



**NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION**

**2004 WILD TURKEY SUMMER BROOD SURVEY REPORT**

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In order to gain insight into wild turkey productivity over the various regions of the state, a wild turkey brood survey is conducted each summer. The survey was mailed to approximately 1,200 participants. Personnel from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, the North Carolina Forest Service, the US Forest Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, several military bases, and numerous key private individuals around restoration areas participated in the survey.

Observations made during the course of routine daily activities were recorded during the July 1 through August 31 period. This information was compiled and analyzed to determine a productivity index from the average poult per hen ratios.

The following tables summarize the data received for 2004.

Table 1. 2004 Wild Turkey Summer Brood Survey Data

<b>Region</b>	<b>Observations</b>	<b>Hens W/O Poults</b>	<b>Hens W/ Poults</b>	<b>Total Hens</b>	<b>Total Poults</b>	<b>Total Gobblers</b>	<b>Total Unk.</b>
<b>Coastal</b>	331	133	428	561	1585	400	385
<b>Piedmont</b>	391	210	478	688	2077	316	327
<b>Mountains</b>	385	222	467	689	1890	188	159
<b>State</b>	<b>1107</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>1373</b>	<b>1938</b>	<b>5552</b>	<b>904</b>	<b>871</b>

Table 2. 2004 Wild Turkey Summer Brood Survey Results

<b>Region*</b>	<b>% Hens W/ Poults</b>	<b>Average Poults/Brood</b>	<b>Average Poults/He n</b>
<b>Coastal</b>	76	3.7	2.8
<b>Piedmont</b>	69	4.3	3.0
<b>Mountains</b>	68	4.0	2.7
<b>State**</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>2.8</b>

*\*Geographical regions, not NCWRC regions.*

*\*\*The State percentages and averages in Table 2 were calculated by weighting the regional data by the percentage of the total wild turkey population in that region.*



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The percentage of hens with poults is an indication of nesting success while the average number of poults/brood is an indication of poult survival. Overall productivity is determined by the average number of poults/hen. An average of 3.0 poults/hen is considered good productivity.

A total of 9,265 wild turkeys were observed during this summer's brood survey. Statewide, the percentage of hens with poults (70%) indicates excellent nesting success; the average number of poults/brood (4.1) indicates good poult survival; and the average number of poults/hen (2.8) indicates good overall productivity. All three geographical regions experienced good productivity with the Coastal Region averaging 2.8 poults/hen, the Piedmont Region averaging 3.0 poults/hen, and the Mountain Region averaging 2.7 poults/hen. The primary factor in this year's good productivity was good weather during the nesting and brood rearing periods.

Wild turkey productivity was down in all three geographical regions in 2003 with a statewide average of only 1.6 poults per hen. Since last year's wild turkey productivity was the poorest on record since brood surveys began in 1988, this year's good productivity is especially good news.

