



# 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.*



## **PENNSYLVANIA'S FIRST-EVER LATE SEASON BULL HUNT**

Pennsylvania's 2021-22 late elk season ran from Jan. 1-8 and included a NEW bull hunt. A total of 49 elk licenses, (10 antlered, 39 antlerless), were allocated for the season and 37 hunters successfully harvested an elk.

Visit [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov) for Pennsylvania's 2021-22 elk harvest data, including estimated harvest totals, locations, weights and more.

Dayne Abeling, Franklin County, harvested this beautiful bull elk in zone 8 on opening day and was guided by Rock Hill Outfitters. CONGRATULATIONS, Dayne, and to all of Pennsylvania's successful elk hunters for the 2021-22 late season. Thank you to everyone who applied for a Pennsylvania elk hunting license!

## **APPLY FOR AN ELK HUNT OF A LIFETIME**

Pennsylvania has three elk hunting seasons: archery, general and late. Elk hunting applications are available when new licenses go on sale, in mid-June, through July 31. Learn more at [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov).

## **LARGEST WILD TURKEY RESEARCH PROJECT IN STATE HISTORY**



## **RESEARCHING STATEWIDE WILD TURKEY POPULATION AND HARVEST RATE**

### **REPORT WILD TURKEY FLOCKS NEAR YOU**

The Pennsylvania Game Commission began the state's largest wild turkey research project in January and monitoring reproduction and harvests are the main focuses.

To participate in the first phase of the project of marking turkeys (with leg bands and transmitters), the public is asked to report flocks of turkeys through March 15, 2022 by visiting <https://pgcdatacollection.pa.gov/TurkeyBroodSurvey>.

Necessary reporting details include the date of the sighting, the location and the type of land (public, private or unknown). Here are some more details:

- Birds are being leg-banded for population and research purposes ONLY.
- GPS transmitters will be put on 100 hens in 4 WMUS (25 in each).
- All turkeys trapped will be released on site – they will NOT be moved.
- Location data are only used for research purposes (not law enforcement).

More information about the study is available online at [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov). Thank you in advance for those who participate in this historic study.



# WINTER IS TRAPPING SEASON IN PENN'S WOODS



Regulated trapping provides many benefits to wildlife in our state. In addition to being a valuable tool to manage and protect various species, regulated trapping also helps wildlife biologists collect important ecological data.

Properly licensed trappers in Pennsylvania may trap and harvest 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 48 of the Hunting & Trapping Digest for more information about seasons and bag limits. Pennsylvania Game Commissioner Kristen Schnepf Geiger is pictured here with a winter 2021 beaver harvest in the northwest region.

## BECOME A PENNSYLVANIA STATE GAME WARDEN



Being a game warden is a job unlike any other and the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Ross Leffler School of Conservation is actively recruiting candidates for its 35th class.

Join the team that has been protecting Pennsylvania's wildlife resources for 125 years. To begin your rewarding career where no two days on the job will ever be the same, visit [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov). (Positions listed as "Wildlife Conservation Officer." Application period ends Feb. 16, 2022.

### MUST HAVES:

- Passion for wildlife.
- Ability to perform law enforcement duties to protect wildlife.
- Ability to work independently.
- Flexibility in work hours, locations and conditions.
- Motivation.

Candidates must meet ONE of the following criteria: 60 college credits; four years of active-duty military service with honorable discharge; two years and a minimum of 400 service hours as a commissioned Deputy Game Warden for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; two years of service as a conservation law enforcement officer with a wildlife agency.



## PODCAST EPISODE 24: FIRST YEAR AS A STATE GAME WARDEN

Interested in applying, but wish you knew more about the process? Listen to Call of the Outdoors "Episode 24: First Year as a State Game Warden" for the inside scoop from new state game wardens Hannah Robinson and Travis O'Neill who recollect their first year as State Game Wardens.

Episodes are available on Call of the Outdoors podcast is available now! Episodes are available on [www.calloftheoutdoorspgc.com](http://www.calloftheoutdoorspgc.com), Apple Podcasts, Google Play Store, iHeartRadio, Spotify and Stitcher.





# NO FREE MEALS FOR WILDLIFE

## WANT TO HELP? FOCUS ON HABITAT OVER HANDOUTS.

As the coldest time of year is upon us, the dangers of feeding wildlife become even more relevant. While feeding wildlife is done with the best intentions, it is harmful to our wild birds and wild mammals.

Some specific 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.

If you want to help wildlife in your area, 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 good options. Contact the Pennsylvania Game Commission Regional Office that serves the county in which you reside for additional assistance creating, preserving or enhancing wildlife habitat.

As a reminder, it's already illegal to feed bear and elk in Pennsylvania and in Disease Management Areas. However, no free meals need to be given to wildlife anywhere. Learn more about the dangers of feeding wildlife online at [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov).



## BALD EAGLE WILDLIFE CAM

A bald eagle pair has been spotted fixing up the nest on the Game Commission's Hanover Eagle Cam.

In North America, bald eagles hold the title for largest nest, with some nests exceeding 8 feet in width, 12 feet in height and 2 tons in weight!

Visit [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov) to view live video from the nest. The livestream is in partnership with Comcast and is powered by HDOnTap.



## PROGRESS MADE ON RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE ACT

Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) is a bipartisan, modern funding solution to address increasing declines of the wildlife and their natural habitats here in Pennsylvania, and across the nation.

The bill, which would allocate \$1.3 billion annually for wildlife conservation across America, was recently approved by the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee by a vote of 29-15.

Here in Pennsylvania, we have identified 664 Species of Greatest Conservation Need, which includes both game and non-game species of wild birds, mammals and aquatic life.

## RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE ACT (HR 2773)

Providing Dedicated, Increased Funding for At-Risk Fish and Wildlife

PENNSYLVANIA CURRENTLY HAS

# 664

SPECIES OF GREATEST CONSERVATION NEED

## OUR NATURE. OUR NATION. OUR FUTURE.

Contact Your Congressional Representative and Ask Them to Support HR 2773



## 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.

To report information, call 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>.

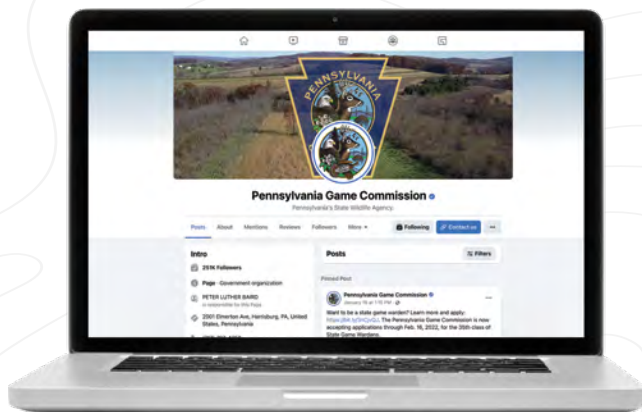
Calls to the Operation Game Thief hotline are always answered by a secure recording device. Although it is beneficial to provide contact information in case game wardens have follow-up questions, callers may remain confidential. Learn more about the program here: <http://bit.ly/PGCOGT>.



## TUNE IN TO CALL OF THE OUTDOORS


Call of the Outdoors is the Pennsylvania Game Commission's podcast, hosted by Marketing Bureau Director Matt Morrett. New episodes featuring guests from within the agency, as well as hunters, public figures and more, are published each month.


The episodes feature unique and relevant issues, explaining Pennsylvania hunting and wildlife-related subjects and provides listeners with better ways to explore, promote and understand our natural resources. Call of the Outdoors episodes are available on [www.callofthe-outdoorspgc.com](http://www.callofthe-outdoorspgc.com), Apple Podcasts, Google Play Store, iHeartRadio, Spotify and Stitcher.



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# PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION: YOUR STATE WILDLIFE AGENCY

### HEADQUARTERS

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### REGION OFFICES

**NORTHWEST REGION:** Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren counties  
1509 Pittsburgh Road, Franklin, PA 16323  
Phone: 814-432-3187

**SOUTHWEST REGION:** Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland counties  
4820 Route 711, Bolivar, PA 15923 | Phone: 724-238-9523

**NORTHCENTRAL REGION:** Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Lycoming, McKean, Potter, Tioga, Union counties  
1566 South Route 44 Highway, Post Office Box 5038, Jersey Shore, PA 17740-5038 | Phone: 570-398-4744

**SOUTHCENTRAL REGION:** Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry, Snyder, York counties  
8627 William Penn Highway, Huntingdon, PA 16652  
Phone: 814-643-1831

**NORTHEAST REGION:** Bradford, Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Montour, Northumberland, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming counties  
3917 Memorial Highway, Dallas, PA 18612-0220  
Phone: 570-675-1143

**SOUTHEAST REGION:** Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Schuylkill counties  
253 Snyder Road, Reading, PA 19605 | Phone: 610-926-3136

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