

Connecticut Wild Turkey Program Report

2017 Spring and Fall Seasons

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Introduction

The goal of the Connecticut Wild 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 the state, providing the public with hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities.

During 2016, a significant change occurred to the wild turkey permit process. As of July 1, 2016, new legislation created a Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp, which is required for hunting of wild turkeys, ring-necked pheasants, ruffed grouse, Northern bobwhite quail, chukar partridge, and Hungarian partridge. This new stamp has several notable, positive attributes. Previously, if hunters wanted to pursue pheasants and turkeys, they had to purchase a pheasant stamp and permits for each turkey season (spring private land, spring state land, fall firearms private land, fall firearms state land, and fall archery). If hunters purchased each of these permits and stamps, the expenditure would have totaled \$123. With the new stamp, hunters can now participate in all of the pheasant and wild turkey seasons and legally harvest the aforementioned game birds for a fee of \$28. All revenue from the sale of Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamps is deposited into a non-lapsing, dedicated fund to provide a stable funding source for maintaining existing turkey brood habitat, establishing new game bird habitat improvement projects, and administering the Pheasant Program.

This report presents a summary of the 2017 spring and fall wild turkey hunting seasons in Connecticut. For most Connecticut sportsmen and sportswomen, “turkey hunting” means spring gobbler hunting. Because of its popularity, the 2017 spring season is presented first, followed by highlights from the fall firearms and archery seasons.

2017 Spring Gobbler Season

Overall Results

The 36th annual statewide spring turkey season was open from April 26 – May 27, 2017. A total of 7,136 Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamps were issued and 1,584 birds were harvested. The harvest increased by 18.7% from 2016 (Table 1).

In an effort to provide a quality turkey hunting experience for Connecticut’s junior hunters (ages 12 to 15), the 13th annual Youth Wild Turkey Junior Hunter Days took place from Saturday, April 15 to Saturday, April 22, 2017 (excluding Sunday, April 16). Participants harvested 50 wild turkeys, 11 birds fewer than the previous year. Junior Wild Turkey Hunter Training Days have been well received by all participants, both youth hunters and mentors.

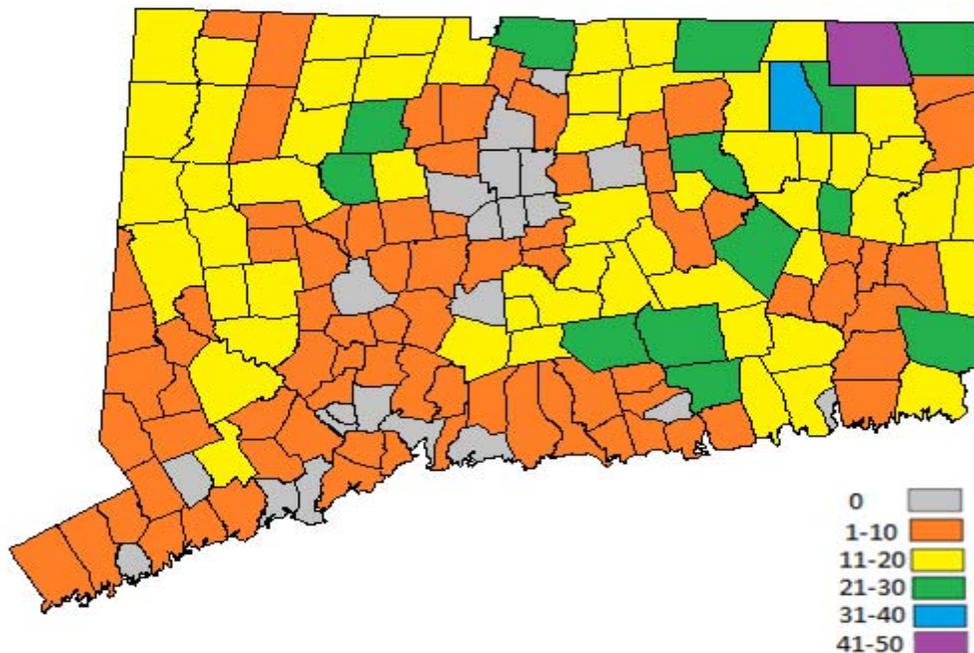
Harvest by Town

At least one bird was taken from 148 of Connecticut’s 169 towns (Figure 1, Appendix A). Twenty-one or more birds were taken from 16 towns, and 30 or more birds were taken from 2 towns. The towns of Woodstock (46), Ashford (35), Lyme (29), and Suffield (28) had the highest reported turkey harvest.

Table 1. Connecticut’s spring turkey harvest on private and state lands, 2016 and 2017.

Land Type	Total Harvest		
	2016	2017	% Change
Private Land	1,071	1,276	+19.1%
State Land	264	308	+16.7%
Overall Total	1,335	1,584	+18.7%

Figure 1. Distribution of the 2017 spring turkey harvest in Connecticut.



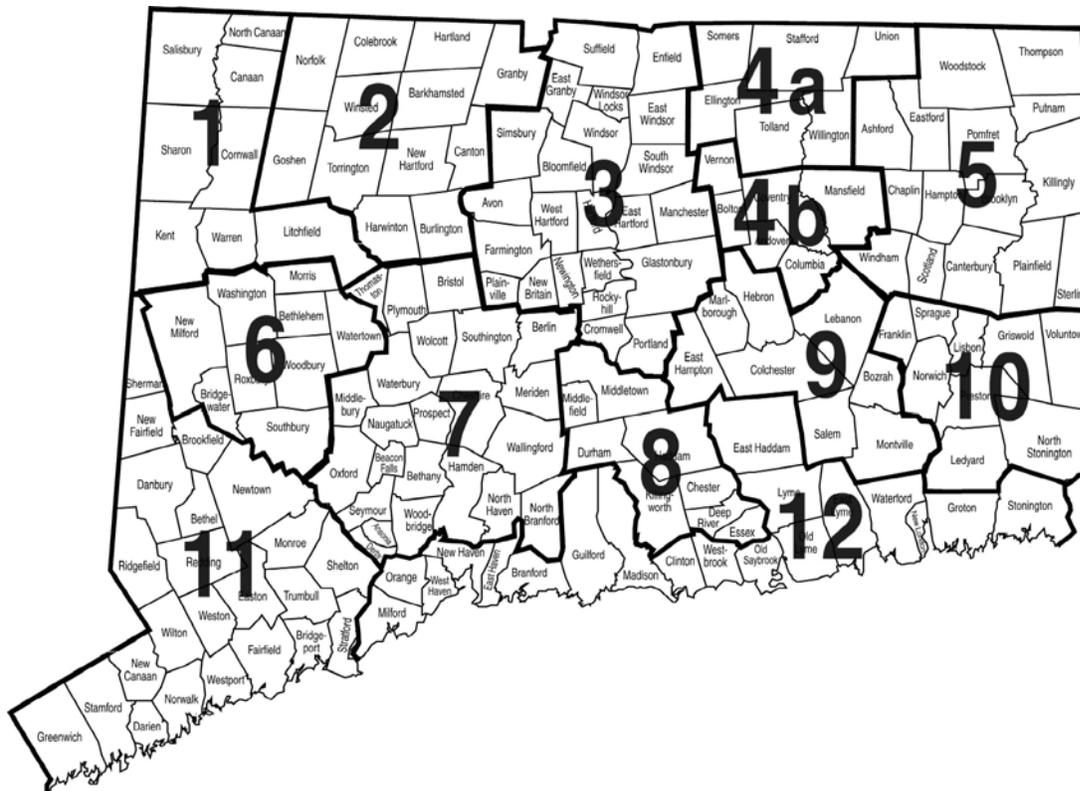
Zonal Harvest

Similar to 2016, the northeastern corner of the state (Turkey Management Zone 5) reported the highest harvest among Connecticut’s 13 Turkey Management Zones (TMZs) during 2017 (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 6 showed the largest increase in harvest from 2016 to 2017. 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 2016 and 2017 seasons by Turkey Management Zone.

Zone	Harvest 2016	Harvest 2017	Percent Change
1	94	125	33.0%
2	146	172	17.8%
3	100	130	30.0%
4A	81	78	-3.8%
4B	49	59	20.4
5	241	317	31.5%
6	66	96	45.5%
7	82	98	19.5%
8	97	80	-17.5%
9	93	102	9.7%
10	107	99	-7.5%
11	69	85	23.2%
12	110	143	30.0%
Total	1,335	1,584	18.7%

Figure 2. Connecticut's 13 Turkey Management Zones.



Private and State Land Hunting

Private land accounted for the majority of the harvest (81%). 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, Natchaug State Forest (26), Pachaug State Forest (23), and Cockaponset State Forest (17) yielded the most turkeys in 2017. The most productive state land turkey hunting areas (≥ 5 birds harvested/mi² and a minimum harvest of 4 birds) were Eight Mile River Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Enders State Forest, and Tankerhoosen WMA (Appendix B).

Population Dynamics

The 2017 spring harvest consisted of 494 juvenile and 1,084 adult male birds and 6 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; 2009 and 2013 showed lower productivity whereas 2010, 2015, and 2016 indicated higher productivity (Figures 3, 4, and 5). This also correlates well with brood survey indices. In 2009, the brood index was the lowest reported value (1.7), which was reflected in the 2010 spring harvest as a reduction in juvenile take. Whereas the 2010 brood index (3.6) was the highest reported brood index and the 2011 spring harvest had a high proportion of juvenile birds. 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 – 2017.

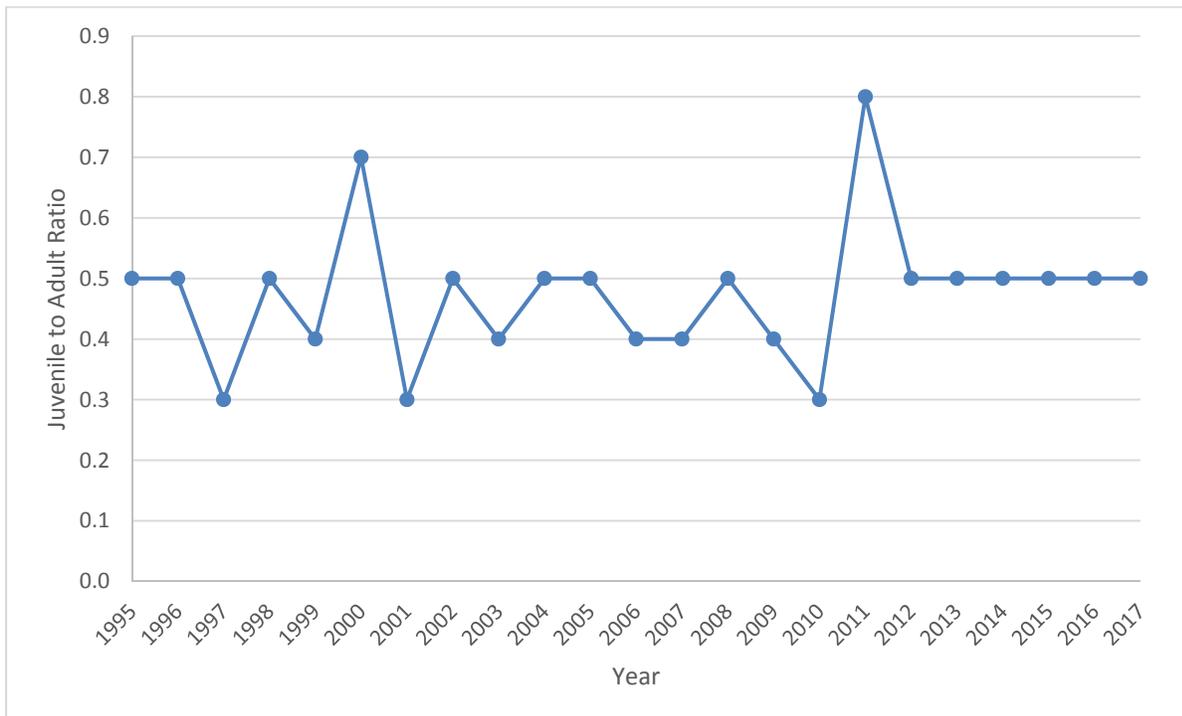


Figure 4. Connecticut's spring wild turkey season harvest, 1981 – 2017.

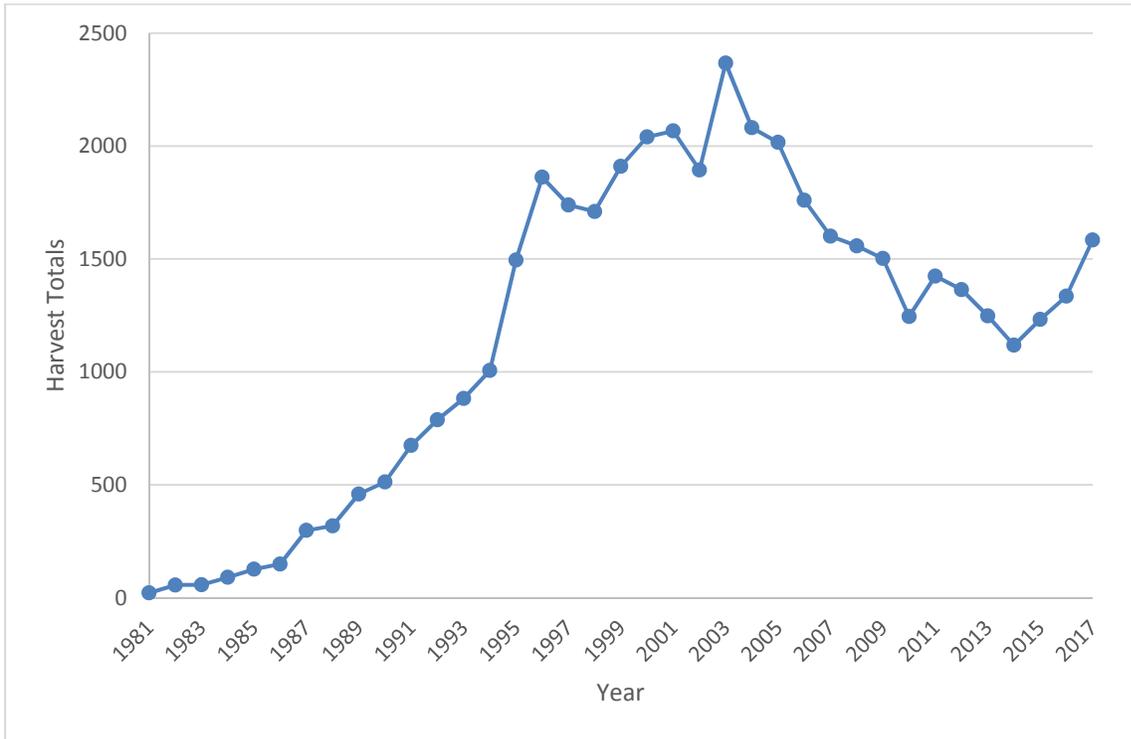
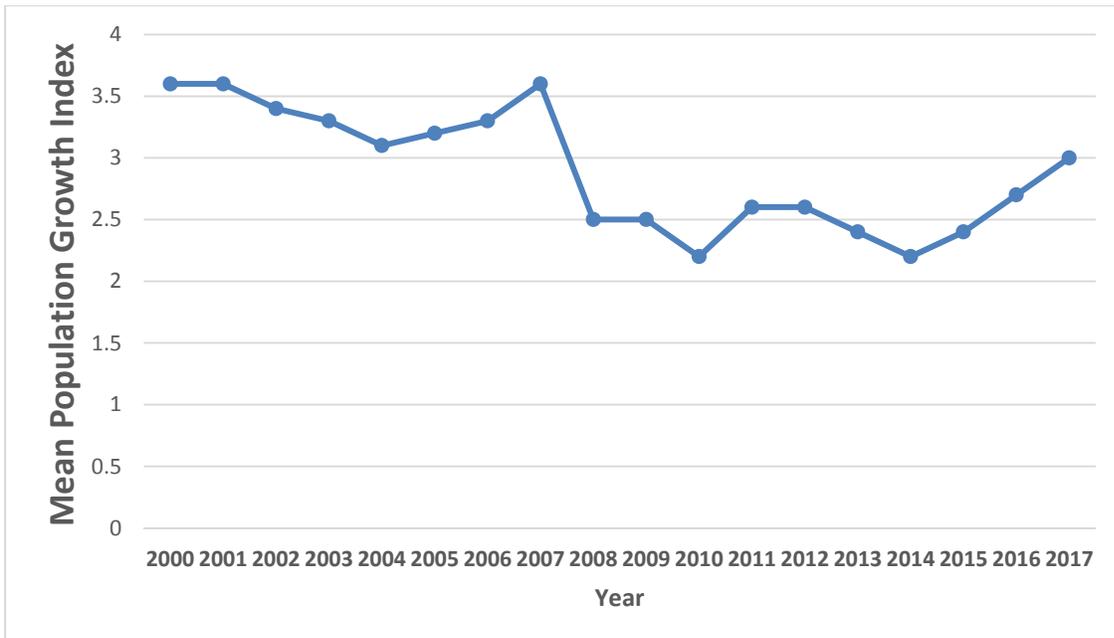


Figure 5. Perception of hunters regarding wild turkey population growth from 2000 – 2017.



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. In 2010, the survey changed from a mail-in survey attached to the spring turkey permit to an online survey distributed to hunters with email addresses. In 2017, a total of 3,807 surveys were emailed to spring turkey hunters and 32% of those hunters responded. Twenty-seven percent of the respondents had obtained a stamp, but did not hunt. Of those that did hunt (6,318), most of their hunting activity occurred in Turkey Management Zones 5 and 2 (Figure 2; Table 3).

Information obtained from surveys was used to determine the economic benefits provided by spring turkey hunting. Overall, spring turkey hunters spent \$200.73 per hunter on hunting-related items. Sales of Resident Gamebird Conservation Stamps, as of May 30, 2017, generated an additional \$171,304 (Table 4).

Forty-seven percent of spring turkey hunters responding to the survey believed the turkey population was stable. Of the remainder, 26% believed it was increasing and 27% believed it was decreasing. The mean statewide rank of Connecticut's turkey population for 2017 was 3.0, on a scale of 0-6 (a rank of 3.0 suggests the population is stable). Since 2007, the wild turkey population growth index has indicated gradual decline in the overall statewide turkey population (Figure 5). As previously indicated, this downward population trend has also been observed in the statewide spring wild turkey harvest.

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 2017, hunters reported 82 encounters with ruffed grouse in 53 towns. The town with the highest number of grouse encounters was Hartland (5) (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 2017 index was 6.7 (Figure 6). Although data trends from 2005 suggest that Connecticut's grouse numbers continue to decline, the 2017 data indicate a slight population improvement. The uptick may be attributed to better productivity during spring 2016.

The spring wild turkey hunter survey is also used to obtain a variety of information from hunters to better manage Connecticut's wild turkey resource. Several questions were included in the 2017 survey regarding hunter participation, hunting preferences, hunter interference, and hunting experiences. Seventy-three percent of the hunters indicated they participated in the spring season. The majority of spring turkey hunters indicated they hunted private land only (52%), 23% hunted only state land, and 25% hunted both private and state lands. Respondents indicated that they primarily purchased a Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp to hunt only wild turkeys (58%), and 96% of all hunters indicated they intended to hunt wild turkeys and/or other game birds. Ninety-one percent of the respondents intended to hunt the spring turkey season and one or both fall season(s). The survey indicated that the majority of turkey hunters (51%) are between the ages of 41 to 60 years. Nineteen percent of state land spring turkey hunters and 7% of private land hunters encountered interference. State land hunters indicated that 55% encountered the same amount, 18% less, and 27% more interference than the 2016 spring season. Private land hunters had similar interference results: same (64%), less (14%), and more (22%).

Table 3. Number of survey respondents hunting in each Turkey Management Zone in Connecticut, 2017.

Zone	Hunters	%
1	72	8
2	98	11
3	77	9
4*	64	7
5	102	12
6	67	8
7	77	9
8	53	6
9	74	9
10	42	5
11	69	8
12	73	8
Total	868	100

*Data for Zone 4 was not split into Zone 4A and 4B.

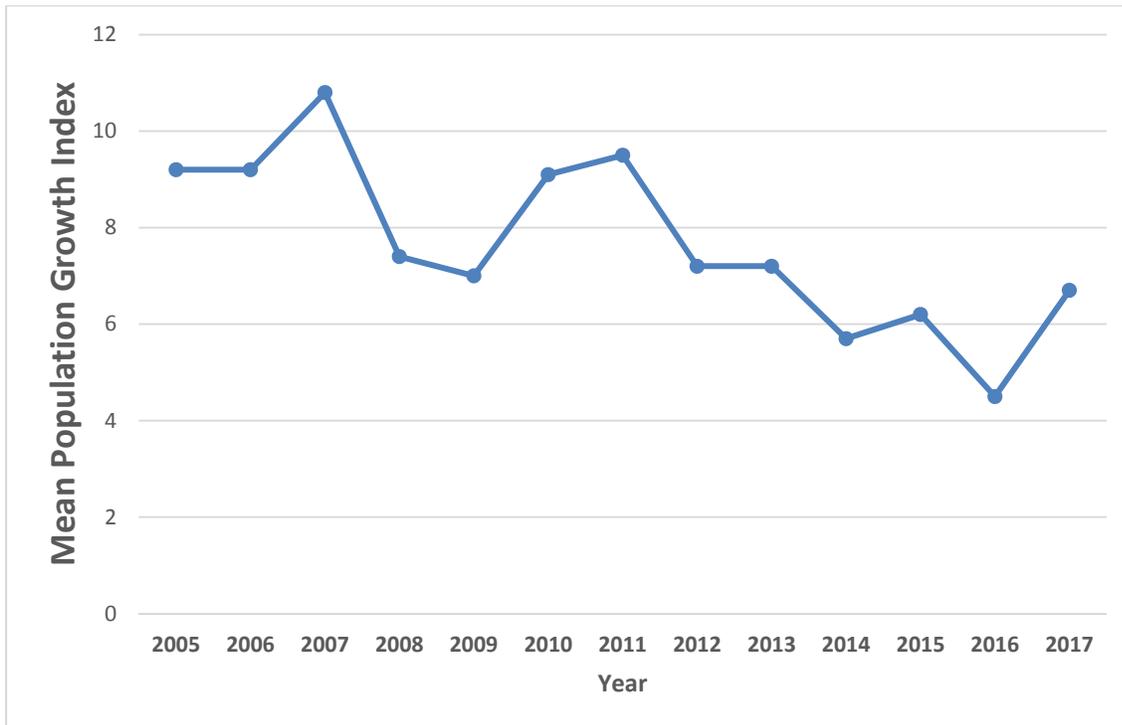
Table 4. Economic and recreational benefits provided by the 2017 Connecticut spring turkey hunting season.

Permit Type	Total Permits		Hunting Expenses*	
	No. Issued	Revenue	Average*	Total
Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp	7,136	\$171,304**	\$200.73	\$143,240,398

* Values derived from hunter surveys.

** Excludes landowner permits issued free of charge.

Figure 6. Ruffed grouse population growth index reported on the spring turkey hunter surveys from 2005 - 2017.



2017 Fall Firearms Turkey Season

The fall firearms season was open statewide in 2017 for the 22nd 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 56 birds were harvested during the 26-day (October 1-30) 2017 fall firearms season. Hunters harvested 49 birds on private land and 7 birds on state land. The harvest included 24 adult males, 10 adult females, 14 juvenile males, and 8 juvenile females. The harvest consisted of 61% adults, 39% juveniles, 68% males, and 32% females. Overall from 2016 to 2017, the fall firearms harvest decreased by 6.7%.

Fall firearms hunters reported taking at least 1 bird from 29 of 169 Connecticut towns. The 2 towns reporting the highest harvest were Eastford (5) and Killingly (4) (Table 5). In addition, Turkey Management Zones 5 (18 birds) and 12 (9 birds) reported the highest zonal harvest (Table 6).

Table 5. Wild turkey harvest by town during the 2016 and 2017 fall firearms seasons.

Town of Harvest	Number of Birds		Town of Harvest	Number of Birds	
	2016	2017		2016	2017
Ashford	0	3	Middletown	1	0
Bloomfield	1	0	Montville	0	2
Bozrah	0	1	New Fairfield	1	0
Chaplin	2	0	Old Lyme	0	2
Chester	0	1	Plainfield	1	1
Colchester	2	3	Pomfret	2	1
Cornwall	4	0	Rocky Hill	1	0
Coventry	0	2	Scotland	1	0
Durham	0	1	Somers	0	1
Eastford	3	5	South Windsor	1	0
East Granby	1	0	Stafford	7	2
East Windsor	0	1	Sterling	1	0
Fairfield	0	1	Stonington	0	3
Farmington	3	0	Suffield	1	0
Guilford	2	0	Thompson	1	1
Haddam	1	2	Torrington	0	2
Hampton	0	2	Union	3	2
Killingly	1	4	Voluntown	0	3
Lebanon	2	2	Waterford	0	2
Litchfield	3	0	Willington	1	1
Lyme	1	2	Woodstock	8	1
Middlefield	4	2	Total	60	56

Table 6. Wild turkeys harvested during the 2016 and 2017 firearms seasons by Turkey Management Zone.

Zone	Harvest by Year		Zone	Harvest by Year	
	2016	2017		2016	2017
1	7	0	7	0	0
2	0	2	8	6	6
3	8	1	9	4	8
4*	11	8	10	0	3
5	20	18	11	1	1
6	0	0	12	3	9
			Total	60	56

**Data for Zone 4 was not split into Zone 4A and 4B.*

2017 Fall Archery Turkey Season

Connecticut's 35th fall archery turkey season was open statewide and ran concurrently with the 2017 archery deer season. The purchase of a Resident Game Bird Conservation Stamp allowed archers to participate in the 2017 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 121 birds from 70 towns during the fall 2017 season. The towns reporting the highest harvests were Stonington (7), Colchester (5), and Newtown (5) (Table 7). Turkey Management Zones 11 (16 birds) and 12 (24 birds) reported the highest zonal harvest (Table 8). The highest zone and town harvest numbers may be attributed to the longer season length which occurred in these areas. Because the fall archery wild turkey season runs concurrently with the archery deer season, Zones 11 and 12 have the additional month of January to harvest wild turkeys; all other zones close at the end of December. Seventy-two of 121 birds harvested by archers were males (48 adults, 24 juveniles) and 49 were females (38 adults, 11 juveniles). From 2016 to 2017, the fall archery turkey harvest increased by 29%.

Table 7. Wild turkeys harvested by town during the 2016 and 2017 fall archery seasons.

Town of Harvest	Number of Birds		Town of Harvest	Number of Birds	
	2016	2017		2016	2017
Andover	1	1	Marlborough	1	0
Ashford	0	4	Monroe	1	0
Beacon Falls	1	0	Montville	1	2
Berlin	0	1	Naugatuck	1	0
Bethany	1	0	New Fairfield	1	0
Bolton	0	1	Newtown	4	5
Branford	1	1	North Branford	0	1
Bristol	1	2	North Haven	1	2
Brookfield	1	1	North Stonington	1	0
Brooklyn	0	1	Norwalk	0	1
Burlington	1	1	Old Saybrook	1	1
Canton	0	3	Orange	1	1
Cheshire	3	2	Oxford	1	1
Clinton	1	3	Plainfield	0	1
Colchester	0	5	Plainville	0	1
Columbia	0	1	Plymouth	0	1
Cornwall	3	1	Pomfret	0	1
Coventry	2	2	Portland	1	1
Danbury	1	0	Redding	1	0
Durham	1	1	Ridgefield	3	0
East Haddam	1	2	Salem	2	2
East Lyme	2	2	Salisbury	2	2
Eastford	2	2	Shelton	3	0
Easton	3	4	Sherman	0	1
Enfield	0	1	Simsbury	1	1
Farmington	0	3	Somers	1	1

Franklin	0	2	South Windsor	0	2
Glastonbury	0	1	Southbury	1	2
Griswold	0	2	Southington	3	1
Groton	1	1	Stafford	0	1
Guilford	0	1	Stamford	0	2
Haddam	1	1	Stonington	5	7
Hamden	0	1	Stratford	2	1
Hartland	2	0	Tolland	2	3
Harwinton	1	1	Union	2	0
Hebron	1	2	Voluntown	1	1
Killingly	2	0	Waterford	2	2
Killingworth	0	1	Westbrook	1	0
Lebanon	2	2	Willington	0	2
Ledyard	0	3	Wilton	0	1
Litchfield	0	2	Windham	0	1
Lyme	5	2	Woodstock	1	0
Madison	0	1	Total	91	121

Table 8. Wild turkeys harvested during the 2016 and 2017 fall archery seasons by Turkey Management Zone.

Zone	Harvest by Year		Zone	Harvest by Year	
	2016	2017		2016	2017
1	5	5	7	12	12
2	4	5	8	4	4
3	2	10	9	7	13
4*	8	12	10	2	8
5	5	10	11	20	16
6	1	2	12	21	24
			Total	91	121

*Data for Zone 4 was not split into Zone 4A and 4B.

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 departmental 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 2017 brood index was 2.6 young per adult for all hens observed and 3.9 young per adult for hens observed with at least one poult (Table 9). Fifty-seven cooperators reported 424 wild turkey observations, including 877 hens: 590 with broods and 287 without broods. The brood index was found to be variable throughout the summer months (Table 10). During 2016, the brood index was 2.8 young per adult for all

hens observed and 4.0 young per adult for hens observed with at least one poult. Participants reported 202 observations, which included 401 hens and 1,120 poults. The brood survey information indicates that wild turkeys had fair productivity in Connecticut during 2017. The 2017 spring weather was warm and relatively dry throughout Connecticut, creating good 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 – 2017.

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
Tot./Ave.	6,106	16,004	22,109	1,754	2.6	3.8	3,254

Table 10. Wild turkey brood survey data by month for Connecticut, 2017.

Month	Total Adults	Total Young	Young per Adult	Number of Reports
June	274	723	2.6	150
July	350	957	2.7	171
August	253	603	2.4	102
Total	877	2,283	2.6	423

Outlook

Connecticut’s wild turkeys have proven to be highly adaptable, using and flourishing in habitats that were once thought unsuitable for this species. From 1975 through the 1990s, Connecticut’s wild turkey population grew rapidly, resulting from trap and transport efforts and the species’ ability to take full advantage of an unoccupied niche throughout our state’s landscape. Once turkeys were established, the statewide population appeared to level off and fluctuated at a lower level than had been achieved in the early 2000s. Possible factors that contribute to fluctuations in wild turkey populations may include wet and cold spring weather, increases in avian and mammalian predators, and habitat changes. During the past several years, the population appears to be fairly stable.

Appendices

Appendix A. Connecticut spring turkey harvest by town, 2008 – 2017.

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

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

Meriden	3	6	3	1	2	0	2	0	3	0
Middlebury	2	2	2	2	1	3	3	1	3	7
Middlefield	8	12	10	7	13	10	6	12	12	15
Middletown	20	18	18	15	12	11	13	21	18	12
Milford	0	0	2	0	3	1	5	3	3	4
Monroe	2	5	1	3	2	4	0	2	5	4
Montville	20	8	8	9	15	10	8	12	9	15
Morris	12	15	3	4	6	6	3	7	3	7
Naugatuck	8	6	11	7	6	7	3	5	6	3
New Canaan	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	3
New Fairfield	7	1	6	7	6	2	4	3	5	2
New Hartford	14	22	14	11	16	22	20	14	15	23
New London	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Milford	27	13	16	20	16	16	8	24	18	15
Newtown	22	14	12	22	13	16	10	9	17	18
Norfolk	15	13	9	14	14	11	19	12	13	9
North Branford	7	5	5	5	4	3	8	6	5	7
North Canaan	4	8	1	2	5	7	4	4	3	3
North Haven	4	11	3	12	8	5	4	5	5	8
N. Stonington	26	23	13	13	16	12	16	15	18	26
Norwalk	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Norwich	5	7	8	0	5	0	0	5	3	4
Old Lyme	12	15	7	9	6	7	6	7	9	9
Old Saybrook	0	0	2	1	1	0	2	2	1	1
Orange	5	1	4	1	3	4	5	12	7	7
Oxford	8	10	17	14	17	10	5	7	10	7
Plainfield	25	15	9	12	9	18	14	12	20	18
Plainville	0	2	1	2	4	1	3	1	1	5
Plymouth	7	13	8	12	7	9	7	8	5	7
Pomfret	24	31	35	30	15	21	15	18	20	19
Portland	7	16	4	9	8	5	9	4	11	11
Preston	17	15	5	11	10	9	6	16	9	8
Prospect	1	5	1	4	3	2	3	2	4	1
Putnam	4	6	3	7	11	9	6	5	6	7
Redding	23	16	21	28	17	23	12	12	5	10
Ridgefield	2	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	6	4
Rocky Hill	3	6	7	4	9	7	2	1	3	4
Roxbury	3	4	4	4	10	6	4	10	3	12
Salem	6	7	14	13	15	12	7	8	7	11
Salisbury	20	19	16	8	18	22	11	11	14	19
Scotland	29	19	13	17	25	19	17	18	14	26

Seymour	2	1	1	0	3	8	4	4	6	5
Sharon	31	23	28	22	25	17	13	19	18	17
Shelton	6	8	4	3	3	0	2	0	5	9
Sherman	6	4	6	5	5	5	3	3	3	5
Simsbury	3	2	0	0	4	2	6	1	1	6
Somers	9	8	8	18	10	12	8	8	13	11
Southbury	13	13	11	9	9	5	11	10	10	18
Southington	9	7	3	8	3	4	3	3	6	1
South Windsor	7	10	4	3	5	8	7	9	6	14
Sprague	6	8	1	9	6	6	1	3	7	2
Stafford	15	17	8	18	20	20	21	16	33	21
Stamford	3	0	1	4	1	5	6	5	4	2
Sterling	14	19	7	10	15	8	9	15	10	14
Stonington	10	11	6	5	11	11	12	19	12	15
Stratford	2	3	0	1	2	0	0	2	0	3
Suffield	10	17	12	22	32	17	28	9	25	28
Thomaston	1	3	4	5	4	5	2	1	3	1
Thompson	22	16	15	12	17	25	12	15	22	26
Tolland	13	10	3	7	9	6	3	5	4	5
Torrington	17	11	13	12	15	15	13	7	16	13
Trumbull	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1
Union	8	11	7	21	12	7	14	9	12	15
Vernon	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	4	3
Voluntown	7	10	5	11	14	10	9	14	19	16
Wallingford	4	9	6	9	8	6	8	8	5	11
Warren	17	18	12	16	14	10	7	7	8	15
Washington	18	19	11	10	7	10	9	18	13	18
Waterbury	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Waterford	11	10	13	8	9	6	8	15	10	16
Watertown	9	5	10	4	14	2	2	4	2	6
Westbrook	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	1	0	3
West Haven	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
West Hartford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Weston	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Westport	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Wethersfield	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Willington	14	12	13	21	16	18	12	20	10	15
Wilton	1	4	2	2	0	0	1	0	2	1
Winchester	15	13	8	7	15	7	9	7	8	14
Windham	5	4	6	15	10	13	10	12	5	19
Windsor	5	2	0	4	1	1	0	1	2	8

Windsor Locks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Wolcott	4	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	0	3
Woodbridge	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	0
Woodbury	17	8	4	7	1	6	7	7	5	12
Woodstock	38	47	32	44	30	33	19	42	49	46
Town Not Reported	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
Total	1,558	1,502	1,245	1,424	1,364	1,248	1,118	1,232	1,335	1,584

Appendix B. Spring turkey harvest from state-owned and managed lands, 2016 and 2017.

	No. Birds Harvested		Sq. Miles	Harv./mi ²	
State Land	2016	2017		2016	2017
Aldo Leopold WMA	3	5	0.87	3.4	5.7
Algonquin SF	3	5	1.04	2.9	4.8
American Legion	0	2	1.62	0.0	1.2
Assekong Swamp WMA	1	0	1.07	0.9	0.0
Babcock Pond WMA	2	0	2.34	0.9	0.0
Barber Pond WMA	0	1	0.11	0.0	9.1
Barn Island WMA	1	1	1.58	0.6	0.6
Bartlett Brook WMA	1	2	1.10	0.9	1.8
Bear Hill WMA	2	0	0.56	3.6	0.0
Bishops Swamp WMA	2	7	1.18	1.7	6.1
Bloomfield FCA	1	1	0.51	2.0	2.0
Camp Columbia SF	0	1	0.94	0.0	1.1
Cedar Swamp WMA	1	1	0.43	2.3	2.3
Cent. Water. SF (Canaan Block)	1	0	0.23	4.3	0.0
Cockaponset SF	23	17	26.85	0.9	0.6
Colebrook Reservoir-MDC	4	5	6.50	0.6	0.8
Cromwell Meadows WMA	1	1	0.79	1.3	1.3
Durham Meadows WMA	0	1	0.80	0.0	1.3
Eightmile River WMA	4	4	0.48	8.3	8.3
Ellithorpe FCA	0	1	0.64	0.0	1.6
Enders SF	4	3	0.55	7.3	5.5
Franklin Swamp WMA	4	4	1.07	3.7	3.7
Goshen WMA	4	1	1.51	2.6	0.7
Great Swamp FCA	2	1	0.53	3.8	139
Hancock Brook Lake	1	5	1.10	0.9	4.5
Higganum Meadows WMA	0	2	0.40	0.0	5.0
Higganum Reservoir	0	2	0.23	0.0	8.7
Housatonic River WMA	4	5	0.87	4.6	537
Housatonic SF	1	12	17.63	0.1	0.7
John Minetto SP	1	2	1.12	0.9	1.8
Kollar WMA	1	1	1.40	0.7	0.7
Larson Lot WMA	1	0	0.38	2.6	0.0
Mansfield Hollow Lake	7	5	3.14	2.2	1.6
Mansfield State-Leased Field Trail Area	1	0	0.47	2.1	0.0
Maromas Coop WMA	4	0	2.19	1.8	0.0

State Land	No. Birds Harvested		Sq. Miles	Harv./mi ²	
	2016	2017		2016	2017
Meshomasic SF	15	13	14.22	1.1	0.9
Messerschmidt WMA	1	1	0.72	1.4	1.4
Mohawk SF Ziegler/Johnson Tract	1	0	0.51	2.0	0.0
Mohegan SF	0	1	1.50	0.0	0.7
Natchaug SF	23	26	7.93	2.9	3.3
Nathan Hale SF	2	1	2.27	0.9	0.4
Naugatuck SF	12	8	21.15	0.6	0.4
Naugatuck SF (Great Hill Block)	2	2	0.37	5.4	5.4
Nehantic SF	2	5	7.91	0.3	0.6
Newgate WMA	0	2	0.70	0.0	2.9
Nepaug SF	2	6	2.10	1.0	2.9
Nipmuck SF	3	8	14.40	0.2	0.6
Nott Island	1	1	0.13	7.7	7.7
NU-Maromas Coop WMA	0	2	2.48	0.0	0.8
NU-Skiff Mtn. Coop WMA	0	2	1.13	0.0	1.8
Pachaug SF	29	23	40.84	0.7	0.6
Paugussett SF	3	3	3.04	1.0	1.0
Peoples SF	5	10	4.60	1.1	2.2
Pootatuck SF	4	0	1.72	2.3	0.0
Quaddick SF	1	1	0.90	1.1	1.1
Quinnipac River SP	2	4	0.53	3.8	7.5
Quinnipac River WMA	0	3	0.88	0.0	3.4
Robbins Swamp WMA	4	1	2.45	1.6	0.4
Roraback WMA	9	2	3.10	1.9	0.6
Rose Hill WMA	1	1	1.08	0.9	0.9
Salmon River Cove and Haddam Neck	1	0	0.19	5.2	0.0
Salmon River SF	6	3	10.90	0.6	0.3
Scantic River SP	1	0	0.92	1.1	0.0
Sessions Woods WMA	0	4	1.20	0.0	3.3
Shenipsit SF	10	5	11.85	0.8	0.4
Silvio O. Conte NWR	2	0	0.45	4.4	0.0
Simsbury WMA	1	5	0.57	1.8	8.8
Spignesi WMA	0	6	0.82	0.0	7.3
Suffield WMA	0	4	0.30	0.0	13.3
Sugar Brook Field Trail Area	2	3	0.31	6.5	9.7
Sunnybrook SP	0	1	0.69	0.0	1.4
Talbot WMA	1	4	0.79	1.3	5.1

	No. Birds Harvested		Sq. Miles	Harv./mi ²	
	2016	2017		2016	2017
Tankerhoosen WMA	4	3	0.78	5.1	3.8
Topsmead SF	0	1	0.28	0.0	3.6
Trout Brook Valley SP	1	1	0.47	2.1	2.1
Tunxis SF	9	15	15.88	0.6	0.9
Wangunk Meadows	1	2	1.00	1.0	2.0
West Thompson Dam	4	7	1.71	2.3	4.1
Wooster MT SP	0	1	0.69	0.0	1.4
Wyantenock SF	2	3	6.38	0.3	0.5
Yale Forest	8	5	12.03	0.7	0.4
Zemko Pond WMA	1	1	0.71	1.4	1.4

Appendix C. Ruffed grouse observations (seen or heard) from turkey hunter surveys, 2008 – 2017.

Town	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Andover	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Ansonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Ashford	1	6	2	1	0	2	2	0	3	2
Barkhamsted	7	5	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	1
Beacon Falls	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Berlin	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Bethany	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bethlehem	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Bloomfield	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Bristol	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Burlington	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Canaan	7	7	0	0	4	4	2	3	3	2
Canterbury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Canton	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Chaplin	4	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Cheshire	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Chester	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Clinton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Colchester	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0
Colebrook	3	1	3	1	2	3	2	3	1	3
Columbia	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Cornwall	7	1	3	1	3	4	3	4	2	3
Coventry	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Danbury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Durham	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
East Granby	2	2	2	2	1	2	0	0	1	2
East Haddam	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
East Hampton	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
East Haven	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
East Lyme	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
East Windsor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Eastford	4	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	0	4
Easton	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ellington	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Enfield	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Glastonbury	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0
Goshen	6	9	4	2	3	3	6	5	5	3

Granby	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	2
Greenwich	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Guilford	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Haddam	5	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Hamden	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Hampton	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Hartland	5	7	4	4	1	4	2	6	1	5
Harwinton	4	1	0	0	3	0	3	0	2	2
Hebron	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Kent	1	4	3	0	1	2	0	2	0	1
Killingly	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Killingworth	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Lebanon	1	0	1	0	3	2	0	1	0	1
Ledyard	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
Litchfield	5	2	1	0	2	1	1	2	2	1
Lyme	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	2	0	0
Madison	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Mansfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	1
Meriden	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Middlefield	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Middletown	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monroe	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Morris	1	2	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0
Naugatuck	1	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	1
New Fairfield	7	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
New Hartford	0	6	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1
New Milford	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
Newtown	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Norfolk	2	6	1	3	3	3	1	2	2	1
North Branford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
North Canaan	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
North Haven	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
N Stonington	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0
Old Lyme	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Oxford	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Plainfield	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Plymouth	1	0	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	1
Pomfret	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1
Portland	3	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0

Preston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Putnam	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Redding	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Ridgefield	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rocky Hill	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salisbury	6	3	3	1	1	3	0	1	1	2
Salem	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Scotland	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Seymour	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Sharon	10	6	6	2	4	6	4	5	3	3
Sherman	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Simsbury	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Somers	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Southbury	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
Southington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sprague	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Stafford	2	1	3	2	1	3	3	1	1	2
Stamford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Sterling	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Suffield	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
Thompson	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tolland	0	2	3	0	0	1	1	1	0	1
Torrington	3	7	3	2	0	1	0	2	1	0
Union	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	0
Voluntown	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Warren	2	2	1	1	1	5	4	4	3	2
Washington	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Waterford	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Watertown	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0
Westbrook	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
West Hartford	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Weston	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Westport	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Willington	1	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
Wilton	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0
Winchester	4	3	2	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
Windham	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Windsor	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Woodbridge	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Woodbury	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0

Woodstock	6	6	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	1
Total	147	138	68	31	66	81	57	74	56	82