

VFC2023-0001 - Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife Turkey Project
AU2024-1021-007- Chris Eddy
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Windsor, VT

Chris Eddy [00:00:06] Hi, I'm Chris Eddy. I'm from Brandon, Vermont. I've been turkey hunting since I was eight years old. My father, I remember he shot a turkey before I could hunt. So I was like six or seven. So I think that would be like in the first couple years in the early 70s, probably '74 or '75. I remember my brother and I, we were eight and nine years old. We had our H&R 20 gage single shot shotguns and our camouflage and dad had his pump Mossberg and we were working a turkey, and it went away, and it started coming back but there was a huge oak tree and my dad sat us behind the oak tree looking the opposite way and I'm pretty--think I know why it happened. Because eight and nine-year-old kids like to be fidgety, move it around and whatever. And it ended up bringing that bird in and that was his, I think his third bird. So that would be 1977 or 1978, 1978. So that was my dad's earliest birds. My first turkey, I was nine years old. I shot it in the fall behind my parents' house. It's still one of the best areas in Brandon to hunt turkeys there. It seems like when they were there 30 years ago, they're still there today. My brother and I, again, we had our little single shot shotguns, and we tracked them down. And there were some scratchings. We walked up over a hill, and I was able to shoot a eight or nine pound hen. But the best story I want is my fiance. She's sitting right there, Erin. We started dating two years ago. And if you're around me, I started shooting guns. And she said, "Can I shoot a gun?" I'm like, "yeah, we can show you how to shoot guns." She's a natural. She just loves to shoot. She goes, "Can I hunt?" I'm, like, "yeah, absolutely!" So she's from New Hampshire. She took her hunter safety course. And she, said, you know, "Can go novice hunting?" I'm like, "yeah." So she noviced in the fall and got her first deer. <applaluse> And then, so this last spring--so that would be the 50 year anniversary, the 2023. So that's her first turkey hunt ever. <applaluse> So, we, I scout all the time, like probably all turkey hunters do, drive around, burn a lot of fuel, glass, look, listen. So we pulled into this field where I knew some birds were, and there was two big gobblers and two hens and it was like an hour before dark and I'm like, "oh yes, this is good." So we're sitting there and I said, she goes, "what are we doing?" I said "we're gonna wait till they fly up, and then we're going to sit right where they flew up, and that's where they'll fly down." Okay, so. We're sitting there watching. All of a sudden, they took off flying and running. And here comes a woman walking across the field with a plate of cookies. And she walks by us. She says, "hey, did you see those turkeys?" I'm like, "yeah, I saw the turkeys." And so she was delivering them to the neighbors. And Erin goes, "well, whatever." So next morning, we decided to go there. And I put decoys set out. And they started gobbling up on the ridge. And I have some feathers, I flopped down, I made a couple tree calls. And within five seconds, both tom turkeys were in the field, saw the decoys, and just started to run. And I go, "get your gun up, get you gun up." She goes, "what?" I go, "get your gun up." And so the turkeys ran right to the decoy at six yards. And she made a perfect shot. And it happened, so probably, she probably shot the first turkey in 2023. It was like one minute legal of shooting time. It was unbelievable. And it's flopping around. She goes, "can I shoot it again?" I didn't tell her that turkeys flop like sometimes a lot after you shoot them. So she wanted to shoot it. I'm like, "no, no you got it". So anyway, that's Erin's story. <applause>