



VERMONT

HUNTING & Trapping Guide

OFFICIAL REGULATIONS

2021

The Modern
Vermont Hunter

pg.14

Small Game Hunting

Gray squirrels are Vermont's most overlooked small-game animal. "Bushytails" can be found wherever mature stands of oak, hickory and beech trees provide them with abundant nuts, especially in the southwestern portion of the state at lower elevations, the Champlain Valley, and along the Connecticut River. Although lightly hunted in Vermont, squirrels are a real challenge when stalked with a .22 rifle, and their delicate meat compares favorably with rabbit.

Cottontail rabbits are found primarily in the Southwestern Foothills and Champlain Valley, including the Champlain Islands. "Cottontails" favor the varied habitat found in agricultural lowlands and are commonly encountered in brushy hedgerows, overgrown fields, briar thickets, and shrub-filled creek bottoms. Kicking up cottontails on a crisp fall day is

excellent sport, whether hunters elect to chase them with a beagle and shotgun or stalk them with a .22 rifle.

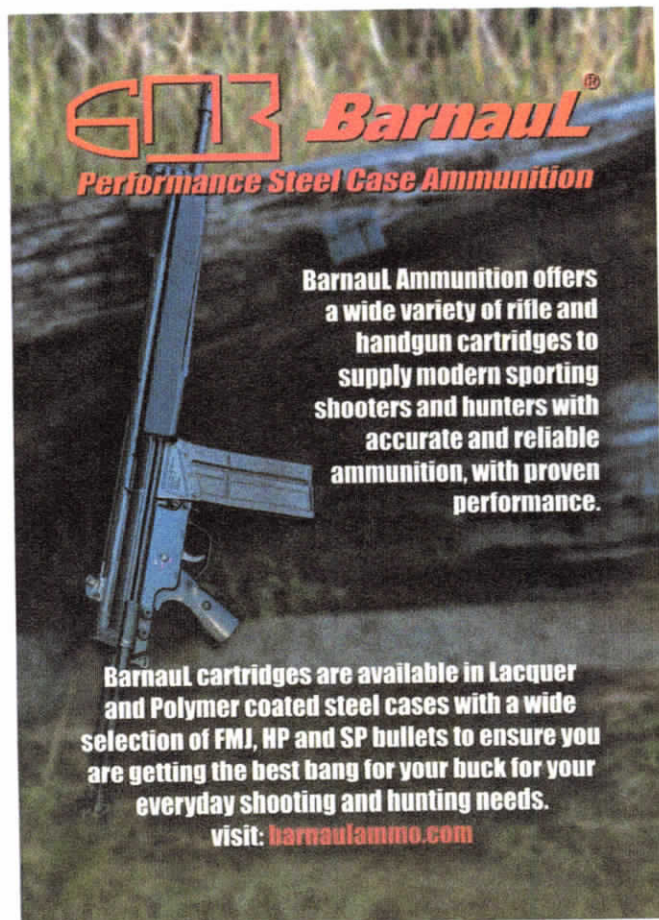
Snowshoe hare are found statewide but are most abundant in areas with active forest management, particularly in the Green Mountains and Northeast Kingdom. The greatest concentrations of hare are found in areas with dense, low-growing softwood, such as cedar swamps, spruce bogs and cut-over areas with thickets of young spruce and fir. Snowshoe hare have seasonally white coats and large hind feet, adaptations that let them remain active throughout the winter. They are a favorite of hunters with hounds because they prefer to run a hard race rather than hole-up, as cottontails often do when hard-pressed.

Seasons & Bag Limits

SPECIES	SEASON	BAG LIMIT
Gray Squirrel	Sept. 1 – Dec. 31	4 daily; 8 possession
Rabbit & Hare	Sept. 26, 2020 – March 14, 2021 & Sept. 25, 2021 – March 13, 2022 WMUs D & E remain open through March 31	3 daily; 6 possession

Sale of Small Game

It is illegal to buy or sell a wild bird, rabbit, hare or gray squirrel at any time.



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HELP KEEP VERMONT SWINE FREE

Report Feral Swine Sightings

Feral swine come in many colors and shapes but are most often black or brown and weigh anywhere from 100 to 200 pounds. They leave behind unique signs, such as rooting, wallows and tree rubs. They have tracks similar to deer, although swine hoofs are rounder in overall shape and tend to be more splayed and blunt at the tips than deer tracks.

Report sightings to USDA Wildlife Services by calling 1-866-487-3297 or emailing fwinformation@vermont.gov



Manage the Damage
Stop Feral Swine