

Connecticut Wild Turkey Program

Annual Report

Fall 2008 – Spring 2009



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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 relatively abundant throughout the state, providing the public with wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities.

Harvest and brood survey information during the past several years have indicated that annual productivity has had a downward trend. These declines may be attributed to spring weather conditions. Survival of poults and nesting hens declines during springs with wet and cold conditions, resulting in reductions in productivity. Harvest and brood survey information indicate that wild turkey productivity has declined throughout Connecticut during the past several years. Despite these apparent declines, the state's wild turkey population remains relatively abundant. Wild turkeys have the potential to dramatically increase their numbers with just one year of warm and dry spring conditions.

Several changes were implemented to Connecticut's spring wild turkey hunting season in 2010. These changes included: lengthening the season by 1 week, starting the season 1 week earlier, adding 1 additional junior hunter training day, and extending hunting hours until 5:00 PM during junior hunter training days.

This report presents a summary of the fall 2008 and spring 2009 wild turkey hunting seasons in Connecticut. For most Connecticut sportsmen, "turkey hunting" means spring gobbler hunting. Because of its popularity, information for the 2009 spring season is presented first, followed by highlights from the 2008 fall seasons.

2009 Spring Gobbler Season

Overall Results

The 22-day season (May 6 – May 30) resulted in a reported harvest of 1,502 birds (1,493 gobblers and 9 bearded hens). This harvest constitutes a 3.6% decrease from the spring 2008 harvest of 1,558 birds. Overall, 7,376 spring turkey hunting permits were issued, and 1,018 sportsmen took at least 1 turkey, for a 13.8% statewide hunter success rate. Harvest and success rates decreased between the 2008 and 2009 spring turkey hunting seasons; however, permit issuance increased (Table 1).

State Land Hunting

Of state-managed properties, Cockaponset State Forest (27), Natchaug State Forest (17), Pauchaug State Forest (15), Naugatuck State Forest (14), and Tunxis State Forest (11) yielded the most turkeys in 2009 (Appendix B). Based on harvest rates per square mile, Quinnipiac River State Park, Eightmile River Wildlife Management Area (WMA), and Housatonic River WMA were some of the most productive turkey hunting areas (Appendix B).

Non-resident Hunters

Non-resident hunters accounted for 190 of 1,502 birds harvested (12.6%). Most non-residents came from neighboring states. Hunters from Massachusetts (47.4% of birds taken), Rhode Island (20.0%), New York (7.4%), and Maine (6.8%) were the most prominent contributors 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 Florida, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Arkansas. Participation by non-residents shows that Connecticut's reputation for quality wild turkey hunting extends across the country.

Harvest by Town

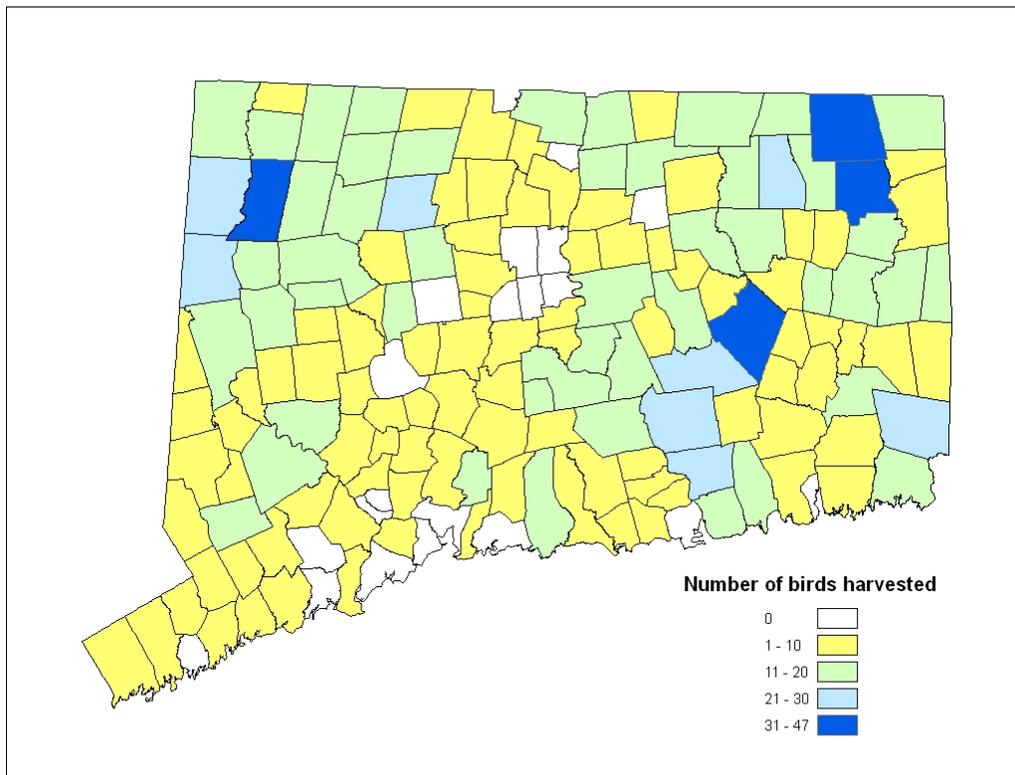
At least 1 bird was taken from 148 of Connecticut's 169 towns (Figure 1, Appendix A). Twenty or more birds were taken from 13 towns, and 30 or more birds were taken from 4 towns. The towns of Woodstock (47), Lebanon (39), Pomfret (31), and Cornwall (38) had the highest turkey harvest.

Table 1. Harvest and success rates of Connecticut’s spring turkey hunters on private and state land, 2008 and 2009.

Permit Type	Total Number		Number of	
	of Hunters	Total Harvest	Successful Hunters	Success Rate
Private Land				
2008	4,744	1,344	852	17.9%
2009	5,195	1,283	845	16.3%
% Change 08-09	8.7%	-4.5%	-0.1%	
State Land*				
2008	1,873	214	162	8.6%
2009	2,181	219	173	7.9%
% Change 08-09	14.1%	2.3%	6.4%	
Overall Total				
2008	6,617	1,558	1,014	15.3%
2009	7,376	1,502	1,018	13.8%
% Change 08-09	10.3 %	-3.5%	-0.4%	

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

Figure 1. Distribution of the 2009 spring turkey harvest in Connecticut.



Harvest by Zone

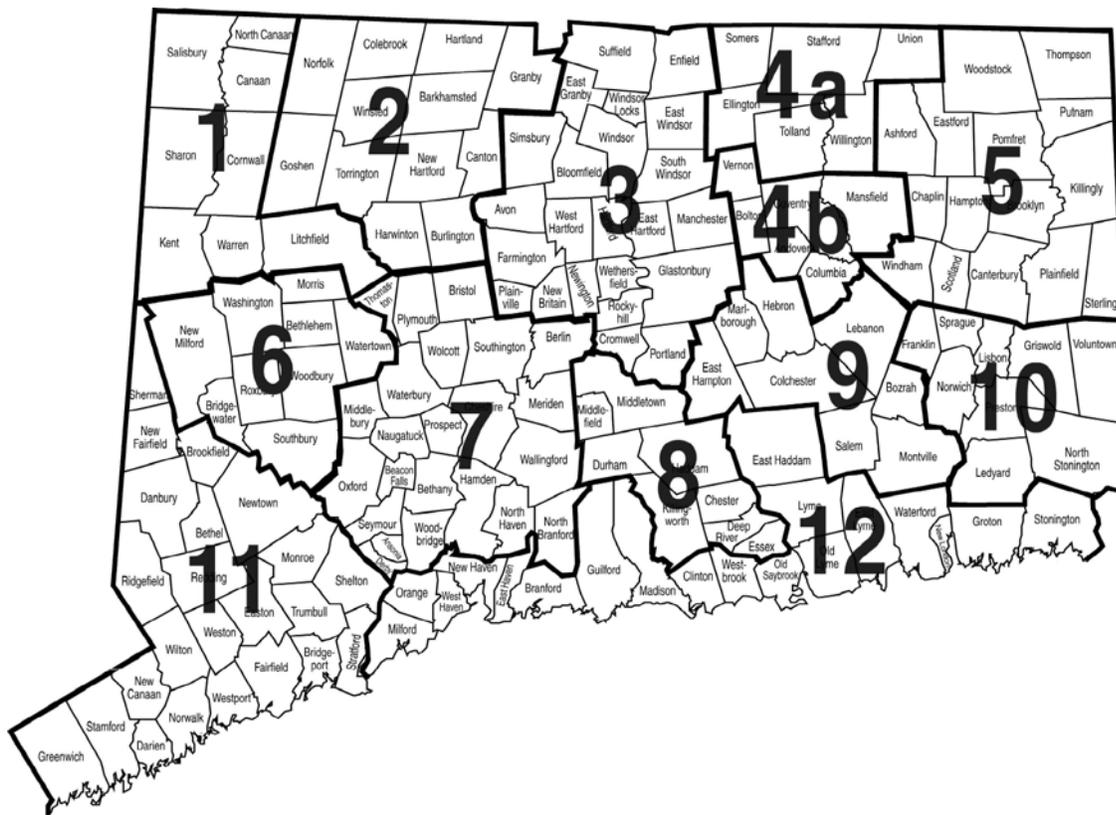
Similar to 2008, the northeastern corner of the state (zone 5) reported the greatest harvest among Connecticut’s 12 Turkey Management Zones in 2009 (Table 2, Figure 2). Prior to 2004, northwest Connecticut (zone 1) typically held this distinction. The west-central (zone 6), south-central (zone 8), and

northeast-central (zones 4A and 4B) parts of the state recorded the lowest harvest. Harvest levels continue to be highest in zones 5, 1, and 2 where some of the best turkey habitat exists and hunter access is good.

Table 2. Gobblers harvested during the spring 2008 and 2009 seasons by turkey management zone.

Zone	Harvest		Percent Change	Zone	Harvest		Percent Change
	2008	2009			2008	2009	
1	175	152	-13.1%	7	105	122	13.9%
2	150	140	-6.7%	8	93	72	-22.6%
3	114	138	17.4%	9	112	114	1.8%
4A	76	72	-5.3%	10	112	92	-17.9%
4B	44	51	13.7%	11	121	92	-24.0%
5	247	255	-3.1%	12	121	130	-6.9%
6	88	72	-18.2%				
Total					1,558	1,502	-5.4%

Figure 2. Connecticut's 12 turkey management zones.



Population Dynamics

The spring harvest consisted of 414 juvenile and 1,088 adult birds. The decreased ratio of juveniles to adults in the harvest (38.1% in 2009 versus 52.0% in 2008) may be due to either decreased recruitment of young birds into the 2009 spring turkey population (Figure 3) or hunters becoming more selective (that is, less 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 such as weather, predation, habitat condition, and food availability. Since 2000, spring season harvest, adult to juvenile ratios, and the turkey population growth index indicate that Connecticut's wild turkey population has been stabilizing at lower numbers than it did in the mid-1990s (Figure 4).

Figure 3. Ratio of juvenile to adult gobblers taken during Connecticut's spring wild turkey seasons, 1981-2009.

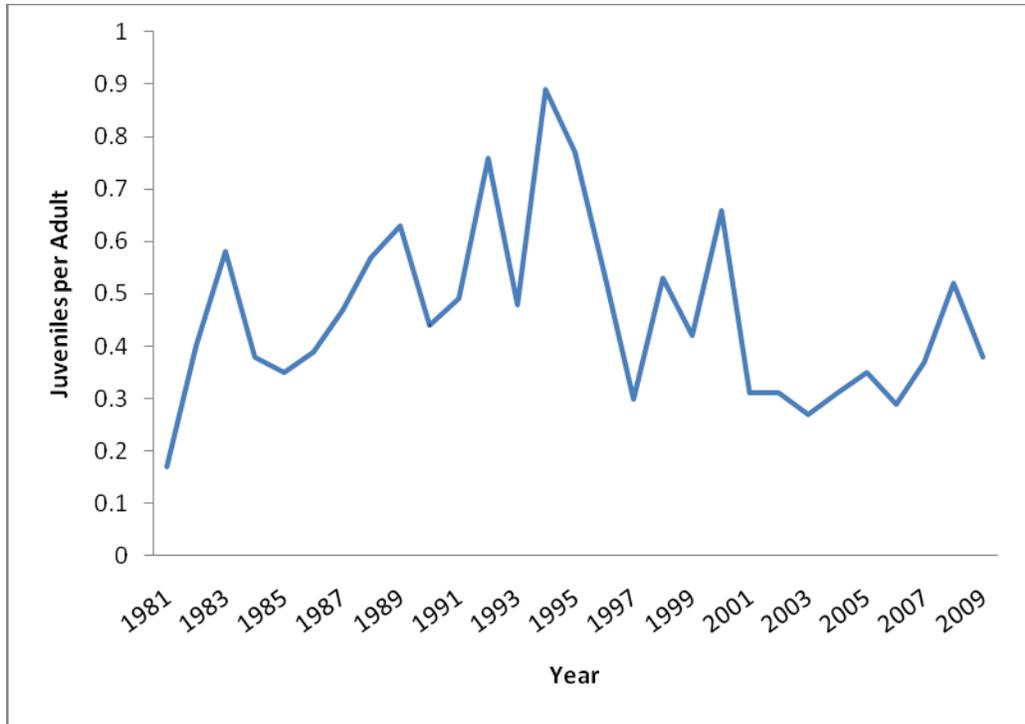
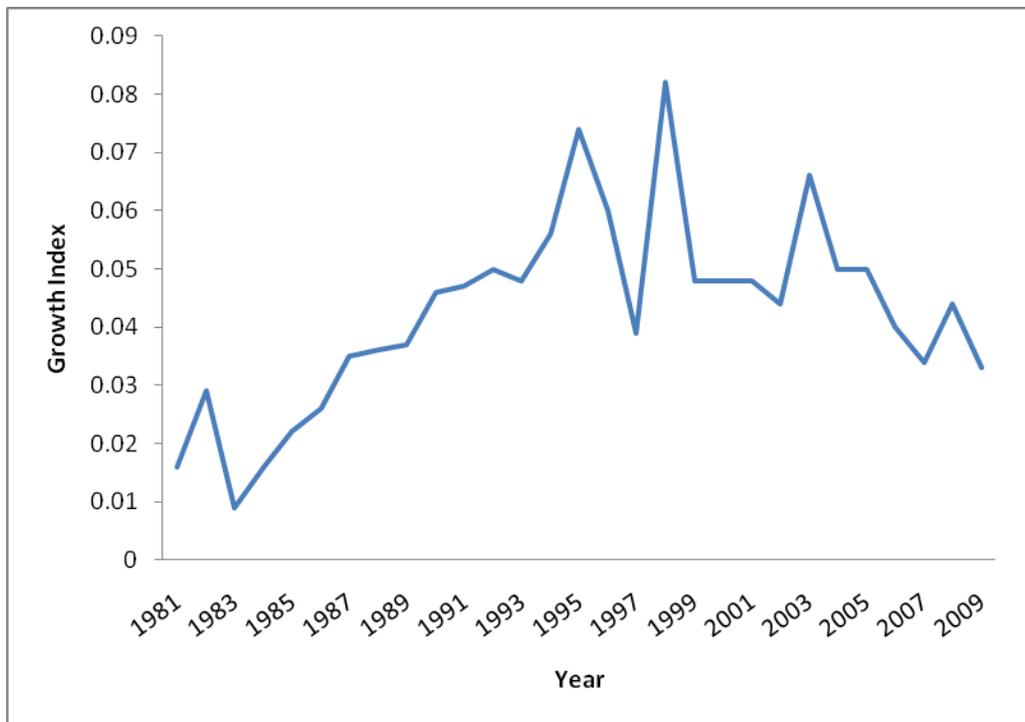


Figure 4. Growth index (first day harvest/permits issued) for the wild turkey population in Connecticut, 1981 – 2009.



2009 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). Twenty-seven percent of the 7,376 hunters issued permits returned survey cards. Overall, 14.7% of all respondents did not hunt. Most hunting activity occurred in Turkey Management Zones 1, 2, 5, and 11. Data from the 2009 spring season indicate that turkeys were hunted in at least 157 (92.8%) of Connecticut's 169 towns.

Private land hunters had better success than state land hunters. Private land hunters harvested 1 gobbler per 22.3 hours of hunting, as compared to 1 bird per 56.2 hours for state land hunters (Table 3). The average number of hours required to harvest a gobbler during the spring season increased from 24.6 hours in 2008 to 27.8 in 2009. Private land hunters heard more gobblers per outing (1.7) than state land hunters (1.0). State land hunters saw more hunters per outing (0.90) than private land (0.3) hunters (Table 3).

Information from surveys was used to estimate the economic and recreational benefits provided by spring turkey hunting. Overall, spring turkey hunters enjoyed 31,582 days afield in 2009 (25,144 in 2008) and spent \$1,090,300 (839,609 in 2008) on hunting-related items (Table 4). Holders of all permit types hunted more during the 2009 season than in 2008.

The 2009 spring turkey hunter survey also was used to quantify hunters' perceptions of trends in Connecticut's wild turkey population. Forty-seven percent of spring turkey hunters responding to the survey believed the turkey population was relatively stable, 16% believed it was increasing, and 37% believed it was declining. The mean statewide rank of Connecticut's turkey population for 2009 was 2.7 (0 = decreasing, 3 = stable, 5 = increasing). The mean rank increased compared to 2008 (2.5). Based on hunter opinions, turkey populations in management zones 1, 2, 4A, 4B, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 11 were stable and were decreasing in zones 9 and 12.

Table 3. Experiences of hunters during the 2009 spring gobbler season in Connecticut as reported on hunter surveys.

	Private land*	State Land	All Hunters
No. Surveys Returned	1,343	640	1,983
Reported harvest	777	151	928
Mean outings per hunt	4.4	4.0	4.2
Mean hours per outing	3.6	3.9	3.7
Mean hours per bird harvested	22.3	56.2	27.8
Mean gobblers heard per outing	1.7	1.0	1.5
Mean toms seen per outing	1.1	0.5	0.9
Mean hens seen per outing	1.1	0.6	1.0

* Includes landowner.

Table 4. Economic and recreational benefits provided by the 2009 Connecticut spring turkey hunting season.

Permit Type	Total Permits		Hunting Expenses*		Hunter Days of Recreation*	
	No. Issued	Average	Total	Average	Total	
Private	5,195	\$149	\$774,055	4.4	22,858	
State	2,181	\$145	\$316,245	4.0	8,724	
Total	7,376		\$1,090,300		31,582	

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

Ruffed Grouse

To collect baseline data on ruffed grouse distribution in Connecticut, an additional question was added to the turkey hunter survey starting 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 2009, hunters reported 143 encounters with ruffed grouse in 61 towns (Figure 5). The towns with the highest number of grouse encounters were Goshen (9), Canaan (7), Torrington (7), Ashford (6), New Hartford (6), Norfolk (6), Sharon (6), and Woodstock (6). A grouse population index was derived from dividing total grouse observations by total number of surveys returned and then multiplying by 100 (Figure 6). This represents the average number of grouse encountered by 100 spring turkey hunters. The 2009 index was 7.2, which is lower than the index reported in 2008 (7.4) and in 2007 (10.8).

Figure 5. Distribution of 2009 grouse sightings as reported on the spring turkey hunter surveys.

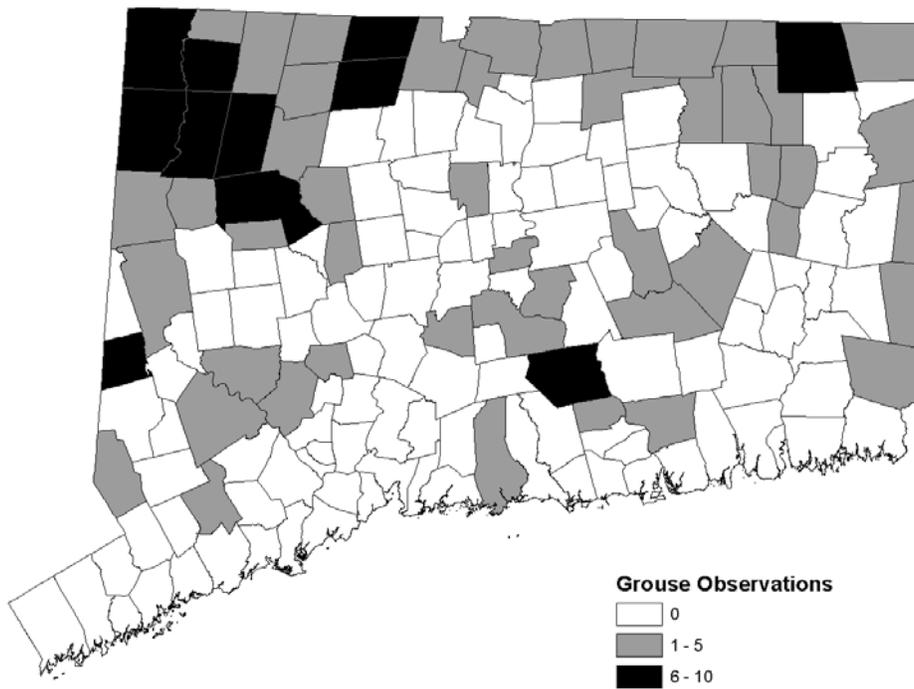
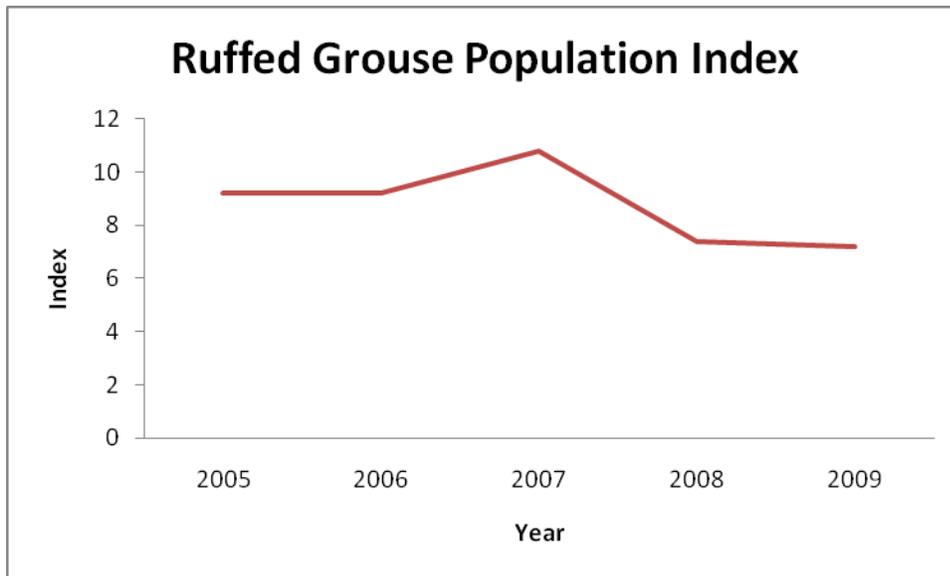


Figure 6. Ruffed grouse population index (total grouse observations divided by total number of surveys returned multiplied by 100).



2008 Fall Firearms Turkey Season

Hunters reported harvesting 211 birds from Connecticut woodlands during the 2008 fall firearms wild turkey season, which ran from October 4-31. Harvest increased in 2008 from 2007 results, while permit issuance decreased. Firearms hunters reported a harvest of 160 birds, representing a 3% decrease from the 165 birds harvested in 2007. Overall, 3,037 firearm permits were issued and 118 hunters took at least 1 turkey for a 3.9% overall success rate. Private land hunters (2,237) harvested 145 birds and state land hunters (800) harvested 15 birds. Fall firearms hunters reported taking at least 1 bird from 65 of Connecticut's 169 towns (38%; Table 5). The 3 towns reporting the highest harvests were Lebanon (12), New Hartford (8), and Woodstock (8). The highest harvest on state land was recorded at Natchaug State Forest (2) in Eastford. In addition, Turkey Management Zones 5 (25 birds) and 2 (24 birds) reported the highest zonal harvest (Table 6). The harvest included 51 adult males, 46 adult females, 30 juvenile males, and 33 juvenile females (Table 7). Over half of the harvested birds (60.6%) were adults. Of the 160 birds taken, the harvest was slightly skewed towards males (50.6%) over females (49.4%).

Table 5. Wild turkey harvest by town during the 2007 and 2008 fall firearms seasons.

Town of Harvest	Number of Birds		Town of Harvest	Number of Birds	
	2007	2008		2007	2008
Andover	1	1	Middlefield	4	3
Ashford	2	3	Middletown	5	1
Barkhamsted	1	0	Monroe	1	0
Beacon Falls	2	2	North Canaan	0	2
Berlin	0	4	North Haven	0	3
Bolton	2	0	New Fairfield	1	0
Brooklyn	1	0	New Hartford	6	8
Burlington	5	3	New Milford	4	1
Canaan	1	3	Newtown	0	5
Canterbury	1	0	North Stonington	2	0
Canton	1	4	Old Lyme	3	0
Chaplin	1	1	Oxford	2	0
Colchester	1	4	Plainfield	1	0
Colebrook	1	0	Plainville	1	2
Columbia	1	3	Pomfret	3	3
Cornwall	4	5	Portland	2	0
Coventry	0	4	Preston	5	3
Cromwell	0	1	Putnam	0	1
Durham	1	1	Rocky Hill	4	4
East Granby	0	1	Roxbury	2	3
East Haddam	2	1	Salem	0	1
East Windsor	1	3	Salisbury	0	2
Eastford	3	1	Scotland	1	3
Easton	0	2	Sharon	4	3
Ellington	0	1	Shelton	0	2
Enfield	1	1	Somers	4	3
Franklin	5	1	Southbury	1	1
Glastonbury	3	0	Sprague	1	0
Goshen	2	2	Stafford	3	0
Granby	3	0	Sterling	1	1
Griswold	1	2	Stonington	4	1
Groton	0	1	Suffield	1	0
Haddam	0	1	Thomaston	0	1
Hampton	3	3	Thompson	0	1
Hartland	4	1	Tolland	1	1
Harwinton	5	4	Union	3	0
Kent	3	0	Voluntown	2	0
Lebanon	4	12	Wallingford	3	0
Ledyard	1	1	Warren	4	3
Litchfield	1	2	Washington	0	2
Lyme	6	2	Watertown	0	1
Manchester	1	0	Willington	4	3
Mansfield	2	1	Winchester	0	2
Marlborough	0	1	Woodstock	6	8
Total				165	160

Table 6. Turkeys harvested during the 2008 fall archery and firearms seasons by turkey management zone.

Zone	Harvest		Zone	Harvest	
	Firearms	Archery		Firearms	Archery
1	20	3	7	10	6
2	24	2	8	6	1
3	11	1	9	18	2
4	17	8	10	7	2
5	25	3	11	9	12
6	8	3	12	5	8
Total			160	51	

Table 7. Age and sex of birds harvested during the 2008 fall firearms season.

Age	Sex	Number Harvested
Adult	Male	51
Adult	Female	46
Juvenile	Male	30
Juvenile	Female	33
Total		160

2008 Fall Archery Turkey Season

The fall archery turkey hunting season ran concurrent with the archery deer season. Archers reported a harvest of 51 birds, representing a 16% increase from the 43 birds harvested in 2007. Overall, 2,297 archery permits were issued and 51 hunters took at least 1 turkey for a 2.2 overall success rate. Wild turkeys were taken in 42 of Connecticut's 169 towns (25%). The highest reported harvest occurred in Coventry (3), while the towns of East Haddam, Litchfield, New Milford, Old Lyme, Orange, and Thomaston each reported 2 birds (Table 8). The only state land archery harvest occurred at Great Swamp Flood Control Area in Ridgefield and Northfield Brook Lake with each location reporting 1 bird. Turkey Management Zones 11 (12 birds) and 12 (8 birds) reported the highest zonal harvest (Table 6). The harvest included 20 adult males, 17 adult females, 7 juvenile males, and 7 juvenile females.

Fall turkey hunter numbers showed an increase during 2008, indicating that 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 gamebirds.

Table 8. Wild turkey harvest by town during the 2007 and 2008 fall archery seasons.

Town of Harvest	2007	2008	Town of Harvest	2007	2008
Andover	1	2	Monroe	0	1
Ashford	2	0	Middlefield	1	0
Avon	1	0	Morris	1	0
Bethany	0	1	New Fairfield	0	1
Bozrah	1	0	New Milford	0	2
Brookfield	0	1	Newtown	0	1
Canaan	1	0	North Stonington	0	1
Canton	0	1	Norwich	0	1
Cheshire	0	1	Old Lyme	1	2
Cornwall	0	1	Orange	0	2
Coventry	0	3	Oxford	0	1
Danbury	1	0	Pomfret	0	1
Durham	0	1	Putnam	1	0
East Haddam	0	2	Redding	3	1
East Hampton	1	1	Ridgefield	1	1
East Lyme	2	0	Roxbury	1	1
Easton	0	1	Sharon	2	0
Ellington	0	1	Sherman	0	1
Fairfield	0	1	Somers	0	1
Glastonbury	1	1	South Windsor	1	0
Granby	1	0	Stonington	0	1
Greenwich	0	1	Stratford	1	1
Guilford	0	1	Thomaston	0	2
Haddam	1	0	Thompson	2	1
Hamden	1	0	Trumbull	0	1
Hampton	1	0	Union	1	0
Harwinton	0	1	Vernon	1	0
Kent	1	0	Voluntown	1	0
Lebanon	1	0	Waterford	1	1
Litchfield	1	2	Westport	0	1
Lyme	5	0	Windham	0	1
Marlborough	0	1	Woodbridge	0	1
Total				43	51

Brood Survey Information

Since 2007, brood surveys have been conducted annually from June 1 to August 31 to assess annual fluctuations in wild turkey populations. Volunteers and Department staff were requested to report turkey sightings categorized by total hens, total poults, and total number of hens with poults. These observations were analyzed to obtain an annual productivity index and to evaluate recruitment into the fall population. By evaluating recruitment over time, biologists can quantify changes and trends in Connecticut's statewide wild turkey population.

In 2009, 75 cooperators reported 323 wild turkey observations, including 611 hens; 177 with broods and 434 without broods. The 2009 brood index was 1.7 young per adult for all hens observed and 2.4 young per adult for hens observed with at least 1 poult (Table 9). In 2008, 57 cooperators reported 224 observations, which included 448 hens; 118 with broods and 330 without broods. The brood index was 2.2 young per adult for all hens observed and 4.3 young per adult for hens observed with at least 1 poult.

Brood survey information indicates that wild turkeys in Connecticut were less productive in 2009 than in 2008 and 2007. Wet and cool weather throughout Connecticut during the hatching and brooding period in 2009 may have resulted in lower productivity from the previous year.

Table 9. Wild turkey brood survey data, 2007-2009.

Year	Total Adults	Total Young	Total Adults & Young	Adults Without Young	Young Per Adult	Young Per Adult with Young	Number 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	434	1.7	2.4	323
Total/Mean	1,790	3,937	5,727	1,034	2.1	3.6	952

Hunter Safety and Ethics

Hunter Safety

No hunting accidents were reported during the 2008 fall seasons or during the 2009 spring gobbler season. Connecticut turkey hunters should be proud of their excellent safety record and should strive to maintain it. The Department of Environmental Protection 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 15).

Hunter Ethics

In addition to the various state laws and regulations that are enforced, there also is 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. Through continued cooperation among the Department of Environmental Protection, 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	2009
Andover	5	13	11	8	13	14	7	8	2	3	4	4
Ansonia	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
Ashford	28	32	25	35	20	32	33	28	19	19	10	25
Avon	0	3	1	0	5	4	4	7	2	7	11	6
Barkhamsted	8	7	17	7	7	13	7	23	14	6	6	11
Beacon Falls	6	6	5	8	5	11	10	8	10	7	7	7
Berlin	10	14	9	9	8	10	5	4	5	2	9	9
Bethany	4	8	2	5	8	7	8	3	8	5	6	7
Bethel	2	4	7	6	4	6	11	2	2	10	5	3
Bethlehem	13	13	11	13	12	13	13	9	7	3	7	2
Bloomfield	1	7	9	5	4	6	7	10	5	3	3	4
Bolton	2	7	3	8	10	7	16	7	7	7	6	9
Bozrah	13	11	13	20	13	21	14	13	20	17	11	5
Branford	4	5	7	11	3	2	3	4	4	1	1	0
Bridgeport	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0
Bridgewater	7	6	3	6	9	15	6	6	4	4	6	6
Bristol	5	6	3	5	2	2	1	1	5	5	0	0
Brookfield	6	4	5	3	4	14	11	8	5	5	6	7
Brooklyn	10	11	23	13	12	15	17	28	12	12	13	15
Burlington	10	12	8	12	16	13	14	16	5	27	12	11
Canaan	29	21	21	20	15	20	19	19	22	16	28	16
Canterbury	10	15	15	13	20	20	22	16	15	9	7	18
Canton	16	8	11	10	10	12	9	4	8	6	4	4
Chaplin	2	12	11	14	7	9	16	14	8	7	7	8
Cheshire	8	17	12	8	13	23	13	12	15	10	10	9
Chester	7	5	7	9	7	6	7	7	5	6	10	6
Clinton	0	1	1	0	4	1	1	2	3	0	0	3
Colchester	20	30	29	29	45	34	38	30	26	18	14	21
Colebrook	13	5	10	7	5	13	10	17	14	21	14	11
Columbia	10	14	9	7	16	22	23	13	12	14	6	9
Cornwall	20	28	27	27	25	35	33	31	44	37	37	31
Coventry	25	20	26	43	25	32	19	23	15	10	14	15
Cromwell	1	3	3	5	11	7	1	9	5	3	3	10
Danbury	8	5	9	6	6	12	5	7	5	5	1	6
Darien	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Deep River	2	3	2	7	6	6	5	4	1	1	3	2
Derby	0	0	0	1	3	2	0	1	2	0	3	0
Durham	11	15	13	9	9	17	16	21	14	5	9	9
East Granby	37	7	6	3	7	5	5	4	11	6	6	2
East Haddam	36	31	45	39	29	27	39	33	17	24	14	27
East Hampton	12	16	21	24	9	13	12	11	10	8	6	12
East Hartford	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
East Haven	15	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	2

Town	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
East Lyme	5	16	29	33	18	29	26	26	23	23	18	16
East Windsor	12	8	13	13	6	9	12	11	15	22	10	13
Eastford	8	18	16	20	12	20	13	11	17	13	15	14
Easton	18	18	21	23	20	21	25	22	8	13	18	8
Ellington	5	8	10	17	9	14	7	19	5	17	17	14
Enfield	0	7	8	7	12	7	14	8	13	6	9	16
Essex	1	2	2	2	13	7	7	6	5	7	7	4
Fairfield	1	1	2	3	3	1	0	2	3	4	8	4
Farmington	4	4	2	1	6	8	8	3	4	7	3	5
Franklin	28	24	27	17	21	28	15	19	19	17	18	10
Glastonbury	15	20	14	17	16	21	11	14	12	14	7	11
Goshen	37	29	31	35	25	39	38	27	24	18	17	20
Granby	6	7	13	10	8	17	13	10	9	7	12	7
Greenwich	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	0	2	0	4	2
Griswold	1	6	4	5	13	6	15	10	11	5	4	6
Groton	0	1	1	3	2	6	0	9	4	2	2	3
Guilford	10	7	10	13	21	27	19	20	13	20	15	11
Haddam	26	28	29	39	38	45	26	26	22	29	19	14
Hamden	17	14	15	12	16	17	11	11	7	7	9	7
Hampton	20	16	21	20	22	29	19	26	22	22	21	9
Hartford	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hartland	10	14	11	12	14	14	12	13	9	18	10	7
Harwinton	18	20	13	16	16	22	11	14	17	12	14	10
Hebron	27	18	26	30	16	22	18	26	24	15	16	15
Kent	19	25	20	13	21	21	34	20	30	18	9	23
Killingly	6	8	12	8	12	10	9	11	11	13	13	9
Killingworth	6	15	26	22	22	30	20	15	16	10	17	7
Lebanon	30	46	59	48	70	76	69	63	52	33	37	39
Ledyard	6	10	9	11	4	18	21	21	35	29	18	9
Lisbon	10	8	15	11	12	10	13	3	14	10	11	4
Litchfield	38	45	29	38	33	38	41	27	31	27	29	14
Lyme	35	44	43	31	28	37	31	43	21	19	28	24
Madison	2	1	4	7	2	2	1	0	1	3	0	6
Manchester	2	2	4	6	4	4	5	7	5	2	3	2
Mansfield	26	23	22	27	26	28	28	13	12	12	13	14
Marlborough	3	7	10	18	10	17	19	12	10	4	2	7
Meriden	0	5	5	3	4	4	3	2	0	0	3	6
Middlebury	3	5	5	6	1	6	1	5	2	1	2	2
Middlefield	8	5	10	12	14	14	6	19	8	8	8	12
Middletown	28	23	30	17	18	39	27	30	22	30	20	18
Milford	3	22	2	0	2	3	5	3	2	2	0	0
Monroe	11	7	8	9	5	5	3	4	0	0	2	5
Montville	12	18	28	27	24	19	22	20	13	20	20	8
Morris	16	13	6	13	14	14	17	16	13	18	12	15
Naugatuck	7	5	9	10	9	7	7	10	8	7	8	6

Town	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
New Canaan	2	0	3	6	0	3	3	2	1	2	2	1
New Fairfield	6	9	10	9	10	8	12	10	6	8	8	1
New Hartford	23	12	12	19	9	19	17	22	25	18	14	22
New Haven	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0
New London	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
New Milford	33	27	28	34	21	38	22	16	28	25	27	13
Newtown	32	25	30	30	23	35	19	27	29	21	22	14
Norfolk	9	12	14	15	3	16	12	15	18	13	15	13
North Branford	3	3	9	9	6	5	12	14	13	4	7	5
North Canaan	4	3	5	2	0	16	3	7	2	2	4	8
North Haven	2	3	1	3	3	1	5	4	5	2	4	11
North Stonington	14	31	17	5	21	32	19	38	18	14	26	23
Norwalk	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Norwich	6	2	4	3	6	9	5	5	7	3	5	7
Old Lyme	3	11	11	14	15	9	4	8	20	6	12	15
Old Saybrook	1	1	1	5	2	6	2	0	0	2	0	0
Orange	0	4	3	4	0	2	2	5	3	1	5	1
Oxford	12	21	27	26	25	30	21	13	17	9	8	10
Plainfield	8	3	13	15	8	17	9	14	8	14	25	15
Plainville	4	2	3	5	0	2	0	2	1	2	0	2
Plymouth	4	4	4	7	9	10	8	13	4	14	7	13
Pomfret	28	30	38	32	26	28	25	19	15	23	24	31
Portland	6	15	13	17	16	10	12	7	15	10	7	16
Preston	8	8	16	17	17	17	13	13	17	17	17	15
Prospect	4	4	8	6	3	3	4	5	7	5	1	5
Putnam	6	7	13	12	15	9	11	8	1	4	4	6
Redding	24	23	22	39	29	33	46	38	38	15	23	16
Ridgefield	2	6	5	3	5	4	11	6	5	3	2	2
Rocky Hill	8	5	2	3	0	5	7	10	7	3	3	6
Roxbury	16	13	4	17	7	8	5	13	5	6	3	4
Salem	6	12	31	20	20	22	21	12	13	8	6	7
Salisbury	49	34	25	27	19	27	28	18	26	25	20	19
Scotland	22	18	31	34	35	43	28	27	23	24	29	19
Seymour	0	4	9	5	8	5	2	1	2	2	2	1
Sharon	53	50	56	33	30	46	50	38	38	38	31	23
Shelton	3	5	3	4	6	15	10	7	2	5	6	8
Sherman	6	17	6	8	8	16	8	7	13	11	6	4
Simsbury	2	6	2	2	9	3	6	5	5	3	3	2
Somers	8	5	6	7	12	13	12	14	10	2	9	8
Southbury	14	22	11	13	20	21	19	19	15	12	13	13
Southington	8	7	10	5	10	5	8	3	3	0	9	7
South Windsor	3	9	11	9	13	10	9	12	12	15	7	10
Sprague	10	8	11	9	6	10	14	10	6	8	6	8
Stafford	6	16	12	12	6	18	16	24	9	8	15	17
Stamford	1	8	1	4	4	3	4	2	0	4	3	0

Town	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Sterling	5	6	19	12	18	15	10	10	20	12	14	19
Stonington	10	10	16	24	16	12	16	19	16	15	10	11
Stratford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	3	4	2	3
Suffield	17	12	13	14	16	25	9	25	16	13	10	17
Thomaston	4	2	3	2	2	2	4	6	2	2	1	3
Thompson	19	11	19	27	22	28	37	21	27	11	22	16
Tolland	8	7	5	9	10	23	17	15	11	9	13	10
Torrington	17	18	16	9	10	14	18	19	8	10	17	11
Trumbull	0	0	2	0	1	3	2	1	0	0	1	0
Union	8	3	5	9	9	6	6	6	11	8	8	11
Vernon	0	0	2	4	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	0
Voluntown	17	12	16	14	11	11	10	7	9	18	7	10
Wallingford	5	5	7	10	10	11	12	10	5	8	4	9
Warren	22	25	13	22	15	32	18	29	10	20	17	18
Washington	23	24	24	18	16	28	27	10	16	15	18	19
Waterbury	1	2	3	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	0
Waterford	7	17	19	14	9	18	14	15	10	13	11	10
Watertown	14	16	15	15	10	18	12	11	9	13	9	5
West Haven	0	2	2	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	0
Westbrook	4	2	5	2	2	1	4	3	9	1	2	1
Weston	2	3	4	5	2	4	5	0	0	0	0	1
Westport	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2
Wethersfield	0	1	0	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	1	0
Willington	1	8	21	13	7	8	13	10	18	14	14	12
Wilton	1	1	1	4	2	0	1	3	2	6	1	4
Winchester	16	18	17	17	12	12	9	14	13	9	15	13
Windham	16	10	18	19	17	17	18	12	8	6	5	4
Windsor	3	2	4	6	4	2	9	3	6	4	5	2
Windsor Locks	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wolcott	4	2	0	0	4	7	1	10	5	4	4	2
Woodbridge	1	6	6	3	2	5	2	1	1	3	0	3
Woodbury	30	30	30	25	20	27	11	21	9	5	17	8
Woodstock	44	61	50	50	52	48	35	52	40	49	38	47
Town not reported	25	32	25	27	14	13	24	0	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	1,502

Appendix B. Spring turkey harvest from state-owned and managed lands, 2008 and 2009.

State Land	Number of Birds Harvested		Square Miles	Kills/Sq. Mile	Kills/Sq. Mile
	2008	2009		(2008 Only)	(2009 Only)
Aldo Leopold WMA	4	3	0.86	4.65	3.49
American Legion SF	0	1	1.40	0.00	0.71
Assekonk SF	2	0	1.10	1.82	0.00
Babcock Pond WMA	0	3	2.30	0.00	1.34
Bartlett Brook WMA	0	3	1.10	0.00	2.73
Bear Hill WMA	1	0	0.50	2.00	0.00
Bishops Swamp WMA	5	4	1.20	4.17	3.33
Camp Columbia	0	1	0.94	0.00	1.06
Cockaponset SF	23	27	26.90	0.86	1.00
Cromwell Meadows WMA	1	1	0.71	1.41	1.41
Eightmile River WMA	5	6	0.50	10.00	12.00
Franklin Swamp WMA	0	3	1.10	0.00	2.73
George C. Waldo SP	1	0	0.23	4.35	0.00
Goshen WMA	2	3	1.50	1.33	2.00
SR Cove/Haddam Neck WMA	0	2	0.15	0.00	13.33
Hancock Brook	2	4	1.10	1.82	3.64
Higganum Meadows	0	1	0.40	0.00	2.50
Housatonic River WMA	0	8	0.90	0.00	8.89
Housatonic SF	17	2	16.80	1.01	0.12
John Minetto SP	4	0	1.10	3.64	0.00
Larson Lot WMA	1	0	0.40	2.50	0.00
Mad River Dam FCA	4	0	0.80	5.00	0.00
Mansfield Hollow Lake	1	0	3.10	0.32	0.00
Mattatuck SF	6	3	7.30	0.82	0.41
MDC Colebrook-Hogback	0	2	6.50	0.00	0.31
MDC Greenwoods	3	0	0.60	5.00	0.00
Meshomasic SF	4	9	14.00	0.29	0.64
Mohegan SF	1	1	1.30	0.77	0.77
Nassahegon SF	3	4	1.90	1.58	2.11
Natchaug SF	9	17	20.80	0.43	0.82
Nathan Hale SF	2	0	2.30	0.87	0.00
Naugatuck SF	18	14	7.00	2.57	2.00
Nehantic SF	5	5	7.70	0.65	0.65
Nepaug SF	4	3	2.10	1.91	1.43
Newgate WMA	2	1	0.70	2.86	1.43
Nipmuck SF	3	4	14.40	0.21	0.28
NU-Maromas Coop WMA	5	1	2.20	2.27	0.46
NU-Skiff Mtn. WMA	2	3	1.10	1.82	2.73
Pachaug SF	13	15	40.20	0.32	0.37
Paugnut SF	0	4	2.60	0.00	1.54
Paugussett SF	6	0	3.00	2.00	0.00
Pease Brook WMA	0	2	0.32	0.00	6.25
Peoples SF	2	5	4.60	0.44	1.09
Pootatuck SF	2	0	1.70	1.18	0.00

State Land	Number of Birds Harvested		Square Miles	Kills/ Sq. Mile	Kills/Sq. Mile
	2008	2009		(2008 Only)	(2009 Only)
Quaddick SF	2	2	1.73	1.16	1.16
Quinebaug River WMA	2	3	2.60	0.77	1.15
Quinnipiac River SP	2	9	0.50	4.00	18.00
Robbins Swamp WMA	4	1	2.50	1.60	0.40
Roraback WMA	1	1	3.10	0.33	0.33
Rose Hill WMA	2	1	1.00	2.00	1.00
Ross Marsh WMA	1	0	0.40	2.50	0.00
Salmon River SF	2	4	11.30	0.18	0.35
Scantic River SP	0	2	0.92	0.00	2.17
Shenipsit SF	1	2	10.60	0.09	0.19
Simsbury WMA	2	1	0.30	6.67	3.33
Spignesi WMA	7	3	0.70	10.00	4.29
Sugarbrook Field Trial Area	1	0	0.31	3.23	0.00
Sunnybrook SP	1	0	0.70	1.43	0.00
Talbot WMA	1	2	0.70	1.43	2.86
Thomaston Dam	2	0	1.32	1.52	0.00
Topsmead SF	1	0	0.30	3.33	0.00
Trout Brook Valley	1	0	0.50	2.00	0.00
Tunxis SF	11	11	14.90	0.74	0.74
Wangunk Meadows	0	4	1.00	0.00	4.00
Wyantnock SF	2	6	6.40	0.31	0.94
Yale Forest	2	0	12.00	0.17	0.00
Zemko Pond WMA	0	2	0.72	0.00	2.78

Appendix C. Ruffed grouse observations from turkey hunter surveys, 2005-2009.

Number of Grouse Seen or Heard						Number of Grouse Seen or Heard					
Town	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Town	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Andover	0	1	0	0	0	Easton	0	0	1	1	0
Ansonia	0	2	2	2	0	Ellington	1	1	1	1	0
Ashford	2	5	4	4	6	Enfield	3	2	1	1	1
Avon	1	0	0	0	0	Farmington	0	2	0	0	0
Barkhamsted	7	9	5	5	5	Glastonbury	0	0	1	2	1
Beacon Falls	0	2	0	0	1	Goshen	7	18	17	4	9
Berlin	0	1	0	0	0	Granby	6	5	3	0	2
Bethany	0	1	0	0	0	Greenwich	0	0	0	0	1
Bethel	0	1	0	0	0	Griswold	0	1	0	5	0
Bethlehem	0	1	1	1	0	Guilford	0	0	4	0	0
Bolton	1	0	0	0	0	Haddam	2	1	1	0	2
Bozrah	2	0	0	0	0	Hamden	2	0	0	0	0
Bridgewater	1	0	1	1	0	Hampton	1	3	3	0	0
Bristol	1	0	1	1	0	Hartland	9	13	15	1	7
Brooklyn	1	0	0	0	0	Harwinton	4	2	1	0	1
Burlington	1	0	1	1	0	Hebron	3	1	0	0	2
Canaan	5	7	4	4	7	Kent	4	5	3	1	4
Canterbury	2	1	1	1	0	Killingly	1	1	0	1	0
Canton	1	0	2	2	0	Killingworth	1	0	2	0	1
Chaplin	2	1	5	5	2	Lebanon	3	1	1	1	0
Cheshire	0	0	1	1	1	Ledyard	2	0	3	4	1
Chester	0	1	2	2	1	Lisbon	0	1	0	1	0
Colchester	0	2	0	0	0	Litchfield	3	4	1	2	2
Colebrook	5	4	9	9	1	Lyme	2	0	2	5	1
Columbia	0	0	0	0	1	Mansfield	1	1	0	1	0
Cornwall	2	11	7	7	1	Marlborough	1	0	0	2	0
Coventry	3	1	0	0	0	Middlebury	0	1	0	0	0
Danbury	1	0	0	0	0	Middlefield	1	0	0	9	3
Durham	0	0	0	0	2	Middletown	3	0	2	7	0
East Granby	2	1	2	2	2	Monroe	2	0	0	0	1
East Haddam	1	0	0	0	0	Montville	0	2	0	0	0
East Hampton	1	0	0	0	0	Morris	0	0	1	2	2
East Lyme	2	1	2	2	1	Naugatuck	1	0	1	0	0
East Windsor	2	2	1	1	1	New Canaan	1	0	1	0	0
Eastford	4	6	2	2	0	New Fairfield	1	1	0	2	1

Number of Grouse Seen or Heard						Number of Grouse Seen or Heard					
Town	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Town	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
N. Hartford	4	4	5	1	6	Stafford	5	4	3	2	1
New Milford	1	3	1	2	1	Stamford	0	0	1	0	0
Newtown	0	2	1	1	1	Sterling	0	1	0	1	0
Norfolk	2	4	4	1	6	Stonington	1	0	0	0	0
N. Canaan	2	0	2	1	0	Suffield	1	2	2	1	0
North Haven	0	1	1	0	0	Thomaston	0	0	1	0	0
N. Stonington	0	1	0	1	0	Thompson	1	2	3	3	1
Old Lyme	0	1	0	0	0	Tolland	1	1	0	0	2
Oxford	1	0	0	2	0	Torrington	1	4	5	3	7
Plymouth	2	0	2	1	0	Union	2	1	1	3	1
Pomfret	4	3	1	0	2	Voluntown	1	0	1	1	2
Portland	3	1	0	3	0	Wallingford	0	1	0	0	0
Preston	1	0	0	0	0	Warren	4	3	2	2	2
Putnam	1	0	0	0	1	Washington	3	3	1	0	2
Redding	6	1	0	0	0	Waterbury	0	1	0	0	0
Ridgefield	0	0	0	1	0	Waterford	3	0	0	0	0
Rocky Hill	0	0	0	2	0	Watertown	1	1	2	0	1
Roxbury	0	0	1	0	0	Westbrook	0	1	0	0	0
Salem	0	0	0	0	1	W. Hartford	0	0	0	1	0
Salisbury	7	4	6	6	3	Wethersfield	0	1	0	0	0
Scotland	1	1	0	0	0	Willington	5	0	0	1	1
Sharon	9	7	9	10	6	Winchester	5	6	2	4	3
Sherman	1	1	1	0	1	Windham	1	0	0	0	0
Simsbury	0	0	0	0	1	Windsor	0	0	0	0	1
Somers	2	0	2	3	1	Woodbury	1	1	0	0	1
Southbury	2	0	1	1	1	Woodstock	6	11	5	6	6
Southington	1	0	0	0	0	Unknown	10	0	0	0	5
Total						217	205	184	153	143	