

2019 Fall Turkey Hunting Regulations

Season Dates

Archery and Shotgun	Sept. 15 - Jan. 31, 2020
Youth Archery and Shotgun	Sept. 15 - Jan. 31, 2020

Legal Equipment

With a fall turkey hunting permit, hunters may harvest turkeys with either a shotgun or legal archery equipment.

Shotgun – Shotguns 10-gauge or smaller; shells containing shot size 2 to 7½. Slugs are illegal. Unlawful to have a loaded shotgun in a vehicle while on a public road. Shell in the barrel or magazine is considered loaded.

Archery – Longbows, crossbows, recurve bows, compound bows or hand-thrown spears are allowed. Arrows and spears must have either a sharpened hunting head with a blade of at least 7/16-inch radius and total cutting edge of at least 3 inches or a blunt (bludgeon) head with a diameter of at least 9/16 inch.

Bag Limit

Two turkeys of either sex per permit.

Hunter Age Restriction

Hunters of any age may hunt turkeys. Those shotgun hunters under age 12 must be accompanied by a licensed hunter age 19 or older.

Turkey Hunting During Firearm Deer Season

Turkey hunting is allowed during the November firearm deer hunting season. Hunter orange is not required of fall turkey hunters, EXCEPT when hunting turkeys during the November firearm deer season, when they must display at least 400 square inches of hunter orange on their head, chest and back.

Permits

Each hunter may have no more than two fall turkey permits. Permits are valid statewide. Permits must be signed by the permittee. It is unlawful to transfer or lend a permit to another person.

Shooting Hours

Thirty minutes before sunrise to sunset. It is unlawful to take or attempt to take turkeys perched in trees, before sunrise.

Tagging

Each permit contains two tags. Use the bottom tag first. Immediately after a turkey is taken, the hunter must punch or notch the permit tag showing the date the bird was taken. Punching/notching the permit tag automatically cancels the permit tag. This permit must be kept with the permit holder and/or the turkey at all times. When the turkey is not with the permit holder, the entire permit tag must be attached to the turkey.

Possession

It is unlawful for any person other than a successful permit holder to possess any turkey or any portion of it. However, any person may receive as a gift any portion of the turkey, provided a statement of such gift is available for inspection. The statement shall include: the hunter's name, telephone number, permit number, species and quantity of each, signature of donor, name of recipient and date of transfer.

Transportation

It is unlawful to possess any turkey unless the legs, thighs, and breast remain together until the bird is consumed or the bird arrives at the permanent abode of the possessor. The breast meat may be removed from the bone but must remain as two entire halves. Birds taken in the spring must have proof of sex consisting of the legs with spurs naturally attached, the beard naturally attached to the breast, or the detached beard with at least a quarter-inch of skin remaining at the attachment site and kept together with the leg, thighs and breast.

Hunter Education

Hunters ages 12 through 29 must have completed Firearm Hunter Education when hunting with a firearm or air gun. An Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate is available for those who have not completed Hunter Education. Hunters under age 12 and those using the Exemption Certificate must be accompanied by a licensed hunter age 19 or older. That accompanying hunter must, if age 19-29, have firearm hunter education certification. Bow hunter education is not required for hunting turkeys.

Hunter Survey

At the end of the season, hunters who provided email addresses at the time they purchased their permits may receive an email survey that is used to determine hunter success and total harvest. Those receiving surveys are asked to promptly reply. Those without email addresses may access the survey here: OutdoorNebraska.org/TurkeyHunterSurvey/. It is important when buying permits online that hunters use an updated email address. Survey results are posted at OutdoorNebraska.org.

Baiting

A baited area may not be established from 10 days before the opening of any big game or turkey season and throughout those entire seasons for the purposes of taking big game or turkey. An area within 200 yards of bait is considered baited for 10 days following the removal of all bait. The hunter and the turkey must be outside a baited area.

Unlawful Acts

- Hunting on private land without permission.
- Hunting turkeys within 100 yards of an occupied dwelling or feedlot without specific permission for that purpose.
- Shooting from the right-of-way of a public road.
- Using slugs in shotguns.
- Using electronic calls, visible laser or light-projecting sights, or live decoys.

Regulations, Orders and Statutes

The following are links to the state's regulations and statutes:

Regulations and Orders: <http://OutdoorNebraska.gov/regulations/>

Statutes: <http://law.justia.com/codes/nebraska/2018/chapter-37/>

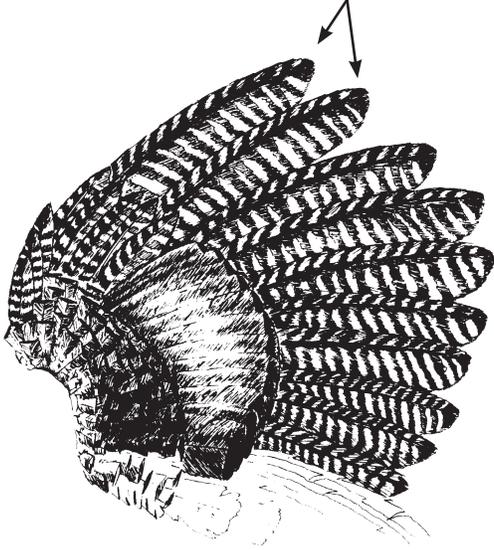
Nebraska Wildlife Crimestoppers

Stop poachers and report game law violations to Nebraska Wildlife Crimestoppers at 1-800-742-7627. You may remain anonymous and might be eligible for a cash reward.

Determining Age and Sex of a Turkey

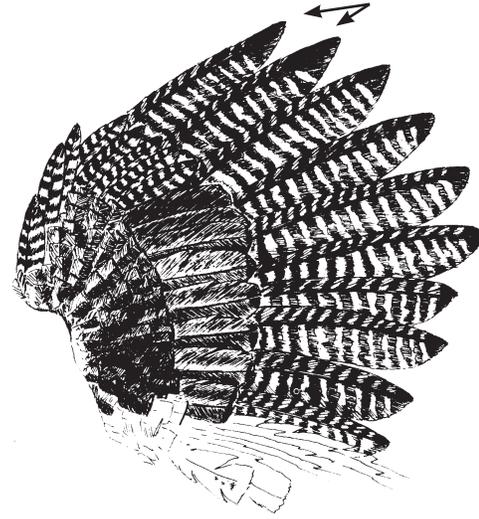
Adult Wing

Ninth and 10th primaries are rounded and barred



Juvenile Wing

Ninth and 10th primaries are pointed and indistinctly barred at the tip



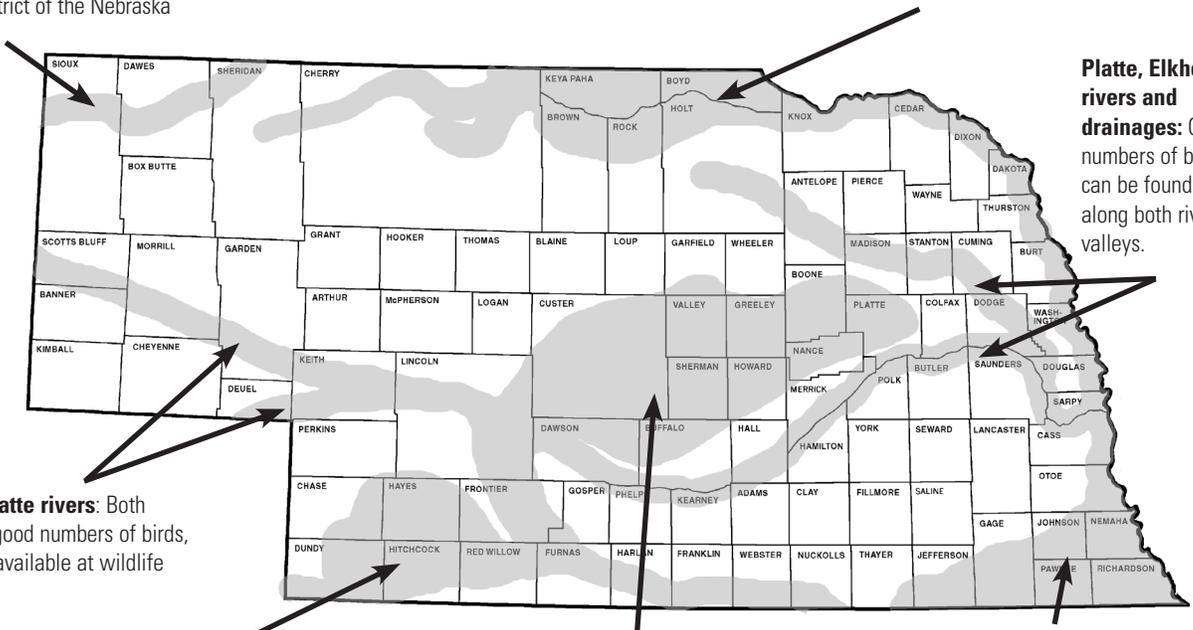
In the fall, use the presence of a small beard and button spurs to separate juvenile males from juvenile females.

Fall Turkey Hunting Map and Public Access Options

Pine Ridge Complex: The Pine Ridge area has the state's best turkey populations, plenty of public access, and is where Merriam turkeys primarily are found. Best access areas: Pine Ridge District of the Nebraska National Forest, Fort Robinson State Park area, Gilbert Baker, Ponderosa, Peterson, Metcalf, Bordeaux, and Bighorn wildlife management areas (WMAs).

Turkeys may be found in any county in Nebraska; however, this map shows the areas where hunters are likely to see the highest concentrations of turkeys. To find public hunting options, see the current Public Access Atlas at OutdoorNebraska.org.

Niobrara River drainages: Boyd, Keya Paha and northern Rock and Brown counties have good numbers of birds and public access areas.



Platte, Elkhorn rivers and drainages: Good numbers of birds can be found along both river valleys.

North and South Platte rivers: Both river drainages hold good numbers of birds, and public access is available at wildlife management areas.

Southwest reservoirs, Republican River drainages: 40,000 acres of public access at Harlan, Medicine Creek, Swanson, Red Willow, and Enders reservoirs.

Central Loess Hills and Loup River system

Southeast WMAs: Many wildlife management areas in the southeast hold good numbers of birds and provide excellent public access.