to turkey hunting and all private lands where hunters obtained a signed landowner consent form. A total of 32 birds were harvested during the 24-day (October 5-31) 2019 fall firearms season. Hunters harvested 24 birds on private land and 8 birds on state land. The harvest included 13 adult males, 9 adult females, 5 juvenile males, and 5 juvenile females. The harvest consisted of 69% adults, 31% juveniles, 56% males, and 44% females. Overall from 2018 to 2019, the fall firearms harvest decreased by 52%.

Fall firearms hunters reported taking at least 1 bird from 19 of Connecticut's 169 towns. The town reporting the highest harvest was Woodstock (3) (Table 5). In addition, Turkey Management Zone 5 (13 birds) reported the highest zonal harvest (Table 6).

Table 5. Wild turkey harvest by town during the 2018 and 2019 fall firearms seasons.

Town of Harvest	Number of Birds		Town of Harvest	Number of Birds	
	2018	2019		2018	2019
Ashford	1	2	Middletown	2	1
Barkhamsted	1	0	Naugatuck	0	1
Canterbury	1	0	North Stonington	1	0
Columbia	2	0	Old Lyme	1	0
Colebrook	2	0	Oxford	2	0
Coventry	2	1	Pomfret	1	0
Durham	1	0	Portland	0	1
East Hampton	0	1	Rocky Hill	1	0
East Windsor	0	2	Scotland	2	2
Eastford	1	0	Sharon	1	2
Ellington	0	2	Shelton	2	0
Enfield	2	0	Southbury	1	0
Franklin	2	0	Stafford	3	0
Goshen	0	2	Suffield	2	1
Granby	1	0	Thomaston	4	0
Griswold	1	0	Thompson	1	1
Haddam	0	2	Torrington	2	2
Hartland	1	1	Union	1	0
Hebron	2	0	Voluntown	1	0
Killingly	0	2	Wallingford	2	0
Killingworth	1	0	Willington	1	0
Lebanon	4	0	Winchester	1	0
Middlefield	2	0	Woodstock	7	3
Total			66	32	

Table 6. Wild turkeys harvested during the 2018 and 2019 fall firearms seasons by Turkey Management Zone.

Zone	Harvest by Year		Zone	Harvest by Year	
	2018	2019		2018	2019
1	1	2	7	8	1
2	8	5	8	6	3
3	5	4	9	6	1
4A	5	2	10	5	0
4B	4	1	11	2	0
5	14	13	12	1	0
6	1	0	Total	66	32

2019 Fall Archery Turkey Season

Connecticut's 37th fall archery turkey season was open statewide and ran concurrently with the 2019 archery deer season. The purchase of a Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp allowed archers to participate in the 2019 season. These hunters could harvest turkeys on any state land open to fall archery turkey hunting or any private land where written landowner consent was obtained. Archers reported a harvest of 79 birds from 55 towns during the fall 2019 season. The towns reporting the highest harvests were Thompson (4) and Willington (4) (Table 7). Turkey Management Zones 11 (22) and 12 (10) reported the highest zonal harvest (Table 8). The highest zone and town harvest numbers may be attributed to the longer season length or more lands open to hunting. Because the fall archery wild turkey season runs concurrently with the archery deer season, hunters in Zones 11 and 12 have the additional month of January to harvest wild turkeys; all other zones close at the end of December. Fifty-four of the 79 birds harvested by archers were males (35 adults, 19 juveniles) and 25 were females (15 adults, 10 juveniles). The fall archery turkey harvest decreased by 31% from 2018 to 2019.

Table 7. Wild turkeys harvested by town during the 2018 and 2019 fall archery seasons.

Town of Harvest	Number of Birds		Town of Harvest	Number of Birds	
	2018	2019		2018	2019
Andover	1	0	East Haddam	6	2
Ashford	1	0	East Hampton	0	2
Avon	0	1	East Windsor	2	1
Barkhamsted	2	1	Easton	3	0
Beacon Falls	0	1	Ellington	1	0
Bethel	1	1	Farmington	1	1
Bloomfield	1	0	Franklin	0	0
Brookfield	0	2	Glastonbury	2	2
Brooklyn	2	1	Granby	4	0
Burlington	0	0	Greenwich	0	1
Canterbury	1	0	Griswold	1	1
Canton	1	0	Guilford	2	0
Chaplin	0	1	Hampton	1	0
Cheshire	1	0	Hartland	0	1
Clinton	0	0	Hebron	3	0
Colchester	3	0	Kent	3	0
Colebrook	2	0	Killingly	0	1
Columbia	0	2	Lebanon	1	2
Cornwall	0	0	Deep River	1	1
Coventry	0	0	Durham	1	0
Danbury	0	1	East Granby	2	0

Town of Harvest	Number of Birds		Town of Harvest	Number of Birds	
	2018	2019		2018	2019
Ledyard	0	1	Seymour	1	0
Lyme	2	0	Sharon	2	0
Madison	3	0	Shelton	1	2
Mansfield	2	2	Somers	0	1
Marlborough	3	1	South Windsor	2	1
Meriden	0	1	Southbury	3	0
Middlefield	1	1	Stafford	1	1
Middletown	3	0	Stonington	0	2
Montville	3	1	Stratford	1	0
New Fairfield	0	1	Suffield	0	1
New Milford	0	1	Thomaston	1	0
Newtown	1	1	Thompson	4	4
North Stonington	0	1	Torrington	1	0
Norwalk	0	3	Trumbull	0	3
Old Lyme	3	1	Vernon	1	0
Old Saybrook	1	1	Voluntown	2	1
Orange	0	1	Wallingford	1	1
Oxford	2	0	Waterford	1	2
Plymouth	1	0	Watertown	1	0
Portland	1	1	West Haven	0	1
Preston	1	0	Weston	1	0
Prospect	0	1	Willington	1	4
Redding	0	3	Wilton	0	1
Ridgefield	0	3	Winchester	1	0
Rocky Hill	0	1	Windham	1	0
Roxbury	1	0	Wolcott	1	1
Salem	3	0	Woodstock	2	0
Scotland	4	1	Total	115	79

Table 8. Wild turkeys harvested during the 2018 and 2019 fall archery seasons by Turkey Management Zone.

Zone	Harvest by Year		Zone	Harvest by Year	
	2018	2019		2018	2019
1	5	1	7	8	5
2	11	2	8	6	2
3	11	8	9	16	6
4A	3	6	10	4	4
4B	4	4	11	8	22
5	16	8	12	18	10
6	5	1	Total	115	79

Wild Turkey Brood Survey

Since 2007, turkey brood surveys have been conducted annually from June 1 through August 31 to assess annual fluctuations in statewide wild turkey populations. Volunteers and DEEP staff are requested to report turkey sightings, categorized by total hens, total poults, and total number of hens with poults. These observations are analyzed to obtain an annual productivity index and evaluate fall recruitment. The productivity index, or ratio of young per adult hen, is derived by dividing the total number of poults by the total number of hens. By evaluating recruitment over time, biologists can quantify changes and trends in Connecticut’s statewide wild turkey populations.

The 2019 brood index was 1.6 young per adult for all hens observed and 3.6 young per adult for hens observed with at least one poult (Table 9). A total of 52 cooperators reported 203 wild turkey observations, including 422 hens – 188 with broods and 234 without broods. The brood index was found to be variable throughout the summer months (Table 10). During 2018, the brood index was 2.4 young per adult for all hens observed and 3.5 young per adult for hens observed with at least one poult. Participants reported 644 observations, which included 1,223 hens and 2,955 poults. The brood survey information indicates that wild turkeys had fair productivity in Connecticut during 2019. The 2019 spring weather was cool and wet throughout Connecticut, creating poor conditions during both the nesting (May 1 – May 31) and brooding (June 1 – June 30) periods. For the past six years, the brood survey information has indicated a stable to slightly declining turkey population.

Table 9. Wild turkey brood survey data for Connecticut, 2007 – 2019.

Year	Total Hens	Total Young	Total Hens and Young	Hens without Young	Young per Hen	Young per Hen with Young	No. of Reports
2007	731	1,900	2,631	270	2.6	4.1	405
2008	448	988	1,436	330	2.2	4.3	224
2009	611	1,049	1,660	177	1.7	2.4	323
2010	472	1,686	2,158	105	3.6	4.6	278
2011	685	1,919	2,604	118	2.8	3.4	375
2012	435	1,089	1,524	293	2.5	3.7	244
2013	337	843	1,180	115	2.5	3.7	200
2014	579	1,561	2,140	194	2.7	4.1	313
2015	530	1,560	2,091	152	2.9	4.1	266
2016	401	1,120	1,521	123	2.8	4.0	202
2017	877	2,289	3,164	287	2.6	3.9	424
2018	1,223	2,955	4,178	378	2.4	3.5	644
2019	422	691	1,113	234	1.6	3.6	203
Tot./Ave.	7,751	19,650	27,400	2,366	2.5	3.8	4,101

Table 10. Wild turkey brood survey data by month for Connecticut, 2019.

Month	Total Adults	Total Young	Young per Adult	Number of Reports
June	164	147	0.9	82
July	141	333	2.4	74
August	117	211	1.8	47
Total	422	691	1.6	203

Outlook

The wild turkey brood survey and harvest statistics for 2019 indicated that this year continued to be difficult for Connecticut’s wild turkey population. The three hunting seasons recorded decreases in harvest from the 2018 seasons: Spring = -12%; Fall Firearms = -52%; Fall Archery = -31%. The 2019 brood survey index showed a ratio of 1.6 poults per hen. The brood index for the past 5 years has also shown a downward trend. In addition, over one third of the 2019 spring turkey hunters indicated that Connecticut’s wild turkey population is decreasing. These parameters all point to a challenging spring season in 2020 and a reduction in 2-year old birds in 2021. The 2020 fall seasons will depend on the weather in May and June; if Connecticut experiences a warm and dry weather pattern, then productivity could be enhanced, providing good fall hunting.

Annual wild turkey productivity is largely dependent upon weather; however, other long term factors, such as trends in predator populations, young forests, agricultural land use, disease, and regulated harvest, can also play a significant role in statewide turkey populations. Unfortunately, in Connecticut, these parameters have been trending in a way that does not benefit wild turkeys. Our state has documented increases in avian and mammalian predators, reductions in young forests and agricultural land use, increases in avian pox and lympho-proliferative disease virus, and liberalizations in regulations. In the

future, decisions regarding forest management, agricultural commodities, and wildlife management will impact wild turkey population trends both positively and negatively.

Appendices

Appendix A. Connecticut spring turkey harvest by town, 2008 – 2019.

Town	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Andover	4	4	10	14	7	10	7	7	4	14	12	10
Ansonia	0	0	3	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Ashford	10	25	16	25	28	21	13	20	31	35	34	24
Avon	11	6	9	3	1	3	3	3	3	1	4	3
Barkhamsted	6	11	8	12	5	8	6	12	4	12	10	9
Beacon Falls	7	7	8	5	9	5	9	9	6	6	8	4
Berlin	9	9	5	10	9	4	10	7	6	8	18	9
Bethany	6	7	9	5	5	4	4	5	1	9	1	2
Bethel	5	3	2	5	1	3	3	0	5	3	6	4
Bethlehem	7	2	8	4	6	3	1	7	4	6	8	8
Bloomfield	3	4	6	1	5	5	3	1	3	0	2	4
Bolton	6	9	1	3	4	8	3	2	4	5	4	2
Bozrah	11	5	6	12	11	3	2	4	5	8	13	5
Branford	1	0	1	5	1	2	2	0	2	0	0	2
Bridgeport	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bridgewater	8	6	4	5	4	4	4	6	8	2	9	10
Bristol	0	0	0	2	0	1	2	1	3	2	1	5
Brookfield	6	7	3	5	3	2	1	2	0	1	1	0
Brooklyn	13	15	16	8	10	10	2	3	12	11	12	11
Burlington	12	11	12	8	11	8	5	7	6	11	4	4
Canaan	28	16	18	14	20	11	14	8	11	19	8	18
Canterbury	7	18	10	18	12	13	7	9	5	14	15	13
Canton	4	4	6	9	8	8	7	7	14	7	11	5
Chaplin	7	8	12	25	8	10	9	8	8	11	11	13
Cheshire	10	9	9	4	10	6	4	4	1	7	6	2
Chester	10	6	5	4	4	5	5	4	3	4	9	4
Clinton	0	3	4	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	1	0
Colchester	14	21	16	12	11	15	9	13	26	7	17	14
Colebrook	14	11	8	8	15	10	12	9	4	11	5	15
Columbia	6	9	2	8	4	7	3	3	4	10	8	3
Cornwall	37	31	20	28	19	15	24	10	16	16	16	20
Coventry	14	15	16	21	24	19	18	20	18	27	32	22
Cromwell	3	10	0	4	2	3	5	5	5	6	5	3
Danbury	1	6	3	4	1	2	3	3	2	2	10	5
Darien	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Deep River	3	2	8	3	0	4	7	0	2	3	3	5
Derby	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Town	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Durham	9	9	4	12	11	12	10	9	14	11	17	12
East Granby	2	2	4	6	8	5	3	2	8	4	4	5
East Haddam	14	27	25	17	15	26	15	22	16	25	25	7
East Hampton	6	12	9	5	7	5	9	4	7	11	2	10
East Hartford	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	4	0	0
East Haven	3	2	3	0	3	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
East Lyme	18	16	13	10	14	8	12	15	13	14	15	13
East Windsor	10	13	13	11	15	11	10	20	1	11	15	17
Eastford	15	14	13	11	5	10	11	13	22	27	19	12
Easton	18	8	2	8	6	3	0	3	3	11	13	5
Ellington	17	14	16	9	5	15	10	15	9	11	18	5
Enfield	9	16	7	6	9	5	4	5	6	17	8	13
Essex	7	4	4	6	3	3	6	2	4	0	0	1
Fairfield	8	4	0	3	0	0	2	1	4	1	3	2
Farmington	3	5	4	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
Franklin	18	10	13	15	11	10	14	10	16	16	10	11
Glastonbury	7	11	7	8	7	13	18	12	13	11	11	15
Goshen	17	20	10	12	18	9	13	14	13	18	17	14
Granby	12	7	15	8	21	5	13	13	15	15	8	10
Greenwich	4	2	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	3	4	3
Griswold	4	6	5	11	16	12	20	14	19	10	17	21
Groton	2	3	2	1	6	4	1	5	4	2	4	2
Guilford	15	11	17	13	13	6	7	8	10	8	12	6
Haddam	19	14	16	19	20	17	10	23	31	27	21	14
Hamden	9	7	8	7	7	7	5	5	4	5	10	10
Hampton	21	9	17	19	8	12	10	8	8	18	12	12
Hartford	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hartland	10	7	15	11	16	18	9	10	13	17	15	13
Harwinton	14	10	14	9	11	16	12	16	25	22	16	12
Hebron	16	15	12	14	4	8	12	5	8	10	21	17
Kent	9	23	18	15	15	15	9	14	12	16	11	8
Killingly	13	9	2	4	14	9	2	5	9	10	10	11
Killingworth	17	7	7	12	5	4	4	13	13	8	9	12
Lebanon	33	37	39	44	36	30	27	31	24	27	31	36
Ledyard	18	9	8	11	5	8	6	7	12	7	14	16
Lisbon	11	4	3	5	5	5	2	2	4	10	10	4
Litchfield	29	14	23	24	19	22	13	14	12	20	15	9
Lyme	28	24	16	23	13	18	19	11	20	29	18	13
Madison	0	6	1	3	1	0	0	3	0	7	1	0
Manchester	3	2	0	2	5	3	1	1	0	0	0	0

Town	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Mansfield	13	14	6	16	13	11	11	18	15	16	17	14
Marlborough	2	7	3	10	3	3	11	6	7	13	2	9
Meriden	3	6	3	1	2	0	2	0	3	0	1	3
Middlebury	2	2	2	2	1	3	3	1	3	7	0	2
Middlefield	8	12	10	7	13	10	6	12	12	15	3	10
Middletown	20	18	18	15	12	11	13	21	18	12	12	15
Milford	0	0	2	0	3	1	5	3	3	4	3	2
Monroe	2	5	1	3	2	4	0	2	5	4	5	3
Montville	20	8	8	9	15	10	8	12	9	15	16	7
Morris	12	15	3	4	6	6	3	7	3	7	5	6
Naugatuck	8	6	11	7	6	7	3	5	6	3	2	3
New Canaan	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	1
New Fairfield	7	1	6	7	6	2	4	3	5	2	7	4
New Hartford	14	22	14	11	16	22	20	14	15	23	18	18
New London	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Milford	27	13	16	20	16	16	8	24	18	15	8	14
Newtown	22	14	12	22	13	16	10	9	17	18	12	15
Norfolk	15	13	9	14	14	11	19	12	13	9	17	6
North Branford	7	5	5	5	4	3	8	6	5	7	3	2
North Canaan	4	8	1	2	5	7	4	4	3	3	6	2
North Haven	4	11	3	12	8	5	4	5	5	8	6	2
N. Stonington	26	23	13	13	16	12	16	15	18	26	27	23
Norwalk	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Norwich	5	7	8	0	5	0	0	5	3	4	0	2
Old Lyme	12	15	7	9	6	7	6	7	9	9	7	10
Old Saybrook	0	0	2	1	1	0	2	2	1	1	1	0
Orange	5	1	4	1	3	4	5	12	7	7	1	3
Oxford	8	10	17	14	17	10	5	7	10	7	7	10
Plainfield	25	15	9	12	9	18	14	12	20	18	17	12
Plainville	0	2	1	2	4	1	3	1	1	5	5	1
Plymouth	7	13	8	12	7	9	7	8	5	7	10	7
Pomfret	24	31	35	30	15	21	15	18	20	19	22	18
Portland	7	16	4	9	8	5	9	4	11	11	5	10
Preston	17	15	5	11	10	9	6	16	9	8	13	8
Prospect	1	5	1	4	3	2	3	2	4	1	3	0
Putnam	4	6	3	7	11	9	6	5	6	7	7	3
Redding	23	16	21	28	17	23	12	12	5	10	8	11
Ridgefield	2	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	6	4	5	4
Rocky Hill	3	6	7	4	9	7	2	1	3	4	4	3
Roxbury	3	4	4	4	10	6	4	10	3	12	9	0

Town	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Salem	6	7	14	13	15	12	7	8	7	11	10	6
Salisbury	20	19	16	8	18	22	11	11	14	19	11	14
Scotland	29	19	13	17	25	19	17	18	14	26	28	24
Seymour	2	1	1	0	3	8	4	4	6	5	3	0
Sharon	31	23	28	22	25	17	13	19	18	17	11	22
Shelton	6	8	4	3	3	0	2	0	5	9	3	6
Sherman	6	4	6	5	5	5	3	3	3	5	3	4
Simsbury	3	2	0	0	4	2	6	1	1	6	4	5
Somers	9	8	8	18	10	12	8	8	13	11	21	4
Southbury	13	13	11	9	9	5	11	10	10	18	10	10
Southington	9	7	3	8	3	4	3	3	6	1	7	1
South Windsor	7	10	4	3	5	8	7	9	6	14	5	8
Sprague	6	8	1	9	6	6	1	3	7	2	6	4
Stafford	15	17	8	18	20	20	21	16	33	21	29	19
Stamford	3	0	1	4	1	5	6	5	4	2	2	1
Sterling	14	19	7	10	15	8	9	15	10	14	19	14
Stonington	10	11	6	5	11	11	12	19	12	15	9	16
Stratford	2	3	0	1	2	0	0	2	0	3	1	1
Suffield	10	17	12	22	32	17	28	9	25	28	20	20
Thomaston	1	3	4	5	4	5	2	1	3	1	0	1
Thompson	22	16	15	12	17	25	12	15	22	26	33	35
Tolland	13	10	3	7	9	6	3	5	4	5	6	8
Torrington	17	11	13	12	15	15	13	7	16	13	17	16
Trumbull	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0
Union	8	11	7	21	12	7	14	9	12	15	18	8
Vernon	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	4	3	2	5
Voluntown	7	10	5	11	14	10	9	14	19	16	20	28
Wallingford	4	9	6	9	8	6	8	8	5	11	12	9
Warren	17	18	12	16	14	10	7	7	8	15	15	17
Washington	18	19	11	10	7	10	9	18	13	18	13	10
Waterbury	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Waterford	11	10	13	8	9	6	8	15	10	16	10	4
Watertown	9	5	10	4	14	2	2	4	2	6	10	6
Westbrook	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	1	0	3	0	0
West Haven	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
West Hartford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Weston	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3
Westport	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Wethersfield	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Willington	14	12	13	21	16	18	12	20	10	15	20	25

Town	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Wilton	1	4	2	2	0	0	1	0	2	1	1	1
Winchester	15	13	8	7	15	7	9	7	8	14	10	15
Windham	5	4	6	15	10	13	10	12	5	19	14	9
Windsor	5	2	0	4	1	1	0	1	2	8	0	0
Windsor Locks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Wolcott	4	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	0	3	3	4
Woodbridge	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	0	3	1
Woodbury	17	8	4	7	1	6	7	7	5	12	8	15
Woodstock	38	47	32	44	30	33	19	42	49	46	48	31
Town Not Reported	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,558	1,502	1,245	1,424	1,364	1,248	1,118	1,232	1,335	1,584	1,504	1,324

Appendix B. Spring turkey harvest from state-owned and managed lands, 2018 and 2019.

State Land	No. Birds Harvested		Sq. Miles	Harvest/mi ²	
	2018	2019		2018	2019
Aldo Leopold WMA	1	4	0.87	1.1	4.6
Algonquin SF	3	7	1.04	2.9	6.7
American Legion	1	0	1.62	0.6	0
Assekong Swamp WMA	2	1	1.07	1.9	0.9
Barn Island WMA	1	1	1.58	0.6	0.6
Bartlett Brook WMA	3	0	1.10	2.7	0
Bear Hill WMA	4	0	0.56	7.1	0
Bishops Swamp WMA	7	4	1.18	5.9	3.4
Black Rock Lake	0	1	0.63	0	1.5
Bloomfield FCA	1	2	0.51	2.0	3.9
Camp Columbia SF	2	2	0.94	2.1	2.1
Cent. Water. SF (Canaan Block)	1	0	0.23	4.3	0
Cent. Water. SF (Monroe Block)	0	1	0.1	0	10.0
Cockaponset SF	22	18	26.85	0.8	0.7
Colebrook Reservoir-MDC	3	4	6.50	0.5	0.6
Durham Meadows WMA	1	0	0.80	1.3	0
East Swamp WMA	0	2	0.10	0	20
Eightmile River WMA	0	3	0.48	0	6.3
Enders SF	4	2	0.55	7.3	3.6
Franklin Swamp WMA	2	2	1.07	1.9	1.9
Goshen WMA	5	1	1.51	3.3	0.7
Great Swamp FCA	2	2	0.53	3.8	3.8
Hancock Brook Lake	5	1	1.10	4.5	0.9
Higganum Meadows WMA	1	0	0.40	2.5	0
Housatonic River WMA	2	4	0.87	2.2	4.6
Housatonic SF	9	7	17.63	0.5	0.4
John Minetto SP	1	1	1.12	0.9	0.9
Kollar WMA	2	1	1.40	1.4	0.7
Larson Lot WMA	3	1	0.38	7.9	2.6
Mad River Dam FCA	0	1	0.70	0	1.4
Mansfield Hollow Lake	5	6	3.14	1.6	1.9
Mattatuck SF	0	6	7.0	0	0.9
Meadow Brook WMA	0	1	0.42	0	2.4

State Land	No. Birds Harvested		Sq. Miles	Harvest/mi ²	
	2018	2019		2018	2019
Meshomasic SF	4	18	14.22	0.3	1.3
Mohawk SF Ziegler/Johnson Tract	3	1	0.51	5.9	2.0
Mohegan SF	2	1	1.50	1.3	0.7
Natchaug SF	27	20	7.93	3.4	2.5
Nathan Hale SF	3	4	2.27	1.3	1.8
Naugatuck SF	11	7	21.15	0.5	0.3
Naugatuck SF (Great Hill Block)	1	1	0.37	2.7	2.7
Nehantic SF	7	2	7.91	0.9	0.3
Newgate WMA	1	2	0.70	1.4	2.9
Nepaug SF	2	0	2.10	1.0	0
Nipmuck SF	9	5	14.40	0.6	0.3
NU-Maromas Coop WMA	4	4	2.48	1.6	1.6
NU-Skiff Mtn. Coop WMA	0	1	1.13	0	0.9
Pachaug SF	32	31	40.84	0.8	0.8
Paugussett SF	3	1	3.04	1.0	0.3
Paugnut SF	0	4	2.7	0	1.5
Peasebrook WMA	0	1	0.33	0	3.0
Peoples SF	6	6	4.60	1.3	1.3
Pootatuck SF	2	1	1.72	1.2	0.6
Quaddick SF	1	7	0.90	1.1	7.8
Quinnipac River SP	3	0	0.53	5.7	0
Quinnipac River WMA	2	3	0.88	2.3	3.4
Robbins Swamp WMA	1	2	2.45	0.4	0.8
Roraback WMA	5	3	3.10	1.6	1.0
Rose Hill WMA	4	2	1.08	3.7	1.9
Salmon River SF	11	8	10.90	1.0	0.9
Shenipsit SF	6	5	11.85	0.5	0.4
Simsbury WMA	3	3	0.57	5.3	5.3
Spignesi WMA	3	1	0.82	3.7	1.2
Sucker Brook FCA	0	2	0.24	0	8.3
Suffield WMA	1	2	0.30	3.3	6.7
Sugar Brook Field Trail Area	2	0	0.31	6.5	0
Talbot WMA	0	5	0.79	0.0	6.3
Tankerhoosen WMA	2	2	0.78	2.6	2.6
Topsmead SF	1	0	0.28	3.6	0
Trout Brook Valley SP	1	3	0.47	2.1	6.4
Tunxis SF	11	11	15.88	0.7	0.7
Wangunk Meadows	1	0	1.00	1.0	0

State Land	No. Birds Harvested		Sq. Miles	Harvest/mi ²	
	2018	2019		2018	2019
West Thompson Dam	1	8	1.71	0.6	4.7
Wyantenock SF	7	2	6.38	1.1	0.3
Yale Forest	8	5	12.03	0.7	0.4
Zemko Pond WMA	2	1	0.71	2.8	1.4

Appendix C. Ruffed grouse observations (seen or heard) from turkey hunter surveys, 2008 – 2019.

Town	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Andover	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ansonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Ashford	6	2	1	0	2	2	0	3	2	2	1
Barkhamsted	5	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	1	4	2
Beacon Falls	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Berlin	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bethany	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Bethel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bethlehem	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bloomfield	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
Bristol	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Burlington	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Canaan	7	0	0	4	4	2	3	3	2	2	4
Canterbury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Canton	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Chaplin	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Cheshire	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Chester	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Clinton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Colchester	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1
Colebrook	1	3	1	2	3	2	3	1	3	1	5
Columbia	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cornwall	1	3	1	3	4	3	4	2	3	3	1
Coventry	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
Danbury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Durham	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
East Granby	2	2	2	1	2	0	0	1	2	3	0
East Haddam	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
East Hampton	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
East Haven	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
East Lyme	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0
East Windsor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Eastford	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	4	2	2
Ellington	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	1
Enfield	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Glastonbury	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1

Town	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Goshen	9	4	2	3	3	6	5	5	3	5	6
Granby	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	2	1
Greenwich	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Guilford	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Haddam	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Hamden	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hampton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Hartland	7	4	4	1	4	2	6	1	5	8	7
Harwinton	1	0	0	3	0	3	0	2	2	1	1
Hebron	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Kent	4	3	0	1	2	0	2	0	1	0	0
Killingly	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	1
Killingworth	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Lebanon	0	1	0	3	2	0	1	0	1	2	0
Ledyard	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
Litchfield	2	1	0	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	0
Lyme	1	1	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
Madison	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Mansfield	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	0	0
Middlefield	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Middletown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Monroe	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Morris	2	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Naugatuck	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
New Fairfield	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0
New Hartford	6	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
New Milford	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	1
Newtown	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Norfolk	6	1	3	3	3	1	2	2	1	2	2
North Branford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
North Canaan	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2
North Haven	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
N Stonington	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Old Lyme	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Oxford	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
Plainfield	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	3
Plymouth	0	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	2	1
Pomfret	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	4	0

Town	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Portland	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Preston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Putnam	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Redding	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salisbury	3	3	1	1	3	0	1	1	2	0	1
Salem	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
Scotland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Seymour	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Sharon	6	6	2	4	6	4	5	3	3	0	0
Sherman	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Simsbury	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Somers	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Southbury	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	2	1
Southington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Sprague	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Stafford	1	3	2	1	3	3	1	1	2	1	1
Stamford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Sterling	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suffield	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
Thompson	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Tolland	2	3	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0
Torrington	7	3	2	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	3
Union	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
Voluntown	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1
Warren	2	1	1	1	5	4	4	3	2	0	1
Washington	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Waterbury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Waterford	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Watertown	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0
Westbrook	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
Weston	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Westport	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Willington	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0
Wilton	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Winchester	3	2	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
Windham	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
Windsor	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wolcott	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Woodbridge	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Town	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Woodbury	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Woodstock	6	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	2	1
Total	138	68	31	66	81	57	74	56	82	82	70