

State: Georgia
Grant Number: 08-953
Study Number: 6

LONG RANGE PERFORMANCE REPORT

Grant Title: State Funded Wildlife Survey

Period Covered: July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

Study Title: Wild Turkey Production and Population Indices

- Study Objectives:
1. To determine annually an index of statewide turkey populations and production success in Georgia.
 2. To organize data obtained in a form so that it can be used in sound management of turkeys in Georgia.

Abstract

The 2014 reproductive season was the worst recorded by the GA DNR. Twelve reproductive parameters were worse than their respective 5-year averages and two were the worst recorded. For 2014, the poults/hen = 1.1 (tied 2007 & 2009) and percentage of hens with poults = 32% (worst ever recorded). We have now experienced 3 years in a row (2012-14) of poor reproduction, which was the worst 3-year period the DNR has observed. The 2015 turkey hunting season was also one of the worst overall turkey hunting seasons in over a decade. Six harvest parameters were worse than their respective 5-year averages, with hours/turkey seen, hours/turkey heard, gobblers heard/trip, hunter success and percentage of hunters bagging 2 birds all worse than at least the last 13 years. The population index for the 2015 harvest season (2.0 hours hunted/turkey seen) was 20% greater than 2014 (1.6) and the worse observed since 2002, which means with a greater number it took longer to see a turkey. The observed 2015 population index was 8% worse than what was predicted.

A. Activity:

Job A. Turkey Production Index Survey - This survey was conducted during the months of May through August from 1978 to 1991. Beginning in 1991, the survey period was shortened to June through August when statistical analysis of data indicated the shorter time period was adequate.

Cooperators involved in data collection for this survey were field personnel of the Game Management Section, Fisheries Management Section and Non-Game Section of the Wildlife Resources Division, as well as personnel from the Law Enforcement Division. Observations were made during the course of regular field duties. No special efforts were made to locate turkeys for the survey.

Records were maintained of all turkey broods and hens, with and without broods. Data were compiled on a statewide and physiographic region basis.

Job B. Turkey Hunting Population Index Survey –

The hunter cooperators participating in the survey were obtained from names of prospects submitted by WRD personnel and current cooperators. Cooperators were also solicited through

newspaper and magazine requests and programs to interest groups. From 1990-2013, randomly selected members of the Georgia Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation and 2013-present randomly chosen applicants for DNR turkey quota hunts also were contacted to bring the total potential cooperating hunters to at least 2,000.

This survey is conducted during the regular spring gobbler-hunting season, which begins the first Saturday after March 19 and ends May 15. Specific information requested about each hunting trip was the date, hours hunted, county or physiographic region hunted, the number of gobblers and hens seen, the number of gobblers heard, gobblers harvested, and if the cooperator was the hunter or the guide. Hunt record forms were supplied to all cooperators.

The number of turkeys observed per unit of hunting effort is used as an index of the hunting season population. The correlation between the population indices and the production indices are used in evaluating annual production and populations and in making comparisons for trends. Data were calculated on a statewide and physiographic region basis.

B. Target Date for Achievement and Accomplishments:

Job A. Planned dates and dates of accomplishment coincide, November 30, 2014.

Job B. Planned dates and dates of accomplishment coincide, August 31, 2015.

C. Significant Deviations:

Job A. No significant deviations from FY 2014 report.

Job B. A new prediction analysis was created. Recently, Poult+Hens for the past reproductive season was used to predict the current seasons hours/turkey seen (statewide population index). However, the DNR has desired to change the analysis predictor from an absolute value (Poults+Hens) because any absolute value can be skewed based on number of observers participating in the survey. Therefore, for this year we used two predictors (Poults/Observer from the past reproductive year + Turkeys seen/hour from the past harvest season) to predict the current harvest season's statewide population index. Both of the new predictors are not biased by observer numbers and this new analysis actually takes both reproduction and population data into account.

D. Finds:

Job A. In 2014, 347 broods were observed (Graph 1). This is 18% less than the year before (2013 = 424) and 4% less than the 5-year average (361, 2009-13). The average brood size for 2014 was 5.2 poults, 12% less than the 2013 average of 6.0, and 27% less than the 5-year average (7.1). Twenty-one percent less Poults+Hens were observed in 2014 (3,457) versus 2013 (4,376; Graph 4) and 19% less than the 5-year average (4,267). The total number of poults observed/estimated was 1,816 and was 28% less than 2013 (2,471), and 29% less than the 5-year average (2,544).

Examination of poults/observer revealed that statewide (10.26) it was 21% less than 2013 (13.06), 25% less than the 5-year average (13.68) and the third worse (2007 & 2009) in the last 30 years. Poults/observer was up in Ridge & Valley (I, 82%), down in Blue Ridge Mountains (II, 3%), down in the Piedmont (III, 30%), down in the Upper Coastal Plain (IV, 35%) and down in

the Lower Coastal Plain (V, 10%) from 2013.

The number of hens reported totaled 1,641 (Graph 2) and was down 5% from the 5-year average (1,723). The percent of hens with poults (31.9% and was the worst recorded and the worst 3-year period; Graph 3) was down 9% from 2013 (35.2%) and 18% less than the 5-year average (39%). The average number of poults per hen, 1.1 (Graph 3, tied with 2007 & 2009 as worst recorded), was down 19% than in 2013 (1.4) and 27% less than the 5-year average (1.5) and therefore production was considered poor for 2014. Historically, with Georgia's expanding turkey population an average of 3 poults per hen was considered good, however, recent data with a more stable population indicates that productivity threshold of approximately 2.0 poults per hen may be an indicator of good reproductive levels.

Gobblers observed was down in 2014 (903) by 16% from 2013 (1,072) and nearly equal to the 5-year average (916; Graph 5). The hen:gobbler ratio observed in 2014 (1.8) was nearly equal to 2013 (1.7) and the 5-year average (1.9; Graph 6). The hen:gobbler ratio was down for the Blue Ridge Mountains and Lower Coastal Plain.

Job B. For the 2015 hunting season, usable hunt data was supplied by 523 cooperators (which is 9% above the 5-year average of 477 [2010-14]). Of these, 476 came from the permanent cooperator list and 47 from the DNR quota list which resulted in a reporting rate (after deleting wrong addresses, deceased, quit hunting, incorrect data collection, etc.) of 35.6% from the permanent and 8.1% from the DNR quota list, respectively. These cooperators reported spending a total of 19,891.8 hours hunting (which is 5% above last year [18,856.3 = 2014] and 15% above the 5-year average of 16,820.4; Table 1). The average season hunter effort was 10.8 trips (which is nearly equal to last year [10.6] and 5% more than the 5-year average of 10.2) totaling 38.0 hours (which is nearly equal to last year [37.4 = 2014] and 7% more than the 5-year average of 35.2). They reported observing 9,926 turkeys (which is 16% less than last year [11,784 = 2014] and 2% less than the 5-year average of 10,176) and hearing 7,619 gobblers (which is 17% less than last year [9,139 = 2014] and 10% less than the 5-year average of 8,507). This represents the worst year since 2009 for both indices. The statewide population index (hours/turkey seen) of 2.0 was 20% greater than last year (1.6 = 2014) and the worst since 2002, and was 15% less than the 5-year average (1.7, a greater number means a worse year in that it took longer to see a turkey, graph 7). The effort per gobbler heard of 2.6 was 19% worse than last year (2.1 = 2014) and the worst since 2002. It was also 23% worse than the 5-year average of 2.0. The effort per gobbler harvested was 27.1 which was 9% worse than last year (24.7) and the worst since 2009. This was also 18% worse than the 5-year average of 22.3 (Graph 7). The least hunting effort per turkey seen occurred in the Ridge and Valley along with the Upper and Lower Coastal Plain (fourth year in a row for RV and LCP). The effort per gobbler heard was least in the Ridge and Valley followed by the Upper and Lower Coastal Plains and was greatest in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

This was the third season we asked cooperators to report gobblers and hens seen separately. From this, we observed that statewide the hen:gobbler ratio was 1.3 down slightly down from last year (1.5, Table 2), whereas during the reproductive season 2014 it was 1.8. This ratio varied from 1.1 (Upper Coastal Plain) – 1.5 (Ridge and Valley and Lower Coastal Plain) hens:gobbler across the 5 physiographic regions. You would expect fewer hens to be seen during the harvest season because as the season progresses hens leave the gobblers to nest. Statewide hours hunted per gobbler seen was 4.7 (4.0 in 2014), while it took 3.5 hours (2.7 in 2014) to see a hen (Table 2). Hours per gobbler seen varied from 3.0 (Lower Coastal Plain – second year being the lowest)

– 6.4 (Piedmont – second year being the highest) across the regions. Hours per hen seen varied from 2.0 (Lower Coastal Plain – second year being the lowest) – 4.6 (Piedmont – second year being the highest) across the regions.

Statewide peak gobbling activity (1.7 & 1.8 gobblers heard per trip) occurred during the youth (March 14-15) and first (March 21-22) weekends, but were much less than last year (2.7 & 2.6, respectively). This season statewide there were no periods with greater than or equal to 2.0 gobblers heard per trip which was the worst since 1999 (from 2000-2014 there were anywhere between 1-6 periods with 2.0 or better). This year as in most years, the greatest gobbling activity was the first 7 days of the season. Regionally, for 2.0 gobblers heard per trip or greater we observed the following for each region: Ridge and Valley – youth, first and fourth weekend; Blue Ridge Mountains – first and fourth weekends; Piedmont, Upper and Lower Coastal Plains experienced no periods with 2.0 or better. The youth weekend numbers are deceiving because there was very little data across the state for that weekend. Gobblers heard per trip compared to last year was the same for the Ridge and Valley, up for Blue Ridge Mountains, and down for the Piedmont, Upper and Lower Coastal Plains (Table 3).

The statewide gobbler harvest during the first seven days (excluding the youth weekend) of the season amounted to 27% of the total season harvest (which is less than the 5-year average of 30 %; Graph 8). Peak seven-day harvest by region was: Ridge and Valley April 13-19, Blue Ridge Mountains = April 20-26, Piedmont and Upper Coastal Plain = March 21-27; and Lower Coastal Plain = March 28 – April 3 (Tables 4 and 5).

Similar to previous seasons and coinciding with the harvest data, the greatest number of trips made was during the first seven days (excluding the youth weekend) of the season (Tables 6 and 7), except for the Blue Ridge Mountains (April 18-24) and Lower Coastal Plain (March 28 – April 3).

Statewide (excluding the youth weekend) the best 2 periods were the first (March 21-22) and second (March 28-29) weekends for gobbler harvest per trip (or efficiency; Table 8). The best two periods for Ridge and Valley was the fourth week through the fifth weekend (April 13-19), Blue Ridge Mountains was the first weekend (March 21-22) and sixth week (April 27-May 1), Piedmont was the first weekend (March 21-22) and second week (March 30-April 3), Upper Coastal Plain was the first (March 21-22) and second (March 28-29) weekends and the Lower Coastal Plain was the first weekend (March 21-22) and the seventh week (May 4-8; Table 8).

Hunter success (60.2 %) was the worst since 2001, with 315 of 523 hunters reported taking or assisting in taking at least one gobbler. Of the successful hunters, 135 (25.8 %, 5 year average was 23.6 %) took or assisted in taking one bird, 70 (13.4 %, 5 year average was 17.7 %) took or assisted in taking two birds, and 110 (21.0%, 5 year average was 25.0 %; Graph 10) took or assisted in taking three birds. Cooperators reported 227 gobblers harvested by companions, which was close to last year (233) and the 5-year average of 205.

The new predictive model analysis uses Poults/Observer of the previous reproductive season + Turkeys seen/Hour from the previous harvest to predict the following years harvest season population index of Hours Hunted/Turkey Seen, where the predictor model (1978-2014) is:

$$1/(\text{Constant} + (\text{Slope X 2014 Poults/Observe}) + (\text{Slope X 2014 Turkeys Seen/Hour})) \\ = \text{2015 Hours Hunted/Turkey Seen}$$

Therefore:

$$1/(\mathbf{0.1066} + (\mathbf{0.0107*10.26}) + (\mathbf{0.51757*0.6250})) \\ = \mathbf{1.85 \text{ Hours Hunted/Turkey Seen in 2015.}}$$

After the reproduction+population data from 2014 was entered in the model, the prediction for the 2015 harvest season was 1.85 hours hunted per turkey seen. However, hunters observed 2.0 hours hunted per turkey seen which is 8% worse than what was predicted. A relatively high inverse correlation $r = -0.68$ was obtained from this analysis.

Jobs A&B.

In summary, the 2014 reproductive season was the worst season since we've been recoding data (1978). The following reproductive statistics were worse than the 5-year average: number of broods, poults/brood, estimated number of poults, poults/observer, hens with poults hens without poults, total number of hens, poults/hen, percent of hens with poults, estimated number of poults+hens, number of gobblers and the hen:gobbler ratio. Poorer reproduction also means fewer hens produced for breeding. We have seen in the past that just a few good reproductive years can make up for several bad ones. As an example from 2005-2011 (7 years) we had two of the worst years (2007 & 2009) but at the same time had three average to good years (2008, 2010 & 2011) which seemed to have made the 2012 harvest season above average (when looking at gobblers harvested and gobblers heard per trip). All of this reveals how important the hatch is not only the following year, but also the years after. We had high hopes for the 2014 reproductive season to make up for 2012-13, however it was the worst year we ever had recorded since the inception of the survey (1978). Both the poults/hen index (1.1, tied 2007 & 2009) and percentage of hens with poults index (32%) were the worst ever recorded. Therefore, the poor reproduction the past 3 years (the worst 3-year average for poults/hen ever recorded = 1.3 and percentage of hens with poults = 34%) laid the groundwork for what we observed this harvest season (2015).

From this year's harvest season (2015), we observed that it was not as good or successful as years past. What a lot of hunters remember is that 2012 was a great season for number of gobblers harvested, fewer hours it took per gobbler harvested (best ever), companion kills, hunter success (best since 2006), and 3+ gobblers bagged (maybe best ever or before 1995). For some both 2013 & 2014 were good seasons and for some bad. However, 2015 was worse than the past two years. What hunters haven't thought of is that 2012 was an exception and not the norm. For 2015, the following were worse than their respective 5-year average: hours/turkey seen, hours/gobbler heard, hours/gobbler killed, hunter success, percentage of hunters who bagged 2 gobblers and bagged 3 gobblers. The percentage of hunters who bagged one gobbler went up the greatest since 2011 and was greater than the 5-year average, which makes sense considering the percentage of hunters who bagged 2 or 3 birds went down. Several of the above parameters were worse than the past 13 years (hours/turkey seen, hours/gobbler heard, gobblers heard/trip, hunter success and percentage of hunters who bagged 2 gobblers).

This season like last season we experienced some extreme weather periods early in the season through mid-late April for parts of the state. It seemed that for most of the state May was drier. Therefore, even comparing the parameters from 2015 to other extreme weather harvest years (2014, 2009 & 2007) 2015 was still the worse. However, for those other years there were not 3 years in a row of reproduction resulting in an average of 1.3 poults/hen (actually the worst 3-year period recorded) and 34% of hens with poults (worst 3-year period recorded). The 2014 season had an average of 1.5 poults/hen and 38% hens with poults, 2009 had an average of 1.7 poults/hen and 42% of hens with poults and 2007 had an average of 1.7 poults/hen and 43% of hens with poults for the 3 previous reproductive season. While those numbers are still not great they are at least better than what was experienced coming into the 2015 harvest season.

Weather extremes, changes in land management and human population growth rates (several GA counties ranked in the top 20 fastest growing nationwide in the past decade) have negatively impacted and likely will continue to negatively impact turkey populations. We are losing turkey habitat (especially turkey nesting and poult rearing habitat) and are continuing to suffer regional declines in quality and quantity of turkey habitat leading to an overall lower turkey population than occurred in the previous decade. It is becoming more common to have local population declines in certain areas of the state while some are seeing increasing populations, likely a direct result of changing habitat conditions. For these reasons it is critical that we continue to monitor turkey populations closely into the future. One of the most important things to consider when managing turkeys is the effect of harvest and the ability to carry over adult birds into the next year. One of our best Wildlife Management Areas in the state has averaged approximately 3 gobblers harvested/square mile (640 acres). I would recommend using a lower number of 2 gobblers or less harvested per square mile for hunting clubs as a turkey harvest guideline.

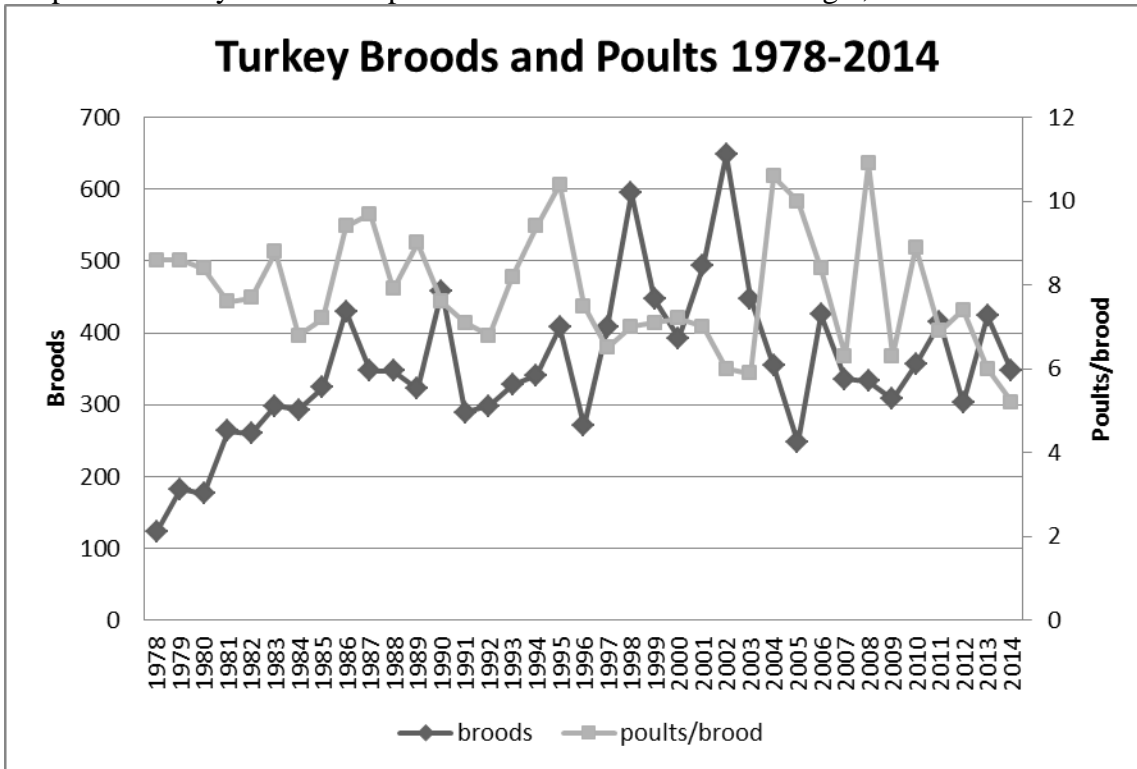
E. Recommendations:

Job A & B. It is recommended to continue further analyses to determine if there is a better predictor than currently used.

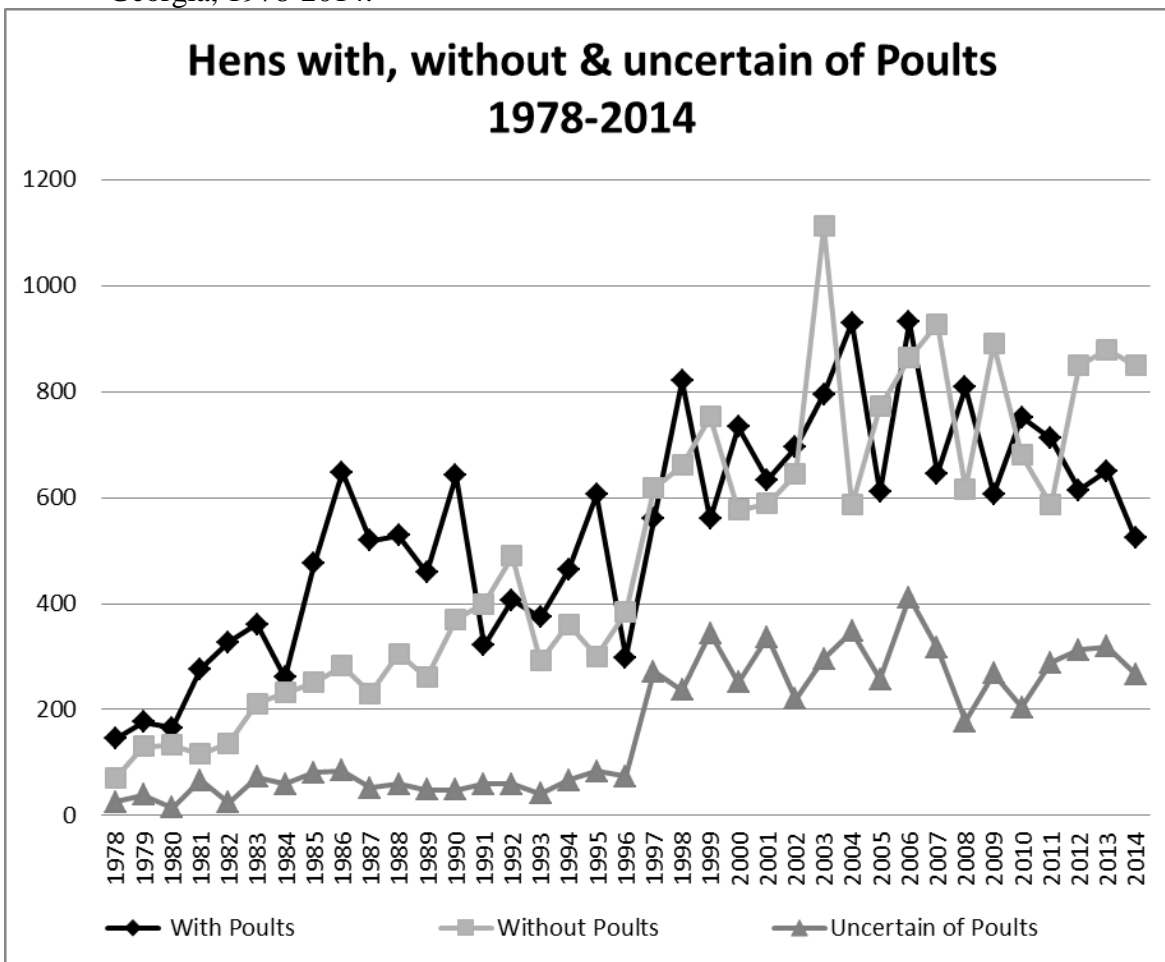
Prepared by: Bobby Bond

Date: August 18, 2015

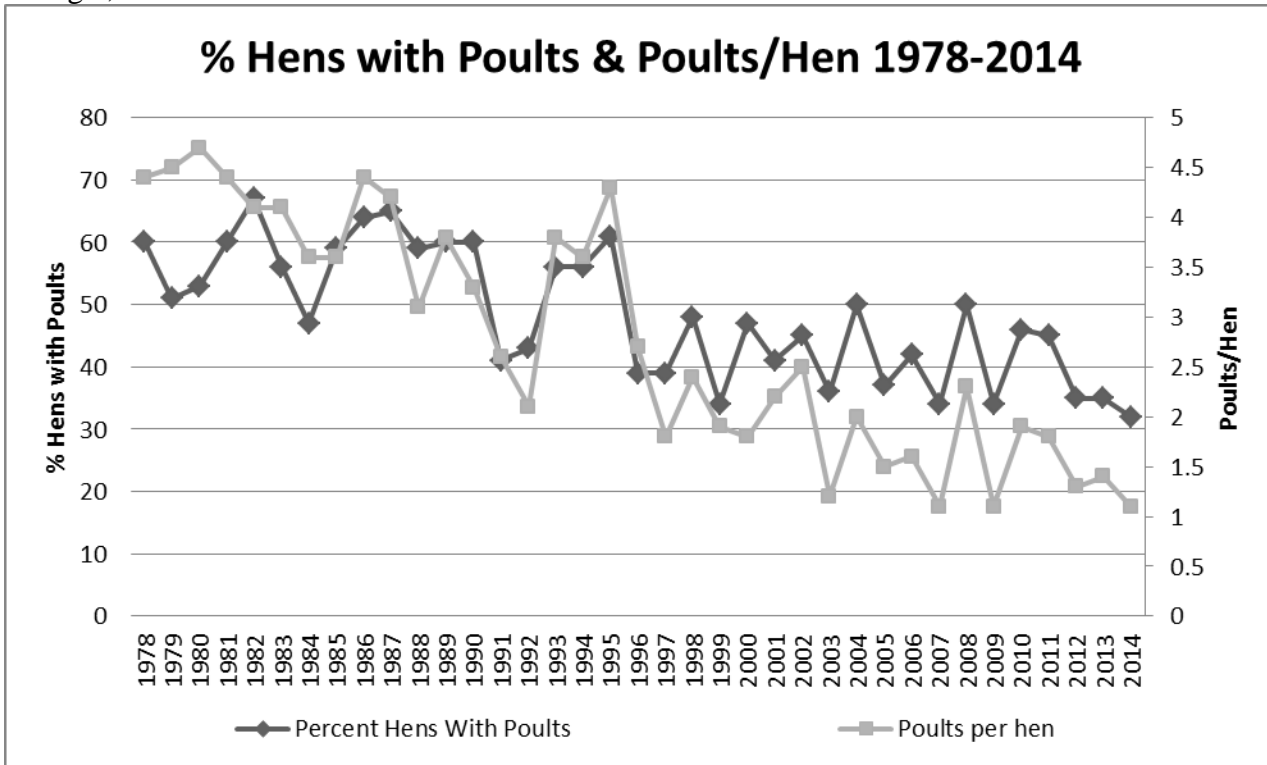
Graph 1. Turkey broods and poulters observed statewide in Georgia, 1978-2014.



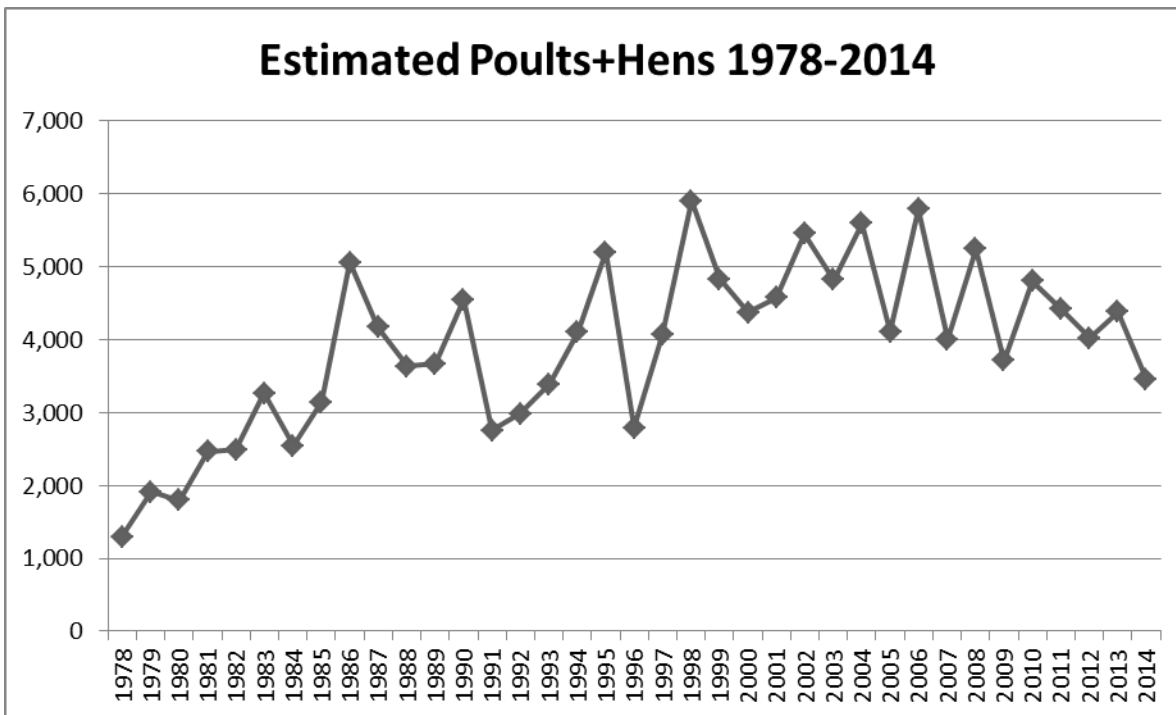
Graph 2. Turkey hens observed with poults, without poults, and uncertain of accompanying poults statewide in Georgia, 1978-2014.



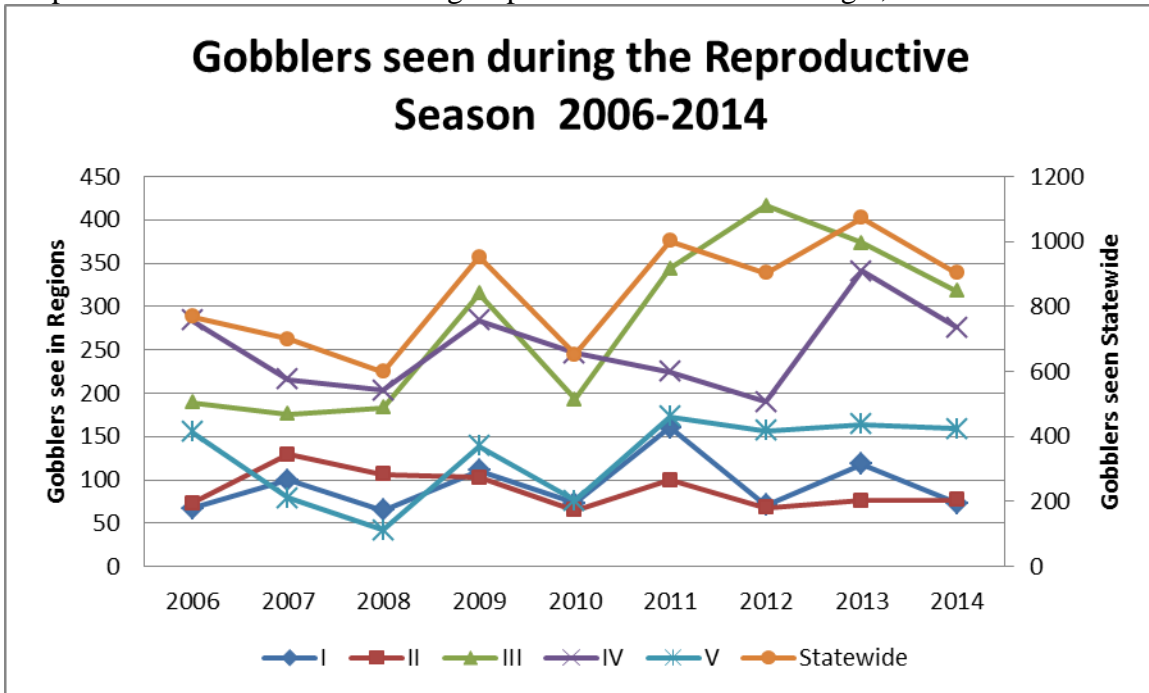
Graph 3. Percent of turkey hens accompanied by poults and the average number of poults per hen statewide in Georgia, 1978-2014.



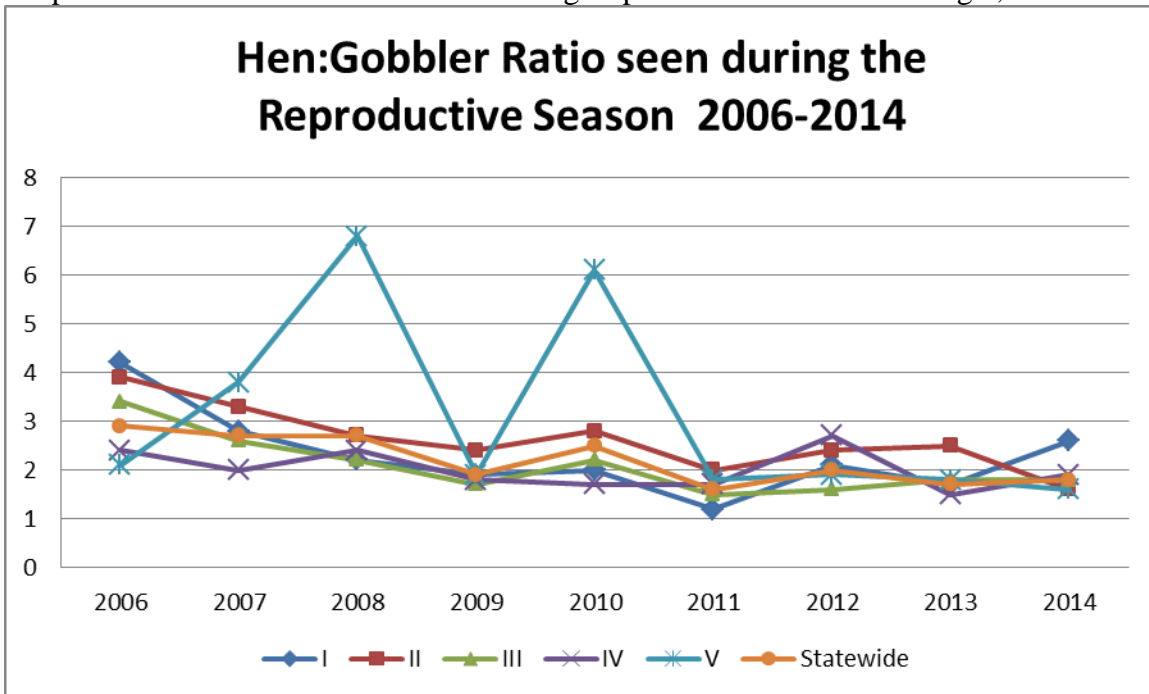
Graph 4. Estimated Total Poults + Hens population indices in Georgia, 1978-2014.



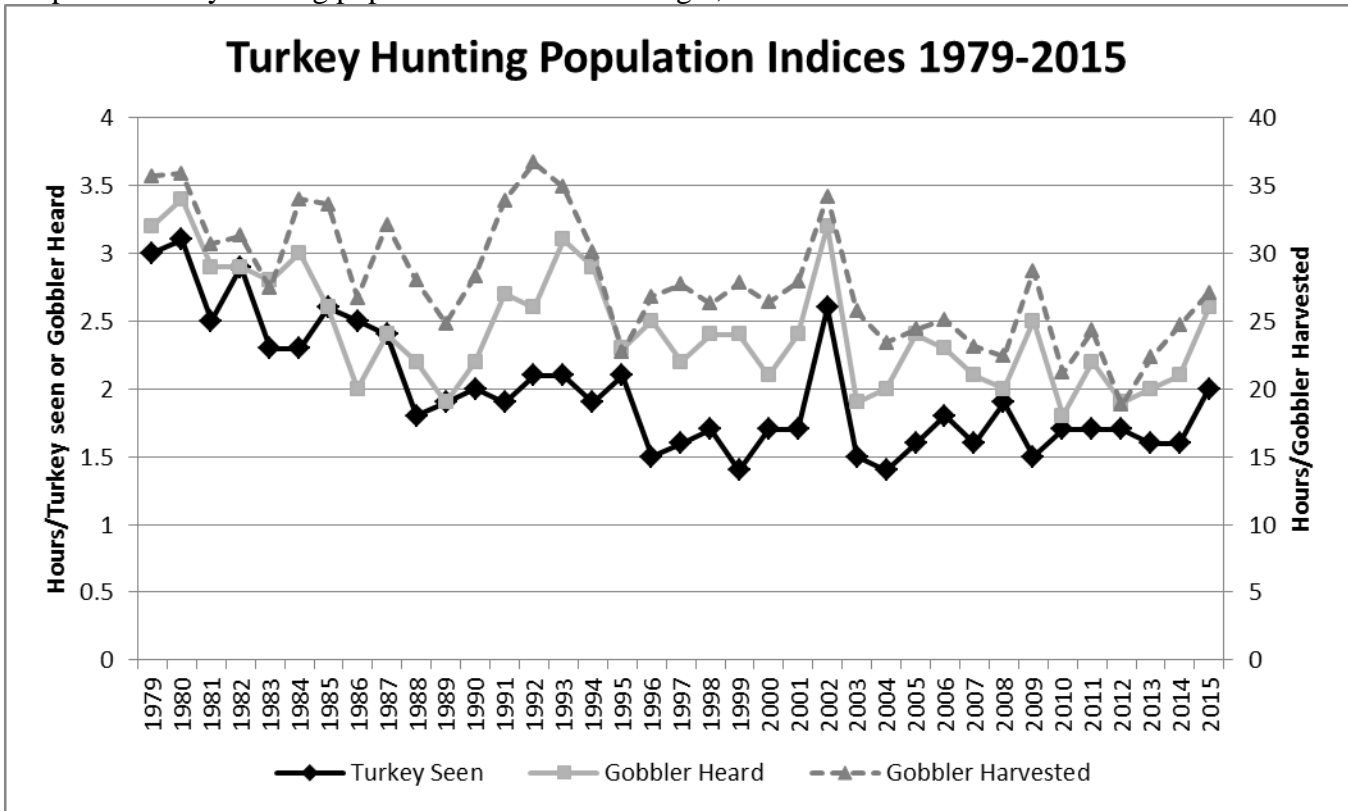
Graph 5. Gobblers observed during Reproductive season in Georgia, 2006-2014.



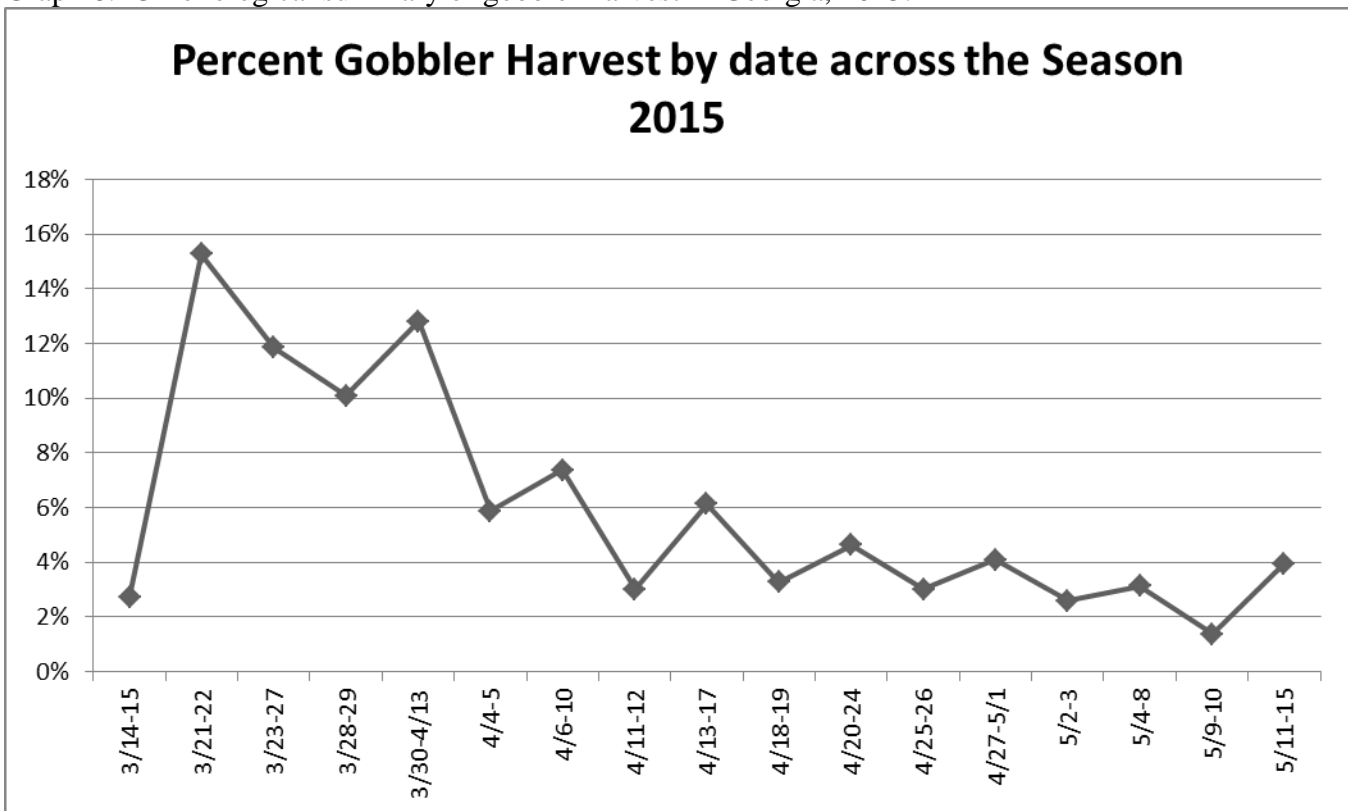
Graph 6. Hen:Gobbler ratio observed during Reproductive season in Georgia, 2006-2014.



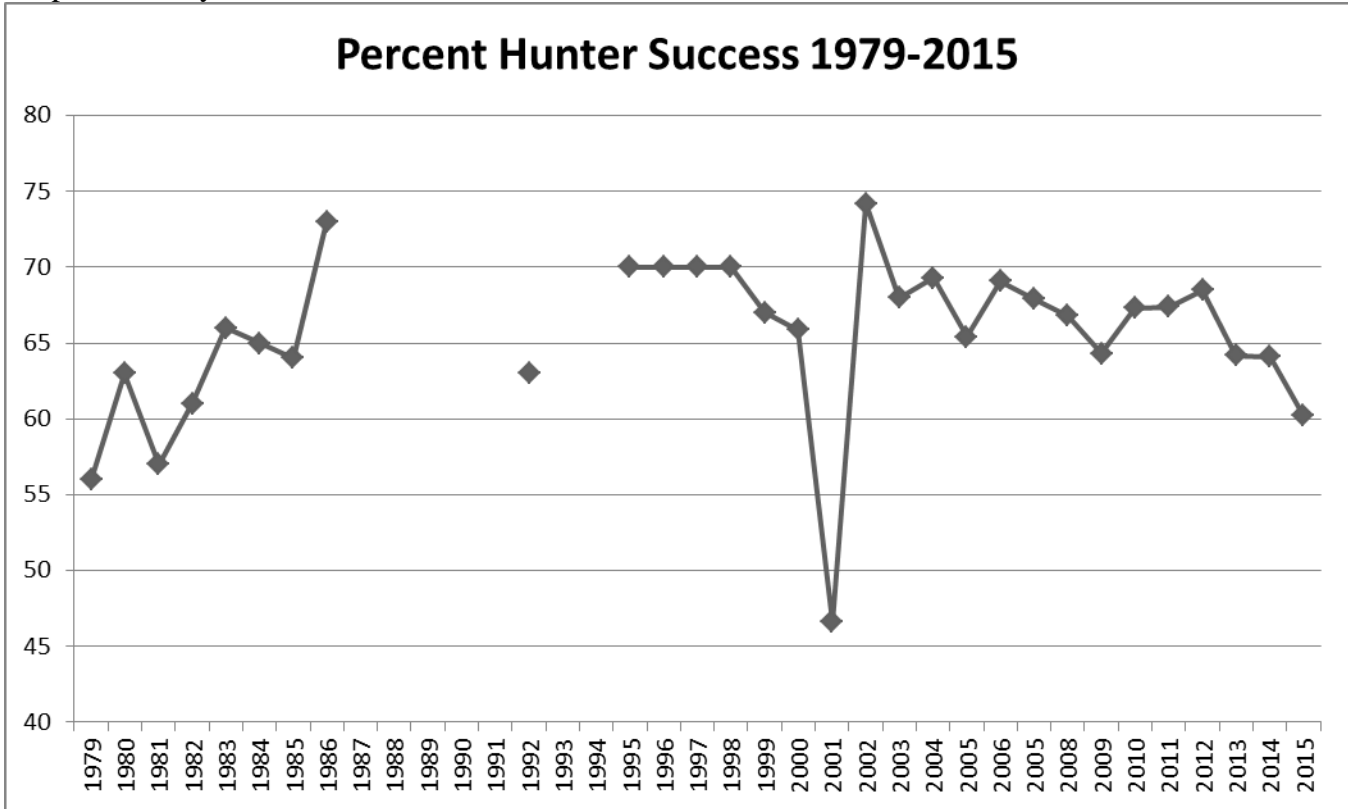
Graph 7. Turkey hunting population indices in Georgia, 1979-2015.



Graph 8. Chronological summary of gobbler harvest in Georgia, 2015.



Graph 9. Turkey hunter success, 1979-2015.



Graph 10. Turkey hunter success (%) by number harvested and/or assisted statewide in Georgia, 1995-2015.

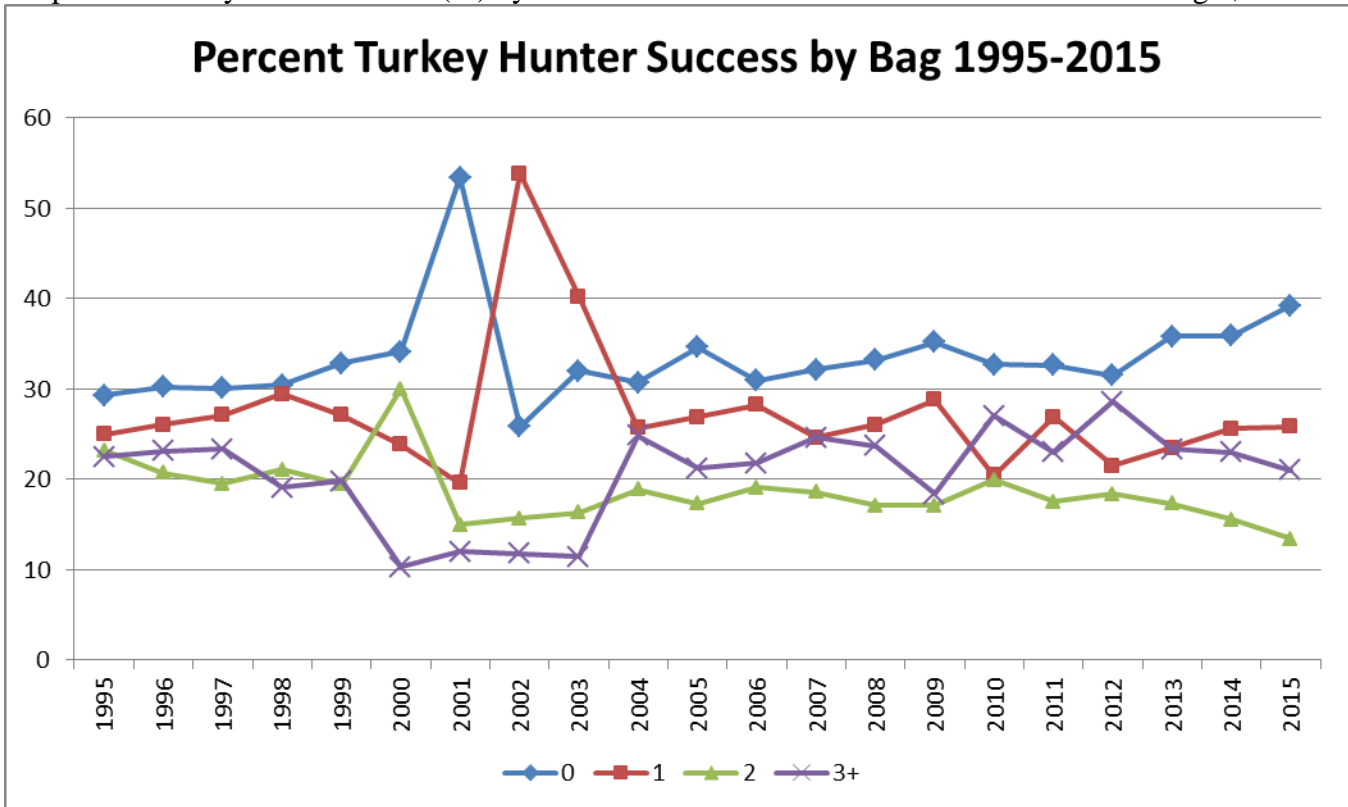


Table 1. Summary of turkey hunter cooperators data in Georgia, 2015.

Item	Physiographic Region ¹					Statewide
	I	II	III	IV	V	
Total Hunters	69	43	308	181	70	523 [^]
Total Hours	2,053.5	1,098	10,254.6	4,819.9	1,665.8	19,891.8
Total Trips	596	306	2,680	1,499	544	5,625
Avg. Hours	29.8	25.5	33.3	26.6	23.8	38.0
Avg. Trips	8.6	7.1	8.7	8.3	7.8	10.8
Avg. Hrs./Trip	3.4	3.6	3.8	3.2	3.1	3.5
Total Gobblers Seen	567	216	1,603	1,321	552	4,259
Total Hens Seen	878	267	2,239	1,471	831	5,686
Total Turkeys Seen	1,445	483	3,842	2,792	1,383	9,945
Hens/Gobbler	1.5	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.5	1.3
Hrs./Gobbler Seen	3.6	5.1	6.4	3.6	3.0	4.7
Hrs./Hen Seen	2.3	4.1	4.6	3.3	2.0	3.5
Hrs./Turkeys Seen	1.4	2.3	2.7	1.7	1.2	2.0
Total Gobblers Heard	948	406	3,357	2,131	777	7,619
Hrs./Gobbler Heard	2.2	2.7	3.1	2.3	2.1	2.6
Total Harvest*	85	30	281	244	94	734
Companion Harvested	26	5	66	91	39	227
Hours/Harvest	24.1	36.6	36.5	19.8	17.7	27.1

¹Roman numerals correspond to physiographic regions as follows:

- I - Ridge and Valley
- II - Blue Ridge Mountains
- III - Piedmont
- IV - Upper Coastal Plain
- V - Lower Coastal Plain

*includes both gobblers taken and assisted in taking

[^] less than Regions summed because some hunters hunted in more than one Region

some hunters only reported the number of turkeys seen and did not report gobblers or hens.

Table 2. Turkey statistics by sex in Georgia during the Spring turkey harvest season, 2013-15.

Index	Season	Physiographic Region					Statewide
		I	II	III	IV	V	
Hens/Gobbler	2013	1.5	1.6	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.3
	2014	1.8	2.3	1.4	1.4	1.7	1.5
	2015	1.5	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.5	1.3
<hr/>							
Hrs/Gobbler Seen	2013	2.7	3.4	4.2	3.7	2.9	3.8
	2014	3.5	4.7	5.1	3.1	3.0	4.0
	2015	3.6	5.1	6.4	3.6	3.0	4.7
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Hrs/Hen Seen	2013	1.9	2.1	3.4	3.0	1.9	2.8
	2014	2.0	2.1	3.7	2.2	1.7	2.7
	2015	2.3	4.1	4.6	3.3	2.0	3.5

Table 3. Number of gobblers heard per hunting trip in Georgia, 2015.

Weekend	Date	Weekday	Physiographic Region					Statewide
			I	II	III	IV	V	
3/14-15			2.3	1.7	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.7
3/21-22			2.5	2.0	1.5	1.9	1.9	1.8
		3/23-27	1.9	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.3
3/28-29			1.7	1.3	1.4	1.8	1.9	1.6
		3/30-4/3	1.9	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.5
4/4-5			1.6	0.7	1.2	1.6	1.3	1.4
		4/6-10	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.5
4/11-12			2.1	2.0	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.4
		4/13-17	1.2	1.2	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0
4/18-19			1.0	1.7	1.1	1.1	0.8	1.1
		4/20-24	1.3	0.9	1.2	1.1	1.6	1.2
4/25-26			1.4	1.1	0.9	1.1	1.4	1.0
		4/27-5/1	1.3	1.2	0.9	1.0	0.8	1.0
5/2-3			0.9	1.6	1.2	1.6	1.6	1.3
		5/4-8	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
5/9-10			1.6	1.7	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.4
		5/11-15	0.7	1.0	0.9	1.1	0.9	0.9
Season			1.6	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4

Table 4. Chronological distribution of gobbler harvest by physiographic region in Georgia, 2015.

Dates		Physiographic Region					Statewide
Weekend	Weekday	I	II	III	IV	V	
3/14-15		0	0	7	3	2	12
3/21-22		5	4	47	43	13	112
	3/23-27	13	1	42	25	6	87
3/28-29		4	2	20	35	13	74
	3/30-4/3	11	1	45	26	11	94
4/4-5		2	1	19	14	7	43
	4/6-10	8	2	22	14	8	54
4/11-12		3	1	6	8	4	22
	4/13-17	12	1	11	13	8	45
4/18-19		8	0	7	8	1	24
	4/20-24	3	5	12	10	4	34
4/25-26		3	1	8	7	3	22
	4/27-5/1	4	4	11	5	6	30
5/2-3		3	1	4	7	4	19
	5/4-8	3	3	4	11	2	23
5/9-10		0	0	6	4	0	10
	5/11-15	3	3	10	11	2	29
Season		85	30	281	244	94	734

Table 5. Chronological distribution of gobbler harvest (%) by physiographic region in Georgia, 2015.

Date		Physiographic Region					Statewide
Weekend	Weekday	I	II	III	IV	V	
3/14-15		0	0	2	1	2	2
3/21-22		6	13	17	18	14	15
	3/23-27	15	3	15	10	6	12
3/28-29		5	7	7	14	14	10
	3/30-4/3	13	3	16	11	12	13
4/4-5		2	3	7	6	7	6
	4/6-10	9	7	8	6	9	7
4/11-12		4	3	2	3	4	3
	4/13-17	14	3	4	5	9	6
4/18-19		9	0	2	3	1	3
	4/20-24	4	17	4	4	4	5
4/25-26		4	3	3	3	3	3
	4/27-5/1	5	13	4	2	6	4
5/2-3		4	3	1	3	4	3
	5/4-8	4	10	1	5	2	3
5/9-10		0	0	2	2	0	1
	5/11-15	4	10	4	5	2	4

Table 6. Chronological distribution of turkey hunting trips by physiographic region in Georgia, 2015.

Dates		Physiographic Region					Statewide
Weekend	Weekday	I	II	III	IV	V	
3/14-15		3	3	45	21	5	77
3/21-22		51	18	259	150	51	529
	3/23-27	66	26	350	153	45	640
3/28-29		40	11	174	132	60	417
	3/30-4/3	60	22	244	160	73	559
4/4-5		32	13	147	93	29	314
	4/6-10	51	29	245	128	45	498
4/11-12		28	13	145	78	32	296
	4/13-17	42	17	95	76	37	267
4/18-19		29	12	81	52	22	196
	4/20-24	51	39	183	102	37	412
4/25-26		14	10	96	53	18	191
	4/27-5/1	39	18	156	61	30	304
5/2-3		20	14	111	53	19	217
	5/4-8	33	21	125	64	7	250
5/9-10		11	13	92	47	16	179
	5/11-15	26	27	132	76	18	279
Season		596	306	2,680	1,499	544	5,625

Table 7. Chronological distribution of turkey hunting trips (%) by physiographic region in Georgia, 2015.

Dates		Physiographic Region					Statewide
Weekend	Weekday	I	II	III	IV	V	
3/14-15		1	1	2	1	1	1
3/21-22		9	6	10	10	9	9
	3/23-27	11	8	13	10	8	11
3/28-29		7	4	6	9	11	7
	3/30-4/3	10	9	9	11	13	10
4/4-5		5	4	5	6	5	6
	4/6-10	9	9	9	9	8	9
4/11-12		5	4	5	5	6	5
	4/13-17	7	6	4	5	7	5
4/18-19		5	4	3	3	4	3
	4/20-24	9	13	7	7	7	7
4/25-26		2	3	4	4	3	3
	4/27-5/1	7	6	6	4	6	5
5/2-3		3	5	4	4	3	4
	5/4-8	6	7	5	4	1	4
5/9-10		2	4	3	3	3	3
	5/11-15	4	9	5	5	3	5

Table 8. Efficiency of gobbler harvest (harvest/trip) by physiographic region in Georgia, 2015.

Date		Physiographic Region					Statewide
Weekend	Weekday	I	II	III	IV	V	
3/14-15		0	0	0.16	0.14	0.40	0.16
3/21-22		0.10	0.22	0.18	0.29	0.25	0.21
	3/23-27	0.20	0.04	0.12	0.16	0.13	0.14
3/28-29		0.10	0.18	0.11	0.27	0.22	0.18
	3/30-4/3	0.18	0.05	0.18	0.16	0.15	0.17
4/4-5		0.06	0.08	0.13	0.15	0.24	0.14
	4/6-10	0.16	0.07	0.09	0.11	0.18	0.11
4/11-12		0.11	0.08	0.04	0.10	0.13	0.07
	4/13-17	0.33	0.06	0.12	0.17	0.22	0.17
4/18-19		0.28	0	0.09	0.15	0.05	0.12
	4/20-24	0.06	0.13	0.07	0.10	0.11	0.08
4/25-26		0.21	0.10	0.08	0.13	0.17	0.12
	4/27-5/1	0.10	0.22	0.07	0.08	0.20	0.10
5/2-3		0.15	0.07	0.04	0.13	0.21	0.09
	5/4-8	0.09	0.14	0.03	0.17	0.29	0.09
5/9-10		0	0	0.07	0.09	0	0.06
	5/11-15	0.12	0.11	0.08	0.14	0.11	0.10
Season		0.14	0.10	0.10	0.16	0.17	0.13

This table is basically Table 4 data divided by Table 6 data, or harvest per trip. It will tell what weekends or weeks were the most efficient as far as harvest of gobblers. The greater the number the more efficient that time period was.

Table 9. Youth/Mobility Impaired Weekend statistics and comparison to Opening Weekend 2014 & 2015.

Dates	Youth/Impaired 2014	Opening 2014	Youth 2015	Opening 2015
Cooperator Participation # (%)	63 (12.5)	392 (77.8)	51 (9.8)	392 (75.0)
Hours	290.25	2,437.3	282.5	2,173.5
Trips	80	598	77	529
Hours/Trip	3.6	4.1	3.7	4.1
Percentage of Season's Trips	1.5	11.1	1.4	9.4
Hours/Turkey Seen	0.8	1.2	1.2	1.6
Hours/Gobbler Heard	1.3	1.6	2.1	2.3
Harvest	20	122	12	112
Hours/Harvest	14.5	20.0	23.5	19.4
Harvest/Trip (Efficiency)	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Percentage of Season's Harvest	2.6	16.0	1.6	15.3
Hunter Success (%)	27.0	25.5	19.6	22.2