

State: Georgia  
Grant Number: 08-953  
Study Number: 6

## LONG RANGE PERFORMANCE REPORT

Grant Title: State Funded Wildlife Survey

Period Covered: July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012

Study Title: Wild Turkey Production and Population Indices

Study Objectives:

1. To determine annually an index of statewide turkey populations and production success in Georgia.
2. To organize data obtained in a form so that it can be used in sound management of turkeys in Georgia.

### Abstract

Eight percent fewer Poults+Hens were observed in 2011 (4,428) versus 2010 (4,800), compared to the population index being equal between the 2012 harvest season (1.7 hours hunted/turkey seen) and 2011 (1.7), and nearly the same as what was predicted (1.8). An inverse correlation coefficient of  $r = -0.90$  was obtained between the new production index and population indices for the entire survey period which began in 1978. Hunter success (68.5%) was similar to past the past 2 seasons (2011 = 67.4% & 2010 = 67.3%). The average number of poults per hen was 1.8, which was close to 2010 (1.9) and both years are greater than 2009 (which was tied with 2007 for the worst season ever).

#### A. Activity:

Job A. Turkey Production Index Survey - This survey was conducted during the months of May through August from 1978 to 1991. Beginning in 1991, the survey period was shortened to June through August when statistical analysis of data indicated the shorter time period was adequate.

Cooperators involved in data collection for this survey were field personnel of the Game Management Section, Fisheries Management Section, Non-Game Section, and Law Enforcement Section of the Wildlife Resources Division. We have also obtained cooperators from the Georgia Forestry Commission. Observations were made during the course of regular field duties. No special efforts were made to locate turkeys for the survey.

Records were maintained of all turkey broods and hens, with and without broods. Data were compiled on a statewide and physiographic region basis. Historically, the

average number of poult seen per observer was the best index of production, however, recent analysis indicated this was not the case with data between 1987-2006. Currently, the best index of production data is estimated Total Poults+Hens.

Job B. Turkey Hunting Population Index Survey –

The hunter cooperators participating in the survey were obtained from names of prospects submitted by WRD personnel and current cooperators. Cooperators were also solicited through newspaper and magazine requests and programs to interest groups. Starting in 1990, randomly selected members of the Georgia Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation also were contacted to bring the total potential cooperating hunters to 2,000.

This survey is conducted during the regular spring gobbler-hunting season, which begins the first Saturday after March 19 and ends May 15. Specific information requested about each hunting trip was the date, hours hunted, county or physiographic region hunted, the number of turkeys seen, and the number of gobblers heard. Harvest information was also requested, but was an optional item. Hunt record forms were supplied to all cooperators.

The number of turkeys observed per unit of hunting effort is used as an index of the hunting season population. The correlation between the population indices and the production indices are used in evaluating annual production and populations and in making comparisons for trends. Data were calculated on a statewide and physiographic region basis.

B. Target Date for Achievement and Accomplishments:

Job A. Planned dates and dates of accomplishment coincide, November 30, 2011.

Job B. Planned dates and dates of accomplishment coincide, August 31, 2012.

C. Significant Deviations:

Job A. None

Job B. None

D. Finds:

Job A. In 2011, 415 broods were observed (Table 1). This total is more than in 2010 (356 broods were observed), the best since 2006 and 15% greater than the 5-year average (352, 2006-10). The average brood size for 2011 was 6.9 poults, 23% fewer than the 2010 average of 8.9, and 16% less than the 5-year average (8.2). Eight percent fewer Poults+Hens were observed in 2011 (4,428) versus 2010 (4,800; Table 6), and 6% less than the 5-year average (4,708). The total number of poults observed/estimated

was 2,842 and was 10% less than 2010 (3,164), and similar to the 5-year average (2,887).

Examination of poults/observer revealed that statewide it was the same as 2010 (16.4; Table 3), and 18% greater than the 5-year average (13.5). Poults/observer was up in all physiographic regions from 2010 except for the Upper Coastal Plain (IV; down by 20%) and the Lower Coastal Plain (V, down by 58%). The indices were up for the Ridge & Valley (I, 44% greater), Blue Ridge Mountains (II, 30%) and Piedmont (III, 37%) over 2010.

The number of hens reported totaled 1,586 (Table 4) and was down 13% from the 5-year average (1,821). The percent of hens with poults (45%) was similar to 2010 (46%; Table 5) and 9% greater than the 5-year average (41%). The average number of poults per hen, 1.8, decreased by 7% from 2010 but was 11% greater than the 5-year average (1.6) and therefore production was considered fair for 2011 and 2010. Historically, with Georgia's expanding turkey population an average of 3 poults per hen was considered good, however, recent data with a more stable population indicates that productivity threshold of approximately 2.0 poults per hen may be an indicator of good reproductive levels.

Gobblers observed was up in 2011 (1,002) by 53% from 2010 (653) and 27% from the 5-year average (734, 2006-10, Table 7). The hen:gobbler ratio observed in 2011 (1.6) was down 37% from 2010 (2.5) and the 5-year average (2.5, Table 8). The hen:gobbler ratio was also down for all regions but was the same for the Upper Coastal Plain.

Job B. Usable hunt data was supplied by 479 cooperators (which is 6% above the 5-year average of 451). Of these, 437 came from the permanent cooperator list and 42 from the NWTF list which resulted in a reporting rate (after deleting wrong addresses, deceased, quit hunting, incorrect data collection, etc.) of 36.6% and 5.9% from the permanent and NWTF list cooperators, respectively. These cooperators reported spending a total of 15,927.85 hours hunting (which is 3% below the 5-year average of 16,400.5; Table 9). The average season hunter effort was 9.7 trips (which is 8% less than the 5-year average of 10.6) totaling 33.3 hours (which is 9% less than the 5-year average of 36.4). They reported observing 9,256 turkeys (which is 7% less than the 5-year average of 9,937) and hearing 8,282 gobblers (which is 6% more than the 5-year average of 7,822). The statewide population index of 1.7 was the same as last year (and the 5-year average of 1.7; Table 10). The effort per gobbler heard of 1.9 was 14% better than last year (2.2 = 2011) and 10% better than the 5-year average of 2.1, which corresponds with the 18.8 hours/turkey harvested being 23% better than last year (24.3, 2011) and 21% better than the 5-year average of 23.9; Table 10). The least hunting effort per turkey seen occurred in the Ridge and Valley and Lower Coastal Plain. The effort per gobbler heard was least in Ridge and Valley and Lower Coastal Plain and greatest in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Even though there were more cooperators this year, there were fewer hours hunted and less trips made; however,

there were more gobblers harvested. Thus, this year cooperators seem to be more efficient in their hunting trips as pertaining to harvest.

Statewide peak gobbling activity, 2.5 gobblers heard per trip, occurred during the first (March 24-25) weekend (which is similar to the 5-year average for the first weekend of 2.6). The next highest period recorded 2.2 gobblers heard per trip was the third weekend (April 7-8). This season there were 3 periods with greater than or equal to 2.0 gobblers heard per trip, whereas last year there were 2. For most of the state the greatest amount of gobbling activity was the first 7 days (Mar 24 – April 1) and the 7-day period of April 7- April 15 (the third week of the season; Table 11). Peaks of gobbling by region occurred during the first weekend (3.3 gobblers heard/hour) for the Ridge and Valley, the second weekend (1.6 gobblers heard/hour; March 31 - April 1) for the Blue Ridge Mountains, the first weekend for the Piedmont (2.3 gobblers heard/hour), first weekend for the Upper Coastal Plain (2.6 gobblers heard/hour), and the first weekend for the Lower Coastal Plain (3.1 gobblers heard/hour). More gobblers were heard per trip across all Regions than last year.

The statewide gobbler harvest during the first seven days of the season amounted to 40% of the total season harvest (which is more than the 5-year average of 31 %; Table 12). Peak harvest was generally seen within the first seven days of the season in all parts of the state (Tables 13 and 14).

Similar to previous seasons, the greatest number of trips made was during the first seven days of the season (Tables 15 and 16). Only minor variations in hunting effort have occurred over the years.

Hunter success (68.5 %) was better than last year (2011 = 67.4 %) and the 5-year average 66.7 % (2007-2011; Table 17) with 328 of 479 hunters reported taking or assisting in taking at least one gobbler. Of the successful hunters, 103 (21.5 %, 5 year average was 25.3 %) took or assisted in taking one bird, 88 (18.4 %, 5 year average was 18.0 %) took or assisted in taking two birds, and 137 (28.6%, 5 year average was 23.3 %; Table 18) took or assisted in taking three birds. This was the greatest year for cooperators taking or assisting in taking three birds. Cooperators reported 266 gobblers harvested by companions (which is greater than the 5-year average of 171).

The predictive model analysis uses Poults+Hens of the reproductive season during the current year to predict the following years harvest season population index of Hours Hunted/Turkey Seen, where the predictor model (1978-2012) is:

**Constant + (Slope \*2011 Total Poults+Hens) = 2012 Hours Hunted/Turkey Seen**

Therefore:

$$3.3175 + (-0.00034*4,428) = 1.8 \text{ Hours Hunted/Turkey Seen in 2012.}$$

After the production data from 2011 was entered and updated the model, the prediction for the 2012 harvest season was 1.8 hours hunted per turkey seen; which was only 6% from what was observed, 1.7 hours hunted per turkey seen. A relatively high inverse correlation  $r = -0.90$  was obtained from the comparison of the new nesting season population index versus the following years harvest season population index.

#### Jobs A&B.

In summary, the 2011 reproductive season was similar to 2010 and both were much better than 2009 (tied for worst on record) and similar to the 5-year average. For the 2012 harvest season, hunters took fewer trips, hunted fewer hours than the 5-year average, but heard more gobblers than last year and the 5-year average. Hunter success and hours/turkey seen were similar to last year and the 5-year average. The hours/turkey harvested was the best ever reported.

Hopefully, the reproduction we experienced in 2010 and 2011 (while fair) will produce more 2-year and 3-year olds for next spring (2013). This past spring was better than we believed it would be considering hunter success, while overall hours to harvest a turkey was the best reported. Last year's harvest season experienced 2 periods with at least 2.0 or more gobblers heard per trip, whereas this year hunter's experienced 3. However, many people still did very well and the percentage of hunters that took or assisted in the harvest of 3+ birds was the best yet. All of this reveals how important the hatch is to not only the following year, but also the years after. We've had one good hatch and 2 fair hatches in the past 7 years and 2010 hunters saw the benefits of the good hatch (2008) while 2011 saw the results of a bad hatch in 2009. This season appeared to be good especially considering gobblers heard and hours to harvest a gobbler. One of the most important things to consider when managing turkeys is the effect of harvest and the ability to carry over adult birds into the next year.

Weather extremes, changes in land management and human population growth rates (several GA counties ranked in the top 20 fastest growing nationwide in the past decade) have negatively impacted and likely will continue to negatively impact turkey populations. We are losing turkey habitat and are continuing to suffer regional declines in quality and quantity of turkey habitat leading to an overall lower turkey population than occurred in the previous decade. It is becoming more common to have local population declines in certain areas of the state while others are seeing increasing populations, likely a direct result of changing habitat conditions. For these reasons it is critical that we continue to monitor turkey populations closely into the future.

E. Recommendations:

Job A & B. It is recommended to continue further analyses to determine if there is a better predictor than Total Poult+Hens from what is available within the long-term data.

Prepared by: Bobby Bond

Date: August 22, 2012

Table 1. Turkey broods and poult observed statewide in Georgia, 1978-2011.

Year	Broods		Poults	
	Total	Poult Counts	Brood Average	Est. Total
1978	123	82	8.6	1,058
1979	183	160	8.6	1,565
1980	176	169	8.4	1,479
1981	264	241	7.6	2,006
1982	260	218	7.7	2,002
1983	298	261	8.8	2,622
1984	293	247	6.8	1,992
1985	324	274	7.2	2,333
1986	430	377	9.4	4,042
1987	347	328	9.7	3,366
1988	347	321	7.9	2,741
1989	322	306	9.0	2,898
1990	459	278	7.6	3,488
1991	289	213	7.1	2,039
1992	298	274	6.8	2,027
1993	328	303	8.2	2,676
1994	341	316	9.4	3,209
1995	408	386	10.4	4,209
1996	271	239	7.5	2,033
1997	408	304	6.5	2,613
1998	595	534	7.0	4,185
1999	447	364	7.1	3,170
2000	393	358	7.2	2,809
2001	493	431	7.0	3,017
2002	648	618	6.0	3,894
2003	448	448	5.9	2,619
2004	354	354	10.6	3,733
2005	248	248	10.0	2,469
2006	426	426	8.4	3,579
2007	336	336	6.3	2,116
2008	333	333	10.9	3,635
2009	308	308	6.3	1,943
2010	356	356	8.9	3,164
2011	415	415	6.9	2,842
5-y AVG	352	352	8.2	2,887

Table 2. Turkey brood observations by physiographic region and month in Georgia, 2011.

Month	Region <sup>1</sup>					Total
	I	II	III	IV	V	
June	12	5	25	35	26	103
July	16	13	34	25	22	110
August	19	20	133	19	11	202
Totals	47	38	192	79	59	415

<sup>1</sup>Roman numerals correspond to physiographic regions as follows:

- I - Valley and Ridge Lookout Mountain Plateau
- II - Blue Ridge Mountains
- III - Piedmont
- IV - Upper Coastal Plain
- V - Lower Coastal Plain



Table 3. Average number of turkey poults seen per observer in Georgia, 1978-2011

Physiographic																
Region	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
I	4.84	0	4.80	3.45	3.52	10.30	9.09	7.20	23.19	27.87	22.10	30.70	18.92	21.19	15.93	26.75
II	11.18	5.70	3.85	5.32	10.36	21.21	16.54	7.90	36.62	19.79	34.61	21.82	19.89	7.07	12.89	17.31
III	7.04	8.88	11.13	12.12	14.79	20.24	11.01	15.93	22.99	23.11	18.80	21.72	23.06	20.69	15.90	22.03
IV	3.86	5.16	5.23	7.15	11.44	9.42	8.78	15.03	23.03	11.54	12.01	12.72	10.83	7.71	7.84	14.91
V	6.28	7.36	3.63	8.89	5.37	5.19	6.37	10.93	13.74	6.60	9.32	8.12	20.10	5.27	10.32	11.15
Statewide	7.50	6.33	7.31	8.72	10.77	13.29	10.02	13.07	22.42	17.31	16.05	17.53	18.88	12.01	12.39	16.39

Table 3. Continued.

Physiographic																
Region	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
I	38.68	66.3	32.3	20.8	42.9	30.3	33.6	48.8	47.3	40.27	34.65	28.96	52.27	30.73	21.94	36.18
II	20.11	22.06	16.2	13.7	21.5	19.9	37.0	32.2	23.2	13.63	23.10	14.28	20.92	18.43	18.60	16.65
III	25.22	48.99	26.9	26.6	29.5	18.2	22.5	24.4	28.8	14.94	19.11	12.66	15.14	13.00	11.66	11.33
IV	19.17	21.0	16.5	14.1	22.6	21.2	17.4	18.9	21.7	8.55	16.18	12.10	14.62	5.30	19.61	6.97
V	8.00	14.83	4.5	9.1	6.2	11.0	8.1	9.6	13.9	10.86	13.42	10.36	9.29	3.13	14.27	2.28
Statewide	20.63	31.78	18.9	16.2	22.1	17.7	18.2	21.3	24.1	13.11	18.28	12.89	15.88	10.00	16.04	9.01

Table 3. Continued.

Physiographic			
Region	2010	2011	5-Y AVG
I	23.52	42.29	32.93
II	20.61	29.27	19.04
III	16.67	22.82	13.56
IV	12.37	9.91	11.77
V	17.62	7.41	9.32
Statewide	16.40	16.40	13.47

Table 4. Turkey hens observed with poults, without poults, and uncertain of accompanying poults statewide in Georgia, 1978-2011

Year	Hens Reported			Total
	With Poults	Without Poults	Uncertain of Poults	
1978	145	70	26	241
1979	176	131	39	346
1980	166	133	15	314
1981	276	116	66	458
1982	327	136	24	487
1983	361	211	72	644
1984	261	232	59	552
1985	475	251	81	807
1986	648	283	84	1,015
1987	519	230	52	801
1988	529	305	59	893
1989	459	261	48	768
1990	642	371	49	1,062
1991	321	399	59	779
1992	407	490	59	956
1993	374	292	41	707
1994	463	361	66	890
1995	606	301	83	990
1996	298	384	74	756
1997	560	618	271	1,449
1998	820	661	236	1,717
1999	560	753	344	1,657
2000	734	577	251	1,562
2001	634	589	337	1,560
2002	695	644	220	1,559
2003	795	1,113	296	2,204
2004	930	586	347	1,863
2005	611	772	257	1,640
2006	932	864	412	2,208
2007	645	928	316	1,889
2008	809	617	178	1,604
2009	607	891	268	1,766
2010	752	680	204	1,636
2011	712	586	288	1,586
5-Y AVG	749	796	276	1,821

Table 5. Percent of turkey hens accompanied by poults (2nd potential population index) and the average number of poults per hen statewide in Georgia, 1978-2011

Year	Percent Hens With Poults	Poults Per Hen
1978	60	4.4
1979	51	4.5
1980	53	4.7
1981	60	4.4
1982	67	4.1
1983	56	4.1
1984	47	3.6
1985	59	3.6
1986	64	4.4
1987	65	4.2
1988	59	3.1
1989	60	3.8
1990	60	3.3
1991	41	2.6
1992	43	2.1
1993	56	3.8
1994	56	3.6
1995	61	4.3
1996	39	2.7
1997	39	1.8
1998	48	2.4
1999	34	1.9
2000	47	1.8
2001	41	2.2
2002	45	2.5
2003	36	1.2
2004	50	2.0
2005	37	1.5
2006	42	1.6
2007	34	1.1
2008	50	2.3
2009	34	1.1
2010	46	1.9
2011	45	1.8
5-Y AVG	41	1.6

Table 6. Estimated Total Poults + hens population indices (Production Index) in Georgia, 1978-2011

Population Index	Nesting Season	Statewide Est. Poults+Hens
	1978	1,299
	1979	1,911
	1980	1,793
	1981	2,464
	1982	2,489
	1983	3,266
	1984	2,544
	1985	3,140
	1986	5,057
	1987	4,167
	1988	3,634
	1989	3,666
	1990	4,550
	1991	2,758
	1992	2,983
	1993	3,383
	1994	4,099
	1995	5,199
	1996	2,789
	1997	4,062
	1998	5,902
	1999	4,827
	2000	4,371
	2001	4,577
	2002	5,453
	2003	4,823
	2004	5,596
	2005	4,109
	2006	5,787
	2007	4,005
	2008	5,239
	2009	3,709
	2010	4,800
	2011	4,428
	5-Y AVG	4,708

Table 7. Gobblers observed during Reproductive season in Georgia, 2006-2011.

Hunt Season	Physiographic Region					Statewide
	I	II	III	IV	V	
2006	67	73	189	284	155	768
2007	100	129	176	216	79	700
2008	65	106	183	203	42	599
2009	111	103	315	284	139	952
2010	73	65	193	246	76	653
2011	160	100	344	225	173	1,002
5-Y AVG	83	95	211	247	98	734

Table 8. Hen:Gobbler ratio observed during Reproductive season in Georgia, 2006-2011.

Hunt Season	Physiographic Region					Statewide
	I	II	III	IV	V	
2006	4.2	3.9	3.4	2.4	2.1	2.9
2007	2.8	3.3	2.6	2.0	3.8	2.7
2008	2.2	2.7	2.2	2.4	6.8	2.7
2009	1.9	2.4	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.9
2010	2.0	2.8	2.2	1.7	6.1	2.5
2011	1.2	2.0	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.6
5-Y AVG	2.6	3.0	2.4	2.1	4.1	2.5

Table 9. Summary of turkey hunter cooperator data in Georgia, 2012.

Item	Physiographic Region <sup>1</sup>					Statewide
	I	II	III	IV	V	
Total Hunters	61	27	266	181	63	479**
Total Hours	1,263.5	696.25	7,863.1	4,830.25	1,274.75	15,927.85
Total Trips	413	187	2,095	1,521	423	4,639
Avg. Hours	20.7	25.8	29.6	26.7	20.2	33.3
Avg. Trips	6.8	6.9	7.9	8.4	6.7	9.7
Avg. Hrs./Trip	3.1	3.7	3.8	3.2	3.0	3.4
Total Turkeys Seen	902	447	3,848	2,845	1,214	9,256
Hrs./Turkeys Seen	1.4	1.6	2.0	1.7	1.0	1.7
Total Gobblers Heard	818	184	3,518	2,811	951	8,282
Hrs./Gobbler Heard	1.5	3.8	2.2	1.7	1.3	1.9
Total Harvest*	55	22	234	194	77	582
Companion Harvested	19	4	79	115	49	266
Hours/Harvest	17.1	26.8	25.1	15.6	10.1	18.8

<sup>1</sup>Roman numerals correspond to physiographic regions as follows:

- I - Ridge and Valley
- II - Blue Ridge Mountains
- III - Piedmont
- IV - Upper Coastal Plain
- V - Lower Coastal Plain

\*includes both gobblers taken and assisted in taking

\*\* less than Regions summed because some hunters hunted in more than one Region

Table 10. Turkey hunting population indices in Georgia, 1979-2012.

Population Index	Hunt Season	Physiographic Region					Statewide
		I	II	III	IV	V	
Hours/Turkey Seen	1979	20.5	3.5	2.9	3.1	2.8	3.0
	1980	1.6	6.0	2.9	2.6	2.4	3.1
	1981	1.5	4.7	2.2	3.2	2.8	2.5
	1982	2.2	5.0	2.8	3.3	1.8	2.9
	1983	2.5	3.1	2.2	2.0	1.9	2.3
	1984	2.2	4.1	2.4	1.6	1.5	2.3
	1985	2.3	3.4	2.6	2.5	3.5	2.6
	1986	3.2	4.6	2.3	2.0	3.4	2.5
	1987	4.1	2.9	2.6	1.7	2.1	2.4
	1988	1.0	2.9	1.9	1.6	2.1	1.8
	1989	1.7	2.3	2.3	1.6	1.2	1.9
	1990	1.8	2.8	2.0	1.9	1.7	2.0
	1991	1.6	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.8	1.9
	1992	1.4	2.7	2.4	1.7	2.3	2.1
	1993	2.0	4.0	2.5	1.6	1.6	2.1
	1994	2.4	2.2	2.1	1.6	1.4	1.9
	1995	1.7	2.2	2.4	1.8	2.0	2.1
	1996	1.2	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5
	1997	1.0	2.1	1.8	1.5	1.3	1.6
	1998	1.0	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.4	1.7
	1999	0.9	2.7	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.4
	2000	1.4	2.3	2.0	1.5	1.5	1.7
	2001	4.2	3.4	1.3	1.7	1.4	1.7
	2002	3.9	3.7	1.2	2.2	1.9	2.6
	2003	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.5
	2004	1.1	2.2	1.7	1.2	1.3	1.4
	2005	1.1	2.7	2.2	1.4	1.2	1.6
	2006	1.2	2.0	2.3	1.6	1.2	1.8
	2007	1.2	1.6	2.0	1.5	1.0	1.6
	2008	1.2	2.2	2.2	1.9	1.6	1.9
	2009	1.0	2.7	1.8	1.3	1.0	1.5
	2010	1.4	1.6	2.1	1.4	1.4	1.7
	2011	1.2	2.3	2.2	1.5	1.2	1.7
	2012	1.4	1.6	2.0	1.7	1.0	1.7
5-Y AVG		1.2	2.1	2.1	1.5	1.2	1.7



Table 10. Continued.

Population Index	Hunt Season	Physiographic Region					Statewide
		I	II	III	IV	V	
Hours/Gobbler Heard	1979	50.7	7.3	3.3	2.1	1.8	3.2
	1980	2.9	4.7	3.4	2.9	9.1	3.4
	1981	2.9	4.4	3.0	2.3	2.0	2.9
	1982	3.1	3.6	3.0	2.3	2.3	2.9
	1983	4.4	2.8	3.3	2.0	2.4	2.8
	1984	3.1	5.2	3.3	1.8	1.4	3.0
	1985	2.4	4.2	2.9	1.8	3.0	2.6
	1986	2.6	3.4	2.1	1.3	1.6	2.0
	1987	2.2	5.2	2.4	1.7	2.0	2.4
	1988	1.5	2.6	2.7	1.4	1.6	2.2
	1989	2.1	2.1	2.1	1.5	2.1	1.9
	1990	2.3	4.2	2.5	1.7	1.7	2.2
	1991	2.7	5.5	2.7	2.0	2.9	2.7
	1992	2.4	4.2	2.9	1.8	1.6	2.6
	1993	3.2	6.3	3.6	2.1	2.7	3.1
	1994	3.4	6.1	3.5	1.9	2.2	2.9
	1995	2.0	3.3	2.5	1.9	2.1	2.3
	1996	3.3	3.5	2.7	2.0	2.1	2.5
	1997	2.3	5.6	2.2	1.6	2.2	2.2
	1998	2.5	4.1	2.7	1.9	2.1	2.4
	1999	2.7	3.7	2.8	1.7	2.0	2.4
	2000	2.1	3.8	2.2	1.8	1.8	2.1
	2001	4.8	5.4	1.8	2.4	2.7	2.4
	2002	4.2	4.9	1.6	2.8	2.6	3.2
	2003	1.9	2.0	1.8	2.1	1.8	1.9
	2004	2.0	4.2	2.4	1.6	1.7	2.0
	2005	2.5	4.3	2.9	1.8	1.9	2.4
	2006	2.2	3.2	2.7	1.9	1.7	2.3
	2007	2.3	4.3	2.4	1.7	1.6	2.1
	2008	2.9	5.4	2.4	1.7	1.2	2.0
	2009	2.5	4.1	2.8	2.1	2.4	2.5
	2010	2.0	4.3	2.1	1.6	1.1	1.8
	2011	2.2	5.0	2.4	1.9	1.7	2.2
	2012	1.5	3.8	2.2	1.7	1.3	1.9
	5-Y AVG	2.4	4.6	2.4	1.8	1.6	2.1

Table 10. Continued.

Population Index	Hunt Season	Physiographic Region					Statewide
		I	II	III	IV	V	
Hours/Gobbler Harvested	1979	96.5	79.8	35.1	27.5	23.3	35.7
	1980	13.2	35.7	39.6	35.8	19.1	35.9
	1981	10.7	29.5	31.0	29.9	23.0	30.7
	1982	25.5	90.3	29.7	30.0	19.0	31.3
	1983	30.9	29.7	27.8	28.3	22.6	27.4
	1984	31.1	45.8	35.3	31.4	12.8	34.0
	1985	22.2	48.2	38.7	24.0	32.4	33.6
	1986	23.0	42.1	28.6	21.9	16.0	26.7
	1987	35.4	68.3	30.4	25.8	32.1	32.1
	1988	17.6	25.3	35.9	18.9	18.7	28.0
	1989	22.6	41.4	29.8	17.0	21.1	24.8
	1990	29.8	55.2	29.3	26.4	16.3	28.3
	1991	42.7	48.4	36.9	24.7	23.2	33.9
	1992	44.9	49.4	45.3	20.9	22.0	36.7
	1993	32.2	46.5	46.0	19.8	38.7	34.9
	1994	36.2	42.0	36.9	20.9	18.7	30.1
	1995	25.4	29.9	25.3	18.6	18.7	22.7
	1996	28.9	34.1	29.3	25.9	26.0	26.8
	1997	28.7	38.8	31.9	19.6	20.7	27.7
	1998	29.2	35.8	29.2	23.3	19.0	26.3
	1999	28.0	50.6	33.6	19.1	24.2	27.8
	2000	27.8	34.0	28.5	22.9	23.0	26.4
	2001	60.6	48.3	22.6	25.7	23.2	27.9
	2002	59.7	43.6	21.1	27.6	19.2	34.2
	2003	21.6	22.8	26.7	26.4	25.4	25.7
	2004	21.5	44.6	27.4	18.5	21.2	23.4
	2005	26.3	42.3	31.0	18.0	18.1	24.4
	2006	20.8	40.2	31.0	21.6	16.9	25.1
	2007	27.0	33.4	29.9	17.8	14.5	23.1
	2008	19.6	38.7	29.9	18.6	13.2	22.4
	2009	19.4	45.7	32.6	26.3	25.0	28.7
	2010	23.1	37.1	26.4	18.2	12.3	21.2
	2011	21.3	36.6	28.9	20.4	19.7	24.3
	2012	17.1	26.8	25.1	15.6	10.1	18.8
	5-Y AVG	22.1	38.3	29.5	20.3	16.9	23.9

Table 11. Number of gobblers heard per hunting trip in Georgia, 2012.

Weekend	Date	Physiographic Region					Statewide
	Weekday	I	II	III	IV	V	
3/24-25		2.3	0.7	2.3	2.6	3.1	2.5
	3/26-30	1.8	1.1	2.2	2.1	2.5	2.1
3/31-4/1		1.8	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.5	1.9
	4/2-6	1.5	1.2	1.5	1.6	2.2	1.6
4/7-8		1.8	0.8	2.1	2.3	2.6	2.2
	4/9-13	2.3	1.2	1.6	2.1	1.8	1.8
4/14-15		1.9	0.7	1.6	2.3	1.9	1.9
	4/16-20	1.7	1.5	1.1	1.2	2.4	1.4
4/21-22		1.8	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.4
	4/23-27	0.9	0.4	1.2	1.4	1.8	1.2
4/28-29		2.3	1.0	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.6
	4/30-5/4	1.6	0.7	1.3	1.0	1.2	1.2
5/5-6		1.2	0.3	1.6	1.4	1.8	1.5
	5/7-11	1.9	1.0	0.6	1.1	1.5	1.0
5/12-13		1.9	0.4	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.3
	5/14-15	0.9	0.0	0.8	1.1	0.8	0.9
Season		2.0	1.0	1.7	1.8	2.2	1.8

Table 12. Chronological summary of gobbler harvest in Georgia, 2012.

Weekend	Date	Gobblers Harvested	% of Season Harvest*	
	Weekday		Date	Cumulative
3/24-25		185	22	22
	3/26-30	151	18	40
3/31-4/1		64	8	48
	4/2-4/6	79	9	57
4/7-4/8		43	5	62
	4/9-13	62	7	69
4/14-15		44	5	74
	4/16-20	42	5	79
4/21-22		35	4	83
	4/23-27	36	4	87
4/28-29		23	3	90
	4/30-5/4	34	4	94
5/5-6		12	1	95
	5/7-11	13	2	97
5/12-13		11	1	98
	5/14-15	14	2	100
Total		848	100	100

\*under 100% because of rounding

Table 13. Chronological distribution of gobbler harvest by physiographic region in Georgia, 2012.

Dates		Physiographic Region					Statewide
Weekend	Weekday	I	II	III	IV	V	
3/24-25		17	2	63	73	30	185
	3/26-30	16	6	58	50	21	151
3/31-4/1		4	3	20	19	18	64
	4/2-6	6	2	39	21	11	79
4/7-8		3	1	14	18	7	43
	4/9-13	5	1	21	25	10	62
4/14-15		3	1	14	19	7	44
	4/16-20	6	0	15	16	5	42
4/21-22		3	1	17	14	0	35
	4/23-27	4	3	8	17	4	36
4/28-29		1	2	7	10	3	23
	4/30-5/4	1	4	13	12	4	34
5/5-6		0	0	9	2	1	12
	5/7-11	4	0	3	4	2	13
5/12-13		0	0	7	2	2	11
	5/14-15	1	0	5	7	1	14
Season		74	26	313	309	126	848

Table 14. Chronological distribution of gobbler harvest (%) by physiographic region in Georgia, 2012.

Date		Physiographic Region					Statewide
Weekend	Weekday	I	II	III	IV	V	
3/24-25		23	8	20	24	24	22
	3/26-30	22	23	19	16	17	18
3/31-4/1		5	12	6	6	14	8
	4/2-6	8	8	12	7	9	9
4/7-8		4	4	4	6	6	5
	4/9-13	7	4	7	8	8	7
4/14-15		4	4	4	6	6	5
	4/16-20	8	0	5	5	4	5
4/21-22		4	4	5	5	0	4
	4/23-27	5	12	3	6	3	4
4/28-29		1	8	2	6	2	3
	4/30-5/4	1	15	4	4	3	4
5/5-6		0	0	3	1	1	1
	5/7-11	5	0	1	1	2	2
5/12-13		0	0	2	1	2	1
	5/14-15	1	0	2	2	1	2

Table 15. Chronological distribution of turkey hunting trips by physiographic region in Georgia, 2012.

Dates		Physiographic Region					Statewide
Weekend	Weekday	I	II	III	IV	V	
3/24-25		64	15	258	180	64	581
	3/26-30	49	29	319	232	54	683
3/31-4/1		36	14	157	120	41	368
	4/2-6	37	29	249	171	47	533
4/7-8		28	10	127	102	36	303
	4/9-13	35	13	165	125	32	370
4/14-15		18	7	147	91	28	291
	4/16-20	26	13	107	89	24	259
4/21-22		15	6	81	55	17	174
	4/23-27	20	16	89	88	20	233
4/28-29		16	5	83	53	13	170
	4/30-5/4	22	12	92	72	12	210
5/5-6		13	4	74	44	14	149
	5/7-11	20	7	75	44	10	156
5/12-13		7	5	43	29	7	91
	5/14-15	7	2	29	26	4	68
Season		413	187	2,095	1,521	423	4,639

Table 16. Chronological distribution of turkey hunting trips (%) by physiographic region in Georgia, 2012.

Dates		Physiographic Region					Statewide
Weekend	Weekday	I	II	III	IV	V	
3/24-25		16	8	12	12	15	13
	3/26-30	12	16	15	15	13	15
3/31-4/1		9	8	7	8	10	8
	4/2-6	9	16	12	11	11	11
4/7-8		7	5	6	7	9	7
	4/9-13	9	7	8	8	8	8
4/14-15		4	4	7	6	7	6
	4/16-20	6	7	5	6	6	6
4/21-22		4	3	4	4	4	4
	4/23-27	5	9	4	6	5	5
4/28-29		4	3	4	3	3	4
	4/30-5/4	5	6	4	5	3	5
5/5-6		3	2	4	3	3	3
	5/7-11	5	4	4	3	2	3
5/12-13		2	3	2	2	2	2
	5/14-15	2	1	1	2	1	1

Table 17. Turkey hunter success, 1979-2012.

Harvest Season	Statewide Hunter Success
1979	56
1980	63
1981	57
1982	61
1983	66
1984	65
1985	64
1986	73
1987	
1988	
1989	
1990	
1991	
1992	63
1993	
1994	
1995	70
1996	70
1997	70
1998	70
1999	67
2000	65.9
2001	46.6
2002	74.2
2003	68.0
2004	69.3
2005	65.4
2006	69.1
2007	67.9
2008	66.8
2009	64.3
2010	67.3
2011	67.4
2012	68.5
5-Y AVG	66.7

Table 18. Turkey hunter success (%) by number harvested and/or assisted statewide in Georgia, 1995-2012

Year	0	1	2	3+
1995	29.3	25.0	23.2	22.5
1996	30.2	26.0	20.7	23.1
1997	30.1	27.1	19.5	23.3
1998	30.4	29.4	21.1	19.1
1999	32.8	27.1	19.4	19.8
2000	34.1	23.8	30.0	10.3
2001	53.4	19.6	15.0	12.0
2002	25.8	53.8	15.7	11.8
2003	32.0	40.2	16.3	11.4
2004	30.7	25.7	18.9	24.8
2005	34.6	26.9	17.3	21.2
2006	30.9	28.2	19.1	21.8
2007	32.1	24.6	18.6	24.6
2008	33.2	26.0	17.1	23.7
2009	35.2	28.8	17.1	18.4
2010	32.7	20.4	19.9	27.0
2011	32.6	26.9	17.5	23.0
2012	31.5	21.5	18.4	28.6
5-Y AVG	33.2	25.3	18.0	23.3