

**2021**  
**ONLINE WINTER FLOCK SURVEY**  
**SUMMARY REPORT**

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*Wild turkey management and research is made possible by the federal Wildlife Restoration Program, which is funded by an excise tax on the sale of firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment.*

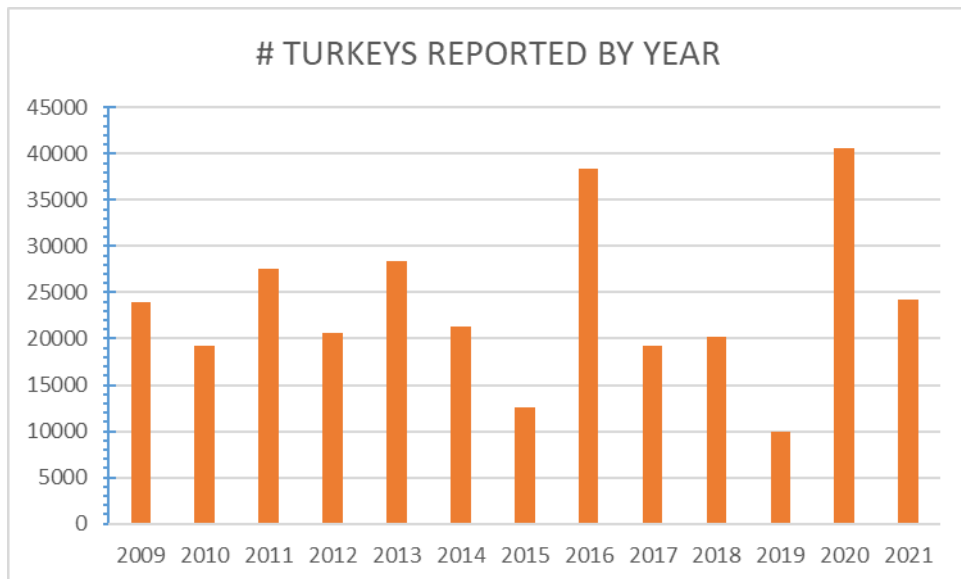
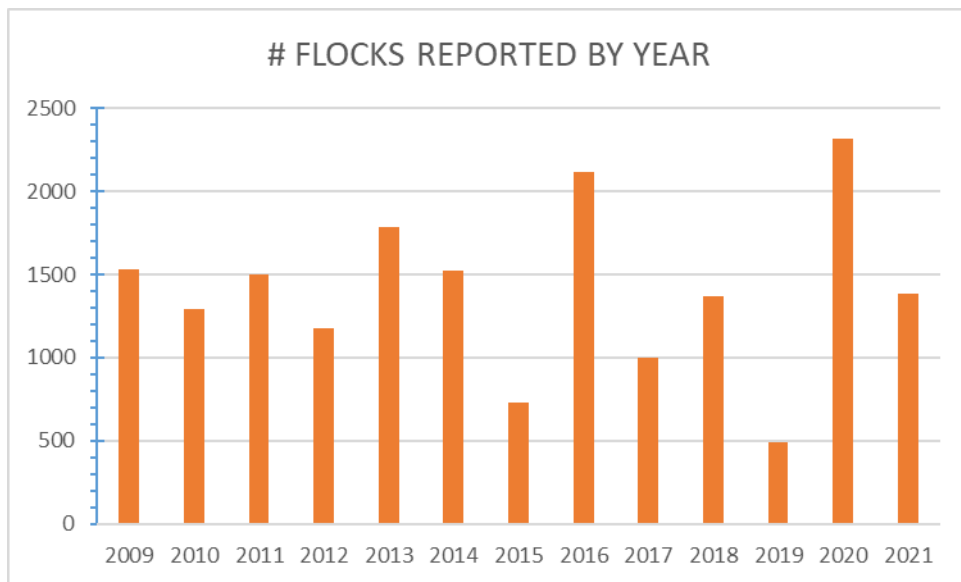


## **Introduction**

Many thanks to all the people throughout New Hampshire who submitted sightings of wild turkey flocks during winter 2021. The results of the survey summarized here will help the NH Fish and Game Department keep track of the status and winter survival of the wild turkey population around the state. This was the 13<sup>th</sup> year of the online winter flock survey which covers observations made between January 1 and March 31.

## **Numbers of turkeys reported**

A total of 1,383 flocks were reported during winter 2021 totaling 24,259 turkeys statewide. This was down compared to the previous year when 2,309 flocks totaling 40,476 turkeys were reported in 2020 but still more than winter 2019 when survey results yielded only 486 flock observations totaling 9,833 turkeys.



Throughout the state, 39 towns reported winter flocks of 50 or more turkeys per flock. The largest flocks were from: Chester (150), Chichester (100) and Salem (90).

**Table 1. Max Number of Turkeys per Flock by County and Town - Winter 2021**

<b>BELKNAP</b>	<b>CARROLL</b>	<b>CESHIRE</b>	<b>COOS</b>	<b>GRAFTON</b>
Belmont 64	Tamworth 66	Richmond 90	Lancaster 72	Hebron 72
Laconia 58	Ossipee 42	Walpole 67	Jefferson 45	Alexandria 63
Center harbor 53	Wakefield 33	Hinsdale 50	Whitefield 40	Canaan 60
Meredith 44	Bartlett 32	Surry 50	Gorham 33	Rumney 53
Alton 42	Freedom 32	Dublin 43	Pittsburg 33	Bristol 50
Barnstead 40	Wolfeboro 31	Swanzey 40	Colebrook 30	Warren 50
Gilmanton 40	Moultonboro 30	Rindge 38	Milan 22	Thornton 49
	Tuftonboro 30			
<b>HILLSBOROUGH</b>	<b>MERRIMACK</b>	<b>ROCKINGHAM</b>	<b>STRAFFORD</b>	<b>SULLIVAN</b>
Nashua 80	Chichester 100	Chester 150	Durham 50	Springfield 75
Temple 60	Allenstown 75	Salem 90	Dover 45	Grantham 52
Litchfield 59	Canterbury 74	Deerfield 67	Lee 45	Sunapee 50
Brookline 53	Henniker 72	Northwood 60	Madbury 43	Cornish 48
Amherst 50	Loudon 60	Londonderry 55	Milton 40	Goshen 35
Hollis 50	Andover 53	Brentwood 52	Strafford 40	Langdon 34
Peterborough 50			Barrington 38	
Weare 50			Somersworth 35	
Wilton 50				
Bedford 48				

The average number turkeys in a flock statewide was 17.54 which is almost identical to last year at 17.53 turkeys per flock. Unit M (298) had the highest number of flocks reported again this year, followed by unit L (198), and unit J2 (189).

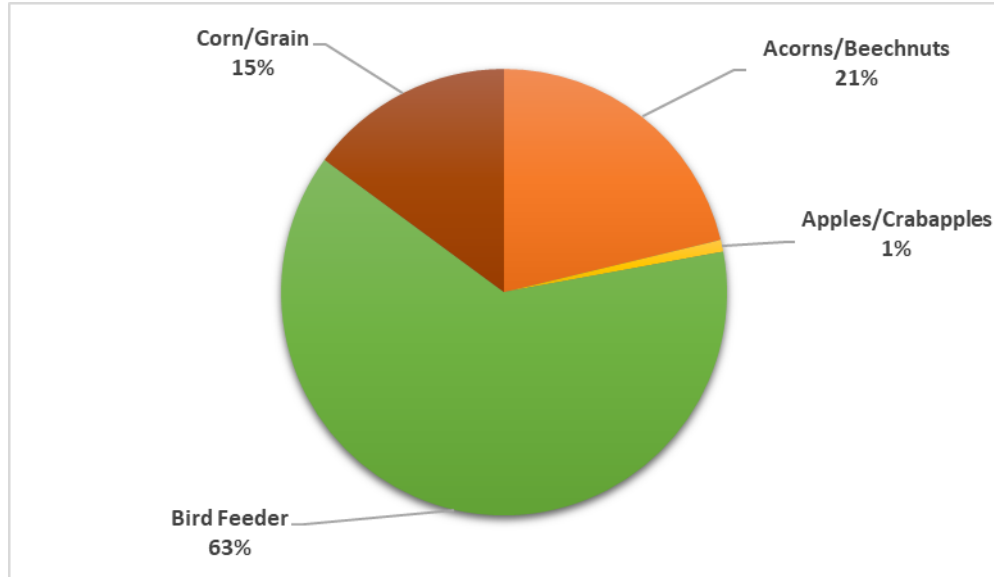
**Table 2. Average number of turkeys per flock by WMU - Winter 2021**

<b>WMU</b>	<b># Flocks</b>	<b># Turkeys</b>	<b>Max</b>	<b>Average</b>
A	14	201	33	14.36
B	10	121	30	12.10
C1	8	164	72	20.50
C2	7	91	33	13.00
D1	17	262	40	15.41
D2	33	382	46	11.58
E	28	331	32	11.82
F	38	615	50	16.18
G	88	1829	75	20.78
H1	17	418	67	24.59
H2	84	1428	90	17.00
I1	69	1180	53	17.10
I2	56	937	72	16.73
J1	68	1037	66	15.25
J2	189	3689	100	19.52
K	161	2776	60	17.24
L	198	3749	75	18.93
M	298	5049	150	16.94
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1383</b>	<b>24259</b>		<b>17.54</b>

**Categories of food use**

By far the greatest percentage of reported food use was 368 flocks (63%) feeding at backyard birdfeeders. The next highest category of food usage was 124 reports (21%) of turkeys feeding on acorns and beechnuts. Another 87 flocks (15%) were of turkeys feeding on corn/grains. Reported use of apples/crabapples was only 1%.

**Figure 1. Wild turkey food usage observations – Winter 2021**



**Disease monitoring**

During winter 2021 turkeys with visible lesions which may be indicative of avian pox or lymphoproliferative disease virus (LPDV) were reported from 9 towns from 6 different Wildlife Management Units. Overall, reports of symptomatic turkeys remains low.

**Table 3. Avian pox/LPDV infected turkeys observed by town - Winter 2021**

WMU	TOWN	# WITH VIRUS
K	BEDFORD	9
M	BEDFORD	5
D2	BENTON	2
G	GRAFTON	0
D2	LISBON	1
M	LONDONDERRY	9
L	NOTTINGHAM	3
M	PELHAM	1
G	WILMOT	1
J2	WOLFEBORO	3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>34</b>

### Attitudes towards wild turkeys

Respondent's attitudes towards wild turkeys remains high. Out of 1,383 responses 7 (0.51%) strongly dislike turkeys, 15 (1.08%) dislike turkeys, 101 (7.30%) neither like nor dislike them, and a combined 1,260 (91%) people reported they like or strongly like seeing wild turkeys on the landscape.

