

# Bethlehem Authority Police Report

May 2026

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1. While patrolling I found tree stands that caused damage to trees. The stands did not have any required owner identification. I removed the stands then notified the PA Game Commission about the offenses. A few days after collecting the stands I spoke with a few people that live in the area and eventually found owners. The PA Game Commission then cited the owners for PA Game violations, damage to trees and not removing the stands by the required time after deer season. Tree stands are allowed to be in place 2 weeks prior to the first day of any deer season and are to be removed within 2 weeks after the last day of the last deer season. February 7th was the deadline for stand removal.
2. Earlier this month near the Wild Creek Reservoir spillway, a goose was behaving in a manner suggesting it was sick and not injured. I called a PA Game Warden who arrived to decide the correct action for the situation. The Warden said the bird's behavior strongly suggested Avian Influenza. After dispatching, the Warden collected the bird for testing. Later I found out the last dead Bald Eagles on the property were from bird flu.
3. Someone dumped landscape debris on Authority property along Hyspie Gap Rd. The debris was mostly plant based except for 4 wooden posts that had concrete around their base. Cameras in the area did not capture any images.
4. Spring Gobbler Turkey Season started May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Hunter numbers were low as expected. Spring Gobbler has had a low turnout since before Covid.

5. The Tunkhannock Township Road-master called me about an upcoming project on Hypsie Gap Rd. The Township plans to perform some grading and stonework on Hypsie Gap Rd and would like to use our same fire-lane as the Game Commission is doing now. The fire-lane would allow them to bypass the stone bridge with the heavier equipment for the road work. I said it should not be a problem, but there may be paperwork and agreements to sign. The work is in the planning phase, and the Township will contact the Authority closer to the project start date. The Game Commission work has not progressed since the last Board Meeting.
6. I spoke with a PA Game Commission Snowshoe Hare biologist last week. He was out tracking collard hares and said the hares in and around the Long Pond property are survivors. He has not lost any yet, but in the other study area they have lost quite a few.