

2011 National Survey
of Fishing, Hunting,
and Wildlife-Associated Recreation



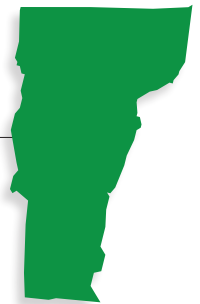
Vermont



2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation



Vermont



U.S. Department of the Interior
Sally Jewell,
Secretary

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Dan Ashe,
Director



U.S. Department of Commerce
Penny Pritzker,
Secretary

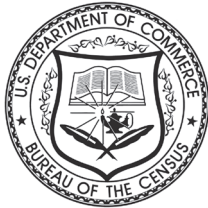
Economics and Statistics Administration
Mark Doms,
Under Secretary for Economic Affairs

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
John H. Thompson,
Director



ECONOMICS
AND STATISTICS
ADMINISTRATION

**Economics and Statistics
Administration**
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Secretary



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Dan Ashe,
Director



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration
Hannibal Bolton,
Assistant Director

The U.S. Department of the Interior protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated Island Communities. The mission of the Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service is responsible for national programs of vital importance to our natural resources, including administration of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs. These two programs provide financial assistance to the States for projects to enhance and protect fish and wildlife resources and to assure their availability to the public for recreational purposes. Multistate grants from these programs fund the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.

Suggested Citation

U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau. 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.

Highlights



Introduction

The National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation reports results from interviews with U.S. residents about their fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching. This report focuses on 2011 participation and expenditures of persons 16 years of age and older.

The Survey is a snapshot of one year. The information it collected tells us how many people participated and how much they spent on their activities in the State in 2011. It does not tell us how many anglers, hunters, and wildlife watchers there were because many do not participate every year. For example, based on information collected in the Survey's household screen phase, we can estimate that about 51 percent more anglers and 44 percent more hunters participated nationally in at least 1 of the 5 years prior to the screen survey year 2010.

In addition to 2011 estimates, we also provide trend information in the Highlights section and Appendix C of the report. The 2011 numbers reported can be compared with those in the 1991, 1996, 2001, and 2006 Survey reports because they used similar methodologies. The 2011 estimates should not be directly compared with results from Surveys conducted prior to 1991 because of changes in methodology to improve accuracy.

The report also provides information on participation in wildlife recreation in 2010, particularly of persons 6 to 15 years of age. The 2010 information is provided in Appendix B. Information about the Survey's scope and coverage is in Appendix D. The remainder of this section defines important terms used in the Survey.

This report does not provide information about the State's wildlife resources. That, and additional information on wildlife-related recreation, may be obtained from State fish and wildlife agencies. The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies can provide the addresses and telephone numbers of those agencies. The Association's website is www.fishwildlife.org.

Additionally, this report does not provide information about the State's number of licensed anglers and hunters. Historical license data can be found at wsfrprograms.fws.gov.

Wildlife-Related Recreation

Wildlife-related recreation is fishing, hunting, and wildlife-watching activities. These categories are not mutually exclusive because many individuals participated in more than one activity. Wildlife-related recreation is reported in two major categories: (1) fishing and hunting, and (2) wildlife watching, which includes observing, photographing, and feeding fish or wildlife.

Fishing and Hunting

This Survey reports information about residents of the United States who fished or hunted in 2011, regardless of whether they were licensed. The fishing and hunting sections report information for three groups: (1) sportspersons, (2) anglers, and (3) hunters.

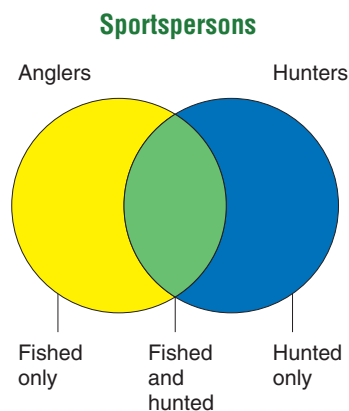
Sportspersons

Sportspersons are those who fished or hunted. Individuals who fished or hunted commercially in 2011 are reported as sportspersons *only* if they also fished or hunted for recreation. The sportspersons group is composed of the three subgroups shown in the diagram below: (1) those that fished and hunted, (2) those that only fished, and (3) those that only hunted.

The total number of sportspersons is equal to the sum of people who only fished, only hunted, and both hunted and fished. It is not the sum of all anglers and all hunters because those people who both fished and hunted are included in both the angler and hunter population and would be incorrectly counted twice.

Anglers

Anglers are sportspersons who only fished plus those who fished and hunted. Anglers include not only licensed hook and line anglers, but also those who have no license and those who use special methods such as fishing with spears. Three types of fishing are reported: (1) freshwater, excluding the Great Lakes, (2) Great Lakes, and (3) saltwater. Since many anglers participated in more than one type of fishing, the total number of anglers is less than the sum of the three types of fishing.



Hunters

Hunters are sportspersons who only hunted plus those who hunted and fished. Hunters include not only licensed hunters using rifles and shotguns, but also those who have no license and those who engage in hunting with archery equipment, muzzleloaders, other primitive firearms, or pistols or handguns.

Four types of hunting are reported: (1) big game, (2) small game, (3) migratory bird, and (4) other animals. Since many hunters participated in more than one type of hunting, the sum of hunters for big game, small game, migratory bird, and other animals exceeds the total number of hunters.

Wildlife Watchers

Since 1980, the National Survey has included information on wildlife-watching activities in addition to fishing and hunting. However, unlike the 1980 and 1985 Surveys, the National Surveys since 1991 have

collected data only for those activities where the *primary* purpose was wildlife watching (observing, photographing, or feeding wildlife).

The 2011 Survey uses a strict definition of wildlife watching. Participants must either take a “special interest” in wildlife around their homes or take a trip for the “primary purpose” of wildlife watching. Secondary wildlife watching, such as incidentally observing wildlife while pleasure driving, is not included.

Two types of wildlife-watching activity are reported: (1) away-from-home (formerly nonresidential) activities and (2) around-the-home (formerly residential) activities. Because some people participated in more than one type of wildlife watching, the sum of participants in each type will be greater than the total number of wildlife watchers. Only those engaged in activities whose *primary* purpose was wildlife watching are included in the Survey. The two types of wildlife-watching activity are defined below.

Away-From-Home

This group includes persons who took trips or outings of at least 1 mile from home for the primary purpose of observing, feeding, or photographing fish and wildlife. Trips to fish or hunt or scout and trips to zoos, circuses, aquariums, and museums are not considered wildlife-watching activities.

Around-The-Home

This group includes those who participated within 1 mile of home and involves one or more of the following: (1) closely observing or trying to identify birds or other wildlife; (2) photographing wildlife; (3) feeding birds or other wildlife; (4) maintaining natural areas of at least 1/4 acre where benefit to wildlife is the primary concern; (5) maintaining plantings (shrubs, agricultural crops, etc.) where benefit to wildlife is the primary concern; or (6) visiting parks and natural areas within 1 mile of home for the primary purpose of observing, feeding, or photographing wildlife.

2011 Vermont Summary

Activities in Vermont by Residents and Nonresidents

Fishing

Anglers	207,000
Days of fishing	2,215,000
Average days per angler	11
Total expenditures	\$131,317,000
Trip-related	\$90,248,000
Equipment and other	\$41,069,000
Average per angler	\$616
Average trip expenditure per day	\$41

Hunting

Hunters	90,000
Days of hunting	1,584,000
Average days per hunter	18
Total expenditures	\$292,328,000
Trip-related	\$39,469,000
Equipment and other	\$252,859,000
Average per hunter	\$3,165
Average trip expenditure per day	\$25

Wildlife Watching

Total wildlife-watching participants . .	370,000
Away-from-home participants	177,000
Around-the-home participants	270,000
Days of participation away from home . .	2,602,000
Average days of participation away from home	15
Total expenditures	\$288,507,000
Trip-related	\$49,506,000
Equipment and other	\$239,002,000
Average per participant	\$754
Average trip expenditure per day	\$19

Activities by Vermont Residents Both Inside and Outside Vermont

Fishing

Anglers	105,000
Days of fishing	1,885,000
Average days per angler	18
Total expenditures	\$68,612,000
Trip-related	\$42,097,000
Equipment and other	\$26,515,000
Average per angler	\$654
Average trip expenditure per day	\$22

Hunting

Hunters	71,000
Days of hunting	1,618,000
Average days per hunter	23
Total expenditures	\$323,047,000
Trip-related	\$83,194,000
Equipment and other	\$239,853,000
Average per hunter	\$4,576
Average trip expenditure per day	\$51

Wildlife Watching

Total wildlife-watching participants . .	273,000
Away-from-home participants	85,000
Around-the-home participants	270,000
Days of participation away from home . .	2,092,000
Average days of participation away from home	25
Total expenditures	\$181,034,000
Trip-related	\$24,749,000
Equipment and other	\$156,285,000
Average per participant	\$663
Average trip expenditure per day	\$12

Wildlife-Related Recreation

Participation in Vermont

The 2011 Survey found that 512 thousand Vermont residents and nonresidents 16 years old and older fished, hunted, or wildlife watched in Vermont. Of the total number of participants, 207 thousand fished, 90 thousand hunted, and 370 thousand participated in wildlife-watching activities, which includes observing, feeding, and photographing wildlife. The sum of anglers, hunters, and wildlife watchers exceeds the total number of participants in wildlife-related recreation because many of the individuals engaged in more than one wildlife-related activity.

Participation in 2011 by 6- to 15-Year-Old Vermont Residents

The focus of the National Survey is on the activity of participants 16 years old and older. However, the activity of 6- to 15-year-olds can be calculated using the screening data covering the year 2010. It is assumed for estimation purposes that the proportion of 6- to 15-year-old

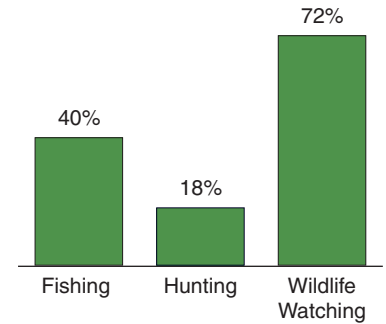
participants to participants 16 years old and older remained the same in 2010 and 2011. Based on this assumption, in addition to the 105 thousand resident anglers 16 years old or older in Vermont, there were 24 thousand resident anglers 6 to 15 years old. Also, there were 71 thousand Vermonters 16 years old and older and 4 thousand Vermonters 6 to 15 years old who hunted. Finally, there were 273 thousand Vermonters 16 years old and older and 35 thousand Vermonters 6 to 15 years old who wildlife watched. Information on 2010 data for 6- to 15-year-olds is provided in Appendix B.

Expenditures in Vermont

In 2011, state residents and nonresidents spent \$744 million on wildlife recreation in Vermont. Of that total, trip-related expenditures were \$179 million and equipment expenditures totaled \$361 million. The remaining \$204 million was spent on licenses, contributions, land ownership and leasing, and other items.

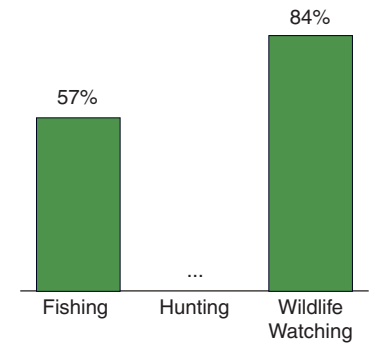
Percent of Total Participants by Activity

(Total: 512 thousand participants)



Percent of Total Residential Participants 6 to 15 Years Old by Activity: 2010

(Total: 49 thousand participants)



... Sample size too small (less than 10) to report data reliably.

Participants in Wildlife-Related Recreation in Vermont: 2011

(U.S. residents 16 years old and older)

Total 512 thousand

Sportspersons

Total 254 thousand

Anglers 207 thousand

Hunters 90 thousand

Wildlife Watchers

Total 370 thousand

Away from home 177 thousand

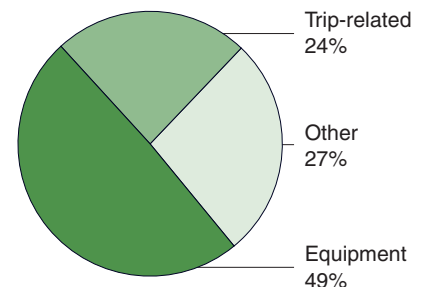
Around the home 270 thousand

Note: Detail does not add to total because of multiple responses.

Source: Tables 1 and 24.

Wildlife-Related Recreation Expenditures in Vermont

(Total: \$744 million)



Sportspersons

In 2011, 254 thousand state resident and nonresident sportspersons 16 years old and older fished or hunted in Vermont. This group was comprised of 207 thousand anglers (82 percent of all

sportspersons) and 90 thousand hunters (35 percent of all sportspersons). Among the 254 thousand sportspersons who fished or hunted in the state, 164 thousand (65 percent) fished but did not hunt

in Vermont. Another 47 thousand (18 percent) hunted but did not fish there. The remaining 43 thousand (17 percent) fished and hunted in Vermont in 2011.

Sportspersons' Participation in Vermont

(State residents and nonresidents 16 years old and older)

Sportspersons (fished or hunted)	254 thousand
Anglers	207 thousand
Fished only.....	164 thousand
Fished and hunted.....	43 thousand
Hunters	90 thousand
Hunted only.....	47 thousand
Hunted and fished.....	43 thousand

Note: Detail does not add to total because of multiple responses.

Source: Table 1.

Anglers

Participants and Days of Fishing

In 2011, 207 thousand state residents and nonresidents 16 years old and older fished in Vermont. Of this total, 95 thousand anglers (46 percent) were state residents and 112 thousand anglers (54 percent) were nonresidents. Anglers fished a total of 2.2 million days in Vermont—an average of 11 days per

angler. State residents fished 1.8 million days—79 percent of all fishing days in Vermont. Nonresidents fished 464 thousand days in Vermont—21 percent of all fishing days in the state.

A large majority of Vermont residents who fished anywhere in the United States did so in their resident state. There were 105 thousand Vermont residents

16 years old and older who fished in the United States in 2011 for a total of 1.9 million days. An estimated 90 percent of all Vermont residents who fished did so in their home state. Of all fishing days by Vermont residents, 93 percent or 1.8 million were in their home state. For further details about fishing in Vermont, see Table 3.

Anglers in Vermont

(State residents and nonresidents 16 years old and older)

Anglers	207 thousand
Residents	95 thousand
Nonresidents	112 thousand
 Days of fishing	 2.2 million
Residents	1.8 million
Nonresidents	464 thousand

Source: Table 3.

In State/Out of State

(State residents 16 years old and older)

Vermont anglers	105 thousand
In Vermont	95 thousand
In other states	19 thousand
 Days of fishing	 1.9 million
In Vermont	1.8 million
In other states	134 thousand

Note: Detail does not add to total because of multiple responses.

Source: Table 3.

Fishing Expenditures in Vermont

All fishing-related expenditures in Vermont totaled \$131 million in 2011. Trip-related expenditures, including food and lodging, transportation, and other expenses totaled \$90 million—69 percent of all fishing expenditures. Expenditures for food and lodging were \$41 million and transportation expenditures were \$26 million. Other trip expenses, such as equipment rental, bait, and cooking fuel, totaled \$23 million. Each angler spent an average of \$436 on trip-related costs during 2011.

Anglers spent \$26 million on equipment in Vermont in 2011, 20 percent of all fishing expenditures. Fishing equipment (rods, reels, lines, etc.) spending totaled \$15 million—59 percent of the equipment total. Auxiliary equipment expenditures (tents, special fishing clothing, etc.) and special equipment expenditures (boats, vans, etc.) amounted to \$11 million—41 percent of the equipment total. Expenditures classified as special and auxiliary equipment are on items that were purchased for fishing but could be used in activities other than fishing.

The purchase of other items, such as magazines, membership dues, licenses, permits, stamps, and land leasing and ownership, amounted to \$15 million—11 percent of all fishing expenditures. For more details about fishing expenditures in Vermont, see Tables 19 and 21 through 23.

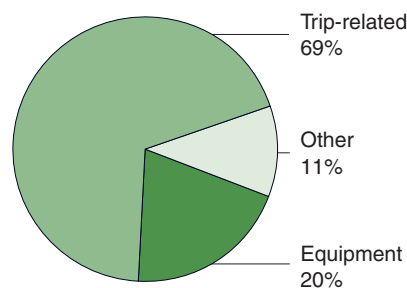
Fishing Expenditures in Vermont

(State residents and nonresidents 16 years old and older)

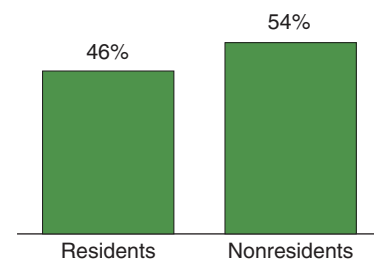
Total	\$131 million
Trip-related	\$90 million
Equipment	\$26 million
Fishing	\$15 million
Auxiliary and special	\$11 million
Other	\$15 million

Source: Table 19.

Fishing Expenditures in Vermont
(Total: \$131 million)



Percent of Anglers by Residence
(Total: 207 thousand participants)



Hunters

Participants and Days of Hunting

In 2011, there were 90 thousand residents and nonresidents 16 years old and older who hunted in Vermont. Resident hunters numbered 66 thousand, accounting for 74 percent of the hunters in Vermont. Residents and nonresidents hunted 1.6 million days in 2011, an

average of 18 days per hunter. Residents hunted 1.4 million days in Vermont or 89 percent of all hunting days.

There were 71 thousand Vermont residents 16 years old and older who hunted in the United States in 2011 for a total of 1.6 million days. An estimated 94 percent of all Vermont residents who

hunted did so in their home state. Of all hunting days by Vermont residents, 87 percent or 1.4 million were spent pursuing game in their home state. For further information on hunting activities by Vermont residents, see Table 3.

Hunters in Vermont

(State residents and nonresidents 16 years old and older)

Hunters	90 thousand
Residents	66 thousand
Nonresidents.....	...
Days of hunting	1.6 million
Residents	1.4 million
Nonresidents.....	...

... Sample size too small (less than 10) to report data reliably.
Source: Table 3.

In State/Out of State

(State residents 16 years old and older)

Vermont hunters	71 thousand
In Vermont	66 thousand
In other states.....	12 thousand
Days of hunting	1.6 million
In Vermont	1.4 million
In other states.....	215 thousand

Note: Detail does not add to total because of multiple responses.
Source: Table 3.

Hunting Expenditures in Vermont

All hunting-related expenditures in Vermont totaled \$292 million in 2011. Trip-related expenses, such as food and lodging, transportation, and other trip expenses, totaled \$39 million—14 percent of total expenditures. Expenditures for food and lodging were \$14 million and transportation expenditures were \$22 million. Other trip expenses, such as equipment rental, totaled \$3 million for the year. The average trip-related expenditure per hunter was \$436.

Hunters spent \$190 million on equipment—65 percent of all hunting expenditures. Hunting equipment (guns, ammunition, etc.) totaled \$130 million and made up 68 percent of all equipment costs. Hunters spent \$61 million on auxiliary equipment (tents, special hunting clothes, etc.) and special equipment (boats, vans, etc.), accounting for 32 percent of total equipment expenditures for hunting. Expenditures classified as special and auxiliary equipment are on items that were purchased for hunting but could be used in activities other than hunting.

The purchase of other items, such as magazines, membership dues, licenses, permits, and land leasing, and ownership, cost hunters \$62 million—21 percent of all hunting expenditures. For more details on hunting expenditures in Vermont, see Tables 20 through 23.

Hunting Expenditures in Vermont

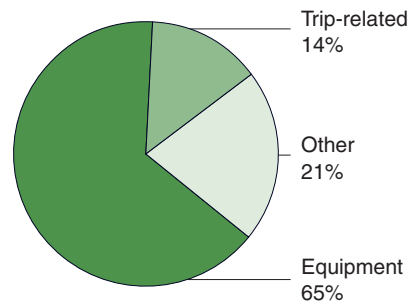
(State residents and nonresidents 16 years old and older)

Total	\$292 million
Trip-related	\$39 million
Equipment	\$190 million
Hunting	\$130 million
Auxiliary and special	\$61 million
Other	\$62 million

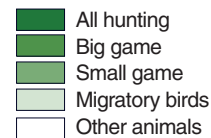
Source: Table 20.

Hunting Expenditures in Vermont

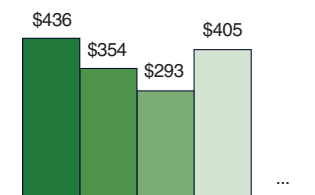
(Total: \$292 million)



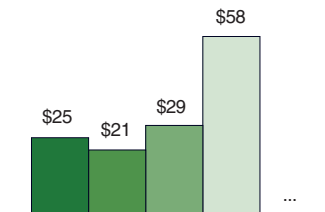
Comparative Hunting Expenditures by Type of Hunting



Trip expenditures per hunter:



Trip expenditures per day:



... Sample size too small (less than 10) to report data reliably.

Wildlife Watchers

Participants and Days of Activity

In 2011, 370 thousand U.S. residents 16 years old and older fed, observed, or photographed wildlife in Vermont. Most of them, 73 percent (270 thousand), enjoyed their activities close to home and are called “around-the-home” participants. Those persons who enjoyed wildlife at least one mile from

home are called “away-from-home” participants. People participating in away-from-home activities in Vermont in 2011 numbered 177 thousand—48 percent of all wildlife watchers in Vermont. Of the 177 thousand, 80 thousand were state residents and 97 thousand were nonresidents.

Vermonters 16 years old and older who enjoyed away-from-home wildlife watching within their state totaled 80 thousand. Of this group, 78 thousand participants observed wildlife and 45 thousand photographed wildlife. Since some individuals engaged in more than one of the away-from-home activities during the year, the sum of wildlife observers, feeders, and photographers exceeds the total number away-from-home participants.

Vermonters spent 1.9 million days engaged in away-from-home wildlife-watching activities in their state. They spent 1.2 million days observing and 259 thousand days photographing wildlife. For further details about away-from-home activities, see Table 25.

Vermont residents also took an active interest in wildlife around their homes. In 2011, 270 thousand state residents enjoyed observing, feeding, and photographing wildlife within one mile of their homes. Among this around-the-home group, 199 thousand fed, 204 thousand observed, and 118 thousand photographed wildlife around their homes. Another 60 thousand participants maintained natural areas of one-quarter acre or more for wildlife; 44 thousand participants maintained plantings for the benefit of wildlife; and 50 thousand participants visited parks or natural areas within a mile of home because of the wildlife. Summing the number of participants in these six activities results in an estimate that exceeds the total number of around-the-home participants because many people participated in more than one type of around-the-home activity. In addition, 30 percent of Vermonters around-the-home wildlife watchers also enjoyed wildlife away from home. For further details about Vermont residents participating in around-the-home wildlife-watching activities, see Table 27.

Wildlife-Watching Participants in Vermont

(State residents and nonresidents 16 years old and older)

Total	370 thousand
Around the home	270 thousand
Away from home	177 thousand

Note: Detail does not add to total because of multiple responses.
Source: Table 24.

Away-From-Home Wildlife-Watching Participation in Vermont

(State residents and nonresidents 16 years old and older)

Participants, total	177 thousand
Observe wildlife	171 thousand
Photograph wildlife	105 thousand
Feed wildlife
Days, total	2.6 million
Observe wildlife	1.9 million
Photograph wildlife	465 thousand
Feed wildlife

... Sample size too small (less than 10) to report data reliably.
Note: Detail does not add to total because of multiple responses.
Source: Table 25.

Around-The-Home Wildlife-Watching Participation in Vermont

(State residents 16 years old and older)

Total	270 thousand
Feed wildlife	199 thousand
Observe wildlife	204 thousand
Photograph wildlife	118 thousand
Maintain natural areas	60 thousand
Maintain plantings	44 thousand
Visit parks and natural areas	50 thousand

Note: Detail does not add to total because of multiple responses.
Source: Table 27.

Wild Bird Observers

Bird watching attracted many wildlife enthusiasts in Vermont. In 2011, 292 thousand people observed birds around the home and on trips in the state. A majority, 63 percent (184 thousand), observed wild birds around the home while 56 percent (165 thousand) took trips away from home to watch birds.

Wildlife-Watching Expenditures in Vermont

Wildlife watchers spent \$289 million on wildlife-watching activities in Vermont in 2011. Trip-related expenditures, including food and lodging (\$20 million), transportation (\$26 million), and other trip expenses (\$3 million), such as equipment rental, amounted to \$50 million. This summation comprised 17 percent of all wildlife-watching expenditures by participants. The average of the trip-related expenditures for away-from-home participants was \$278 per person in 2011.

Wildlife-watching participants spent nearly \$113 million on equipment—39 percent of all their expenditures. Specifically, wildlife-watching equipment (binoculars, special clothing, etc.) expenditures totaled \$38 million, 33 percent of the equipment total. Auxiliary equipment expenditures (tents, backpacking equipment, etc.) and special equipment expenditures (campers, trucks, etc.) amounted to \$76 million—67 percent of all equipment costs. Expenditures classified as special and auxiliary equipment are on items that were purchased for wildlife-watching recreation but could be used in activities other than wildlife watching.

Other items purchased by wildlife-watching participants, such as magazines, membership dues and contributions, land leasing and ownership, and plantings, totaled \$126 million—44 percent of all wildlife-watching expenditures. For more details about wildlife-watching expenditures in Vermont, see Table 31.

Wild Bird Observers in Vermont

(State residents and nonresidents 16 years old and older)

Participants, total	292 thousand
Around the home	184 thousand
Away from home	165 thousand
Days, total	22.4 million
Around the home	20.2 million
Away from home	2.3 million

Note: Detail does not add to total because of multiple responses.

Source: Table 29.

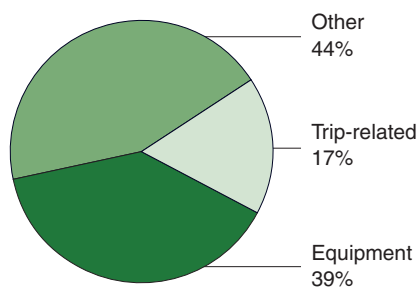
Wildlife-Watching Expenditures in Vermont

(State residents and nonresidents 16 years old and older)

Total	\$289 million
Trip-related	\$50 million
Equipment	\$113 million
Wildlife watching	\$38 million
Auxiliary and special	\$76 million
Other	\$126 million

Source: Table 31.

Wildlife-Watching Expenditures in Vermont
(Total: \$289 million)



Away-From-Home Activity by Around-The-Home Participants
(Total: 270 thousand participants)

