

Figure 1. South Carolina Department of Natural Resources 2023 Turkey Hunter Survey.

2023 South Carolina Turkey Hunter Survey

1. Did you turkey hunt in SC this past season (2023)? 1. Yes 2. No
If you answered **No** to this question please **go to question # 11.**
2. Did you harvest any turkeys in SC this past season? 1. Yes 2. No
3. Even if you did not harvest a turkey, please record the SC counties you turkey hunted and the number of days hunted in each county this past season (2023). If you harvested turkeys please record the number of adult gobblers and jakes taken in each county. A day of hunting is defined as any portion of the day spent afield. Please do not give ranges (i.e. 5-10), rather provide absolute numbers (i.e. 5). **Provide information only for yourself** - not friends, relatives, or other people you may have called or guided for or hunted with. *(Jakes typically have beards less than 6", spurs less than 1/2" and longer feathers in the center of their tail fan.)*

SC Counties You Turkey Hunted	# Days Hunted	Number Turkeys Harvested
1		Adult gobblers _____ Jakes _____
2		Adult gobblers _____ Jakes _____
3		Adult gobblers _____ Jakes _____
4		Adult gobblers _____ Jakes _____

If you did not harvest any turkeys in SC this past season please go to question 8.

4. If you harvested turkeys in SC this past season, please indicate as best you can the number of turkeys killed by County and 10-day period of the season.

County of Harvest	Number of Turkeys Harvested by Time Period				
	March 22-31	April 1-10	April 11-20	April 21-30	May 1-10
1.					
2.					
3.					

5. How many turkeys did you kill in the morning _____ after 12:00 noon _____?
6. How many turkeys did you kill on **Private Land** _____ and **Public (WMA) Land** _____?
7. Did you report your harvest to SC Game Check? 1. Yes 2. No
8. How many turkeys did you shoot but not kill or recover in SC this past season? _____
9. Compared to past years, how would you describe the number of turkeys in the area that you hunted most often this spring?
Circle one 1. **Increasing** 2. **About the same** 3. **Decreasing**
10. When turkey hunting, do you use shotgun shells with "heavier than lead" pellets (ex. TSS, Tungsten, Bismuth, Hevi-Shot)? 1. Yes 2. No
11. Are you a resident of SC? 1. Yes 2. No
12. If yes, which county _____

Separate and return this portion of the survey. Postage is prepaid. Please do not staple this form.



**HELP MANAGE
TURKEYS IN S.C.
COMPLETE YOUR
HUNTER SURVEY**



TURKEY HUNTER SURVEY
 SCDNR
 PO BOX 167
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Figure 1. Continued.

May, 2023

Dear SC Turkey Hunter:

Eastern wild turkeys are one of the most important game species in South Carolina. Therefore, it is important that this species be monitored for population status and harvesting activities. Wildlife resource managers require current and accurate information about wild turkey harvests to aid in successfully managing this important natural resource and to optimize future hunting potential. To obtain this needed data, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) is conducting a survey of hunters who received a set of turkey tags during spring 2023.

Although electronic reporting of harvested turkeys is now required, SCDNR will continue to survey hunters to maintain consistency, determine hunter effort, and measure other aspects of turkey hunting. You are one of a group of randomly selected hunters asked to participate in this survey. To draw accurate conclusions it is very important that you complete the survey and return it. Please take time to read each question. **Even if you did not hunt or harvest wild turkeys this spring please indicate this by answering the appropriate questions and moving on to the next set of questions.**

Please note that complete confidentiality will be given to you. Keep in mind that the purpose of the survey is to determine the wild turkey harvest in South Carolina and not to determine whether game laws are observed. By accurately answering the survey questions you will enable SCDNR biologists to better manage the Eastern wild turkey resource for you and other citizens of the state. Therefore, it is very important that you take a few minutes to complete this survey and mail it. Return postage is prepaid.

Results of this survey will be posted on the SCDNR web site once completed. The results from the 2022 survey can be found at: www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/turkey/2022TurkeyHarvest.html

Charles Ruth
Certified Wildlife Biologist
Big Game Program Coordinator

PLEASE MAIL YOUR SURVEY AFTER SEPARATING THIS HALF FROM THE SIDE ON WHICH YOUR ANSWERS HAVE BEEN ENTERED. NO POSTAGE IS NECESSARY.

If you have questions regarding this survey, please call 803-734-3886

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, disability, religion or age. Direct all inquiries to the Office of Human Resources, P.O. Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202

23-13714



**TURKEY HUNTER SURVEY
SC DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 167
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