



# GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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## LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

**Weekly Report**  
**January 8 – January 14, 2017**

**This report is a broad sampling of events that have taken place in the past week, but does not include all actions taken by the Law Enforcement Division.**



## **Region I- Acworth (Northwest)**

No activity to report.

## **Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)**

No activity to report.

## **Region III- Thomson (East Central)**

### **OGLETHORPE COUNTY**

On January 11<sup>th</sup> Capt. Stan Elrod, Sgt. Brian Carter, Rfc. Tim Butler, and Oglethorpe County Sheriff's Deputies met at a residence to investigate a commercial burning of waste complaint. The investigation led to two subjects being charged with possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, possession of marijuana (misdemeanor), and possession of drug related objects. Additionally, one subject was charged with felony commercial dumping (burning) of waste. A total of 14 guns were seized, including sawed off shotguns and a sawed off rifle.

### **GREENE COUNTY**

On January 14, Cpl. Derrell Worth cited five subjects for hunting ducks without permission, two subjects for hunting ducks without a Georgia waterfowl license, and one subject for hunting ducks without a hunting license.

### **LINCOLN COUNTY**

On January 14<sup>th</sup> Sgt. Chaffin and RFC Crawley responded to a boat ramp in Lincoln County on Clarks Hill Lake in reference to an anonymous caller stating they observed individuals catching over the limit of fish. Sgt. Chaffin and RFC Crawley arrived at the boat ramp to find two boats and three subjects who were apprehended for possessing over the limit of white perch.

## **Region IV- Macon (West Central)**

No activity to report.

## **Region V- Albany (Southwest)**

No activity to report.

## **Region VI- Metter (Southeast)**

### **CHARLTON COUNTY**

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Jason Shipes and Corporal Mark Pool located several sportsmen actively hunting deer with dogs just east of Dixon Wildlife Management Area. During this patrol, several violations were found related to the required licenses needed to deer hunt and other hunting safety issues. All violations were addressed and corrected by the sportsman.

## CLINCH COUNTY

On January 14th, Corporal Jason Shipes and Corporal Mark Pool received a call from a concerned sportsman related to an injured golden eagle. The eagle was found, unable to stand or fly, on private property near the Okefenokee Swamp. The eagle was collected by Sergeant Patrick Dupree and transported to Cpl. Shipes and Cpl. Pool who then transported the eagle to Valdosta to James Whitesell, a permitted raptor rehabilitator. Mr. Whitesell immediately recognized that the bird was in distress and started administering fluids on the roadside. The mature golden eagle was stabilized and arrangements for transportation to Auburn University's Raptor Rehab Center were made so that further medical treatment could be administered. See picture below.



*Mr. James Whitesell administering fluids to golden eagle from Clinch County*

## ECHOLS COUNTY

On January 12<sup>th</sup>, Sergeant Patrick Dupree checked seven hunters on a dove hunt south of Statenville. Sgt. Dupree inspected the field and spoke briefly with each hunter. All the hunters were properly licensed and were in compliance with all applicable migratory bird hunting laws.

## LAURENS COUNTY

On January 10<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Stiles patrolled the Hugh M. Gillis Public Fishing Area. No violations were detected.

On January 10<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Stiles received a complaint of person's illegally hunting waterfowl on Trinity Hills Drive in Dublin. Corporal Stiles responded to the location to investigate the complaint. One Canada goose was located at the scene and shotgun pellets were recovered from the carcass confirming that the goose had been shot. No other evidence was located at the scene. The incident is still under investigation.

On January 12<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Stiles patrolled the River Bend Wildlife Management Area for waterfowl hunting activity. No violations were detected.

On January 12th, Ranger First Class (RFC) Rodney Horne was patrolling Hugh Gillis Public Fishing area for fishing and boating safety activity. RFC Horne checked two persons fishing and two boats on the water. Two violations were documented for fishing on a public fishing area without a wildlife management area license and for fishing with more than two poles at once on a public fishing area lake.

## JENKINS COUNTY

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, Sergeant Brian Hobbins was patrolling north Jenkins County when he came upon a group of hunters conducting a deer drive using hunting dogs. Sgt. Hobbins questioned the group and they stated that they were rabbit hunting, however each member of the group was armed with shotguns loaded with buckshot. After further questioning that group admitted to hunting deer with dogs on unpermitted property. RFC Jordan Crawford and RGR Randell Meeks responded to the area to help in the investigation. Numerous violations for hunting deer with dogs on unpermitted property and hunting without a deer dog license was documented. Four illegally taken deer were confiscated and donated to the Sportsmen Against Hunger program.



On January 13<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Mike Wilcox and Ranger First Class Jordan Crawford were patrolling private property in Jenkins County. They encountered an individual fishing from a spill way of a pond and the officers documented one violation of fishing without a license.

On January 14<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Wilcox was patrolling Big Dukes Pond WMA. Cpl. Wilcox checked two males that were hunting waterfowl on the management area. Upon inspecting their hunting license, Cpl. Wilcox discovered that one of the hunters did not have a GA waterfowl conservation license. Cpl. Wilcox documented the violation.

## **BULLOCH COUNTY**

On January 14<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Mike Wilcox checked the Rocky Ford boat landing on the Ogeechee River. Cpl. Wilcox checked two individuals that were returning from hunting waterfowl on the river. Cpl. Wilcox documented two violations for hunting without a GA conservation waterfowl license and one violation for hunting without a license.

## **Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)**

### **BRYAN COUNTY**

On Sunday afternoon January 08, 2017, Sgt. Scott was patrolling Bryan County checking for compliance of hunting laws on the last day and last hours of the deer season. Sgt. Scott noticed a vehicle parked behind a locked gate and down the woods road. Sgt. Scott saw two people in camouflage clothing and not wearing hunter orange, headed into the woods from the vehicle. After following the two a short distance Scott made contact with the two and found that they had been running deer with dogs earlier but were going to a stand to still hunt. They believed a large buck was using the area near the stand. When asked about the orange the two said that they had it on earlier but forgot to put it back on. The two were cited for hunting deer without fluorescent orange clothing.

On Friday, January 13, 2017, RFC Thain and Sgt. Scott were conducting a salt water patrol checking for compliance with state and federal laws. The two Game Wardens were patrolling the area of the Medway River close to St. Catherine Sound. They stopped a recreational fishing vessel that was coming in from offshore at approximately 1650 hours. The vessel had two men on board. Upon checking the vessel for compliance I found a Red Snapper approximately 16.5 inches long. Possession of Red Snapper is closed in federal waters and the Red Snapper that the two men had was also undersized by Georgia law. The information will be turned over to the National Marine Fishery Service.