

VFC2023-0001 - Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife Turkey Project
AU2024-1023-006 - Samantha Nicoloro
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Burlington, VT

Samantha Nicoloro [00:00:00] Oh, this is really high up. Okay. Oh, even better. Hi, I'm Sam Nicoloro. I'm actually from Massachusetts. I'm a University of Vermont student. I took my first turkey during New Hampshire Youth Weekend, which was super exciting for me. I loved going out--well I can't any more, but I loved goin' out for Youth Weeknd and just seeing other young hunters out there because there's not as many of us as we might like. It was a really magical moment for me, I went out with a family friend. Because my dad's a hunter, but he's a deer hunter. Like through and through, just deer. So I went out with a family friend from the gun club, deer hunting, turkey hunting, and we had shit luck all morning. I would either move too quick and spook something or I would get overexcited about a group of just hens and it was just nothing all morning, and it's getting to be noon, and Rich was like, "oh, once it's noon, the day is over. Might as well pack up and go home." But I was like, "no," like, "please! I really want it!" Because I was only like 15. I was so excited to get a turkey because my sister had just gotten a dough and I was envious. So I was begging to stay out there and we stayed out there and we actually spotted two turkeys from the road and we were like, "well, let's see where this goes". We saw them probably like 100 yards away from the road, so we followed into the woods and it went into this really swampy like nasty area. And we took the guess that the turkeys wouldn't cut through that, and that they would go around to a dryer spot that we knew we had seen turkeys at before So we took a shortcut through all the nasty muck, and I was up to like here, and I stank, I was cold and I was all gross. But I found a place to sit and wait and see if they would show up. And I was just so antsy because I'm only 15, and the turkeys showed up, and I had my choice of two Toms. They were just perfectly set up for me, probably only the distance between me and the gentleman in the green flannel. And I took my first turkey that weekend. I was so excited. I went to the post office to check it in, and someone there started cussing me out, because I'm a 16-year-old, who told me that he was also in the woods, and that I stole his tom from him. And I was horribly embarrassed. I like broke into tears. I was like, "oh my God, I'm the worst person ever." And I'm like, "well, there were two birds though." <laughter> and so that's what I told him, and then I went home. <laughter and applause>