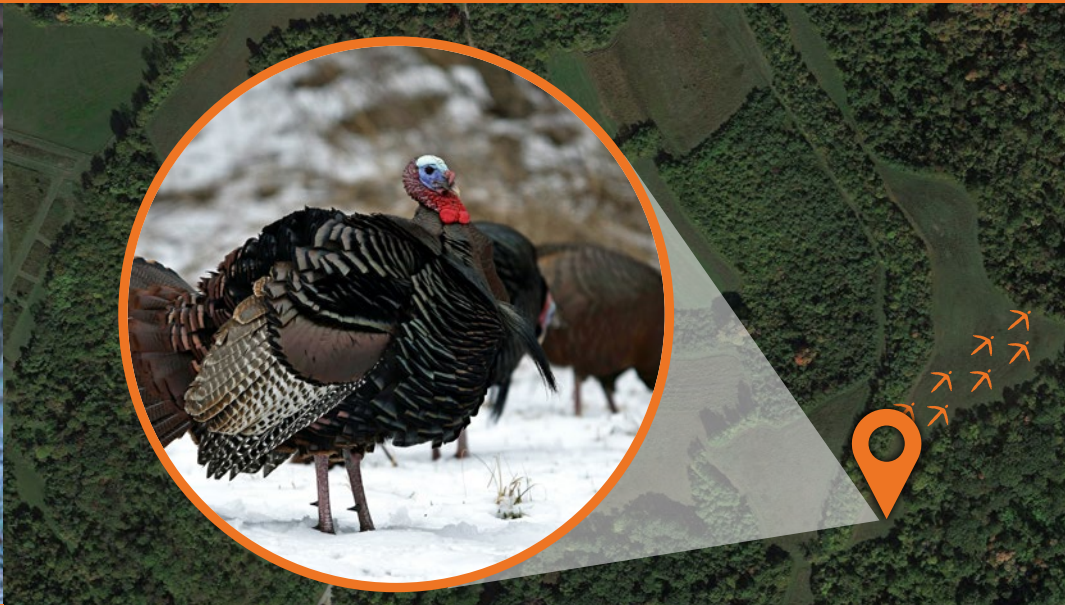




# P E N N S Y L V A N I A GAME COMMISSION

**YOUR STATE  
WILDLIFE AGENCY**

*Managing and protecting wildlife and their habitats while promoting hunting and trapping for current and future generations.*



## BECOME A STATE GAME WARDEN

Being a game warden is a job like no other. Join the team that has been protecting Pennsylvania's wildlife resources for more than 125 years.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission's Ross Leffler School of Conservation is actively recruiting candidates for its 37th class, to begin in 2025.

The application period opens Jan. 17, 2024. New eligibility requirements include a high school diploma or GED.

Contact [pgccareers@pa.gov](mailto:pgccareers@pa.gov) or follow the QR code to learn more.



## PENNSYLVANIA'S LARGEST TURKEY STUDY LOGS MILLIONS OF LOCATION RECORDS

**SUPPORT CONSERVATION BY REPORTING FLOCKS NEAR YOU**

The Pennsylvania Game Commission is entering its third year of the state's largest-ever wild turkey research project into reproduction and harvest data.

In collaboration with Ohio, and Maryland, and New Jersey, the regional study will provide a large sample size to evaluate the impact of weather patterns, disease, hen and nest predation, habitat, and movement on wild turkey populations.

Each year through 2025, hens across four Pennsylvania WMUs are trapped and released on site with radio transmitters to gather location data. Field crews track these birds throughout the year to monitor survival and nesting.

As a result, Pennsylvania has already collected over 1.5 million GPS locations and 30.5 million accelerometer records of 271 hens equipped with radio transmitters since January 2022.

The public can participate in this historic study by reporting turkey flock sightings between January and March at [pgcdatacollection.pa.gov/TurkeyBroodSurvey](https://pgcdatacollection.pa.gov/TurkeyBroodSurvey).

More information on the wild turkey study is available at [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov).

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Follow along with the Board of Game Commissioners meeting on Friday, Jan. 26, and Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024, at the Game Commission Headquarters, located at 2001 Elmerton Ave., in Harrisburg, by tuning in LIVE on YouTube.



# HISTORIC HARVEST DATA DASHBOARDS AVAILABLE ONLINE



The Pennsylvania Game Commission's all-new Historic Harvest Data Dashboard includes numbers for our state's four game species: deer, bear, turkey, and elk.

Each page has a very similar layout, presenting the data across Wildlife Management Units (WMUs), as well as statewide. You can view breakdowns by WMU, season, total square miles of area, and more!

Currently, the dashboard only presents historical data, and does not provide real-time updated harvests. For now, the application is best viewed from a desktop, (a mobile-friendly version is coming soon).

By reporting a harvest, hunters are doing their part to help manage wildlife populations for the future. The harvest data is used by Game Commission wildlife biologists to study populations and build better foundations for wildlife and habitat plans. Reported harvests also help the agency set future seasons and bag limits.

## WINTER OFFERS SMALL GAME OPPORTUNITIES

Squirrel, pheasant, rabbit, grouse, and bobwhite quail — winter offers a variety of small game hunting opportunities in Pennsylvania.

The statewide seasons for all these species run Dec. 11-23, 2023. Squirrel, pheasant, and rabbit open again on Dec. 26, 2023, through Feb. 29, 2024, and bobwhite quail from Dec. 26, 2023, through March 30, 2024.

\*Please note, a pheasant permit is required for most pheasant hunters. Pheasant stocking information, as well as an interactive map, is available online at [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov).

Small game hunters must wear a minimum of 250 square inches of fluorescent orange, on head, chest and back combined, visible 360 degrees, at all times. Visit [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov) or page 7 in the 2023-24 Hunting & Trapping Digest for small game seasons and bag limits. Good luck. Have fun. Hunt safely.



## TRAPPING FOR CONSERVATION

Regulated trapping not only serves as a valuable tool to manage and protect a variety of species — it also helps wildlife biologists collect important ecological data.

In Pennsylvania, licensed trappers have the opportunity to trap 15 species, including coyotes, foxes, raccoons, opossums, skunks, weasels, bobcats, fishers, minks, muskrats, beavers, and river otters. Each of these species is evaluated annually to ensure the population is healthy and can support harvest.

All traps must be visited by the owner every 36 hours and each animal removed or released. Visit [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov) or page 50 of the Hunting & Trapping Digest for more information on seasons and bag limits.





# PLEASE DON'T FEED WILDLIFE

While many people feed wildlife with the best intentions during the winter months, it can be harmful to wild birds and mammals.

Some risks of feeding wildlife include:

- Increased risk of disease spread
- Aggressive behavior
- Loss of natural fear of humans
- Harm to the habitat
- Substitutes a need for natural food

Still want to help wildlife this winter? The best way is to improve the habitat. Consider planting vegetation that provides both food and cover. Things like mast-producing trees for food, conifer trees for cover, and native plants for seed and nectar are all great options.

Contact your Pennsylvania Game Commission Regional Office for additional assistance creating, preserving, or enhancing wildlife habitat.

It's already illegal to feed bears and elk in Pennsylvania and deer in Disease Management Areas, but it's dangerous to feed wildlife anywhere. Learn more about the risks at [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov).



## LISTEN TO CALL OF THE OUTDOORS

The Pennsylvania Game Commission's podcast, Call of the Outdoors, recently relaunched with an updated look and added video component.

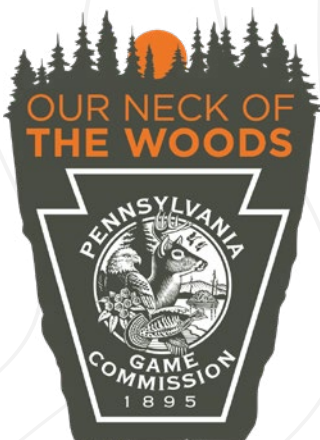
Tune in to episode 37 for a behind-the-scenes look at Pennsylvania Game News, which has been in print for nearly a century.

Editor Travis Lau and Senior Associate Editor Bob D'Angelo join host Matt Morrett to share details on the rich history of the magazine, the iconic artists who've contributed illustrations to its cover, and how the all-hunter staff chooses what will grace its pages each month.

Listen to learn what's ahead for Game News and how hunters could get their own stories printed in this uniquely Pennsylvania publication.

New episodes are available each month on [www.calloftheoutdoors.com](http://www.calloftheoutdoors.com), Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, iHeart, Spotify, and YouTube.

**CALL OF THE OUTDOORS**  
**EPISODE 37** BEHIND THE SCENES OF PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS  
**NOW AVAILABLE**



## EXPLORE "OUR NECK OF THE WOODS"

To help Pennsylvanians stay connected to conservation around the Commonwealth, the Game Commission recently launched its new blog, Our Neck of the Woods.

Blog posts will feature details on the latest wildlife and habitat projects, personal stories from the field, helpful how-to guides, wild game recipes, and more, all from staff around the agency.

Find Our Neck of the Woods under the Education tab at [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov).

# HELP PROTECT PENNSYLVANIA WILDLIFE

Wildlife crimes affect everyone. The Pennsylvania Game Commission's Operation Game Thief program serves to protect wild birds and wild mammals and encourages those who have information related to wildlife crimes to report details as soon as possible.

Report information to the Operation Game Thief's toll-free hotline – 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year – at 1-888-PGC-8001 or fill out an online form at <http://bit.ly/PGCOGT>. Callers may remain confidential. Learn more about the program online at <http://bit.ly/PGCOGT>.



## FOLLOW THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION



## ARE WE CONNECTED?

Follow the Pennsylvania Game Commission on social media to stay up to date on all things related to wildlife, hunting, trapping, and more!

In addition to the Game Commission's official page, each of our six regions: Northwest, Southwest, Northcentral, Southcentral, Northeast, Southeast, and Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area now have a dedicated Facebook page where you can get the latest news, stories and information at a local level (like prescribed burns, road and range closures, local habitat improvement projects and more)!

For more details on all the ways you can connect with the Game Commission, visit [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov).



## CONNECT WITH PA WILD WOMEN

The Pennsylvania Game Commission's Hunter Education and Outreach Division recently launched its latest R3 initiative: PA Wild Women.

This is a Facebook Group designed to connect women to the outdoors and is open to everyone, from experienced outdoorswomen to those who are just getting started in any outdoor recreation activity.

Through this group, women will be able to learn from, grow with, and encourage each other to participate in hunting, trapping, fishing, hiking, kayaking and much more.

Members of the PA Wild Women Facebook Group will also receive access to online workshops, weekly tips and tactics and notifications of in-person events.

While anyone can join the PA Wild Women Facebook Group, all content is created by women for women. To join PA Wild Women, visit [www.facebook.com/groups/pawildwomen](http://www.facebook.com/groups/pawildwomen).



## REPORT YOUR HARVEST

Hunters: Do your part and report your harvest! Report online at [www.huntfish.pa.gov](http://www.huntfish.pa.gov); by calling 1-800-838-4431; or by mail (Attn: Harvest Reports, PA Game Commission, 2001 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17110-9851).

## FOLLOW US ONLINE



# PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION: YOUR STATE WILDLIFE AGENCY

### HEADQUARTERS

2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797  
Phone: 717-787-4250

### REGION OFFICES

**NORTHWEST REGION** - 1509 Pittsburgh Road, Franklin, PA 16323  
Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren counties

**SOUTHWEST REGION** - 4820 Route 711, Bolivar, PA 15923

Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland counties

**NORTHCENTRAL REGION** - 1566 South Route 44 Highway, Post Office Box 5038, Jersey Shore, PA 17740-5038

Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Lycoming, McKean, Potter, Tioga, Union counties

**SOUTHCENTRAL REGION** - 8627 William Penn Highway, Huntingdon, PA 16652

Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry, Snyder, York counties

**NORTHEAST REGION** - 3917 Memorial Highway, Dallas, PA 18612-0220

Bradford, Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Montour, Northumberland, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming counties

**SOUTHEAST REGION** - 253 Snyder Road, Reading, PA 19605

Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Schuylkill counties

VISIT US ONLINE AT [WWW.PGC.PA.GOV](http://WWW.PGC.PA.GOV)

CALL US AT 1-833-PGC-HUNT OR 1-833-PGC-WILD.