



JORO SPIDER INVASION OF METRO ATLANTA

JORO ARRIVAL

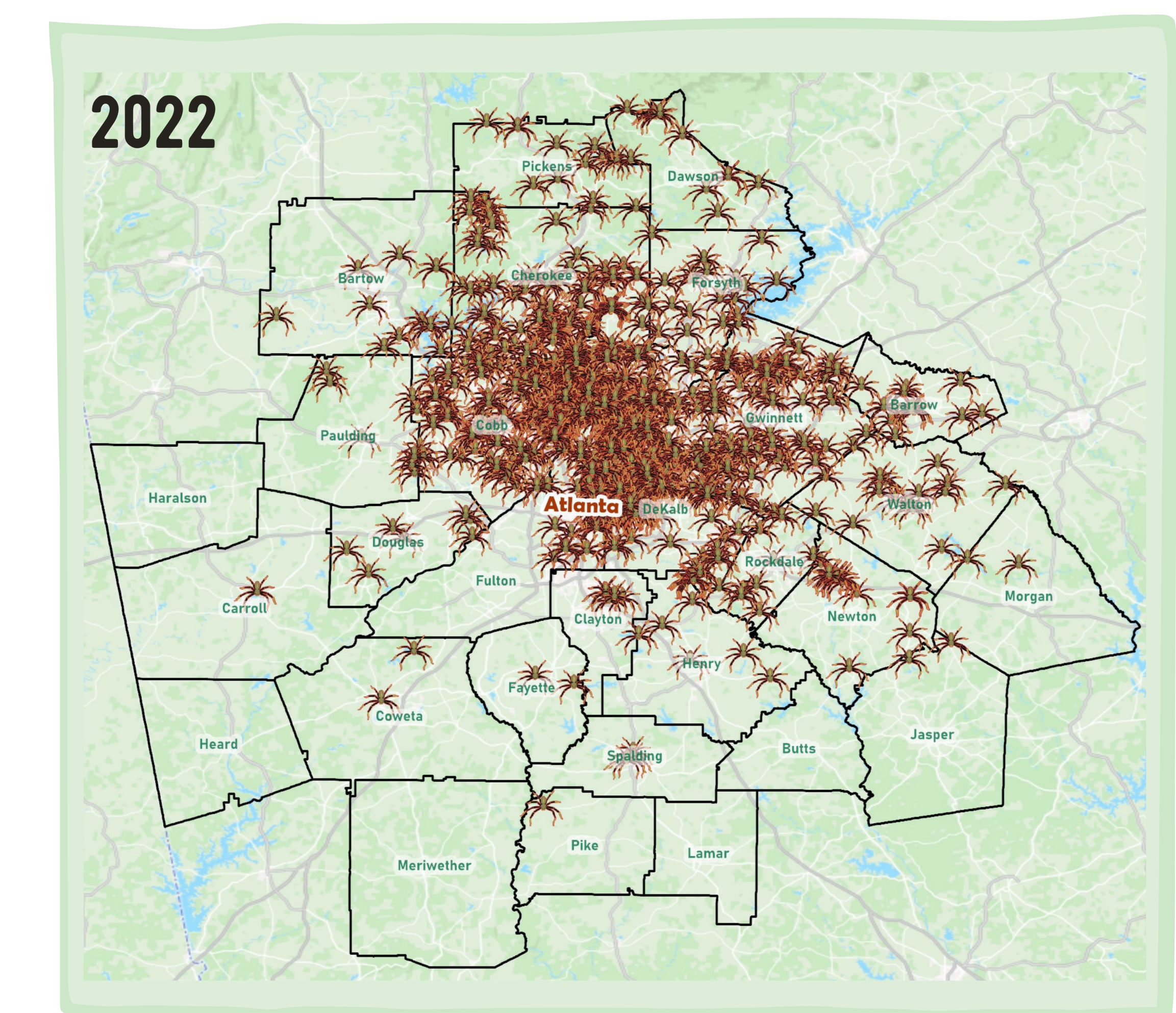
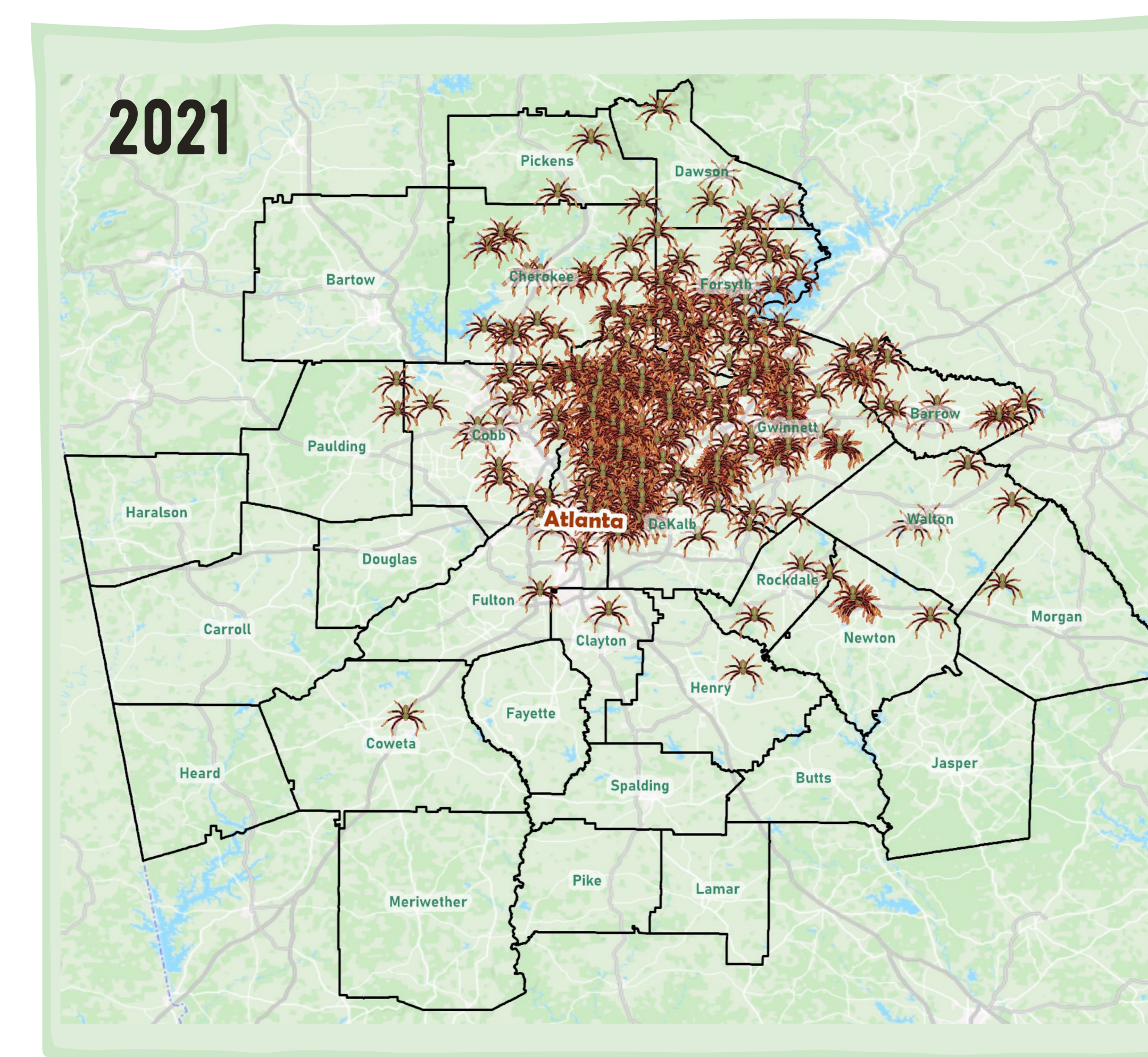
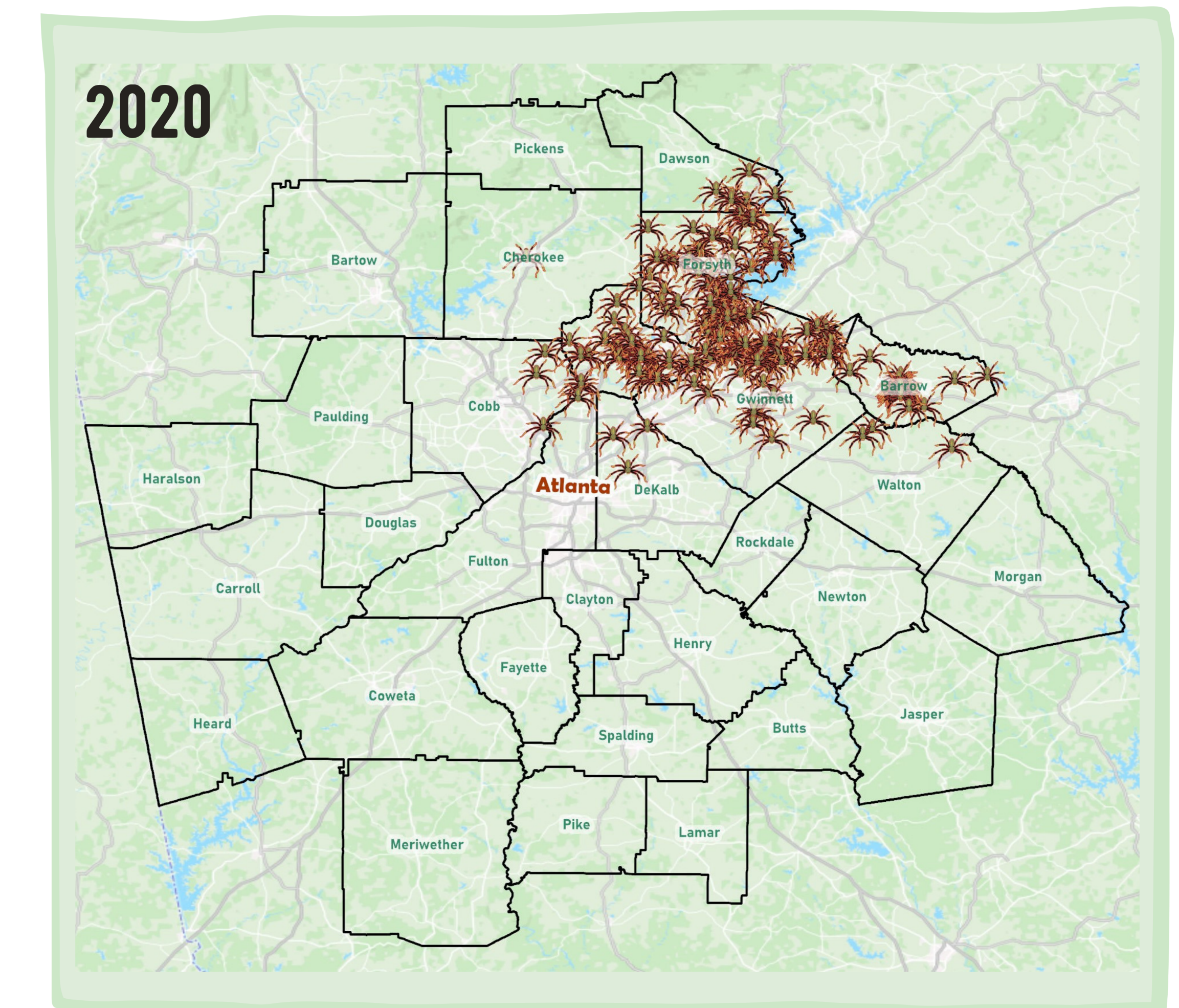
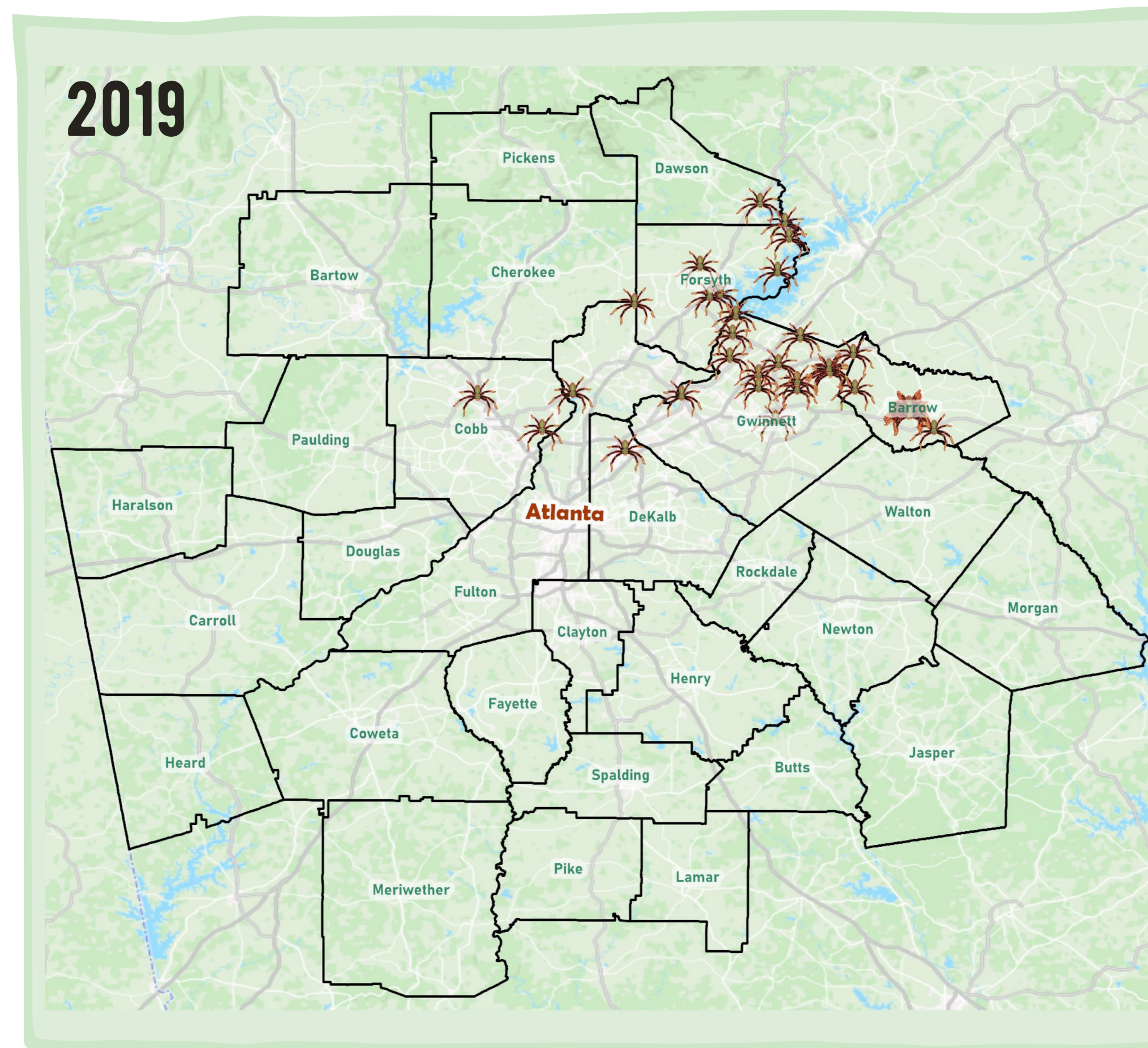
The Joro Spider was introduced to Atlanta around 2014 through cargo originating from East Asia. Since their introduction, these spiders have been observed throughout Georgia and have expanded their presence along the entire East Coast. The spread of Joro Spiders is facilitated by a technique known as "ballooning," where spiders release silk threads to catch the wind, enabling them to travel to new locations and quickly colonize different habitats.¹

While considered invasive, Joro Spiders, as of now, do not seem to be causing harm to the ecosystem. There is no evidence of them outcompeting native spiders, and they have actually increased the prey available for birds. However, given the relatively short time they have been present, the long-term effects of their presence remain uncertain. It is crucial to continue monitoring their population and behavior to ensure they do not pose a threat in the future.²

JORO FACTS³

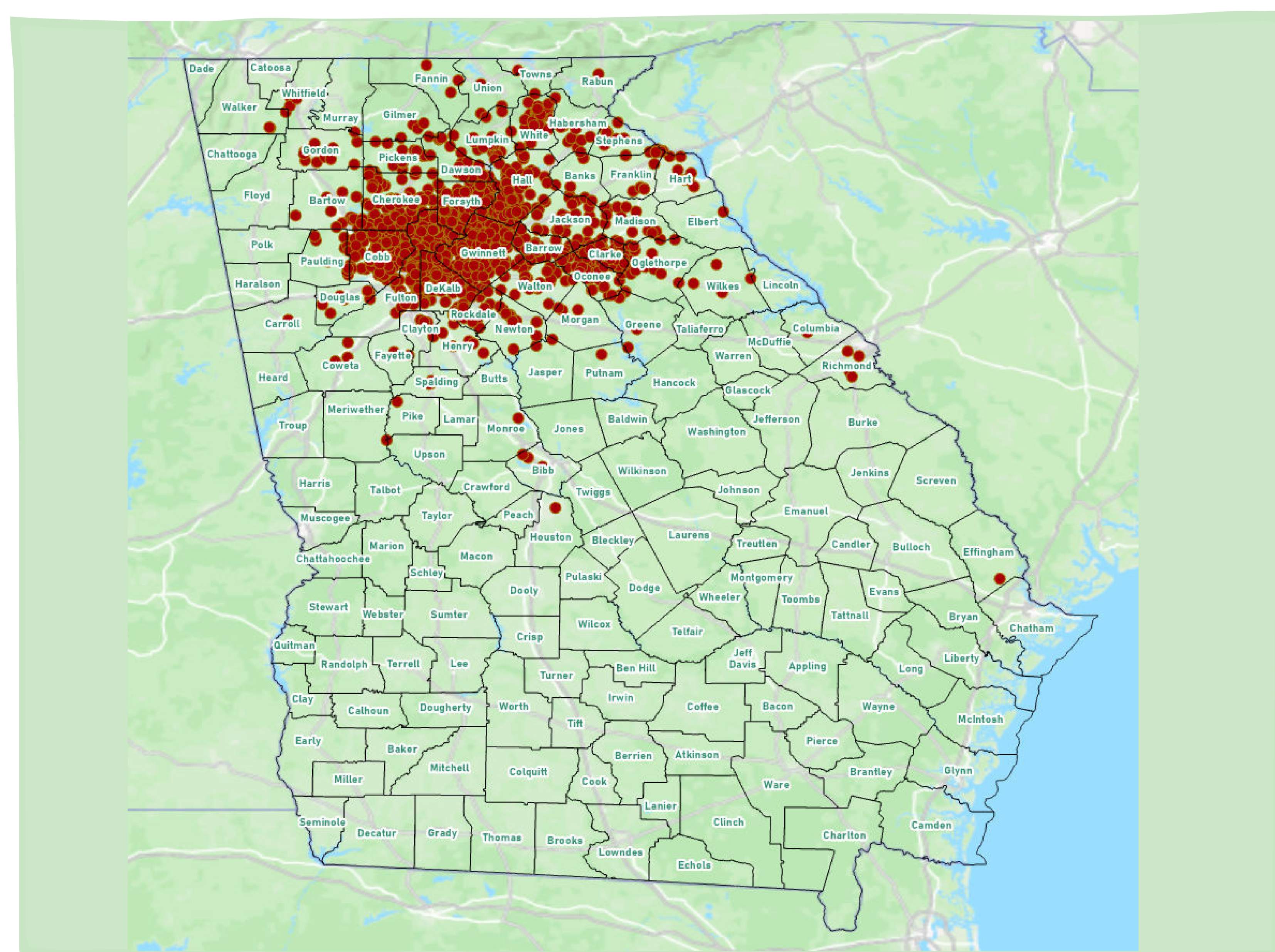
- Adult female bodies grow up to 1.25 inches long.
- Adult males are small, only 0.16 - 0.31 inches.
- Female spiders are yellow, blue-green, and red.
- Male spiders are brown.
- They spin strong three-layered webs that are often 10ft.
- Despite their intimidating appearance, research shows they may be the most timid spider ever documented.
- Joros are regularly spotted in areas native Georgia spiders don't typically inhabit.
- The Joro spider has venom it can use on its prey, but it is not generally harmful to humans.

REPORTED SIGHTINGS ACROSS METRO ATLANTA



Maps produced with data from The University of Georgia - Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health.⁴

REPORTED SIGHTINGS ACROSS GEORGIA



HELP TRACK JORO DATA



REFERENCES

1. Leigh Hataway, "Joro Spiders Likely to Spread Beyond Georgia," University of Georgia News, March 3, 2022, <https://news.uga.edu/joro-spiders-likely-to-spread-beyond-georgia/>.
2. Devon Zwald, "How Do Joro Spiders Impact the Ecosystem? UGA Researchers Hope to Find Out, and Maybe Your Help," Georgia Public Broadcasting, August 18, 2022, updated August 19, 2022 <https://www.gpb.org/news/2022/08/18/how-do-joro-spiders-impact-the-ecosystem-uga-researchers-hope-find-out-maybe-your>.
3. Pennsylvania State University Extension, "Joro Spiders," March 9, 2022, <https://extension.psu.edu/joro-spiders>.
4. EDDMaps. 2023. Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System. The University of Georgia - Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health. Available online at <http://www.eddmaps.org/>.