

2023-24 MAINE WILD TURKEY HUNTING QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

Please reference the *Maine 2023-24 Summary of Hunting Laws* for more details, available at mefishwildlife.com/huntinglaws.



LICENSE & PERMIT

The spring and fall wild turkey hunting seasons are open to all hunters with valid Maine big or small game firearms or archery licenses. A combination spring/fall wild turkey permit is also required and available for \$20, plus agent fee.

WILD TURKEY TAGGING

Prior to presenting a wild turkey for registration, a person may not possess or leave that animal in the field or forest unless they have securely attached a plainly visible tag to the animal with their name, address, and license number on the tag. A gift turkey must be labeled with the name and address of the person who registered it and the year the turkey was registered.

WILD TURKEY TRANSPORTATION

Any wild turkey being moved or transported in any manner must have a tag securely attached, and it must be accompanied by the person who killed it. Unless the wild turkey has been legally registered, no person shall keep a wild turkey at his/her home or at any place of storage (except at the official registration station or at the office of a Maine Game Warden) for more than eighteen (18) hours without first notifying a game warden.

WILD TURKEY REGISTRATION

All wild turkeys taken by hunters shall be presented for registration within 18 hours at one of the registration stations established for that purpose or self-registered online at mefishwildlife.com/TagATurkey. At registration, the entire turkey, except the viscera, must be presented, and all radio transmitters must be submitted to MDIFW. Hunters can keep any leg bands or wing tags as long as they have reported them to MDIFW. The fee to register a wild turkey is \$2.00 all of which is retained by the agent. There is no fee to self-register a turkey online.

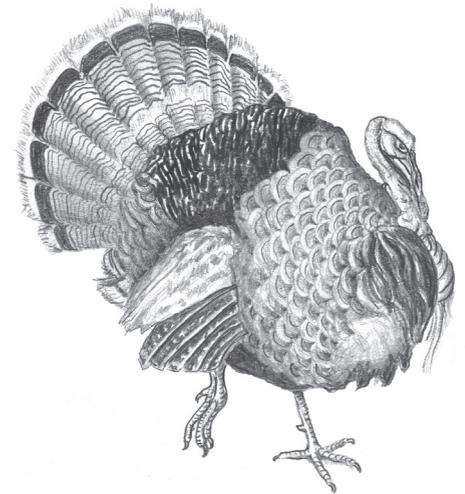
SELF-REGISTRATION NOW AVAILABLE

Wild turkeys may be registered in-person at a registration station or self-registered online at mefishwildlife.com/tagaturkey. All turkeys harvested in spring and fall must be registered.

HUNTER ORANGE CLOTHING

Hunter orange is defined as a daylight fluorescent orange color with a dominant wave length between 595 and 605 nanometers, excitation purity of at least 85% and luminance factor of at least 40%. A decal on an article of clothing that is otherwise solid hunter orange is permissible. Articles of hunter orange clothing must be in good and serviceable condition and visible from all sides. When hunting turkeys, hunter orange clothing is only required when hunting with a firearm or crossbow during the firearms hunting season on deer (two articles of hunter orange required), the muzzleloader season on deer (two articles of hunter orange required), or within an open moose hunting district during moose hunting season (one article of hunter orange required). Refer to the Full Hunting Book for additional information.

See hunting law book for details.



SUNDAY HUNTING IS ILLEGAL IN MAINE

LEGAL HUNTING HOURS:

½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.

ETHICS ARE WHAT WE DO WHEN NO ONE ELSE IS WATCHING

In the Maine woods, rarely will anyone be there to notice your ethical behavior, but the landowner and the hunters that follow will greatly appreciate it. Ethical behavior is vital to Maine's sporting future, and it encourages landowners to keep their property open for all to enjoy. So remember: always respect the rights of landowners, and please *ask first*.

OUTDOOR PARTNERS LANDOWNER RELATIONS PROGRAM

For \$15.00, you can become an Outdoor Partner and support the MDIFW landowner relations program, which works to preserve and enhance access, helps landowners with access issues, and promotes responsible, ethical sporting behavior.

Members also receive discounts from retail partners, discounted subscriptions, and day passes, as well as an Outdoor Partners decal and entry into a drawing to win one of six \$500 gift cards. You can join at any time – either as an add-on to your license purchase or at mefishwildlife.com/outdoorpartners.



OUTDOOR PARTNERS

SPRING WILD TURKEY HUNTING

The spring wild turkey hunting season is open statewide.

Equipment

- **Shotgun:** A person can use shotgun gauges 10 through 20, using shot sizes 4 through 6 or mixed loads that include shot sizes 4 through 7. In addition, shotgun gauges 10 through 28, including .410, may be used with shot sizes 7 through 9 in Tungsten Super Shot (TSS). A person must possess a valid big or small game hunting license and a turkey permit.
- **Archery Equipment:** A person must possess a valid archery license and a turkey permit.
- **Dogs:** It is unlawful to hunt with dogs during the spring wild turkey season.
- **Electronic Calling Devices:** The use of electronic calling devices is legal.

FALL WILD TURKEY HUNTING

Equipment

- **Shotgun:** A person can use shotgun gauges 10 through 20, using shot sizes 4 through 6 or mixed loads that include shot sizes 4 through 7. In addition, shotgun gauges 10 through 28, including .410, may be used with shot sizes 7 through 9 in Tungsten Super Shot (TSS). A person must possess a valid big or small game firearms hunting license and a turkey permit.
- **Archery Equipment:** A person must possess a valid archery license and a turkey permit.
- **Electronic Calling Devices:** The use of electronic calling devices is legal.
- **Dogs:** Use of dogs is legal to hunt wild turkey during the fall season.

Note: The fall shotgun wild turkey season involves tactics that are different from the “sit and call” approach, and hunters are reminded to use extreme caution while hunting.

ATTENTION TURKEY HUNTERS

The Department is collaborating with the University of Maine on a research project to better understand the population dynamics of wild turkeys. As part of this research we marked wild turkeys using leg bands, wing tags and back pack style radio transmitters in a number of areas throughout the state. If you shoot a turkey with a band, tag, or transmitter, please report it using the contact information printed on the bird's leg band or radio transmitter.

WILD TURKEY HUNTING PROHIBITIONS

No Person May:

1. Employ the use of a dog or dogs in any manner while hunting turkey except during the fall season;
2. Engage in an organized drive of any manner;
3. Use bait;
4. Use a trap or other device intended or designed to capture or ensnare wild turkeys;
5. Shoot a turkey while it is in a tree;
6. Present for registration, or allow to be registered in his or her name, a wild turkey that he/she did not lawfully kill;
7. Hunt wild turkeys within a WMD that is closed to hunting wild turkeys.
8. Possess any part or parts of a wild turkey unless each part is plainly labeled with the name and address of the person who registered the turkey, and the year it was registered;
9. Buy, sell, offer for sale or barter, or aid someone in buying, selling, or offering for sale or barter, any wild turkey (except the plumage of legally taken turkeys).
10. Hunt or register a wild turkey during the spring season after having killed or registered two turkeys.
11. Hunt or register a wild turkey during the fall season after having killed five turkeys.

WHO MAY HUNT

The turkey hunter must possess the spring/fall wild turkey permit and their hunting license at all times while hunting. A person may assist in a hunt without a license or permit for that activity as long as that person does not carry a firearm or archery equipment (means to kill).

LANDOWNER PRIVILEGES

The following laws and regulations are specific to spring and fall wild turkey hunting seasons. Hunters must also comply with all other applicable fish and wildlife laws.

Any private landowner is eligible to hunt wild turkeys on their own land without a turkey hunting permit if:

1. That person owns a particular piece of land that is 25 or more contiguous acres in size and is located within the turkey hunting zone designated for the season that they wish to hunt;
2. That person is permanently domiciled on that land;
3. The land is managed for the raising and selling of dairy cattle, dairy products, or beef cattle; and
4. The land is open to hunting including hunting by permission only.

Any family member permanently domiciled on that land is also eligible to hunt wild turkeys on that land without a permit. (Family member means any family member, including spouse, grandchildren, etc. who resides on the property). A landowner must provide proof of eligibility if requested by an agent of the commissioner.

All other standard reporting and tagging procedures are required. Turkey may be taken during any open week of the season. Landowners are allowed a bag limit of up to 2 bearded wild turkeys in the spring season and up to 5 wild turkeys of either sex in the fall season. Please check the WMD in which you are hunting as some are closed, and others have bag limits varying anywhere from 1, up to 5 turkeys.

OPERATION GAME THIEF

Call 1-800-ALERT US (253-7887) to report game law violations. Caller identification protected. Rewards paid. Poachers are thieves — help us stop them.



2023-24 MAINE HUNTING SEASONS

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SPRING WILD TURKEY <i>Archery equipment or shotgun</i>	WMDs	SEASONS		LIMITS
		FIRST DAY	LAST DAY	SEASONAL BAG & POSSESSION
All Hunters	7 and 9-29	April 29, 2024	June 1, 2024	2 bearded Wild Turkeys*
	1-6 and 8	April 29, 2024	June 1, 2024	1 bearded Wild Turkey*
Youth Spring Wild Turkey Day		April 27, 2024		May take up to 2 bearded Wild Turkeys from WMDs that have a 2 bird limit.

*May take up to 2 turkeys for the spring season, but an individual WMD bag limit cannot be exceeded. The order in which they are taken does not matter.

FALL WILD TURKEY <i>Archery equipment or shotgun</i>	WMDs	SEASONS		LIMITS
		FIRST DAY	LAST DAY	SEASONAL BAG & POSSESSION
General Hunting Season	15-17, 20-25	September 18, 2023	November 7, 2023	5 Wild Turkeys**
	26	September 18, 2023	November 7, 2023	3 Wild Turkeys**
	28	September 18, 2023	November 7, 2023	2 Wild Turkeys**
	6-8, 10-14, 18, 19, 27 & 29	September 18, 2023	November 7, 2023	1 Wild Turkey**
	1-5, 9			Closed to taking of Wild Turkeys
Youth Fall Wild Turkey Day		September 16, 2023		May take up to 2 wild turkeys of any sex or age, without exceeding a WMD bag limit that has a 1-bird limit.

No more than two wild turkeys (either-sex, any age) may be harvested per permit holder per day, but cannot exceed the WMD bag limit.

**May take up to five wild turkeys for the fall season, but cannot exceed an individual WMD bag limit, the order in which they are taken from a WMD does not matter.

This time chart is NOT the sunrise and sunset time table and has already been adjusted to display the actual legal hunting hours.

2023-24 LEGAL HUNTING HOURS												
DAY	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
01	5:27 - 7:42		6:43 - 5:54	6:22 - 4:26	6:43 - 4:34	6:25 - 5:13	5:42 - 5:53	5:45 - 7:33	4:54 - 8:11	4:22 - 8:45	4:23 - 8:55	4:52 - 8:31
02	5:28 - 7:41	6:04 - 6:44	6:44 - 5:52	6:23 - 4:25	6:43 - 4:35	6:24 - 5:14	5:40 - 5:55	5:43 - 7:35	4:53 - 8:12		4:24 - 8:54	4:53 - 8:29
03		6:05 - 6:42	6:46 - 5:51		6:43 - 4:36	6:23 - 5:16		5:41 - 7:36	4:51 - 8:13	4:21 - 8:46	4:25 - 8:54	4:54 - 8:28
04	5:31 - 7:37	6:06 - 6:40	6:47 - 5:50	6:26 - 4:25	6:43 - 4:37		5:37 - 5:57	5:39 - 7:37	4:50 - 8:15	4:21 - 8:47	4:25 - 8:54	
05	5:32 - 7:35	6:08 - 6:39		6:27 - 4:25	6:43 - 4:38	6:20 - 5:19	5:35 - 5:59	5:38 - 7:38		4:20 - 8:48	4:26 - 8:54	4:56 - 8:25
06	5:33 - 7:33	6:09 - 6:37	5:50 - 4:47	6:28 - 4:24	6:43 - 4:39	6:19 - 5:20	5:33 - 6:00	5:36 - 7:40	4:47 - 8:17	4:20 - 8:48	4:27 - 8:53	4:57 - 8:24
07	5:34 - 7:31	6:10 - 6:35	5:51 - 4:46	6:29 - 4:24		6:18 - 5:21	5:31 - 6:01		4:46 - 8:18	4:20 - 8:49		4:59 - 8:22
08	5:35 - 7:29		5:52 - 4:45	6:30 - 4:24	6:42 - 4:42	6:16 - 5:23	5:29 - 6:03	5:32 - 7:42	4:44 - 8:19	4:19 - 8:50	4:28 - 8:52	5:00 - 8:21
09	5:37 - 7:28	6:13 - 6:31	5:54 - 4:43	6:31 - 4:24	6:42 - 4:43	6:15 - 5:24	5:28 - 6:04	5:30 - 7:43	4:43 - 8:21		4:29 - 8:52	5:01 - 8:19
10		6:14 - 6:30	5:55 - 4:42		6:42 - 4:44	6:14 - 5:26		5:29 - 7:45	4:42 - 8:22	4:19 - 8:51	4:30 - 8:51	5:02 - 8:18
11	5:39 - 7:24	6:15 - 6:28	5:57 - 4:41	6:32 - 4:24	6:41 - 4:45		6:24 - 7:07	5:27 - 7:46	4:41 - 8:23	4:19 - 8:51	4:30 - 8:51	
12	5:40 - 7:22	6:16 - 6:26		6:33 - 4:24	6:41 - 4:46	6:11 - 5:29	6:22 - 7:08	5:25 - 7:47		4:19 - 8:52	4:31 - 8:50	5:04 - 8:15
13	5:41 - 7:20	6:18 - 6:24	5:59 - 4:39	6:34 - 4:24	6:40 - 4:47	6:09 - 5:30	6:20 - 7:09	5:23 - 7:49	4:38 - 8:25	4:19 - 8:52	4:32 - 8:49	5:06 - 8:13
14	5:42 - 7:18	6:19 - 6:23	6:01 - 4:38	6:35 - 4:24		6:08 - 5:31	6:18 - 7:11		4:37 - 8:26	4:18 - 8:53		5:07 - 8:12
15	5:44 - 7:16		6:02 - 4:37	6:36 - 4:25	6:39 - 4:50	6:06 - 5:33	6:17 - 7:12	5:20 - 7:51	4:36 - 8:28	4:18 - 8:53	4:34 - 8:48	5:08 - 8:10
16	5:45 - 7:14	6:22 - 6:19	6:03 - 4:36	6:36 - 4:25	6:39 - 4:51	6:05 - 5:34	6:15 - 7:13	5:18 - 7:52	4:35 - 8:29		4:35 - 8:47	5:09 - 8:09
17		6:23 - 6:17	6:05 - 4:35		6:38 - 4:52	6:03 - 5:36		5:16 - 7:54	4:34 - 8:30	4:19 - 8:54	4:36 - 8:46	5:10 - 8:07
18	5:47 - 7:11	6:24 - 6:16	6:06 - 4:34	6:38 - 4:26	6:38 - 4:54		6:11 - 7:16	5:15 - 7:55	4:33 - 8:31	4:19 - 8:54	4:37 - 8:46	
19	5:48 - 7:09	6:26 - 6:14		6:38 - 4:26	6:37 - 4:55	6:00 - 5:38	6:09 - 7:17	5:13 - 7:56		4:19 - 8:54	4:38 - 8:45	5:13 - 8:04
20	5:50 - 7:07	6:27 - 6:12	6:09 - 4:32	6:39 - 4:26	6:36 - 4:56	5:59 - 5:40	6:07 - 7:18	5:11 - 7:57	4:31 - 8:33	4:19 - 8:55	4:39 - 8:44	5:14 - 8:02
21	5:51 - 7:05	6:28 - 6:11	6:10 - 4:32	6:39 - 4:27		5:57 - 5:41	6:05 - 7:20		4:30 - 8:34	4:19 - 8:55		5:15 - 8:00
22	5:52 - 7:03		6:11 - 4:31	6:40 - 4:27	6:35 - 4:59	5:55 - 5:43	6:03 - 7:21	5:08 - 8:00	4:29 - 8:35	4:19 - 8:55	4:41 - 8:42	5:16 - 7:59
23	5:53 - 7:01	6:31 - 6:07	6:13 - 4:30	6:40 - 4:28	6:34 - 5:00	5:54 - 5:44	6:02 - 7:22	5:06 - 8:01	4:28 - 8:36		4:42 - 8:41	5:17 - 7:57
24		6:32 - 6:06	6:14 - 4:29		6:33 - 5:02	5:52 - 5:45		5:05 - 8:02	4:27 - 8:37	4:20 - 8:55	4:43 - 8:40	5:19 - 7:55
25	5:56 - 6:57	6:33 - 6:04	6:15 - 4:29	6:41 - 4:29	6:32 - 5:03		5:58 - 7:25	5:03 - 8:04	4:27 - 8:38	4:20 - 8:55	4:44 - 8:39	
26	5:57 - 6:55	6:35 - 6:03		6:42 - 4:30	6:31 - 5:04	5:49 - 5:48	5:56 - 7:26	5:02 - 8:05		4:21 - 8:55	4:45 - 8:38	5:21 - 7:52
27	5:58 - 6:54	6:36 - 6:01	6:18 - 4:28	6:42 - 4:30	6:30 - 5:06	5:47 - 5:49	5:54 - 7:27	5:00 - 8:06	4:25 - 8:40	4:21 - 8:55	4:46 - 8:37	5:22 - 7:50
28	5:59 - 6:52	6:37 - 6:00	6:19 - 4:27	6:42 - 4:31		5:45 - 5:51	5:52 - 7:28		4:24 - 8:41	4:22 - 8:55		5:23 - 7:48
29	6:00 - 6:50		6:20 - 4:27	6:42 - 4:32	6:28 - 5:09	5:44 - 5:52	5:50 - 7:30	4:57 - 8:09	4:24 - 8:42	4:22 - 8:55	4:48 - 8:34	5:24 - 7:46
30	6:02 - 6:48	6:40 - 5:57	6:21 - 4:26	6:43 - 4:33	6:27 - 5:10		5:49 - 7:31	4:56 - 8:10	4:23 - 8:43		4:49 - 8:33	5:26 - 7:45
31		6:42 - 5:55			6:26 - 5:11				4:23 - 8:44		4:50 - 8:32	5:27 - 7:43

**Legal hunting hours are based on sunrise/sunset in Bangor, Maine (Eastern Standard Time).
 Exceptions: Raccoon, Coyote, and Migratory Bird hunting (see separate legal hunting hours for these species).*