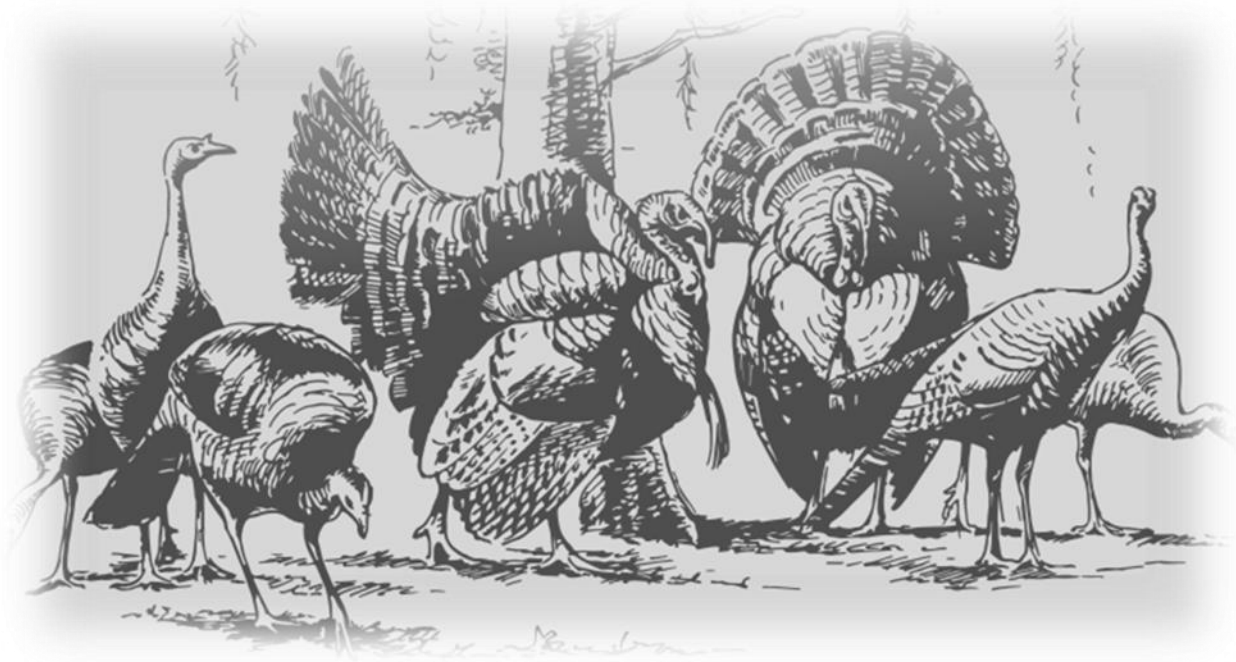


# 2025 SOUTH CAROLINA TURKEY HARVEST REPORT



## SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES TURKEY RESEARCH & MANAGEMENT PROJECT



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## **Introduction**

Ranking only behind white-tailed deer in popularity among hunters, the Eastern wild turkey is an important natural resource in South Carolina. The 2025 Online Turkey Hunter Survey represents the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), Wildlife Section's ongoing commitment to conduct pertinent research related to the state's wild turkey population. The primary objectives of this survey research were to obtain valid estimates of: (1) noncompliance with electronic harvest reporting through SC Game Check and (2) hunting effort related to turkeys. Information on hunters' opinions of the turkey resource and other aspects of turkey hunting are also presented.

Due to the importance of turkeys as a state resource, SCDNR believes that accurately assessing the harvest of turkeys, as well as hunter participation in turkey hunting, is key to the management of this species. Proposed changes in turkey-related laws and regulations should have foundations in biology, therefore, the population dynamics associated with annual hunting mortality cannot be ignored. Similarly, when issues arise that do not involve biological parameters, it is important to have information related to turkey hunter activities afield because they too form an important basis for managing wild turkeys.

Since the inception of the Statewide Turkey Restoration and Research Project (Turkey Project) the methods used to document the turkey harvest have changed. Historically, turkey harvest figures were developed using a system of mandatory turkey check stations across the state. This system yielded an actual count of harvested turkeys and was, therefore, an absolute minimum figure. Shortcomings in this system included deterioration in compliance, complaints from hunters regarding the inconvenience of check stations, etc. The requirement to physically check harvested turkeys in South Carolina was eliminated following the 2005 season at which time post season hunter surveys were implemented. In 2021 mandatory electronic harvest reporting for turkeys began using SC Game Check. Now, data from SC Game Check is combined with data from the online turkey hunter survey to produce the annual turkey harvest report. SCDNR thanks hunters for their diligence in supporting the SC Game Check program which provides modern data that assists in properly managing the turkey resource in South Carolina.

### **Survey Methodology**

The 2025 Online Turkey Hunter Survey was directed at 30,000 randomly selected turkey tag holders with email addresses other than youth under 16 years old. Youth under 16 were not included because laws prevent contacting youths without parental or guardian consent. The questionnaire for the 2025 Online Turkey Hunter Survey was developed by Big Game Program staff. The survey process began with an initial email notification of the impending survey, an initial survey, and two reminders directed at individuals who had yet to complete the survey.

Statistical analysis was conducted using Statistix 10 (Analytical Software, Tallahassee, FL).

### **Acknowledgments**

Thanks to South Carolina turkey hunters. Funding for this report, as well as all activities related to the Statewide Turkey Research and Management Project, is made possible through revenue generated from the turkey tag program which is earmarked for tag administration, research, management, harvest reporting, and habitat management. As a result, no state funds are associated with this program.

## **Results and Discussion**

Excluding failed messages and messages that bounced (1,396) a total of 28,604 email addresses were reached. A total of 7,531 surveys were started with 7,429 surveys being completed for a response rate of 26 percent.

### **Harvest Reporting Noncompliance**

One of the primary goals of the 2025 Online Turkey Hunter Survey was to estimate noncompliance with mandatory harvest reporting through SC Game Check. This was accomplished in two ways. First, participants who indicated they harvested turkeys were asked how many of the turkeys they harvested were reported. Second, by cross-referencing the responses with reporting data an estimate was obtained of the percentage of individuals who said they reported but did not. Combining these estimates yielded a noncompliance rate of approximately 17.4 percent. This noncompliance rate was then used to correct the reported harvest and is presented in this report as the noncompliance corrected reported harvest.

### **Turkey Harvest**

During the 2025 spring season the noncompliance corrected reported harvest was 10,419 gobblers (Table 1). This figure represents a 16 percent decrease from the estimated harvest in 2024 (12,428). Recent turkey harvest figures remain well below levels from the past reflecting decreased numbers of turkeys likely due to ongoing poor recruitment of poults into the population (Figures 1 and 2). This trend appears to be a regional situation and has been called the “southeast turkey decline” by biologists and managers.

Additionally, substantial legislative changes were in place during the 2025 spring gobbler season that were for the purpose of moderating the turkey harvest. The bag limit was reduced from 3 to 2, the harvest of jakes was prohibited for all hunters, and there were 9 fewer days in the season. During 2024 592 jakes were harvested and there were approximately 1,200 turkeys taken during the 9 additional days of the season. This represents about 1,800 turkeys and if combined with the 10,419 birds taken in 2025 it would equal just over 12,000 turkeys which is almost exactly the number of birds taken in 2024. This intentional decrease in harvest is an effort to improve turkey reproductive success and ultimately turkey numbers across the state.

### **Harvest Per Unit Area County Rankings**

Comparisons can be made between turkey harvests from the various counties in South Carolina if a harvest per unit area is established. Harvest per unit area standardizes the harvest among counties regardless of the size of individual counties. One measure of harvest rate is the number of turkeys taken per square mile (640ac. = 1 mile<sup>2</sup>). When considering the estimated turkey habitat that is available in South Carolina, the turkey harvest rate in 2024 was 0.5 gobblers per square mile statewide (Table 2). Although this harvest rate is not as high as it once was, it should be considered good and is like other Southeastern states. The top counties for harvest per unit area were Bamberg (1.0 turkeys/mile<sup>2</sup>), and a tie between Marion, Colleton, Spartanburg, Florence, Orangeburg, and Williamsburg (0.7 turkeys/mile<sup>2</sup>) (Table 2).

### **Turkey Harvest Rankings by County**

Total turkey harvest is not comparable among counties because there is no standard unit of comparison, i.e., counties vary in size and are, therefore, not directly comparable. However, some readers may be interested in this type of ranking. The top 5 counties during 2024 were, Colleton, Williamsburg, Berkeley, Orangeburg, and Florence (Table 3). Four of these counties were in the top 5 in 2024.

### **Number of Turkey Hunters**

Even though all individuals receiving a set of turkey tags were eligible to hunt turkeys, only 58 percent indicated that they actually hunted turkeys. Based on this figure, approximately 41,805 hunters participated in the 2025 spring turkey season, an 11 percent decrease from 2024 (47,007). Counties with the highest estimates for individual hunters include Berkeley, Fairfield, Laurens, Newberry, and Union (Table 4). Four of these counties were in the top 5 in 2024.

### **Hunter Effort**

For the purposes of this survey hunter effort was measured in days with one day being defined as any portion of the day spent afield. Turkey hunters averaged approximately 7 days afield during the 2025 season (Table 4). Successful hunters averaged more days afield (8.3 days) than unsuccessful hunters (6.1 days). Extrapolating to the entire population of turkey hunters

yields a figure of 205,605 total days of spring gobbler hunting, a 16 percent decrease from 2024 (245,845 days). This 16 percent reduction in effort corresponds exactly with the 16 percent reduction in harvest. The top 5 South Carolina counties for overall days of turkey hunting during 2025 were Berkeley, Fairfield, Union, Newberry, and Laurens. Three of these counties were in the top 5 in 2024 (Table 4).

### **Turkey Harvest by Day of Season**

Substantial legislative changes were in place during the 2025 spring gobbler season that were for the purpose of moderating the turkey harvest. The bag limit was reduced from 3 to 2, the harvest of jakes was prohibited for all hunters, and there were 9 fewer days in the season. Additionally, the opening date of the season (April 3) was later to decrease potential negative effects on reproduction related to the early excessive removal of males. Two recent multi-year nesting studies conducted in South Carolina indicate that average nest initiation by hens is April 9. Nesting studies have also been conducted in Georgia, Louisiana (2), and North Carolina (3) with similar findings.

Past earlier opening dates (March 15, 20, 22, and April 1) led to between 45 and 60 percent of the gobbler harvest occurring prior to nest initiation. Although the season opening date was later in 2025, 44 percent of the harvest still occurred prior to nest initiation (Figure 3). Opening day was responsible for 12 percent of the harvest and the 1,275 birds taken were the most ever reported through SC Game Check in a single day. Thirty-two (32) percent of the harvest occurred in the first 4 days of the season, the 5 Saturdays during the season contributed 26 percent to the total harvest, and 4 percent of the harvest occurred on the youth turkey hunting days.

### **Hunting Success**

For determination of hunting success only those individuals who hunted turkeys were included in the analysis and similarly, success was defined as harvesting at least one turkey. Overall hunting success in 2025 was 28 percent. Unlike deer hunting which typically has high success, turkey hunting can be an inherently unsuccessful endeavor, relatively speaking.

The statewide bag limit in South Carolina is 2 gobblers. Obviously, most successful hunters harvest only one bird (20%). However, it is interesting to note the relative contribution

to the total harvest by the few hunters who harvest 2 birds. Ironically, the percentage of hunters taking 2 birds was only 8 percent, however, this small percentage of hunters combined to harvest an estimated 44 percent of the total birds taken in the state. Finally, based on reports to SC Game Check, hunters from 38 states and the District of Columbia reported a turkey harvest. However, nonresidents comprised only 10 percent of the overall harvest in 2025. Nonresidents from Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina accounted for 69 percent of the nonresident harvest.

### **Hunter Opinion Regarding Turkey Numbers**

As has become customary, the 2025 Online Turkey Hunter Survey asked participants to compare the number of turkeys in the area they hunt most often with the number of turkeys in past years. Participants were given 3 choices: increasing, about the same, or decreasing. Approximately 45 percent of hunters indicated that the number of turkeys in the area they hunted most often was about the same as in past years. A higher percentage of hunters (42 percent) believed that the turkey population was decreasing than increasing (13 percent). On a scale of 1 to 3 with 1 being increasing, 2 being the same, and 3 being decreasing, the overall mean rating of 2.3 suggests that hunters viewed the turkey population as decreasing. The opinion among hunters that the turkey population is decreasing has been consistent the last few years.

### **Turkeys Shot but not Recovered**

Harvesting game signals the end of a successful hunt and although most hunters do a good job of preparing their equipment and mental state, it goes without saying that a certain percentage of game is shot or shot at and not killed or recovered. This point is no different when turkey hunting.

To estimate the prevalence of errant shots at turkeys, the 2025 Online Turkey Hunter Survey asked hunters to indicate the number of turkeys they “shot but did not kill or recover during the 2025 season in South Carolina.” Approximately 9 percent of hunters indicated that they shot but did not kill or recover at least one turkey in 2025 (9 percent in 2024). There were approximately 41,805 turkey hunters in 2025 meaning that approximately 3,600 turkeys were shot or shot at and not killed or recovered. Therefore, approximately 26 percent of the total turkeys shot at were not killed or recovered. These results have been consistent since this type of data have been available with the long-term average of birds “shot at but not killed or recovered”

about 22 percent for the last decade.

These data are certainly not indicative of “dead and unrecovered turkeys,” however, some percentage of the 3,600 turkeys that were shot at did die. Although shot shells for turkeys have become increasingly sophisticated, accurate, and lethal it is a fact that the pattern of a shotgun is relatively broad and contains hundreds of pellets. Therefore, a “clean miss” is not as clear-cut for turkeys compared to other big game like deer where there is typically a single projectile. Additional research is needed on this topic.

### **Turkey Harvest in the Morning vs. Afternoon**

The typical spring turkey hunt is characterized by attempting to locate a gobbling bird prior to or just after sunrise. Once a gobbler is located most hunters position themselves as close as they can to the gobbler without scaring it away. Various types of callers that mimic the sounds of wild turkeys are then used to attempt to call the gobbler into gun range. This technique of locating a gobbling bird, setting up, and calling is repeated as necessary.

Traditionally, spring turkey hunting was primarily carried out during the first few hours of the day. As the popularity of turkey hunting has increased, many hunters now hunt in the afternoon as well. Gobblers are generally not as vocal in the afternoon, but can be stimulated to gobble using the various turkey calls, particularly late in the afternoon near areas where turkeys frequently roost. Additionally, it is now common for hunters to set up on food plots, often in blinds, using decoys in areas that turkeys frequent for feeding and loafing in the afternoon.

To gain a better understanding of the distribution of harvest with respect to time of day, reporting data from SC Game Check was queried to determine the number of birds harvested in the morning compared to the afternoon. Results indicate that approximately 79 percent of gobblers were harvested in the morning compared to 21 percent in the afternoon. These data may be useful if discussions arise concerning the relative importance of morning compared to afternoon harvest of gobblers in the spring. Results have been consistent since this type of data has been available with the long-term average of birds taken in the afternoon about 23 percent for the last decade.

### **Turkey Harvest on Private vs. Public (WMA) Land**

To gain an understanding of the relative importance of the turkey harvest on private



versus public (WMA) land, data from SC Game Check was queried to determine the type of land (private or public) where turkeys were reportedly taken. Data indicate that approximately 91 percent of birds were taken on private land and 9 percent on public (WMA) land. Interestingly, public land comprises only about 7 percent of the turkey habitat in the state. Therefore, although a relatively small proportion of the total harvest occurred on public land, it slightly outperformed what would be expected based on available habitat.

With electronic reporting of harvested wild turkeys through SC Game Check now required, harvest figures for individual WMA's are now available (Table 5). Based on these reports, the noncompliance corrected reported harvest was 885 turkeys taken on the various WMAs in 2025 (1,089 in 2024). The harvest of turkeys on WMAs is included in the statewide harvest figures presented in Table 1.

### **Turkey Harvest on Youth Weekends**

For several years there has been a Youth Turkey Hunting Weekend on the Saturday and Sunday prior to the regular season opening date. Legislation effective in 2025 added a second Youth Turkey Hunting Weekend on the Saturday and Sunday following the close of the regular season. In 2025 the noncompliance corrected reported harvest on the 2 youth weekends was 430 turkeys with 405 and 25 being taken on the preseason and postseason weekends, respectively.

### **Harvest Reporting Methods**

SC Game Check Provides 3 methods to report: the Go Outdoors SC smartphone app, on the SCDNR website, by phone or text using the toll-free SC Game Check number. SC Game Check on the Go Outdoors SC smartphone app was by far the most popular reporting method (89%), followed by online (6%), and phone/text (5%).

### **Taking Other People Turkey Hunting**

It is well known that a turkey hunt often involves more than one hunter. To determine the reason a hunter takes someone else with them, the 2025 Online Turkey Hunter Survey asked respondents if they took someone else hunting and if so, what were the circumstances. Overall 49 percent of respondents indicated that they took someone else hunting during the 2025 season. Approximately 10 percent indicated they took someone because they harvested the one gobbler

allowed during the first week of the season, 6 percent indicated they took someone because they had tagged-out, 40 percent indicated that they took a youth hunting, and 45 percent indicated they took an inexperienced person hunting. Approximately 22 percent of hunters who took someone else hunting provided no reason and it is assumed these were simply individuals hunting with friends. Note that the combined percentages are greater than 100 because some individuals indicated multiple reasons for taking someone hunting.

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Table 1. Reported statewide turkey harvest in South Carolina in 2025  
corrected for reporting noncompliance.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Total Harvest	Harvest Ac/Turkey	Rates Turkey/Mi.2
Abbeville	223,113	349	127	1760	0.4
Aiken	500,546	782	141	3553	0.2
Allendale	216,455	338	196	1104	0.6
Anderson	219,068	342	174	1261	0.5
Bamberg	196,573	307	298	659	1.0
Barnwell	281,764	440	107	2637	0.2
Beaufort	147,441	230	45	3305	0.2
Berkeley	567,530	887	528	1074	0.6
Calhoun	190,584	298	139	1376	0.5
Charleston	288,732	451	263	1098	0.6
Cherokee	156,664	245	150	1043	0.6
Chester	300,589	470	183	1641	0.4
Chesterfield	372,478	582	235	1586	0.4
Clarendon	298,087	466	282	1058	0.6
Colleton	502,666	785	558	901	0.7
Darlington	286,228	447	163	1754	0.4
Dillon	214,069	334	140	1532	0.4
Dorchester	302,717	473	301	1007	0.6
Edgefield	246,543	385	160	1544	0.4
Fairfield	384,607	601	269	1431	0.4
Florence	397,888	622	431	923	0.7
Georgetown	399,638	624	264	1513	0.4
Greenville	294,257	460	256	1150	0.6
Greenwood	204,400	319	115	1777	0.4
Hampton	324,840	508	244	1330	0.5
Horry	533,336	833	419	1273	0.5
Jasper	309,889	484	195	1590	0.4
Kershaw	360,485	563	175	2061	0.3
Lancaster	266,382	416	151	1759	0.4
Laurens	317,916	497	249	1277	0.5
Lee	220,106	344	163	1349	0.5
Lexington	280,742	439	47	5978	0.1
McCormick	212,021	331	95	2230	0.3
Marion	216,907	339	248	876	0.7
Marlboro	281,271	439	157	1788	0.4
Newberry	317,761	497	204	1556	0.4
Oconee	284,348	444	155	1835	0.3
Orangeburg	504,516	788	522	966	0.7
Pickens	219,926	344	143	1535	0.4
Richland	340,121	531	148	2299	0.3
Saluda	192,173	300	90	2126	0.3
Spartanburg	265,939	416	292	910	0.7
Sumter	338,968	530	290	1169	0.5
Union	258,111	403	241	1072	0.6
Williamsburg	513,851	803	529	970	0.7
York	276,650	432	137	2014	0.3
Total	14,028,896	21,920	10,419	1,346	0.5

\* 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 noncompliance corrected reported turkey harvest per unit area in South Carolina in 2025

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Total Harvest	Harvest	Rates
				Ac/Turkey	Turkey/Mi. <sup>2</sup>
Bamberg	196,573	307	298	659	1.0
Marion	216,907	339	248	876	0.7
Colleton	502,666	785	558	901	0.7
Spartanburg	265,939	416	292	910	0.7
Florence	397,888	622	431	923	0.7
Orangeburg	504,516	788	522	966	0.7
Williamsburg	513,851	803	529	970	0.7
Dorchester	302,717	473	301	1,007	0.6
Cherokee	156,664	245	150	1,043	0.6
Clarendon	298,087	466	282	1,058	0.6
Union	258,111	403	241	1,072	0.6
Berkeley	567,530	887	528	1,074	0.6
Charleston	288,732	451	263	1,098	0.6
Allendale	216,455	338	196	1,104	0.6
Greenville	294,257	460	256	1,150	0.6
Sumter	338,968	530	290	1,169	0.5
Anderson	219,068	342	174	1,261	0.5
Horry	533,336	833	419	1,273	0.5
Laurens	317,916	497	249	1,277	0.5
Hampton	324,840	508	244	1,330	0.5
Lee	220,106	344	163	1,349	0.5
Calhoun	190,584	298	139	1,376	0.5
Fairfield	384,607	601	269	1,431	0.4
Georgetown	399,638	624	264	1,513	0.4
Dillon	214,069	334	140	1,532	0.4
Pickens	219,926	344	143	1,535	0.4
Edgefield	246,543	385	160	1,544	0.4
Newberry	317,761	497	204	1,556	0.4
Chesterfield	372,478	582	235	1,586	0.4
Jasper	309,889	484	195	1,590	0.4
Chester	300,589	470	183	1,641	0.4
Darlington	286,228	447	163	1,754	0.4
Lancaster	266,382	416	151	1,759	0.4
Abbeville	223,113	349	127	1,760	0.4
Greenwood	204,400	319	115	1,777	0.4
Marlboro	281,271	439	157	1,788	0.4
Oconee	284,348	444	155	1,835	0.3
York	276,650	432	137	2,014	0.3
Kershaw	360,485	563	175	2,061	0.3
Saluda	192,173	300	90	2,126	0.3
McCormick	212,021	331	95	2,230	0.3
Richland	340,121	531	148	2,299	0.3
Barnwell	281,764	440	107	2,637	0.2
Beaufort	147,441	230	45	3,305	0.2
Aiken	500,546	782	141	3,553	0.2
Lexington	280,742	439	47	5,978	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,028,896</b>	<b>21,920</b>	<b>10,419</b>	<b>1,346</b>	<b>0.5</b>

\* 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 reported turkey harvest in South Carolina in 2025 corrected for reporting noncompliance.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Total Harvest	Harvest	Rates
				Ac/Turkey	Turkey/Mi. <sup>2</sup>
Colleton	502,666	785	558	901	0.7
Williamsburg	513,851	803	529	970	0.7
Berkeley	567,530	887	528	1,074	0.6
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Kershaw	360,485	563	175	2,061	0.3
Anderson	219,068	342	174	1,261	0.5
Lee	220,106	344	163	1,349	0.5
Darlington	286,228	447	163	1,754	0.4
Edgefield	246,543	385	160	1,544	0.4
Marlboro	281,271	439	157	1,788	0.4
Oconee	284,348	444	155	1,835	0.3
Lancaster	266,382	416	151	1,759	0.4
Cherokee	156,664	245	150	1,043	0.6
Richland	340,121	531	148	2,299	0.3
Pickens	219,926	344	143	1,535	0.4
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McCormick	212,021	331	95	2,230	0.3
Saluda	192,173	300	90	2,126	0.3
Lexington	280,742	439	47	5,978	0.1
Beaufort	147,441	230	45	3,305	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,028,896</b>	<b>21,920</b>	<b>10,419</b>	<b>1,346</b>	<b>0.5</b>

\* 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 2025.

County	Total Harvest	Number Hunters	Hunters Rank	Avg. Days Hunted	Total Man/Days	Days Rank
Abbeville	127	1,097	14	6.4	4,946	16
Aiken	141	788	26	5.9	3,767	27
Allendale	196	552	37	5.7	2,650	35
Anderson	174	1,340	7	5.9	6,590	7
Bamberg	298	640	33	6.3	3,052	32
Barnwell	107	478	39	6.5	1,838	41
Beaufort	45	265	46	4.0	770	46
Berkeley	528	1,973	1	6.1	10,904	1
Calhoun	139	574	34	4.9	2,345	38
Charleston	263	1,112	13	5.1	5,022	15
Cherokee	150	574	35	7.3	3,073	31
Chester	183	1,178	11	5.6	5,528	12
Chesterfield	235	832	25	5.8	3,746	28
Clarendon	282	692	30	5.4	2,976	33
Colleton	558	1,340	8	5.9	6,146	10
Darlington	163	508	38	6.4	2,539	36
Dillon	140	368	44	5.4	1,491	44
Dorchester	301	1,060	15	6.3	5,362	13
Edgefield	160	979	19	5.8	4,502	22
Fairfield	269	1,848	2	6.8	9,836	2
Florence	431	743	28	6.5	3,656	29
Georgetown	264	670	32	5.3	2,872	34
Greenville	256	1,200	9	4.9	6,395	8
Greenwood	115	986	18	6.1	5,119	14
Hampton	244	847	24	5.6	4,599	20
Horry	419	891	21	6.7	4,460	23
Jasper	195	442	41	5.8	2,220	39
Kershaw	175	1,053	16	5.8	4,842	18
Lancaster	151	692	31	5.8	4,009	25
Laurens	249	1,678	3	6.0	8,504	5
Lee	163	478	40	6.9	2,157	40
Lexington	47	383	43	4.9	1,471	45
McCormick	95	905	20	6.6	4,523	21
Marion	248	420	42	6.2	1,693	42
Marlboro	157	280	45	5.3	1,686	43
Newberry	204	1,634	4	5.6	8,532	4
Oconee	155	751	27	6.8	4,731	19
Orangeburg	522	1,568	6	5.6	7,533	6
Pickens	143	1,001	17	6.2	4,946	17
Richland	148	861	22	4.7	4,051	24
Saluda	90	574	36	7.3	2,442	37
Spartanburg	292	1,200	10	5.8	6,146	9
Sumter	290	729	29	7.1	3,621	30
Union	241	1,605	5	7.0	8,726	3
Williamsburg	529	1,156	12	5.7	5,660	11
York	137	861	23	6.7	3,934	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,419</b>	<b>41,805</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>5.2*</b>	<b>205,605</b>	<b>NA</b>

\*Note - Since individuals hunt multiple counties the average number of days hunted per county varies from the average number of days individuals hunt (6.9 days).

Table 5. Wildlife Management Area (WMA) reported turkey harvest in 2025 corrected for reporting noncompliance

Property Name	County	Acreage	Harvest	Ac/Turkey
Aiken Gopher Tortoise HP WMA	Aiken	1,782	2	759
Belfast WMA *	Laurens, Newberry	4,664	8	568
Bobwhite Hills WMA *	Lee, Sumter	774	1	659
Bonneau Ferry WMA #	Berkeley	10,712	13	829
Brasstown Creek HP WMA	Oconee	3,170	4	900
Broad River Waterfowl Area	Fairfield	640	2	273
Caesars Head / Jones Gap WMA	Greenville	3,335	1	2,841
Chestnut Ridge HP WMA	Greenville	2,047	4	581
Cliff Pitts WMA	Laurens	1,098	2	468
Crackerneck WMA~	Aiken	10,600	7	1,505
Donnelley WMA *	Colleton	8,066	7	1,145
Draper WMA *	York	806	4	229
Edisto River WMA*	Dorchester	1,394	2	594
Fants Grove WMA	Anderson, Oconee, Pickens	7,444	19	396
Forty-Acre Rock HP WMA	Lancaster	2,965	2	1,263
Great Pee Dee River HP WMA*	Darlington	2,725	9	290
Hamilton Ridge WMA	Hampton	13,281	13	1,028
James L. Mason WMA	McCormick	1,999	1	1,703
Jocassee Gorges (JTNRA)	Oconee, Pickens	33,000	11	3,123
Keowee WMA	Oconee, Pickens	4,930	4	1,400
Lewis Ocean Bay HP WMA*	Horry	10,097	4	2,867
Liberty Hill WMA	Kershaw, Lancaster	7,876	6	1,342
Little Pee Dee River HP WMA*	Horry, Marion	10,444	22	468
London Creek WMA	Cherokee	1,758	9	187
Long Creek Tracts WMA	Oconee	500	9	53
Longleaf Pine HP WMA*	Lee	843	1	718
Manchester State Forest WMA	Sumter	23,135	23	985
Marsh WMA *	Marion	8,660	8	1,054
McBee WMA *	Chesterfield	1,213	4	344
McCalla WMA	Abbeville	6,004	4	1,705
Mill Shoals WMA	Pickens	774	1	659
Moultrie Hunt Unit WMA*	Berkeley	9,773	7	1,387
Oak Lea WMA	Clarendon	2,000	11	189
Palachucola WMA	Hampton, Jasper	6,757	11	640
Pee Dee Station WMA*	Florence	2,701	7	383
Poe Creek State Forest	Oconee, Pickens	2,498	1	2,128
Sand Hills State Forest	Chesterfield, Darlington	46,838	29	1,596
Santee Coastal Reserve WMA ^	Charleston, Georgetown	4,000	2	1,704
Santee Cooper Tract WMA	Spartanburg	110	1	94
Santee Cooper WMA #	Orangeburg	3,144	5	670
TillmanSand Ridge HP WMA	Jasper	1,421	2	605
T. Crk/Kirsh/Ross/McConnells Tracts	York	1,192	4	338
Waccamaw River HP *	Horry	6,691	21	317
Wateree River HP WMA	Richland	3,674	6	626
Webb WMA	Hampton	5,866	6	999
Wee Tee State Forest	Georgetown, Williamsburg	12,439	4	3,532
Woodbury WMA *	Marion	25,668	36	705
Worth Mountain WMA *	York	1,643	4	466
Other / Unnamed WMAs	various	126,000	85	1,491
USFWS ACE Basin NWR (Youth Lottery)	Charleston, Colleton, Hampton	11,815	1	10,064
USFWS Carolina Sandhills NWR	Chesterfield	47,850	19	2,547
USFWS Savannah NWR	Jasper	7,556	2	3,218
USFWS Waccamaw NWR	Georgetown, Horry, Marion	5,515	1	4,698
USFS Francis Marion NF	Berkeley, Charleston	259,000	181	1,433
USFS Sumter NF, Enoree RD	5 Central Piedmont Counties	170,000	121	1,406
USFS Sumter NF, Long Cane RD	5 Western Piedmont Counties	120,000	73	1,649
USFS Sumter NF, Andrew Pickens RD	Oconee	85,000	39	2,194
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,155,887</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>1,306</b>

\* Open for hunting Thurs. - Sat. only

# Open for hunting Thurs. - Sat. only , YOUTH ONLY

~ Open for hunting Fri. & Sat. only

^ Open for hunting Saturdays only. Acreage figure is huntable upland acres, not total WMA acreage.



Figure 1. Spring wild turkey harvest in South Carolina 1982-2025. Since 2002 harvest has declined (50%) likely due to less than desirable annual recruitment (see Figure 3 below).

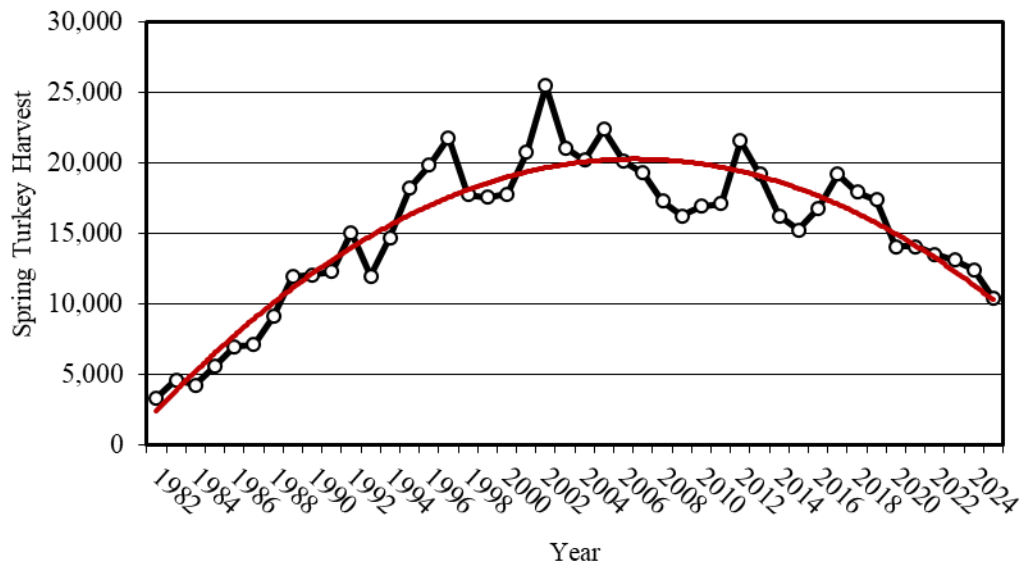


Figure 2. Summer wild turkey recruitment ratio in South Carolina 1982-2024. Note declining trend since 1988. Average recruitment prior to 1988 = 3.5. Average recruitment since 1988 = 2.1. This represents a 40 percent decrease in average recruitment.

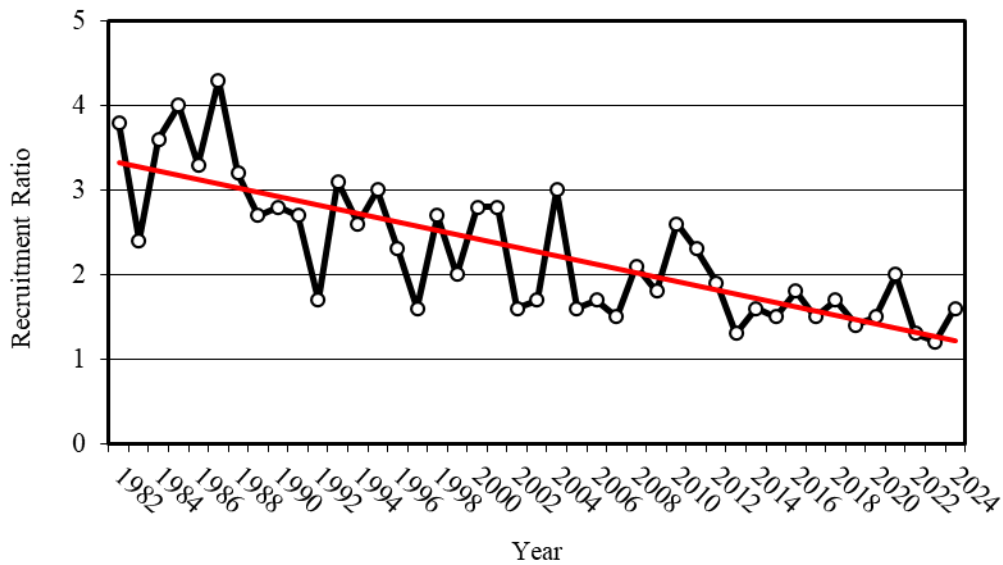


Figure 3. Daily reported turkey harvest in South Carolina in 2025 corrected for reporting noncompliance.

