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Table 1. Estimated statewide turkey harvest in South Carolina in 2019.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Gobbler Harvest	Jake Harvest	Total Harvest	Percent Jakes	Harvest	Rates
							Ac/Turkey	Turkey/Mi. <sup>2</sup>
Abbeville	223,113	349	361	72	433	16.6	515	1.2
Aiken	500,546	782	284	7	291	2.4	1,720	0.4
Allendale	216,455	338	249	21	270	7.8	802	0.8
Anderson	219,068	342	301	87	388	22.4	565	1.1
Bamberg	196,573	307	361	26	387	6.7	508	1.3
Barnwell	281,764	440	163	15	178	8.4	1,583	0.4
Beaufort	147,441	230	94	7	101	6.9	1,460	0.4
Berkeley	567,530	887	688	29	717	4.0	792	0.8
Calhoun	190,584	298	232	14	246	5.7	775	0.8
Charleston	288,732	451	464	21	485	4.3	595	1.1
Cherokee	156,664	245	232	29	261	11.1	600	1.1
Chester	300,589	470	327	80	407	19.7	739	0.9
Chesterfield	372,478	582	292	43	335	12.8	1,112	0.6
Clarendon	298,087	466	335	7	342	2.0	872	0.7
Colleton	502,666	785	645	21	666	3.2	755	0.8
Darlington	286,228	447	129	7	136	5.1	2,105	0.3
Dillon	214,069	334	103	6	109	5.5	1,964	0.3
Dorchester	302,717	473	361	7	368	1.9	823	0.8
Edgefield	246,543	385	266	51	317	16.1	778	0.8
Fairfield	384,607	601	533	51	584	8.7	659	1.0
Florence	397,888	622	404	24	428	5.6	930	0.7
Georgetown	399,638	624	482	65	547	11.9	731	0.9
Greenville	294,257	460	473	51	524	9.7	562	1.1
Greenwood	204,400	319	284	36	320	11.3	639	1.0
Hampton	324,840	508	378	14	392	3.6	829	0.8
Horry	533,336	833	404	51	455	11.2	1,172	0.5
Jasper	309,889	484	275	7	282	2.5	1,099	0.6
Kershaw	360,485	563	395	21	416	5.0	867	0.7
Lancaster	266,382	416	301	7	308	2.3	865	0.7
Laurens	317,916	497	456	51	507	10.1	627	1.0
Lee	220,106	344	163	14	177	7.9	1,244	0.5
Lexington	280,742	439	111	17	128	13.3	2,193	0.3
McCormick	212,021	331	120	29	149	19.5	1,423	0.4
Marion	216,907	339	215	7	222	3.2	977	0.7
Marlboro	281,271	439	103	9	112	8.0	2,511	0.3
Newberry	317,761	497	352	51	403	12.7	788	0.8
Oconee	284,348	444	344	36	380	9.5	748	0.9
Orangeburg	504,516	788	731	7	738	0.9	684	0.9
Pickens	219,926	344	421	51	472	10.8	466	1.4
Richland	340,121	531	258	29	287	10.1	1,185	0.5
Saluda	192,173	300	206	22	228	9.6	843	0.8
Spartanburg	265,939	416	525	116	641	18.1	415	1.5
Sumter	338,968	530	301	14	315	4.4	1,076	0.6
Union	258,111	403	344	116	460	25.2	561	1.1
Williamsburg	513,851	803	921	58	979	5.9	525	1.2
York	276,650	432	396	87	483	18.0	573	1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,028,896</b>	<b>21,920</b>	<b>15,783</b>	<b>1,591</b>	<b>17,374</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>0.8</b>

95% Conf. Interval for harvest

(+-) 976 (+-) 299 (+-) 1,030

\* Acreage shown represents the acreage of forested land and acreage of row crops considered to be significant turkey habitat within each county.

Table 2. County rankings based on turkey harvest per unit area in South Carolina in 2019.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Gobbler Harvest	Jake Harvest	Total Harvest	Percent Jakes	Harvest Rates	
							Ac/Turkey	Turkey/Mi. <sup>2</sup>
Spartanburg	265,939	416	525	116	641	18.1	415	1.5
Pickens	219,926	344	421	51	472	10.8	466	1.4
Bamberg	196,573	307	361	26	387	6.7	508	1.3
Abbeville	223,113	349	361	72	433	16.6	515	1.2
Williamsburg	513,851	803	921	58	979	5.9	525	1.2
Union	258,111	403	344	116	460	25.2	561	1.1
Greenville	294,257	460	473	51	524	9.7	562	1.1
Anderson	219,068	342	301	87	388	22.4	565	1.1
York	276,650	432	396	87	483	18.0	573	1.1
Charleston	288,732	451	464	21	485	4.3	595	1.1
Cherokee	156,664	245	232	29	261	11.1	600	1.1
Laurens	317,916	497	456	51	507	10.1	627	1.0
Greenwood	204,400	319	284	36	320	11.3	639	1.0
Fairfield	384,607	601	533	51	584	8.7	659	1.0
Orangeburg	504,516	788	731	7	738	0.9	684	0.9
Georgetown	399,638	624	482	65	547	11.9	731	0.9
Chester	300,589	470	327	80	407	19.7	739	0.9
Oconee	284,348	444	344	36	380	9.5	748	0.9
Colleton	502,666	785	645	21	666	3.2	755	0.8
Calhoun	190,584	298	232	14	246	5.7	775	0.8
Edgefield	246,543	385	266	51	317	16.1	778	0.8
Newberry	317,761	497	352	51	403	12.7	788	0.8
Berkeley	567,530	887	688	29	717	4.0	792	0.8
Allendale	216,455	338	249	21	270	7.8	802	0.8
Dorchester	302,717	473	361	7	368	1.9	823	0.8
Hampton	324,840	508	378	14	392	3.6	829	0.8
Saluda	192,173	300	206	22	228	9.6	843	0.8
Lancaster	266,382	416	301	7	308	2.3	865	0.7
Kershaw	360,485	563	395	21	416	5.0	867	0.7
Clarendon	298,087	466	335	7	342	2.0	872	0.7
Florence	397,888	622	404	24	428	5.6	930	0.7
Marion	216,907	339	215	7	222	3.2	977	0.7
Sumter	338,968	530	301	14	315	4.4	1,076	0.6
Jasper	309,889	484	275	7	282	2.5	1,099	0.6
Chesterfield	372,478	582	292	43	335	12.8	1,112	0.6
Horry	533,336	833	404	51	455	11.2	1,172	0.5
Richland	340,121	531	258	29	287	10.1	1,185	0.5
Lee	220,106	344	163	14	177	7.9	1,244	0.5
McCormick	212,021	331	120	29	149	19.5	1,423	0.4
Beaufort	147,441	230	94	7	101	6.9	1,460	0.4
Barnwell	281,764	440	163	15	178	8.4	1,583	0.4
Aiken	500,546	782	284	7	291	2.4	1,720	0.4
Dillon	214,069	334	103	6	109	5.5	1,964	0.3
Darlington	286,228	447	129	7	136	5.1	2,105	0.3
Lexington	280,742	439	111	17	128	13.3	2,193	0.3
Marlboro	281,271	439	103	9	112	8.0	2,511	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,028,896</b>	<b>21,920</b>	<b>15,783</b>	<b>1,591</b>	<b>17,374</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>0.8</b>

95% Conf. Interval for harvest

(+-) 976 (+-) 299 (+-) 1,030

\* Acreage shown represents the acreage of forested land and acreage of row crops considered to be significant turkey habitat within each county.

Table 3. County rankings based on total turkeys harvested in South Carolina in 2019.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Gobbler Harvest	Jake Harvest	Total Harvest	Percent Jakes	Harvest Rates	
							Ac/Turkey	Turkey/Mi. <sup>2</sup>
Williamsburg	513,851	803	921	58	979	5.9	525	1.2
Orangeburg	504,516	788	731	7	738	0.9	684	0.9
Berkeley	567,530	887	688	29	717	4.0	792	0.8
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Spartanburg	265,939	416	525	116	641	18.1	415	1.5
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Greenville	294,257	460	473	51	524	9.7	562	1.1
Laurens	317,916	497	456	51	507	10.1	627	1.0
Charleston	288,732	451	464	21	485	4.3	595	1.1
York	276,650	432	396	87	483	18.0	573	1.1
Pickens	219,926	344	421	51	472	10.8	466	1.4
Union	258,111	403	344	116	460	25.2	561	1.1
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Newberry	317,761	497	352	51	403	12.7	788	0.8
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<b>Total</b>	<b>14,028,896</b>	<b>21,920</b>	<b>15,783</b>	<b>1,591</b>	<b>17,374</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>0.8</b>

95% Conf. Interval for harvest

(+-) 976 (+-) 299 (+-) 1,030

\* Acreage shown represents the acreage of forested land and acreage of row crops considered to be significant turkey habitat within each county.

Table 4. Estimated number of turkey hunters, average days hunted, and total hunting effort in South Carolina in 2019.

<b>County</b>	<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>Number Hunters</b>	<b>Avg. Days Hunted</b>	<b>Total Man/Days</b>
Abbeville	433	1,316	6.2	8,148
Aiken	291	1,017	5.1	5,205
Allendale	270	682	5.0	3,378
Anderson	388	1,400	5.0	7,033
Bamberg	387	873	5.7	4,940
Barnwell	178	514	5.1	2,645
Beaufort	101	371	3.4	1,254
Berkeley	717	1,603	6.1	9,784
Calhoun	246	682	4.5	3,060
Charleston	485	1,268	4.2	5,301
Cherokee	261	730	6.3	4,600
Chester	407	1,567	5.0	7,883
Chesterfield	335	945	5.0	4,717
Clarendon	342	766	4.9	3,718
Colleton	666	1,376	5.1	7,043
Darlington	136	431	4.9	2,093
Dillon	109	203	6.8	1,392
Dorchester	368	885	6.1	5,386
Edgefield	317	1,089	5.6	6,140
Fairfield	584	2,141	5.0	10,698
Florence	428	802	5.7	4,557
Georgetown	547	1,005	4.9	4,897
Greenville	524	1,340	5.5	7,373
Greenwood	320	1,148	5.0	5,715
Hampton	392	1,148	4.3	4,961
Horry	455	1,101	5.5	6,098
Jasper	282	754	4.5	3,357
Kershaw	416	1,316	6.1	8,053
Lancaster	308	1,029	5.6	5,715
Laurens	507	1,759	5.4	9,434
Lee	177	622	4.9	3,028
Lexington	128	574	3.0	1,732
McCormick	149	885	4.6	4,069
Marion	222	407	5.1	2,061
Marlboro	112	299	4.7	1,402
Newberry	403	1,639	4.8	7,883
Oconee	380	1,041	6.7	7,022
Orangeburg	738	1,818	4.8	8,743
Pickens	472	1,304	5.8	7,553
Richland	287	1,065	4.6	4,855
Saluda	228	754	5.8	4,356
Spartanburg	641	1,651	5.3	8,796
Sumter	315	825	5.0	4,133
Union	460	1,663	7.1	11,803
Williamsburg	979	1,866	4.7	8,828
York	483	1,388	5.5	7,606
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,374</b>	<b>49,060</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>258,445</b>

Figure 1. South Carolina Department of Natural Resources 2019 Turkey Hunter Survey.

2019 South Carolina Turkey Hunter Survey

- Did you turkey hunt in SC this past season (2019)? **1. Yes 2. No**  
If you answered **No** to this question please **go to question # 8.**
- Did you harvest any turkeys in SC this past season? **1. Yes 2. No**
- 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 (2019). 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. See the diagram below if you are unsure how to determine an adult gobbler or "longbeard" from a juvenile gobbler or "jake".



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



**TURKEY HUNTER SURVEY**  
SCDNR  
PO BOX 167  
COLUMBIA SC 29202-0167  
www.dnr.sc.gov

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 _____
5		Adult gobblers _____ Jakes _____

**If you did not harvest any turkeys in SC this past season please go to question 6.**

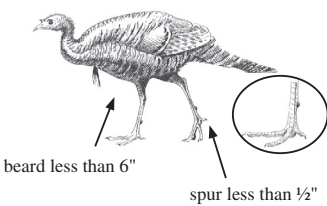
- If you harvested turkeys in SC this past season, please indicate as best you can the number of turkeys killed by week of season.

Date of Season	# Turkeys Harvested	Date of Season	# Turkeys Harvested
1 March 20-31		4 April 15-21	
2 April 1-7		5 April 22-30	
3 April 8-14		6 May 1-5	

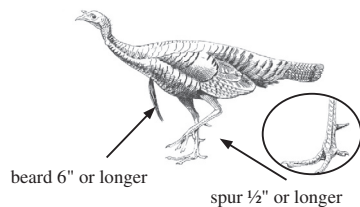
- How many turkeys did you kill in the morning \_\_\_\_\_ after 12:00 noon \_\_\_\_\_?
- How many turkeys did you shoot but not kill or recover in SC this past season? \_\_\_\_\_
- Compared to past years, how would you describe the number of turkeys in the area that you hunted most often this spring? **Circle one**  
**1. Increasing      2. About the same      3. Decreasing**
- Are you a resident of SC? **1. Yes      2. No**
- If yes, which county \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Juvenile "Jake"**



**Adult "Gobbler"**



PRESORTED  
FIRST CLASS  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
COLUMBIA SC  
PERMIT 535

Figure 1. continued

May, 2019

Dear Sportsman:

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 2019.

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 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. There is no number on your survey form, therefore, there is no way to link your responses 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 2018 survey can be found at: [www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/turkey/2018TurkeyHarvest.html](http://www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/turkey/2018TurkeyHarvest.html)

Thank you for your assistance.

Charles Ruth  
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 or write 2019 Turkey Hunter Survey, SCDNR, P.O. Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202.

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

19-12135



**TURKEY HUNTER SURVEY  
SC DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 167  
COLUMBIA SC 29202-9976**

**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**  
FIRST CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO 1371 COLUMBIA SC  
POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE



**NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES**

Figure 2. Spring wild turkey harvest in South Carolina 1982-2019. Harvest increased ( $R^2 = 0.92$ ) between 1982 and 2002 as a result of increasing turkey population during restoration efforts. Since 2002 harvest has generally decreased likely due to less than desirable annual recruitment.

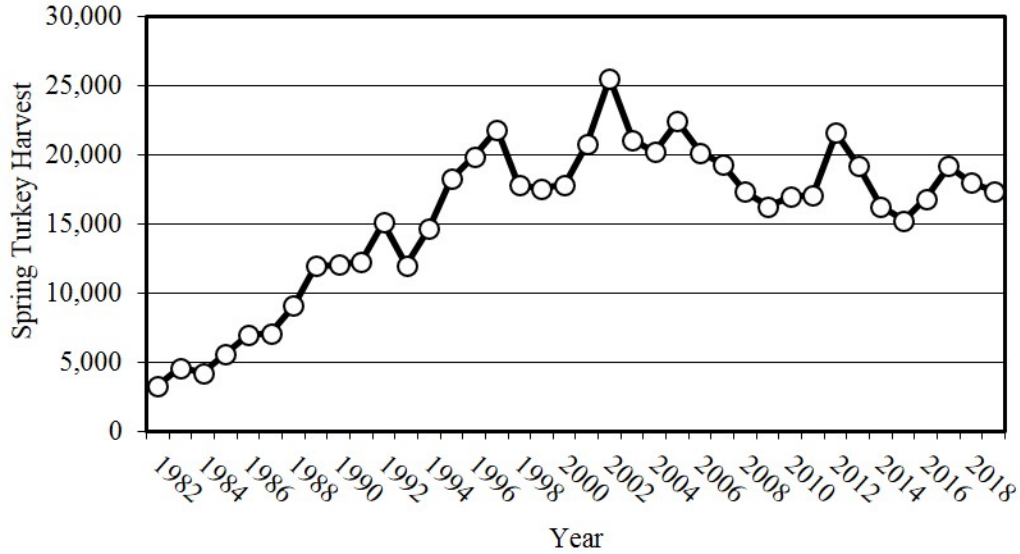


Figure 3. Summer wild turkey recruitment ratio in South Carolina 1982-2018. Note declining trend since 1988. Average recruitment prior to 1988 = 3.5. Average recruitment since 1988 = 2.1. This represents a 40 percent decrease in average recruitment.

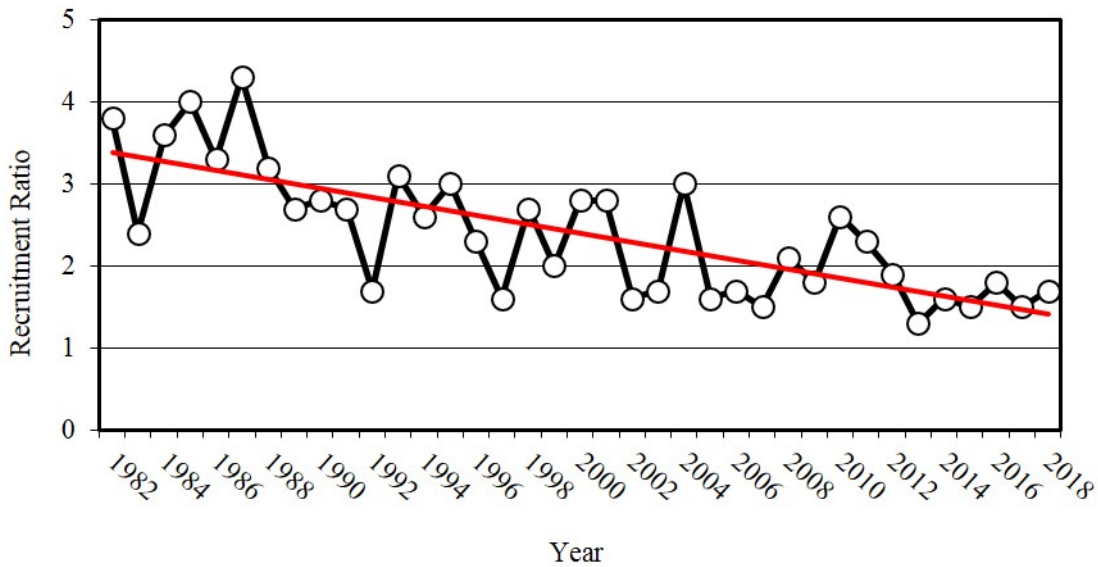




Figure 4. Percentage of gobblers harvested by period of season in South Carolina in 2019.

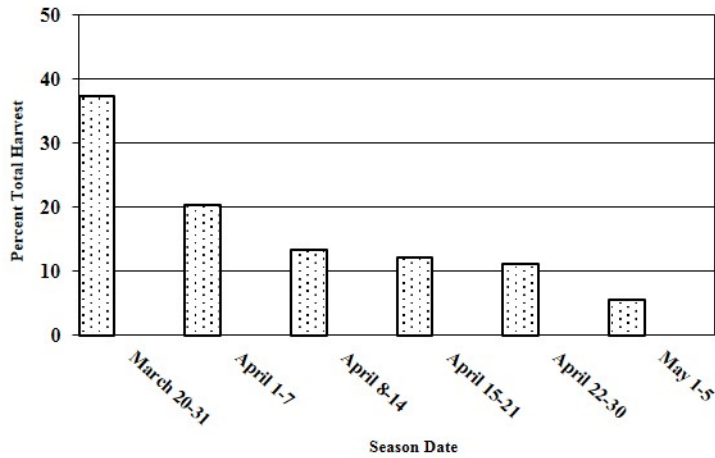


Figure 5. Hunter success during the spring turkey season in South Carolina in 2019. Overall success was 23 percent at harvesting at least one gobbler.

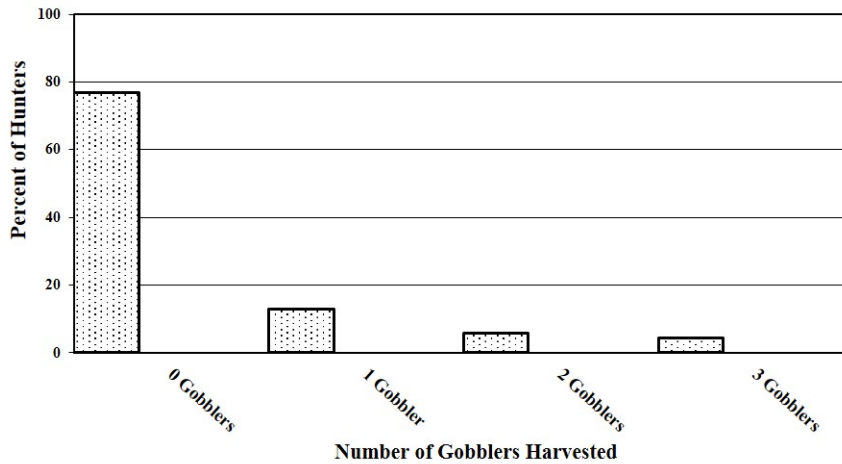


Figure 6. Relative contribution to the total turkey harvest by hunters taking between 1 and 3 gobblers in South Carolina in 2019.

