



WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

MIKE ENGLAND
COLONEL

APPLICATION for SCIENTIFIC COLLECTING PERMIT
\$80.00 FEE MUST ACCOMPANY APPLICATION

MEMORANDUM

This memorandum is submitted in reference to the requirements for obtaining a Scientific Collecting Permit (SCP) as authorized under the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.) § 27-2-12. Enclosed are copies of the applicable statutory provisions and permit requirements, along with the SCP application form, which must be completed and returned to the Law Enforcement Division, Special Permit Unit, in Social Circle, Georgia. Scientific Collecting Permits are required for research, educational, and propagation activities conducted by individuals, educational institutions, or environmental consulting firms involving regulated wildlife species, including amphibians, reptiles, birds, gopher tortoises, mammals (including bats), freshwater fishes, freshwater mussels and snails, non-mussel freshwater invertebrates, and coastal fish, invertebrates, and marine mammal species. Please follow the guidelines outlined enclosed.

This permit is issued to an individual applicant affiliated with an educational institution or research organization. All requested information must be provided in order to establish the applicant's account. The affiliated educational institution or research organization will be listed on the permit; however, the Scientific Collecting Permit is issued to the individual applicant and is not established or administered as a business account.

Please contact Jamie Hawkins, Special Permit Unit Coordinator with any questions concerning the permit process at 770-918-6408 (press option 2 for Law Enforcement.)

***Gopher Tortoise Surveys – If you are seeking approval for a Gopher Tortoise survey or relocation project, contact Wildlife Biologist James Hunt at James.hunt1@dnr.ga.gov or (229)-289-8896 prior to submitting application.**

***Plants and Terrestrial insects are not covered with this permit**, please contact Wildlife Conservation Section for more information at (706)-557-3213, or by email at:

Conservation Botanist, Carlee Steppe (carlee.steppe@dnr.ga.gov)

Terrestrial Invertebrates Anna Yellin (anna.yellin@dnr.ga.gov)

All electronic Scientific collecting reports are to be submitted to Rhiannon Hall Rhiannon.Hall@dnr.ga.gov, once project is over, or prior to renewing your permit.

NOTE:

***If you have applied for or received a Previous DNR Scientific Collecting permit, STOP NOW –**

A RENEWAL APPLICATION with your assigned DNR Licensee Customer ID number is required along with any required documents.

Renewal application can be found at <https://gadnrle.org/special-permits>

To prevent unnecessary delays in the approval of your request, all applications must include the following: (a) completed application form, (b) project proposal or justification (c) Curriculum Vitae for applicants and proposed sub-permittees, (d) \$80.00 permit fee (e) Copy of Driver's license. If you are paying by our preferred method of (Credit Card), and you do not list the credit card information on application, the applicant must call the special permit unit at 770-918-6408 (press option 2 for Law Enforcement) as soon as possible to provide this payment information. Not doing so will cause a delay in processing your permit.

If your collection needs are for other than research (for which a project proposal is necessary), a complete written justification must accompany your application. Examples of activities which require justification are obtaining specimens for teaching or museums and certain environmental monitoring activities.

1. All conditions of the permit and all requirements of both state and federal law and regulations must be met. If your project requires collecting on U.S.D.A. Forest Service (USDA-FS) lands, a copy of your USDA-FS Letter of Authorization must accompany this application. For information on obtaining this letter, contact Jerome Bennett, USDA-FS, Forest Realty Specialist, Chattahoochee-Oconee NFs – Supervisor's Office, 1755 Cleveland Hwy, Gainesville, GA 30501 or call 770-297-2936.
2. Master permits are intended for use by professors, supervisors, and research project leaders who will have people collecting for them or under their supervision when the master permittee may not always be present. A copy of the permit must be on them at all times, when not under permittee supervision.
3. Please use discretion in the use of these permits in order to ensure their continued availability as a valuable tool of both this Department and the scientific community.
4. Fee must accompany application. Payment is by credit card (preferred payment), check or money order made payable to the Department of National Resources. (DNR)

***When applying for a Scientific Collecting permit, please note that if you submit an application before April 1st, of the current year, once approved, your application will be processed for the current year and will expire on March 31 st of that current year. Therefore, you will have to submit a renewal application to continue your activities. At the top of application please check the appropriate season of your permit, if you check both the fee is \$160.00.**

Renewal application can be found at <https://gadnrle.org/special-permits>

rev/1/2026/jrh

Allow at least four to six weeks for the review and processing process of your application.



Scientific Collecting permits are valid from April 1st through March 31st. Please check starting date:
_____ Start ASAP- permit ending this March 31st
_____ Desired start date – April 1st

APPLICATION

**SCIENTIFIC COLLECTING PERMIT
\$80.00 FEE MUST ACCOMPANY APPLICATION**

Applicant Name: _____

Home Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____

rev1/2026/jrh

College, University, Scientific Affiliation: _____ or

Consultant Company Scientific Affiliation: _____

Business phone number: _____ Cell Number: _____

Affiliation/ Mail to Address: _____ (if differ from above)

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

***Required information to create your DNR account.**

Date of Birth: _____ **Social Security Number** _____

Driver's License # _____ **DL State:** _____ (include copy of DL)

Please check if you will have sub-permittees collecting outside of your direct supervision If so, please attach a list of sub-permittees along with their (*Curriculum Vitae)

PAYMENT METHODS – Payment must accompany application.

**** If you do not wish to put your credit card information below, it is up to the applicant to call 770-918-6408 (press option 2 for LE) to provide this information as soon as possible. Delay in calling can delay processing time.**

DNR only accepts: Visa: MasterCard: Discover

Paying by credit card - enter card # here: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Total Amt. \$ **80.00**.

Expiration Date: _____ / _____ Security Code # _____

Credit Card Signature: _____ Zip Code _____

Email credit card receipt to: _____ Email address: _____

Paying by check or money order – Make Payable to: DNR CHECK # _____

Mail applications & required documents to:
DNR / Attn: Special Permit Unit, 2070 U.S. Hwy 278 SE, Social Circle, GA 30025

I desire to collect the following species: Specify:

I desire to collect by the following methods (specify type, size of gear, etc.):

Collection Dates or Frequency: _____

Please check the taxonomic groups you would like to be permitted for:

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amphibians | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Listed | <input type="checkbox"/> State Listed | <input type="checkbox"/> Federally Listed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birds | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Listed | <input type="checkbox"/> State Listed | <input type="checkbox"/> Federally Listed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birds | <input type="checkbox"/> Migratory | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-migratory | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reptiles | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Listed | <input type="checkbox"/> State Listed | <input type="checkbox"/> Federally Listed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gopher Tortoise Burrow Survey / Indigo Survey | | <input type="checkbox"/> State Listed | <input type="checkbox"/> Federally Listed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gopher Tortoise Relocation | | <input type="checkbox"/> State Listed | <input type="checkbox"/> Federally Listed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mammals <input type="checkbox"/> Including Bats | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Listed | <input type="checkbox"/> State Listed | <input type="checkbox"/> Federally Listed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Freshwater Fishes | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Listed | <input type="checkbox"/> State Listed | <input type="checkbox"/> Federally Listed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Freshwater Mussels and/or Snails | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Listed | <input type="checkbox"/> State Listed | <input type="checkbox"/> Federally Listed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Mussel Freshwater Invertebrates | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Listed | <input type="checkbox"/> State Listed | <input type="checkbox"/> Federally Listed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal & Estuarine Fishes | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Listed | <input type="checkbox"/> State Listed | <input type="checkbox"/> Federally Listed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal & Estuarine Invertebrates | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Listed | <input type="checkbox"/> State Listed | <input type="checkbox"/> Federally Listed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marine Mammals | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Listed | <input type="checkbox"/> State Listed | <input type="checkbox"/> Federally Listed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Birds | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Listed | <input type="checkbox"/> State Listed | <input type="checkbox"/> Federally Listed |

List Specific species and numbers to be collected here (use attachments if necessary):

Species or Groups

Common Name

Scientific Nomenclature

Numbers

I desire to collect at the following locations (for aquatic species, please check the river basins on the attached map where you plan to collect during the permit year. For other species please indicate the county, physiographic region or specific land area where you wish to collect). Please be as specific as possible to ensure speedy processing of the permit.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Basin | <input type="checkbox"/> Coosa Basin | <input type="checkbox"/> Tallapoosa Basin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chattahoochee Basin | <input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Basin | <input type="checkbox"/> Oconee Basin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ocmulgee Basin | <input type="checkbox"/> Flint Basin | <input type="checkbox"/> Ogeechee Basin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Altamaha Basin | <input type="checkbox"/> Satilla Basin | <input type="checkbox"/> Suwannee Basin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saint Marys Basin | <input type="checkbox"/> Ochlockonee Basin | <input type="checkbox"/> Satewide |

Signature (in ink)

Date

O.C.G.A. § 16-10-20: "A person who knowingly and willingly makes a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement...in any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of state government...shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine of not more than \$1000 or by imprisonment for not less than one or more than five years, or both."

FORMAT

For Project Proposals

Submitted With Scientific Collecting Applications

I. Study Title: (brief concise, descriptive **title is required and or project number**).

A. Program Needs:

(Describe the specific management problem to be addressed and explain why it must be resolved.)

What?

B. Objective:

(State the objective(s).)

Why?

C. Justification:

(Identify the user(s) of the information to be generated and indicate how the findings will be implemented. Explain the results and expected benefits to fish and wildlife or relate the accomplishment of the objective to succeeding steps that will lead to these achievements.)

What is known?

D. Status: (What has gone on before?)

(State what is already known about the objective. This should include pertinent information from literature review and correspondence or consultation with other workers as well as your own prior studies. Other similar efforts should be discussed in relation to this study. Historical perspective is pertinent for surveys. A bibliography demonstrating an adequate literature review should be included as a supporting document.)

How?

E. Procedures: (Give by discrete tasks)

(Fully explain the approach or plan of action. This should provide the organizational framework and logical sequence of events that will lead to attainment of the study objective. The job objectives should be listed to show that their attainment collectively will accomplish the study objective. Detailed procedures of each job should be presented in job descriptions. Identify cooperators and their roles. Explain contractual arrangements and any agreements made for accomplishment of the study objective.)

When?

F. Schedule:

Where?

G. Geographic Location:

(Locate the study precisely by description or map. If work is to be Statewide, so indicate.)

Who?

H. Personnel:

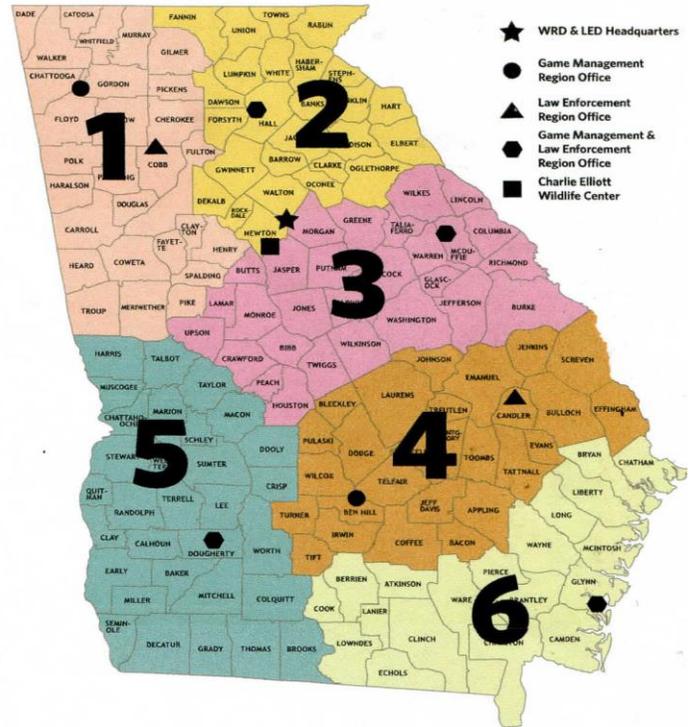
(Identify supervisory and technical personnel responsible for the study.)

Scientific Collecting Permit General Provisions

1. A Federal Permit is also required for collection of migratory birds or their parts, nests, or eggs.
2. Region or District Law Enforcement office, along with Game Management, Fisheries Management, or the U.S. Forest Service, if applicable, in each area of collection must be notified at least three (3) days in advance of the date and place of specimens are to be collected, the species to be collected, methods of collection, and permit number.

REGION OFFICES

NORTHWEST REGION OFFICE (REGION 1)	
2650 Floyd Springs Road, Armuchee, GA 30105	
Game Management (Armuchee)	706-295-6041
Law Enforcement (Acworth).....	770-529-2424
NORTHEAST REGION OFFICE (REGION 2)	
2150 Dawsonville Hwy, Gainesville, GA 30501	
Game Management (Gainesville)	770-535-5700
Law Enforcement (Gainesville).....	770-535-5499
CENTRAL REGION OFFICE (REGION 3)	
142 Bob Kirk Road NW, Thomson, GA 30824	
Game Management (Thomson)	706-595-4222
Law Enforcement (Thomson).....	706-595-4211
SOUTHEAST REGION OFFICE (REGION 4)	
1773-A Bowens Mill Hwy, Fitzgerald, GA 31750	
Game Management (Fitzgerald)	229-426-5267
Law Enforcement (Metter).....	912-685-2145
SOUTHWEST REGION OFFICE (REGION 5)	
2024 Newton Road, Albany, GA 31701	
Game Management (Albany)	229-430-4254
Law Enforcement (Albany)	229-430-4252
COASTAL REGION OFFICE (REGION 6)	
1 Conservation Way, Brunswick, GA 31520	
Game Management (Brunswick)	912-262-3173
Law Enforcement (Brunswick).....	912-264-7237



3. Collectors should be as judicious and humane as possible in collecting and capture.
4. The Department of Natural Resources reserves the right to limit the kind and numbers of specimens collected in order to ensure the conservation of the natural resources of this State. The taking of wildlife at any time by means other than those conditions set forth in this permit is prohibited.
5. This permit does not authorize the taking of any listed (endangered, threatened, rare, or unusual) species unless specifically provided.
6. This permit does not authorize collections on State or Federal Wildlife Refuges, tidal wetlands and beaches, management areas, other sanctuaries, or parks unless specifically provided. If authorized, specific written permission must be obtained from the park manager, area manager, or supervisor prior to any collection activities.
7. Permits are not transferable. However, assistants, employees, or field workers may assist with collections. Designated representatives of the master permittee must possess a copy of the permit and a letter of authorization from the master permittee.
8. Permittees must submit an annual report of specimens collected upon expiration date of said permit.
9. All application or permit questions should be directed to the Special Permit Unit at 770-918-6408.

10. Collections shall be always available for inspection to duly authorized inspectors or agents of the Department of Natural Resources.

11. Any permit may be revoked at any time for violation of the terms, exceptions, restrictions, or conditions of said permit.

12. The Department may request, when practical, duplicates of any collections taken under authority of this permit for future educational purposes.

13. All permits expire March 31.

14. This permit does not authorize the exchange of fish and wildlife, their parts, nests, or eggs, with persons who do not hold an appropriate permit.

15. Permit (copy and letter of authorization for sub-permittees) must be in possession while collecting.

16. Encounters with animals listed on the Georgia DNR Wildlife Conservation Section's Tracking List of Special Concern Animals must be reported within one (1) year to: GA DNR Nongame Conservation Section, (706) 557-3213 or Fax 706-557-3580.

Electronic submission forms may be found at: <https://georgiawildlife.com/conservation/species-of-concern>

ALL APPLICATIONS ARE TO BE MAILED TO:

**Department of Natural Resources
Law Enforcement Division
Attn Special Permit Unit
2070 U.S. Hwy 278
Social Circle, GA 30025**

ALL PERMIT & PROCESS QUESTIONS, ARE TO BE DIRECTED TO JAMIE HAWKINS, SPECIAL PERMIT UNIT COORDINATOR AT 770-918-6408, press option 2 for Law Enforcement, OR BY EMAIL jamie.hawkins@dnr.ga.gov

- **RENEWAL APPLICATIONS CAN BE FOUND AT <https://gadnrle.org/special-permits> under Scientific Collecting title.**

O.C.G.A. § 27-2-12. Scientific Collecting Permit.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to take, possess, or transport any of the wildlife of this state, or the plumage, skin, or body thereof, or the nests or eggs of the same for scientific purposes without obtaining a scientific collecting permit and complying with this Code Section.

(b) Application for a scientific collecting permit must be made on forms obtained from the Department and must be accompanied by the permit fee as provided for in Code Section 27-2-3 and a project proposal containing the justification for and an outline of the proposed collecting activities.

(c) The Department shall issue such a permit only if it has determined that the proposed collecting activities are in the best interest of the wildlife resources. In making such a determination, the Department shall consider the following:

- (1) Whether there is a need for information or data.
- (2) Whether the proposed collecting activities would duplicate sound research previously accomplished.
- (3) Whether there would be benefit to the species or population being studied.
- (4) Whether the project would be detrimental to the particular wildlife population or associated populations or to the habitat of the wildlife; and
- (5) Whether the project is of reasonably sound design.

(d) Based on the conditions outlined in subsection (c) of this Code section, such permit may contain conditions on the number and type of wildlife to be collected, the dates and locations of collecting, and the type of gear which may be used. Notwithstanding any other provision of this title to the contrary, the department may authorize the use of baskets, nets, seines, traps, chemicals, and electrical devices for purposes of collecting pursuant to this Code section.

(e) Persons issued a scientific collecting permit shall treat all wildlife humanely and shall notify the Department at least three days in advance of the date of collecting. Such persons shall also submit to the Department reports detailing the information or data obtained from such collecting activities. The reports shall be submitted by the following March 31 or within 60 days after collecting, whichever is later.

(f) Permits may be denied, revoked, or not renewed in accordance with the procedures outlined in Code Section 27-2-25 for the reasons outlined in said Code Section or for any of the following reasons:

- (1) Violation of specific conditions listed on the permit;
- (2) Excessive collection of wildlife;
- (3) Submitting false information;
- (4) Failure to maintain records;
- (5) Failure to notify the department within three days of collecting activities;
- (6) Inhumane treatment of wildlife; or
- (7) Any other violation of this Code Section or the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.

**CHAPTER 391-4-9
GENERAL REGULATIONS**

391-4-9-.01 Scientific Collecting Permits. Amended.

- (1) Purpose. The purpose of this rule is to establish administrative procedures to be followed by applicants and/or holders of scientific collecting permits and to discourage excessive duplication of effort and reduce excessive collecting.
- (2) Definition. Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the following terms as used in this rule shall have the following meanings:
 - (a) "Collection report" means a summary, prepared by the permittee, which details collections of the previous year and includes data on species collected, dates, numbers, methods, locations, and disposition of specimens;
 - (b) "Master permittee" means a person to whom a scientific collecting permit has been issued, which allows him to authorize students, assistants, aides, employees, or field workers to assist with collections under his supervision;
 - (c) "Project proposal" means a document which outlines proposed research activities that require scientific collecting permits and justifies the need for scientific collecting. The project proposal shall explain specific objectives, methods, locations, frequency of collection, number of individuals needed, and the planned disposition of specimens to be taken;
 - (d) "Scientific Collecting Permit" means a permit which authorizes one to take, possess, capture, kill, ship or transport any of the wildlife of this State, or the plumage, or the skin or body thereof, or the nest or eggs of the same for Scientific purposes according to the rules and regulations promulgated by the Department of Natural Resources;
 - (e) "Special purpose permit" means a permit that grants privileges beyond that of a scientific collecting permit, i.e., possession of specimens for longer than sixty days following expiration of the scientific collecting permit;
 - (f) "Sub-permittee" means a student, assistant, aide, employee, or field worker who is working under the supervision of and is authorized to collect wildlife by the master permittee;
- (3) Application for Permit.
 - (a) A specific request must be made for the issuance of a master permit. Applicants must clearly justify their need for a master permit.
 - (b) Unless otherwise specified on the permit, scientific collecting permits shall be effective from April 1 through March 31. (c) Student collectors must submit a proposal and a written and signed endorsement thereof by their major professor.
 - (c) A fee of \$80.00 per permit must accompany the application. Payment must be made by certified check or money order made payable to the Department of Natural Resources.
 - (d) A collection report detailing the previous year's collection activities is required with any renewal application.

(4) Use of Permit.

(a) Permittee and subpermittees must have their permit in possession while collecting. Permits are nontransferable, except that a master permittee may designate students, assistants, aides, employees, or field workers assistants in collecting. All such subpermittees must have on their person a copy of the master permit and a letter of authorization issued by the master permittee to them. The master permittee shall be responsible for any violations by any such subpermittee and shall be responsible for maintaining all records.

(b) Instructors whose class members are directed to collect wildlife are responsible for assuring that only a representative sample of animals are retained and sacrificed for class use.

(c) All specimens retained must be humanely cared for. All collectors are expected to use good judgement when exercising the privileges of their collecting permit. Collectors should be as prudent and humane as possible in collecting and capture activities.

(d) District Law Enforcement of the Department of Natural Resources in each area of collection must be notified at least three (3) days in advance of the date and place specimens are to be collected, the species to be collected, the method of collection and the permit number.

(5) Disposition of Specimens.

To ensure the maximum use of all specimens collected under the auspices of a scientific collecting permit, the disposition of the wildlife, their carcasses, parts, products, or progeny thereof shall be as follows:

(a) Live, uninjured and unimpaired specimens which could reasonably be expected to survive in the wild, shall be returned to the location of capture and released. Records of such releases shall be indicated on the scientific collection report.

(b) All other specimens taken and possessed under authorization of a scientific collection permit must be donated and transferred to a public, scientific, or educational institution within sixty (60) days following expiration of the permit, unless the permittee has been issued a special purpose permit authorizing possession for a longer period of time. Specimens not suitable for donation must be destroyed. Edible specimens shall be donated to a charitable institution and a receipt obtained. Receipts must be attached to annual collection report.

(6) Reports.

(a) A collection report detailing the previous year's collecting activities must be submitted with any request for renewal of a permit. Individuals not renewing a permit must submit a report by March 31, or within sixty (60) days after collecting, whichever is later. Data should be provided on species collected, dates, location, and disposition of specimens.

(b) A listing of all publications, research papers, theses, progress reports, etc., derived from the study of such collections, shall be submitted with the annual collection report.

(c) Copies of such materials shall be made available to the Department of Natural Resources upon request.

(7) State parks, municipal parks, public museums, public zoological parks, and public scientific or educational institutions may possess lawfully acquired wildlife without a permit, provided the wildlife may be acquired only from persons authorized by this paragraph; or persons authorized by permit from this Department, or from Federal or State game authorities by the gift of seized, condemned, or sick or injured wildlife; or through salvage of wildlife which have been killed as the result of an unintentional accident or an act of nature; and also provided that it shall be unlawful to possess migratory birds without authorization from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.