



2025 ALABAMA

WILD TURKEY REPORT

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

2025 ALABAMA WILD TURKEY REPORT



Welcome to the 2025 Alabama Wild Turkey Report, a publication of the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) Division of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR). This report provides turkey hunters and other interested individuals with information concerning Alabama’s wild turkey resource. The report contains biological and sociological data used by ADCNR to monitor and manage the state’s turkey population.

A total of 856 turkey hunters signed up to participate in the 2025 Avid Turkey Hunter Survey. Vital information is gained from the survey and used to better manage the resource. We continue to encourage all turkey hunters to contribute to the conservation and management of wild turkeys in Alabama through participation in the Avid Turkey Hunter Survey. Any avid turkey hunter who would like to participate in the survey should contact ADCNR Upland Game Bird Coordinator Caleb Blake at caleb.blake@dcnr.alabama.gov.

Thank you for your efforts to enhance the management of this noble bird, the wild turkey.



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WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES UPLAND GAME BIRD COMMITTEE

For decades, Alabamians have benefited from a sustainable wild turkey population. Through extensive trapping, relocation, and restocking efforts beginning in the late 1950s and continuing into the early 2000s, ADCNR successfully restored a once-declining wild turkey population and expanded the species' distribution across Alabama. As a result, Alabama turkey hunters have historically enjoyed one of the longest spring seasons and most liberal bag limits in the nation.

However, for over a decade, statewide population metrics have indicated a gradual decline in wild turkey numbers. This pattern is not unique to Alabama, with similar trends being documented across much of the Southeast.

The WFF Upland Game Bird Committee (UGBC), established in 2014, is composed of wildlife biologists representing each WFF district along with committee chairs. The committee is responsible for monitoring wild turkey populations, evaluating harvest and biological data, and providing science-based recommendations for statewide management. Its guiding mission is to ensure a sustainable and resilient wild turkey population for the continued benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations of Alabamians.

Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries — District Offices

DISTRICT 1

21453 Harris Station Road
Tanner, AL 35671
256-353-2634
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DISTRICT 2

4101 Alabama Hwy. 21 N.
Jacksonville, AL 36265
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DISTRICT 3

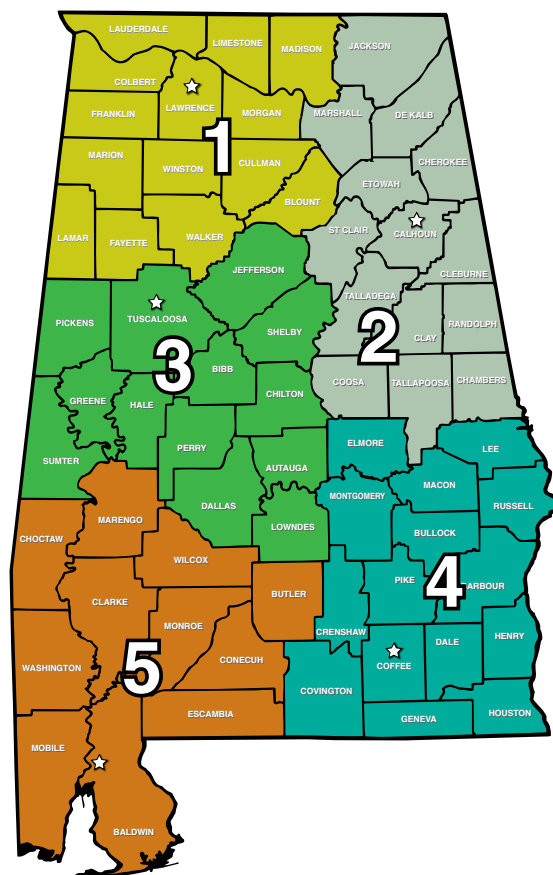
8211 McFarland Blvd., West
Northport, AL 35476
205-339-5716 (Northport)
334-289-8030 (Demopolis)
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DISTRICT 4

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334-347-1298
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DISTRICT 5

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AVID TURKEY HUNTER SURVEY 2025 RESULTS

The Alabama Avid Turkey Hunter Survey was initiated in 2014 to provide ADCNR with biological information on wild turkey populations across the state. Each year, cooperating hunters are asked to record observations from their spring turkey hunts. The gobbling activity and observational data collected assist WFF biologists in monitoring turkey populations and making informed management decisions.

WFF greatly appreciates the hunters who take the time to collect and submit this valuable information, and all turkey hunters are encouraged to participate. This survey provides a unique opportunity for hunters to be directly involved in the conservation and management of wild turkeys in Alabama. An invitation to participate in the survey is included in this report.

Gobbling Activity

The number of individual gobblers heard and the total number of gobbles recorded are used as indices of gobbling activity. Gobbling activity is reported as the average number of gobbles heard per 10 hours of hunting. This metric is considered an indicator of hunting quality and may reflect trends in the number of gobblers within the population. These data are also used to examine changes in the timing and chronology of peak gobbling activity throughout the season.

Turkey Observations

Turkey observations are classified as gobblers, jakes, or hens. Observation rates are reported as the average number of gobblers, jakes, or hens observed per 100 hours of hunting. These rates provide indices of sex ratios, gobbler age structure, and population size and trends.

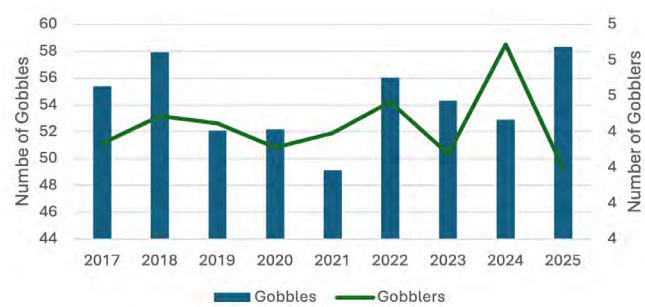
Jake observations are particularly important because they reflect recruitment of males into the population from the previous year's hatch and provide an index of the potential number of 2-year-old gobblers available during the following spring turkey season. High numbers of 2-year-old gobblers often contribute to increased gobbling activity and improved hunting opportunities.

STATEWIDE

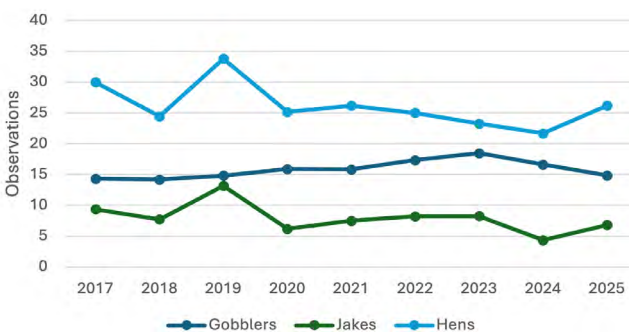
HARVEST AND OBSERVATIONS

Cooperators statewide reported hearing a total of 33,327 gobbles from 2,397 gobblers and harvesting 209 birds during the 2025 spring turkey season. Compared to 2024 (n=256 birds harvested), there was an 18% decrease in the number of birds reported harvested statewide. Since 2017, trends in turkey observations statewide indicate that avid hunters on average are observing 0.8 less hens, 0.3 more gobblers, and 0.47 less jakes annually per 100 hours hunted. The average number of hours per hunt was 3.31 hours, with a total of 5,715 hours.

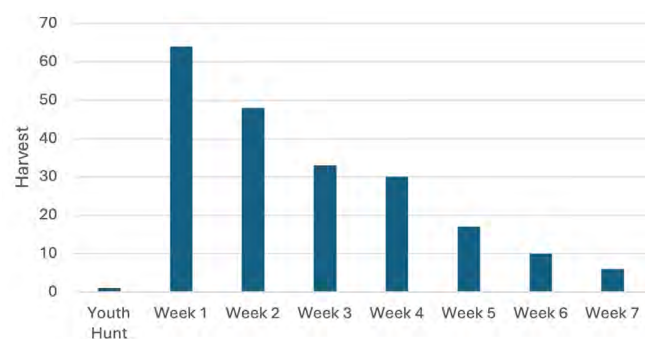
Gobblers and Gobbles Heard per 10 Hours Hunted

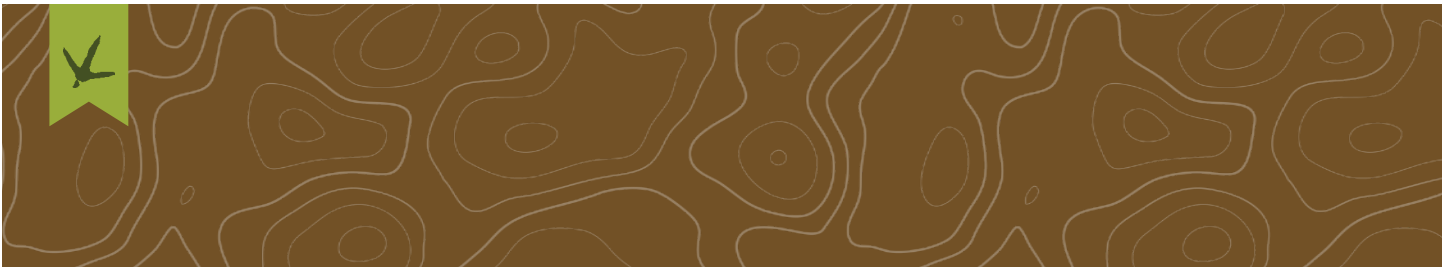


Turkey Observations per 100 Hours Hunted



Spring Season Harvest by Week





DISTRICT 1

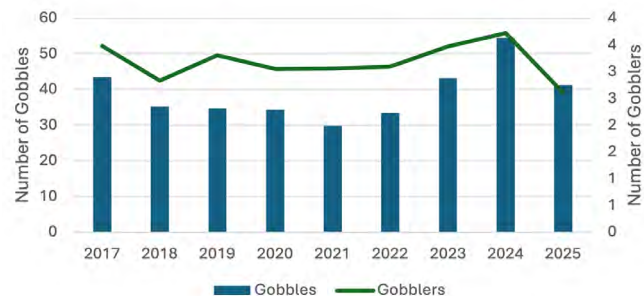


District 1 is comprised of 14 counties in the northwest part of the state. It has several physiographic regions that are unique to north Alabama. This area consists of the interior low plateau, Appalachian Plateau, and Tennessee Valley regions. The plateau is dominated by upland oak/hickory and oak/pine forest intermingled with pasture, grazing, and agricultural crops. Soils adjacent to the major rivers and flood plains in this region are highly fertile, and thus support much agricultural production, especially in the Tennessee Valley. Topography can vary greatly from steep ridges to low lying valleys. The fall line hills separate the Appalachian Plateau from the upper Coastal Plain. This area is characterized by gently rolling hills dominated by pine/oak forest and oak/gum/ cypress bottom lands near major drainages. The greatest habitat diversity in the state is located in the fall line hills.

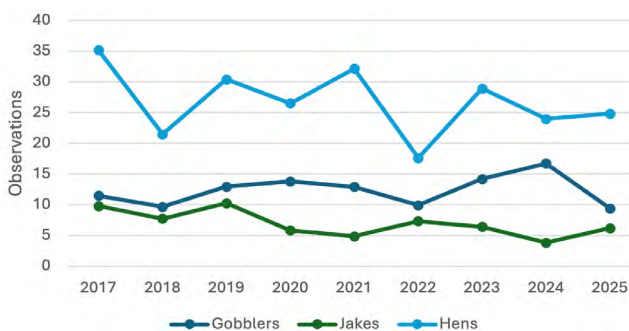
HARVEST AND OBSERVATIONS

Cooperators (n=26) in District 1 reported hearing a total of 3,344 gobblers from 211 gobblers and harvesting 20 birds during the 2025 spring turkey season. Compared to 2024 (n=37 birds harvested), there was a 46% decrease in the number of birds reported harvested in District 1. Since 2017, trends in turkey observations in District 1 indicate that avid hunters on average are observing 0.76 less hens, 0.2 more gobblers, and 0.53 less jakes annually per 100 hours hunted. The average number of hours per hunt was 3.84 hours, with a total of 809 hours.

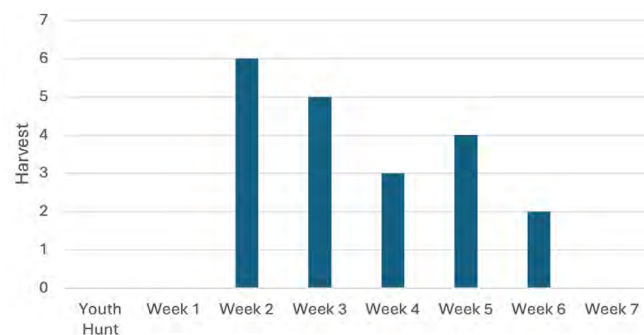
Gobblers and Gobblers Heard per 10 Hours Hunted

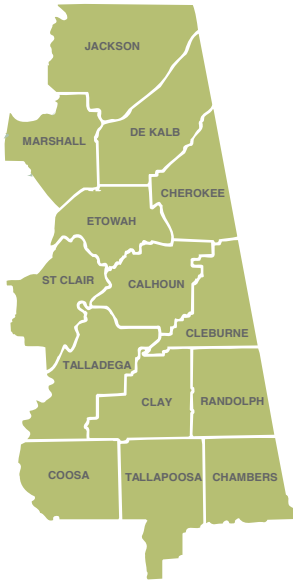
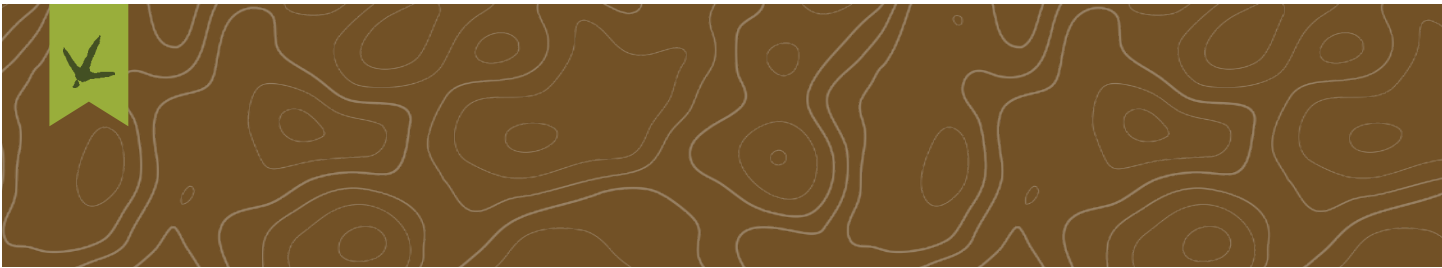


Turkey Observations per 100 Hours Hunted



Spring Season Harvest by Week





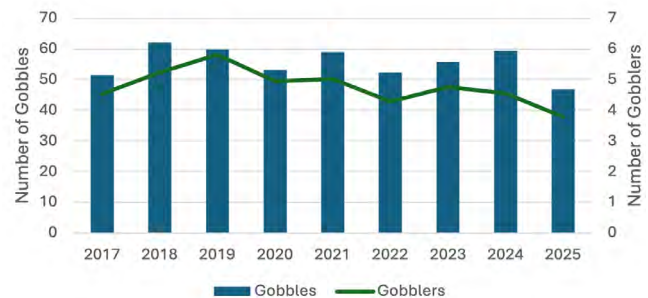
DISTRICT 2

District 2 consists of 14 counties stretching from east central Alabama to the northeast corner of the state. It is a linear, diverse area that encompasses the Piedmont, Interior Plateau, Southwestern Appalachian, and Ridge and Valley ecoregions. The lower portion of the district is mostly rolling hills and becomes more mountainous as you move north. The flora is also very diverse. Longleaf pine is found in the lower portions of the District while loblolly and shortleaf pine is more dominant further north. Deciduous forests of primarily oak and hickory are located throughout the region often in drainages and on steep ridges. District 2 is dissected by three river systems, the Tennessee in Jackson County, the Coosa in the central counties, and the Tallapoosa in the southern counties. The Talladega National Forest Shoal Creek Ranger District and the Talladega Ranger District provide 233,500 acres of primarily forest habitat within the district.

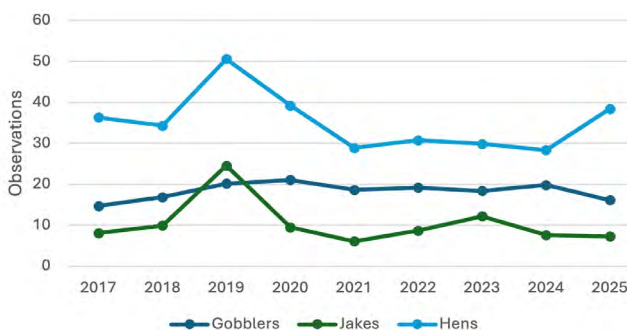
HARVEST AND OBSERVATIONS

Cooperators (n=38) in District 2 reported hearing a total of 5,788 gobblers from 467 gobblers and harvesting 42 birds during the 2025 spring turkey season. Compared to 2024 (n=67 birds harvested), there was a 37% decrease in the number of birds reported harvested in District 2. Since 2017, trends in turkey observations in District 2 indicate that avid hunters on average are observing 0.98 less hens, 0.15 more gobblers, and 0.6 less jakes annually per 100 hours hunted. The average number of hours per hunt was 3.38 hours, with a total of 1,234 hours.

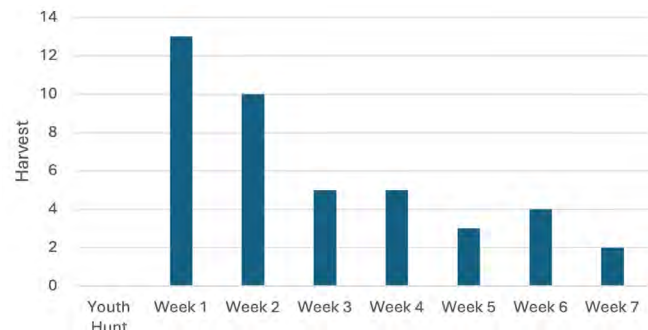
Gobblers and Gobblers Heard per 10 Hours Hunted

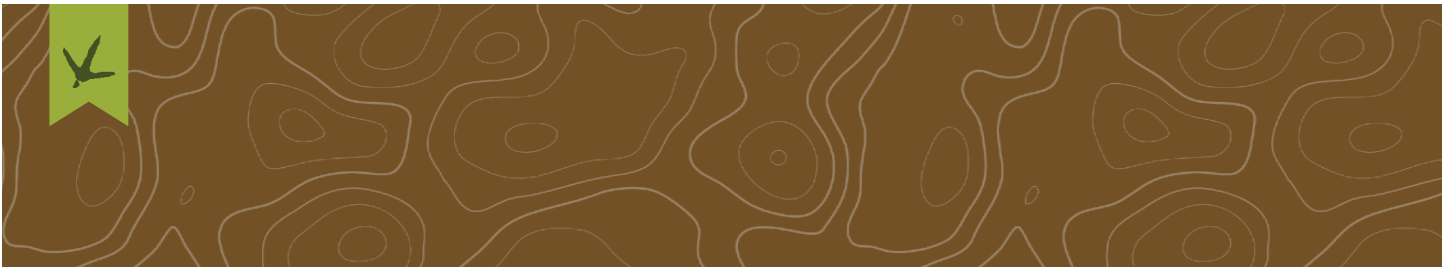


Turkey Observations per 100 Hours Hunted



Spring Season Harvest by Week





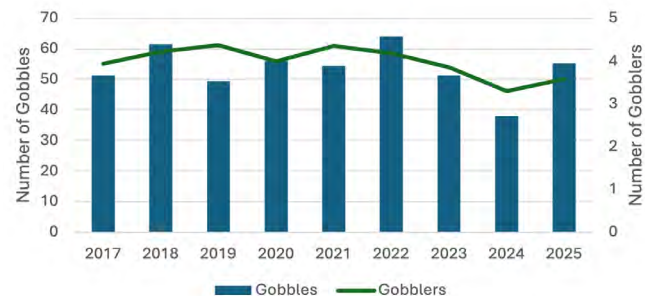
DISTRICT 3

This region consists of 13 counties in west central Alabama. It is a very diverse area consisting of eight regions: southern inner Piedmont, black land prairie, flatwoods/black land prairie margins, fall line hills, southeastern floodplains and low terraces, low rolling hills, sandstone ridges and shale hills. The southern portion consists mostly of black land prairie, bottomland hardwood, oak/gum cypress bottomlands near major drainages and industrial pine forest habitats. This area lies below the fall line and has mostly flat, to slightly rolling, terrain. Soils adjacent to the major rivers and flood plains in this region are highly fertile and thus support much agricultural production. The soils are typically not rocky. The northern portion of the district consists of the fall line hills with rocky soils. It is comprised of mostly oak/hickory, mixed pine/hardwoods, industrial pine forest habitats, intermixed with transition zones thus creating great habitat diversity.

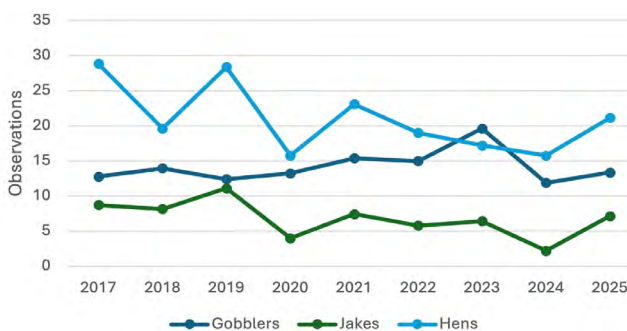
HARVEST AND OBSERVATIONS

Cooperators (n=50) in District 3 reported hearing a total of 8,462 gobblers from 547 gobblers and harvesting 49 birds during the 2025 spring turkey season. Compared to 2024 (n=47 birds harvested), there was a 4% increase in the number of birds reported harvested in District 3. Since 2017, trends in turkey observations in District 3 indicate that avid hunters on average are observing 1 less hen, 0.2 more gobblers, and 0.52 less jakes annually per 100 hours hunted. The average number of hours per hunt was 3.73 hours, with a total of 1,529 hours..

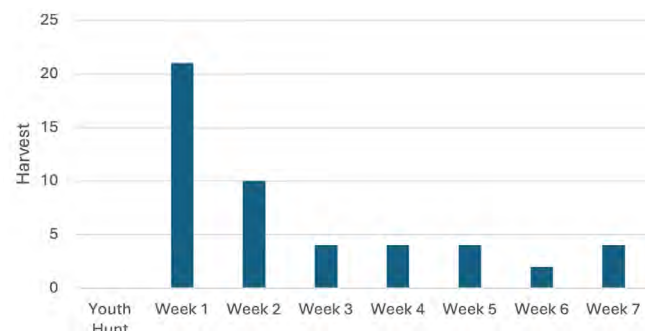
Gobblers and Gobblers Heard per 10 Hours Hunted

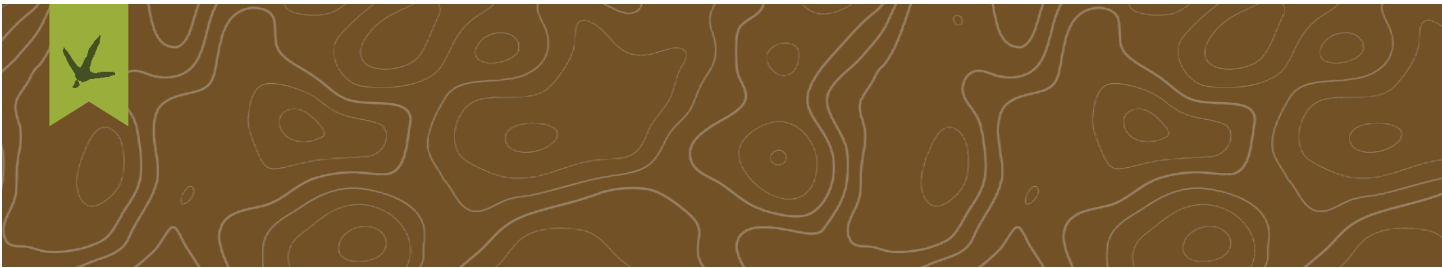


Turkey Observations per 100 Hours Hunted



Spring Season Harvest by Week





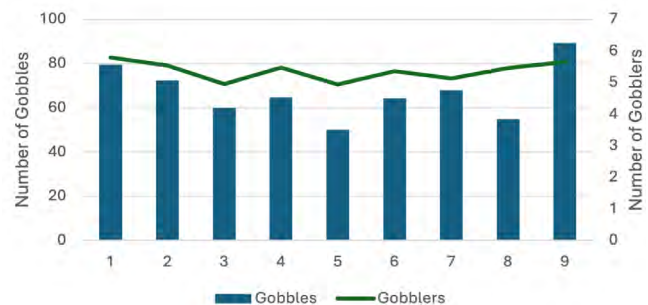
DISTRICT 4

This district consists of 15 counties in the southeastern corner of Alabama. This area has four regions: Piedmont, Southeastern Plains, Black Belt, and lower Coastal Plain. The Piedmont area is located on the northern fringe of the region and is mostly mixed pine-hardwood forest type with rocky mountainous terrain. The Black Belt region is centrally located in the region and is mostly a grassland area with some oak-hickory forest along with loblolly pine plantations. The Southeastern Plains are mostly hardwoods in the riparian areas and a mix of loblolly and longleaf pines in the uplands. The lower Coastal Plain is located along the southernmost portion of the region and has swampy gum-cypress lowlands, and the uplands are dominated by longleaf pine.

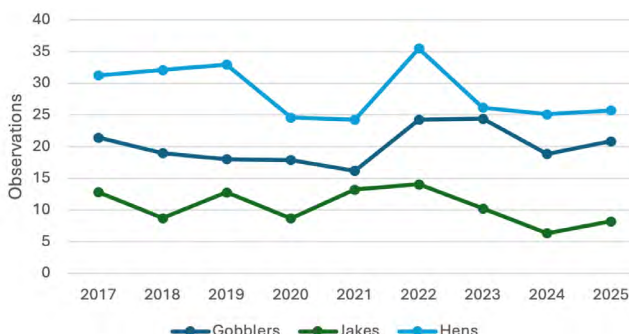
HARVEST AND OBSERVATIONS

Cooperators (n=37) in District 4 reported hearing a total of 8,279 gobblers from 524 gobblers and harvesting 50 birds during the 2025 spring turkey season. Compared to 2024 (n=43 birds harvested), there was a 14% increase in the number of birds reported harvested in District 4. Since 2017, trends in turkey observations in District 4 indicate that avid hunters on average are observing 0.76 less hens, 0.27 more gobblers, and 0.42 less jakes annually per 100 hours hunted. The average number of hours per hunt was 2.77 hours, with a total of 926 hours.

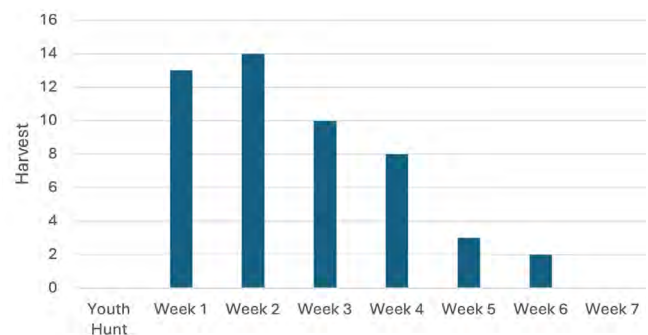
Gobblers and Gobbles Heard per 10 Hours Hunted

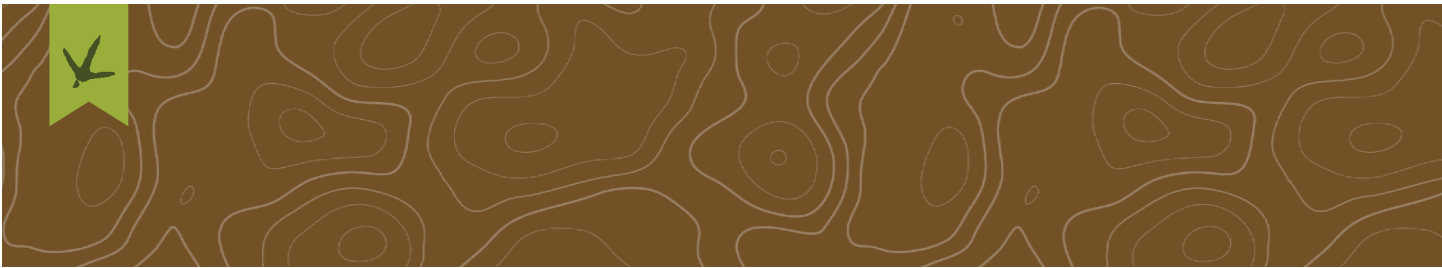


Turkey Observations per 100 Hours Hunted



Spring Season Harvest by Week





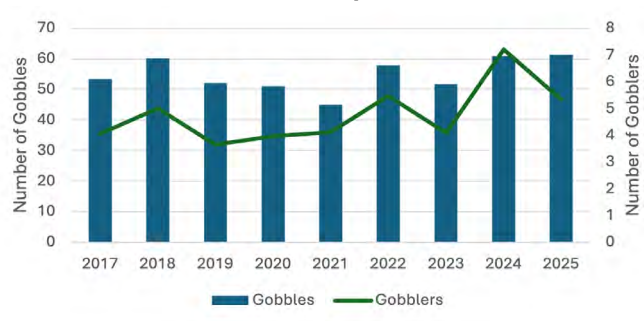
DISTRICT 5

District 5 consists of 11 counties in southwest Alabama. This area is part of the Coastal Plain and features gentle, rolling hills in the south and steep, mountain-like ridges to the north. The extreme north end of the district transitions to open prairie. This region is bisected by the lower reaches of the Alabama and Tombigbee rivers the confluence of which forms the Mobile-Tensaw Delta. Forest types include uplands dominated by piney woods interspersed with oak, beech, and magnolia with broad stream bottoms in oak, gum, bay, and cypress associations. Loblolly pine plantations are the major forest type throughout with scattering compartments of historic longleaf pine.

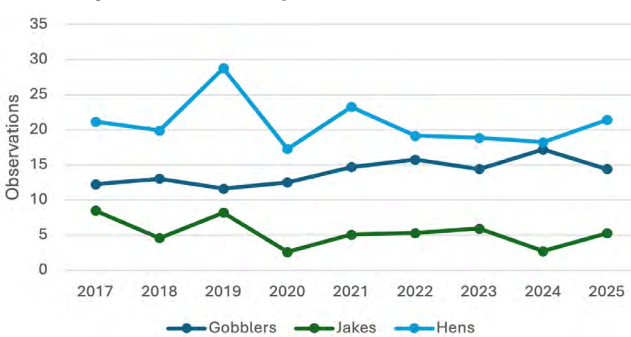
HARVEST AND OBSERVATIONS

Cooperators (n=40) in District 5 reported hearing a total of 7,454 gobblers from 648 gobblers and harvesting 48 birds during the 2025 spring turkey season. Compared to 2024 (n=62 birds harvested), there was a 22% decrease in the number of birds reported harvested in District 5. Since 2017, trends in turkey observations in District 5 indicate that avid hunters on average are observing 0.36 less hens, 0.50 more gobblers, and 0.33 less jakes annually per 100 hours hunted. The average number of hours per hunt was 2.98 hours, with a total of 1,215 hours.

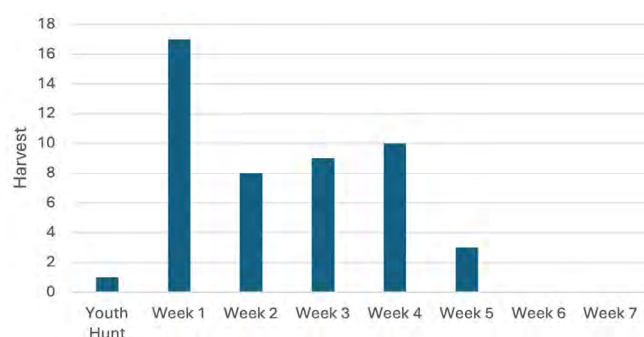
Gobblers and Gobbles Heard per 10 Hours Hunted



Turkey Observations per 100 Hours Hunted



Spring Season Harvest by Week





JOIN THE AVID TURKEY HUNTER SURVEY

Are you an avid turkey hunter AND want to contribute to the conservation and management of wild turkeys in Alabama?

What is the Avid Turkey Hunter Survey?

The Avid Turkey Hunter Survey, launched in 2014, collects long-term data on turkey activity and population trends across the state. Data submitted by participating hunters help ADCNR biologists track gobbling activity, hunter effort, harvest rates, and population structure. This information directly informs season frameworks, bag limits, and other management decisions.

How Can I Participate?

Participation is simple. If you turkey hunt in Alabama, you're eligible. Spend just a minute or two after each hunt recording what you observed, then enter your data online either daily or at the end of the season.

Your observations help guide turkey management decisions that affect hunting opportunities today and in the future.

For questions or to participate in the survey, please contact:

Caleb Blake, Upland Game Bird Coordinator

Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, Wildlife Section
caleb.blake@dcnr.alabama.gov





WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES BROOD SURVEY

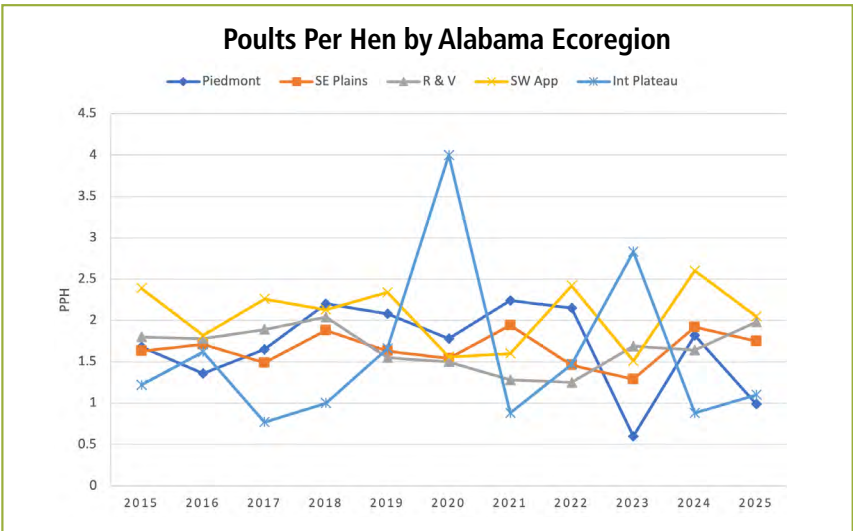
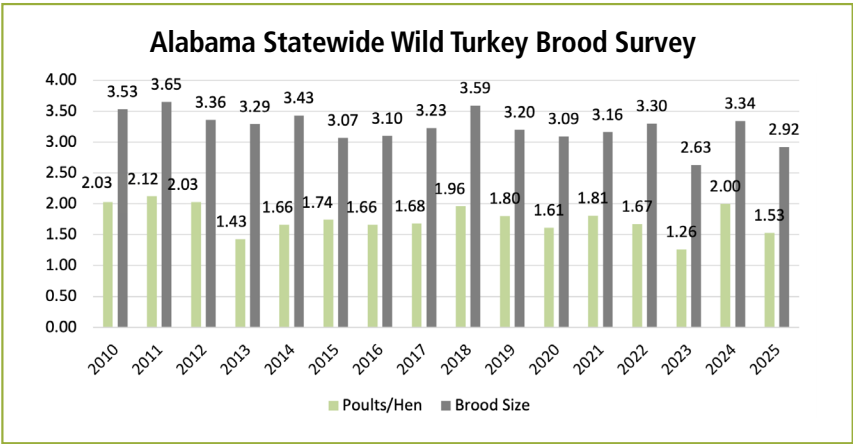
Each summer from June through August, WFF conducts a statewide Wild Turkey Brood Survey with help from agency staff and trusted partners. This survey helps biologists track turkey reproduction and long-term population trends across Alabama.

Participants record the number of hens, gobblers, jakes, and poults they see during this observational timeframe. These observations allow biologists to estimate reproductive success, commonly measured as poults per hen (PPH). Higher PPH generally indicate stronger reproduction and better population stability.

Data collected since 2010 reveal a long-term decline in turkey reproduction statewide. While some years have

shown short-term improvement, overall trends indicate fewer poults per hen and smaller broods. Conventional wisdom states that an average PPH at or above 2.00 is needed for a sustainable population. Results from the 2025 survey (1.53 PPH) suggest this decline continues, reinforcing concerns about turkey productivity across the state.

Results of the Wild Turkey Brood Survey play a direct role in helping guide turkey management efforts in Alabama. These data help biologists evaluate habitat conditions, assess population health, and develop strategies to support sustainable turkey populations for future generations.



2025

WILD TURKEY BROOD SURVEY OBSERVATIONAL DATA SUMMARY

Observational surveys were conducted during the months of July and August.

	OBSERVATIONS	TURKEYS OBSERVED					POULTS PER HEN TOTAL	POULTS PER HEN WITH POULTS	PERCENT OF HENS WITH POULTS	GOBBLER TO HEN RATIO
		GOBBLERS	HENS WITHOUT POULTS	HENS WITH POULTS	POULTS	UNKNOWN				
STATEWIDE	429	317	303	331	967	94	1.53	2.92	52.21%	1:2.00

DISTRICT 1 TOTALS	146	114	105	123	293	23	1.29	2.38	53.95%	1:2.00
DISTRICT 2 TOTALS	123	72	92	93	286	26	1.55	3.08	50.27%	1:2.57
DISTRICT 3 TOTALS	17	10	11	18	48	1	1.66	2.67	62.07%	1:2.90
DISTRICT 4 TOTALS	95	76	70	76	291	14	1.99	3.83	52.05%	1:1.92
DISTRICT 5 TOTALS	48	45	25	21	49	30	1.07	2.33	45.65%	1:1.02

PIEDMONT	43	27	29	31	72	10	1.20	2.32	51.67%	1:2.22
SOUTHEASTERN PLAINS	248	208	177	193	559	56	1.51	2.90	52.16%	1:1.78
RIDGE & VALLEY	54	44	42	42	142	11	1.69	3.38	50.0%	1:1.91
SOUTHWESTERN APPALACHIANS	66	24	46	50	162	17	1.69	3.24	52.08%	1:4.00
INTERIOR PLATEAU	18	14	9	15	32	0	1.33	2.13	62.5%	1:1.71

HUNTING CLUB	11	5	6	9	31	1	2.07	3.44	60.0%	1:3.00
PUBLIC	4	2	2	2	4	0	1.00	2.00	50.0%	1:2.00
PRIVATE	245	162	159	211	686	51	1.85	3.25	57.03%	1:2.28
DMAP	8	22	3	9	8	0	0.67	0.89	75.0%	1:0.55
WMA	125	93	100	89	216	22	1.14	2.43	47.09%	1:2.03
SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY AREA	17	14	8	2	0	20	0.00	0.00	20.0%	1:2.03
FEDERAL	19	19	25	9	22	0	0.65	2.44	26.47%	1:1.79



GAME CHECK REPORTED HARVEST

The Game Check system allows annual wild turkey harvest data to be collected from both licensed and license-exempt hunters, providing a more accurate representation of statewide harvest. Through Game Check participation, biologists can evaluate harvest trends at the county level, statewide, and on specific public landholdings such as Wildlife Management Areas. Game Check also provides information on harvest characteristics, including timing and harvest intensity throughout the season. Collecting detailed and representative harvest data over multiple seasons allows biologists to make targeted management recommendations to help ensure healthy and sustainable wild turkey populations. For turkey hunters, this translates to more gobbling birds and continued harvest opportunities. We commend all hunters who comply with harvest reporting requirements through Game Check.

Game Check results from the 2025 season indicate that 17,049 harvested gobblers were reported, representing a 7% decrease from the 18,263 gobblers reported during the 2024 season. There was also a 4% decrease in the number of hunters reporting a harvest in 2025 compared to 2024. Harvest distribution (i.e., birds harvested

per hunter) remained consistent over the years, with approximately 85% of reporting hunters harvesting two birds or fewer in both seasons.

WFF also conducts a post-season telephone survey of licensed Alabama hunters through Responsive Management, Inc. to collect hunting and harvest information for comparison with Game Check data. These surveys include both licensed and license-exempt hunters to better represent total hunter participation and harvest statewide. Results from the 2025 post-season survey estimate that approximately 70,330 hunters harvested 41,869 male turkeys during the season.

Harvest data collection is a critical component of managing Alabama's wild turkey population. Game Check provides WFF with information on harvest timing, harvest numbers, and the distribution of harvest across the state. These data are used to guide management decisions related to season frameworks, including season timing, bag limits, and hunting zones. Hunters are encouraged to do their part by reporting harvests through Game Check and helping ensure effective management of wild turkeys in Alabama.

All hunters are required to report their turkey harvest using Game Check, which will help the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources effectively manage wildlife for generations.

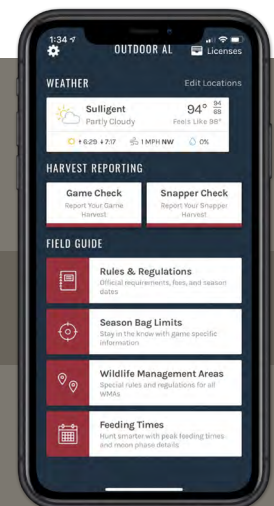
Check your harvest at **OutdoorAlabama.com/GameCheck** or by using the official ADCNR mobile app **Outdoor AL**



Search **OUTDOOR AL**
on your app store!

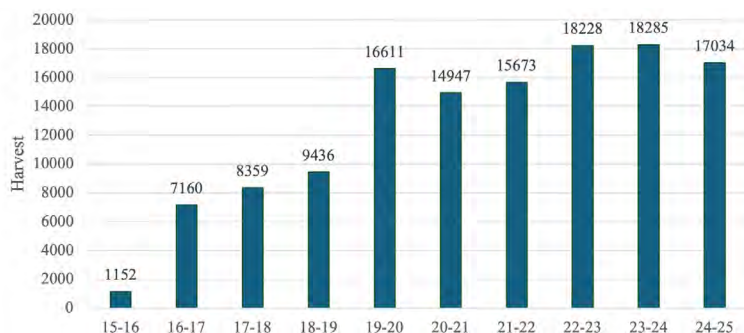
Available on the
App Store

Get it on
Google play

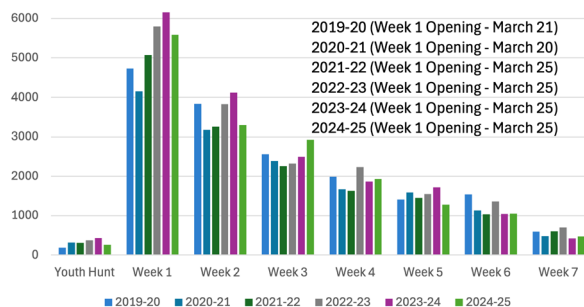


GAME CHECK REPORTED HARVEST

Wild Turkey Game Check Harvest By Year



Game Check Reported Harvest by Season Week



TURKEY HARVESTS REPORTED THROUGH GAME CHECK

Harvest Per Hunter	2019		2020		2021		2022	
	# of Hunters	% of Total	# of Hunters	% of Total	# of Hunters	% of Total	# of Hunters	% of Total
1	3,384	61.09%	5,015	57.24%	5,603	63.90%	6,544	66.01%
2	1,215	21.94%	1,937	22.11%	1,848	21.07%	2,073	20.91%
3	518	9.35%	895	10.22%	743	8.47%	857	8.64%
4	249	4.50%	518	5.91%	352	4.01%	440	4.44%
5	173	3.12%	396	4.52%	223	2.54%		
Total	5,539		8,761		8,769		9,914	

Harvest Per Hunter	2023		2024		2025	
	# of Hunters	% of Total	# of Hunters	% of Total	# of Hunters	% of Total
1	6,938	62.92%	7,466	65.18%	7,366	67.12%
2	2,401	21.78%	2,418	21.11%	2,260	20.59%
3	1,119	10.15%	1,022	8.92%	907	8.26%
4	568	5.15%	548	4.78%	442	4.03%
5						
Total	11,023		11,454		10,975	



2025 TURKEY HARVEST GAME CHECK BY COUNTY

