

## THE END OF ONE MAN'S GREED



The case began with a sportsman's tip. The caller reported a poacher who used his 5-year-old son to illegally take a wild turkey on the juvenile hunt day (the one hunting day set aside each year for children 15 years of age and younger). The poacher killed a turkey using his child's youth model shotgun while his son watched, even though his child knew how to use this shotgun.

This disturbing incident of a man stealing an opportunity from his own son led to surveillance of the poacher's house. A few weeks later, Conservation Police Officers saw the poacher take a wild turkey carcass into his home under suspicious circumstances.

One statement this wildlife criminal made was that fall turkey hunting with dogs was "too easy." A picture of him posing alone with five freshly killed turkeys and a hunting dog was proudly on display in his great room. The daily bag limit is one wild turkey per day.

The poacher admitted that in only 12 spring hunting days, he killed nine wild turkeys and missed three others before he was caught. The season limit for wild turkeys is three per year.

This greedy poacher confessed that of the 81 wild turkey beards confiscated from his home, 90% were killed illegally in Virginia in less than 15 years. The reason he gave for killing so many turkeys was simply for the "Adrenaline Rush."

## Report Wildlife Crimes 1-800-237-5712

- What happened?
- When did it happen? Date and time
- Where did it happen? Specific location
- Who was involved? Names, if known
- Type of vehicle involved?
- License plate number?
- Any witnesses? Provide names, if known

or e-mail:  
[wildcrime@dgif.virginia.gov](mailto:wildcrime@dgif.virginia.gov)

*clip and save*

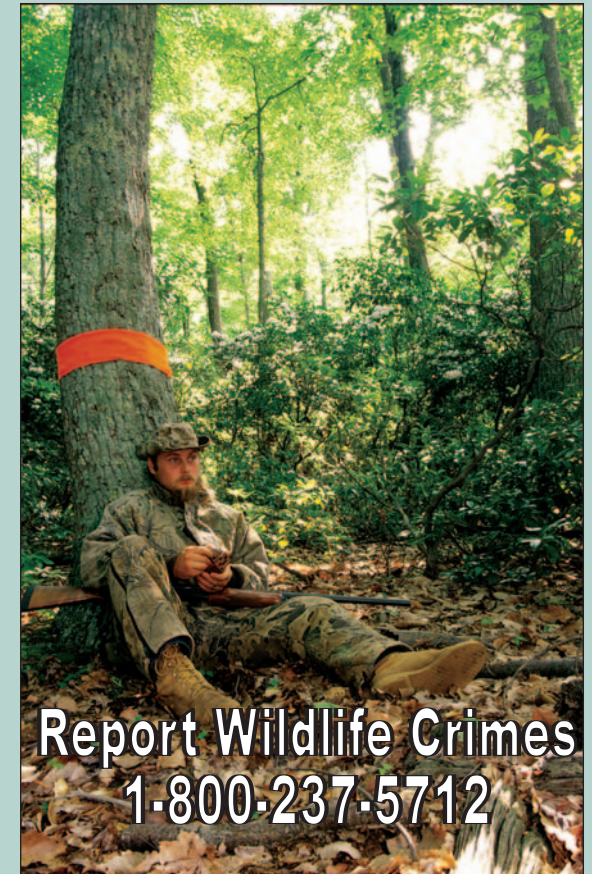
## Remember: It All Begins With a TIP.

Don't let someone "steal" wildlife  
from you and future generations.



*The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries shall afford to all persons an equal access to Department Programs and facilities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, disability, sex or age. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, please write to: The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, 4010 West Broad Street, P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230-1104.*

# Be a Protector OF OUR WILDLIFE & HUNTING HERITAGE



Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries  
P.O. Box 11104, 4010 West Broad Street,  
Richmond, VA 23230-1104  
804-367-1000  
804-367-1278 VTDD  
To reach Law Enforcement 24 hours: 804-367-1258



## VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE: THE ULTIMATE GOAL

Voluntary compliance is a concept where hunters are ethically responsible for and choose to follow game laws.

About 100 years ago, hunting evolved from a basic survival skill to a sport and means for carrying on family tradition. These sport hunters saw the consequences of those who over-harvested wild animals merely for profit, and recognized wildlife resources needed protection, not only for themselves, but for future generations.

These insightful individuals were the driving force behind the enactment of game laws, such as established hunting seasons and bag limits. Game Wardens were hired to conserve and protect Virginia's wildlife resources. Wildlife was thus managed and protected and population levels of certain species were restored to sustainable levels.

The protection of Virginia's wildlife resources is a considerable task given the combination of often isolated areas and limited law enforcement manpower. That is why the ultimate goal of wildlife law enforcement is voluntary compliance. Fortunately, the vast majority of hunters respect wildlife resources and wish for the same or better hunting opportunities for future generations.

Unfortunately, there are a few greedy poachers. These are not hunters who sometimes make minor mistakes, but wildlife criminals who over-harvest wild animals to serve their own selfish needs.

Season and bag limits are established both to protect game animals and to provide an equal opportunity for all hunters to share in the annual harvest. Those who choose to violate game laws are stealing wildlife from all of us!

## THE VIRGINIA WILDLIFE CRIME LINE

Since its inception in October 1986, the Virginia Wildlife Crime Line has become a valuable tool in the enforcement of the Commonwealth's game, fish and boat laws. As awareness of this program increases, so do the number of calls to report violations.

The program has generated thousands of reported wildlife crime tips that have resulted in over a thousand arrests and nearly \$40,000 in approved rewards.

Reward payments are approved and funded through the Virginia Sportsman Reward Fund, Inc. Their mission is to promote the enforcement of hunting, fishing, and boating laws in Virginia by supporting the Wildlife Crime Line in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

You can help support this effort by sending a tax-deductible donation to: Virginia Crime Line, P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230-1104 or by calling (804) 367-1242.



*The word GREED is spelled out using turkey spurs removed and kept by a poacher from his illegally killed turkeys.*

## REPORT A WILDLIFE CRIME

If you know someone who kills wildlife out of season or over the game limit, help the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) catch the individual and stop others from following that path.

Take a look at the criminal case facts outlined in "The End of One Man's Greed" to see why citizens need to actively participate in protecting Virginia's hunting heritage.

**If you observe a violation, call the toll-free Virginia Wildlife Crime Line number:**

**1-800-237-5712**

or e-mail

**wildcrime@dgif.virginia.gov**

Be prepared to leave some basic information about what you are reporting such as:

- What happened?
- When did it happen? Date and time
- Where did it happen? Specific location
- Who was involved? Names, if known
- Type of vehicle involved?
- License plate number?
- Any witnesses? Provide names, if known

This information is critical to VDGIF law enforcement personnel investigating the incident.

Calls are anonymous and you do not need to testify in court. If the information provided leads to an arrest, you may be eligible for a cash reward.

**Remember it all begins with a TIP.**

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