

TURKEY HUNTING IN NEW HAMPSHIRE – 2009 SPRING AND FALL SEASONS

2009 SPRING GOBBLER SEASON:

- Season Dates:** May 3 to May 31: STATEWIDE
- Hunting Hours:** 1/2 hour before sunrise to 12 noon.
- Bag Limit:** One bearded or male turkey per hunter.
Hunters are encouraged to pass on bearded hens.
- Rules:** Turkeys may be taken by shotgun or by archery.
See "Other Rules" to right.

YOUTH HUNT WEEKEND:

- The 2009 youth hunt weekend is Sat., April 25 and Sun., April 26. All WMUs (A through M) are open.
- Youths must be under 16 years of age and must be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older who is licensed to take turkeys.
- Youths **must purchase and possess a current N.H. turkey license.**
- Adults who accompany youth hunters may not carry a firearm or bow.
- Each adult can accompany a maximum of 2 youths.
- Youths are subject to the same regulations as those in effect during the regular spring season, and must register their turkeys within 24 hours at a registration station.

2009 FALL TURKEY SEASONS:

Shotgun: October 12-16 in WMU's D1, D2, G, H1, H2, I1, I2, and K.

Archery: September 15-December 15: WMU B-M; **WMU A is closed.**

See the New Hampshire Hunting Digest for more details.

A turkey license allows a turkey hunter to take 1 bearded or male turkey during the spring season and 1 fall turkey of either sex during the fall archery turkey season or during the fall shotgun turkey season, where permitted.

KNOW HENS FROM GOBBLERS:

It is against the law to kill hen turkeys (except for bearded hens) during the spring season. Hunters are legally and ethically obligated to know how to differentiate hens and gobblers. The turkey "beard" is not a reliable indicator of sex. Beards may be broken or obscured, short beards may be difficult to see, and up to 10% of females may have thin 6 to 10 inch beards. Bearded hens are a valuable segment of the nesting population and should never be taken purposefully!

The white skullcap of a gobbler is very distinct, as are the red neck wattles and leg spurs. Gobblers are black in overall appearance. Hens have a blue-gray head and lack prominent wattles and leg spurs. Hens are brown in overall appearance. Finally, hens seldom strut or fan, and do not gobble. See the Turkey Wildlife Profile at www.HuntNH.com for more information.

LICENSES:

All turkey hunters, including those under 16 years of age, must purchase a turkey license. All hunters over 16 years of age must also possess a valid hunting or archery license. The fee for a resident turkey license is \$16. The fee for a nonresident turkey license is \$31. All licensed turkey hunters possessing a firearms license are entitled to participate in the fall shotgun turkey season where permitted. The fall shotgun season and rules are outlined in the NH Hunting Digest, available late summer.

OTHER RULES:

- It is unlawful to take a turkey with a rifle, dogs (during spring season), bait, electronic calling devices, live decoys, or while it is perched in a tree. Cooperative drives are illegal. If using a bow, it must be at least a 30-pound-draw weight at 28" or less draw length. Shotguns must be between 10 and 20 gauge. Shot size must be 2, 4, 5, or 6.
- The name and address of the archer shall be plainly printed on each arrow. Fixed blade broadheads shall not be less than 7/8 inch wide. Retractable blade broadheads may be smaller than 7/8 inch wide in flight, but not less than 7/8 inch wide when open. There is no maximum size restriction on fixed blade or retractable blade broadheads used for turkey hunting.
- Turkeys must be tagged immediately upon killing. Registration is required within 24 hours of taking. The bird must be fully feathered and intact, but may be gutted. Agents may collect up to a \$2 registration fee.
- Companion hunting: A person who has taken a turkey may assist another properly licensed turkey hunter by calling only. The person assisting by calling shall not possess a firearm or bow and arrow.

TURKEY HUNTING SAFETY TIPS

Don't become a statistic. Avoid all circumstances that enhance the likelihood of you being "mistaken for game."

1. **Never stalk a turkey.** It rarely works and increases the risk of an accident.
2. **Never wear red, white, blue or black** over or under-clothing, as these are prominent colors of displaying gobblers.
3. **Never call from a tree** that is thinner than the width of your shoulders.
4. **Never jump or turn suddenly** in response to a suspected turkey.
5. **Never call** from a site where you can't see at least 40 yards in all directions.
6. **Never imitate a gobbler call** while concealed in a stand.
7. **Never presume** that what you hear or what responds to your call is a turkey.
8. **Never think that your camouflage makes you totally invisible.** To ID yourself to other hunters, wrap an orange band around a tree.
9. **Never hide** so well that you can't see what's happening around you.
10. **Never move or wave** to alert approaching hunters; shout "stop" instead.



NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

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