



# THE PARK PRESS

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## Get The Lead Out!



Bald Eagle

Staff Photo

Each year wildlife rehabilitation centres treat numerous victims of lead poisoning, some of which do not survive. Lead is toxic and can harm the environment including water sources, birds, mammals and humans. Lead travels through the food chain making its way to Eagles and other animals who eat carcasses.

While lead bullets have been around for a long time, replacements are being developed using metals such as copper, steel and tungsten. These may work just as well and sometimes better than lead bullets. Lead is a soft metal that easily fragments leaving tiny particles too small to see, feel, or taste in the surrounding meat (up to 46cm from the bullet path).

Ammunition that does not fragment is a good way to avoid contaminating meat.

As of December 2013 the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) no longer uses lead bullets to euthanize animals. Remember, non-toxic shot must be used when hunting waterfowl or snipe, or hunting inside a National Wildlife Area. Also anglers should be careful not to use lead sinkers and other fishing equipment to prevent lead from getting into our waterways. Lead is again spread throughout the food chain when fish consume lead sinkers and the fish are eaten by other animals, including humans!



White-tailed Deer Buck

Staff Photo

For information on how to reduce your chances of consuming lead check out the tips on Pages 83-85 of the Nova Scotia Hunting Regulations Guide:

[http://novascotia.ca/natr/hunt/pdf/HuntingSummary\\_2014.pdf](http://novascotia.ca/natr/hunt/pdf/HuntingSummary_2014.pdf)

For more information about lead vs non-lead bullets visit:

[http://cwrc.net/cms/wp/?page\\_id=8](http://cwrc.net/cms/wp/?page_id=8)



## Featured Park Friend: Wild Turkey



Wild Turkeys (females & male)

Staff Photo

**Name:** Wild Turkey

**Scientific Name:**

*Meleagris gallopavo*

**Size:**

Body Length - 1.1-1.2m (3.6-3.8ft)

Weight - 2.5-10.8kg (5.5-23.8lbs)

Wingspan - 1.3-1.4m (4.1-4.8ft)

**Colour:** Dark brown feathers with bronze iridescence, wings are barred with white, and tail feathers have rusty tips (domestic turkeys have white tips instead). Head is bare and red or blue in colour.

**Lifespan:** 3-5 years (in the wild)

**Habitat:** Open, mature forests particularly with trees that produce nuts. Can also be found in grasslands and swamps.

**Range:** Parts of Southern Canada, throughout the USA and into Mexico. Found in every state except for Alaska, but including Hawaii. They have also been introduced to Europe and New Zealand.

**Feeding:** Omnivores, varying their diet with the seasons. In autumn and winter they scratch for nuts and seeds like acorns, they will also eat ferns and mosses. In spring they turn to buds and bulbs, then in summer they enjoy seeds from grasses. They will also eat insects, snails and salamanders.

**Breeding:** Males gobble and display their feathers to attract females taking multiple mates. Females build a nest on the ground and lay 4-17 eggs that they incubate for 25-31 days. Chicks are well-developed and start following their mother right away. Females often stick together in large flocks with the chicks while males flock separately.

**Fun Facts:** When threatened females tend to fly away while males run away.

Turkeys can swim when necessary by tucking their wings in, spreading their tail and kicking.

Adult male turkeys are called 'Toms' or 'Gobblers', while females are called 'Hens'. Young males are called 'Jakes', while females are called 'Jennys', and chicks are also called 'Poults'.



## Upcoming Events

**Wild Halloween Party!** **Sat Oct 25**  
**10:30am - 1:30pm**



Come to the park for tricks and treats, where the animals can see your Halloween costumes. Surprise our wildlife with your outfits and we will have some surprises for you. Brave our Haunted House and get your candy reward!



**Regular Park Admission Applies**  
**For more info call: (902) 758-5316**  
**e-mail: [legacycentre@gov.ns.ca](mailto:legacycentre@gov.ns.ca)**



**Spooky Joke Time!**



**Q:** What do you get when you cross Bambi and a Ghost?

**A:** Bambool!



**Q:** What do birds give out on Halloween?

**A:** Tweets!

**Q:** What do you call two spiders that just got married?

**A:** Newly-webbed!

**Q:** Why don't Ghosts like the rain?

**A:** It dampens their spirits!



**Q:** Why did the Game Warden arrest the Ghost?

**A:** He didn't have a Haunting License!

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**@ShubenacadieSam**



## Did you know?

♦ **Ruffed Grouse** grow projections off their toes in winter to help them walk on top of the snow.

♦ More than 100 species of birds and mammals include **Acorns** in their diet, including black bears, deer, rodents, blue jays and game birds.



♦ **Chipmunks** emerge from hibernation in March, sometimes having to dig through a metre of snow to get to the surface from their underground burrow.

♦ In the mid 1800's there were nearly 200 varieties of **Apples** grown in Nova Scotia. Now there are around 50 varieties grown in Nova Scotia. The others were less popular, hard to grow, or hard to store.



**Just 4 Fun!!**

**Connect-the-dots to reveal a feathered friend!**

