



# GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

---

## LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

**Weekly Report**  
**November 18 – November 24, 2018**

**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)**

### **GORDON COUNTY**

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, Game Warden Corporal Shawn Elmore received a call from a hunter off of Trimble Hollow Rd about someone hunting without permission. Cpl. Elmore responded to the area and located the complainant and a hunter. The hunter admitted to hunting without permission and killing a 7 point buck. The hunter was issued a citation for hunting without permission and his 7 point buck was confiscated and given to the complainant.



*Confiscated 7 point killed without permission in Gordon County*

### **HARALSON COUNTY**

November 18<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Eric Brown, GWFC Daniel Gray, Cadet Ryan Shorter and Cadet Garrett Pownall were working night deer hunting in Haralson County when they received a call about a vehicle a Sheriff Deputy had stopped in reference to illegal hunting. Five individuals were cited for the following violations: hunting from a public road, hunting from a motor vehicle and hunting w/o license.

November 19<sup>th</sup>, GWFC Daniel Gray, Sgt. Eric Brown and Cadet Garrett Pownall assisted Haralson County Sheriff's Office with a man hunt of a murder suspect. The suspect was out of Alabama and had killed his girlfriend earlier that date. Unmarked Alabama authorities with unmarked Haralson County Sheriff's Office worked with the suspect's brother to apprehend the suspect. The suspect and his brother traveled to the first exit in Alabama where authorities initiated a traffic stop on the brother's vehicle. The suspect immediately exited the vehicle and took his own life.

November 23<sup>rd</sup>, GWFC Daniel Gray and Cadet Ryan Shorter were conducting a routine patrol when they encountered a group of hunters. One individual was charged for hunting deer w/o orange and failure to record deer harvest. Several verbal warnings were given to the group.

November 24<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Chad Cox and Cadet Garrett Pownall was checking a hunting club and located a male subject hunting without a big game license. He was charged with hunting without a big game license and warned for allowing his young son to hunt unsupervised without completing the hunter education course.

### **DOUGLAS COUNTY**

November 22<sup>nd</sup>, GWFC Daniel Gray and Cadet Ryan Shorter were patrolling Sweetwater Creek State Park when they observed a family fishing. One individual was issued a warning for fishing without a license.

## PICKENS COUNTY

On November 21st, Cpl. Cody Jones and Game Warden Ryan Thomas interviewed a hunter that had killed two spike bucks this hunting season. Officers seized the deer and donated it to the “Hunters for the Hungry”.



## FANNIN COUNTY

On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Cpl. Cody Jones and Game Warden Ryan Thomas set up to work a night hunting detail. The Game Wardens watched a truck drive past a field three times before the suspects shined a handheld light into the field. The Game Wardens stopped the vehicle, secured the occupants, and while searching the suspects and vehicle found Methamphetamine, Schedule IV drugs, hypodermic needles, and a glass smoking pipe. All three occupants were arrested and transported to Fannin County Jail. The following day the Game Wardens wrote 17 arrest warrants for the three suspects which included: hunting deer at night X3, hunting big game from a public road X3, hunting from a vehicle X3, possession of Methamphetamine (felony) X2, possession of drug related objects X2, possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony (felony) X2, possession of schedule IV drugs (felony), and drugs not in original container.



## **BARTOW COUNTY**

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, GWFC Zack Hardy was patrolling Pine Log WMA for waterfowl hunting activity. GWFC Hardy located two subjects waterfowl hunting. One subject was given a verbal warning for hunting with an unplugged shotgun. The hunters already had 3 ducks at this time. GWFC Hardy continued to search for more hunters. While searching for more hunters, GWFC Hardy heard lots of gun shots coming from the first two hunters. On the way back out, GWFC Hardy went to check the bag limits for the two hunters. As he was approaching one of the waterfowl hunters, he observed a strong smell of marijuana. GWFC Hardy located a small plastic container in the hunter's bag containing marijuana. The hunter was placed under arrest for VGCSA marijuana less than one ounce.

On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Sgt. Jason Roberson observed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed on Pine Log WMA. He waved to the vehicle and the driver stopped in the road. Sgt. Roberson made contact with the driver and immediately observed signs of impairment and smelled the odor of marijuana. He asked the driver about the marijuana and the driver admitted to having marijuana inside the vehicle. Sgt Roberson located a large pelican case in the passenger floor board. Upon opening it he discovered two baggies full of marijuana, several pipes, numerous plastic baggies both used and unused, digital scales, and various other drug related items. Sgt. Roberson contacted the Bartow County drug task force and turned the case over to them since it involved a suspected drug dealer.

## **CHEROKEE COUNTY**

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Frank Pucci received a call about an ongoing poaching complaint near Owl Creek on Allatoona Lake. The complainant called Warden Pucci about seeing a hunter on an ATV riding on Corp of Engineer property. The complainant said he could see a bow on a rack on the front of the ATV. Warden Pucci call Corporal Bart Hendrix and the two Game Wardens met the complainant at his residence. The Game Wardens then followed the ATV tracks for nearly a mile and half before they finally found the hunter. The hunter was sitting on his ATV and attempting to rattle for deer. As the Game Wardens approached the hunter they announced "Game Warden." The hunter turned around and cranked his ATV in an attempt to flee the area. Game Wardens Pucci and Hendrix ran and caught the hunter before he could leave and physically removed him from his ATV. After further investigation it was determined that the hunter was under the influence of narcotics. Game Warden Pucci searched the hunters' belongings and found a meth pipe and suspected methamphetamines in his backpack. The hunter was arrested for hunting under the influence, hunting deer without wearing orange, hunting without permission, obstruction, possession of drug paraphernalia, and possession of methamphetamines. His hunting equipment was turned over to his wife. His ATV was towed from the scene. CPL Shawn Elmore, a state drug recognition expert, assisted Game Warden Pucci with the case by conducting a drug evaluation on the suspect at the Cherokee County Adult Detention Center.

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

### **FRANKLIN COUNTY**

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, GWFC Brandon Pierce and Cpl. Tim Vickery conducted a detail within Franklin County for hunting/illegal activity. Several hunting licenses and proper records for harvested deer were inspected. As a result, a warning for hunting without obtaining a deer harvest record was issued

### **MADISON COUNTY**

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, at 2130hrs GWFC Shane Sartor received a call about a truck shining and firing a shot at a deer off of a dirt road. The witnesses were able to get a tag number and GWFC Sartor was able to locate the owner and upon interviewing the subject four male subjects were involved in the incident. All four subjects were cited for hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road, and hunting from a vehicle.

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, GWFC Shane Sartor located four subjects hunting waterfowl without permission on property with a landowner's affidavit. The four subjects were issued citations for hunting with permission.

On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, GWFC Shane Sartor was checking an affidavit property when he encountered a subject hunting on the property without the required orange vest. The subject was issued a citation for hunting without permission and a warning was issued for hunting without a fluorescent orange vest.

### **STEPHENS COUNTY**

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, GWFC Shane Sartor and GWFC Jonathan Segars were patrolling Lake Russell WMA when they encountered a hunter walking down the road. Upon checking the subject it was discovered that he had a loaded firearm. The subject was cited for hunting within 50 yards of a WMA road.

### **BARROW COUNTY**

On November 20, GWFC Chris Kernahan patrolled Barrow Co. for hunting activity. While on patrol, he made contact with multiple subjects who were found to have hunted deer without wearing fluorescent orange, hunted without licenses, hunted without big game licenses, and violated recording & reporting requirements for deer. GWFC Kernahan determined that one of the subjects harvested an antlered deer back on October 20, and failed to game check it. The subject admitted that he failed to game check the deer, because he wanted to harvest more antlered deer than was allowed by law. GWFC Kernahan determined the location where the deer had been harvested, which processor it had been taken to, obtained photographs of the subject posing with the deer, seized the antlers, and requested that the subject provide a sworn witness statement, which he did. The violations were addressed.

On November 21, GWFC Kernahan worked a deer night hunting detail. During the detail, he observed a subject drive into the secluded area towing a 14,000 lb dump-trailer full of building materials, trash, and dirt. GWFC Kernahan observed the subject partially dump the trailer's contents in a cul-de-sac. GWFC Kernahan proceeded to make contact with the subject. The subject stated that the landfill had closed, so he thought he would just dump the debris on someone else's property, in order to save himself some time and money. GWFC Kernahan had the subject clean up the debris. The violation was addressed.

On November 22, GWFC Kernahan conducted an area check for illegal hunting activity on private property. During the area check, he located several subjects who were hunting deer without permission, and over bait. GWFC Kernahan determined that two of the three subjects had just illegally shot deer on the property. GWFC Kernahan later located the deer, seized them, and donated them to charity. GWFC Kernahan also determined that the subjects had harvested multiple deer earlier in the season, and failed to game check them. The violations were addressed.

On November 23, GWFC Kernahan completed an illegal hunting investigation, which stemmed from earlier during the 2018 deer season. The investigation concerned a subject who on November 20, harvested an antlered deer, and failed to game check it. When GWFC Kernahan made contact with the subject at his residence, he denied killing any deer for the past three seasons. When GWFC Kernahan presented the evidence to the subject, he admitted to killing the deer, and had another subject game check it illegally under their name/record. GWFC Kernahan determined the location where the deer had been harvested, which processor it had been taken to, obtained photographs and video of the subject posing with the deer, seized the antlers, and requested that the subject provide a sworn witness statement, which he did. The violations were addressed.

On November 24, GWFC Kernahan responded to an illegal hunting complaint on private property. Upon arrival, he located multiple subjects who were hunting deer without permission, and over bait. GWFC Kernahan determined that one of the subjects had just illegally shot a deer on the property. GWFC Kernahan later located the deer, seized it, and donated it to charity. Additionally, GWFC Kernahan found that the subjects hunted deer without wearing fluorescent orange, hunted without licenses, hunted without big game licenses, and violated recording & reporting requirements for deer. The violations were addressed.

## **TOWNS COUNTY**

On November 20, game warden David Webb inspected a local deer processor and found one hunter had brought in two antlerless deer that were taken in Towns County. At this time, either sex days were not in season in Towns County. Game warden Webb contacted the hunter and met with him the next day. After the investigation, the hunter was cited for taking antlerless deer.

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

### **GREENE COUNTY**

Between November 17-18, CPL Worth and GW Rhodes patrolled Greene County for hunting and fishing activity. During these patrols, multiple violations of hunting without GA waterfowl license, hunting without federal waterfowl stamp, fishing without a license, hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange, operating a vessel with insufficient PFDs, destroying wildlife habitat, and destroying state property were documented.

### **HANCOCK COUNTY**

From November 3 – 13, Sgt. Matt Garthright worked an investigation in conjunction with the Kentucky Department of Wildlife Resources. The investigation was looking into an illegal buck harvest from November 2017 that was committed by two Georgia Residents in the State of Kentucky. Sgt. Garthright was able to locate and interview the two individuals along with the help of Cpl. David Allen. Both subjects confessed to hunting in Kentucky without a license and one of them harvested a 9 point buck while there. The investigation led to 3 charges for both individuals in Kentucky and the confiscation of the illegally taken 9 point buck. Charges are pending in Georgia as well as a result of information that was brought to light during this investigation.

### **WALTON COUNTY**

On November 17th Game Warden Jason Harrison and SGT Matt Garthright patrolled Walton County for hunting. Violations for Hunting without Fluorescent Orange, Accompanying Hunter without Fluorescent Orange, Hunting Without Federal Waterfowl License, Hunting out of season (Dove), and Hunting Ducks over bait were documented.

On November 18<sup>th</sup> Game Warden Jason Harrison and SGT Matt Garthright patrolled Walton County for hunting. Violations for Hunting Ducks over Bait, Hunting Without a license, Hunting Waterfowl without GA Waterfowl License, Hunting without Federal Waterfowl License and Hunting out of season (Dove) were documented.

### **NEWTON COUNTY**

On 11/15/18 GWFC Schay, CPL Worth, and GW Rhodes were serving warrants due to an earlier hunting without permission investigation. During the course of this investigation, the same subject was caught without permission while the warrants were being served. The subject was arrested due to the warrants and additional charges of hunting without permission, hunting without wearing fluorescent orange, hunting while suspended for child support, possession of methamphetamine, and possession of drug paraphernalia were made. Later that day, GWFC Schay was working on a trespassing investigation and a violation of criminal trespass was documented.

On 11/17/18 GWFC Schay patrolled Newton County for hunting activity. During this patrol, violations of hunting without a license, hunting without a federal waterfowl license, hunting without a GA migratory bird stamp, hunting with an unplugged shotgun, and hunting without wearing fluorescent orange were documented.

### **ELBERT COUNTY**

On November 22<sup>nd</sup> GWFC. Mark Stephens was working a night detail in Elbert County Georgia. GWFC. Stephens observed a vehicle shine a field with a spotlight. GWFC. Stephens stopped the vehicle and two loaded rifles were located. Three individuals were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road, and hunting from a motor vehicle.

## **OGLETHORPE COUNTY**

On November 18<sup>th</sup> GWFC. Phillip Nelson met with a subject in reference to him killing a buck and not recording it. Violations documented were failure to record.

On November 22<sup>nd</sup> GWFC. Tim Butler observed a hunter shooting at a duck while a vessel was under power. One violation of hunting from a moving vessel was documented.

On November 22<sup>nd</sup> GWFC. Phillip Nelson and GWFC. Tim Butler met with a subject who found a deer stand and corn placed on his property. While walking the property they located two subjects hunting on his property. Violations documented were hunting big game over bait, hunting without wearing fluorescent orange, and hunting without permission.

On November 23<sup>rd</sup> GWFC. Phillip Nelson was patrolling for deer hunting activity when he observed a subject across a field hunting without wearing a fluorescent orange vest. Violations documented were hunting without wearing fluorescent orange.

On November 24<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Mark Patterson cited two individuals for blinding wildlife.

## **WILKES COUNTY**

On November 22<sup>nd</sup> Sgt. Brian Carter and Cpl. Mark Patterson concluded an investigation stemming from a complaint. One subject was charged with hunting from a public road and hunting from a motor vehicle.

On November 23<sup>rd</sup> patrol of Wilkes County and associated WMA's resulted in the documentation of violations of taking over the bag limit of mourning dove, hunting within 50 yards of a WMA road, hunting deer at night, hunting from a motor vehicle, and hunting from a public road.

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

### **BUTTS COUNTY**

On November 25<sup>th</sup> Game Warden Niki Spencer was investigating a hunting without permission complaint when she located a deer hunter who attempted to hide his firearm from her. The loaded firearm was located by Spencer but the hunter claimed he was not hunting. Spencer contacted Game Warden Keith Page to request assistance. Page responded with Warden Zach Griffis and K-9 Rio. K-9 Rio located a pill bottle containing suspected marijuana, methamphetamine, and Xanax. The hunter was charged with Hunting without a license, hunting without a big game license, hunting without fluorescent orange, Hunting Under the influence, and several counts of Violation of Georgia Controlled Substance Act.

### **HARRIS COUNTY**

On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Corporal Mitch Oliver and Game Warden Dean Gibson were patrolling for hunting activity when they located a hunter's car parked on private property. The officers checked the hunter's license from his vehicle tag and learned that the hunter was missing a valid big game license. The hunter eventually came back to his vehicle and was not wearing any fluorescent orange. The hunter was issued a citation for hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange and given a warning for the license violation.

### **HEARD COUNTY**

On November 24<sup>th</sup> Game Warden Russell Epps received a complaint of illegal burning in south Heard County. He followed up and issued a citation for illegal burning of trash and tires.

### **MERIWETHER COUNTY**

On November 24<sup>th</sup> Game Warden Steven Martinez, Cpl Keith Waddell and Sgt. Brent Railey patrolled Joe Kurz WMA. They checked about 15 duck hunters and issued 5 citations and warnings for license violations.

## **PEACH COUNTY**

On November 24th, while on patrol Game Warden Lamar Burns observed a truck parked off the highway on a small private road. Upon stopping to investigate, Burns encountered a male subject exiting a deer stand while wearing camouflage and carrying a rifle. The subject was interviewed and he was issued citations for hunting without fluorescent orange and hunting without a license. The hunter was issued a warning for hunting without a big game license.

## **TAYLOR COUNTY**

On November 22nd, Game Warden Lamar Burns and Sergeant Jeremy Bolen were patrolling for duck hunting activity. The officers located a duck shoot which turned out to be baited with corn. Two hunters were charged with hunting waterfowl over bait.

On November 22nd, Game Warden Lamar Burns and Sergeant Bolen were patrolling for hunting activity when they came across two vehicles parked alongside the highway. Upon checking the area, the Game Wardens encountered three deer hunters returning to their vehicles. After inspecting the hunter's license, one hunter was issued a warning for hunting deer without a big game license.

On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Game Warden Ethan Franklin and Sgt. Jeremy Bolen were patrolling Sandhills WMA West Tract when the officers discovered a truck parked near the largest pond on the area. Upon further investigation the officers located two duck hunters in the pond. The hunters were informed the area was closed for duck hunting and could only be hunted on Saturdays. Both hunters were issued a citation for hunting on a closed WMA and the wood duck which the pair killed was seized for evidence.

On November 24<sup>th</sup> Game Warden Ethan Franklin was patrolling for hunting activity off of County Rd 263 when two deer hunters were observed walking down a side road. One of the hunters did not have on orange. After further investigation it was discovered the hunter was a non-resident and did not possess a valid hunting license or big game license. The subject was issued citations for non-resident hunting without a license and hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange. The subject was also given a written warning for non-resident hunting big game without a non-resident big game license.

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Ethan Franklin located a dove shoot going on off of Milton Lowe Rd. Game Warden Jason Bennett and Sgt. Jeremy Bolen arrived on-scene soon after. The officers discovered the field was baited with wheat and addressed the issue with the owner of the field who confessed to spreading the wheat. The owner of the field was charged with unlawful enticement of game. All of the other hunters on the field were issued written warnings for hunting over bait.

## **TROUP COUNTY**

On November 24th Game Warden Russell Epps worked a swamp where he believed after hours duck activity could occur. He watched two hunters enter the swamp at about sunset and hunt until well after legal hours. They were cited for hunting ducks after hours and license violations.

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

### **DECATUR COUNTY**

On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Cpl. Tony Cox and Game Warden Ryan Cleveland were conducting a patrol when they encountered two deer hunters. While checking the hunters licenses, it was determined that one hunter was a non-resident hunting with a resident license and the other hunter did not have a license. One subject was charged for non-resident hunting with a resident license and non-resident hunting with a resident big game license. The other subject was charged with a non-resident hunting without a license and non-resident hunting without a big game license.

## **COLQUITT COUNTY**

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Tommy Daughtrey checked a subject that was deer hunting on property where he did not have permission to hunt. The subject was also a convicted felon in possession of a firearm. The subject was arrested for hunting without permission and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Game Warden David Jones was patrolling for duck hunting activity when he heard several volleys of shotgun blasts coming from an area that he previously confirmed to be baited. Jones located six subjects shooting ducks in baited the area, one subject was identified as a juvenile and the other five subjects were charged with hunting ducks over bait.

November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Sgt. David Ruddell and Game Warden David Jones were patrolling for deer hunting activity when they encountered two subjects who were not wearing required fluorescent orange vests. The two subjects were charged with hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange.

November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Game Warden Eric White responded to a complaint of subjects shooting a baited dove field. Warden White arrived on-scene and encountered four subjects hunting. Warden White inspected the hunters and determined that the field to be baited with wheat. Warden White charged the four subjects with hunting over bait.

November 24<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Eric White encountered five subjects (3 adults and 2 juveniles) hunting ducks. Warden White inspected the area the hunters were hunting and found the pond to be baited with corn. The three adult subjects were cited for hunting ducks over bait.

November 25<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Eric White responded to a complaint of night deer hunting. The complainant stated that he was following a vehicle containing two occupants whom had fired multiple shots in the direction of his property. Warden White, with assistance from other local enforcement agency officers, performed a traffic stop and interviewed the subjects. After interviewing the occupants warden White arrested one of the subjects, charging him with hunting deer at night, hunting big game from a public road, hunting from a vehicle, and hunting without permission.

## **BROOKS COUNTY**

On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Game Wardens Tommy Daughtrey and David Ruddell cited a subject for hunting deer without wearing the required fluorescent orange.

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Tommy Daughtrey and Kristie Carpenter checked a duck shoot citing one of the hunters for not having the proper license. Later that morning, the game wardens observed and cited a subject not wearing the required orange clothing while deer hunting.

## **TIFT COUNTY**

November 18<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Greg Wade and Kristie Carpenter were conducting a patrol when they spotted a truck sitting in the back of a field. The Game Wardens waited on the subject to exit the woods and it was determined that he did not possess any licenses and was no wearing the required orange. The subject also had a buck in the bed of his truck that he had harvested the prior evening. The subject was charged with hunting without a license, hunting big game without a license, and hunting deer during firearms season without orange. The deer he had taken the previous evening was confiscated.

## **WORTH COUNTY**

November 19<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Greg Wade and Kristie Carpenter located seven subjects hunting ducks in a swamp. Four subjects were charged with license violations including: hunting without federal migratory bird stamp and hunting without Georgia migratory bird license.

November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Wardens Greg Wade and Kristie Carpenter located a duck shoot. After Wade made contact with the group, two of the hunters attempted to flee out the backside of the swamp, and in doing so, ran straight into the custody of warden Carpenter. After a thorough investigation, the Wardens determined that the swamp was baited. All seven subjects were charged with hunting ducks over bait as well as license and ammunition violations. The subjects that tried to leave were charged with Failure to Allow Inspection.

#### **DOOLY COUNTY**

On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Wardens Clint Martin and Bryan Price responded to a hunting deer without permission complaint on the Flint River in Dooly County. The subjects, whom were accessing the property by boat, were located and a vessel stop was conducted. The operator of the vessel was arrested for boating under the influence, child endangerment, operating vessel with insufficient personal flotation devices and operating a vessel without lights during the hours of darkness. Warnings were given to the operator for operating vessel without throwable device, operating vessel without fire extinguisher, and hunting deer without fluorescent orange. The other adult subjects in the vessel were given citations for hunting deer without fluorescent orange. It was later determined the subjects were not hunting without permission.

#### **MACON COUNTY**

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, Wardens Jesse Harrison and Logan South responded to a complaint of hunting ducks after hours. The hunters were located and given citations for hunting migratory game birds after hours and the illegally harvested ducks were confiscated.

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

#### **BULLOCH COUNTY**

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, Game Warden First Class Jason Miller investigated an incident on the Oliver Bridge WMA where a squirrel dog was shot by a deer hunter. This is an ongoing investigation but two subjects have been identified as being parties to the crime. GWFC Miller and the Bulloch County Sheriff Department are currently continuing to investigate the incident.

On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Game Warden First Class Jason Miller checked for duck hunting activity in Bulloch County. Several hunters were checked with multiple violations discovered.

On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Game Warden First Class Jason Miller was checking deer hunting activity in Bulloch County. GWFC Miller cited subjects for failure to keep deer dogs on permitted property and operating vehicle w/o permit number displayed. Also, GWFC Miller warned and discussed the importance of documenting deer killed to several hunters.

#### **JENKINS COUNTY**

On November 19<sup>th</sup> Corporal Mike Wilcox was patrolling Jenkins County and he encountered two hunters. When Cpl. Wilcox asked to see his license the Florida resident said he didn't have a license. Violations that were documented were nonresident hunting without license, nonresident hunting big game without big game license, and two violations of hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange.

On November 23<sup>rd</sup> Corporal Mike Wilcox checked another hunter from Florida that was returning to his truck from deer hunting. The hunter was not wearing an orange vest. Cpl. Wilcox documented a violation for hunting deer without fluorescent orange.

## **SCREVEN COUNTY**

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Shaymus McNeely and Game Warden Ben Reese were working duck hunting in lower Screven County. While attempting to locate a roost shoot the Game Wardens encountered a deer hunter without an orange vest. Upon making contact with the deer hunter the Wardens detected a strong odor of alcohol. The subject was investigated and subsequently arrested for hunting under the influence.

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, Corporal Shaymus McNeely encountered two subjects shooting ducks in a roost pond. Both suspects were charged with hunting ducks after legal hours and license violations.

## **BACON COUNTY**

On the evening of November 21st, Game Warden First Class Sam Williams was patrolling north of Alma when he heard several gun shots near his location. GWFC Williams was able to locate a vehicle nearby. GWFC Williams observed items related to duck hunting in the back of the vehicle. A short time later, four subjects were encountered as they were returning to their vehicle. One of the subjects ran back into the woods as GWFC Williams made contact with them, dropping his shotgun and cell phone. The other three subjects received charges for hunting waterfowl after hours, hunting with illegal ammunition, and various license violations. Other charges are pending on the subject that ran.

## **CHARLTON COUNTY**

On November 23rd, Game Warden Sam Williams encountered a group of deer dog hunters near Folkston. As GWFC Williams drove up to the vehicles, he observed one subject not wearing the required fluorescent orange while deer hunting. A violation for hunting deer without fluorescent orange was documented.

On November 23rd, Game Warden Joseph Cowart was patrolling a deer dogging club near Moniac when he observed a deer laying on the ground near a group of individuals that were standing at their vehicles. Upon checking the individuals hunting licenses, GW Cowart found that two of the individuals' hunting licenses had expired, one of which being the one who harvested the deer. The deer was seized and violations of a non-resident hunting without a non-resident hunting license and a non-resident hunting without a non-resident big game license were documented.

## **CLINCH COUNTY**

On November 18th, Game Warden Joseph Cowart and Corporal Jason Shipes were listening for an AM duck shoot on Hwy177 along the Suwannee River when shots were heard from the river. Upon checking the landings in the area, GW Cowart located the vehicles of the hunters. In the bed of one of the vehicles. GW Cowart saw a field dressed deer. GW Cowart waited for the hunters to arrive back at the landing. Once the group was back at the landing, GW Cowart and Cpl Shipes began to check the licenses of the hunters as well as interview them about the deer in the bed of the truck. After a lengthy interview, it was determined that two of the hunters failed to have all the required licenses to hunt ducks, and the deer had been shot from the county road using the headlights of the vehicle prior to legal shooting light. The deer was seized and violations of hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road, hunting from a motor vehicle, hunting without Georgia migratory bird stamp, and hunting without Federal duck stamp were documented.

On November 22nd, Corporal Jason Shipes and Game Warden Daniel North were driving down Spooner Loop Road when they observed a hunter sitting on a folding chair in the middle of the road near his truck with his loaded rifle in hand. The hunter was a part of a dog hunting club in the area and the violation of hunting from a public road was documented. While checking the other members of the same club, another hunter did not have any permit numbers displayed on his truck. The violation of operating a vehicle without a permit number was documented as well.

On November 23rd, Sergeant Patrick Dupree was patrolling Ga Hwy 187 near Thelma when he encountered a group of dog-deer hunters in pursuit of a deer. One hunter was observed with his long gun in hand on the highway and another did not have the dog-deer permit number displayed on his vehicle. Both violations were documented.

On November 24th, Corporal Jason Shipes encountered several hunters actively running deer with hounds south of Homerville. While checking for all required licenses and other deer dogging requirements, Cpl. Shipes found two subjects who failed to purchase any of the required licenses needed to hunt in Georgia as well as one subject who failed to display the permit number on his vehicle. All violations were addressed and citations issued.

On November 24th, Game Warden Joseph Cowart was listening for an AM duck shoot on Hwy 177 near the Suwannee River. While in the area GW Cowart heard shots coming from the river. While checking one of the landings GW Cowart located the hunters' vehicle. GW Cowart waited for the hunters along the river and observed the two hunters operating a vessel in the river before they returned from their hunting location. GW Cowart observed the individuals load the vessel onto a trailer. GW Cowart approached the individuals and began to check their boating safety equipment and hunting licenses. GW Cowart discovered that the operator of the vessel did not have a personal floatation device (PFD) that was in serviceable condition in the vessel. The other individual did not possess a federal duck stamp. Violations of hunting ducks without a federal duck stamp and operating a vessel with insufficient PFD were documented.

On November 24th, Game Warden Sam Williams and Sergeant Patrick Dupree were patrolling for dog deer hunting activity when the officers encountered a group of hunters. While checking the hunter's license, two of the subjects did not possess the required license to hunt deer in Georgia. Violations were documented for non-resident hunting without a license and non-resident hunting without a big game license. A vehicle was also encountered on the same hunting club that did not have the required deer dog hunting permit numbers displayed on the vehicle. The violation was documented with the operator of the vehicle.

## **ECHOLS COUNTY**

On November 18th, Sergeant Patrick Dupree, Corporal Shipes, and Game Warden Joseph Cowart were patrolling hunting clubs in Echols County for deer dog hunting activity. They observed a group of hunters on one of the hunting clubs. Upon checking hunting licenses, it was found that one of the individuals was a non-resident and did not have the required licenses to hunt deer in Georgia. Violations of a non-resident hunting without a non-resident hunting license, non-resident hunting big game without a non-resident big game hunting license, and hunting without obtaining a deer harvest record was documented.

On November 20th, Sgt. Patrick Dupree and Game Warden Daniel North were patrolling the Tarver area when they encountered several individuals hunting deer with dogs. Upon checking the hunters, it was found that one of the individuals did not have their dog permit number displayed on the window. The violation of operating a vehicle without permit number displayed was documented.

On November 20th, Sgt. Patrick Dupree and Game Warden Daniel North were patrolling a hunting club near Toms Creek and Martin Hammock area when they encountered several individuals hunting deer with dogs. Upon checking the hunters, it was found that one of the individuals did not have their dog permit number displayed on the window. The violation of operating a vehicle without permit number displayed was documented.

On November 21st, Game Warden Daniel North received information that some trucks were seen driving down a county road after dark. A couple of shots were then heard coming from the area. Upon checking the area, Warden North encountered five individuals on private property with a dead hog in the bed of the truck. The individuals said that they had just recently shot the hog on their hunting club. One of the individuals did not have the required hunting license and this violation was documented.

## **PIERCE COUNTY**

On November 24th, Game Warden First Class Judd Sears patrolled multiple deer dogging clubs throughout the county. During this patrol GWFC Sears encountered subjects on two separate hunting clubs hunting from the county road. Two violations of hunting big game from a public road were documented.

## **WARE COUNTY**

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Mark Pool received a call from the area manager on Dixon Memorial wildlife management area. The manager told Cpl. Pool that there was a truck parked on the area and he believed that the individual was deer hunting and the area was closed to deer hunting. Cpl. Pool located the truck and a set of boot tracks. Cpl. Pool tracked the boot tracks to a fire break that lead to a food plot. Cpl. Pool located a father and son sitting on the edge of the food plot. Cpl. Pool asked the father what they were hunting and the father told Cpl. Pool that they were hunting deer. Cpl. Pool told the father that the WMA was closed to deer hunting. Cpl. Pool followed the subjects back to the truck and then issued the father a citation for hunting on a closed WMA.

On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Corporal Jason Shipes observed a truck pull up to a gate on Georgia Highway 38. Cpl. Shipes saw two individuals exit the truck and enter the wood with long guns and no fluorescent orange vest. Cpl. Shipes called Cpl. Mark Pool and told him what he had seen. Cpl. Pool went the Cpl. Shipe's location and the two officers entered the wooded area and located the two subjects, who were hunting deer and were not wearing the required fluorescent orange. After checking the individuals hunting license it was determined that the hunter only possessed a deer harvest record. Violations for hunting deer without fluorescent orange, non-resident hunting without a license, and non-resident hunting big game without a non-resident big game license were documented. The hunter then alerted the two Wardens of another hunting party on the property that was committing the same violations. Cpl. Shipes and Cpl. Pool located the other hunting party. Violations for non-resident hunting without a license, non-resident hunting big game without a non-resident big game license, hunting deer without fluorescent orange, accompanying a deer hunter without fluorescent orange were documented.

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Mark Pool patrolled the heart of Ware County for deer dog hunting activity. Cpl. Pool observed several trucks in an active deer race. While checking the first truck Cpl. Pool noticed that the hunter did not possess the valid hunting licenses required to hunt deer in Georgia. Violations for non-resident hunting without a license, and non-resident hunting big game without a non-resident big game license were documented.

## **LOWNDES COUNTY**

On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Corporal Tim Hutto, Game Warden Thomas Sibley, Sergeant Morty Wood, Corporal Jon Penuel, and Game Warden Johnny Robinette patrolled Grand Bay WMA due to a complaint of hunting on a closed WMA. Corporal Tim Hutto and Game Warden Thomas Sibley used K-9 Titan to locate a hunter who was hunting on the WMA while it was closed. The subject was charged with hunting on a closed WMA and hunting big game over bait on a WMA.

On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Corporal Jon Penuel and GW Johnny Robinette observed a vehicle approach their location and begin to shine a nearby peanut field. The Game Wardens stopped the vehicle as it pulled into a residence and after a brief conversation with the driver, the driver fled from the officers and a vehicle pursuit ensued. The Game Wardens chased the suspect vehicle through the woods on narrow roads and pathways until they reached a county road. The pursuit continued several miles down nearby county roads and the Game Wardens were joined in the pursuit by the Georgia State Patrol and Lowndes County Sheriff's Office. The suspect once again fled off road and into the woods and the officers continued to chase the suspect vehicle down woods roads and narrow pathways until they finally blocked him in and took him into custody. The suspect was charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a vehicle, hunting from a public road, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and tampering with evidence. The Georgia State Patrol also charged the suspect with driving under the influence, fleeing and attempting to elude as well as multiple other traffic offenses.

## **COOK COUNTY**

On November 24, Corporal Jon Penuel and GW Johnny Robinette followed up on information they received about an illegally taken trophy deer. After locating and interviewing the suspect, he was charged with hunting without a license and the 10-point deer rack was seized as evidence.



## **ATKINSON COUNTY**

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Tim Hutto and Game Warden Thomas Sibley worked a complaint of hunting big game from a public road in the Axson community. The investigation resulted in violations being documented on two subjects for hunting big game from a public road and hunting from a vehicle. An eight-point buck was confiscated and the meat was donated to a needy family in the area.



## **COFFEE COUNTY**

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Tim Hutto and Game Warden Thomas Sibley patrolled around the Bridgetown area for duck hunting activity. The patrol resulted in violations for hunting without a federal duck stamp and possession over the limit of wood ducks.

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Tim Hutto and Game Warden Thomas Sibley worked a complaint on three subjects who were suspected of killing a trophy buck in the Ambrose area at night. The investigation resulted in charges on three suspects for hunting deer at night. One ten-point buck was confiscated from the suspects.



On November 21<sup>st</sup>, Corporal Tim Hutto and Game Warden Thomas Sibley worked a complaint of hunting big game from a public road. The investigation resulted in one documented violation for hunting big game from a public road.



On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Corporal Tim Hutto and Game Warden Thomas Sibley patrolled for duck hunting activity around the Ambrose area. The patrol resulted in eleven violations for hunting without a license, hunting without a Georgia migratory waterfowl license, hunting without a federal waterfowl stamp, hunting with an unplugged shotgun, and hunting waterfowl with lead shot.

#### **LAURENS COUNTY**

On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Corporal Dan Stiles patrolled the River Bend Wildlife Management Area for hunting activity. Eight waterfowl hunters and one small game hunter were checked for license compliance. Two violations were documented for hunting ducks without a federal duck stamp.

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Dan Stiles patrolled the Beaverdam Wildlife Management Area during a sign-in big game hunt. Five hunters were checked for license compliance. One violation was documented for hunting without a big game license.

### **WILCOX COUNTY**

On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Corporal John A. Stokes and Game Warden John Kennedy patrolled for duck hunting activity. Four violations for hunting waterfowl over bait, two violations for hunting waterfowl without federal waterfowl stamp, two violations for hunting waterfowl without a GA waterfowl and migratory bird license and two violations for hunting without a hunting license were documented.

### **APPLING COUNTY**

On the morning of November 18<sup>th</sup> Sergeant Jon Barnard and Game Warden Bobby Sanders patrolled Dean's Landing. Several waterfowl hunters were checked along the Altamaha River. Violations were documented for hunting without a license, hunting without license on person, and hunting without a Georgia migratory bird stamp.

### **EVANS COUNTY**

On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Game Warden Randell Meeks completed an investigation into a hunting incident that had happened earlier in the month. Violations for hunting with an illegal weapon, hunting without a license, hunting without big game license and hunting deer without fluorescent orange were documented.

On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Game Warden Patrick Gibbs received an in-progress call of someone shooting deer out of the truck window from a public road. The complainant wrote down the license plate number on the vehicle where the shots were fired from. Gibbs was able to find the name and residence where the vehicle was registered to and met one subject at that residence as he was pulling up. Gibbs located a .22 rifle and several empty cartridges inside the vehicle. After initially saying he was just riding and looking at deer, the subject later admitted that he and a friend were riding on Evergreen Road and shot at a deer standing in the road. Gibbs then went to the second subject's residence and interviewed him. After the investigation, a total of 9 violations were addressed including: hunting from a vehicle, hunting big game from a public road, hunting without a license, hunting without a big game license, and hunting without a deer harvest record.

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, at around 11:00pm Captain Scott Klingel and Game Warden Patrick Gibbs initiated a traffic stop on a suspicious vehicle. The vehicle kept stopping in the middle of the public road with its lights off for several minutes at different locations. When Gibbs illuminated the vehicle, he observed two subjects standing on the passenger side of the truck holding rifles with thermal vision scopes. The driver and two subjects holding rifles said they were walking into fields hunting hogs, but none of them had a hunting license. Gibbs questioned the driver of the vehicle about the odor of marijuana he could smell. The driver admitted to having marijuana and that he and the two passengers had been smoking some earlier in the day. The driver of the vehicle was arrested. Violations were addressed for hunting without a license and violation of Georgia's Controlled Substance Act.

### **JEFF DAVIS COUNTY**

On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Game Wardens Corporal Kevin Joyce and Sergeant Chris Moore were patrolling the south end of the county for possible night deer hunting activity. Shortly into the detail the officers observed a light shining from a vehicle traveling down the public roadway. The Game Wardens followed the vehicle, again observing the vehicle shine a handheld light from the passenger side window. A traffic stop was initiated on the vehicle and the officers made contact with the two occupants. A brief investigation of the vehicle was conducted and two loaded rifles along with a handheld spotlight were found. In addition, there was a recently killed whitetail deer (buck) located in the bed area of the pickup truck. After interviewing both subjects it was determined that they were indeed night deer hunting. The whitetail deer was taken earlier that evening but was not properly recorded as required by Georgia Law. Both subjects were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a vehicle, and hunting from a public roadway. There was also an additional charge for failure to tag the buck. The deer was confiscated and donated to a located church for distribution to a local family in need.

## **MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

On November 18<sup>th</sup> Corporal Kevin Joyce patrolled the Long Pond area for possible waterfowl hunting activity. Several shots were heard in the area of Old River Road and Bells Ferry Road near the Oconee River. Cpl. Joyce moved multiple times in an effort to close the distance to the area of the shots and was successful in locating three hunters. All hunters were checked for license compliance and bag limits. During the investigation Cpl. Joyce noticed the strong smell of marijuana coming from one of the hunters. Joyce questioned the subject and he advised that he had smoked the night before and was wearing the same jacket. Joyce asked the subject if he would empty his pockets and he complied. Located in his pockets were several prescription pills that appeared to be narcotics. Joyce contacted a Montgomery County Sheriff's Deputy and he met with Joyce at the scene. After a brief talk with Deputy the subject was placed under arrest and charge with felony drug charges. In addition, Joyce issued citations for: hunting without a license, hunting without a Georgia Migratory License, hunting without a federal duck stamp, and hunting illegal ammo (lead).

## **TATTNALL COUNTY**

On November 23<sup>rd</sup> GWFC Clint Jarriel and GWFC Patrick Gibbs patrolled Big Hammock WMA for hunting activity. Two hunters were checked and charged for hunting on a closed WMA. These two subjects were duck hunting which is a small game and the WMA was open only for a youth deer hunt.

On November 23<sup>rd</sup> GWFC Clint Jarriel responded to a dogs off permitted property in the River Ridge area. After an investigation with the subjects involved Officer Jarriel charged one subject with hunting deer with dogs on unpermitted property.

On November 24<sup>th</sup> GWFC Clint Jarriel responded to a dogs off permitted property in Collins Area. GWFC Clint Jarriel charged two subjects for hunting deer with dogs on unpermitted property.

## **TOOMBS COUNTY**

On the evening of November 22<sup>nd</sup> Sergeant Jon Barnard and Game Warden Bobby Sanders were patrolling for hunting activity when a vehicle was located and the hunter stayed longer than normal after dark. After tracking the hunter a short distance from the roadway the Game Wardens witnessed the hunter shine a light from the deer stand and then fire a shot after legal hunting time. The hunter then came down and began to search for the deer that was shot at, while searching for the deer the Game Wardens made contact with the hunter. A violation for hunting deer at night was issued to the hunter.

On the morning of November 23<sup>rd</sup> Game Warden Bobby Sanders located two individuals hunting in the New Branch area. After a brief compliance check, violations were documented for non-resident hunting without a license, non-residents hunting without a big game license, and hunting without obtaining a harvest record.

On the evening of November 24<sup>th</sup> Sergeant Jon Barnard and Game Warden Bobby Sanders patrolled the Toombs Central area where one violation was documented for hunting deer without fluorescent orange vest.

## **TREUTLEN COUNTY**

On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Game Warden Randell Meeks was patrolling Treutlen County for duck hunting activity. After checking a group of hunters, a violation of hunting without a Federal Duck Stamp was documented.

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Randell Meeks was patrolling the Oconee River area of Treutlen County for duck hunting activity. GW Meeks checked a couple of successful groups. One violation of hunting without the Georgia Migratory Bird Stamp was written.

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

No activity to report.