



PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

BUREAU OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

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Wild Turkey Leg Banding Program

Objective: Estimate spring gobbler harvest rates and annual survival rates by age and Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) from leg banded male turkeys to calculate turkey populations by WMU. This best available science will allow the PA Game Commission to more precisely set turkey season regulations.

How?:

- We trap, leg-band & **release at trap sites** male turkeys January—March.
- To help us identify potential trap sites, report winter flocks:
- <https://pgcdatacollection.pa.gov/TurkeyBroodSurvey>
- Turkey hunters or anyone who finds a banded turkey are asked to call or email PGC using the info on the band and report band number, date & general area it was found.
- The number of turkeys reported in each WMU is used to measure the percent of turkeys harvested during the spring season, annual survival rates and population size.

Annual Leg-banding Goal:

- 10-15 juvenile males per WMU,
- 10-15 adult males per WMU
- 460+ total each year.



Silver Aluminum Leg Bands:
One per male turkey, Pop-rivet closure.



NO TURKEYS ARE TRANSFERRED ELSEWHERE.



Turkeys are trapped using a net propelled by explosive charges. Personnel are properly trained to minimize risk of danger.

Photo: SGW T. Wenrich

For more information about the project visit:

<https://www.pgc.pa.gov/Wildlife/WildlifeSpecies/Turkey>

Want to help? Report leg bands found or from harvested birds using the information on the band. Thank You!