

**Turkey Hunter Comments**

- These comments were made by Georgia turkey hunters on harvest cards for the Hunting Population Index Survey for 2018.
- 96 hunters out of 523 provided comments (18.3%):

People who had a Bad Year

- 38 Worst Season  
*(awful, terrible, bad, strange, bust, tough, 2yrs in a row, worst since 1980, since 1977, since 1987, since mid-80s, worst ever, disappointed, below average, pitiful, Not Fun, barley huntable, not huntable, where have they gone?, why bother no turkeys in SW)*
- 32 Turkey Population is Down – No turkeys  
*(very little sign, few, disappeared, none in North GA, none on Dawson Forest, none in mountains, none on National Forest, what is causing the decline?, stopped hunting because of no turkeys, worst in 25 years, they are the devil, they're evil)*
- 16 Gobbling was Bad  
*(heard few, limited gobbling, weird, dropped off quick)*
- 7 Predators  
*(predation taking a toll, coyotes, coyotes are winning)*
- 5 Bad Weather
- 5 Saw no Jakes
- 4 Disease  
*(diseases, diseases from chicken litter, West Nile Virus)*
- 3 Corn is a problem  
*(moldy corn is bad for turkeys, hunters hunting over bait, deer hunters hunting over bait are killing turkeys during deer season)*
- 1 Saw no Hens
- 1 Too many Hens
- 1 Habitat  
*(not as diverse as it should be especially in mountains, on the National Forest, on Redlands; need nesting and bugging areas; middle and south GA spraying stands eliminates habitat and is a biological desert)*
- 1 Stop burning Cedar Creek (ONF) during turkey season
- 1 Hunters are shooting turkeys to the point that the population is unlikely to recover
- 1 If DNR does nothing population will be lost
- 1 DNR needs to figure out what's going on
- 1 Game Management not working in GA
- 1 Turkeys going the way of quail
- 1 Too many Hogs

**Turkey Hunter Comments (Continued)**

People who had a Good Year

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 15 | Good Season<br><i>(Surprised, great, pretty good, best in several years, best in long time, better than 2017)</i> |
| 4  | Saw a lot of Jakes  |
| 3  | Heard a lot of Gobblers   |
| 2  | Good number of Hens   |
| 2  | Saw a lot of Gobblers<br><i>(plenty, saw 100s)</i>  |
| 1  | Population seems to be recovering   |

Comments about hunting regulations

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| - 8 | Reduce Limit<br><i>(to 2, to 1, DNR needs to seriously cut limit especially on public land, reduce for 2 years)</i> |
| - 3 | Start season earlier  |
| - 2 | Shorten season  |
| - 1 | Close season  |
| - 1 | Don't shorten season  |
| - 1 | Don't cut limit   |
| - 1 | Don't shoot Jakes, make it Illegal  |
| - 1 | Divide state into 2 zones, North of Piedmont and Piedmont and South then shorten season in zone Piedmont and South  |