



**DEM**  
RHODE ISLAND



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT  
OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE

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# RESOLUTIONS FOR NUISANCE WILD TURKEYS

## A MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE GUIDE



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THIS PROJECT WAS SUPPORTED by State Wildlife Grants administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program:  
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*This document was created by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Division of Fish & Wildlife. It is intended as a tool to educate the public on wild turkey biology and behavior and to help the public navigate the conflicts surrounding the growing wild turkey population in Rhode Island using coexistence strategies.*

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## SITUATION

- Wild turkey populations have increased through the state, especially in urban and suburban areas.
- Rhode Islanders may encounter problems with turkeys on their property, in their community, and along roadways.
- Wild turkeys are a valuable natural resource and provide recreational opportunities for hunters, bird watchers and the public.
- The adaptability of resident wild turkeys requires consistent and collaborative deterrent measures to eliminate or minimize conflicts with turkeys.

## GOALS

- To provide the public with background knowledge of wild turkey biology and life history which informs management and conservation decisions.
- To provide the public with tools to avoid and/or mitigate turkey conflict on their property, in their communities, and along roadways.
- To provide the public with an understanding of Rhode Island's current wild turkey management plan.

## INTRODUCTION

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM), Division of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) protects, conserves and manages Rhode Island's wildlife and their habitats. In this mission, the Division is responsible for managing wild turkeys in the state.

Turkeys were in Rhode Island during colonial settlement, but due to a combination of habitat loss, land-use changes, deforestation, and overharvest, turkeys were extirpated from the state by the early 1900's. Throughout the 1900's, turkeys experienced a range retraction across much of North America, and in the 1930's it is estimated that only 30,000 turkeys existed across the continent! Conservation measures were implemented and by the 1970's, the continental wild turkey population was estimated to be near 7 million, however turkeys had not yet naturally recolonized Rhode Island.

The RIDEM joined with the National Wild Turkey



Photo: Desmos Photos

Federation (NWTF) in the 1980's and 1990's, to start a wild turkey reintroduce program. Twenty-nine wild turkeys were initially trapped and transferred from Vermont to Exeter, RI in the 1980's, with additional reintroductions early in the 1990's. These reintroductions were so successful that turkeys were trapped from the new source population and transferred to other areas of the state throughout the 1990's.

Across North America wild turkeys have recovered their historic range, and in some regions have expanded to new areas. In Rhode Island, wild turkeys can be observed across the state, with the exception of Prudence Island and Block Island. Populations have rebounded so strongly that a highly regulated, sustainable harvest of wild turkeys has been reinstated in Rhode Island. The successful reintroduction of turkeys in Rhode Island has been partially facilitated by their higher-than-expected use of green spaces in the urban and suburban landscape. Turkeys adapted to life with humans, as there are fewer natural predators near people, and high quality forage, such as large fruits/nuts, is more readily available from planted trees.

Human-turkey conflicts arise when turkeys become too comfortable around people and in rare instances, turkeys may cause property damage or even act aggressively towards people. RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife is committed to sharing strategies to reduce conflicts with turkeys and help keep wild turkeys truly wild.



# Wild Turkey Life History

## DESCRIPTION

Wild turkey (*Melleagris gallopavo*) are a valuable natural resources that provides recreation and enjoyment to bird watchers, hunters, and the public. The gobble of a male turkey in the spring or watching a hen with brood in the summer can be a thrilling and exciting experience. Turkeys do well in proximity to people, providing unique opportunities to observe natural behaviors, however conflicts can occur when turkeys become too comfortable around people.

Wild turkeys are large birds weighting between 11-24 pounds, that primarily dwell on the ground but are capable of short flights, typically between the ground and roost sites high in tree crowns, or when fleeing a predator. Male and female turkeys appear similar, but males have a “beard” in the center of their chest and a blue and red head (*top photo*), meanwhile females rarely have a beard (<1% in RI) and have a gray-colored head (*bottom photo*). Turkeys are social birds and often travel in flocks during the non-breeding season but are more likely to be observed individually or in small brood groups during the breeding season (April—June).

## RANGE & HABITAT

The wild turkey is native to North America and can be found in most of the eastern two thirds of the U.S. as well as small pockets along the west coast and in Mexico. Wild turkeys live year-round in open mature forests, in heterogeneous landscapes that include patches of early successional forest or agricultural lands. In Rhode Island, turkeys use mature oak-hickory forests as well as forests comprised of red oak, beech, cherry and ash. They can also be found on farms and in suburban/urban communities.

## BEHAVIOR

Wild turkeys spend most of their time traveling on foot, however, they can run and fly. As the sun begins to set, turkeys will fly into lower limbs of trees and make their way upward to a high roost spot. They generally roost in flocks, but sometimes individually. Wild turkeys are predated by coyotes, bobcats, raccoons, and great horned owls. Nest predators include raccoons, opossums, skunks, foxes, woodchucks, snakes, birds and rodents. A regulated hunting season exists for wild turkeys in the spring and fall.



Male (“Gobbler” or “Tom”)

Photo: Desmos Photos



Female (Hen)

Photo: Mike Stultz

In the spring, males gobble to attract females and warn competing males. They display for female birds by strutting with tail feathers fanned, wings lowered, while making non-vocal hums and chump sounds. Females are responsible for the poult (chick) rearing. Males generally form all male flocks outside of the breeding season. Poults (chicks) travel in family groups with their mother, often combining with other hens or family groups to form large brood flocks (safety in numbers). It is common to see poults of different sizes and ages in a single flock

## DIET

Wild turkeys have a varied diet and generally shift between seasonally available food resources. During the spring and summer turkeys primarily consume vegetation (85%) and insects (15%). Turkeys may consume fruit or nuts from the previous autumn, but as soon as plants sprout new growth they begin foraging on greens. In the autumn and winter, turkeys search for acorns (either red or white oaks) along with American beech nuts, hickory nuts and other seeds and berries. Snowstorms and deep snow can prevent turkeys from foraging on acorns and nuts, therefore turkeys will seek shelter in hemlock stands where they will feed on hemlock buds and evergreen ferns. Turkeys have a ‘gizzard’ as part of their digestive track and can be observed consuming small rocks or pebbles along gravel roads. The small rocks and pebbles are ground together with plant material in the gizzard, helping to break down plant material and allow for more efficient nutrition absorption. Lastly, turkeys get most of the water they need from their food, and only seldomly need to drink water. Turkeys will often congregate at backyard bird feeders.

## REPRODUCTION

Wild turkeys nest on the ground, generally in dead leaves at the base of trees, under a brush piles, or in thick shrubs. Occasionally, hens will nest in open hayfields. Females will create a shallow depression in the soil and use dead leaves and other plant material at the site to line the nest bowl. Clutch size varies from 4-17 eggs; turkeys will only have one brood per year and incubate eggs for 25-31 days. Females only lay one egg a day, typically in the morning, so it can take over two weeks to lay eggs prior to incubation! Eggs are pale yellow/tan and are evenly marked with reddish brown spots. In Rhode



Island, breeding generally begins in April. Nest success is highly dependent on spring weather (rain and temperature). Eggs begin to hatch in late May or early June with poults feeding primarily on insects. Turkey poults are able to run and feed themselves shortly after hatching, but rely on their mother to keep them dry and warm. Poults begin flying 8-14 day after hatching but can only fly for short distances.

## Turkey Diseases

The two diseases most commonly found in New England wild turkeys are Avian Pox and Lymphoproliferative Disease Virus (LPDV). Avian pox has been around for decades, but LPDV was first detected in 2009.

### SYMPTOMS

Both avian pox and LPDV may produce visible wart-like growths or lesions on a turkey's head, neck, or other non-feathered parts of the bird. While upwards of 71% of hunter harvest turkeys in New Hampshire carried LPVD, only a small number of individuals were symptomatic (i.e., visible warts or lesions). In extreme cases of LPVD, individual turkeys may experience disorientation, weakness, lethargy, starvation, and death.

### TRANSMISSION

LPDV is transmitted horizontally between birds in direct contact. Feeding of wild turkeys leads to higher rates of contact between individuals and flocks, and increases transmission probability. Avian pox is spread when a mosquito feeds on an infected bird, then feeds on an uninfected bird. Mosquitoes can live for over a month and feed on multiple birds throughout their lives.

### PRECAUTIONS FOR TURKEY HUNTERS

Both avian pox and LPDV are not believed to be transferable to humans and are not known to cause human health implications. That being said...

- Do not handle or butcher game animals that are obviously sick or found dead
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke while cleaning game
- Wear rubber gloves and washable clothing while cleaning game
- Wash your hands with soap and water immediately after handling game
- Wash tools and working surfaces with soap and water, then disinfect with a 10% solution of chlorine bleach.
- Cook game meat thoroughly to reach an internal temperature of 165° F

*Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) was recently detected in Eastern North America, it is unknown whether this will impact wild turkeys in Rhode Island. For more information about HPAI, please visit:*

<https://www.usda.gov/topics/animals/one-health/avian-influenza>

# *Managing Wild Turkey—Rules and Regulations*

## WILD TURKEY HUNTING IN RHODE ISLAND

Wild turkeys are a popular game bird in Rhode Island. Sustainable hunting of wild turkeys provides local food for Rhode Islanders. RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife tracks the number of turkeys harvested each year and performs additional monitoring through community science efforts. Biologists use this information to ensure a sustainable harvest of turkeys.

### SPRING SEASON

The spring turkey season begins in late April and runs through mid-to late May. Hunters may only harvest turkeys with visible “beards” growing from the center of their chest. All males and a small number of females (<1%) have beards and may be harvested. The predominant harvest of male turkeys has minimal affect on the population, as males do not assist with nesting or brood rearing.

### FALL SEASON

The fall hunting season runs the month of October and hunters may harvest one turkey of either sex. The fall harvest generally has a higher proportion of females harvested and can be an effective way to reduce the turkey population. However, in Rhode Island few turkeys are harvested during the fall season and there is likely little to no impact on the resident turkey population. Landowners wishing to reduce the number of turkeys on their property should work with local sportsmen and sportswomen to harvest turkeys during legal hunting seasons



# *Managing Wild Turkey—Rules and Regulations*

## RHODE ISLAND HUNTING LAWS & OPPORTUNITIES

To hunt turkeys, a person must have a Rhode Island State Hunting license, either an all lands or private land only turkey permit for the spring, and an either sex archery permit for the fall. All harvested turkeys must be registered with the RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife.

## MENTORED YOUTH TURKEY HUNT

Since the spring of 2021, RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife has partnered with the Light Foundation to provide a mentored spring turkey hunt. Participants learn about safe hunting practices and the importance of hunting as a wildlife conservation tool. Participants hunt with an experienced mentor helping them develop the necessary skill set for turkey hunting.

## YOUTH TURKEY SEASON

A youth-only turkey hunt (age 12-15) occurs the week prior to the opener of the regular season. Youth hunters, must be supervised by a licensed hunting adult, 21 years or older. The youth turkey hunt encourages mentorship within the sport and the youth harvest has little influence on the overall turkey population.

## PARAPLEGIC TURKEY HUNT

The weekend prior to the regular season opener, hunters in possession of a permanent disability hunting license may hunt turkeys. This specially designated hunt provides an additional opportunity for hunting with limited mobility.



## *“What’s wrong with feeding wild turkeys?”*

The majority of turkey conflicts originate with supplemental feeding of turkeys (bird seed fallen below feeders, intentional handouts), thereby causing turkeys to become too comfortable around people. Turkey populations are limited by habitat and generally there is more turkey food available than there are turkeys. Since their natural foods are plentiful, **turkeys do not need supplemental feeding**. Human-supplied foods do not supplemental food does not have the same nutritional content as wild food sources and can lead to unhealthy turkeys. Additionally, the high number of turkeys congregating at a feeder, increases the disease transfer between individuals and flocks. Wildlife diseases are density dependent, any large number of animals living in close quarters are more likely to transmit diseases to each other, which can cause thier populations to decline. Feeding stations mimic high population densities, increase disease transmission, and lead to higher mortality of individuals.

If turkeys frequent your property and feed on seed that has spilled from your bird feeders, we suggest cleaning the ground area under the feeder to remove spilled seed. Once the source of food is removed, the turkeys will disperse to locate new food sources. If turkeys are feeding on natural food items in your yard (e.g., acorns, nuts, or berries), you can similarly rake and remove these food sources to encourage turkey dispersal to other areas. A flock of turkeys will normally consume a food source within a week or two, and naturally disperse to a new feeding areas.



*To report illegal feeding of wild turkeys,  
please contact the RI Division of Law  
Enforcement (Environmental Police)  
using their 24-hour hotline:  
401-222-3073.*

In Rhode Island, **it is illegal to feed any wildlife**, other than songbirds. If you are feeding turkeys, please stop immediately! If you have a neighbor feeding turkeys, please remind them that this is illegal in Rhode Island. Most people are not aware of the law,

and a gentle reminder can be informative and help alleviate any potential conflict. If you are uncomfortable approaching your neighbors directly, please call the Rhode Island Division of Law Enforcement and an Environmental Police Officer can speak with them.

## *Wild Turkey Deterrents & Hazing Techniques*

Because of the adaptable nature of wild turkeys, they are common in the urban, suburban, and rural areas of Rhode Island. Turkeys come into conflict when they lose their fear of people and attempt to integrate us into their social “pecking order.” Even for passionate and tolerant wildlife lovers, it is important to haze wildlife, so they maintain a safe distance from people. Hazing can be used to make turkeys feel unwelcome, intimidated, or cause them to treat people more cautiously. Ultimately, hazing is beneficial to both humans and wildlife as it teaches the animals to maintain a comfortable distance. This keeps wildlife safe from dangerous situations, such as vehicle strikes, and ensures a peaceful coexistence with humans.

### WHAT IS HAZING?

Hazing is an action or series of actions carried out in an attempt to deter wild turkeys, or change behaviors of habituated turkeys and/or to re-instill a healthy fear of people in the local turkey population.

### THE GOALS OF HAZING ARE TO:

- Discourage turkeys from loitering in public areas or yards
- Reverse the habituation of turkeys to people, teaching them to once again fear and avoid humans
- Discourage turkeys from approaching people
- Empower residents by giving them tools to use when they encounter problematic turkeys
- Increase awareness about turkey behavior among residents and involve the community in turkey management efforts

### WHY DOES HAZING WORK?

- Undeterred, turkeys will take up residence in unnatural areas but consistent hazing makes these areas uncomfortable and unfavorable, causing turkeys to disperse to more suitable area
- When we create loud sounds or chase turkeys away, we are “speaking their language.” They understand that it is our territory and that they should move to a new area.

### STATE PERMITS

In extreme cases, hazing of turkeys may fail to solve a turkey conflict. In these rare cases, we recommend reaching out to the RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife to discuss additional solutions. We will evaluate your specific turkey conflict and do our best to brainstorm the best possible solution for you. RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife does not assist with wildlife removal.

***A landowner may chase or disperse wild turkeys from his or her property at any time without a permit as long as the birds are not physically harmed. Turkeys are protected by Rhode Island statute and a permit is required for lethal removal, and lethal removal is only used as a last resort in extreme cases.***



Photo: Mary Gannon

## *Tips for Success*

### ➤ Every situation is unique

There are many ways to discourage wild turkeys from frequenting your property. Every turkey conflict is unique, as turkeys may be using your property for a variety of reasons. Implementing a variety of techniques listed in this packet is the best way to understand what will work best in your unique situation.

### ➤ Turkeys are resilient

Turkeys in urban or suburban areas may be especially difficult to deter, because they tend to be less fearful of people and not all hazing methods will be appropriate or socially acceptable. Turkeys may become accustomed to certain techniques or may find refuge on neighboring properties, thereby complicating your deterrent attempts.

### ➤ Be open to a variety of tactics

Don't rule out any technique that may be feasible; dogs under strict supervision can safely be used, and controlled hunting may be possible depending on the surrounding area and distance to residence. Local ordinance may limit hunting or the use of firearms, therefore we recommend checking with your local town office.

### ➤ Act swiftly and consistently

Initiate hazing as soon as you notice problem turkeys on your property and be persistent. Once turkeys settle into a routine, they will be more tolerant of disturbances and difficult to disperse. No method works well with just a few attempts, and a comprehensive, long-term strategy is usually needed. Some hazing methods rely on remote sensors and will actively deter turkeys even when you are away from your property.

### ➤ Share your successes

Hazing techniques are intended to disperse birds to new areas, hopefully to green spaces where they will not cause any more conflicts. The techniques described in this packet include only those that have the best chance for success based on previous experience. Other methods may work, and new techniques will undoubtedly be developed in the future. We welcome reports on the effectiveness of a turkey hazing measures that you successfully employ.



# *Turkey Deterrents & Hazing Techniques*

Turkeys are highly adaptable and have become increasingly common in urban and suburban areas. These areas generally have fewer turkey predators and we commonly plant trees and shrubs which provide high quality forage (e.g., berries, acorns, nuts). Turkeys may also receive food subsidies from bird seed under feeders, or some residents may intentionally feed turkeys in their yard. As a reminder, **it is illegal to feed wild turkeys in Rhode Island.** Discouraging turkeys from using your property must be done consistently and will likely require multiple techniques to achieve positive results.

## AGGRESSIVE TURKEYS

During the breeding season (April – May), male turkeys are most likely to act aggressively towards other turkeys, but in some cases when they have acclimated to people, they may act aggressively towards people. Females rarely ever act aggressively towards people, although they do maintain a social hierarchy within the turkey flock.

### FOLLOWING PEOPLE

Turkeys may follow people for one of two reasons. First, they have acclimated to people and view people as other turkeys, thereby increasing the potential for aggressive behaviors. Second, turkeys may be receiving food from people and have begun associating people with food. Both scenarios require us to provide some critical tough love in the form of hazing, making turkey cautious or uncomfortable around people.

### PECKING TURKEY REFLECTION

During the breeding season, male turkeys may mistake their reflection in a car door or window as another turkey and attempt to peck or attack their reflection. These behaviors are not generally dangerous to people, but can result in property damage as windows and car paint may require repairs from scratches. The best solution is to cover reflective surfaces with a non-reflective material (e.g., bedsheet, old towel, or cloth) until the turkey disperses to a new area.

## POPULATION CONTROL

### HUNTING

The most effective method to reduce turkey populations is through hunting. If safe hunting areas can be located near problem turkeys, hunting can be an effective method to remove problem birds. If hunting cannot be legally or safely implemented, hazing turkeys may be the only solution.

### CAPTURE & REMOVAL

Capturing and removing problem turkeys is only done in extreme cases and must be carried out by a licensed wildlife control specialist. Problem turkeys will be euthanized post-capture. [Read more about why relocating wild animals is against the law.](#)

## Turkey Deterrents & Hazing Techniques

Exclusion	
Fencing	While turkeys can and do fly, they prefer to walk. Constructing a fence that is high enough turkeys cannot jump over, can be an effective method to exclude turkeys from your yard. Turkeys will generally choose the movement method that requires the least amount of energy (walking). If you have shrubs with fruit that turkeys are feeding on, you can install metal poultry wire to exclude turkeys from these food sources, forcing them to disperse to new food sources.
Habitat Modification	<p>If turkeys frequent your yard, you may be able to prune or trim plants to make your property less desirable for turkeys. Watch how the turkeys travel and use your property, brainstorm how you could modify vegetation to discourage their use.</p> <p>If turkeys are using the tree to roost night after night, you may be able to prune limbs or modify limbs that birds are using to roost to prevent further use. In extreme cases you may consider removing the tree itself, however the large trees turkeys use to roost take decades to grow and the loss of the tree may not be an option you want to consider.</p>
Reduced Palatability	Removing shrubs or trees that produce berries, acorns, or nuts can be an effective way to remove food resources and discourage turkeys from your property. Similarly, planting shrubs and trees that do not produce berries, acorns, or nuts can prevent turkeys from using your property in the first place. Without food sources, turkeys may still visit or walk through your property, but they will have no reason to stay for very long.
Scare Tactics	
Spray with Water	Turkeys do not enjoy getting wet, so water is one of the most effective ways of discouraging turkeys from your yard. Grab the garden hose and give the turkeys a brief spray. Start by aiming at their feet, and if they do not immediately leave, aim progressively higher at their body. If a garden hose cannot reach the turkeys, a squirt gun can be an effective alternative. Many squirt guns are highly accurate, even at ranges at or above 25 feet! Water is particularly effective for aggressive turkeys, especially when other methods do not seem to work.
Motion Activated Devices	Motion detectors are great passive deterrent methods, as they continue to work when you are away from your property. Commercial motion detection devices are triggered by movement and will release a stream of water (sprinkler), an obnoxious alarm, or even flashing lights, all of which are deterrent methods for turkeys and other wildlife. Be cautious of local noise ordinances and your neighbors when deciding if motion detectors are appropriate for your location.

## Turkey Deterrents & Hazing Techniques

Scare Tactics	
Flash Tape	Flash tape is highly reflective tape that catches the sun and reflect, or flashes light. Flash tape can be strung between upright posts, or hung from tree branches, whichever works best of your property. Flash tape works best when in sunny areas and when it can catch a small amount of wind and moves to create more frequent flashes.
Noise Makers	Obnoxious or loud noises cause turkeys to be uncomfortable and want to disperse to areas with less noise. You can construct a “shake can”, put a handful of loose change into an old pop or tin can, seal the top and shake! Alternatively, you can also take an old set of pots and pans and bang those together. If the shake cans are sealed well enough, you can even toss the cans near the turkeys to help scare them.
Umbrellas	Walking towards problem turkeys while opening and closing a large golf umbrella can be an effective deterrent method, as this type of motions is novel to turkeys and make you look big and threatening. This combined with a direct, confident, walking towards the birds, which usually indicates aggression, can vault you to the top of the turkey pecking order. Plus, you have a large physical barrier (shield) should you need it. We recommend using a large golf umbrella rather than a small travel umbrellas due to its size and durability. Select color patterns that do not resemble a male turkey (no black or browns).
Trained Dogs	Most medium- or large-sized dogs resemble coyotes or bobcats, both of which are predators of adult turkeys. Using trained dogs or having dogs on a leash in proximity to turkeys will make them nervous and cause them to disperse to new and safer areas. Exercise caution using dogs during the breeding season when females may have flightless young with them, which could be easily injured by an untrained dog.
Other Measures	<p>Tossing small items such as tennis balls has been successfully used to deter wild turkeys in some situations and we would recommend being cautious when tossing items at turkeys to prevent injury.</p> <p>Problematic turkeys are not just a Rhode Island problem and there are a tremendous number of resources available on the web. New commercial wildlife deterrent products are constantly being developed and have inevitably been developed after construction of this guide.</p>

## *Turkeys & Property Damage*

### GARDEN OR LANDSCAPING DAMAGE

Foraging turkeys are constantly ‘scratching’ the ground with their feet in an attempt to disturb insects or seeds, which they consume. If turkeys are foraging in landscaped areas, they can damage the landscape, or make a mess. Turkeys rarely forage on garden vegetables, but their scratching near plants can damage the plants or root systems. We recommend constructing fences to exclude turkeys and limit garden or landscape damage.

### ROOSTING ON HOUSE/TREES

Turkeys spend most nights roosting high in the branches of trees, well beyond the reach of most predators. In urban and suburban areas, turkeys may roost in trees in your yard. While this behavior can be enjoyable to watch, turkeys can damage the tree by breaking off tree limbs, or by defecating throughout the night on your belongings. Turkeys will even roost on the roof of your house rather than in a tree, similarly, defecating throughout the night. Turkey feces are very acidic and can damage paint or shingles. We recommend hazing turkeys, so they choose to roost away from your property/residence.

Turkeys may roost in the same location night after night, but generally rotate between a few different roost sites. Roost sites are generally the tallest tree available and turkeys roost as high in the tree as they can comfortably perch. Hardwoods are generally selected during mild weather and pines during periods of harsh weather.

### VEHICLE

Turkeys may occasionally jump up onto vehicles or peck at vehicles during the breeding season. To avoid scratches, use hazing techniques or park your vehicle in a covered area (e.g., garage, overhang).

### TURKEYS CROSSING THE ROAD

Turkeys commonly cross roads as they move around their home range and in some instances, they may even choose to travel along a road. This behavior makes turkeys susceptible to vehicle collisions. Collisions can damage your vehicle, but also injure or kill the turkey. We recommend the follow steps when encountering turkeys on the road.

1. **Slow down:** Reduce your speed to between 10—15 miles per hour. This increases your reaction time and provides enough time for turkeys to move off of the road.
2. **Continue driving towards the turkeys:** Turkeys will instinctively move away from vehicles as you approach them. Be careful, as sometimes turkeys will dash across the road at the last second to re-join the rest of the flock.
3. **Stay in your vehicle:** When turkeys are stationary in a roadway, do not get out of your vehicle. Slowly drive towards the birds and eventually they will move. Getting out of your vehicle increases your chances of being hit by a vehicle and can make the situation more dangerous.

## *For More Information...*

### **RIDEM DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE (DFW)**

The DFW can provide technical advice and information, however DFW generally does not trap, relocate, or euthanize nuisance turkeys, but will work with Rhode Island residents to help develop effective deterrent methods. For assistance, contact:

DFW Great Swamp Field Office  
277 Great Neck Road, West Kingston, RI 02892  
Phone: (401) 789-0281.

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

#### **UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) – Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)**

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife\\_damage/reports/Wildlife%20Damage%20Management%20Technical%20Series/Wild-Turkeys-WDM-Technical-Series.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/reports/Wildlife%20Damage%20Management%20Technical%20Series/Wild-Turkeys-WDM-Technical-Series.pdf)

#### **Wildlifehelp.org - Wildlife Problems. Civilized Solutions.**

<https://wildlifehelp.org/animals/rhode-island/wild-turkey>

#### **The Humane Society of the United States**

<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/what-do-about-wild-turkeys>

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