

# Wild Turkey Hen Study



PennState



The largest turkey study ever conducted by the Pennsylvania Game Commission has begun and will continue through 2025 to answer many questions regarding hen population dynamics.

The goals of this study cannot be accomplished without the help of the public!

## How do we conduct our field work?

Each January -March through 2025, 100 hens across the state are being outfitted with GPS transmitters – 25 each in Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) 2D, 3D, 4D and 5C. These four study areas have different landscapes, turkey population densities, and spring hunter and harvest densities. ALL turkeys are released AT the trap site.

Field crews track these hens throughout the year with radio telemetry equipment to monitor survival and nesting. Hens don't follow No Trespassing signs so field crews might need to access private property to keep track of these hens.

## How can you help?

Reporting sightings of turkey flocks are an invaluable source of information we gain from the public. Reporting periods: January-March & July-August, annually.

If that flock happens to be on your property and it is a good location to trap turkeys, we may bait the site and trap turkeys there, if permitted.

Often after trapping, a turkey will travel to areas not easily accessible. Allowing the field crew access to your property, whether via vehicle or on foot, is very useful. They can get to the short distance needed to download valuable location and movement data from the transmitter that is attached to the hen. These visits may be a few times a week or once, depending on the turkey. During nesting season crews must collect biological data from every nest site to determine factors that help nests successfully hatch.

If you have questions, please call our central dispatch toll-free **1-833-PGC-WILD**.

## From the PGC, thank you!



Photo: SGW T. Wenrich

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



Hen outfitted with GPS transmitter that will last approximately 2 years.



A collection of samples, including blood, are gathered from each hen selected for a transmitter.

Anyone who finds or harvests a banded turkey or hen with transmitter is asked to call or email the PGC using the info on the band to report the band number and general area it was found. For more information, visit our website at [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov)