

# With turkeys gone wild, Maine expands hunting

October 4 2013, by Clarke Canfield

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Once nearly wiped out of existence, turkeys are running wild.

Buoyed by what's been called the most successful wildlife restoration project ever, [wild turkeys](#) are eating crops, ruining gardens, crashing into cars and motorcycles and even smashing through suburban windows.

The unprecedented population spike prompted Maine to expand its turkey-hunting rules, creating a bounty for bird hunters. The fall turkey hunting season began Thursday.

Nonexistent in Maine 26 years ago, the turkey population has increased to an estimated 60,000 [birds](#). The growth in Maine mirrors what's been happening across North America, with the numbers climbing from about 1 million to 7 million birds in the past 30 years.

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