

**2009  
SPRING  
GOBBLER SEASON  
RHODE ISLAND**



***WILD TURKEY HUNTING***  
***HUNTING SEASON REGULATIONS***  
***SAFE HUNTING INFORMATION***  
***GOBBLER AND HEN IDENTIFICATION***



## 2009 SPRING GOBBLER SEASON

**Season Dates:** Regular Season: April 30 to May 26, 2009  
Paraplegic Season: April 25-26, 2009  
Junior Turkey Season: April 25-26, 2009

**Hunting hours:** One half hour before sunrise to 1:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time daily, provided that all hunters shall leave the woods no later than 1:00PM.

**Bag Limit:** One (1) bearded turkey per license

### Areas open to hunting:

Providence County, Kent County and Washington County (except New Shoreham) and Tiverton, Little Compton in Newport County.

**Method of Taking:** Turkeys may be harvested by shotguns, gauges 10, 12, 16, and 20 only, using shot sizes 4, 5 and 6 magnum loads only or by archery equipment that meets the legal requirements for deer hunting. Crossbows **are not** permitted.

### To obtain a Turkey Permit:

- (a) Permits for hunting the regular season may be purchased from the DEM division of licensing (401-222-3576) or at designated license vendors.
- (b) Applicants must have a valid 2009 Rhode Island hunting, combination, or other such valid license as required by law to hunt in Rhode Island before purchasing a 2009 turkey permit.
- (c) Those wishing to participate in the paraplegic season must first file an application with the RIDEM signed by the hunters' physician that signifies that the hunter meets the requirements to hunt as specified by law. A paraplegic is defined as an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of the body with involvement of both legs. Contact DEM licensing for info.
- (d) Junior Turkey hunting weekend is open to valid license holders 12 to 14 years old accompanied by an adult guardian with a valid R.I. hunting license.

### Other Rules:

- **A Hunter Survey card** will be issued to each person purchasing a turkey permit. This survey information is vital to the turkey management program in Rhode Island and assists DEM biologists in maintaining a successful wild turkey season for our hunters. **Please, we request your cooperation in returning the hunter survey card WHETHER YOU HUNT OR WHETHER OR NOT YOU WERE SUCCESSFUL.** This hunter survey card must be returned to the Division within 10 days of the end of the season.
- **Signed turkey permit:** A person receiving a turkey permit is required to sign, in ink, on the face of the turkey tag prior to hunting.
- **Mandatory Check Station:** A harvested turkey must be checked at a mandatory hunter check station within 24 hours after taking. A list of check stations appears in this brochure or contact Fish and Wildlife at 401-789-0281
- The use of any other firearm, live decoy(s), baiting, dog(s), cooperative drive(s), electric calling devices, or any other devices, to capture or ensnare turkeys is prohibited.
- The shooting of turkeys from the roost is prohibited.
- Stalking or attempting to sneak up on a turkey to get a shot is prohibited.

- Hunters must carry a turkey-calling device (non-electric) while hunting. Calling is the only legal method for hunting wild turkey gobblers.
- A person shall not hunt, kill, take, or attempt to take, or possess any wild turkey unless they possess on their person a permit to do so, however, an individual with a valid Rhode Island hunting license may call turkeys for someone with a valid turkey permit. The hunting of wild turkey when not in possession of a valid unused turkey tag shall be prima-facie evidence of hunting without a valid turkey-hunting permit.
- Artificial decoys are permitted

### **SAFE TURKEY HUNTING-- IS NO ACCIDENT!**

When compared to other sports activities (baseball, basketball and swimming--injuries per hundred thousand participants) hunting is a **relatively** safe activity. These comparisons should not cause any hunter to take accident free hunting for granted- each and every hunter must make safety *the* top priority of the hunt.

Very few hunting experiences compare with the exhilaration of turkey hunting. A chance to spend a day afield in the turkey woods, enjoying not only the hunt but also the splendor of the outdoors in spring makes this experience worthwhile to sportsmen. This is a privilege not to be taken for granted. Be sure that your turkey hunting experience is an enjoyable one by observing these key ingredients for a safe hunt.

### **TURKEY HUNTING SAFETY**

- **NEVER crowd another hunter working a bird and avoid high-pressure areas.**
- "Mistaken for game" accounts for 87% of all turkey hunting accidents-- Be sure of your target and what's beyond.
- Use proper setup techniques-- Sit against a wide tree to shield head, neck and back. A tree is an effective blind as it breaks your outline.
- Never wear the colors red-white or blue while turkey hunting. These colors mimic the colors of a gobbler's head and can draw fire. Be totally camouflaged.
- Never stalk turkey sounds or turkeys- it's unsafe and illegal. Never use the sounds of a turkey to warn approaching hunters.
- Avoid using gobbling calls-- which draw more hunters than game
- Don't fall prey to peer pressure – turkey hunting is not a contest for the biggest or first bird

### **HOW TO TELL THE SEX AND AGE OF A TURKEY**

Determination of the sex and age of a wild turkey is vital to the hunter since only males are "legal birds" in the spring gobbler season. Proper identification of your target before shooting protects vulnerable hen turkeys from accidental shooting during the spring nesting season. Biologists also gather important data about the composition of the turkey population from this information to assist management decisions.

Hunters are reminded they should use a variety of characteristics to identify a legal bird, including behavior (strutting, gobbling) and color (black body coloration, bright red, white and blue head color). Beards alone are not reliable indicators since up to as many as 30% of a population may have "bearded" hens.

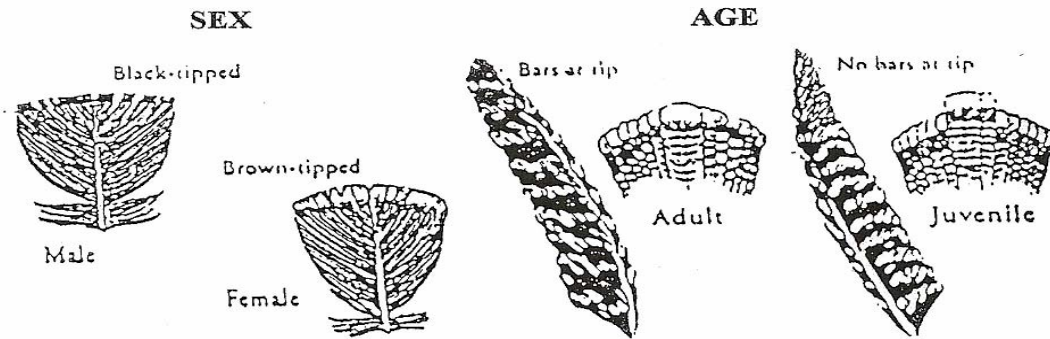
**General Characteristics:**

Males: Body color black- iridescent, breast feathers black tipped; spurs greater than ½ inch (adults-gobblers) less than ½ inch (juveniles-jakes); head crown white with prominent red and blue face and head; weight 15 to 20 pounds.

Females: Body color brown, drab -breast feathers brown tipped; no spurs; head color blue-gray no white crown; weight jennies (6-8 pounds), adults- hens (8-13 pounds)

Adult: Uniform length and contour of tail feathers (fan); primary feathers on wing white barred to the tip

Juvenile: Uneven length and contour of tail feathers (central feathers longer due to partial molt); primary feathers on wing black at the tip.



**RIDEM DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

**WILD TURKEY CHECKING STATIONS**

**2009**

**\*\*\* MANDATORY HUNTER CHECK STATIONS:**

Immediately upon killing a wild turkey, the tag provided with the permit must be attached to the leg and the bird and presented to an authorized check station within 24 hours.

**\*YOU MUST CHECK YOUR R.I. WILD TURKEY AT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING AUTHORIZED CHECK STATIONS.**

**HOPE VALLEY BAIT AND TACKLE-** Junction of Routes 3 and 138, Hope Valley, RI; Hours: 6 AM to 7 PM, 7 days a week. Phone: 539-2757 Contact: Bill Hopkins

**BIG BEAR HUNTING AND FISHING -** 401 Putnam Pike (Rte 44) Harmony, RI; Hours: 6 AM to 8 PM, 7 days a week.  
Phone: 949-0339 Contact: Beverly Mouradjian

**QUAKER LANE BAIT AND TACKLE –** 4019 Quaker Lane,  
North Kingstown, RI 02852. Phone 294-9642

**BREACHWAY BAIT AND TACKLE –** 166 Charlestown Beach Road, Charlestown, RI 02813 Phone:  
364-6407  
Contact: Ron Mouchon

**PETE'S BAIT AND TACKLE –** 341 Burnside Ave. Woonsocket, RI 02895. Hours: 6 AM to 8 PM, 7 days a week. Phone 767-0990. Contact: Irene

**MOY WORKS –** 215 Third Street, Newport, RI 02840. Phone 849-4673 or 401-663-0390 (weekends).  
Contact: Chris

**\*Additional Checking Stations may be added to this list. For additional information, please contact the Division's Great Swamp Field Headquarters at 401-789-0281**