

VFC2023-0001 - Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife Turkey Project
AU2024-1023-004 - Linda Schiffer
March 20, 2023
Burlington, VT

Linda Schiffer [00:00:00] Good evening, my name is Linda Schiffer, and I'm not gonna tell you about my first bird, I'm gonna tell how I got into turkey hunting at all. I was born in Philadelphia, I grew up in Wilmington, Delaware. No one anywhere near me hunted. I was a city kid. Flash forward, in 19--in 2001, my husband and I and our two kids moved here to Vermont. Little bit different than the city and where we were. I had been working at a place up in Williston too long of a commute, I chucked that, went to work at Middlebury College in residential life where I had a lot of interaction with the guys in the maintenance department and in woodworking and things like that. These guys all hunted, deer, turkey, the ice fished. They did it all. At Middlebury College in January, they run a program called J-Term. No credit for the course, but they offered things like ice fishing and other things like that. So I was like, "well, I like to fish and I don't mind the ice." So the next thing I know, I'm out on the ice with these guys and we're drilling holes and we are ice fishing. I'm having a grand time. We saved all the fish that we caught during that particular J-term, had a big fish fry at the end. We're sitting around at the end of J-Term. One of the guys looks at me and says, "you should hunt." I looked at him like he was like from outer space. I was like, "no, I don't hunt. I go to the grocery store." He said, "no I'm telling you, you should hunt turkey. It will be an experience that you will never believe and you'll like it." And we're talking, and we are talking. The next thing I know, I'm in Dick's Sporting Goods. I'm buying a shotgun, and I'm like, "oh my God, my parents would be flipping in their grave." And I'm, like, "I don't care." I signed up, I took the hunter safety course. My husband, who is just sort of watching all this from the wings going, "what's she doing?" Realizes that if he wants to spend any time with me during certain times of the year, he better get on his game. So he takes the hunter's safety course. First season came along, and one of the gentlemen that I had been out ice fishing with took me out into the field, showed me how to set up, what to do, how to call the birds in. I was two left feet. It was a May--it was the spring season. It was May. I got my boot caught deep in the mud and went to pull it out and ran it right on my rear end. Soak and wet. Never complain--I never said a word, he didn't ask anything. Sat quietly, he scratched, heard the gobble, sighted the rifle or the shotgun, took my shot and got my first shot with him. That was probably around 2005, 2006 when I started. I haven't had as much luck but I'm still out in the field and I absolutely love it.