



# GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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## LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

**Weekly Report**  
**November 25 – December 1, 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)**

### **BARTOW COUNTY**

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, CPL. Byron Young, GWFC Zack Hardy and Cadet Tyler Lewis were working a road hunting detail in western Bartow County. Cadet Lewis observed a male subject shoot from the window of a silver SUV on the public road. Cadet Lewis radioed Cpl. Young and GWFC Hardy to stop the vehicle for the violation. The vehicle fled the scene and made contact with Cpl. Young's patrol vehicle. With the assistance from Georgia State Troopers and Bartow County Deputies the male suspect and a female were taken into custody. Both suspects were found to be convicted felons and one subject had an active warrant in Gordon County. Officers located a .223 rifle and a small amount of marijuana in the male's pockets. Both subjects were placed under arrest and 20 arrest warrants were taken for numerous felony and misdemeanor violations. The male subject had been previously arrested by Game Wardens in Bartow County for hunting violations.

### **CHEROKEE COUNTY**

On November 26<sup>th</sup>, CPL Bart Hendrix heard a rifle shot near a vacant subdivision near HWY 20 and HWY 369. CPL Hendrix contacted SGT Jason Roberson to assist with trying to locate the shot. CPL Hendrix directed SGT Roberson to an area off Henry Scott Rd to search while CPL Hendrix searched the vacant subdivision. After several minutes SGT Roberson located a hunter in the area of Henry Scott Rd. The hunter admitted to hunting an area he did not have permission to hunt. CPL Hendrix contacted the landowner and informed him of the hunting without permission issue on his property. The landowner did not want to prosecute the hunter since there was not a landowner affidavit on file at the time of the violation. CPL Hendrix did issue the hunter a warning for hunting without permission. The landowner has since completed a affidavit for prosecution for future violations.

On November 29<sup>th</sup>, GWFC Zack Hardy responded to a hunting complaint off Kemp Drive in Acworth. Complainants advised they saw a subject walk into the woods wearing camouflage carrying a rifle. The subject was not wearing fluorescent orange. With the assistance of Cherokee County Sheriff Office deputies, the subject was located. The subject has been caught multiple times in the past for different violations. GWFC Hardy charged the subject for hunting without a big game license and not wearing fluorescent orange while hunting for deer.

### **DOUGLAS COUNTY**

November 25<sup>th</sup>, GWFC Daniel Gray and GW Ryan Shorter completed an investigation, they had been working on since October. When game wardens went to the suspect's residence to conduct an interview, they learned the suspect was deer hunting in Paulding County. Cpl. Chad Cox and GW Garrett Pownall located the individual in Paulding County. The suspect had been hunting on this day in Polk County. The suspect was cited for the following: (2) times for hunting w/o license, (2) times for hunting w/o big game license, (1) charge for hunting deer w/o orange, and (4) times for failure to record deer harvest.

### **PAULDING COUNTY**

December 1<sup>st</sup>, GWFC Daniel Gray and GW Ryan Shorter assisted Kansas DNR with a buck that had been killed illegally in Kansas and was brought to Georgia. Game wardens conducted an interview with the hunter and confiscated a 10-point buck. The individual was cited for having bone in meat from a CWD state. The case has since been turned over to Kansas DNR for further investigation.

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

### **HABERSHAM COUNTY**

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Steve Seitz and GWFC Joe Hill patrolled Habersham County and the Soque River for hunting and fishing activity. During the patrols, the game wardens located one female fishing for trout without a trout license and issued her a citation for the license violation. Later this same date, the game wardens located a deer hunter only wearing an orange hat walking down a U.S. Forest Service road with a loaded rifle. The game wardens inspected his licenses and loaded AR style rifle for compliance. The game wardens issued the hunter a citation for not wearing the required amount of fluorescent orange and two warnings for hunting from the road and using illegal ammunition (non-expanding ammo).

### **BARROW COUNTY**

On November 25, GWFC Chris Kernahan responded to an illegal hunting complaint in Barrow Co. He then made contact with a subject who was hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange, hunting without a license, and hunting without a big game license, and violated recording & reporting requirements game animals. The violations were addressed.

On November 30, GWFC Kernahan completed an illegal hunting investigation, which stemmed from earlier during the 2018 deer season. The investigation concerned a subject who harvested multiple antlered deer, and failed to game check them. When GWFC Kernahan made contact with the subject at his residence, he denied killing any deer during current season. GWFC Kernahan then presented the evidence to the subject. He then admitted to killing the deer, and failing to game-check them. GWFC Kernahan determined the location where the deer had been harvested, which processor they 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.

### **HALL COUNTY**

On November 30<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Ryan Locke and Game Warden Chris Kernahan were working night hunting in Hall County. At approximately 11:30 pm, Game Warden Locke observed a vehicle shine a light bar into a field, turn the light bar off and drive a short distance and cut the light bar on again shining another field. Game Warden Locke followed behind the vehicle and as they were about to shine a third field, Locke conducted a traffic stop. There were two subjects in the vehicle with a Remington 700 30-06 positioned next the driver of the vehicle. After interviewing the subjects, it was determined that there had been a six point buck that had been shot a few days prior. Citations were issued to each subject for hunting deer at night, hunting from a motor vehicle, and hunting from a public road.

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, Game Warden Locke returned to the place of residence of the driver of the vehicle from the night before. Locke spoke with several individuals at the residence about the six point buck that had been shot previously. It was determined that the buck had also been shot at night, from a public road, and from a motor vehicle. It was also determined, that an individual at the location had been hunting two days prior and had harvested a buck during legal shooting hours that he did not own. Game Warden Locke concluded the investigation, and issued the three subjects citations for hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road, and hunting from a motor vehicle. One subject was issued warnings for hunting deer without a license and hunting without a big game license. The rack of the six point buck that had been harvested at night was also confiscated.

### **JACKSON COUNTY**

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, Cpl. Eric Isom interviewed two subjects for hunting illegally. Both subjects were found to be hunting without permission and one subject did not have licenses. The infractions were documented; a 9-point buck and deer meat were seized. The meat was donated to a family in need.

## **MADISON COUNTY**

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, GWFC Brandon Pierce, GWFC Shane Sartor, and Sgt. Derek Dillard conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle that contained a dead deer. Upon the stop it was learned that the vehicle contained several buck racks and a recently killed buck. Upon talking with the subject it became obvious that possible violations were at hand. Through the investigation, two individuals were involved and each admitted to killing three bucks this season. A total of nine violations were documented. Citations were issued for taking over the limit, hunting without a big game license, and possession of illegally taken wildlife. Warnings were issued for hunting without obtaining a harvest record. A freshly killed buck was confiscated from the scene and donated to a family in need. Also, three buck racks were confiscated at the scene and two other buck racks will be seized at a later date.

## **FRANKLIN COUNTY**

On November 27<sup>th</sup>, GWFC Brandon Pierce responded to a complaint of possible subjects hunting on government property within the City of Royston. GWFC, along with Royston PD Officers, located two subjects on the property. It was learned that the subjects were preparing to hunt and were convicted felons. A total of four warnings were issued. The violations consisted of hunting without permission and hunting deer without fluorescent orange.

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

### **GREENE COUNTY**

CPL Worth and GW Rhodes patrolled Greene County for hunting and fishing activity. During these patrols, violations of operating a vessel with insufficient PFDs, hunting deer without fluorescent orange, operating a vessel without lights, and blocking access to a WMA road were documented.

### **MORGAN COUNTY**

GW Rhodes and SGT Garthright patrolled Morgan County for hunting activity. During this patrol, violations of hunting deer without fluorescent orange, hunting without a license, and failure to record harvest were documented.

### **NEWTON COUNTY**

GWFC Schay patrolled Newton County for hunting activity. During these patrols, violations of criminal trespass, hunting without permission, operating a vessel with insufficient PFDs, hunting without a license, and hunting without a big game license were documented.

### **WALTON COUNTY**

Game Warden Jason Harrison patrolled Walton County for hunting activity. Violations for Hunting without Fluorescent Orange, Hunting Without Federal Waterfowl License, Hunting without a Big Game License, Hunting without GA Waterfowl License, Hunting Without Permission, and Hunting Without a License were Documented.

### **OCONEE COUNTY**

On November 28<sup>th</sup> GWFC Tim Butler observed a truck driving in a tree orchard shining a light. Gwfc. Butler knew the landowner did not allow any hunting on the orchard. When the vehicle left the orchard, Gwfc. Butler watched the passenger in the truck use a handheld light to shine a field from a county road. Gwfc. Butler initiated a vehicle stop and located a loaded rifle in the front of the vehicle. Both occupants were cited for hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road, hunting from a vehicle, and hunting without permission.

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

### **TROUP COUNTY**

On November 29<sup>th</sup> Game Warden Charlie Follin patrolled the area around Yellow Jacket Access on West Point Lake. He issued two citations for fishing without a license.

On November 29<sup>th</sup> Game Wardens Charlie Follin and Steven Martinez completed an investigation into a hunting complaint. Follin cited the offender for hunting without permission and confiscated a 9 point buck.

On November 25<sup>th</sup> Game Wardens Russell Epps and Steven Martinez investigated a complaint of hunting without permission. They determined the hunter had shot a deer legally but had gone onto another person's property to retrieve the deer without permission. The hunter was cited for hunting without permission.

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

### **EARLY COUNTY**

On Sunday November 25<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Steve Thomas and Taylor Brown were conducting a patrol when they located a dove hunt. Upon inspection of the field, the officers determined the field was baited with peanuts. Nine subjects were issued citations for hunting over bait and a 105 dove were confiscated.

### **LEE COUNTY**

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Al Greer and Warden Logan South located a group of duck hunters hunting waterfowl after hours. The subjects had all the required licenses and were charged with hunting waterfowl after hours.

### **LEE COUNTY**

On November 27<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Ellis Wynn, Cpl. Clint Martin and Warden Logan South responded to a hunting without permission complaint. Two subjects exited the property in question and returned to their vehicle without any firearms or bows. Upon seeing Warden South, one of the subjects threw down a trail camera he had taken from the property in an attempt to hide it. The two subjects were both dressed in camouflage and stated they were on the property just watching nature. A request was made for Cpl. Greg Wade and his K-9 to assist with locating evidence the subjects had left hidden in the woods. Cpl. Wade along with his K-9 and Warden Kristie Carpenter responded to the location, and the K-9 was able to locate a rifle and a crossbow the subjects had hidden in the woods. A search of the subject's vehicle rendered a marijuana grinder, marijuana and Xanax pills. Both subjects were arrested and taken to the Lee County Law Enforcement Center for further processing. One subject was charged with possession of marijuana less than an ounce, hunting without permission, non-resident hunting without a license, non-resident hunting without a big game license and hunting deer without fluorescent orange. The other subject was charged with theft by taking, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, violation of the Georgia controlled substance act, hunting without permission, non-resident hunting without a license, non-resident hunting without a big game license and hunting deer without fluorescent orange.

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

### **TOOMBS COUNTY**

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Patrick Gibbs and Bobby Sanders located two trucks parked on a dirt road next to a small path going into the woods where it appeared someone had been hunting. Gibbs discovered that both subjects did not have a hunting license. When Gibbs walked into the woods to find the hunters, neither of them were wearing the required fluorescent orange to hunt deer during firearms deer season. Violations were addressed for: (2) hunting without a license, (2) hunting without a big game license, and (2) hunting deer without fluorescent orange.

On November 26<sup>th</sup> Game Wardens Cameron Dyal and Bobby Sanders performed an on-site inspection of a taxidermist shop in the county. During the inspection it was discovered two individuals had brought an intact mule deer and whitetail head to Georgia from Wyoming. Because Wyoming is a state with a deer herd that has tested positive for Chronic Wasting Disease it is illegal to bring deer carcasses' or certain parts thereof into Georgia. The individuals were contacted and the violations were documented.

On November 30th Game Warden First Class Bobby Sanders was contacted by several people in reference a large amount of trash being thrown out on Ben Boatright Road. After a brief investigation Sanders was able to locate the individual responsible and the violation for unlawful dumping was documented.

#### **JEFF DAVIS COUNTY**

On November 28<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Patrick Gibbs and Cameron Dyal initiated an investigation stemming from social media. The Game Wardens interviewed the complainant and a suspect in the Hazlehurst area. They then gathered evidence from pictures containing rifles, spotlights, and multiple bucks. Dyal discovered that the suspect's hunting privileges had recently been suspended for child support obligations. The suspect only provided parts of the truth up front when interviewed but eventually came clean on multiple occasions where he hunted illegally. Two racks were seized and violations were addressed for: hunting deer at night, hunting without a license, hunting without a big game license, hunting without permission, and (2) failure to record harvest.

#### **TREUTLEN COUNTY**

On November 30th, Game Warden Randell Meeks was working a night hunt detail in Treutlen County. GW Meeks observed a spot light working back and forth over a clear cut. Upon stopping the vehicle there was two rifles found in the back seat with the passengers along with a spot light. Violations for hunting deer at night, hunting from a vehicle and hunting big game from a public road were documented on the driver and both passengers.

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

No activity to report.