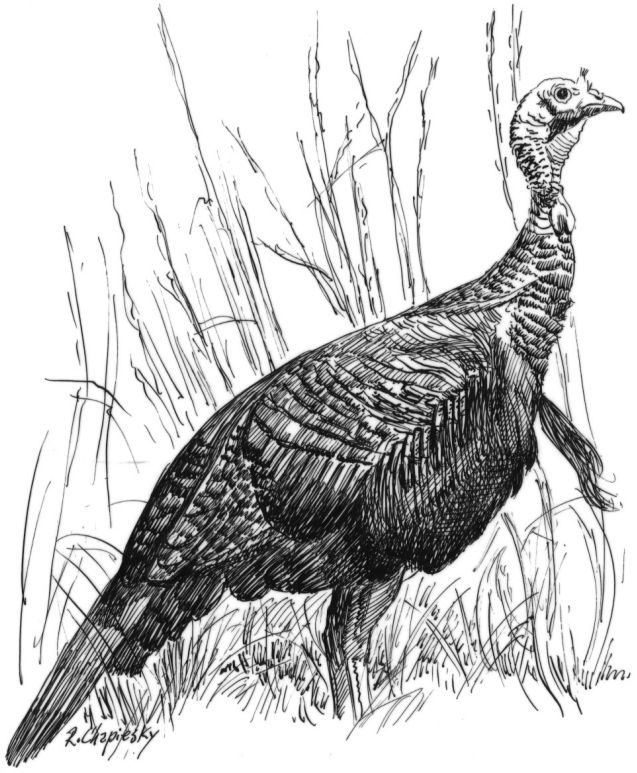
2011 SOUTH CAROLINA TURKEY HARVEST REPORT



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES TURKEY RESEARCH & MANAGEMENT PROJECT

DNR

Submitted by

Charles Ruth; Deer & Wild Turkey Program Coordinator

INTRODUCTION

Ranking only behind the white-tailed deer in popularity among hunters, the Eastern wild turkey is an important natural resource in South Carolina. The 2011 Turkey Hunter Survey represents the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (DNR), 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) the statewide spring gobbler harvest in 2011, (2) the harvest of gobblers in the constituent counties of the state, and (3) hunting effort related to turkeys. Information on hunter's opinions of the turkey resource and other aspects of turkey hunting are also presented.

Due to the importance of turkeys as a state resource, DNR 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 turkey and was, therefore, an absolute minimum harvest figure. Shortcomings in this system included deterioration of check station compliance, complaints from hunters regarding the inconvenience of check stations, and costs associated with the check station system. The requirement to check harvested turkeys in South Carolina was eliminated following the 2005 season. Prior to eliminating the check-in requirement, DNR conducted surveys in order to document the rate of noncompliance, as well as, to determine the relationship between harvest figures obtained from check stations and those obtained from surveys. As would be expected, harvest figures obtained from surveys are higher than those from check stations due to lack of compliance with the check-in requirement.

Survey Methodology

The 2011 Turkey Hunter Survey represented a random mail survey that involved a single mail-out. The questionnaire for the 2011 Turkey Hunter Survey was developed by Wildlife Section personnel (Figure 1). The mailing list database was constructed by randomly selecting 25,000 individuals who received a set of 2011 Turkey Transportation Tags which are required in order to hunt turkeys in South Carolina. Data entry was completed by Priority Data, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska.

Following the mail survey, a nonresponse bias test was conducted by Responsive Management of Harrisonburg, Virginia using a Computer Assisted Telephone Interview program (CATI). Results from the mail survey were corrected for nonresponse bias using data collected from the telephone survey.

Statistical analysis was conducted using Statistix 7 (Analytical Software, Tallahassee, FL).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Turkey Harvest

During the 2011 spring season it is estimated that a total of 14,183 adult gobblers and 2,902 jakes were harvested for a statewide total of 17,085 turkeys (Table 1). This figure represents a one percent increase in harvest from 2010 (16,924). Although the harvest was up slightly in 2011, this harvest level still represents a 33 percent decrease from the record harvest established in 2002 (16,348 check station, 25,487 estimated by survey). The reduction in harvest seen since 2002 can likely be attributable to one primary factor, poor reproduction.

Reproduction in wild turkeys has been poor seven of the last nine years (Figure 2) and the spring harvest following each year of low recruitment has been down (Figure 3). On the other hand, reproduction in 2010 was up substantially compared to previous years resulting in more birds available for harvest in 2011. As expected however, the increase in harvest in 2011 was related to the harvest of juvenile birds or jakes rather than mature gobblers. In fact, the harvest of jakes as a percent of the total harvest in 2011 (17 percent) was the highest since 2005 (24 percent) which followed outstanding reproduction that occurred in the summer of 2004. This association between subtle changes in reproduction and its effects on harvest are rather remarkable in South Carolina's turkey harvest and reproductive data set.

Unlike deer, wild turkeys are much more susceptible to significant fluctuations in reproduction and recruitment and these measures of production have generally not been good recently. Lack of success is typically associated with bad weather (cold and wet) during nesting and brood rearing season. Finally, habitats are continually changing in South Carolina. Although timber management activities stimulated the growth in South Carolina's turkey population in the 1980s, considerable acreage is currently in even-aged pine stands that are greater than 10 years old, a situation that does not support turkeys as well.

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^2). When considering the estimated turkey habitat that is available in South Carolina, the turkey harvest rate in 2011 was 0.8 gobblers per square mile statewide (Table 2). Although the turkey harvest has trended down the last few years, this harvest rate should be considered good and is similar to other Southeastern states. The top 5 counties for harvest per unit area were Fairfield, Cherokee, and Newberry each with 1.7 turkeys/mile^2, and Union and Pickens each with 1.4 turkeys/mile^2 (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 2011 were Fairfield, Williamsburg, Newberry, Orangeburg, and Berkeley (Table 3).

Turkey Harvest by Week of Season

Gobbling by male wild turkeys occurs primarily in the spring and is for the purpose of attracting hens for mating purposes. Therefore, spring turkey hunting is characterized by hunters attempting to locate and call gobbling male turkeys using emulated hens calls. With respect to both biology and effective hunting, the timing of the spring gobbler season should take into account three primary factors; peak breeding, peak gobbling, and peak incubation. Considering these factors, seasons can be set to afford hunters the best opportunity to hunt during the best time (i.e. peak gobbling) without inhibiting reproductive success.

South Carolina currently has two spring turkey season frameworks. Throughout most of the state (Game Zones 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) the season is April 1-May1. This season is based on a recommendation from DNR following gobbling and nesting studies that were conducted in the 1970's. The other season framework is March 15-May 1 and is only in effect in Game Zone 6 (lower coastal plain). This season is socio-politically based. For additional information on setting spring turkey season refer to: http://www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/turkey/springseason09.html.

If seasons are set appropriately, the greatest proportion of turkeys should be harvested during the first week of the season because hens should be nesting resulting in gobblers that are naïve and most responsive to hunter's calls. Harvest by week of season demonstrates that the timing of the April 1-May 1 season affords higher turkey harvests as most turkeys are harvested following the April 1 opening date (Figure 4). When broken-out by specific season framework the results are similar. In areas were the season begins March 15, only 28 percent of the total harvest was accounted for during the first week of the season (Figure 5). This is likely due to the fact that late March is the time of peak breeding and males gobble less because "they are all henned up". On the other hand, 45 percent of the harvest occurred during the first week of the season in areas where the season begins April 1 (Figure 6). This is due to the fact that by the first week in April, a significant number of hens have left the gobblers and begun continuous incubation.

Comparing the first two weeks of each season format, we find that where the season opens March 15, 44 percent of gobblers were harvested while this figure is 68 percent where the season opens on April 1. Again, this is a reflection of fewer available hens due to nesting and this lack of hens stimulates peak gobbling resulting in hunters being able to locate and call responsive birds. Finally, there is actually a higher percentage of turkeys harvested in the first week of the season in areas where the season opens April 1 (45%) than there is during the first two weeks of the season in areas where the season opens March 15 (44%). These results have been consistent since this type of data has been available.

Number of Turkey Hunters

Even though all individuals receiving a set of Turkey Transportation Tags were licensed to hunt turkeys, only 69 percent actually hunted turkeys. Based on this figure, approximately 40,454 hunters participated in the 2011 spring turkey season, a 9.3 percent decrease from 2010 (43,415). Counties with the highest estimates for individual hunters include Fairfield, Newberry, Orangeburg, Berkeley, and Laurens (Table 4).

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 5.7 days afield during the 2011 season (Table 4), a figure identical to that in 2010. Successful hunters averaged significantly more days afield (6.7 days) than unsuccessful hunters (4.4 days). Extrapolating to the entire population of turkey hunters yields a figure of 189,893 total days of spring gobbler hunting, down 8.8 percent from 2010 (208,010 days).

The number of days devoted to turkey hunting in South Carolina is significant and points not only to the availability and popularity of turkeys as a game species, but to the obvious economic benefits related to this important natural resource. Figures generated by a 2003 Survey by the National Wild Turkey Federation estimate that approximately 35 million dollars are added to South Carolina's economy annually from turkey hunting. The top 5 South Carolina counties for overall days of turkey hunting during 2011 were Fairfield, Newberry, Orangeburg, Berkeley, and Union counties (Table 4).

Hunting Success

For determination of hunting success only those individuals that actually hunted turkeys were included in the analysis and similarly, success was defined as harvesting at least one turkey. Overall hunting success in 2011 was 25.6 percent, down 16 percent from 2010 (30.3%). Unlike deer hunting which typically has high success, turkey hunting can be an inherently unsuccessful endeavor, relatively speaking. As would be expected, the majority of successful hunters take one gobbler (Figure 7). However, the percentage of successful hunters who take two birds is quite high as well. This indicates that successful hunters had nearly the same chance of taking two birds as they did one bird.

The statewide bag limit in South Carolina is five gobblers. Obviously, most successful hunters harvest only one or two birds. However, it is interesting to note the relative contribution to the total harvest of turkeys by the few hunters that harvest multiple birds. Ironically, the percentage of hunters taking more than 3 birds was only 3.3 percent, however, this small

percentage of hunters harvested 30 percent of the total birds taken in the state (Figure 8). These results have been consistent since this type of data has been available.

Hunter Opinion Regarding Turkey Numbers

The 2011 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. About half (50.7%) of hunters indicated that the number of turkeys in the area they hunted most often was about the same as in past years. Slightly more hunters (26.3%) believed that the turkey population was increasing than decreasing (23.0%). On a scale of 1 to 3 with 1 being increasing, 2 being the same, and 3 being decreasing, the overall mean rating of 1.9 suggests that hunters viewed the turkey population as slightly increasing. This is the fist time in 5 years that the opinion among hunters is that the turkey population is increasing. As previously discussed, this is likely attributable to the significantly better reproduction by turkeys in 2010.

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.

In order to estimate the prevalence of errant shots at turkeys, the 2011 Turkey Hunter Survey asked hunters to indicate the number of turkeys that they "shot but did not kill or recover during the 2011 season in South Carolina". Approximately 10.8 percent of hunters indicated that they shot but did not kill or recover at least one turkey in 2011 (11.3% in 2010). There were approximately 40,454 turkey hunters in 2011 meaning that approximately 4,368 turkeys were shot or shot at and not killed or recovered. Therefore, approximately 20 percent of the total number of turkeys shot were not killed or recovered. These results have been consistent since this type of data has been available.

This data is certainly not indicative of "dead and unrecovered turkeys", however, it is clear that some percentage of the 4,368 turkeys that were shot did eventually 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 between 200 and 400 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 they can be stimulated to gobble using the various turkey calls, particularly late in the afternoon near areas where turkeys frequently roost.

In order to gain a better understanding of the distribution of harvest with respect to time of day, the 2011 Turkey Hunter Survey asked hunters to identify the number of birds harvested in the morning compared to the afternoon. Results indicate that approximately 75 percent of gobblers are harvested in the morning compared to 25 percent in the afternoon. This data may be useful if discussions arise concerning the relative importance of morning compared to afternoon harvest of gobblers in the spring. These results have been consistent since this type of data has been available.

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Table 1. Estimated statewide turkey harvest in South Carolina in 2011.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Gobbler Harvest	Jake Harvest	Total Harvest	Percent Jakes	Harvest Rates	
							Ac/Turkey	Turkey/Mi.^{2}
Abbeville	223,113	349	175	44	219	20.1	1018.8	0.6
Aiken	500,546	782	213	77	290	26.6	1726.0	0.4
Allendale	216,455	338	252	8	260	3.1	832.5	0.8
Anderson	219,068	342	322	143	465	30.8	471.1	1.4
Bamberg	196,573	307	294	59	353	16.7	556.9	1.1
Barnwell	281,764	440	189	29	218	13.3	1292.5	0.5
Beaufort	147,441	230	59	2	61	3.3	2417.1	0.3
Berkeley	567,530	887	606	74	680	10.9	834.6	0.8
Calhoun	190,584	298	203	8	211	3.8	903.2	0.7
Charleston	288,732	451	343	32	375	8.5	770.0	0.8
Cherokee	156,664	245	335	84	419	20.0	373.9	1.7
Chester	300,589	470	350	122	472	25.8	636.8	1.0
Chesterfield	372,478	582	161	29	190	15.3	1960.4	0.3
Clarendon	298,087	466	270	32	302	10.6	987.0	0.6
Colleton	502,666	785	406	29	435	6.7	1155.6	0.6
Darlington	286,228	447	129	5	134	3.7	2136.0	0.3
Dillon	214,069	334	105	17	122	13.9	1754.7	0.4
Dorchester	302,717	473	266	8	274	2.9	1104.8	0.6
Edgefield	246,543	385	206	59	265	22.3	930.4	0.7
Fairfield	384,607	601	855	176	1031	17.1	373.0	1.7
Florence	397,888	622	354	53	407	13.0	977.6	0.7
Georgetown	399,638	624	326	17	343	5.0	1165.1	0.5
Greenville	294,257	460	380	141	521	27.1	564.8	1.1
Greenwood	204,400	319	168	71	239	29.7	855.2	0.7
Hampton	324,840	508	451	42	493	8.5	658.9	1.0
Horry	533,336	833	287	68	355	19.2	1502.4	0.4
Jasper	309,889	484	203	14	217	6.5	1428.1	0.4
Kershaw	360,485	563	315	59	374	15.8	963.9	0.7
Lancaster	266,382	416	319	80	399	20.1	667.6	1.0
Laurens	317,916	497	427	149	576	25.9	551.9	1.2
Lee	220,106	344	140	17	157	10.8	1401.9	0.5
Lexington	280,742	439	45	11	56	19.6	5013.3	0.1
McCormick	212,021	331	157	77	234	32.9	906.1	0.7
Marion	216,907	339	241	20	261	7.7	831.1	0.8
Marlboro	281,271	439	133	26	159	16.4	1769.0	0.4
Newberry	317,761	497	638	200	838	23.9	379.2	1.7
Oconee	284,348	444	203	50	253	19.8	1123.9	0.6
Orangeburg	504,516	788	685	66	751	8.8	671.8	1.0
Pickens	219,926	344	333	137	470	29.1	467.9	1.4
Richland	340,121	531	280	71	351	20.2	969.0	0.7
Saluda	192,173	300	210	77	287	26.8	669.6	1.0
Spartanburg	265,939	416	389	116	505	23.0	526.6	1.2
Sumter	338,968	530	141	30	171	17.5	1982.3	0.3
Union	258,111	403	480	104	584	17.8	442.0	1.4
Williamsburg	513,851	803	859	59	918	6.4	559.8	1.1
York	276,650	432	280	110	390	28.2	709.4	0.9
Total	**14,028,896**	**21,920**	**14,183**	**2,902**	**17,085**	**17.0**	**821.1**	**0.8**
95% Conf. Interval for harvest			**(+-) 1,120**	**(+-) 493**	**(+-) 1,250**			

* 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 2011.

County	Acres*	Square Miles	Gobbler Harvest	Jake Harvest	Total Harvest	Percent Jakes	Harvest Rates	
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Total	**14,028,896**	**21,920**	**14,183**	**2,902**	**17,085**	**17.0**	**821.1**	**0.8**

Table 3. County rankings based on total turkeys harvested in South Carolina in 2011.

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Table 4. Estimated number of turkey hunters, average days hunted, and total hunting effort by county in South Carolina in 2011.

County	Total Harvest	Number Hunters	Avg. Days Hunted	Total Man/Days
Abbeville	219	782	5.1	3,221
Aiken	290	819	5.1	3,867
Allendale	260	605	6.3	3,125
Anderson	465	1,094	4.9	5,222
Bamberg	353	777	6.2	4,074
Barnwell	218	526	6.1	2,675
Beaufort	61	284	4.8	1,056
Berkeley	680	1,512	7.0	7,793
Calhoun	211	535	6.2	2,703
Charleston	375	1,052	5.7	5,034
Cherokee	419	698	6.2	3,460
Chester	472	1,275	5.3	5,624
Chesterfield	190	791	6.4	3,938
Clarendon	302	675	5.3	2,722
Colleton	435	1,024	7.3	5,445
Darlington	134	377	4.5	1,475
Dillon	122	293	5.0	1,455
Dorchester	274	689	6.5	3,839
Edgefield	265	731	5.1	2,954
Fairfield	1031	2,294	5.6	10,790
Florence	407	786	5.1	3,599
Georgetown	343	652	5.2	2,711
Greenville	521	1,131	4.8	4,859
Greenwood	239	717	4.7	2,942
Hampton	493	977	5.7	5,007
Horry	355	745	5.4	3,843
Jasper	217	484	6.7	2,284
Kershaw	374	1,075	4.9	4,959
Lancaster	399	917	5.7	5,086
Laurens	576	1,429	5.0	5,640
Lee	157	479	4.9	1,905
Lexington	56	377	3.8	997
McCormick	234	693	6.1	3,181
Marion	261	665	4.5	3,001
Marlboro	159	461	5.4	2,180
Newberry	838	1,699	5.6	8,331
Oconee	253	754	6.3	4,078
Orangeburg	751	1,554	5.9	8,056
Pickens	470	1,024	5.7	4,696
Richland	351	996	4.8	4,381
Saluda	287	642	5.2	3,217
Spartanburg	505	1,033	5.3	4,735
Sumter	171	652	6.1	2,392
Union	584	1,401	6.0	6,457
Williamsburg	918	1,238	5.0	5,608
York	390	1,042	6.3	5,278
Total	**17,085**	**40,454**	**5.7**	**189,893**

Figure 1. South Carolina Department of Natural Resources 2011 Turkey Hunter Survey.

May, 2011

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 2011.

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 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 2010 survey can be found at:
www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/turkey/2010TurkeyHarvest.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 2011 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

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2011 South Carolina Turkey Hunter Survey

1. Did you turkey hunt in SC this past season (2011)? **1. Yes 2. No**
   If you answered **No** to this question please **go to question # 8**.

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 (2011). 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 6.

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 kill in the morning_____ after 12:00 noon _____?

6. How many turkeys did you shoot but not kill or recover in SC this past season?_____

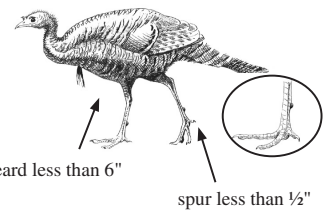
7. Compared to past years, how would you describe the number of turkeys in the area that you hunted most often this spring? **Circle one**
   1. Increasing 2. About the same 3. Decreasing

8. Are you a resident of SC? **1. Yes 2. No**

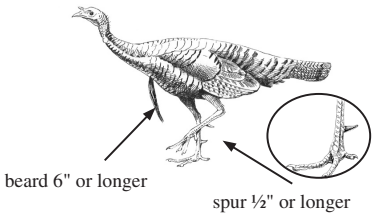
9. If yes, which county _____

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

Juvenile "Jake"



Adult "Gobbler"



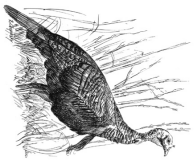


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Figure 2. Summer wild turkey recruitment ratio in South Carolina 1982-2010. Note poor recruitment ratio 7 out of the last 9 years. Recruitment ratio is a measure of young entering the population based on the number of hens in the population.

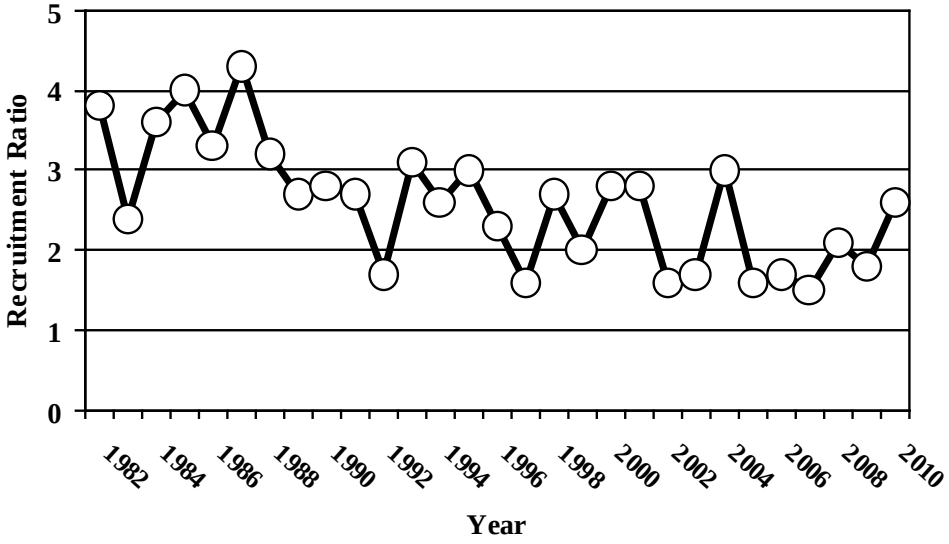

Figure 3. Spring wild turkey harvest in South Carolina 1982-2011. Note declines in harvest associated with years of poor recruitment that have occurred since record harvest in 2002.

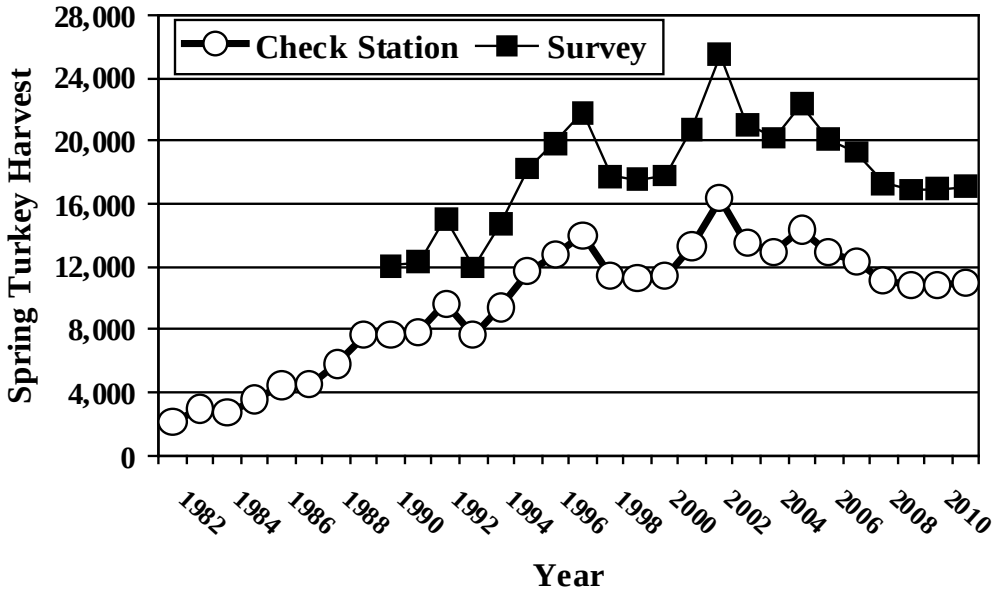

Figure 4. Percentage of gobblers harvested by week of season in South Carolina in 2011.

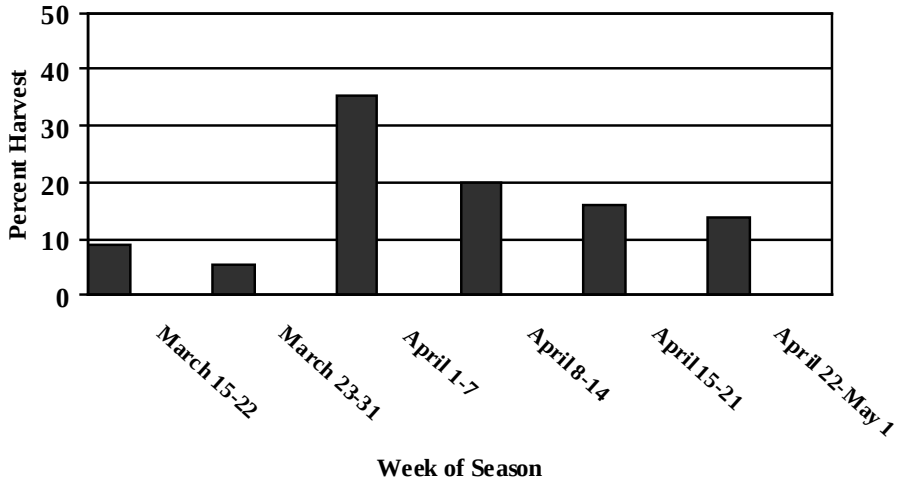

Figure 5. Percentage of gobblers harvested by week in areas with March 15-May 1 season.

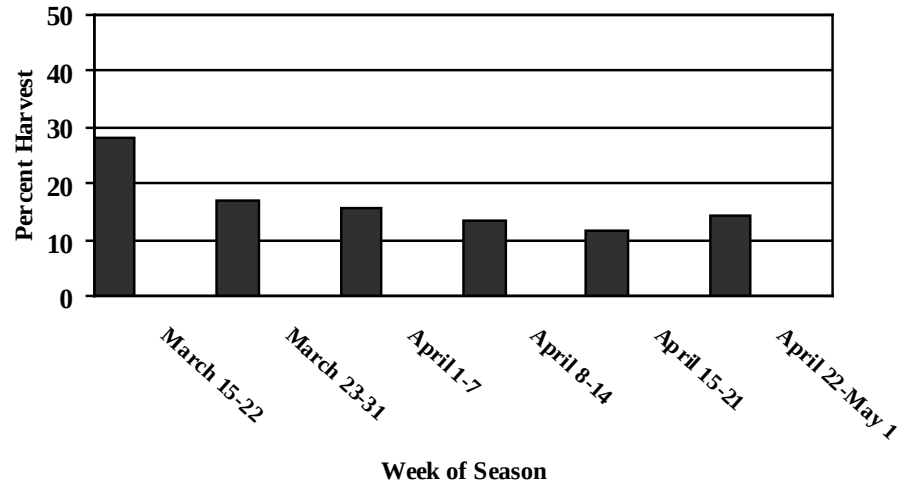

Figure 6. Percentage of gobblers harvested by week in areas with April 1-May 1 season.

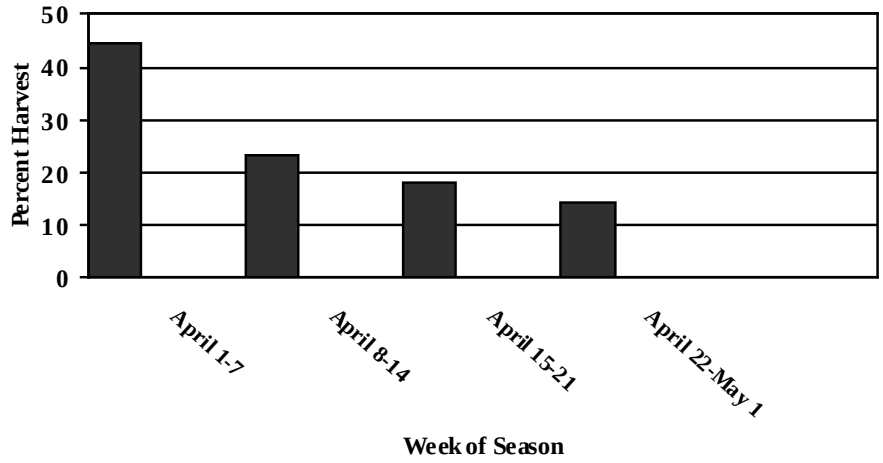

Figure 7. Hunter success during the spring turkey season in South Carolina in 2011. Overall success was 26 percent at harvesting at least one gobbler.

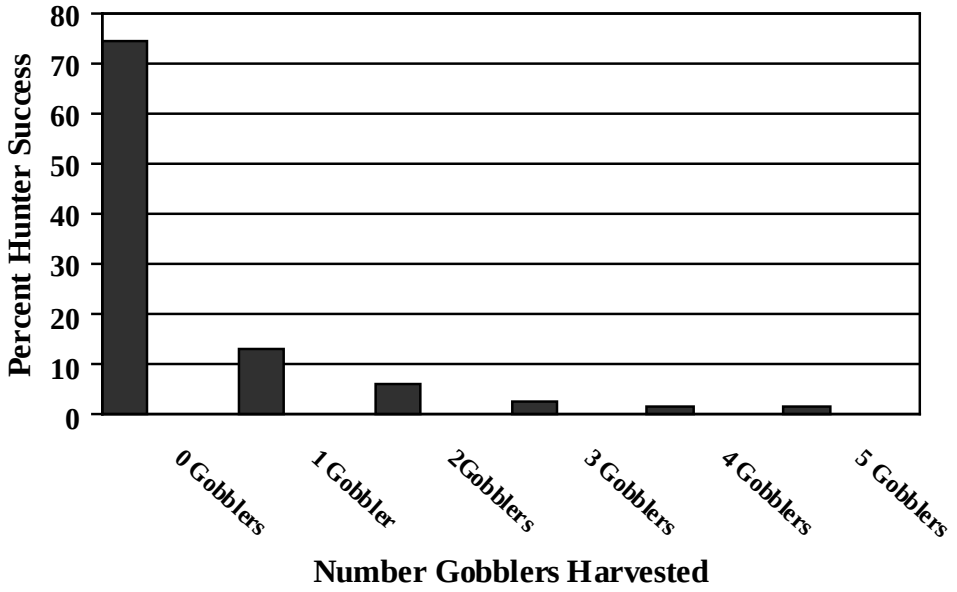

Figure 8. Relative contribution to the total turkey harvest by hunters taking between 1 and 5 gobbler in South Carolina in 2011. Hunters taking more than 3 birds accounted for 30% of total harvest.