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Table 1. Estimated statewide turkey harvest in South Carolina in 2009.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Gobbler Harvest	Jake Harvest	Total Harvest	Percent Jakes	Harvest Ac/Turkey	Rates Turkey/Mi. ²
Abbeville	223,113	349	219	36	256	14.1	873.2	0.7
Aiken	500,546	782	219	30	249	12.0	2006.8	0.3
Allendale	216,455	338	219	30	249	12.0	867.7	0.7
Anderson	219,068	342	341	150	491	30.6	446.5	1.4
Bamberg	196,573	307	295	24	319	7.5	615.9	1.0
Barnwell	281,764	440	151	42	193	21.7	1457.3	0.4
Beaufort	147,441	230	76	30	106	28.4	1395.2	0.5
Berkeley	567,530	887	825	78	903	8.6	628.6	1.0
Calhoun	190,584	298	144	12	156	7.7	1223.3	0.5
Charleston	288,732	451	325	12	337	3.6	855.8	0.7
Cherokee	156,664	245	227	126	353	35.7	443.8	1.4
Chester	300,589	470	348	60	408	14.7	736.5	0.9
Chesterfield	372,478	582	227	36	263	13.7	1416.3	0.5
Clarendon	298,087	466	288	36	324	11.1	921.2	0.7
Colleton	502,666	785	590	84	674	12.5	745.5	0.9
Darlington	286,228	447	167	24	190	12.6	1502.6	0.4
Dillon	214,069	334	76	30	106	28.4	2025.9	0.3
Dorchester	302,717	473	341	42	383	11.0	791.3	0.8
Edgefield	246,543	385	250	66	316	20.9	780.9	0.8
Fairfield	384,607	601	651	114	765	14.9	502.9	1.3
Florence	397,888	622	333	30	363	8.3	1096.3	0.6
Georgetown	399,638	624	416	24	440	5.5	907.7	0.7
Greenville	294,257	460	166	60	226	26.5	1299.2	0.5
Greenwood	204,400	319	250	30	280	10.7	730.7	0.9
Hampton	324,840	508	371	42	413	10.2	787.0	0.8
Horry	533,336	833	341	42	383	11.0	1394.2	0.5
Jasper	309,889	484	280	36	316	11.4	980.7	0.7
Kershaw	360,485	563	310	42	352	11.9	1023.4	0.6
Lancaster	266,382	416	227	126	353	35.7	754.5	0.8
Laurens	317,916	497	310	138	448	30.8	709.3	0.9
Lee	220,106	344	136	12	148	8.1	1484.8	0.4
Lexington	280,742	439	38	6	44	13.7	6405.7	0.1
McCormick	212,021	331	219	66	285	23.1	742.6	0.9
Marion	216,907	339	106	18	124	14.5	1749.6	0.4
Marlboro	281,271	439	144	12	156	7.7	1805.4	0.4
Newberry	317,761	497	439	132	571	23.1	556.6	1.1
Oconee	284,348	444	204	12	216	5.6	1314.4	0.5
Orangeburg	504,516	788	620	132	752	17.5	670.5	1.0
Pickens	219,926	344	303	84	387	21.7	568.7	1.1
Richland	340,121	531	197	48	245	19.6	1389.5	0.5
Saluda	192,173	300	182	30	212	14.2	908.2	0.7
Spartanburg	265,939	416	371	72	443	16.3	600.6	1.1
Sumter	338,968	530	219	36	255	14.1	1326.8	0.5
Union	258,111	403	469	96	565	17.0	456.6	1.4
Williamsburg	513,851	803	598	60	658	9.1	781.1	0.8
York	276,650	432	318	150	558	26.9	495.8	1.3
Total	14,028,896	21,920	13,546	2,598	16,234	16.0	864.2	0.7

95% Conf. Interval for harvest

(±) 1,754

* 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 turkeys harvested per unit area in South Carolina in 2009.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Gobbler Harvest	Jake Harvest	Total Harvest	Percent Jakes	Harvest Ac/Turkey	Rates Turkey/Mi. ²
Cherokee	156,664	245	227	126	353	35.7	443.8	1.4
Anderson	219,068	342	341	150	491	30.6	446.5	1.4
Union	258,111	403	469	96	565	17.0	456.6	1.4
Fairfield	384,607	601	651	114	765	14.9	502.9	1.3
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Hampton	324,840	508	371	42	413	10.2	787.0	0.8
Dorchester	302,717	473	341	42	383	11.0	791.3	0.8
Charleston	288,732	451	325	12	337	3.6	855.8	0.7
Allendale	216,455	338	219	30	249	12.0	867.7	0.7
Abbeville	223,113	349	219	36	256	14.1	873.2	0.7
Georgetown	399,638	624	416	24	440	5.5	907.7	0.7
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Jasper	309,889	484	280	36	316	11.4	980.7	0.7
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Oconee	284,348	444	204	12	216	5.6	1314.4	0.5
Sumter	338,968	530	219	36	255	14.1	1326.8	0.5
Richland	340,121	531	197	48	245	19.6	1389.5	0.5
Horry	533,336	833	341	42	383	11.0	1394.2	0.5
Beaufort	147,441	230	76	30	106	28.4	1395.2	0.5
Chesterfield	372,478	582	227	36	263	13.7	1416.3	0.5
Barnwell	281,764	440	151	42	193	21.7	1457.3	0.4
Lee	220,106	344	136	12	148	8.1	1484.8	0.4
Darlington	286,228	447	167	24	190	12.6	1502.6	0.4
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Dillon	214,069	334	76	30	106	28.4	2025.9	0.3
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Total	14,028,896	21,920	13,546	2,598	16,234	16.0	864.2	0.7

Table 3. County rankings based on total turkeys harvested in South Carolina in 2009.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Gobbler Harvest	Jake Harvest	Total Harvest	Percent Jakes	Harvest Ac/Turkey	Rates Turkey/Mi. ²
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Orangeburg	504,516	788	620	132	752	17.5	670.5	1.0
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Union	258,111	403	469	96	565	17.0	456.6	1.4
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Anderson	219,068	342	341	150	491	30.6	446.5	1.4
Laurens	317,916	497	310	138	448	30.8	709.3	0.9
Spartanburg	265,939	416	371	72	443	16.3	600.6	1.1
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Lexington	280,742	439	38	6	44	13.7	6405.7	0.1
Total	14,028,896	21,920	13,546	2,598	16,234	16.0	864.2	0.7

Table 4. Estimated number of turkey hunters, average day hunted, and total hunting effort by county in South Carolina in 2009.

County	Total Harvest	Number Hunters	Avg. Days Hunted	Total Man/Days
Abbeville	256	1,238	5.1	5,606
Aiken	249	851	5.1	3,851
Allendale	249	609	6.3	3,399
Anderson	491	1,325	4.9	5,725
Bamberg	319	842	6.2	4,566
Barnwell	193	532	6.1	2,837
Beaufort	106	242	4.8	1,014
Berkeley	903	1,838	7.0	11,373
Calhoun	156	638	6.2	3,510
Charleston	337	1,132	5.7	5,691
Cherokee	353	774	6.2	4,234
Chester	408	1,354	5.3	6,347
Chesterfield	263	987	6.4	5,546
Clarendon	324	600	5.3	2,811
Colleton	674	1,364	7.3	8,715
Darlington	190	629	4.5	2,496
Dillon	106	281	5.0	1,227
Dorchester	383	822	6.5	4,737
Edgefield	316	1,064	5.1	4,762
Fairfield	765	2,186	5.6	10,700
Florence	363	958	5.1	4,277
Georgetown	440	803	5.2	3,646
Greenville	226	1,045	4.8	4,430
Greenwood	280	919	4.7	3,817
Hampton	413	977	5.7	4,933
Horry	383	909	5.4	4,319
Jasper	316	571	6.7	3,348
Kershaw	352	1,064	4.9	4,549
Lancaster	353	929	5.7	4,643
Laurens	448	1,509	5.0	6,637
Lee	148	532	4.9	2,283
Lexington	44	377	3.8	1,269
McCormick	285	996	6.1	5,316
Marion	124	522	4.5	2,087
Marlboro	156	474	5.4	2,258
Newberry	571	1,809	5.6	8,937
Oconee	216	697	6.3	3,885
Orangeburg	752	1,790	5.9	9,252
Pickens	387	1,093	5.7	5,529
Richland	245	871	4.8	3,714
Saluda	212	658	5.2	3,033
Spartanburg	443	1,209	5.3	5,682
Sumter	255	716	6.1	3,859
Union	565	1,354	6.0	7,148
Williamsburg	658	1,258	5.0	5,529
York	558	1,190	6.3	6,560
Total	16,234	44,538	5.6	220,091

Table 5. Percentage of turkey tag recipients who prefer various types of turkey callers in South Carolina in 2009.

	Box	Slate	Diaphragm	Wingbone	Tube or Snuff Can	Plain Mouth	Total
Turkey Tag Recipients Who Did Not Hunt	50.8	27.1	15.8	0.5	1.2	4.6	100.0
Turkey Tag Recipients Who Did Hunt	34.4	38.9	23.2	0.8	0.4	2.3	100.0
Tag Recipients Who Harvested a Turkey	26.8	40.0	30.3	0.5	0.5	1.9	100.0
Total All Turkey Tag Recipients	40.0	34.8	20.7	0.7	0.7	3.1	100.0

Figure 1. South Carolina Department of Natural Resources 2009 Turkey Hunter Survey.

May, 2009

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 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is conducting a survey of hunters who received a set of turkey tags during spring 2009.

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. Each survey form is numbered, but only so we can avoid costly repeat mailings to those survey participants who have not returned their survey.

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 DNR 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 DNR web site once completed. The results from the 2008 survey can be found at:
www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/turkey/2008TurkeyHarvest.html

Thank you for your assistance.



Charles Ruth
Wildlife Biologist
Deer/Turkey Project Supervisor

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 2009 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

09-6487



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



2009 South Carolina Turkey Hunter Survey

1. Did you turkey hunt in SC this past season (2009)? **1. Yes 2. No**
If you answered **No** to this question please **go to question # 7.**
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 (2009). 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".

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 this past season please go to question 5.

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

Week of Season	# Turkeys Harvested	Week of Season	# Turkeys Harvested
1 March 15-22		4 April 8-14	
2 March 23-31		5 April 15-21	
3 April 1-7		6 April 22-May 1	

5. How many turkeys did you shoot but not kill or recover in SC this past season?_____
6. 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
7. Please circle the one type of turkey call you prefer to use when turkey hunting.
1. Box 2. Slate 3. Diaphragm 4. Wing bone 5. Tube/snuff can 6. Plain mouth
8. Are you a resident of SC? **1. Yes 2. No**
9. If yes, which county _____

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

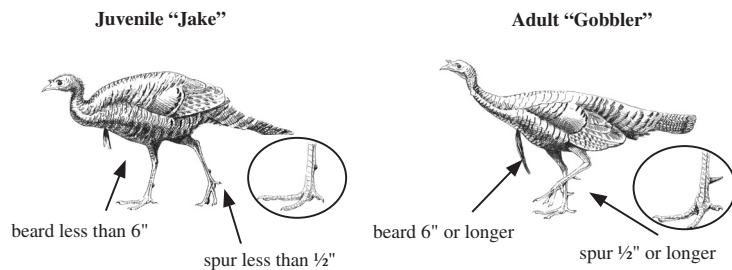


**HELP MANAGE
TURKEYS IN S.C.
COMPLETE YOUR
HUNTER SURVEY**

DNR



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www.dnr.sc.gov



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COLUMBIA SC
PERMIT 920**

Figure 2. Summer wild turkey recruitment ratio in South Carolina 1982-2008. Note poor recruitment ratio 6 out of the last 7 years. Recruitment ratio is a measure of young entering the population based on the number of hens in the population.

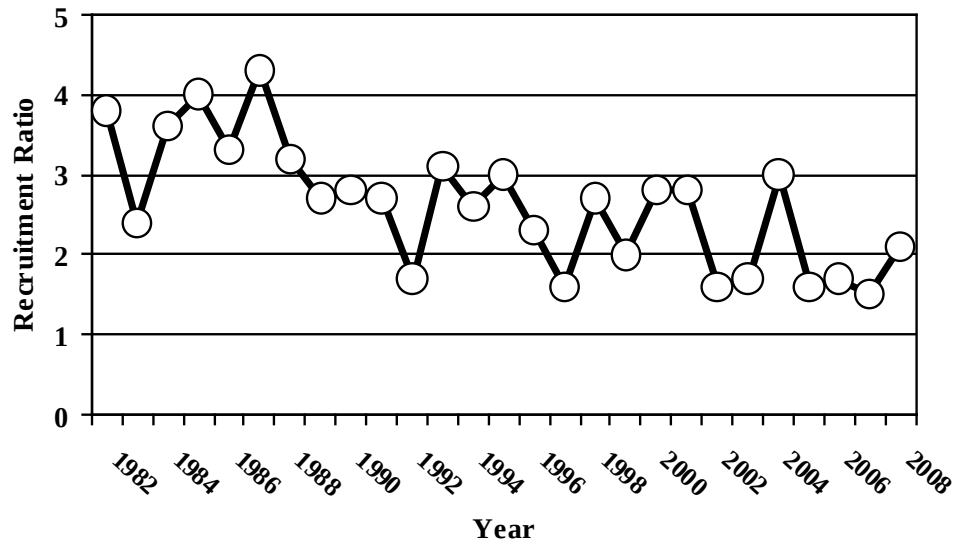


Figure 3. Spring wild turkey harvest in South Carolina 1982-2009. Note declines in harvest following years of poor recruitment that have occurred since record harvest in 2002.

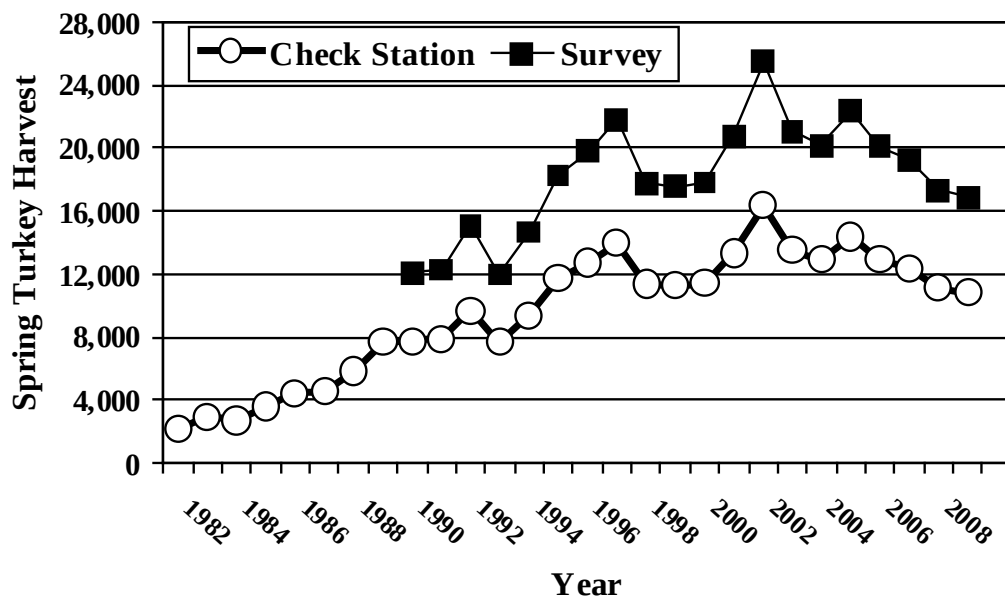


Figure 4. Percentage of gobblers harvested by week of season in South Carolina in 2009.

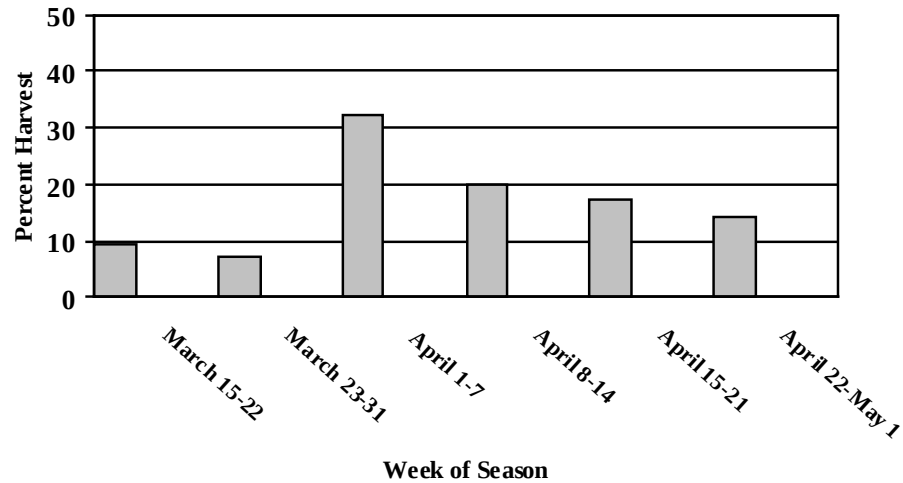


Figure 5. Percentage of gobblers harvested by week in areas with March 15-May 1 season.

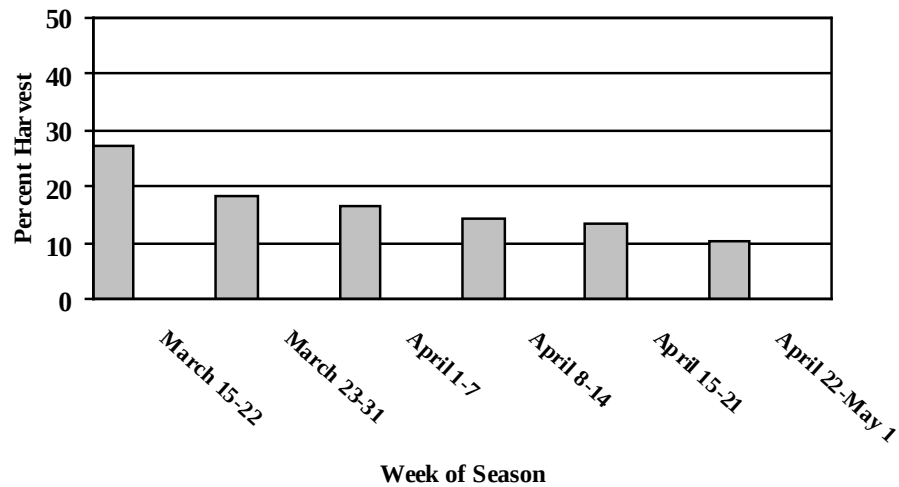


Figure 6. Percentage of gobblers harvested by week in areas with April 1-May 1 season.

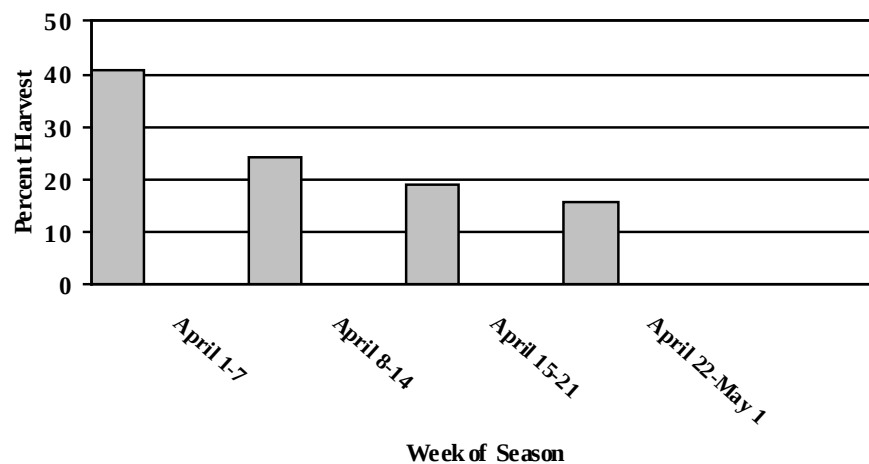


Figure 7. Hunter success during the spring turkey season in South Carolina in 2009. Overall success was 29 percent at harvesting at least one gobbler.

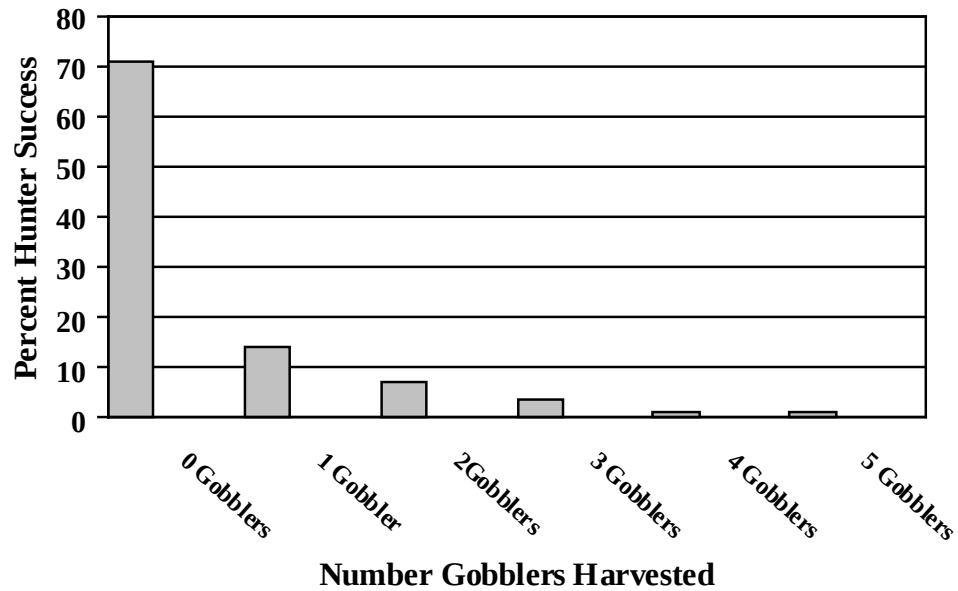


Figure 8. Relative contribution to the total turkey harvest by hunters taking between 1 and 5 gobbler in South Carolina in 2009. Hunters taking more than 3 birds accounted for 23% of total harvest.

