

**Regional Biologist Report**  
**August 1-September 30, 2008**  
**Bob Eriksen, NWTF Regional Biologist**

**Writing Projects**

- PA Chapter Super Fund update article for PA Turkey Talk fall issue
- Gobbler banding study report for PA Turkey Talk fall issue
- Article on fall turkey hunting safety for PA Turkey Talk fall issue
- Article on fall turkey hunting safety for PA Outdoor Times
- Review of Journal of Wildlife Management manuscript on use of aversive conditioning for handling black bear related problems

**Wildlife and Forestry Agency Consultation**

- Discussed prescribed fire application and social limitations preventing its use in New Jersey Pinelands with NJ Forest Service foresters
- Provided information on band loss by wild turkeys to researchers at Penn State
- Discussed gobbler mortality study data analysis with New Jersey Fish and Wildlife tech rep and Virginia Game Department tech rep
- Discussed banding and radio telemetry harvest rate data collection methodologies with Virginia Game Department tech rep
- Conducted annual oak mast survey on State Game Lands 35 for Pennsylvania Game Commission
- Met with Pennsylvania Game Commission and Penn State researchers to work on plans and a study design for initiating a fall turkey harvest rate study
- Met with researchers from the University of Delaware and biologists from the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife to plan a wild turkey hen survival and nesting ecology study to be initiated in January 2009

**Access Projects**

- Worked with New Jersey Chapter member drafting letters to USFWS personnel and legislators regarding opening of Cape May National Wildlife Refuge for turkey hunting
- Met with USFWS personnel and a contractor on two occasions to plan disabled hunter access improvement on Wallkill National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey
- Completed an application and received a Wheelin' Sportsmen Grant to supplement the Super Fund investment in disabled hunter access improvements at Wallkill Refuge
- Met with USFS personnel to tour disabled hunter access areas on Allegheny National Forest, determine needs for road improvements and discuss possible funding options
- Consulted with Pennsylvania Game Commission Bureau of Habitat Management personnel regarding their needs for access improvements on important state game lands

**Meetings and Presentations**

- Attended the annual meeting of the Northeast Upland Game Bird Technical Committee in Connecticut
- Attended the September meetings of the Delaware and New Jersey Chapters and sent a written report to the Maryland Chapter due to a conflict in meeting dates
- Attended the August meeting and leadership workshop of the Pennsylvania Chapter
- Served as emcee and provided judges and tabulators for the North Jersey Open Calling Contest
- Met with members of The Campfire Club and New York DEC regarding a planned media event prior to Thanksgiving
- Attended the August and September meetings of the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance, group focused on issues facing hunters and anglers
- Provided a black bear management seminar at a Women in the Outdoors event in New Jersey
- Attended Hunting Heritage Super Fund banquets held by the Walking Purchase and East Coast Toms Chapters in Pennsylvania to assist the RD

### **North American Wild Turkey Management Plan**

- Maryland Chapter endorsement letter was received. All four state chapters in the region have endorsed their respective state chapter plans
- Completed first draft of Bird Conservation Region 14 Strategic Plan

### **Super Fund**

- Completed 10 Pennsylvania Super Fund requests and 2 New Jersey requests.
- Performed a site visit and took photographs of the Hoda Farm Project at Nescopeck State Park, a cooperative project between DCNR, PGC, the Honey Hole Longbeards Chapter, Pheasants Forever, the Ruffed Grouse Society and NRCS
- Met with representatives of the Lancaster County Conservancy, PGC and the American Chestnut Foundation to plan Phase 2 of a habitat project and chestnut nursery at House Rock Preserve

### **Landowner Field Days**

- Participated in a landowner field day at the Bonnice Farm in Fairdale, Susquehanna County. The event was a joint effort of the Northern Counties full Fans Chapter, the Susquehanna Branch of QDMA and the Wilson Moore Chapter. A JAKES event was held in conjunction with the field day. Fifty-five adults and 22 children were in attendance

### **Information Requests**

- Provided information via letter, telephone and email to 17 people, both members and non-members looking for information on wild turkey behavior, nesting, food habits and other aspects of their natural history