

Connecticut Wild Turkey Program

Annual Report

Fall 2007 – Spring 2008



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Introduction

The goal of the Connecticut Turkey Management Program is to manage wild turkey populations at levels 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 abundant throughout Connecticut, providing the public with wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities.

Many changes are proposed for the Wild Turkey Program, including season length, youth hunt days, permit systems, harvest reporting methods, and online license purchasing. Under the current spring season framework, opening day is the first Wednesday in May and the season runs through the last Saturday in May. Proposed changes would increase the spring season by a week, with the season beginning the last Wednesday in April and ending the last Saturday in May. Youth hunt day would be expanded from 1 to 2 days and hunting hours would change to one-half hour before sunrise to 5:00 PM (the hours are currently one-half hour before sunrise to noon). Successful turkey hunters will be reporting their harvest by automated telephone system or the Internet. In addition, hunting licenses, and deer and turkey permits will be available online. These changes will increase hunter opportunity, simplify the reporting of harvest, and streamline the purchase of hunting licenses and permits.

This report presents a summary of the fall 2007 and spring 2008 wild turkey hunting seasons in Connecticut. For most Connecticut sportsmen, “turkey hunting” means spring gobbler hunting. Because of its popularity, information for the 2008 spring season is presented first, followed by highlights from the 2007 fall seasons.

2008 Spring Gobbler Season

Overall Results

The 22-day season (May 7– May 31) resulted in a reported harvest of 1,558 birds (1,551 gobblers and 7 bearded hens). This constitutes a 3.0% decrease from the spring 2007 harvest of 1,601 birds. Overall, 6,617 spring turkey-hunting permits were issued, and 1,014 sportsmen took at least 1 turkey, for a 15.3% statewide hunter success rate. Harvest and success rates decreased between the 2007 and 2008 spring turkey hunting seasons; however, permit issuance increased slightly (Table 1).

Table 1. Harvest and success rates of Connecticut’s spring turkey hunters on private and state land, 2007 and 2008.

Permit Type	Total Number		Number of	
	of Hunters	Total Harvest	Successful Hunters	Success Rate
Private Land				
2007	4,574	1,354	846	18.4%
2008	4,744	1,354	852	18.0%
% Change 07-08	3.7%	-0.7%	0.7%	
State Land*				
2007	1,730	247	196	11.3%
2008	1,873	214	162	8.6%
% Change 07-08	8.2%	-13.3%	-17.3%	
Overall Total				
2007	6,304	1,601	1,042	16.5%
2008	6,617	1,558	1,014	15.3%
% Change 07-08	5.0%	-2.8%	-2.7%	

* As of 2007, all state land permits are no-lottery.

State Land Hunting

Of the state-managed properties, Cockaponset State Forest (23), Naugatuck State Forest (18), Housatonic State Forest (17), Pachaug State Forest (13), and Tunxis State Forest (11) yielded the most turkeys in 2008 (Appendix B). Based on harvest rates per square mile, Spignesi Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Mad River Dam Flood Control Area, and MDC Greenwoods were some of the most productive turkey hunting areas (Appendix B).

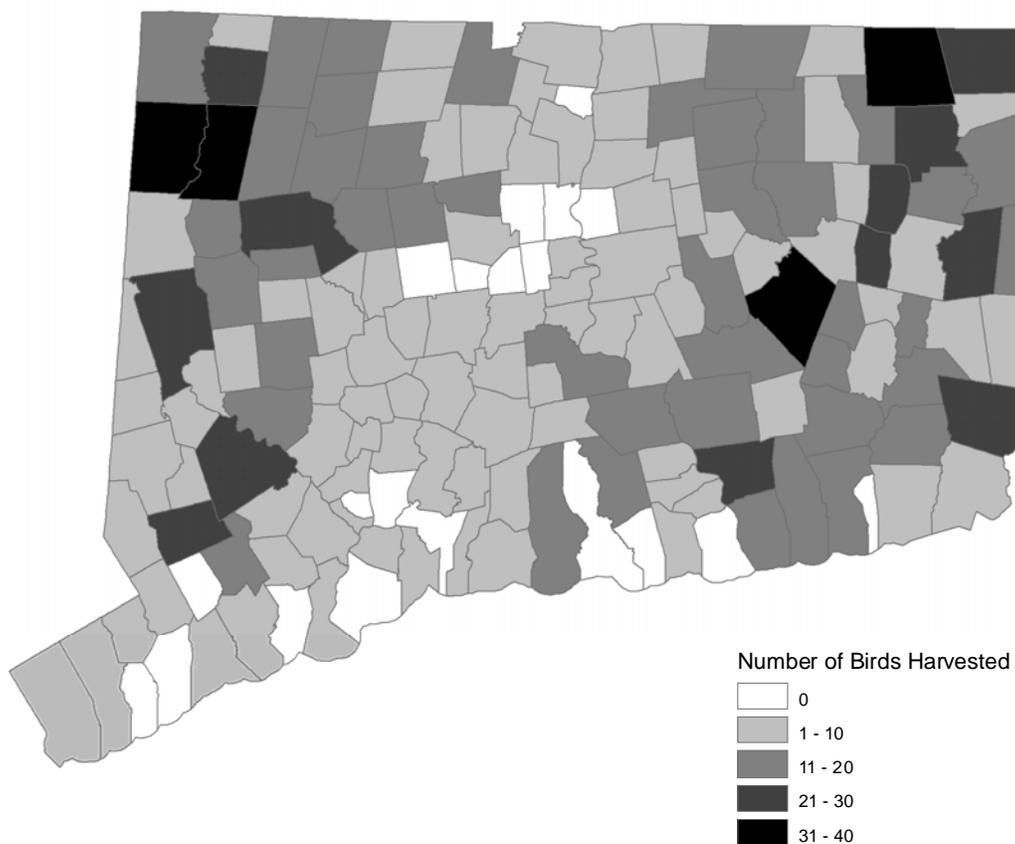
Non-resident Hunters

Non-resident hunters accounted for 208 of 1,558 birds harvested (13.3%). Most of the non-resident hunters came from neighboring states. Hunters from Massachusetts (37.5% of birds taken), Rhode Island (16.3%), Vermont (7.2%), New York (6.2%), and New Hampshire (6.2%) figured most prominently in the non-resident turkey harvest. Interest in hunting Connecticut's wild turkeys is not limited to New England hunters; a few participants came from as far away as Colorado, Montana, Nova Scotia, and Texas. Participation by non-residents shows that Connecticut's reputation for quality wild turkey hunting extends across the country.

Harvest by Town

At least 1 bird was taken from 150 of Connecticut's 169 towns (Figure 1, Appendix A). Twenty or more birds were taken from 16 towns, and 31 or more birds were taken from 4 towns. The towns of Woodstock (38), Cornwall (37), Lebanon (37), and Sharon (31) had the highest turkey harvest.

Figure 1. Distribution of the 2008 spring turkey harvest in Connecticut.



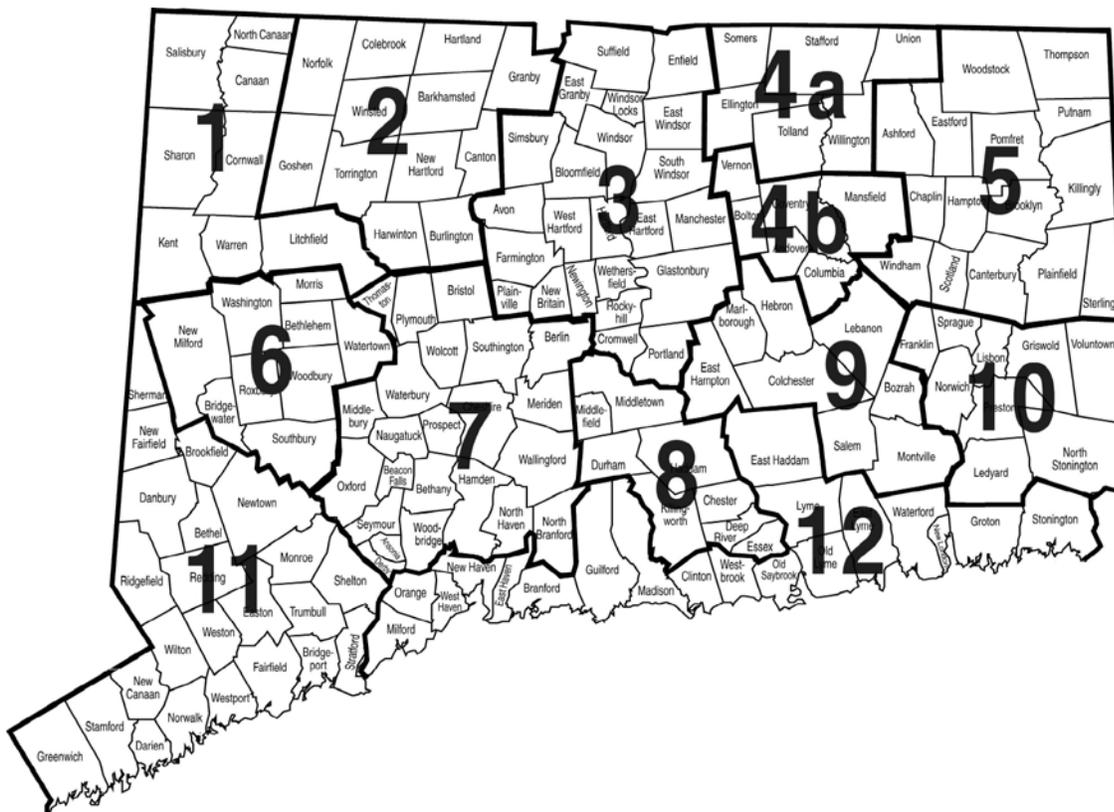
Harvest by Zone

Similar to 2007, the northeastern corner of the state (zone 5) reported the greatest harvest among Connecticut's 12 turkey management zones in 2008 (Table 2, Figure 2). Prior to 2004, northwest Connecticut (zone 1) had typically held this distinction. The west-central (zone 6), south-central (zone 8), and northeast-central (zones 4A and 4B) parts of the state recorded the lowest harvest. Harvest levels continue to be highest in zones 5, 1, 2, 11, and 12 where some of the best turkey habitat exists and hunter access is good.

Table 2. Gobblers harvested during the spring 2007 and 2008 seasons by turkey management zone.

Zone	Harvest		Percent Change	Zone	Harvest		Percent Change
	2007	2008			2007	2008	
1	183	175	-4.4%	7	99	105	6.1%
2	165	150	-9.1%	8	96	93	-3.1%
3	147	114	-22.4%	9	123	112	-8.9%
4A	58	76	31.0%	10	121	112	-7.4%
4B	47	44	-6.4%	11	115	121	5.2%
5	238	247	3.8%	12	133	121	-9.0%
6	76	88	15.8%				
Total					1,601	1,558	-2.7%

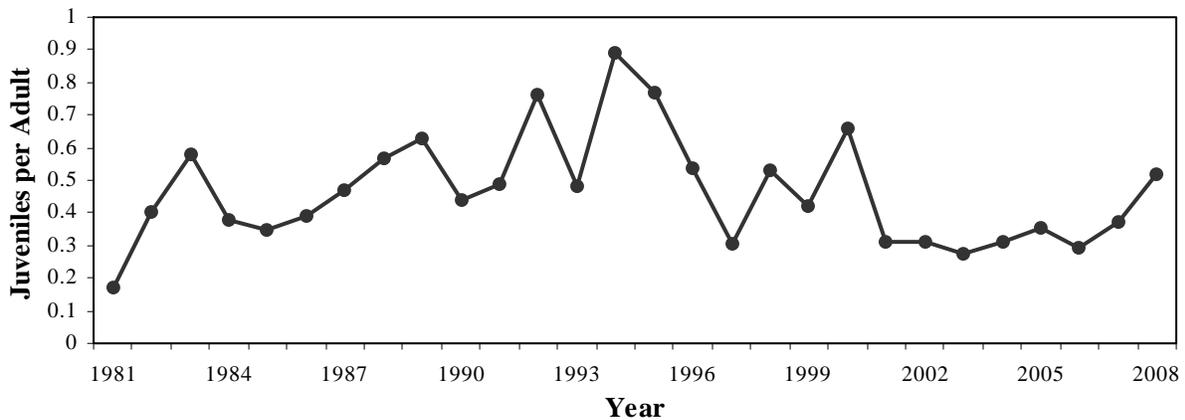
Figure 2. Connecticut's 12 turkey management zones.



Population Dynamics

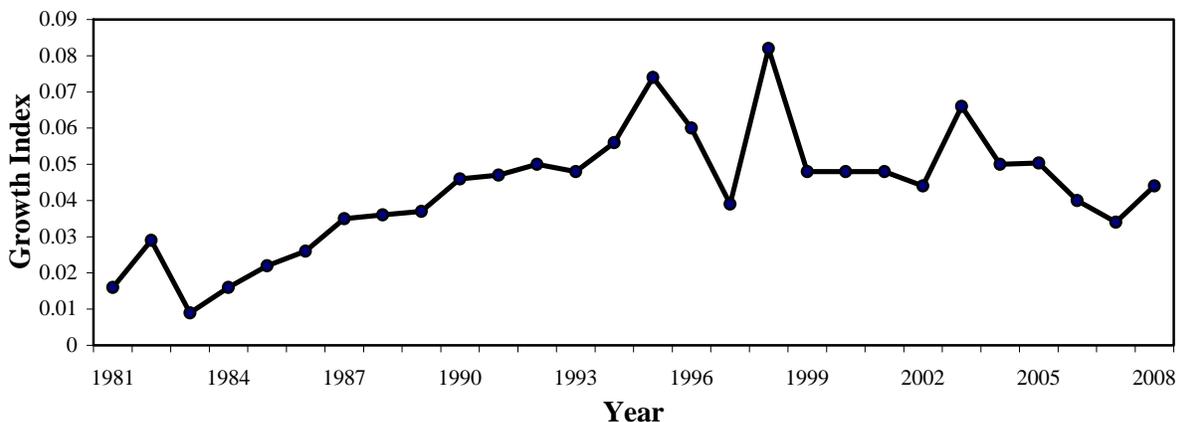
The spring harvest consisted of 533 juvenile and 1,025 adult birds. The increased ratio of juveniles to adults in the harvest (52.0% in 2008 versus 36.9% in 2007) may be due to either increased recruitment of young birds into the 2008 spring turkey population (Figure 3) or that hunters are becoming less selective (that is, more willing to harvest jakes versus mature gobblers). Harvest statistics indicate the growth rate of Connecticut's wild turkey population varies annually, depending upon many variables, including weather, predation, habitat condition, and food availability.

Figure 3. Ratio of juvenile to adult gobblers taken during Connecticut's spring wild turkey seasons, 1981 – 2008.



The turkey population index (total number of birds taken on opening day divided by the total number of turkey hunters) indicated a noticeable increase in turkey population growth during 1995 and 1998, and a reduced but average growth rate during 1999 through 2008 (Figure 4). Both the harvest age ratio and population index suggest that weather conditions in the spring of 1994 were favorable for nesting hens and their young. However, weather conditions in the springs 2000 through 2006 were less favorable for nesting turkeys. Since 2001, the spring season harvest, adult to juvenile ratios, and turkey population growth index indicate that Connecticut's wild turkey population has been stabilizing.

Figure 4. Growth index (first day harvest/permits issued) for the wild turkey population in Connecticut, 1981 – 2008.



2008 Spring Hunter Survey Results

Turkey hunter surveys provide valuable insight into hours spent hunting; number of toms, hens, and hunters seen while hunting; and monetary expenses related to turkey hunting (Tables 3 and 4). About one third (29.7%) of the 6,617 hunters issued permits returned survey cards. Overall, 16.7% of all respondents did not hunt. Most hunting activity occurred in turkey management zones 1, 2, 5, and 11. Data from the 2008 spring season indicate that turkeys were hunted in at least 157 (92.8%) of Connecticut's 169 towns.

Overall, private land (PL) hunters had better success than state land (SL) hunters. PL hunters, on average, harvested 1 gobbler per 19.9 hours of hunting, as compared to 1 bird per 50.8 hours for SL (Table 3). The average number of hours required to harvest a gobbler during the spring season increased from 20.6 in 2007 to 24.6 in 2008. PL hunters heard more gobblers per outing (1.7) than SL hunters (1.1; Table 3).

Information from surveys was used to estimate the economic and recreational benefits provided by spring turkey hunting. Overall, in 2008, spring turkey hunters enjoyed 25,719 days afield and spent \$839,607 on hunting-related items (Table 4). This compares to 24,178 hunting days and \$915,076 spent on hunting-related expenses in 2007. Holders of all permit types hunted about the same amount of time in 2007 and 2008. Permit sales in 2008 generated \$92,638 for the state's General Fund (Table 4).

The 2008 spring turkey hunter survey also was used to quantify hunters' perceptions of trends in Connecticut's wild turkey population. Forty-three percent of spring turkey hunters responding to the survey believed the turkey population was relatively stable. Of the remainder, 18% believed it was increasing and 39% believed it was declining. The mean statewide rank of Connecticut's turkey population growth for 2008 was 2.5. This represents a decrease from 2007's rank of 3.6. Based on hunter opinions, turkey populations in turkey management zones 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 11 were stable and populations in zones 3, 4B, 9, and 12 were decreasing. An equal number of hunters in zones 4A and 10 indicated turkey populations were stable or decreasing.

Table 3. Experiences of hunters during the 2008 spring gobbler season in Connecticut as reported on hunter surveys.

	Private land*	State Land**	All Hunters
No. Surveys Returned	1,347	620	1,967
Reported harvest	940	168	1,108
Mean outings per hunter	4.0	3.6	3.8
Mean hours per outing	3.6	4.1	3.7
Mean hours per bird harvested	19.9	50.8	24.6
Mean gobblers heard per outing	1.7	1.1	1.5
Mean toms seen per outing	1.1	0.5	0.9
Mean hens seen per outing	1.0	0.6	0.9

* Includes landowner.

** As of 2007, all state land permits were no-lottery.

Table 4. Economic and recreational benefits provided by the 2008 Connecticut spring turkey hunting season.

Permit Type	Total Permits		Hunting Expenses*		Hunter Days of Recreation*	
	No. Issued	Revenue	Average	Total	Average	Total
Private	4,744	\$66,416**	\$130	\$616,720	4.0	18,976
State***	1,873	\$26,222	\$119	\$222,887	3.6	6,743
Total	6,617	\$92,638		\$839,607		25,719

* Values for hunting expenses and hunter-days of recreation were derived from hunter surveys.

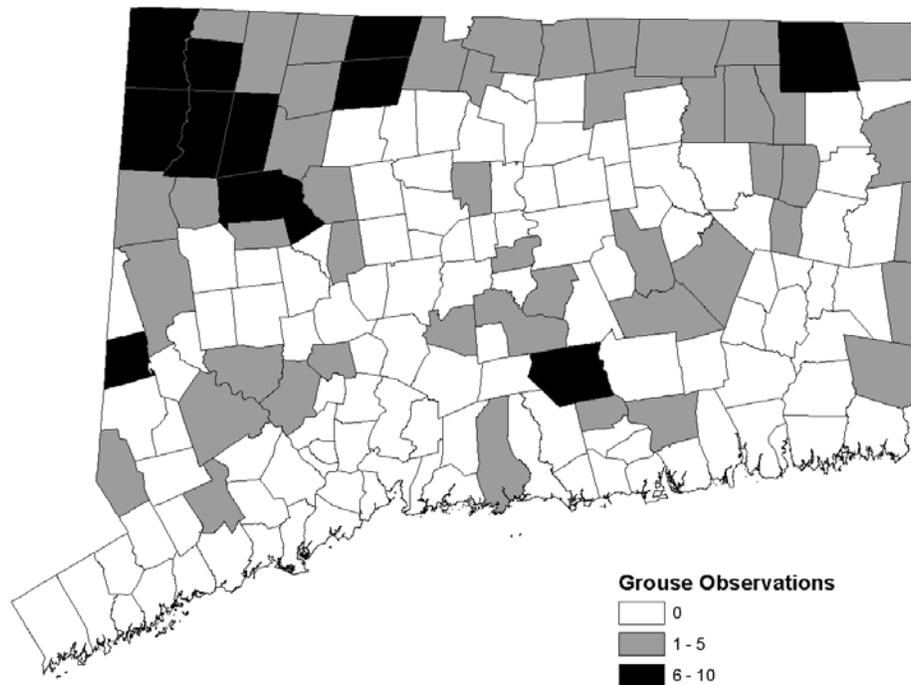
** Excludes 435 landowner permits issued free-of-charge.

***As of 2007, all state land permits were no-lottery.

Ruffed Grouse

To collect baseline data on ruffed grouse distribution in Connecticut, an additional question was added to the turkey hunter survey in 2005. Hunters were asked to report whether they observed or heard ruffed grouse and, if so, provide the town in which the encounter occurred. During 2008, hunters reported 153 encounters with ruffed grouse in 58 towns (Figure 5). The towns with the highest number of grouse encounters were Sharon (10) and Barkhamsted (7). A grouse population index was derived from dividing total grouse observations by total number of surveys returned and then multiplying by 100. This represents the average number of grouse encountered by 100 spring turkey hunters. The 2008 index was 7.8, which was lower than 10.8 reported in 2007 and 9.2 reported in 2005 and 2006.

Figure 5. Distribution of 2008 grouse sightings as reported on the spring turkey hunter surveys.



2007 Fall Firearms Turkey Season

During the 2007 fall wild turkey seasons from October 6 to October 31, hunters reported harvesting 208 birds from Connecticut woodlands. Harvest increased from 2006 to 2007; however, permit issuance continued to decrease.

Firearms hunters reported a harvest of 165 birds, representing a 51% increase from the 109 birds harvested in 2006 (Table 5). Overall, 2,769 firearms permits were issued in 2007 and 120 hunters took at least 1 turkey for a 4.3% overall success rate. In 2006, 2,926 hunters reported a success rate of 3.0%. Private land hunters (2,088) harvested 146 birds and state land hunters (681) harvested 19 birds. Fall firearms hunters reported taking at least 1 bird from 66 of Connecticut's 169 towns (39%). The towns of Lyme, New Hartford, and Woodstock recorded the highest harvest (each with 6 birds), while the towns of Burlington, Franklin, Harwinton, Middletown, and Preston each reported 5 birds. The highest harvest on state land was recorded at Tunxis State Forest (4), Natchaug State Forest (3), Naugatuck State Forest (2), and Roraback State Forest (2). In addition, turkey management zones 2 (28 birds) and 5 (23 birds) reported the highest zonal harvest (Table 6). The harvest included 42 adult males, 44 adult females, 32 juvenile males, and 47 juvenile females (Table 7). Over half of the harvested birds (52%) were adults. Overall, the harvest was slightly skewed towards females (55.1%) compared to males (44.9%)

2007 Fall Archery Turkey Season

The fall archery turkey hunting season ran concurrent with the archery deer season. Archers reported a harvest of 43 birds, representing a 65% increase from the 26 birds harvested in 2006. Overall, 1,957 archery permits were issued in 2007 and 35 hunters took at least 1 turkey for a 1.7 overall success rate. In 2006, 2,034 permits were issued and 26 hunters took at least 1 turkey for a 1.2 success rate. Wild turkeys were taken in 33 of Connecticut's 169 towns (19%). The highest harvest recorded was in Lyme (5) and Redding (3), while the towns of Ashford, East Lyme, Sharon, and Thompson each reported 2 birds (Table 8). On state land, 1 bird was harvested at East Swamp WMA, Meshomasic State Forest, Naugatuck State Forest, and Pachaug State Forest. Turkey management zones 12 (10 birds) and 5 (7 birds) reported the highest zonal harvest. The harvest included 10 adult males, 12 adult females, 8 juvenile males, and 13 juvenile females.

Although fall turkey hunter numbers declined during 2007, the firearms and archery seasons remain very popular with avid turkey hunters statewide. Hunters participating in the fall seasons enjoy the challenge of harvesting one of Connecticut's wariest game birds.

Table 5. Wild turkey harvest by town during the 2006 and 2007 fall firearms seasons.

Town of Harvest	Number of Birds		Town of Harvest	Number of Birds	
	2006	2007		2006	2007
Andover	0	1	Middlefield	2	4
Ashford	2	2	Middletown	5	5
Barkhamsted	0	1	Monroe	0	1
Beacon Falls	1	2	New Fairfield	0	1
Bolton	0	2	New Hartford	1	6
Brookfield	1	0	New Milford	3	4
Brooklyn	0	1	North Stonington	2	2
Burlington	0	5	Old Lyme	1	3
Canaan	1	1	Oxford	0	2
Canterbury	1	1	Plainfield	3	1
Canton	0	1	Plainville	0	1
Chaplin	0	1	Pomfret	1	3
Colchester	0	1	Portland	0	2
Colebrook	0	1	Preston	2	5
Columbia	3	1	Redding	2	0
Cornwall	5	4	Rocky Hill	0	4
Durham	1	1	Roxbury	0	2
East Haddam	3	2	Salem	1	0
East Lyme	1	0	Salisbury	2	0
Eastford	2	3	Scotland	1	1
Easton	6	0	Sharon	5	4
Ellington	1	0	Shelton	2	0
Enfield	0	1	Sherman	2	0
Franklin	0	5	Somers	0	4
Glastonbury	0	3	Southbury	0	1
Goshen	0	2	Sprague	0	1
Granby	2	3	Stafford	0	3
Griswold	2	1	Sterling	0	1
Hampton	0	3	Stonington	0	4
Hartland	0	4	Suffield	0	1
Harwinton	1	5	Thompson	1	0
Hebron	3	0	Tolland	2	1
Kent	2	3	Union	2	3
Lebanon	2	4	Voluntown	1	2
Ledyard	0	1	Wallingford	3	3
Lisbon	1	0	Warren	2	4
Litchfield	0	1	Willington	5	4
Lyme	5	6	Windham	5	0
Manchester	0	1	Woodstock	5	6
Mansfield	0	2	Total	109	165

Table 6. Turkeys harvested during the 2007 fall archery and firearms seasons by turkey management zone.

Zone	Harvest		Zone	Harvest	
	Firearms	Archery		Firearms	Archery
1	17	5	7	7	1
2	28	1	8	10	2
3	13	3	9	5	3
4	21	3	10	17	1
5	23	7	11	2	5
6	7	2	12	15	10
			Total	165	43

Table 7. Age and sex of birds harvested during the 2007 fall firearms season.

Age	Sex	Number Harvested
Adult	Male	42
Adult	Female	44
Juvenile	Male	32
Juvenile	Female	47
Total		165

Table 8. Wild turkey harvest by town during the 2006 and 2007 fall archery seasons.

Town of Harvest	2006	2007	Town of Harvest	2006	2007
Andover	0	1	Middlefield	0	1
Ashford	0	2	Montville	0	0
Avon	0	1	Morris	0	1
Bozrah	0	1	New Canaan	1	0
Canaan	0	1	New Hartford	1	0
Colchester	2	0	Newtown	2	0
Danbury	0	1	Old Lyme	1	1
East Haddam	1	0	Plainfield	1	0
East Hampton	0	1	Putnam	0	1
East Lyme	1	2	Redding	2	3
Easton	1	0	Ridgefield	0	1
Ellington	1	0	Roxbury	0	1
Fairfield	0	0	Salisbury	1	0
Glastonbury	0	1	Scotland	2	0
Goshen	0	0	Sharon	1	2
Granby	0	1	Sherman	1	0
Greenwich	1	0	South Winsor	0	1
Hartland	1	0	Stonington	2	1
Haddam	0	1	Stratford	0	0
Hamden	0	1	Thompson	0	2
Hampton	0	1	Union	0	1
Kent	0	1	Vernon	0	1
Lebanon	0	1	Voluntown	0	1
Ledyard	2	0	Wallingford	0	0
Litchfield	0	1	Waterford	0	1
Lyme	0	5	Weston	0	0
Madison	1	0	Woodstock	0	1
			Total	26	43

Hunter Safety and Ethics

Hunter Safety

No hunting accidents were reported during the 2007 fall seasons and one accident was reported during the 2008 spring gobbler season. Connecticut turkey hunters should be proud of their excellent safety record and should strive to maintain it. The DEP and the Connecticut Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation will continue to stress safe hunting practices as a pillar of Connecticut's wild turkey program. Whether you are an experienced turkey hunter or a novice, safety should be your foremost concern each time that you enter the woods. You should know and abide by the 10 commandments for safe turkey hunting (see page 13).

Hunter Ethics

In addition to the various state laws and regulations that are enforced, there is also a code of conduct that hunters must obey when hunting. Legal and ethical behavior will result in a safe and quality turkey hunt for all. The Connecticut turkey hunter's code of ethics should include the following:

- Scout several locations. If you find another hunter in the area you wish to hunt don't crowd in on him. Move to a backup site. (If the hunter is trespassing, notify the DEP's T.I.P. hotline at 1-800-842-HELP.)

- Know all boundaries and setback distances of the land where you have permission to hunt.
- Never call a bird that another caller is working and do not try to come between the hunter and the bird.
- If several hunters have permission to hunt a piece of private property, it may be beneficial to coordinate hunting activities. Do this in consultation with the landowner. Determine the maximum number of hunters the property can support on a given day and assign individuals certain days on which to hunt to prevent crowding and hunter interference.

Outlook

The current wild turkey population in Connecticut is estimated at about 35,000. Connecticut offers a diversity of habitat types that provide the wild turkey with all essential habitat components needed for survival. Several regulations are being proposed in 2010 that would increase opportunities for Connecticut turkey hunters. Review the current Hunting and Trapping Guide thoroughly before going afield to ensure you are aware of new opportunities. Through continued cooperation among the DEP, National Wild Turkey Federation, sportsmen, other conservation organizations, and private landowners, the future of the wild turkey in Connecticut looks bright.

The National Wild Turkey Federation's 10 Commandments for Safe Turkey Hunting

- 1) Never stalk a turkey. The chances of getting close enough for a shot are limited and the chances of becoming involved in an accident are increased.
- 2) Eliminate the colors red, white, and blue from your turkey hunting outfit. Red is the color most hunters count on to differentiate a gobbler's head from the hen's blue colored head. White can also look like the top of a gobbler's head.
- 3) Never move, wave, or make turkey sounds to alert another hunter of your presence. A quick movement may draw fire. Yell in a loud voice and remain well hidden.
- 4) Never attempt to approach closer than 100 yards to a roosting turkey. The wild turkey's eyesight and hearing are much too sharp to let you get any closer.
- 5) Be particularly careful when using the gobbler call. The sound and motion may attract other hunters. (The Wildlife Division strongly discourages the use of the gobbler call due to the obvious safety risks that it presents.)
- 6) When selecting a calling position, don't try to hide so well that you cannot see what's happening around you. Remember, eliminating movement is your key to success, not total concealment.
- 7) Select a calling position that provides a background as wide as your shoulders, and one that will completely protect you from the top of your head down. Small trees won't hide slight movements of your hands or shoulders, which might look like a turkey to another hunter who might be stalking your calls. Position yourself so you can see 180 degrees in front of you.
- 8) Camouflage conceals you. It does not make you invisible. When turkey hunting, think and act defensively. Avoid all unnecessary movement. Remember, you are visible to both turkeys and hunters when you move even slightly.
- 9) Never shoot at sound or movement. Be 100% certain of your target before you pull the trigger.
- 10) When turkey hunting, assume that another hunter makes every sound you hear. Once you pull the trigger, you can never call that shot back.

Appendices

Appendix A. Connecticut spring wild turkey harvest by town, 1998 – 2008.

Town	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Andover	5	13	11	8	13	14	7	8	2	3	4
Ansonia	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0
Ashford	28	32	25	35	20	32	33	28	19	19	10
Avon	0	3	1	0	5	4	4	7	2	7	11
Barkhamsted	8	7	17	7	7	13	7	23	14	6	6
Beacon Falls	6	6	5	8	5	11	10	8	10	7	7
Berlin	10	14	9	9	8	10	5	4	5	2	9
Bethany	4	8	2	5	8	7	8	3	8	5	6
Bethel	2	4	7	6	4	6	11	2	2	10	5
Bethlehem	13	13	11	13	12	13	13	9	7	3	7
Bloomfield	1	7	9	5	4	6	7	10	5	3	3
Bolton	2	7	3	8	10	7	16	7	7	7	6
Bozrah	13	11	13	20	13	21	14	13	20	17	11
Branford	4	5	7	11	3	2	3	4	4	1	1
Bridgeport	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bridgewater	7	6	3	6	9	15	6	6	4	4	8
Bristol	5	6	3	5	2	2	1	1	5	5	0
Brookfield	6	4	5	3	4	14	11	8	5	5	6
Brooklyn	10	11	23	13	12	15	17	28	12	12	13
Burlington	10	12	8	12	16	13	14	16	5	27	12
Canaan	29	21	21	20	15	20	19	19	22	16	28
Canterbury	10	15	15	13	20	20	22	16	15	9	7
Canton	16	8	11	10	10	12	9	4	8	6	4
Chaplin	2	12	11	14	7	9	16	14	8	7	7
Cheshire	8	17	12	8	13	23	13	12	5	10	10
Chester	7	5	7	9	7	6	7	7	0	6	10
Clinton	0	1	1	0	4	1	1	2	3	0	0
Colchester	20	30	29	29	45	34	38	30	26	18	14
Colebrook	13	5	10	7	5	13	10	17	14	21	14
Columbia	10	14	9	7	16	22	23	13	12	14	6
Cornwall	20	28	27	27	25	35	33	31	44	37	37
Coventry	25	20	26	43	25	32	19	23	15	10	14
Cromwell	1	3	3	5	11	7	1	9	5	3	3
Danbury	8	5	9	6	6	12	5	7	5	5	1
Darien	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Deep River	2	3	2	7	6	6	5	4	1	1	3
Derby	0	0	0	1	3	2	0	1	2	0	3
Durham	11	15	13	9	9	17	16	21	14	5	9
E. Granby	37	7	6	3	7	5	5	4	11	6	6
E. Haddam	36	31	45	39	29	27	39	33	17	24	14
E. Hampton	12	16	21	24	9	13	12	11	10	8	6
E. Hartford	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
E. Haven	15	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3

Town	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
E. Lyme	5	16	29	33	18	29	26	26	23	23	18
E. Windsor	12	8	13	13	6	9	12	11	15	22	10
Eastford	8	18	16	20	12	20	13	11	17	13	15
Easton	18	18	21	23	20	21	25	22	8	13	18
Ellington	5	8	10	17	9	14	7	19	5	17	17
Enfield	0	7	8	7	12	7	14	8	13	6	9
Essex	1	2	2	2	13	7	7	6	5	7	7
Fairfield	1	1	2	3	3	1	0	2	3	4	8
Farmington	4	4	2	1	6	8	8	3	4	7	3
Franklin	28	24	27	17	21	28	15	19	19	17	18
Glastonbury	15	20	14	17	16	21	11	14	12	14	7
Goshen	37	29	31	35	25	39	38	27	24	18	17
Granby	6	7	13	10	8	17	13	10	9	7	12
Greenwich	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	0	2	0	4
Griswold	1	6	4	5	13	6	15	10	11	5	4
Groton	0	1	1	3	2	6	0	9	4	2	2
Guilford	10	7	10	13	21	27	19	20	13	20	15
Haddam	26	28	29	39	38	45	26	26	22	29	19
Hamden	17	14	15	12	16	17	11	11	7	7	9
Hampton	20	16	21	20	22	29	19	26	22	22	21
Hartford	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hartland	10	14	11	12	14	14	12	13	9	18	10
Harwinton	18	20	13	16	16	22	11	14	17	12	14
Hebron	27	18	26	30	16	22	18	26	24	15	16
Kent	19	25	20	13	21	21	34	20	30	18	9
Killingly	6	8	12	8	12	10	9	11	11	13	13
Killingworth	6	15	26	22	22	30	20	15	16	10	17
Lebanon	30	46	59	48	70	76	69	63	52	33	37
Ledyard	6	10	9	11	4	18	21	21	35	29	18
Lisbon	10	8	15	11	12	10	13	3	14	10	11
Litchfield	38	45	29	38	33	38	41	27	31	27	29
Lyme	35	44	43	31	28	37	31	43	21	19	28
Madison	2	1	4	7	2	2	1	0	1	3	0
Manchester	2	2	4	6	4	4	5	7	5	2	3
Mansfield	26	23	22	27	26	28	28	13	12	12	13
Marlborough	3	7	10	18	10	17	19	12	10	4	2
Meriden	0	5	5	3	4	4	3	2	0	0	3
Middlebury	3	5	5	6	1	6	1	5	2	1	2
Middlefield	8	5	10	12	14	14	6	19	8	8	8
Middletown	28	23	30	17	18	39	27	30	22	30	20
Milford	3	22	2	0	2	3	5	3	2	2	0
Monroe	11	7	8	9	5	5	3	4	0	0	2
Montville	12	18	28	27	24	19	22	20	13	20	20
Morris	16	13	6	13	14	14	17	16	13	18	12
Naugatuck	7	5	9	10	9	7	7	10	0	7	8

Town	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
New Canaan	2	0	3	6	0	3	3	2	1	2	2
New Fairfield	6	9	10	9	10	8	12	10	6	8	7
New Hartford	23	12	12	19	9	19	17	22	25	18	14
New Haven	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
New London	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
New Milford	33	27	28	34	21	38	22	16	28	25	27
Newtown	32	25	30	30	23	35	19	27	29	21	22
Norfolk	9	12	14	15	3	16	12	15	18	13	15
N. Branford	3	3	9	9	6	5	12	14	13	4	7
N. Canaan	4	3	5	2	0	16	3	7	2	2	4
N. Haven	2	3	1	3	3	1	5	4	5	2	4
N. Stonington	14	31	17	5	21	32	19	38	18	14	26
Norwalk	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Norwich	6	2	4	3	6	9	5	5	7	3	5
Old Lyme	3	11	11	14	15	9	4	8	20	6	12
Old Saybrook	1	1	1	5	2	6	2	0	0	2	0
Orange	0	4	3	4	0	2	2	5	3	1	5
Oxford	12	21	27	26	25	30	21	13	17	9	8
Plainfield	8	3	13	15	8	17	9	14	8	14	25
Plainville	4	2	3	5	0	2	0	2	1	2	0
Plymouth	4	4	4	7	9	10	8	13	4	14	7
Pomfret	28	30	38	32	26	28	25	19	15	23	24
Portland	6	15	13	17	16	10	12	7	15	10	7
Preston	8	8	16	17	17	17	13	13	17	17	17
Prospect	4	4	8	6	3	3	4	5	7	5	1
Putnam	6	7	13	12	15	9	11	8	1	4	4
Redding	24	23	22	39	29	33	46	38	38	15	23
Ridgefield	2	6	5	3	5	4	11	6	5	3	2
Rocky Hill	8	5	2	3	0	5	7	10	7	3	3
Roxbury	16	13	4	17	7	8	5	13	5	6	3
Salem	6	12	31	20	20	22	21	12	13	8	6
Salisbury	49	34	25	27	19	27	28	18	26	25	20
Scotland	22	18	31	34	35	43	28	27	23	24	29
Seymour	0	4	9	5	8	5	2	1	2	2	2
Sharon	53	50	56	33	30	46	50	38	38	38	31
Shelton	3	5	3	4	6	15	10	7	2	5	6
Sherman	6	17	6	8	8	16	8	7	13	11	6
Simsbury	2	6	2	2	9	3	6	5	5	3	3
Somers	8	5	6	7	12	13	12	14	10	2	9
Southbury	14	22	11	13	20	21	19	19	15	12	13
Southington	8	7	10	5	10	5	8	3	3	0	9
S. Windsor	3	9	11	9	13	10	9	12	12	15	7
Sprague	10	8	11	9	6	10	14	10	6	8	6
Stafford	6	16	12	12	6	18	16	24	9	8	15
Stamford	1	8	1	4	4	3	4	2	0	4	3

Town	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Sterling	5	6	19	12	18	15	10	10	20	12	14
Stonington	10	10	16	24	16	12	16	19	16	15	10
Stratford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	3	4	2
Suffield	17	12	13	14	16	25	9	25	16	13	10
Thomaston	4	2	3	2	2	2	4	6	2	3	1
Thompson	19	11	19	27	22	28	37	21	27	11	22
Tolland	8	7	5	9	10	23	17	15	11	9	13
Torrington	17	18	16	9	10	14	18	19	8	10	17
Trumbull	0	0	2	0	1	3	2	1	0	0	1
Union	8	3	5	9	9	6	6	6	11	8	8
Vernon	0	0	2	4	2	0	1	0	1	1	1
Voluntown	17	12	16	14	11	11	10	7	9	18	7
Wallingford	5	5	7	10	10	11	12	10	5	8	4
Warren	22	25	13	22	15	32	18	29	10	20	17
Washington	23	24	24	18	16	28	27	10	16	15	18
Waterbury	1	2	3	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	1
Waterford	7	17	19	14	9	18	14	15	10	13	11
Watertown	14	16	15	15	10	18	12	11	9	13	9
West Haven	0	2	2	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	1
Westbrook	4	2	5	2	2	1	4	3	9	1	1
Weston	2	3	4	5	2	4	5	0	0	0	0
Westport	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Wethersfield	0	1	0	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	1
Willington	1	8	21	13	7	8	13	10	18	14	14
Wilton	1	1	1	4	2	0	1	3	2	6	1
Winchester	16	18	17	17	12	12	9	14	13	9	15
Windham	16	10	18	19	17	17	18	12	8	6	5
Windsor	3	2	4	6	4	2	9	3	6	4	5
Windsor Locks	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wolcott	4	2	0	0	4	7	1	10	5	4	4
Woodbridge	1	6	6	3	2	5	2	1	1	3	0
Woodbury	30	30	30	25	20	27	11	21	9	5	17
Woodstock	44	61	50	50	52	48	35	52	40	49	38
Town Not Reported	25	32	25	27	14	13	24	0	0	0	0
Total	1,742	1,906	2,040	2,067	1,894	2,367	2,081	2,016	1,760	1,601	1,558

Appendix B. Spring turkey harvest from state-owned and managed lands, 2007 and 2008.

State Land	Number of Birds Harvested		Square Miles	Kills/Sq. Mile	Kills/Sq. Mile
	2007	2008		(2007 Only)	(2008 Only)
Aldo Leopold WMA	0	4	0.86	0.00	4.70
Algonquin SF	4	0	1.90	2.10	0.00
Assekonk SF	0	2	1.10	0.00	1.80
Babcock Pond WMA	1	0	2.30	0.43	0.00
Bartlett Brook WMA	2	0	1.10	1.80	0.00
Bear Hill WMA	3	1	0.50	6.00	2.00
Bishops Swamp WMA	0	5	1.20	0.00	4.20
Cockaponset SF	25	23	26.90	0.93	0.86
Cromwell Meadows WMA	0	1	0.71	0.00	1.40
Eightmile River WMA	3	5	0.50	6.00	10.0
Franklin Swamp WMA	2	0	1.10	1.80	0.00
George C. Waldo SP	0	1	0.23	0.00	4.30
Goshen WMA	1	2	1.50	0.67	1.33
Hancock Brook	7	2	1.10	6.40	1.80
Higganum Meadows	1	0	0.40	2.50	0.00
Housatonic River WMA	17	0	0.90	1.11	0.00
Housatonic SF	1	17	16.80	1.01	1.01
John Minetto SP	1	4	1.10	0.90	3.60
Larson Lot WMA	0	1	0.40	0.00	2.50
Mad River Dam FCA	1	4	0.80	1.25	5.00
Mansfield Hollow Lake	1	1	3.10	0.32	0.32
Mattatuck SF	7	6	7.30	0.96	0.82
MDC Greenwoods	3	3	0.60	5.00	5.00
Meshomasic SF	10	4	14.0	0.71	0.29
Mohegan SF	4	1	1.30	3.07	0.77
Nassahegon SF	3	3	1.90	1.58	1.58
Natchaug SF	10	9	20.80	0.48	0.43
Nathan Hale SF	0	2	2.30	0.00	0.87
Naugatuck SF	14	18	7.00	2.00	2.50
Nehantic SF	10	5	7.70	1.30	0.65
Nepaug SF	7	4	2.10	3.33	1.90

State Land	Number of Birds Harvested		Square Miles	Kills/ Sq. Mile	Kills/Sq. Mile
	2007	2008		(2007 Only)	(2008 Only)
Newgate WMA	0	2	0.70	0.00	2.86
Nipmuck SF	1	3	14.40	0.07	0.21
NU-Maromas Coop WMA	6	5	2.20	2.73	2.27
NU-Skiff Mtn. WMA	2	2	1.10	1.82	1.82
Pachaug SF	16	13	40.20	0.40	0.32
Paugnut SF	3	0	2.60	1.15	0.00
Paugussett SF	4	6	3.00	1.33	2.00
Peoples SF	2	2	4.60	0.43	0.43
Pootatuck SF	5	2	1.70	2.90	1.18
Quaddick SF	0	2	1.73	0.00	1.16
Quinebaug River WMA	2	2	2.60	0.77	0.77
Quinnipiac River SP	2	2	0.50	4.00	4.00
Robbins Swamp WMA	2	4	2.50	0.08	1.60
Roraback WMA	4	1	3.10	1.29	0.32
Rose Hill WMA	4	2	1.00	4.00	2.00
Ross Marsh WMA	1	1	0.40	2.50	2.50
Salmon River SF	6	2	11.30	0.53	0.18
Shenipsit SF	2	1	10.60	0.19	0.09
Simsbury WMA	2	2	0.30	6.67	6.67
Spignesi WMA	6	7	0.70	8.57	10.00
Sugarbrook Field Trial Area	0	1	0.31	0.00	3.23
Sunnybrook SP	2	1	0.70	2.86	1.43
Talbot WMA	0	1	0.70	0.00	1.43
Thomaston Dam	0	2	1.32	0.00	1.52
Topsmead SF	1	1	0.30	3.33	3.33
Trout Brook Valley	1	1	0.50	2.00	2.00
Tunxis SF	18	11	14.90	1.21	1.21
Wangunk Meadows	1	0	1.00	1.00	0.00
Wyantenock SF	5	2	6.40	0.78	0.30
Yale Forest	4	2	12.00	0.33	0.17

Appendix C. Ruffed grouse observations from turkey hunter surveys, 2005-2008.

Town	Number of Grouse Seen or Heard				Town	Number of Grouse Seen or Heard			
	2005	2006	2007	2008		2005	2006	2007	2008
Andover	0	1	0	0	Farmington	0	2	0	0
Ansonia	0	2	2	2	Glastonbury	0	0	1	2
Ashford	2	5	4	4	Goshen	7	18	17	4
Avon	1	0	0	0	Granby	6	5	3	0
Barkhamsted	7	9	5	5	Griswold	0	1	0	5
Beacon Falls	0	2	0	0	Guilford	0	0	4	0
Berlin	0	1	0	0	Haddam	2	1	1	0
Bethany	0	1	0	0	Hamden	2	0	0	0
Bethel	0	1	0	0	Hampton	1	3	3	0
Bethlehem	0	1	1	1	Hartland	9	13	15	1
Bolton	1	0	0	0	Harwinton	4	2	1	0
Bozrah	2	0	0	0	Hebron	3	1	0	0
Bridgewater	1	0	1	1	Kent	4	5	3	1
Bristol	1	0	1	1	Killingly	1	1	0	1
Brooklyn	1	0	0	0	Killingworth	1	0	2	0
Burlington	1	0	1	1	Lebanon	3	1	1	1
Canaan	5	7	4	4	Ledyard	2	0	3	4
Canterbury	2	1	1	1	Lisbon	0	1	0	1
Canton	1	0	2	2	Litchfield	3	4	1	2
Chaplin	2	1	5	5	Lyme	2	0	2	5
Cheshire	0	0	1	1	Mansfield	1	1	0	1
Chester	0	1	2	2	Marlborough	1	0	0	2
Colchester	0	2	0	0	Middlebury	0	1	0	0
Colebrook	5	4	9	9	Middlefield	1	0	0	9
Cornwall	2	11	7	7	Middletown	3	0	2	7
Coventry	3	1	0	0	Monroe	2	0	0	0
Danbury	1	0	0	0	Montville	0	2	0	0
East Granby	2	1	2	2	Morris	0	0	1	2
East Haddam	1	0	0	0	Naugatuck	1	0	1	0
East Hampton	1	0	0	0	New Canaan	1	0	1	0
East Lyme	2	1	2	2	New Fairfield	1	1	0	2
East Windsor	2	2	1	1	New Hartford	4	4	5	1
Eastford	4	6	2	2	New Milford	1	3	1	2
Easton	0	0	1	1	Newtown	0	2	1	1
Ellington	1	1	1	1	Norfolk	2	4	4	1
Enfield	3	2	1	1	North Canaan	2	0	2	1

Town	Number of Grouse Seen or Heard				Town	Number of Grouse Seen or Heard			
	2005	2006	2007	2008		2005	2006	2007	2008
North Haven	0	1	1	0	Suffield	1	2	2	1
North Stonington	0	1	0	1	Thomaston	0	0	1	0
Old Lyme	0	1	0	0	Thompson	1	2	3	3
Oxford	1	0	0	2	Tolland	1	1	0	0
Plymouth	2	0	2	1	Torrington	1	4	5	3
Pomfret	4	3	1	0	Union	2	1	1	3
Portland	3	1	0	3	Voluntown	1	0	1	1
Preston	1	0	0	0	Wallingford	0	1	0	0
Putnam	1	0	0	0	Warren	4	3	2	2
Redding	6	1	0	0	Washington	3	3	1	0
Ridgefield	0	0	0	1	Waterbury	0	1	0	0
Rocky Hill	0	0	0	2	Waterford	3	0	0	0
Roxbury	0	0	1	0	Watertown	1	1	2	0
Salisbury	7	4	6	6	Westbrook	0	1	0	0
Scotland	1	1	0	0	West Hartford	0	0	0	1
Sharon	9	7	9	10	Wethersfield	0	1	0	0
Sherman	1	1	1	0	Willington	5	0	0	1
Somers	2	0	2	3	Winchester	5	6	2	4
Southbury	2	0	1	1	Windham	1	0	0	0
Southington	1	0	0	0	Woodbury	1	1	0	0
Stafford	5	4	3	2	Woodstock	6	11	5	6
Stamford	0	0	1	0	Unknown	10	0	0	0
Sterling	0	1	0	1	Total	217	205	184	153
Stonington	1	0	0	0					