



PennState



WILD TURKEY RESEARCH PROJECT

The first large-scale wild turkey research project in Maryland has begun and will continue through 2025. This study will investigate how weather, predators, disease, and habitat impact nesting success and survival of females. Other valuable information such as breeding season timing and gobbler harvest rates will also be determined. This research is part of a multi-state collaborative project involving many other agencies, universities, and partners.

How do we conduct our field work?

Each January-March, turkeys will be captured and outfitted with leg bands and/or GPS radio-transmitters. Research will be conducted in Western MD and on the Lower Eastern Shore. All turkeys will be released at the trap site.

Field crews will track the hens with radio-transmitters throughout the year to monitor survival, nesting, brooding, and habitat use. Wild turkeys have large home ranges and may travel through or nest on properties other than where they were initially captured.

How can you help?

Sightings of winter turkey flocks from the public are encouraged to help us locate potential trapping sites. You can report turkeys here: <https://forms.gle/qWsnzuR3Doq9cWdD7>

If a flock happens to be on your property and it is a good trapping location, permission to bait and trap the birds would be helpful. Also, we may need landowners to allow biologists to access your property, either on vehicle or foot, to download valuable data from the radio-transmitters or investigate events. These visits may only be once, or they may be up to a few times per week, depending on the situation.

Anyone who harvests or finds a banded turkey or transmitter can report it at:

<http://tagreport.maryland.gov/>

Questions? Please contact:

Bob Long (Wild Turkey/Upland Game Bird Project Leader) at bob.long@maryland.gov or 410-260-8578

