



Pennsylvania Game Commission
Wild Turkey Leg Banding Program
Each January—March



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

How?:

- We trap, leg-band & **release at trap sites** male turkeys January—March.
- 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 Trapping/leg-banding Goal:

- 10-15 juvenile males per WMU
- 10-15 adult males per WMU
- 460+ banded males statewide.



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

Bearded hens are NOT being banded – only males. Population Model uses female population from summer sightings.

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



Photo: SGW T. Wenrich

2020 turkey leg band results by WMU

WMU	Juv. Males	Ad. Males
1A	2	13
1B	10	12
2A	7	10
2B	19	1
2C	11	15
2D	12	7
2E	2	13
2F	8	3
2G	7	10
2H	3	3
3A	4	2
3B	9	5
3C	19	11
3D	2	2
4A	6	12
4B	2	2
4C	0	0
4D	11	5
4E	1	6
5A	10	0
5B	3	1
5C	4	4
5D	7	6
State Total	159	143

2020 Results, Pilot year:

- 302 turkeys leg-banded, 159 Juveniles, 143 Adults
- Turkeys banded in 22 of 23 WMUs
- 0 banded in 4C: limited personnel
- Weather, training, equipment, and starting in late January all hindered success
- Begin earlier during winter 2021 with experienced crews
- 41 Adult + 8 Juv. leg banded males harvested spring 2020.

*Want to help? Report **winter** flocks of male turkeys to your local PGC office!*