



RIDEM - DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
TURKEY SEASON RESULTS SPRING 2007



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The 2007 Rhode Island spring turkey season was held April 26 to May 28, 2007 and was the State's twenty-second season since the spring season was initiated in 1986. Turkey hunters harvested 195 birds, a 17% decrease over a harvest of 234 birds taken during the 2006 season (table 1). The harvest includes 8 birds taken during the early junior hunter and paraplegic hunter seasons held April 21 and 22. The hunter success rate was 17%. The harvest consisted of 60 juveniles (30% of harvest) and 135 adults (70% of harvest), a 0.44 to 1 juvenile to adult ratio in harvested birds. The 2007 season was a safe season with no hunting accidents occurring.

The restoration of the wild turkey has been a major success story in R.I. with turkey hunters enjoying excellent hunting opportunities. This year's decrease in harvest makes three of the last five years when harvest has declined, due in part to below average reproductive success in the past two summers. Turkeys were harvested in 20 of 39 towns around the state. The top five towns in harvest were Exeter (25), Glocester (17), South Kingstown (17), Charlestown (14) and West Greenwich (13). Private land accounted for a majority of the harvested birds (77%); however, 36 birds were also taken on twelve different state wildlife management areas. Arcadia WMA in Exeter and Durfee Hill WMA in Glocester were the top producing state land areas. The first week of the season accounted for 53% of the harvest (104 birds), 17% were taken during second week, 13% during the third week and 17% were taken during the fourth week.

Several large gobblers were harvested during the season including 80 birds that weighed in at over 20 pounds. The average live weight juvenile was 14.8 pounds and the average live weight for adults was 19.9 pounds. The largest bird weighed was a three-year old 25-pound gobbler with 1-inch spurs and 10-inch beard harvested on private land in North Smithfield. The state record is a 25.5-pound gobbler taken in 2001 in Exeter. Seven multi-bearded birds were harvested. Resident hunters took 92% (178) of the birds compared to 8% (17 birds) for non-resident hunters.

Table 1 Rhode Island Spring Turkey Season Results

Town	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	22-Year total
	(4/26-5/28)	4/27-5/29)	(4/28-5/26)	(4/29-5/27	(4/30-5/26)	(4/25-5/24)	(4/26-5/22)	1986-2007
Burrillville	12	20	14	19	20	24	11	206
Charlestown	14	7	8	14	11	16	15	120
Coventry	8	16	12	15	11	15	20	144
Cranston	2	2	2	0	4	3	8	24
E. Greenwich	5	3	1	0	1	2	2	16
Exeter	25	30	28	39	44	43	34	392
Foster	9	10	10	9	17	12	10	116
Glocester	17	18	17	20	24	14	10	164
Hopkinton	14	15	15	9	16	20	12	140
Johnston	3	7	3	2	7	0	3	28
Little Compton	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
N. Kingstown	10	15	6	6	11	7	4	63
N. Smithfield	9	4	6	13	8	10	3	63
Richmond	9	17	17	9	26	18	27	229
Scituate	7	19	18	18	20	23	14	168
S. Kingstown	17	14	18	13	10	14	5	99
Smithfield	11	7	8	12	12	19	11	96
Tiverton	4	4	3	0	2	0	1	14
Westerly	5	12	2	6	6	7	6	52
W. Greenwich	13	14	18	16	25	9	11	177
TOTAL	195	234	207	220	275	256	207	2312