

# Wild Turkey Population Restoration:

## A Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Success Story in New York



Office of  
CONSERVATION  
INVESTMENT



Wild turkeys are native to New York, but by the 1840s they had disappeared from the state as well as much of their original range nationwide.

In the 1950s, the New York Department of Environmental Conservation began an ambitious recovery program, funded in large part by grants from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program.

Thanks to this long-term partnership, turkeys are once again found throughout New York, and are back in the wild in many other states as well.

## A species conservation investment, by the numbers

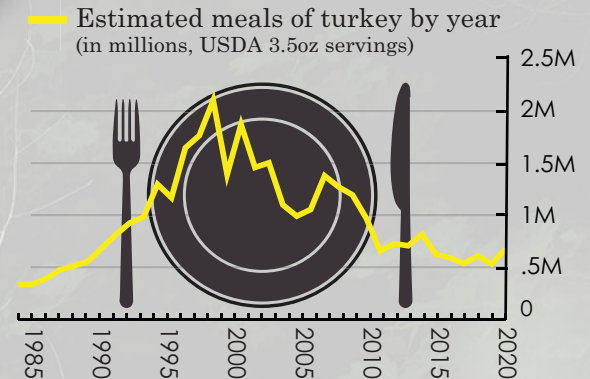
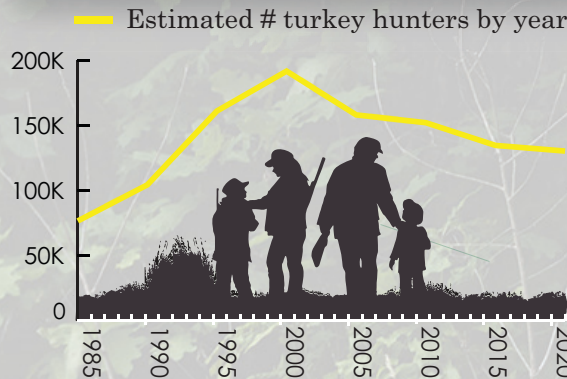
**\$11.5 million** spent to restore wild turkeys.

**\$41 million** spent by turkey hunters in New York in 2020.

**\$4.6 billion** in economic activity generated since 1985.

Hunters, birdwatchers, and many other people benefit from the return of this species:

## Fresh food feeds families



Turkey hunters in New York spent a yearly average of

**\$76.9 million**

and generated a yearly average of

**\$128.7 million**

in total economic activity



**1.2**  
million  
turkeys  
harvested  
means

**36 million**  
meals for people  
in New York State  
since 1985