

**PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION  
BUREAU OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT  
PROJECT ANNUAL JOB REPORT**

**PROJECT CODE NO.:** 06270

**TITLE:** Turkey Research/Management

**JOB CODE NO.:** 27005

**TITLE:** Wild Turkey Trap and Transfer

**PERIOD COVERED:** 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

**COOPERATING AGENCIES:** All Pennsylvania Game Commission Regional Turkey Trap and Transfer Coordinators and Crews, National Wild Turkey Federation

**WORK LOCATION(S):** Statewide

**PREPARED BY:** Mary Jo Casalena

**DATE:** 31 May 2013

**ABSTRACT:** The objective of this job is to obtain native wild turkeys for both in- and out-of-state transfers to suitable unoccupied habitats. No transfers were necessary during the winter of 2012-13.

**OBJECTIVE**

To obtain native wild turkeys for both in- and out-of-state transfers to suitable unoccupied habitats.

**METHODS**

The Bureau of Wildlife Management has supplied each Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) Region with 2 complete sets of turkey trapping equipment. Each set includes a net, rockets, charges, rocket and net box, net weights, detonators, galvanometers, battery wire, data sheets, clipboard, and National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) fiberboard turkey transfer boxes. We also supplied aluminum leg bands and banding pliers in order to maintain survival and movement data on the in-state restoration efforts. The Bureau of Wildlife Management provided replacement equipment when needed. The state trap and transfer coordinator identified areas within the state having suitable unoccupied habitats for wild turkeys. In-state restoration efforts were completed in 2003.

The coordinator was also responsible for arranging out-of-state transfers in cooperation

with the NWTf's Making Tracks Program, for making exchanges for other wildlife species, or for unilateral transfers to other states or countries that the Executive Director approved. Each regional wildlife management supervisor assigned regional turkey trapping quotas and destinations. Regional trapping crews were responsible for locating and trapping turkeys in their assigned areas. They were also responsible for shipping the turkeys to destinations assigned by the regional coordinator.

Beginning in 2006, all wild turkeys transferred out of state were tested by a wildlife veterinarian for *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*, *Mycoplasma synoviae*, avian influenza, and *Salmonella pullorum*, via blood tests, to ensure each wild turkey was disease-free prior to shipping.

## **RESULTS**

No transfers were necessary during the winter of 2012-13. This is the fifth consecutive year with no transfers needed.

From 1958 to present, we have trapped 3,709 wild turkeys within Pennsylvania. Of these we have transferred 2,794 wild turkeys within Pennsylvania and 915 to 9 other states for population restoration or establishment (Tables 1, 2 and 3). This includes, in 2008, 23 wild turkeys transferred from nuisance urban flocks within the greater Pittsburgh area (Wildlife Management Unit 2B, Allegheny County, Greentree Township) to State Game Land (SGL) 432, SGL 297, and Allegheny Land Trust Property, a Safety Zone property, as part of the "Nuisance wild turkey transfer pilot program in Southwestern Pennsylvania" (Casalena and Trusso 2011). This program was in place to monitor (via leg-banding) whether birds return to their nuisance location and if relocated turkeys become nuisances in the relocated area.

During 2012-13 no training workshops were necessary for regional turkey trapping crews. Turkey trapping training is now provided to each Ross Leffler School of Conservation Cadet class.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

This job should be classified as inactive (no annual report prepared) because virtually all suitable wild turkey habitat in Pennsylvania and the rest of the United States is now occupied, and no trap and transfer activities have been necessary for 5 years. If population declines or other issues necessitate resumption of trap and transfer efforts; this job and the associated annual report can be reactivated.

## **LITERATURE CITED**

Casalena, M. J. and S. Trusso. 2011. Nuisance wild turkey transfer pilot program in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Final Job Report 27009. Pennsylvania Game Commission, Harrisburg, USA.



Table 1 cont.

County	Year																				Total	
	1958 -62	1963 -68	1969 -73	1974 -78	1979 -83	1984 -87	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	2001	2002	2003	2006	2007	2008		
Lycoming		17	42		41	5			11	9			13	26	36	29	13					242
McKean	33	23	43	76	17																	192
Mifflin		11		9	11																	31
Perry					3										10							13
Pike					18									8								26
Potter	11	10		87	59	20																187
Schuylkill														4								4
Snyder					7																	7
Somerset					60	59	3	2						11	4		19					158
Sullivan		24	17		10	11																62
Susquehanna							11															11
Tioga	3	9			91	31			9		8											151
Union					6																	6
Venango				47		11									11							69
Warren		3	64	95	24	6				14				7		13						226
Washington															15			28	8	18		69
Wayne					69	31						5	9		27	4	13					158
Westmoreland														12								12
Wyoming					19																	19
Total	242	160	451	518	687	361	28	28	102	57	87	97	65	175	230	124	161	53	16	67		3,709

Table 2. Counties in Pennsylvania where turkeys have been transferred to and totals, 1958-2008. No in-state transfers 1985-95, 1997-2000, 2004-2007 and 2009-2012.

County	Year												Total	
	1958 -62	1963 -68	1969 -73	1974 -78	1979 -83	1984	1996	2001	2002	2003	2008			
Adams				28	12									40
Allegheny													2	2
Armstrong				56	100									156
Bedford		6												6
Berks						23		25	10	22				80
Blair			20	5										25
Bucks						20								20
Butler			23	24	30	9								86
Cambria				61										61
Carbon		42	96											138
Chester						27		68	13	41				149
Clarion			57		1									58
Crawford				104	95									199
Cumberland				32	7									39
Dauphin					28									28
Erie			4		27	11								42
Fayette		24												24
Forest					1									1
Franklin				21										21
Fulton	23	2												25
Greene					45									45
Huntingdon				3										3
Indiana					85									85
Jefferson			29											29
Juniata		47	18											65
Lancaster						17	13	40	55	43				168
Lawrence					6	24								30
Mercer				58	84									142
Mifflin				9										9
Northumberland					106									106
Perry	219	3												222
Pike		16												16
Snyder			48											48
Somerset			3	74	26									103
Venango				106	42									148
Warren		11	38											49
Washington					28	20							21	69
Wayne		6		1										7
Westmoreland			12											12
York						40		97	46	55				238
Total	242	160	451	518	681	191	13	230	124	161	23			2,794

Table 3. States where wild turkeys from Pennsylvania have been transferred, 1958 to 2008. No out-of-state transfers occurred in 1958-78, 1985-88, 1997-2005 and 2009-2012.

State	Year												Total	
	1979-83	1984	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	2006	2007		2008
California						57								57
Michigan	6	99			61									166
Delaware		15												15
Idaho		16												16
Maryland		10												10
North Carolina						87	97	33	147				364	
Rhode Island									32	15				47
Washington		30	28	28	41									127
South Dakota											53	16	44	113