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Grant Number: 08-953
Study Number: 6

LONG RANGE PERFORMANCE REPORT

Grant Title: State Funded Wildlife Survey

Period Covered: July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

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

Recent analysis of long-term production data indicated that a new production index, 'Poults+Hens' instead of 'Poults/Observer' was the better predictor for Hours Hunted/Turkey Seen. Thirty-one percent more Poults+Hens were observed in 2008 (5,239) versus 2007 (4,005) corresponding with the harvest season population index (Hours Hunted/Turkey Seen), which was 21% greater in 2008 (1.5) than 2007 (1.9). With the new analysis 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 decreased to 64.3% in 2009 from 66.8% in 2008. The average number of poults per hen was 2.3 (best since 2002), which was up 102% from 2007 (which was the lowest recorded since the inception of the survey in 1978).

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. 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. Kill 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, September 30, 2008.

Job B. Planned dates and dates of accomplishment coincide, August 31, 2009.

C. Significant Deviations:

Job A. None

Job B. In 2009, we changed from a mailed packet including: letter, harvest card, and survey newsletter, to a perforated bi-folded harvest card. The front of the card included the cooperator's address and the back included the harvest card. When the bi-fold was opened, the inside left had brief instructions on completing and returning the card and the location of the previous years results on the DNR website. On the inside right was the DNR address already pre-posted for return. The change was made to try and reduce costs due to budget reductions. We wanted to make the change in a year where we had adequate funds to conduct additional mailings if issues developed. Unfortunately, the perforated bi-fold was too fragile to handle the mailing process.

Over 700 cards were mailed a second time due to returns and cooperators reporting that they only received half of the bi-fold. We changed to a folded, but not perforated, card and had no returns due to the mailing process. Therefore, we believe that the new non-perforated bi-folded card will save time, money, and be logistically capable to provide the information we seek annually.

Over the past 10 years (1999-2008) the average return of usable cards was 437. This year (2009) we had 445 usable cards returned (237 were from the original perforated card mailings). Initially, the new survey format reduced costs, however with additionally mailings for lost or destroyed survey cards through the mailing process not much was saved this year. We have fixed the error in the survey card and believe it will reduce costs annually.

D. Finds:

Job A. In 2008, 333 broods were observed (Table 1). This total is substantially less than in 2006 (426 broods were observed), but is still better than three years ago (2005) of 248 and close to what was observed both last year (336) and 2004 of 354. The average brood size for 2008 was 10.9 poult 73% more than the 2007 average of 6.3. Thirty-one percent more Poults+Hens were observed in 2008 (5,239) versus 2007 (4,005; Table 6).

Examination of poults/observer revealed that statewide it too was greater by 60% for 2008 (16) compared to 2007 (10; Table 3). Poults/observer was up in all physiographic regions from 2007 except for Ridge and Valley (decreased by 29%) and Piedmont (decreased by 10%). The index for Upper and Lower Coastal Plain (UCP [IV] and LCP [V]) increased greater than 270% from 2007. Blue Ridge barely changed, with a 1% increase over 2007.

The number of hens reported totaled 1,604 (Table 4). The percent of hens with poults (50%) was 16% more than the 2007 total (Table 5). The average number of poults per hen, 2.3, increased by 102% from 2007 and therefore production was considered fair-good for 2008 and the highest since 2002 (2.5). 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 ≥ 2.0 poults per hen may be an indicator of good reproductive levels.

Job B. Usable hunt data was supplied by 445 cooperators. Of these 399 came from the permanent cooperator list and 46 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 5.4% from the permanent and NWTF list cooperators, respectively. These cooperators reported spending a total of 17,067.2 hours hunting (Table 7). The average season hunter effort was 10.9 trips totaling 38.4 hours. They reported observing 11,713 turkeys and hearing 6,720 gobblers. The statewide population index of 1.5 was 21% better than last year (1.9 hrs hunted/turkey seen [the lower the number

the greater the population]; Table 8). The effort per gobbler heard of 2.5 was worse than the 2008 season (2.0; Table 8). 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 Upper and Lower Coastal Plain and greatest in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Statewide peak gobbling activity, 2.1 gobblers heard per trip, occurred during the first weekend (March 21-22). The next highest periods recorded 1.6 gobblers heard per trip (March 23-27, April 4-5, and April 18-19). All other periods averaged between 0.8 and 1.4 gobblers per trip. For most of the state the greatest amount of gobbling activity was the first 7 days (Mar 21 – March 27; Table 9). Other peaks in gobbling occurred during the second weekend (March 28-29) for the Ridge and Valley, the first and last weekends in April (4-5, 25-26) for the Blue Ridge Mountains, the first and third weekends in April (4-5, 18-19) for the Piedmont, March 30th – April 5th for the Upper Coastal Plain, and the third weekend in April (18-19) for the Lower Coastal Plain.

The statewide gobbler harvest during the first seven days of the season amounted to 28% of the total season harvest, which was lower than both 2008 (35%) and 2007 (36%; Table 10). Peak harvest was generally seen within the first seven days of the season in all parts of the state (Tables 11 and 12).

Similar to previous seasons, the greatest number of trips were made during the first seven days of the season (Tables 13 and 14). Only minor variations in hunting effort measures have occurred over the years.

Hunter success decreased to 64.3 % (the second lowest success rate reported since 1995 [2001 = 46.6%]; Table 15) with 286 of 445 hunters reported taking or assisting in taking at least one gobbler (was 66.8% in 2007). Of the successful hunters, 128 (28.8 %) took or assisted in taking one bird, 76 (17.1 %) took or assisted in taking two birds, and 82 (18.4 %; the lowest reported since before 2004; Table 16) took or assisted in taking three birds. Cooperators reported 147 gobblers killed by companions.

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 (1978-2009) is:

Constant + (Slope *2008 Total Poults+Hens) = 2009 Hours Hunted/Turkey Seen

Therefore:

$$3.3325 + (-0.00034*5,239) = 1.5 \text{ Hours Hunted/Turkey Seen in 2009.}$$

The predicted value of 1.5 equaled what was observed in 2009. 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, 2008 overall reproduction was the best in the last 6 years. Based on the 2009 Turkey Hunter Population Index Survey this season was a mixture of good and bad. Hours hunted per Turkey Seen was the best since 2003, which is what you would expect after the best reproductive season in 6 years. Statewide Hours Hunted per Gobbler Heard was the worst since 2002. Hours Hunted per Gobbler Harvested was the second worst since 1996 statewide. Overall, hunter success was the worst since 2001.

More turkeys seen during the hunting season further corroborated that our 2008 reproduction estimate was higher than seen in years. Data from the survey and additional hunter comments revealed that it took considerably longer to hear and harvest an adult gobbler indicating that there were likely fewer adult gobblers available. This shortfall in older, gobbling birds is a further indicator of the poor reproduction we have had for several years preceding summer 2008. As a result of the 2008 reproduction, next season may have a large number of 2-year old gobblers (and hens) with few other older age classes represented. Weather extremes, changes in land management and human population growth rates (several GA counties rank in the top 20 fastest growing nationwide) have negatively impacted and likely will continue to negatively impact turkey populations. We are losing turkey habitat and continuing to suffer wide-scale declines in quality 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.

Also, for consideration is that the DNR sets the framework for harvest to allow the flexibility to the hunter to manage their turkey population as they see fit. In other words, if the hunter observes or believes that their turkey population (i.e., adult gobblers) is down then they should consider being conservative on their harvest of turkeys on the property they hunt.

Table 1. Turkey broods and poults observed statewide in Georgia, 1978-2008.

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

Table 2. Turkey brood observations by physiographic region and month in Georgia, 2008.

Month	Region ¹					Total
	I	II	III	IV	V	
June	2	13	21	20	16	72
July	24	18	22	47	14	125
August	22	10	24	55	15	136
Totals	48	41	77	122	45	333

¹Roman 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 (production index) in Georgia, 1978-2008

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	
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	
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	
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	
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	
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	
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	

Table 4. Turkey hens observed with poults, without poults, and uncertain of accompanying poults statewide in Georgia, 1978-2008

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

Table 5. Percent of turkey hens accompanied by poults (2nd potential population index) and the average number of poults per hen statewide in Georgia, 1978-2008

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

Table 6. Estimated Total Poults + hens population indices in Georgia, 1978-2008

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

Table 7. Summary of turkey hunter cooperator data in Georgia, 2009.

Item	Physiographic Region ¹					Statewide
	I	II	III	IV	V	
Total Hunters	53	31	248	157	71	445**
Total Hours	1,262	913	8,160.25	4,730.15	2,001.8	17,067.2
Total Trips	384	240	2,196	1,419	603	4,842
Avg. Hours	23.8	29.5	32.9	30.1	28.2	38.4
Avg. Trips	7.2	7.7	8.9	9.0	8.5	10.9
Avg. Hrs./Trip	3.3	3.8	3.7	3.3	3.3	3.5
Total Turkeys Seen	1,291	342	4,468	3,578	2,030	11,713
Hrs./Turkeys Seen	1.0	2.7	1.8	1.3	1.0	1.5
Total Gobblers Heard	511	223	2,917	2,247	822	6,720
Hrs./Gobbler Heard	2.5	4.1	2.8	2.1	2.4	2.5
Total Kill*	65	20	250	180	80	595
Companion Killed	18	6	47	64	12	147
Hours/Kill	19.4	45.7	32.6	26.3	25.0	28.7

¹Roman 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 8. Turkey hunting population indices in Georgia, 1979-2009.

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	

Table 8. 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	

Table 8. Continued.

Population Index	Hunt Season	Physiographic Region					Statewide
		I	II	III	IV	V	
Hours/Gobbler Killed	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	

Table 9. Number of gobblers heard per hunting trip in Georgia, 2009.

Date		Physiographic Region					Statewide
Weekend	Weekday	I	II	III	IV	V	
3/21-3/22		1.9	0.8	1.9	2.7	2.2	2.1
	3/23-3/27	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.9	1.5	1.6
3/28-3/29		1.8	0.4	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.3
	3/30-4/03	1.0	0.6	1.1	1.8	1.2	1.3
4/04-4/05		1.6	1.4	1.5	1.9	1.5	1.6
	4/06-4/10	1.5	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.2
4/11-4/12		1.0	1.1	1.4	1.5	1.0	1.3
	4/13-4/17	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.1	1.1
4/18-4/19		1.4	0.8	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.6
	4/20-4/24	1.0	0.9	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3
4/25-4/26		1.3	1.8	1.3	1.5	1.0	1.4
	4/27-5/01	1.0	0.8	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.2
5/02-5/03		0.8	1.1	1.0	1.5	0.9	1.1
	5/04-5/08	1.6	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.9
5/09-5/10		1.4	1.0	0.9	1.1	0.9	1.0
	5/11-5/15	0.9	0.5	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.8
Season		1.3	0.9	1.3	1.6	1.4	1.4

Table 10. Chronological summary of gobbler harvest in Georgia, 2009.

Date		Gobblers	% of Season Kill*	
Weekend	Weekday	Killed	Date	Cumulative
3/21-3/22		113	19	19
	3/23-3/27	54	9	28
3/28-3/29		33	6	34
	3/30-4/03	33	6	40
4/04-4/05		47	8	48
	4/06-4/10	51	9	57
4/11-4/12		36	6	63
	4/13-4/17	37	6	69
4/18-4/19		31	5	74
	4/20-4/24	39	7	81
4/25-4/26		18	3	84
	4/27-5/01	21	4	88
5/02-5/03		16	3	91
	5/04-5/08	16	3	94
5/09-5/10		28	5	99
	5/11-5/15	22	4	103
Total		595	103	103

*over 100% because of rounding

Table 11. Chronological distribution of gobbler harvest by physiographic region in Georgia, 2009.

Dates		Physiographic Region					Statewide
Weekend	Weekday	I	II	III	IV	V	
3/21-3/22		17	6	43	32	15	113
	3/23-3/27	4	0	30	12	8	54
3/28-3/29		8	0	8	11	6	33
	3/30-4/03	3	1	16	9	4	33
4/04-4/05		6	0	18	21	2	47
	4/06-4/10	4	0	21	14	12	51
4/11-4/12		2	2	20	10	2	36
	4/13-4/17	3	1	17	12	4	37
4/18-4/19		2	0	15	9	5	31
	4/20-4/24	4	1	18	13	3	39
4/25-4/26		3	0	8	6	1	18
	4/27-5/01	2	4	11	3	1	21
5/02-5/03		1	0	4	5	6	16
	5/04-5/08	0	0	7	9	0	16
5/09-5/10		3	3	6	9	7	28
	5/11-5/15	3	2	8	5	4	22
Season		65	20	250	180	80	595

Table 12. Chronological distribution of gobbler harvest (%) by physiographic region in Georgia, 2009.

Date		Physiographic Region					Statewide
Weekend	Weekday	I	II	III	IV	V	
3/21-3/22		26	30	17	18	23	19
	3/23-3/27	6	0	12	7	10	9
3/28-3/29		12	0	3	6	8	6
	3/30-4/03	5	5	6	5	5	6
4/04-4/05		9	0	7	12	3	8
	4/06-4/10	6	0	8	8	15	9
4/11-4/12		3	10	8	6	3	6
	4/13-4/17	5	5	7	7	5	6
4/18-4/19		3	0	6	5	6	5
	4/20-4/24	6	5	7	7	4	7
4/25-4/26		5	0	3	3	1	3
	4/27-5/01	3	20	4	2	1	4
5/02-5/03		2	0	2	3	8	3
	5/04-5/08	0	0	3	5	0	3
5/09-5/10		5	15	2	5	9	5
	5/11-5/15	5	10	3	3	5	4

Table 13. Chronological distribution of turkey hunting trips by physiographic region in Georgia, 2009.

Dates		Physiographic Region					Statewide
Weekend	Weekday	I	II	III	IV	V	
3/21-3/22		38	17	258	151	80	555
	3/23-3/27	46	10	212	140	71	466
3/28-3/29		27	9	104	69	48	264
	3/30-4/03	45	17	169	105	45	380
4/04-4/05		38	15	169	110	35	367
	4/06-4/10	15	14	219	119	56	423
4/11-4/12		16	14	130	72	33	265
	4/13-4/17	23	16	138	100	41	318
4/18-4/19		16	8	135	82	33	274
	4/20-4/24	20	19	131	101	44	315
4/25-4/26		20	6	94	71	21	212
	4/27-5/01	22	30	126	68	23	269
5/02-5/03		9	11	71	49	23	163
	5/04-5/08	10	17	67	63	15	172
5/09-5/10		11	13	66	51	16	157
	5/11-5/15	24	24	107	68	19	242
Season		384	240	2,196	1,419	603	4,842

Table 14. Chronological distribution of turkey hunting trips (%) by physiographic region in Georgia, 2009.

Dates		Physiographic Region					Statewide
Weekend	Weekday	I	II	III	IV	V	
3/21-3/22		10	7	12	11	13	11
	3/23-3/27	12	4	10	10	12	10
3/28-3/29		7	4	5	5	8	5
	3/30-4/03	12	7	8	7	7	8
4/04-4/05		10	6	8	8	6	8
	4/06-4/10	4	6	10	8	9	9
4/11-4/12		4	6	6	5	5	5
	4/13-4/17	6	7	6	7	7	7
4/18-4/19		4	3	6	6	5	6
	4/20-4/24	5	8	6	7	7	7
4/25-4/26		5	3	4	5	3	4
	4/27-5/01	6	13	6	5	4	6
5/02-5/03		2	5	3	3	4	3
	5/04-5/08	3	7	3	4	2	4
5/09-5/10		3	5	3	4	3	3
	5/11-5/15	6	10	5	5	3	5

Table 15. Turkey hunter success, 1979-2009.

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	66
2001	47
2002	74
2003	68
2004	69
2005	65
2006	69
2007	68
2008	67
2009	64

Table 16. Turkey hunter success (%) by number harvested and/or assisted statewide in Georgia, 1995-2009

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