

2018 Spring Gobbler Survey Report

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Since 1987 the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) has sought the assistance of avid spring gobbler hunters to participate in this long-term survey that provides important information for the Department's wild turkey management program. Furthermore, the survey provides an excellent platform to explore hunter attitudes and opinions regarding spring hunting. The survey also provided a lot of information that many hunters find useful, and at times, opportunities to share good laughs and the miracles of nature. This year will mark the 32th anniversary of the Spring Gobbler Season (SGS) survey, and special thanks are extended to those individuals who have participated since the survey began and others who have participated for many years.

As a token of appreciation for your participation in the 2018 Spring Gobbler Hunter Survey, the Department provides cooperators with a copy of our Virginia Wildlife Calendar. If you participated last year and did not receive a calendar please send me an email (gary.norman@dgif.virginia.gov) or call 540-248-9360. Sometimes cooperators forget to include their mailing address or I receive a survey that was damaged in the mail such that names and/or addresses are missing. Thanks to Jimmy Poole, VDGIF Volunteer, for summarizing your comments and remarks (see Appendix 1).

Results and Discussion

The number of survey cooperators in 2018 (225) decreased from last year (255). Cooperators in the 2018 survey submitted information on 2,845 hunts, about the same as last year (2,854 hunts). The geographic distribution of survey respondents was good, as reports were submitted from 93 counties and cities.

Statewide Gobbling and Harvest Rates

The average number of gobblers heard per hour declined 12% compared to 2017 (Table 1). The 2018 gobbling rate was 15% below the 6-year average (Table 1).

The average number of birds killed per hour declined 16% compared to 2017 (Table 1). The 2018 harvest rate was 16% below the 6-year survey average (Table 1). The decline in gobbling and harvest rates was similar to the decrease in the statewide harvest of gobblers reported through the electronic checking system (-14%).

Gobbling rates are trending downwards over the last decade (Fig. 2), but since the annual rate of change for gobbling (-1.3%) is not statistically significant ($P = 0.11$), we have to conclude that gobbling rates have been stable during this time. However, harvest rates are showing a downward annual rate (-1.9) that is statistically significant ($P = 0.007$). Research has shown that harvest rates are a better population index than gobbling rates. Monitoring both gobbling and harvest rates is recommended, given the importance of gobbling to hunters while harvest rates reflect population status and trends.

Gobbling and Harvest Rates by Region

In 2018, gobbling rates were identical in counties east of the Blue Ridge Mountains (EBR) and west of the Blue Ridge Mountains (WBR; Table 2). In fact, gobbling rates have been very similar in the two regions

since 2013 with the exception of 2015, when rates EBR were much higher than rates WBR (0.70 vs. 0.40 heard/hour).

Table 1. Statewide gobbling (gobbles/hour) and harvest rates (kill/100 hours) in Virginia from 2015-18.

Year	Gobbling/Hour	Kill/100 Hours
2013	0.59	2.9
2014	0.53	2.3
2015*	0.63	2.9
2016	0.40	2.3
217	0.50	2.5
2018	0.44	2.1
Average	0.52	2.5

2015* was record statewide harvest.

EBR harvest rates did exceed WBR harvest rates in 2018. Typically, harvest rates EBR are higher than WBR; 6-year average harvest rates are higher EBR than WBR (Table 2). In 2018, both EBR and WBR harvest rates were lower than the 6-year averages (Table 2).

Table 2. Gobbling and harvest rates by region of the state since 2013.

Year	Gobbling Rate (heard/hour)		Harvest Rate (killed/100 hours)	
	EBR	WBR	EBR	WBR
2013	0.49	0.47	2.4	2.2
2014	0.55	0.50	2.5	2.1
2015	0.70	0.54	3.2	2.5
2016	0.49	0.47	2.4	2.2
2017	0.50	0.51	2.6	2.3
2018	0.44	0.44	2.2	1.9
Average	0.50	0.50	2.6	2.2

For this report, six physiographic regions were used to investigate estimates at smaller spatial scales (Fig. 1). Gobbler hunters in the Northern Region heard more birds per hour than any other region of the state in 2018 (Fig. 4). The Southwest and East Piedmont regions came in close behind the Northern Region. Last year the Southwest Region led the state (Fig. 4).

In 2018, harvest rates (kill/100 hrs) were higher in the Tidewater and Southwest Regions (Fig. 5). The Central Mountain Region continues to lag behind other Regions in gobbling and harvest rates (Fig. 4 and 5).

Gobbling and Harvest Rates by Week and Day

Gobbling rates (heard/hour) in 2018 were highest on opening day, April 14 (Fig. 7). Gobbling then declined for next 4 days and then increased, peaking on the second Saturday of the season. Gobbling rates repeated for the next week with a decline and eventually peaked again during late April/early May (Fig. 7). Gobbling rates declined steadily through the end of the season. Gobbling rates were nearly identical between counties east and west of the Blue Ridge Mountains (Fig. 8).

Harvest rates (kill/100 hours) were high at the beginning of the season but they declined steadily through the first week of the season (Fig. 7). Harvest rates then increased for several days and peaked about 22 April. Hunter success then declined through early May. There was a strong rebound in harvest rates in May, with a late season peak around May 13-14. From there, harvest rates declined sharply (Fig. 7). Seasoned turkey hunters often say that if you can find a gobbling bird at the end of the season you have a very good chance of killing it. These data suggests that they are right.

Gobbling Intensity

Gobbling intensity was grouped into three categories (No Gobbling, Roost/Poor, or Fair-Good). Throughout the five-week season, more than 46 percent of hunts were reported as Roost/Poor, 25% were rated as Fair-Good, and 28% of hunts ended with no gobbling. Through the first four weeks of the season the number of hunts with Fair-Good gobbling was about the same as No Gobbling (Fig. 9). Hunting was tough the last week, as Fair-Good gobbling intensity dropped to 14% while the number of hunts with no gobbling peaked at 48% (Fig. 9). Based on intensity, the hunting conditions were about the same through the first four weeks of the season while the last week was perhaps the most challenging. This can vary by region.

While gobbling intensity and gobbling (heard/hr.) were lower at the end of the season, harvest rates during the last week were very high (Fig. 7). Thus, while challenging, those who hunt the end of season enjoy higher odds of connecting with a gobbler, if they can just find a gobbling bird.

Cooperator Profile

Cooperators averaged hunting 48 hours through the season. Hunters reported hearing 4,769 gobblers for an average of 21 birds per hunter. Twenty-five percent of birds heard were “Called In”; last year 22% of those heard were “Called In.” The cooperator or their Partner killed 28 percent of birds “Called In”; last year 33% of birds called in were killed.

Cooperators primarily hunt on private lands (85%). Many hunted on federal (USFS, Military) lands (11%). Fewer hunted on state-owned (DGIF, State Forests, Parks) lands (4%). Gobbling was better on private lands (0.47 gobblers/hour) than on state or federal lands (0.32 gobblers/hour each). Harvest rates were higher on private lands (2.1 killed/100 hours) than on state (1.3 killed/100 hours) or federal (1.2 killed/100 hours) lands.

Most cooperators did not scout before the season; however, those who did averaged scouting 3.2 days before the season opener. A majority of cooperators (51%) passed up at least one jake (juvenile gobbler) in the 2018 season.

There were 5 Sundays during the 2018 season (excluding Youth and Apprentice weekend). Sunday participation in 2018 was modest, accounting for 8% of all the hunts taken, just like in 2017. Unlike last year, however, most of this effort in 2018 took place on the second and third Sundays. Most Sunday hunting in 2017 took place on the first Sunday. Poor weather during the first Sunday of the 2018 season likely influenced this difference.

Most (69%) cooperators did not take a youth hunting during the Youth/Apprentice weekend, for several reported reasons: they did not know any eligible youth to take (74%), did not have enough time (15%), considered the weather a problem (6%), were not interested (3%), or were uncomfortable taking a youth (2%).

Most cooperators (64%) only hunted during the spring season. Of those cooperators who hunted in both fall and spring seasons, many (44%) hunted during the January season. The average number of fall hunts taken was 5.0. Those who hunted in the January season went 2.6 days in 2018.

Cooperators averaged seeing 1.5 other hunters during the season and indicated that the number of other hunters they encountered has remained stable (47%) or increased (28%). Only 13% reported seeing fewer spring hunters.

Cooperator opinions and miscellaneous results

The 2018 spring gobbler survey once again included a questionnaire for cooperating hunters to express their opinions about turkey populations, attributes of the season, or hunting opportunities they pursued. More cooperators in the 2018 survey reported turkey populations in the areas they hunt are stable (49%) than increasing (7%) or declining (37%). Most participants (56%) believed coyote populations in the areas they hunt are increasing. Many cooperators believed coyote populations are stable (30%), few (3%) believed coyote numbers are declining, and some were unsure (11%). Many (45%) cooperators hunt predators (coyotes, foxes).

Tungsten alloy shot is being marketed by shotgun shell manufacturers as having greater density, penetration, and range than lead or other alloys. Almost 1 in 5 cooperators (19%) purchased shells with tungsten shot. More cooperators (42%) report taking a maximum distance shot of 40 yards than take shots out to 45-50 yards (34%), 55-60 yards (9%), or 65+ yards (1%) with their shotguns. Hunters obtained information on new shells from magazines (33%), friends (27%), the internet (16%), TV, and others (8%).

Many intangibles are important when it comes to quality turkey hunting. Cooperators were asked to rate several attributes of gobbler hunting (hearing, seeing, working, killing, feeling safe, etc.) on a scale of 1 to 7 (1 = not important, 7 = very important; Table 3). Feeling safe was rated higher than any other attribute (Table 3). Hearing gobbling, hunting without interference, and enjoying the outdoors were also rated very important by many hunters. Working gobblers also rated very high. Harvesting a gobbler was the least important of the attributes: about half (49%) of participants rated harvesting a gobbler as moderately to not important.

Table 3. Cooperators ratings of attributes of spring hunting. The scale ranged from 1 (Not Important) to 7 (Very Important).

	Response %						
	Not Important	-	-	Moderately Important	-	-	Very Important
Hearing Gobbling	1	1	3	4	10	12	69
Working a Gobbler	1	1	4	6	18	25	45
Harvesting a Gobbler	10	8	13	18	23	11	16
No Interference	2	1	3	3	8	16	67
Feeling Safe	3	1	3	4	6	9	73
Enjoying Outdoors	4	2	5	6	12	9	62

Given the recent hunting fatality in Virginia associated with fanning, questions about the practice were once again included on the 2018 survey. Fanning appears frequently in advertising and on TV hunting shows. Most (95%) cooperators were aware of fanning. However, only 11 cooperators (4%) used the technique in 2018. Of those hunters who used fanning, the majority (73%) had no concerns for their safety.

Cooperators rated the 2018 spring gobbler season as follows: excellent (16%), good (29%), fair (27%), poor (26%), and no opinion (2%). The 2017 ratings were: excellent (27%), good (34%), fair (24%), poor (14%), and no opinion (1%). In 2018, the percentage of “excellent” and “good” ratings declined while the number of hunters rating the season as “fair” or “poor” increased.

Cooperators reported observing nine dead turkeys in 2018. Dead birds were reported around the state. Although there were no clusters of dead turkeys reported, two birds were reported by the same cooperators in Augusta and Buckingham counties. Last year, 22 dead turkeys were reported. The observation rate of dead turkeys (number seen/1,000 hunts) was lower in 2018 (3.2) than 2017 (7.7). Cooperators reported hearing 199 grouse drumming and seeing 109 coyotes and 59 bears.

Thank You!

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this survey and I hope you find it interesting. Amazingly, there are a few cooperators who have participated in survey since the beginning in 1987. I sincerely appreciate their dedication! I also cannot thank enough the good number of cooperators with 15, 20, or 25+ years of participation in the survey.

Best wishes to you for a safe and enjoyable spring season in 2019. Please do not hesitate to contact me anytime with any questions you have about turkey hunting or conservation in Virginia. I can be reached most of the time at either 540-667-5694 (desk) or 540-569-0822 (cell). Email is always a good alternative (gary.norman@dgif.virginia.gov).

Regulations

The Department is currently considering regulation amendments for most game species, and for turkeys there are several proposed changes for the fall season. You can view these proposed changes and comment on them through May 15, 2019 at the following link: https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/regulations/2019-terrestrial-wildlife/?utm_source=dgif_homepage&utm_medium=popular.

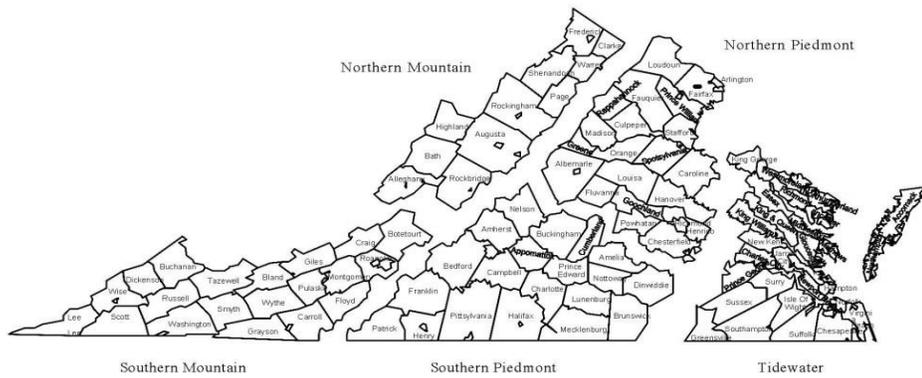


Figure 1. Regional boundaries for Virginia Spring Gobbler Season Survey

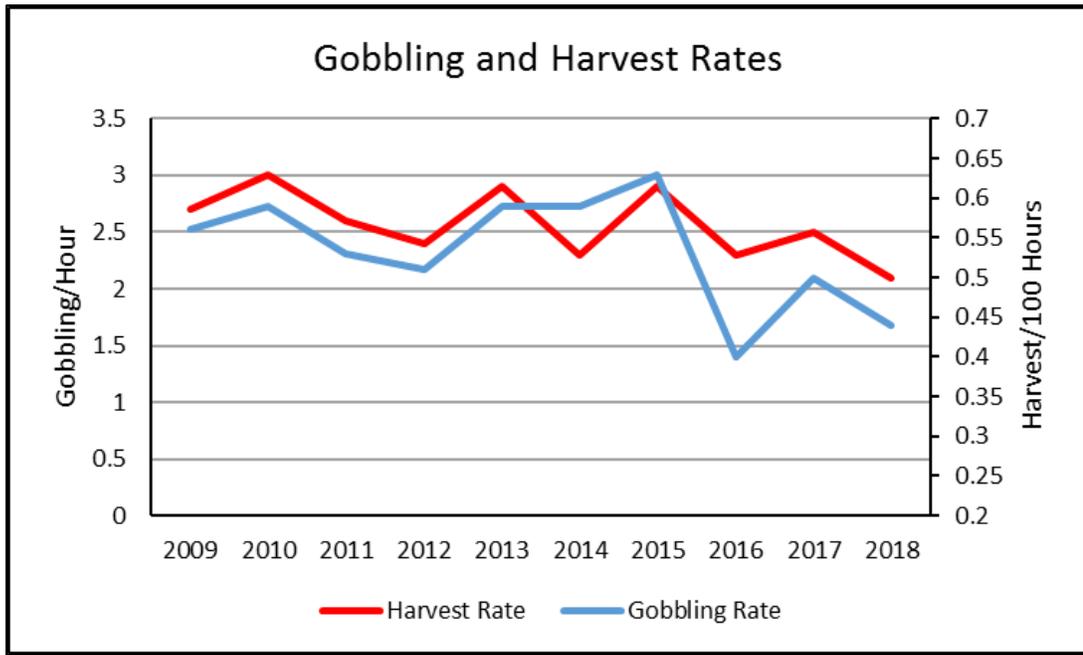


Figure 2. Gobbling per hour reported by Virginia Spring Gobbler Season Cooperators.

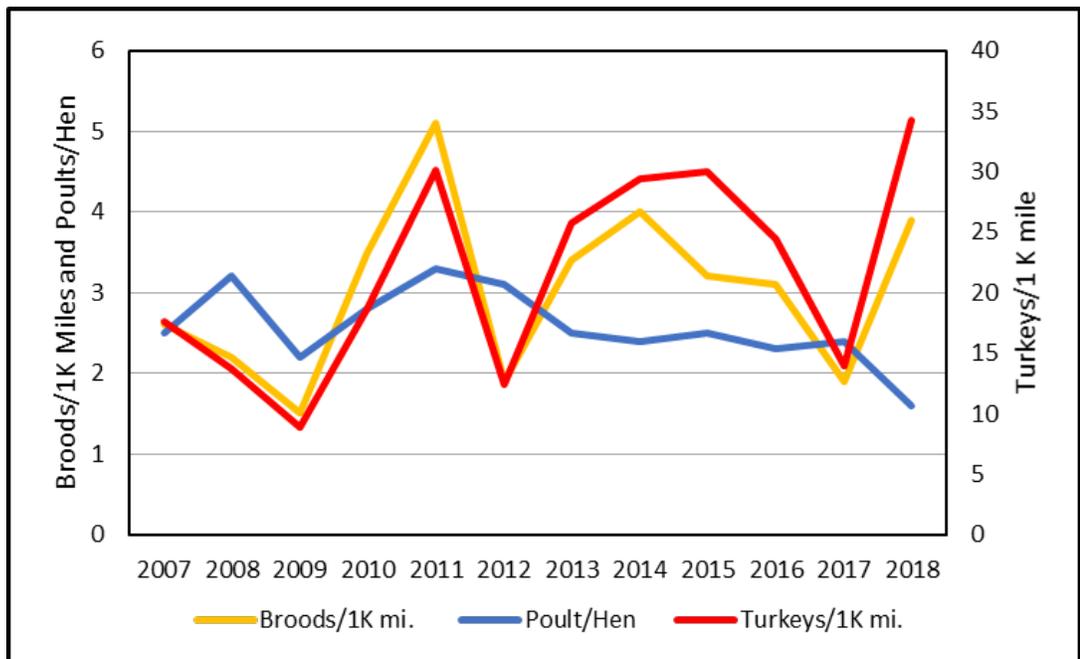


Figure 3. Turkeys seen, broods seen, and poults per hen in Virginia from 2007-2018 as observed by Department staff.

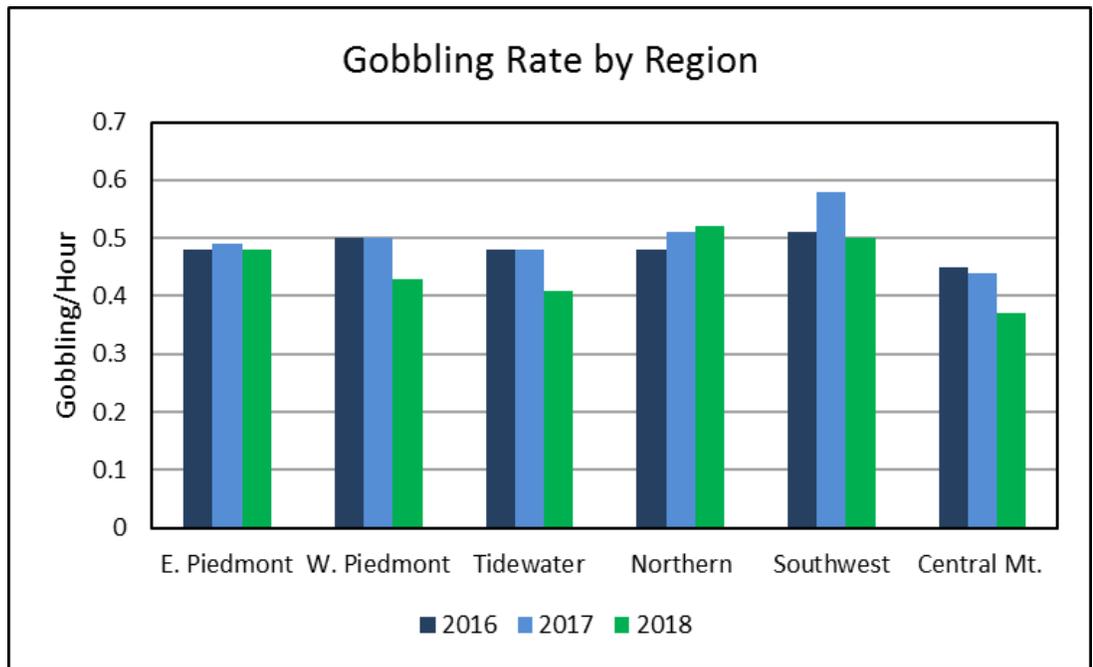


Figure 4. Gobbling rates (heard per hour) by region in Virginia, 2016-18.

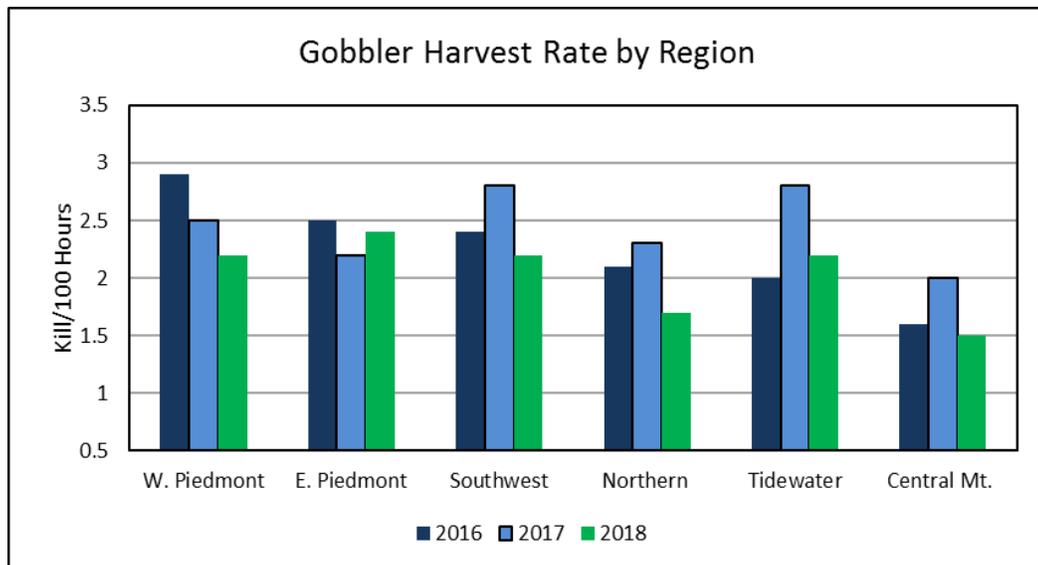


Figure 5. Harvest rates (killed/100 hours) of gobblers by region in Virginia, 2016-18.

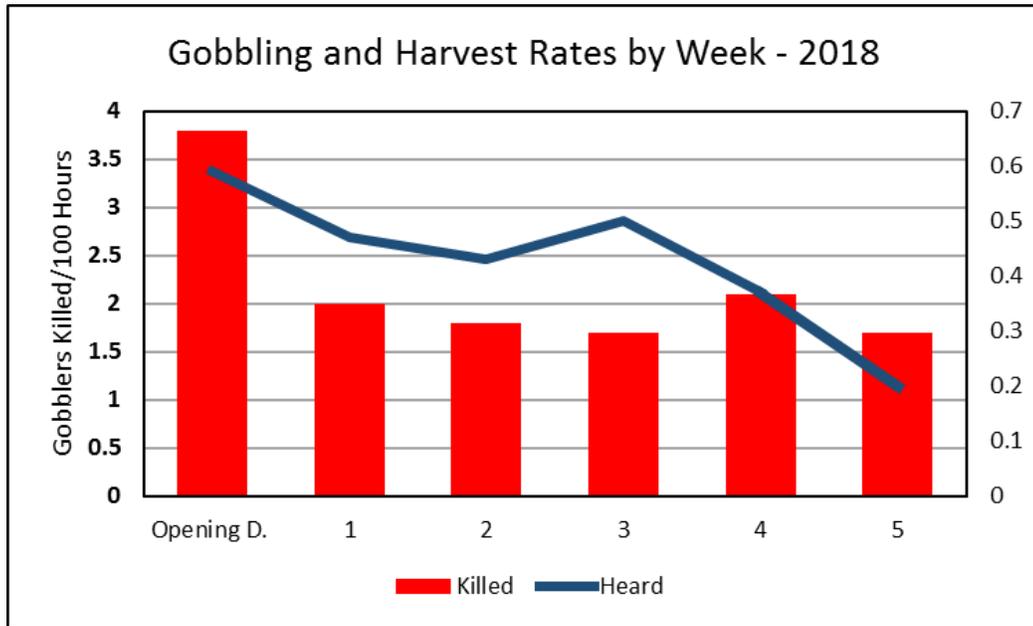


Figure 6. Gobbling (heard/hour) and harvest (killed/100 hours) rates reported in 2018 in Virginia.

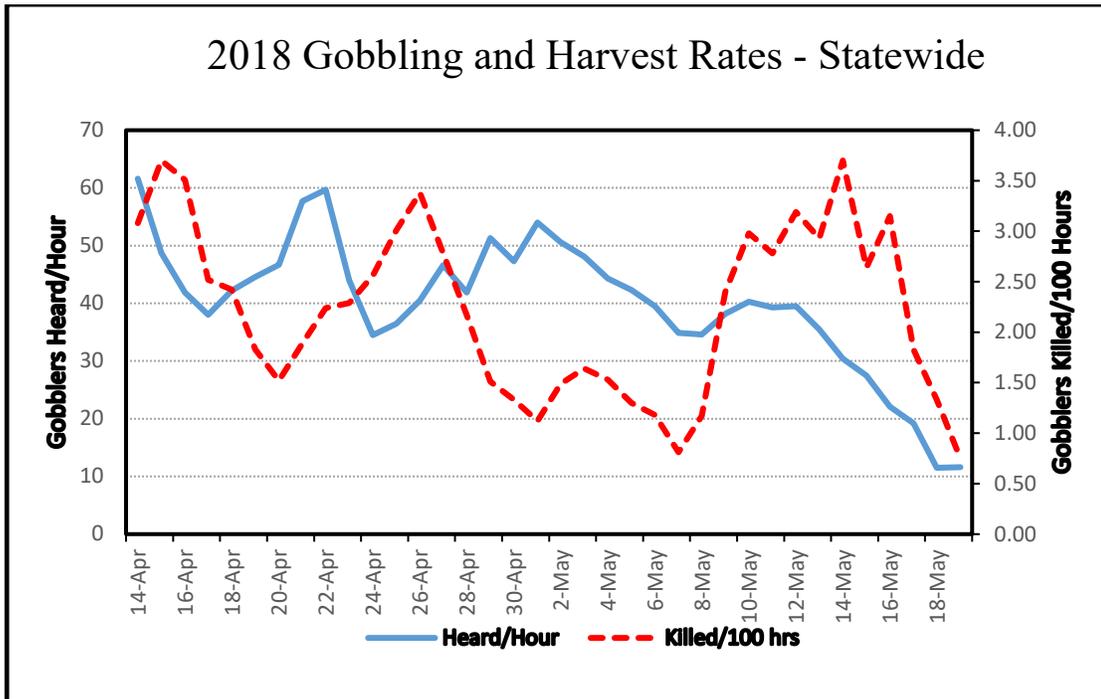


Figure 7. Moving averages of daily gobbling rates (heard/hour) and harvest rates (killed/100 hours) in Virginia, 2018.

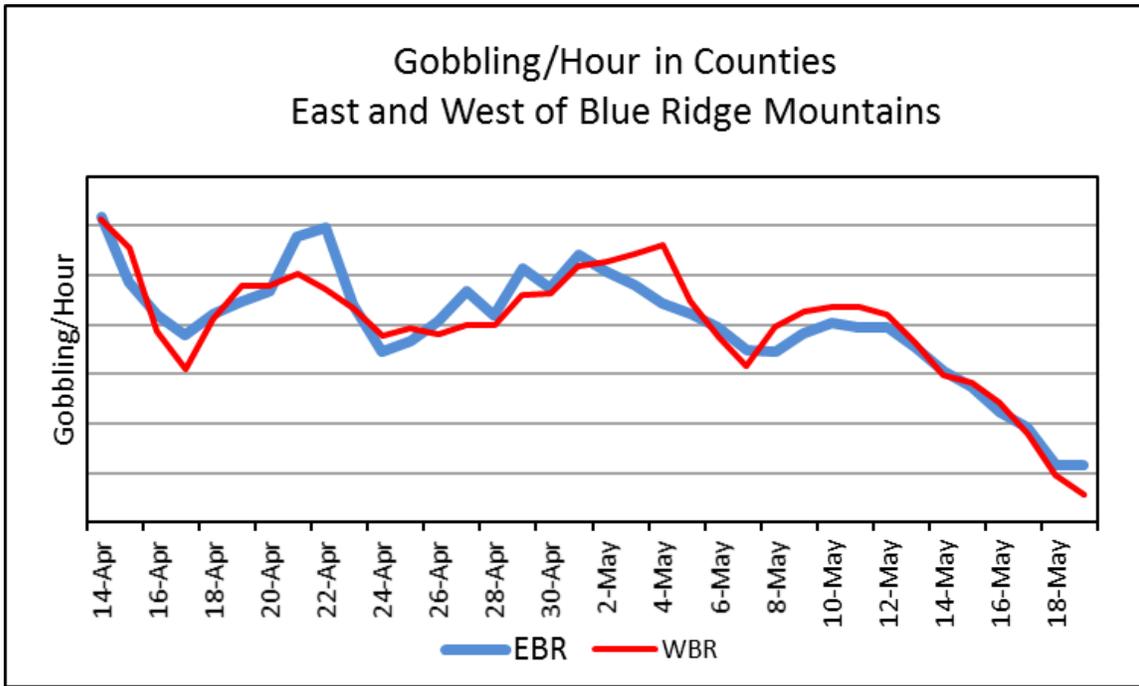


Figure 8. Gobbling by counties that are east and west of the Blue Ridge Mountains, 2018.

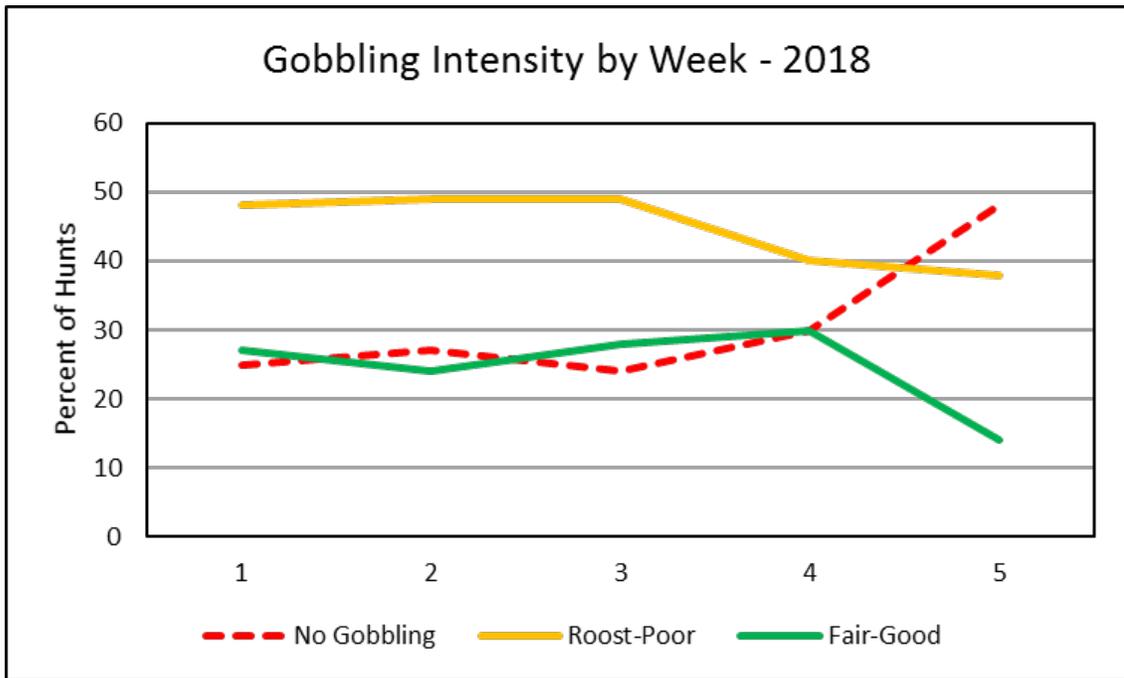


Figure 9. Percentage of spring gobbler hunts for intensity category by week in Virginia in 2018.

Appendix A. Cooperator observations and comments from 2018 season. Numbers following comment are Cooperator's ID Number. Comments on rifles are not included.

WEATHER

Good: 7341, 0256

Bad or not very good: 8511, 9737, 2719, 3673, 4796, 9999, 3810, 7000

Warm then cool: 0842, 3508

Wet or cold spring: 3371, 3057, 6373, 6164, 6406, 2338, 7788 5593, 1548, 3416, 6102 1964, 5599, 1347

Rainy: 0253, 1755, 1927, 3508, 4517, 4340, 3241, 9327

Windy: 1548, 3416, 8511, 3241

Hot weather: 0253, 9999

Unusual weather: 9269

Late spring: 1844

GOBBLING

Good: 9199, 1755, 1831, 7825, 1339

Poor: 6586, 4408, 9315, 8511, 8041, 2626, 9146, 5592, 8607, 6273, 9602, 0244, 3825, 1647, 1230,
5593, 6855, 5304, 9999, 4716, 9024, 5727, 2193, 5339, 8646, 5434, 1927

Less than before: 4135, 0256, 5927

Gobbled on roost then not on ground: 4517, 0151, 9495, 5992, 7813, 7825, 1852, 0137, 3053,
2626, 4644, 0716, 3478. 0929, 0198, 4803, 8507

Gobbling early in morning: 9713

Gobbled late in morning: 0840

Toms silent coming in: 6855

No gobbling first week: 4384

Gobbled good first week: 1852

Gobbled good first 2 weeks: 6931

Gobbled less at end of season: 3673

Gobbled little before season: 0244

Gobbled good before season: 9161

Gobbled in March: 4735

POPULATION

Population down or low: 5186, 9999, 7191, 9024, 9999, 9999, 4735, 4796, 0472, 5927, 1171, 9336

Lots of jakes: 2959, 8766, 6855, 1852, 1111

Few jakes: 5186, 7191, 6918, 8511, 0472, 1627

Lots of two-year-old gobblers: 1852

Populations OK: 1831, 1844, 6415, 0137

Plenty of hens: 1236

Very few or not many hens: 1852, 2858, 0349, 6929

Plenty of sign: 1292

SURVEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Need column for jakes: 2959, 3053

Thanks for early survey: 3825, 8718, 6415

Enjoyed survey: 3353, 8646

Need question on habitat on survey: 0840

Replace dead animal section with jakes seen/called in: 5304

Add column on hens heard: 9161

Add unidentified column: 6931

Did not receive survey: 3416

Need survey earlier: 3416

Keep doing surveys: 3771

Include all remarks in survey: 1588, 4756, 4250 *(The only remarks we don't include are those for/against rifles)*

Add midmorning gobbling: 0137

To increase number of surveys distribute at NWTf chapter Banquet

LIKED SEASON OR NOT

Enjoyed the season: 8854, 9999

Good season: 3331, 3353, 3394, 6929

Fair season: 9336, 9159

Difficult: 3673, 6406, 0349, 9146, 0256, 3592, 1230

LAW ENFORCEMENT, POACHERS, HUNTER PRESSURE, AND CHECK IN SYSTEM

Stop poaching: 5123

Road hunting bad on National Forest: 6961

Road hunting: 9472

Poachers reduce number of gobblers: 5123

More hunters this season: 1548, 1549

Public lands too pressured by hunters: 9713

Turkeys are not being checked: 1078

Locals hunt out of season: 3416

Hunter killed 2 gobblers and seen him later with them: 1078

Hunter bragging about shooting six gobblers, he gets license for wife and daughter: 5307

Like phone in check system: 3331

Call in system not working: 9024 We purchase license and no CPO in Charlotte County: 3416

Need CPO in Northumberland County: 2959

Hire more CPOs: 2959

General Assembly need to increase CPOs pay like State Police: 2959

Need CPOs in several counties: 3416

CPOs do a good job in Carroll County: 1831

CPOs need to patrol more than just one time every 10 years: 5123

Have CPOs enforce parking around gates where parking is not indicated on maps: 5339

DOGS

To many dogs: 9146, 9395, 3416

No running dogs in spring gobbler season: 9146, 6102

Beagle ran gobbler off first day: 1002

HUNTING HOURS AND SUNDAY

Sunday hunting on all lands and not just private land: 9472

No to Sunday hunting: 9999, 5434, 4517, 0137

Likes all-day hunting: 9401, 8854, 0198, 2090, 8041

Hunt all-day full season: 9846, 2461

No to all-day hunting: 1549

Allow hunting to 1 PM: 6956

SEASON DATES

Open 1 week earlier: 2338, 9999, 5934, 1166, 3053, 0753, 1470, 7943, 2090, 3015

End season 1 week earlier: 9602, 1548

Open season 7 April: 9146

Don't change the season: 9395, 1831, 0137, 7341, 6415

Shorten season: 1548, 9999

Season in SW VA running a month late hens with gobblers: 1158

FALL SEASON

Gobblers only in fall: 3315

Trim fall season to January: 6631

Fallseason to long or spread out: 8947, 9999

Increase fall season: 9395

January season is good idea: 8947, 6631

Keep fall season with dogs legal: 4499

Tag for hen only in fall: 0137

No overlap of turkey and deer season: 8947

No to January season move to Thanksgiving week: 9999

LIMITS AND LICENSE

Limit is good: 1831, 0137, 6415

Cut limit back to two birds: 9851, 7342, 9999, 5434, 5123, 1171

Daily limit should be one bird:

Limit to one hen in fall three gobblers in spring:

Limit to two birds a day: 2763, 4868, 0349, 2090, 3080

Add one bird to limit: 3080

Regulations OK: 6415

Limit to two birds, one of which must be on private land: 8511

Limit to one turkey in fall and two spring: 9999

FANNING

No to fanning: 7342, 3458, 1548, 8646, 8718, 8113, 7921, 5599, 1470, 0487, 0349, 1411, 1344, 0137

Yes to fanning: 7698

No to fans on public land: 8041

Fanning should be personal choice: 9395

If fanning is legal then no rifles: 8718

Stop rifle hunting in spring if fanning allowed: 5768

Safety is a concern for fanning: 1411

Fanning is not dangerous: 9395

OTHER ANIMALS

See more bear than deer: 9269

Called in and shot coyote: 2198, 8854

Too many coyotes: 5186, 9737, 2719, 9395, 7191, 5827, 2157, 8041, 6352, 1470, 9161, 2370, 6239

Killed coyote first day: 9588

Predator population too high: 8947, 1548, 9395

Need coyote bounty: 1927

Coyote scat on logging roads: 0137

Coyote came to calls on two days: 6352

Coyotes chasing gobblers: 3748

Saw coyote: 9401

Canadian goose came to decoy: 5884

Saw red fox chasing chipmunk: 6164

Too many bears: 1549

Saw what looked like red wolf, bigger than coyote: 1007

Bear with one cub: 8511

Lot of deer: 8190

Called in bobcat: 8947

Saw bobcat on tree: 1717

Fawn attacked decoy: 8190

Saw a lot of box turtles: 7825

I watched DGIF Personnel release six coyotes in Pittsylvania County 25 yrs ago: 5827

Saw two large bear: 1166

Heard bobwhites: 4952

Seen two solid black grey squirrels: 2338

Big bear visited my blind while I was eating Oreo cookies: 3416

Found turkey egg in road 4/17: 9999

Found Whip-poor-will nest: 9602

Heard a lot of Whip-poor-wills: 7825

Coyote knocked over decoy: 9713

Coyote flushed three hens into trees: 4644
Coyote grabbed decoy: 7766
Saw dead coyote killed by dogs: 1292
Saw two deer on National Forest: 1292
Owl populations up: 1627
Saw red fox chasing squirrels: 7217
Saw eight bears on April 14: 4644
Heard Whip-poor-will: 1339
Saw a white hawk: 9395
Saw eagle: 1171
Hen turkey chases crows: 1230
Saw white hen: 9999
Saw elk in Bland county: 4756
Three goats come to set up while calling gobbler: 6482
Coyote stalked decoy: 1339
Saw a lot of hawks: 1964

OPINIONS & OBSERVATIONS

Joined club in Sussex and Dinwiddie County - no turkeys seen: 2370
Strutting in mid-March: 9269
Make hunting experience important and the kill 2nd: 6586
Heard one gobbler whole season: 6202
Gobbler harvested had 9 ½ inch beard no spurs 17 ½ pounds: 0072
Improvements on Cavalier WMA are great: 3394
Four gobblers seen in Augusta, Albemarle and Nelson Counties: 9999
Turkeys bred I March: 1844
No response to calling in New River Valley: 3508
Most gobblers are three + years old: 1627
Web site is easy to use: 5967
Enough gobblers in Goshen WMA but hard to kill: 8926
Gobblers with hen first week: 8607
Gobblers with hens whole season: 3458, 8646
Called in several birds from long distance but would not come last ten yards: 0349
Gobblers reluctant to come within shooting range: 3771
Gobblers had several hen with them late season: 9327
Saw more deer than turkeys: 5339
Saw bull frog eat baby Canadian goose: 7825
Killed two gobblers from gang of six gobblers: 6771
Enjoy spring mornings: 9072
Club tried hunting coyotes with dogs none taken: 2370

Lots of 3-year-old gobblers: 1844
Seen gobblers fighting: 1002
Close all gates during turkey season: 9401
Different year for hunting, looking to take bird on opening day: 8779
Few turkeys on National Forest: 1964
Turkeys hard to call in: 1548
More acorns on ground than for many years: 7219
Enjoyed Harrisonburg shows in past when citations were awarded: 8507
Called in hen within 10 feet making unusual sounds: 2338
More clear cutting and controlled burns: 9999
All gobblers I saw harvested were three year old + birds: 6931
Like my first triple bearded gobbler: 9401
Turkeys are not responding to callers like they used to: 9999
Partner killed gobbler with four beards: 3825
A lot of land is leased for turkey hunting: 1647
Predators affect turkey populations: 1964
Saw gobblers mating and fighting: 9999
Local officials are ignorant of how destructive coyotes are: 1470
Spring and fall hunting is about calling turkeys not sneaking up on one: 9395
I switched to TSS seven years ago – with 20 guage: 3584
Local firing range ran off turkeys: 1717
Turkeys bred in March: 1844
Saw a lot of woodcock and Canadian geese: 1748
Someone killed gobbler I was calling in: 1111
Killed two coyotes following gobbler: 9999
Forest too mature and reduced food: 6910
Timber cutting moved turkeys: 1717
Saw Canadian goose land on eagles nest: 1927
Lots of ticks: 5531
Found a few mushrooms: 5531
Gobblers henned up early: 1755
Limit bag limit to two birds: 1171
Buzzard attacked turkey decoy in open field: 3353
Bow hunting challenging for turkeys: 9999
Coyote stalked me to five yards: 0349
Gobblers always next ridge over: 5036
Hen chased crows: 1230
Gobbler had green wound on breast: 9269
The new VDGIF mobile App is very useful: 8766

YOUTH DAY

Hunted with grandson: 8040
Get more kids involved: 9999
Youth day Saturday and not Sunday: 5434

NESTING

Turkeys eggs eaten: 9999
Saw hen May 17 with poults: 2763
Local hatch light: 6910

RECOMMENDATIONS

Need more CPOs: 3458, 2858
Sunday hunting everywhere: 2763
Need better management on National Forest: 2858
Enforce game laws: 5036
Reduce bag limits: 5156
Lease more private land for hunting: 8511
In fall extend turkey season thru entire muzzle loading season: 9999
Quit stocking muskies on James River: 1169
Shorten season in Frederick and Shenandoah Counties: 1964
VA should have Natural Resource Court separate from traffic ad criminal: 2959
Bag limit to one bird and purchase two tags separately: 2719
Purchase hen tag separately: 2719
Longer full season: 9395
Separate turkey license: 9395
Keep off road vehicles out of forest: 5036
Need better habitat on National Forest in Frederick County: 1964
Transfer some eastern gobblers to mountains: 9472
Open season later after turkeys mate: 1964
Stop hen killing in spring: 9999, 9999
DGIF should help with Harrisonburg Show: 8507
Continue to study turkey and grouse: 8964
Put parking areas in Oakley WMA: 7825
Habitat improvements on Federal Land: 3458, 7788, 9999
Continue to provide hunting, fishing, hiking and boating: 5884
Mountain bikers should pick up their trash: 7788
Need more clear cuts on National Forest: 5615
Need more info on Turkeys like deer: 3825
Need more places to hunt, everything posted: 1647
Don't close off roads: 1548

No turkey hunting during general firearms: 5339
Provide more parking on Parkers Branch: 5339
Charge a fee to hunt WMAs: 5339
Maintain a healthy and growing turkey population: 6631
Have same rules for Big Woods SFWMA as Parkers Branch except for use of slugs: 5339
Clear cutting hurts turkey populations: 5339
Simplification of season and license: 1755
Hold Regional Public Meetings: 8854
Limit all day hunting on National Forest or limit to one week: 7219
Change hunting license as many hunters carry multiple license: 7219
Hire more CPOs: 5304, 8910, 9753, 1098, 4340
Need turkey and deer help on GWNF: 8646
Jordans Run road in bad shape, needs repair: 8646
More plantings on State lands: 6918
More plantings on National Forest: 6910
Post results for previous year on line to save postage and paper: 4408
Do not increase doe days East of RT 613 in Rockingham: 7921, 0487
Youth should have a week to hunt: 4517
Rely more on Biologist input rather than public input for setting season: 9999
Need state wide bounty on Coyotes: 9999
Need better habitat on State and Federal Lands: 0349
Monitor areas in Ferrum and Galloway that are declining: 1171
Conduct controlled burns on National Forest and do some logging: 0753
Have wildlife food plots: 0753
All government roads should be foot travel only including government vehicles: 0256
DO not control burn prior or after turkey season: 0256
Stricter laws on dog hunting: 0198
Enforce road hunting: 0198
Need bonus tag for spring gobblers: 9580
CPOs need to listen to hunters and landowners: 1717
GPS vehicle maps are not correct causing me to get ticket: 1717
Add fall only tag or unused spring tags in fall: 9835
Need more parking places: 5531
Better habitat on public land: 4644
DO what is right and best you can: 6352
Treat officers the same way you want to be treated: 6352
Educate hunters on benefits of spring hunting: 6352
Increase habitat quality: 0151, 4130
Eliminate Hog populations: 4756

Reduce coyote population: 4756, 0716
Change doe tags back to bucks: 9999
No bonus deer tags: 9999
Change limits to deer available some hunters take 6-8 does: 9999
Need bounty on coyotes by county: 1470
Allow longer fall season: 9999
Have more openings in National Forest: 1007
Need habitat improvement in GWNF: 6929
More public hunting areas archery only: 9999
Make hunter safety a priority: 6586
Too much timber cutting in Southern Piedmont: **9335**

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Good turkey management plan: 0137, 6415
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