2023-2024

ALABAMA HUNTER HARVEST ANNUAL REPORT

This study was conducted for the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources by Responsive Management

RESPONSIVE MANAGEMENT

ALABAMA HUNTER HARVEST 2023-2024

September 2024

Responsive Management
Mark Damian Duda, Executive Director
Martin Jones, Senior Research Associate
Tom Beppler, Senior Research Associate
Amanda Center, Research Associate
Andrea Criscione, Senior Research Associate
Patrick Doherty, Research Associate
Gregory L. Hughes, P.E., Research Associate
Jeremiah Morris, Survey Center Manager
Alison Lanier, Business Manager

PO Box 1828
Harrisonburg, VA 22801-9500
540/432-1888
Email: mark@responsivemanagement.com
www.responsivemanagement.com

Acknowledgment

Responsive Management would like to thank Amy Silvano of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for her input, support, and guidance on this project.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Responsive Management conducted this study for the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (hereinafter referred to as the Department) to determine Alabama licensed hunters' participation in hunting and harvest of various species, the amount of harvest reporting compliance, and other characteristics of their hunting in Alabama in the 2023-2024 seasons. This marks the seventh annual hunter harvest survey conducted by Responsive Management for the Department, starting with the 2017-2018 hunting seasons. The study entailed a scientific, probability-based telephone survey of Alabama licensed hunters.

The researchers chose to use telephones as the preferred sampling mode primarily because Responsive Management's past experience on harvest surveys has shown that license holders who do not actively participate in hunting or who do not successfully harvest an animal are less likely to respond to a mail or online survey than to a telephone survey, as there is more effort involved in responding via mail or online. Mail and online surveys, therefore, obtain more avid samples than do telephone surveys because hunters who did not hunt or harvest will readily tell an interviewer verbally that they did not do so but are much less motivated to answer even a single survey question on paper and mail it or go to a web address and respond online. Thus, harvest surveys performed via mail or online have an inherent risk of overestimating harvest because of the decreased response from those who did not hunt and/or harvest during the season. Additional reasons for selecting telephones as the preferred survey mode are detailed in the body of the report.

Responsive Management, in collaboration with the Department, developed the telephone survey questionnaire based on the aforementioned previous surveys conducted for the Department from 2018 to 2023. Responsive Management computer coded the survey for its computer-assisted telephone interviewing system.

After the surveys were obtained, the Survey Center managers and statisticians checked each completed survey to ensure clarity and completeness. Responsive Management obtained 3,402 completed interviews with Alabama licensed hunters, 3,084 of whom went hunting.

The analysis of the data was performed using IBM SPSS Statistics as well as proprietary software developed by Responsive Management. The results were weighted by license type and residency status so that the overall sample was representative of Alabama licensed hunters as a whole. For the entire sample of Alabama licensed hunters, the sampling error is at most plus or minus 1.75 percentage points.

HUNTING DEER: PARTICIPATION, TYPES OF LAND, EQUIPMENT, DAYS, HARVEST, AND REPORTING COMPLIANCE

- In 2023-2024, there were more than 235,000 hunters who hunted deer during the deer seasons in Alabama.
  - These hunters hunted deer for more than 5.4 million days.
  - Over 314,000 deer were harvested during the 2023-2024 seasons.

Deer Hunting: Hunters, Days, and Harvest (2023-2024)

Deer / Equipment / Land / Deer Type	Number of Hunters	Hunter-Days	Number Harvested
Deer-All	235,205	5,429,865	314,496
Archery	100,686	1,539,138	61,048
Modern	205,944	3,683,573	240,572
Primitive	23,566	207,154	13,046
Private Land		4,892,733	293,809
WMAs		263,082	8,862
Other Public		274,050	11,826
Buck			147,880
Doe			158,212

WMAs refers to Wildlife Management Areas.

- Overall, 78% of deer harvesters reported all of their deer. Further analysis shows that 87% of all *deer* that were harvested by licensed hunters were reported.

- Nearly three quarters of those who harvested deer in 2023-2024 (72%) have used a commercial processor to process at least some of their deer harvest over the past 3 years.

HUNTING TURKEY: PARTICIPATION, SEASONS, EQUIPMENT, DAYS, HARVEST, AND REPORTING COMPLIANCE

- Over 69,000 hunters hunted turkey in Alabama during the 2023-2024 seasons.
  - Turkey hunters spent over 701,000 days hunting turkey.
  - Nearly 36,000 turkeys were harvested in the 2023-2024 seasons in Alabama. This is substantially less than the 2022-2023 turkey harvest (trends are shown in the body of the report), although it closely matches the 2021-2022 value.

Turkey Hunting: Hunters, Days, and Harvest (2023-2024)

Turkey / Equipment / Season / Turkey Type	Number of Hunters	Hunter-Days	Number Harvested
Turkey-All	69,130	701,496	35,906
Archery		13,016	
Modern		674,813	
Primitive		13,668	
Fall	2,307	24,196	250
Spring	67,380	677,301	35,655
Jakes			1,380
Gobblers			34,525

- Overall, 89% of turkey harvesters reported all of their harvest. Further analysis shows that 91% of all *turkeys* that were harvested by licensed hunters were reported.

HUNTING QUAIL: PARTICIPATION, TYPES OF QUAIL HUNTED, DAYS, AND HARVEST

- Over 11,00 quail hunters harvested nearly 259,000 quail over the course of approximately 62,000 hunting days. Most of the quail harvest was pen-raised.

Quail Hunting: Hunters, Days, and Harvest (2023-2024)

Quail / Quail Type	Number of Hunters	Hunter-Days	Number Harvested
Quail-All	11,046	62,199	258,966
Wild	1,762	12,273	17,635
Pen-Raised	9,661	49,926	241,331

HUNTING DOVE: PARTICIPATION, SPLIT HUNTED, DAYS, AND HARVEST

- Over 63,000 hunters hunted dove in the 2023-2024 seasons, hunting about 227,000 days and harvesting nearly 1.4 million dove.

Dove Hunting: Hunters, Days, and Harvest (2023-2024)

	Number of Hunters	Hunter-Days	Number Harvested
Dove-All	63,387	227,258	1,395,747
First Split		160,110	1,045,925
Remaining Splits		55,630	295,491
Unknown Splits			54,330

HUNTING OTHER SPECIES: PARTICIPATION, DAYS, AND HARVEST

- Data regarding hunting of other species are shown in the table below. The most popular of these other species among hunters in the 2023-2024 seasons were wild hog, duck, squirrel, and coyote, each hunted by over 20,000 hunters.

Small Game Hunting: Hunters, Days, and Harvest (2023-2024)

Species	Number of Hunters	Hunter-Days	Number Harvested
Bobcat	3,328	5,001	3,045
Coot	1,690	1,841	10,729
Coyote	22,012	100,334	83,036
Duck	25,399	248,497	458,747
Fox	1,202	6,363	2,201
Goose	6,541	28,121	39,277
Opossum	1,399	3,521	6,452
Rabbit	9,613	111,532	71,550
Raccoon	7,767	166,681	94,205
Snipe	448	1,260	3,157
Squirrel	23,732	142,122	287,589
Wild hog	38,195	196,023	313,410
Woodcock	505	1,149	921

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

Responsive Management conducted this study for the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (hereinafter referred to as the Department) to determine Alabama licensed hunters' participation in hunting and harvest of various species, the amount of harvest reporting compliance, and other characteristics of their hunting in Alabama in the 2023-2024 seasons. This marks the seventh annual hunter harvest survey conducted by Responsive Management for the Department, starting with the 2017-2018 hunting seasons. The study entailed a scientific, probability-based telephone survey of Alabama licensed hunters. Specific aspects of the research methodology are discussed below.

USE OF TELEPHONES FOR THE SURVEY

The researchers chose to use telephones as the preferred sampling mode for several reasons. Responsive Management's past experience on harvest surveys has shown that license holders who do not actively participate in hunting or who do not successfully harvest an animal are less likely to respond to a mail or online survey than to a telephone survey, as there is more effort involved in responding via mail or online. Mail and online surveys, therefore, obtain more avid samples than do telephone surveys because hunters who did not hunt or harvest will readily tell an interviewer verbally that they did not do so but are much less motivated to answer even a single survey question on paper and mail it or go to a web address and respond online. Thus, harvest surveys performed via mail or online have an inherent risk of overestimating harvest because of the decreased response from those who did not hunt and/or harvest during the season.

Another important reason for choosing telephones as the preferred survey mode is that mail and online surveys systematically exclude those who have difficulty reading. In 2016, the U.S. Department of Education's National Institute of Literacy estimated that 43% of the general population of the United States cannot read beyond a "basic level," suggesting that many might be reticent to complete a mail or online survey they must read to themselves. Additionally, people with poor or limited internet service or who are not comfortable with technology may be hesitant to complete a survey online. However, telephone surveys allow respondents who cannot or will not respond to a mail or online survey to participate. In a telephone survey, a live interviewer reads the survey questions, clarifies them if necessary, and assists the respondent with completing the survey, making it an excellent option to reduce bias and increase response to the survey.

The last reason that the researchers chose to use telephones for this survey is because telephone surveys have fewer negative effects on the environment than do mail surveys because of the reduced use of paper, reduced energy consumption for delivering and returning the questionnaires, and reduced quantity of material to be disposed of after the survey.

QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN

Responsive Management, in collaboration with the Department, developed the telephone survey questionnaire based on the aforementioned previous surveys conducted for the Department from 2018 to 2023. Responsive Management computer coded the survey for its

computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) system. An important aspect of this CATI system is that the computer controls which questions are asked, but each telephone survey is administered by a live interviewer. Responsive Management conducted pre-tests of the questionnaire to ensure proper wording, flow, and logic in the survey and to ensure that the survey was updated for the 2023-2024 hunting seasons.

Responsive Management also developed an online version of the questionnaire that was given to those who had cell phones and who could not be reached after repeated call attempts, as explained further on. This version was the same as the telephone version with slight wording adjustments to account for the online mode. Note that the online survey was closed, meaning it was available only to respondents who were specifically selected for the survey; it was offered only to those who were in the telephone sample.

Responsive Management conducted pre-tests of the questionnaires to ensure proper wording, flow, and logic in the survey. The survey included screener questions to confirm that hunters were 16 years old or older and were licensed to hunt in the 2023-2024 seasons. A further question asked if they had hunted in Alabama during the 2023-2024 hunting seasons to determine the participation rate, and those who had hunted were then given the full survey.

SURVEY SAMPLE

The Department provided the sample of Alabama licensed hunters for this study. The sample was stratified based on residents/nonresidents and by lifetime license holders/non-lifetime license holders (i.e., lifetime versus any other type of hunting license). Within each of these sub-samples, a probability-based selection process ensured that each eligible hunter had an equal chance of being selected for the survey. All groups were then proportioned properly during the data analyses, using the proportions in the entire dataset of license holders (resident vs. non-resident, and lifetime license holder vs. any other license holder).

TELEPHONE SURVEY DATA COLLECTION AND QUALITY CONTROL

The interviews were conducted using Responsive Management's CATI system, which utilizes software for telephone data collection. The survey data were entered into the computer as each interview was being conducted, eliminating manual data entry after the completion of the survey and the concomitant data entry errors that may occur with manual data entry. The survey instrument was programmed so that the CATI system branched, coded, and substituted phrases in the survey based on previous responses to ensure the integrity and consistency of the data collection. The software also allowed for error checks during the interview to help ensure that the data were accurate and valid.

For quality control of the telephone surveys, Survey Center managers monitored interviews in real time and provided feedback to the interviewers. To ensure that the data collected by telephone are of the highest quality, the interviewers are trained through lectures, role-playing, and video training, according to the standards established by the American Association for Public Opinion Research. The Survey Center managers conducted briefings with the interviewers prior to the administration of this survey. Interviewers were instructed on type of

study, study goals and objectives, handling of survey questions, interview length, termination points and qualifiers for participation, interviewer instructions within the survey questionnaire, reading of the survey questions, skip patterns, and probing and clarifying techniques necessary for specific questions on the survey questionnaires, thereby ensuring the integrity of the data.

Telephone surveying times were Monday through Friday from noon to 9:00 p.m., local time. A five-callback design was used to maintain the representativeness of the sample, to avoid bias toward people easy to reach by telephone, and to provide an equal opportunity for all hunters to participate. When a hunter could not be reached on the first call, subsequent calls were placed on different days of the week and at different times of the day.

When potential cell phone respondents could not be reached after repeated call attempts, they were sent a text message from an Alabama number inviting them to take the survey online as a self-administered survey. The text provided a link to the online survey that had an introduction with more information and instructions to begin the survey. This online option helped to raise the response rate. A copy of the text and online introduction are shown below.

Text Message Sent to Cell Phone Nonrespondents to Encourage Participation in the Survey

This is Amanda with Responsive Management. The Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries would like your input on your hunting in Alabama. Please consider participating in this brief survey [survey link].

Online Survey Introduction for Cell Phone Nonrespondents Who Were Provided the Link

The Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries is conducting its annual hunting study to get feedback from hunters in order to better understand hunting participation, experiences, preferences, and opinions in the state.

As one of the hunters selected to participate in the study, your answers are very important to this study and to future management decisions.

Your answers will be kept completely confidential and will not be associated with your name or contact information in any way. The survey will only take 5-10 minutes, based on your level of activity.

Responsive Management, an independent research firm that specializes in natural resource and fish and wildlife issues, has been contracted by the Division to conduct this study. If you need technical assistance with the survey, please contact Responsive Management via email at research@responsivemanagement.com.

Thank you for your time and willingness to participate.

Please click "Next" or the arrow below to begin the survey.

After the surveys were obtained, the Survey Center managers and statisticians checked each completed survey to ensure clarity and completeness. Responsive Management obtained 3,402 completed interviews with Alabama licensed hunters, 3,084 of whom went hunting.

DATA ANALYSIS

The data were collected and weighted by license type. The sample was divided into three distinct groups:

- Lifetime license holders.
- Resident non-lifetime license holders.
- Nonresident non-lifetime license holders.

Survey interviews from these groups were then obtained in their proper proportions. Once the data were collected, response rates were computed for each of these groups individually, and these were used to estimate the total number of participants and to weight the final data, as lifetime licensees had a considerably lower rate of participation in hunting than the other license categories.

The analysis of the data was performed using IBM SPSS Statistics as well as proprietary software developed by Responsive Management. The results were weighted by the aforementioned stratification variables so that the overall sample was representative of Alabama licensed hunters as a whole. As indicated, residents and nonresidents were in their proper proportions, as were lifetime license holders and non-lifetime license holders.

The data analysis for this survey included a trends analysis, in which the results of this survey are shown alongside those from the previous surveys for comparison. It is important to note that an additional license, the Resident Bait Privilege License, was added to the database of licensed Alabama hunters in the 2021 survey (for the 2020-2021 seasons) and subsequent years. This additional license added nearly 30,000 hunters to the overall sample; therefore, comparisons of hunting and harvest numbers before and after this addition should take the change into consideration.

SAMPLING ERROR

Throughout this report, findings of the telephone survey are reported at a 95% confidence interval. For the entire sample of Alabama licensed hunters, the sampling error is at most plus or minus 1.75 percentage points. This means that if the survey were conducted 100 times on different samples that were selected in the same way, the findings of 95 out of the 100 surveys would fall within plus or minus 1.75 percentage points of each other. Sampling error was calculated using the standard formula described on the following page, with a sample size of 3,084 and an estimated population size of 261,295 Alabama licensed hunters.

Sampling Error Equation

$$B = \left(\sqrt{\frac{\frac{N_p(.25)}{N_s} - .25}{N_p - 1}} \right)(1.96)$$

Where: B = maximum sampling error (as decimal)
N_P = population size (i.e., total number who could be surveyed)
N_S = sample size (i.e., total number of respondents surveyed)

Derived from formula: p. 206 in Dillman, D. A. 2000. *Mail and Internet Surveys*. John Wiley & Sons, NY.

Note: This is a simplified version of the formula that calculates the maximum sampling error using a 50:50 split (the most conservative calculation because a 50:50 split would give maximum variation).

HUNTING DEER: PARTICIPATION, TYPES OF LAND, EQUIPMENT, DAYS, HARVEST, AND REPORTING COMPLIANCE

- In 2023-2024, there were more than 235,000 hunters who hunted deer during the deer seasons in Alabama.
  - These hunters hunted deer for more than 5.4 million days.
  - More than 314,000 deer were harvested during the 2023-2024 seasons.
  - By far, hunters most commonly hunted deer with modern firearms: this weapon type accounted for the most deer hunters, days, and harvest. This was followed, at about half the number of hunters, by archery equipment, with primitive firearms being the least used.
  - Most deer hunting and harvest was on private lands.
    - County data are shown, as well.

Deer Hunting: Hunters, Days, and Harvest (2023-2024)

Deer / Equipment / Land / Deer Type	Number of Hunters			Hunter-Days			Number Harvested		
	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Deer-All	235,205	232,440	237,971	5,429,865	5,200,288	5,659,442	314,496	298,171	330,822
Archery	100,686	96,197	105,175	1,539,138	1,415,021	1,663,255	61,048	49,984	72,111
Modern	205,944	202,175	209,713	3,683,573	3,517,456	3,849,690	240,572	226,522	254,621
Primitive	23,566	20,924	26,208	207,154	165,422	248,886	13,046	4,043	22,048
Private Land				4,892,733	4,674,992	5,110,474	293,809	277,692	309,925
WMAs				263,082	214,695	311,468	8,862	775	16,949
Other Public				274,050	212,673	335,428	11,826	1,698	21,953
Buck							147,880	139,178	156,582
Doe							158,212	146,726	169,699

WMAs refers to Wildlife Management Areas.

Deer Hunting: Mean Days, Deer Harvest per Hunter, Days per Harvest, and Buck-Doe Percentages (2023-2024)

	Mean Days per Hunter	Deer Harvest per Hunter	Days per Harvest	Percentage
Deer Overall	23.1	1.34	17.3	
Archery		0.61	15.3	
Modern		1.17	25.2	
Primitive		0.55	15.9	
Buck				47.0
Doe				53.0

Deer Hunting: Harvest of Bucks, Does, and Fawns by County (2023-2024)

County	Harvest of Bucks			Harvest of Does			Harvest of Fawns		
	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Autauga	2,208	1,031	3,386	2,840	1,134	4,546	140	0	353
Baldwin	4,744	2,980	6,508	5,588	3,295	7,880	167	0	400
Barbour	2,936	1,632	4,240	4,025	2,191	5,859	83	0	248
Bibb	2,957	1,719	4,195	3,073	1,365	4,782	306	0	699
Blount	1,425	589	2,261	616	130	1,103	0	0	0
Bullock	1,896	973	2,818	4,253	2,121	6,386	0	0	0
Butler	2,392	1,172	3,611	1,522	405	2,640	341	0	750
Calhoun	1,200	433	1,968	1,423	334	2,512	112	0	304
Chambers	1,892	768	3,016	1,479	571	2,386	417	0	1,241
Cherokee	1,286	444	2,127	2,348	891	3,805	196	0	448
Chilton	2,432	1,413	3,451	4,375	2,644	6,106	279	0	581
Choctaw	2,794	1,537	4,051	2,844	1,299	4,389	0	0	0
Clarke	2,835	1,598	4,073	2,253	920	3,586	83	0	248
Clay	2,532	1,167	3,898	1,290	563	2,017	0	0	0
Cleburne	780	178	1,381	1,904	724	3,083	86	0	253
Coffee	2,242	1,118	3,365	1,621	561	2,681	112	0	383
Colbert	1,146	179	2,113	1,624	176	3,073	0	0	0
Conecuh	1,525	540	2,510	2,222	987	3,457	56	0	191
Coosa	3,130	1,618	4,641	2,680	1,231	4,129	167	0	400
Covington	2,456	1,348	3,564	4,379	2,109	6,650	250	0	536
Crenshaw	1,346	372	2,320	2,025	537	3,513	0	0	0
Cullman	2,291	1,161	3,420	865	172	1,558	0	0	0
Dale	1,371	457	2,284	901	0	1,878	0	0	0
Dallas	3,334	1,910	4,758	3,085	1,390	4,779	56	0	191
DeKalb	1,929	831	3,027	1,981	169	3,793	56	0	191
Elmore	2,825	1,672	3,977	3,450	1,458	5,442	83	0	248
Escambia	3,326	1,587	5,065	1,813	697	2,929	350	13	688
Etowah	867	257	1,477	504	56	952	0	0	0
Fayette	1,956	1,014	2,899	1,675	581	2,770	0	0	0
Franklin	950	200	1,701	1,120	185	2,056	56	0	191
Geneva	726	139	1,313	1,090	114	2,066	0	0	0
Greene	530	73	986	1,057	273	1,841	0	0	0
Hale	2,347	1,275	3,419	1,214	544	1,883	167	0	400
Henry	1,682	587	2,776	3,055	1,336	4,773	169	0	404
Houston	866	200	1,532	1,254	280	2,228	0	0	0
Jackson	2,772	1,622	3,922	1,229	399	2,059	0	0	0
Jefferson	2,930	1,610	4,250	2,791	1,269	4,312	924	197	1,650
Lamar	1,567	355	2,778	1,454	501	2,407	56	0	191
Lauderdale	2,602	1,205	3,999	1,706	574	2,838	0	0	0
Lawrence	2,013	870	3,155	867	0	1,853	56	0	191
Lee	2,024	1,120	2,928	1,494	656	2,331	350	13	688
Limestone	1,985	420	3,551	1,701	407	2,994	56	0	191
Lowndes	2,348	948	3,748	1,726	422	3,030	86	0	253
Macon	1,445	685	2,206	2,822	1,296	4,348	167	0	400
Madison	2,504	1,092	3,916	2,474	1,022	3,927	83	0	248
Marengo	3,496	1,820	5,173	4,375	2,428	6,323	0	0	0
Marion	2,118	1,018	3,218	3,124	1,085	5,164	0	0	0
Marshall	814	0	1,653	112	0	304	0	0	0
Mobile	1,560	545	2,575	2,139	1,003	3,275	167	0	496
Monroe	1,470	742	2,198	2,002	588	3,416	56	0	191
Montgomery	2,696	1,278	4,114	3,155	1,742	4,568	0	0	0
Morgan	952	36	1,868	1,217	285	2,149	0	0	0
Perry	2,726	1,575	3,877	2,626	1,257	3,996	601	159	1,042
Pickens	2,812	1,361	4,262	3,979	1,806	6,153	255	0	544
Pike	2,114	1,029	3,199	2,371	891	3,851	0	0	0
Randolph	813	187	1,439	1,524	479	2,570	0	0	0
Russell	2,315	1,222	3,408	3,697	2,091	5,303	83	0	248

Deer Hunting: Harvest of Bucks, Does, and Fawns by County (2023-2024) (continued)

County	Harvest of Bucks			Harvest of Does			Harvest of Fawns		
	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
St. Clair	2,397	1,210	3,585	2,615	1,026	4,205	0	0	0
Shelby	4,017	2,530	5,505	4,412	2,727	6,098	252	0	538
Sumter	2,151	1,025	3,277	1,853	571	3,134	0	0	0
Talladega	2,116	945	3,288	2,564	1,067	4,061	167	0	496
Tallapoosa	1,737	711	2,763	3,074	1,349	4,799	397	38	756
Tuscaloosa	4,256	2,584	5,928	3,178	1,823	4,533	0	0	0
Walker	4,258	2,703	5,813	2,991	1,676	4,306	56	0	191
Washington	1,554	653	2,455	3,208	1,595	4,821	350	13	688
Wilcox	1,705	765	2,645	2,110	854	3,366	0	0	0
Winston	1,973	999	2,947	1,902	690	3,114	167	0	400
Unknown	4,262	2,797	5,727	3,878	2,133	5,622	506	38	973

Deer Hunting: Days by County (2023-2024)

County	Days		
	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Autauga	85,128	51,247	119,009
Baldwin	238,467	172,438	304,496
Barbour	105,424	63,824	147,024
Bibb	83,850	52,160	115,539
Blount	82,734	48,080	117,387
Bullock	104,354	59,535	149,173
Butler	52,130	27,061	77,198
Calhoun	74,889	49,355	100,423
Chambers	72,881	39,421	106,341
Cherokee	55,376	28,909	81,843
Chilton	109,757	71,555	147,960
Choctaw	66,052	35,653	96,450
Clarke	101,876	67,812	135,940
Clay	87,654	56,409	118,899
Cleburne	81,493	48,941	114,046
Coffee	78,044	49,299	106,788
Colbert	56,425	28,135	84,715
Conecuh	56,905	31,404	82,406
Coosa	94,201	60,051	128,351
Covington	123,591	74,175	173,007
Crenshaw	39,395	17,769	61,021
Cullman	78,773	48,754	108,792
Dale	57,984	30,110	85,859
Dallas	89,916	58,822	121,011
DeKalb	58,500	31,632	85,367
Elmore	108,932	67,903	149,960
Escambia	57,348	32,962	81,734
Etowah	34,035	14,894	53,175
Fayette	79,930	50,339	109,521
Franklin	37,522	17,533	57,510
Geneva	29,681	7,278	52,083
Greene	35,301	21,484	49,118
Hale	58,434	29,590	87,278
Henry	72,731	43,854	101,608
Houston	38,594	20,936	56,251
Jackson	135,875	92,873	178,877
Jefferson	160,889	112,071	209,708
Lamar	71,180	34,536	107,824
Lauderdale	69,390	40,566	98,215
Lawrence	76,794	45,995	107,593

Deer Hunting: Days by County (2023-2024) (continued)

County	Days		
	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Lee	62,103	39,016	85,190
Limestone	42,104	22,367	61,841
Lowndes	55,066	31,545	78,587
Macon	51,139	29,493	72,785
Madison	84,125	50,934	117,316
Marengo	95,802	63,895	127,709
Marion	84,288	47,342	121,233
Marshall	44,295	19,409	69,182
Mobile	89,108	54,752	123,465
Monroe	88,621	53,766	123,476
Montgomery	61,664	34,601	88,726
Morgan	51,949	27,727	76,172
Perry	100,808	63,911	137,706
Pickens	83,467	48,193	118,740
Pike	69,988	36,397	103,578
Randolph	45,913	20,738	71,089
Russell	91,327	56,883	125,771
St. Clair	103,202	64,249	142,154
Shelby	153,325	108,878	197,772
Sumter	61,769	37,638	85,900
Talladega	67,188	41,732	92,644
Tallapoosa	72,172	38,924	105,419
Tuscaloosa	122,008	88,056	155,961
Walker	149,252	100,541	197,964
Washington	82,143	51,721	112,564
Wilcox	61,365	36,587	86,144
Winston	68,970	38,953	98,986
Unknown	80,560	56,388	104,733

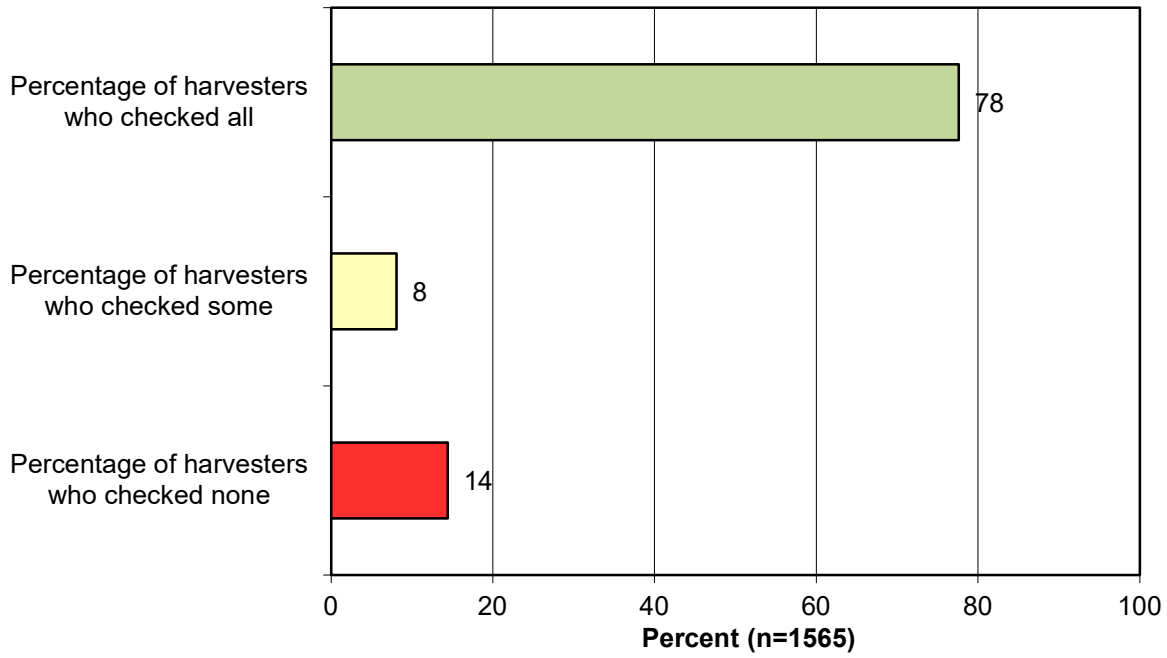
- The matrix below and the graph on the following page show compliance data among hunters who harvested deer (with "don't know" responses excluded). Overall, 78% of harvesters reported all of their deer, as represented by the green-shaded cells and the green bar on the graph. Further analysis shows that 87% of all *deer* that were harvested by licensed hunters were reported.

Compliance With Deer Reporting Requirements (Cells Show Percentage Out of All Those Who Harvested Excluding "Don't Know" Responses)

Deer	Reported 0	Reported 1	Reported 2	Reported 3	Reported 4	Reported 5	Reported 6
Harvested 1	8.1	36.5					
Harvested 2	2.6	1.5	20.9				
Harvested 3	1.5	0.9	0.7	11.8			
Harvested 4	1.0	0.2	0.6	1.3	3.6		
Harvested 5	0.5	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.5	2.6	
Harvested 6	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1	1.1

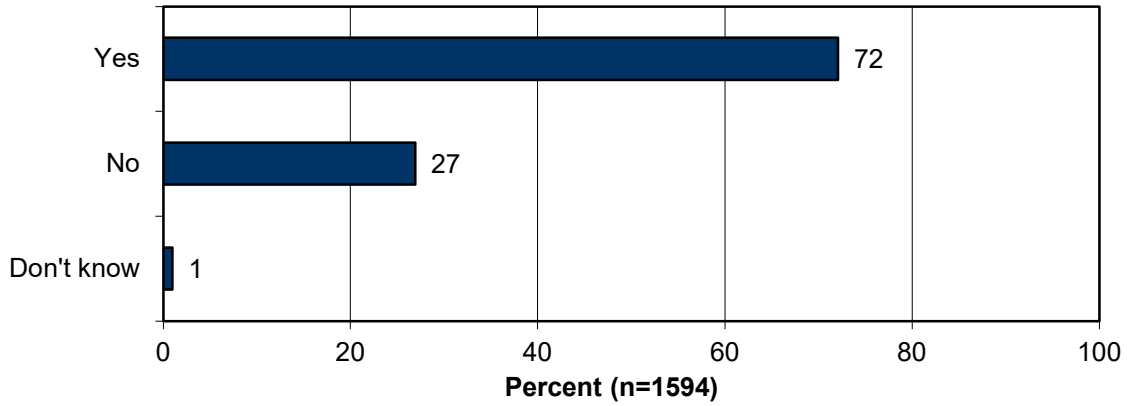
	Reported none	Reported some	Reported all
Harvested More Than 6	1.1	1.4	0.5

How many of the deer you harvested during the season did you report using the Alabama Game Check System? (Of those who harvested deer.)



- Nearly three quarters of those who harvested deer in 2023-2024 (72%) have used a commercial processor to process at least some of their deer harvest over the past 3 years. (Although the question has a 3-year timeframe, it was asked only of those who harvested in 2023-2024 to ensure that the respondent had harvested some deer before being asked the question.)

Did you use a commercial processor to process any deer you harvested in the past 3 years? (Asked of those who harvested deer in 2023-2024.)



HUNTING TURKEY: PARTICIPATION, SEASONS, EQUIPMENT, DAYS, HARVEST, AND REPORTING COMPLIANCE

- Over 69,000 hunters hunted turkey in Alabama during the 2023-2024 seasons.
  - Turkey hunters spent over 701,000 days hunting turkey.
  - Nearly 36,000 turkeys were harvested in the 2023-2024 seasons in Alabama.
  - Modern firearms were the most popular way to hunt turkey, accounting for most of the days of turkey hunting.
    - Over a third (36%) of those who hunted turkey with archery equipment used a crossbow.
  - By far, the spring season accounted for most of the turkey hunters, days, and harvest.
    - County data are also shown.

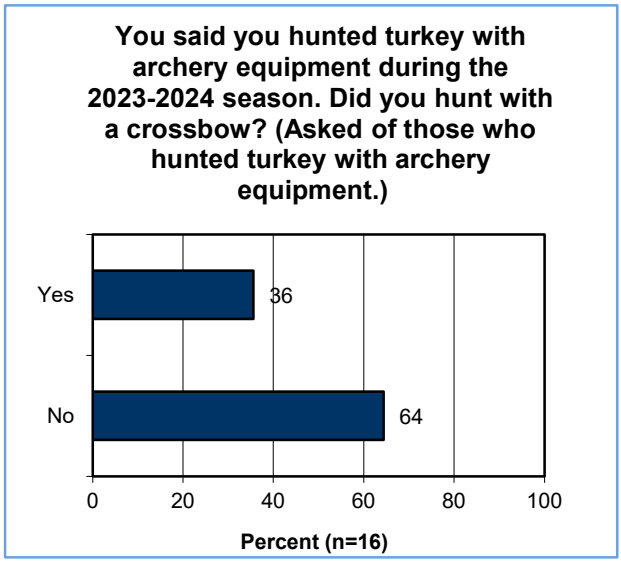
Turkey Hunting: Hunters, Days, and Harvest (2023-2024)

Turkey / Equipment / Season / Turkey Type	Number of Hunters			Hunter-Days			Number Harvested		
	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Turkey-All	69,130	65,058	73,202	701,496	631,048	771,945	35,906	30,933	40,878
Archery				13,016	0	27,156			
Modern				674,813	606,474	743,151			
Primitive				13,668	4,618	22,717			
Fall	2,307	1,444	3,170	24,196	10,624	37,767	250	0	536
Spring	67,380	63,346	71,415	677,301	609,980	744,621	35,655	30,689	40,622
Jakes							1,380	599	2,161
Gobblers							34,525	29,740	39,310

Turkey Hunting: Mean Days, Turkey Harvest per Hunter, and Days per Harvest (2023-2024)

	Mean Days per Hunter	Turkey Harvest per Hunter	Days per Harvest
Turkey Overall	10.1	0.52	19.5
Fall	10.5	0.11	* 96.7
Spring	10.1	0.53	19.0

* The relatively low number of hunters hunting in the fall combined with their low success rate produces a relatively large number of days per harvest.



Turkey Hunting: Harvest and Days by County (2023-2024)

County	Harvest of Turkeys			Days of Turkey Hunting		
	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Autauga	334	4	663	7,543	2,790	12,295
Baldwin	783	0	1,698	26,919	14,645	39,193
Barbour	1,165	358	1,972	15,241	6,421	24,060
Bibb	392	0	879	8,709	3,062	14,357
Blount	281	0	729	7,584	872	14,296
Bullock	501	97	904	9,026	3,078	14,975
Butler	308	0	874	6,971	0	14,322
Calhoun	1,094	240	1,948	11,764	1,826	21,703
Chambers	449	67	831	9,170	2,109	16,230
Cherokee	533	0	1,098	8,619	2,652	14,586
Chilton	223	0	492	10,287	4,186	16,388
Choctaw	836	111	1,561	12,935	2,153	23,717
Clarke	838	63	1,612	16,779	3,218	30,341
Clay	446	0	893	13,671	6,232	21,109
Cleburne	702	0	1,506	10,811	2,213	19,409
Coffee	751	0	1,541	19,707	0	41,025
Colbert	504	0	1,077	10,400	2,290	18,510
Conecuh	463	75	850	6,027	1,672	10,382
Coosa	671	131	1,210	24,238	10,013	38,463
Covington	502	0	1,276	11,288	3,199	19,378
Crenshaw	753	0	1,577	8,288	0	17,631
Cullman	1,597	224	2,970	12,921	3,843	21,998
Dale	667	0	1,404	7,381	926	13,836
Dallas	363	0	756	8,201	3,307	13,096
DeKalb	112	0	383	5,043	0	10,983
Elmore	688	178	1,198	15,360	6,029	24,691
Escambia	335	0	783	7,141	1,308	12,973
Etowah	83	0	248	9,240	0	23,741
Fayette	279	0	706	8,198	1,452	14,944
Franklin	783	136	1,430	8,546	1,484	15,607
Geneva	167	0	496	1,910	0	4,121
Greene	617	0	1,306	8,891	2,878	14,904
Hale	341	0	810	10,458	1,931	18,985
Henry	684	158	1,210	8,945	43	17,847
Houston	0	0	0	1,835	291	3,380
Jackson	981	286	1,675	22,574	10,586	34,562
Jefferson	584	0	1,222	14,556	7,271	21,841
Lamar	335	0	740	9,659	1,167	18,151
Lauderdale	706	0	1,525	10,676	2,891	18,462
Lawrence	252	0	538	8,639	880	16,398
Lee	167	0	400	9,233	548	17,918
Limestone	223	0	492	3,940	732	7,148
Lowndes	334	0	855	5,547	350	10,744
Macon	701	26	1,376	3,548	699	6,398
Madison	533	0	1,098	6,259	958	11,561
Marengo	586	39	1,132	16,306	6,966	25,646
Marion	1,114	285	1,942	8,603	2,962	14,245
Marshall	363	19	706	8,481	1,262	15,700
Mobile	250	0	619	4,011	1,102	6,920
Monroe	279	0	660	15,601	6,790	24,413
Montgomery	531	0	1,063	4,459	894	8,025
Morgan	0	0	0	169	0	574
Perry	83	0	248	7,446	1,668	13,223
Pickens	1,170	163	2,176	8,425	2,214	14,635
Pike	253	0	540	10,285	2,341	18,229
Randolph	225	0	766	5,590	0	12,286
Russell	167	0	400	4,447	0	9,171

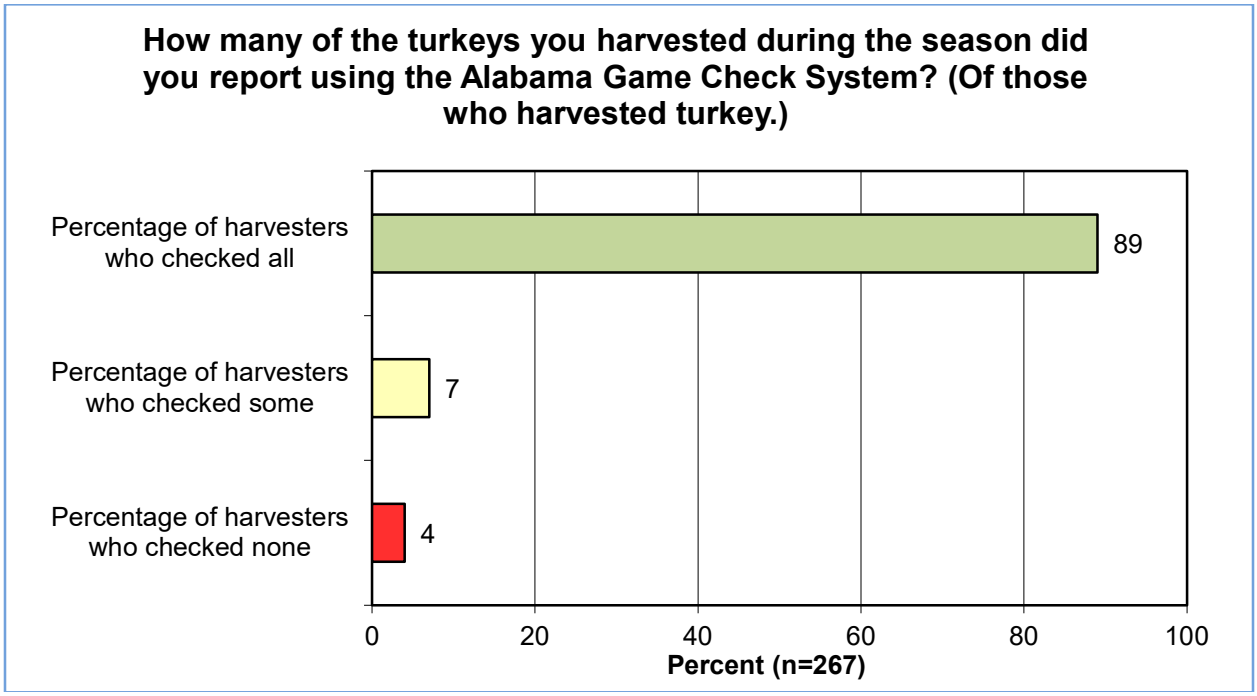
Turkey Hunting: Harvest and Days by County (2023-2024) (continued)

County	Harvest of Turkeys			Days of Turkey Hunting		
	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
St. Clair	308	0	625	7,291	1,233	13,348
Shelby	780	68	1,492	11,280	4,944	17,615
Sumter	1,001	41	1,961	12,629	4,002	21,256
Talladega	990	0	2,056	18,060	6,851	29,269
Tallapoosa	83	0	248	7,568	2,647	12,490
Tuscaloosa	865	270	1,460	25,239	12,597	37,880
Walker	642	95	1,189	9,781	3,071	16,491
Washington	392	0	879	9,516	4,217	14,815
Wilcox	223	0	492	8,067	3,426	12,707
Winston	446	65	827	17,910	6,077	29,743

- The turkey harvest reporting compliance data are shown in the matrix and graph below; the matrix and graph exclude "don't know" responses. Overall, 89% of turkey harvesters reported all of their harvest, as represented by the green-shaded cells and the green bar on the graph. Further analysis shows that 91% of all *turkeys* that were harvested by licensed hunters were reported.

Compliance With Turkey Reporting Requirements (Cells Show Percentage Out of All Those Who Harvested Excluding "Do Not Know" Responses)

	Reported 0	Reported 1	Reported 2	Reported 3	Reported 4
Harvested 1	1.9	42.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Harvested 2	1.3	2.3	26.5	0.0	0.0
Harvested 3	0.8	0.7	1.2	12.5	0.0
Harvested 4	0.3	0.1	1.3	1.3	7.0



HUNTING QUAIL: PARTICIPATION, TYPES OF QUAIL HUNTED, DAYS, AND HARVEST

- Over 11,00 quail hunters harvested nearly 259,000 quail over the course of approximately 62,000 hunting days. Most of the quail harvest was pen-raised.

Quail Hunting: Hunters, Days, and Harvest (2023-2024)

Quail / Quail Type	Number of Hunters			Hunter-Days			Number Harvested		
	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Quail-All	11,046	9,190	12,902	62,199	43,355	81,042	258,966	170,146	347,786
Wild	1,762	1,007	2,517	12,273	4,496	20,050	17,635	6,092	29,177
Pen-Raised	9,661	7,921	11,402	49,926	33,943	65,908	241,331	155,035	327,628

Quail Hunting: Mean Days and Days per Harvest (2023-2024)

Quail	
Mean Days per Hunter	Days per Harvest
5.6	0.24

HUNTING DOVE: PARTICIPATION, SPLIT HUNTED, DAYS, HARVEST, AND WILLINGNESS TO TRAVEL

- Over 63,000 hunters hunted dove in the 2023-2024 seasons, hunting about 227,000 days and harvesting nearly 1.4 million dove.

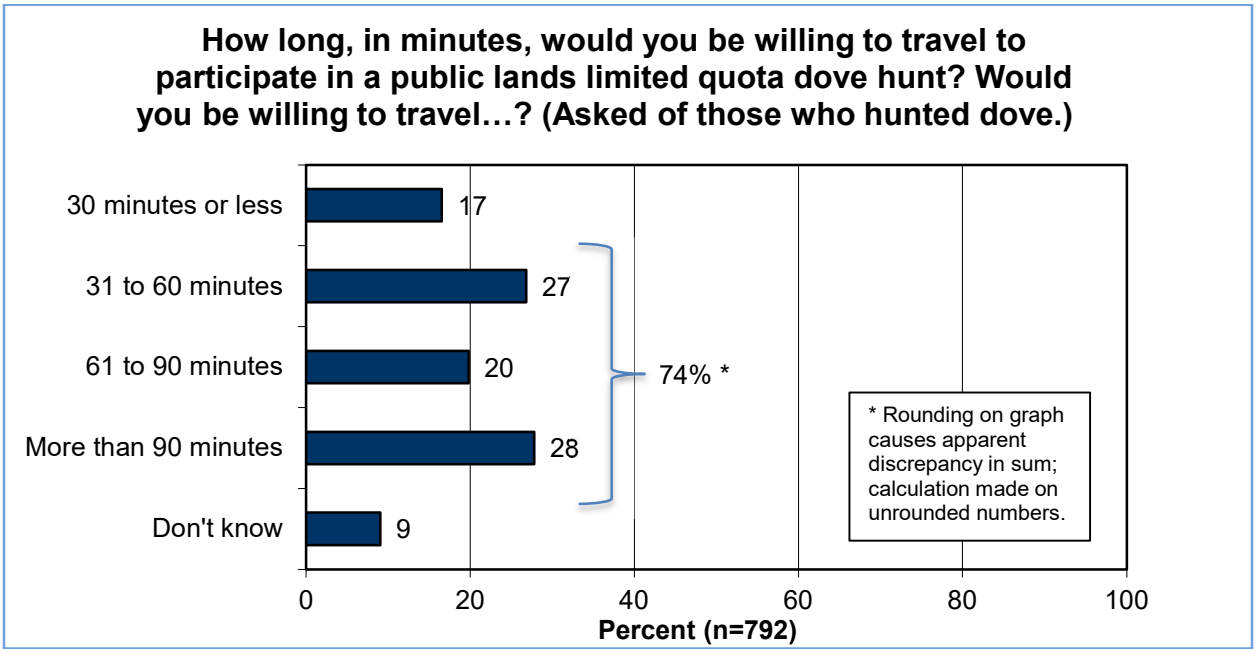
Dove Hunting: Hunters, Days, and Harvest (2023-2024)

Dove / Split	Number of Hunters			Hunter-Days			Number Harvested		
	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Dove-All	63,387	59,433	67,341	227,258	202,145	252,372	1,395,747	1,237,682	1,553,811
First Split				160,110	142,090	178,130	1,045,925	927,531	1,164,319
Remaining Splits				55,630	44,233	67,028	295,491	226,366	364,617
Unknown Splits							54,330	29,891	78,769

Dove Hunting: Mean Days and Days per Harvest (2023-2024)

Dove	
Mean Days per Hunter	Days per Harvest
3.6	0.16

- The graph below shows the acceptable travel distances among dove hunters to participate in a public lands limited quota dove hunt. About three quarters of these hunters (74%) would be willing to travel more than 30 minutes.



HUNTING OTHER SPECIES: PARTICIPATION, TYPES OF LAND, DAYS, AND HARVEST

- Data regarding hunting of other species are shown in the tables below. The most popular of these other species among hunters in the 2023-2024 seasons were wild hog, duck, squirrel, and coyote, each hunted by over 20,000 hunters.

Small Game Hunting: Hunters, Days, and Harvest (2023-2024)

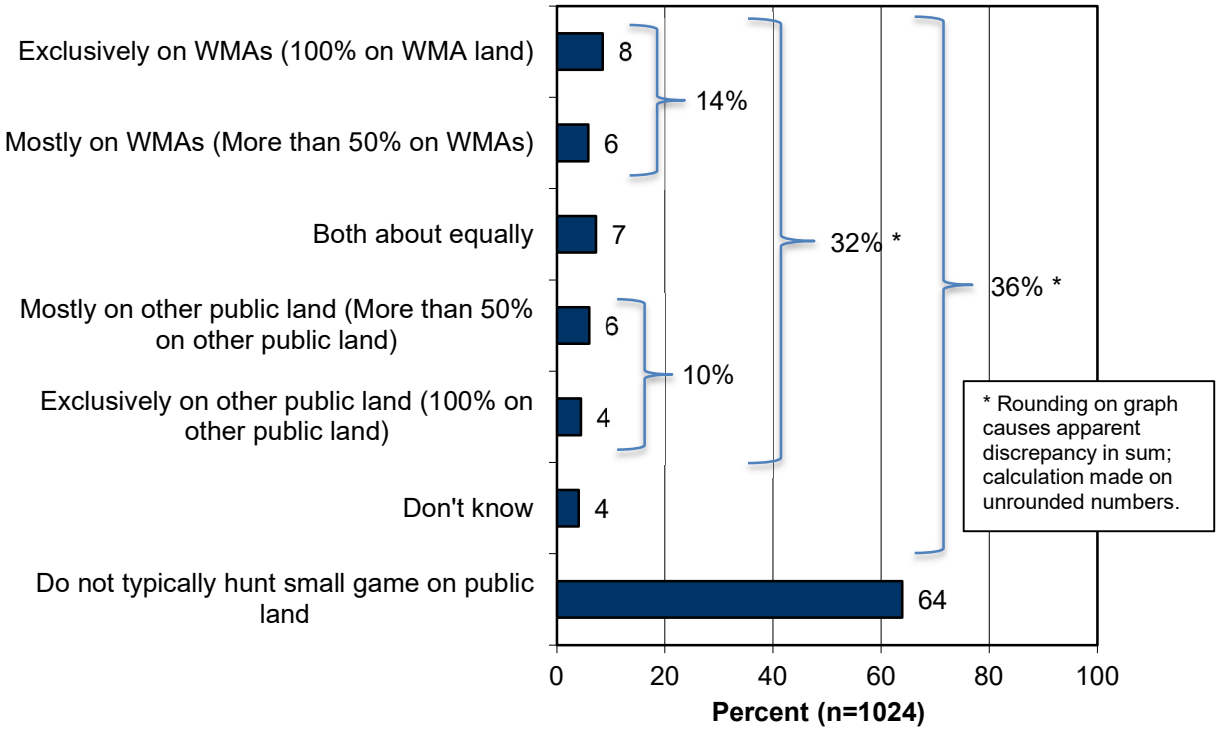
Species	Number of Hunters			Hunter-Days			Number Harvested		
	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Bobcat	3,328	2,294	4,362	5,001	1,610	8,392	3,045	1,363	4,728
Coot	1,690	951	2,430	1,841	571	3,110	10,729	3,624	17,834
Coyote	22,012	19,450	24,574	100,334	64,941	135,726	83,036	45,583	120,489
Duck	25,399	22,666	28,131	248,497	207,770	289,224	458,747	351,507	565,987
Fox	1,202	578	1,826	6,363	0	13,084	2,201	0	4,805
Goose	6,541	5,100	7,982	28,121	18,392	37,850	39,277	22,142	56,412
Opossum	1,399	726	2,072	3,521	869	6,174	6,452	1,616	11,289
Rabbit	9,613	7,877	11,349	111,532	24,816	198,249	71,550	39,640	103,460
Raccoon	7,767	6,200	9,333	166,681	96,573	236,790	94,205	51,277	137,134
Snipe	448	66	829	1,260	0	2,892	3,157	0	6,996
Squirrel	23,732	21,081	26,382	142,122	112,596	171,648	287,589	236,696	338,483
Wild hog	38,195	34,936	41,453	196,023	152,086	239,960	313,410	226,016	400,803
Woodcock	505	100	910	1,149	99	2,198	921	0	2,077

Small Game Hunting: Mean Days and Days per Harvest (2023-2024)

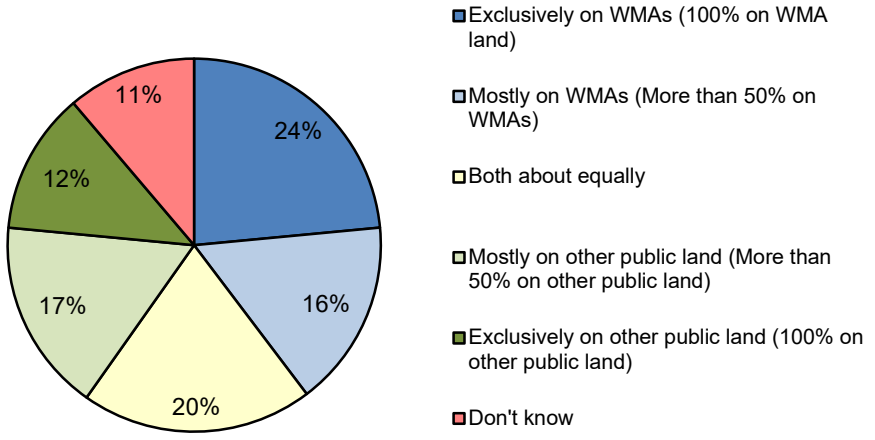
Species	Mean Days per Hunter	Days per Harvest
Bobcat	1.5	1.64
Coot	1.1	0.17
Coyote	4.6	1.21
Duck	9.8	0.54
Fox	5.3	2.89
Goose	4.3	0.72
Opossum	2.5	0.55
Rabbit	11.6	1.56
Raccoon	21.5	1.77
Snipe	2.8	0.40
Squirrel	6.0	0.49
Wild hog	5.1	0.63
Woodcock	2.3	1.25

- As shown on the following page, 36% of small game hunters hunt small game on public land. (This assumes that 4% are responding that they do not know their public land locations, not that they do not know if they hunted on public land. When excluding the "don't know" responses, 32% definitely indicate hunting on public land). Of these small game hunters, 14% hunt primarily on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), 10% do so primarily on other public land, and 7% hunt both WMAs and other public land about equally.

In a typical year, if you hunt small game on public land, would you say your small game hunting in general on public land occurs...? (Asked of those who hunted small game.)

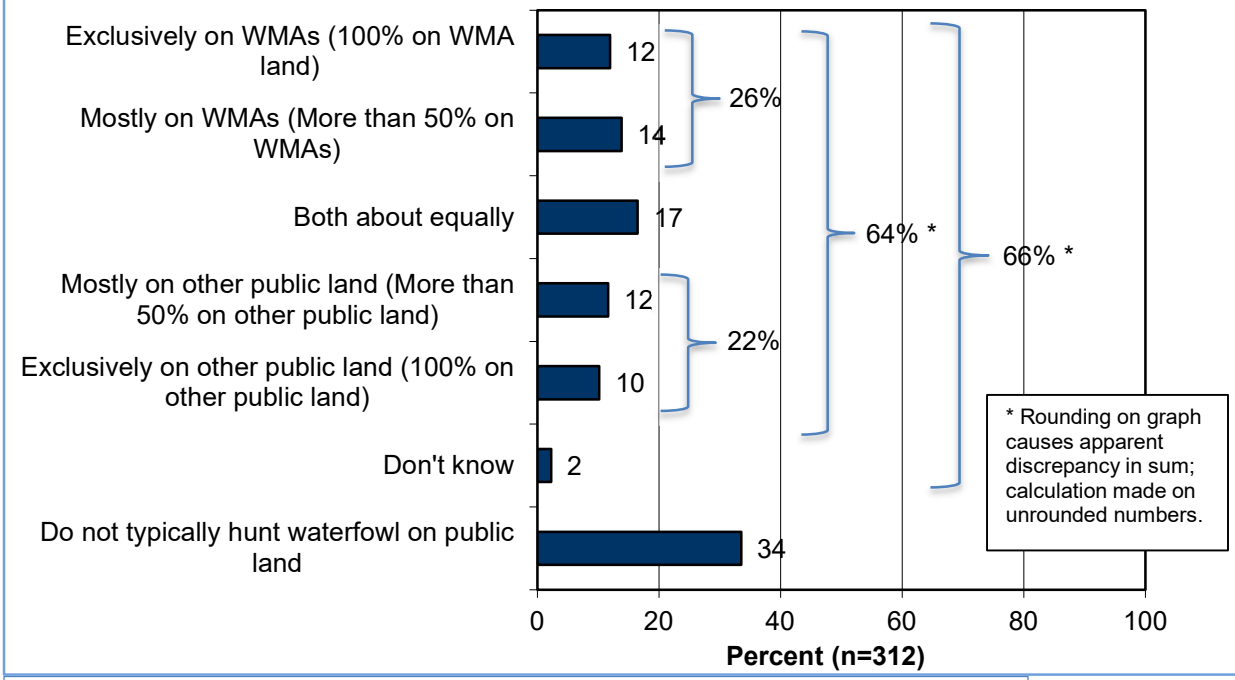


Breakdown of WMA versus other public land small game hunting. (Among those who typically hunt small game on public land.)

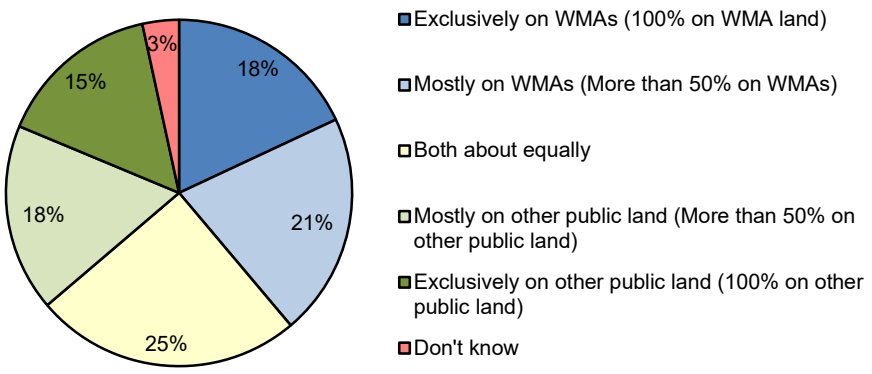


- Two thirds of waterfowl hunters (66%) hunt waterfowl on public lands (with the same assumption about "don't know" responses—excluding those responses, 64% definitely indicate hunting waterfowl on public land): 26% do so primarily on WMAs, 22% do so primarily on other public lands, and 17% hunt both about equally.

In a typical year, if you hunt waterfowl on public land, would you say your waterfowl hunting in general on public land occurs...? (Asked of those who hunted waterfowl.)

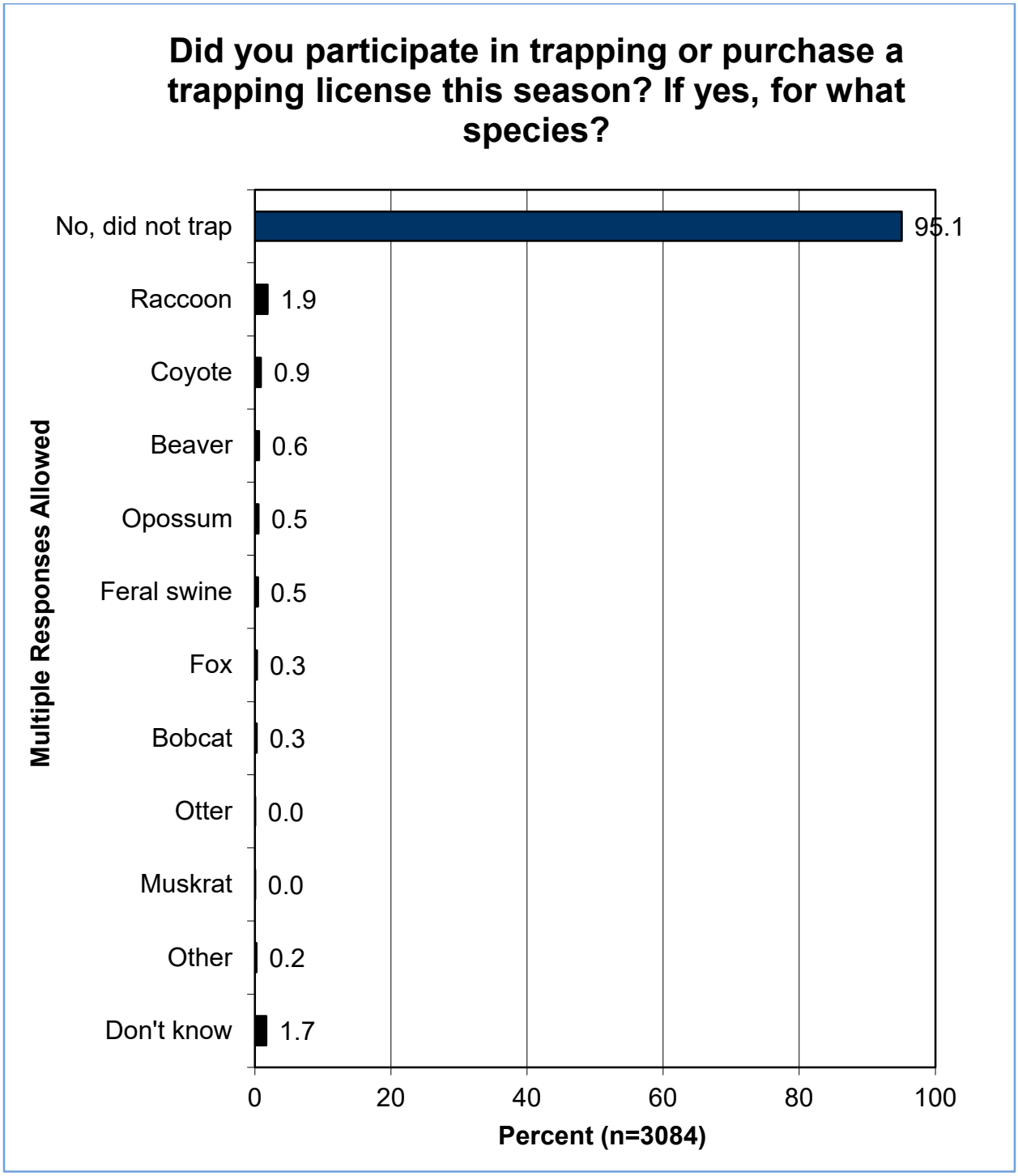


Breakdown of WMA versus other public land waterfowl hunting. (Among those who typically hunt waterfowl on public land.)



TRAPPING

- The graph below shows that raccoon was the most popular species to trap. (One decimal place was used so that most of the species did not round to 0 at the integer level.)



TRENDS

- The following pages show the trend tables. Trends for deer hunting show fairly consistent numbers for the number of deer hunters, days hunted, and harvest.

Deer Hunting: Number of Hunters Trends

Equipment	Number of Hunters						
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Deer-All	202,540	191,054	198,924	228,015	237,878	233,450	235,205
Archery	80,979	75,815	80,300	89,664	97,580	100,021	100,686
Modern	179,102	171,293	180,746	201,464	216,348	208,853	205,944
Primitive	20,454	16,895	16,909	21,627	22,773	20,436	23,566

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Deer Hunting: Days Trends

Equipment / Land Type	Hunter-Days						
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Deer-All	4,749,691	4,093,081	4,494,715	4,909,537	5,377,945	5,439,545	5,429,865
Archery	1,370,848	1,121,685	1,210,213	1,361,344	1,487,788	1,574,418	1,539,138
Modern	3,201,076	2,848,141	3,154,406	3,468,873	3,694,619	3,704,334	3,683,573
Primitive	177,767	123,254	130,095	190,393	196,225	160,251	207,154
Private Land	4,438,114	3,731,519	4,089,566	4,461,649	4,932,552	4,952,426	4,892,733
WMAs	205,341	217,415	211,673	238,625	226,059	262,037	263,082
Other Public	106,238	144,147	193,475	243,304	219,335	213,060	274,050

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

WMAs refers to Wildlife Management Areas.

Deer Hunting: Harvest Trends

Equipment / Land / Deer Type	Number Harvested						
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Deer-All	212,444	203,040	218,358	272,731	301,122	308,729	314,496
Archery	49,206	39,086	42,221	55,352	63,367	66,931	61,048
Modern	154,746	157,433	169,497	209,699	228,129	231,965	240,572
Primitive	8,460	6,522	6,640	8,154	10,005	10,078	13,046
Private Land	201,433	192,142	205,620	253,511	286,179	292,181	293,809
WMAs	6,433	6,650	6,161	6,765	7,697	9,205	8,862
Other Public	4,549	4,248	6,433	12,456	7,246	7,342	11,826
Buck	94,471	83,162	94,034	123,561	134,113	141,749	147,880
Doe	114,116	114,553	118,418	141,850	160,172	160,313	158,212

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

WMAs refers to Wildlife Management Areas.

Deer Hunting: Mean Days per Hunter Trends

	Mean Days per Hunter						
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Deer Overall	23.5	21.4	22.6	21.5	22.6	23.3	23.1

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Deer Hunting: Deer Harvest per Hunter Trends

Equipment Type	Mean Deer Harvest per Hunter						
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Deer Overall	1.05	1.06	1.10	1.20	1.27	1.32	1.34
Archery	0.61	0.52	0.53	0.62	0.65	0.67	0.61
Modern	0.86	0.92	0.94	1.04	1.05	1.11	1.17
Primitive	0.41	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.44	0.49	0.55

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Deer Hunting: Days per Harvest Trends

Equipment Type	Mean Days per Harvest						
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Deer Overall	22.4	20.2	20.6	18.0	17.9	17.6	17.3
Archery	20.7	18.1	18.6	16.5	16.2	16.0	15.3
Modern	27.9	28.7	28.7	24.6	23.5	23.5	25.2
Primitive	21.0	18.9	19.6	23.4	19.6	15.9	15.9

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Deer Hunting: Buck-Doe Percentage Trends

Deer Type	Percentage						
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Buck	44.5	41.0	43.1	45.3	44.5	45.9	47.0
Doe	55.5	59.0	56.9	54.7	55.5	54.1	53.0

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

- The trends for other species are shown. Turkey harvest decreased compared to last year, with contributing decreases in turkey hunters, turkey days, and turkey harvest per hunter. However, turkey harvest closely matches the 2021-2022 value.

Turkey Hunting: Number of Hunters Trends

Season Type	Number of Hunters						
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Turkey-All	48,626	49,878	61,224	59,988	72,332	70,359	69,130
Fall	1,563	1,833	1,616	2,837	1,779	1,963	2,307
Spring	47,488	48,194	59,946	57,567	70,750	68,756	67,380

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Turkey Hunting: Days Trends

Equipment / Season Type	Hunter-Days						
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Turkey-All	510,907	521,678	711,202	548,417	710,374	752,783	701,496
Archery	17,858	14,700	22,759	11,604	11,684	11,933	13,016
Modern	477,067	494,233	684,115	534,370	682,702	714,404	674,813
Primitive	15,982	12,744	4,328	2,443	15,988	26,446	13,668
Fall	11,645	9,497	6,621	14,644	12,897	17,975	24,196
Spring	499,261	512,181	690,156	533,773	697,477	734,808	677,301

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Turkey Hunting: Harvest Trends

Season / Turkey Type	Number Harvested						
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Turkey-All	28,093	25,750	34,882	25,468	35,997	47,131	35,906
Fall	619	98	217	472	257	47	250
Spring	27,474	25,652	34,666	24,995	35,740	47,084	35,655
Jakes	2,236	1,208	1,760	1,928	3,644	3,485	1,380
Gobblers	25,858	24,542	33,122	23,540	32,354	43,646	34,525

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Turkey Hunting: Mean Days per Hunter Trends

Season	Mean Days per Hunter						
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Turkey Overall	10.5	10.5	11.6	9.1	9.8	10.7	10.1
Fall	7.4	5.2	4.1	5.2	7.3	9.2	10.5
Spring	10.5	10.6	11.5	9.3	9.9	10.7	10.1

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Turkey Hunting: Harvest per Hunter Trends

Season	Turkey Harvest per Hunter						
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Turkey Overall	0.58	0.52	0.57	0.42	0.50	0.67	0.52
Fall	0.40	**	0.13	0.17	0.14	0.02	0.11
Spring	0.58	0.53	0.58	0.43	0.51	0.68	0.53

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

** Sample size too small for calculations.

Turkey Hunting: Days per Harvest Trends

Season	Mean Days per Harvest						
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Turkey Overall	18.2	20.3	20.4	21.5	19.7	16.0	19.5
Fall	18.8	**	30.6	31.0	50.1	*** 384.4	*** 96.7
Spring	18.2	20.0	19.9	21.4	19.5	15.6	19.0

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

** Sample size too small for calculations.

*** The relatively low number of hunters hunting in the fall combined with their low success rate produces a relatively large number of days per harvest.

Quail Hunting: Number of Hunters Trends

Quail Type	Number of Hunters						
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Quail-All	8,821	8,953	7,796	6,696	8,470	9,427	11,046
Wild	3,004	2,144	2,903	2,093	2,566	2,765	1,762
Pen-Raised	8,094	8,087	6,218	5,477	7,465	6,662	9,661

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Quail Hunting: Days Trends

Quail Type	Hunter-Days						
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Quail-All	**	52,336	39,541	40,046	36,323	55,350	62,199
Wild	39,696	12,710	11,491	13,021	8,383	13,252	12,273
Pen-Raised	53,740	39,603	27,019	27,009	27,940	42,098	49,926

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

** Not determined for the 2017-2018 season.

Quail Hunting: Harvest Trends

Quail Type	Number Harvested						
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Quail-All	347,308	321,589	154,063	253,176	282,450	370,665	258,996
Wild	67,889	37,851	21,662	27,234	22,068	27,640	17,635
Pen-Raised	279,418	283,738	132,379	225,942	260,381	343,026	241,331

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Quail Hunting: Mean Days per Hunter Trends

	Mean Days per Hunter						
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Quail-All	10.6	5.8	5.1	6.0	4.3	5.9	5.6

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Quail Hunting: Mean Days per Harvest Trends

	Mean Days per Harvest						
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Quail-All	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Dove Hunting: Number of Hunters Trends

	Number of Hunters						
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Dove-All	38,837	35,955	55,800	49,990	60,309	65,648	63,387

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Dove Hunting: Days Trends

Split	Hunter-Days						
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Dove-All	213,107	194,068	233,234	207,038	218,995	263,019	227,258
First Split	153,102	143,766	162,116	146,306	145,872	196,957	160,110
Remaining Splits	59,747	49,601	57,688	53,930	61,251	58,856	55,630

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Dove Hunting: Harvest Trends

Split	Number Harvested						
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Dove-All	1,567,042	1,257,006	1,345,741	1,159,243	1,370,878	1,475,191	1,395,747
First Split	1,118,151	884,211	967,728	814,933	973,791	1,121,051	1,045,925
Remaining Splits	397,517	317,444	323,922	313,903	318,697	322,819	295,491
Unknown Splits	51,375	55,351	54,116	30,440	78,389	31,321	54,330

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Dove Hunting: Mean Days per Hunter Trends

	Mean Days per Hunter						
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Dove-All	5.5	5.4	4.2	4.1	3.6	4.0	3.6

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Dove Hunting: Mean Days per Harvest Trends

	Mean Days per Harvest						
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Dove-All	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Small Game Hunting: Number of Hunters Trends

Species	Number of Hunters						
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Bobcat	2,760	2,594	3,339	2,375	2,050	3,337	3,328
Coot	649	895	1,009	704	726	1,469	1,690
Coyote	15,667	14,117	19,721	14,340	14,287	23,154	22,012
Duck	27,114	22,421	23,603	20,323	27,258	29,893	25,399
Fox	893	296	1,009	880	984	735	1,202
Goose	5,277	4,927	6,444	3,959	5,726	7,536	6,541
Opossum	487	718	1,087	704	1,156	2,461	1,399
Rabbit	5,439	4,527	8,774	7,478	7,847	10,043	9,613
Raccoon	5,601	4,199	5,668	3,783	5,901	6,622	7,767
Snipe	81	148	388	264	172	341	448
Squirrel	17,210	14,549	21,429	16,892	17,704	22,640	23,732
Wild hog	28,737	27,076	35,094	30,968	32,330	37,061	38,195
Woodcock	162	74	311	352	258	1,029	505

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Small Game Hunting: Days Trends

Species	Hunter-Days						
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Bobcat	11,365	14,493	4,037	4,399	1,435	3,233	5,001
Coot	2,029	7,053	543	1,320	3,609	4,455	1,841
Coyote	114,299	60,219	85,173	108,036	46,601	122,508	100,334
Duck	307,016	227,003	237,273	192,758	334,067	312,652	248,497
Fox	893	2,296	5,124	6,422	1,031	4,148	6,363
Goose	32,796	25,653	34,939	11,525	30,471	43,006	28,121
Opossum	649	1,163	17,547	5,543	4,210	4,851	3,521
Rabbit	34,988	41,386	55,980	56,041	43,554	57,629	111,532
Raccoon	98,469	74,479	144,336	124,224	130,374	89,079	166,681
Snipe	244	1,628	311	264	258	481	1,260
Squirrel	122,417	90,910	108,466	112,171	108,845	122,715	142,122
Wild hog	241,343	174,767	190,067	211,849	206,354	252,717	196,023
Woodcock	2,029	**	543	1,672	430	4,005	1,149

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

**No hunters in the survey specifically hunted woodcock (i.e., 0 days hunting woodcock) but there was reported harvest in that season.

Small Game Hunting: Harvest Trends

Species	Number Harvested						
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Bobcat	3,071	3,109	3,028	2,364	1,900	2,451	3,045
Coot	5,070	24,660	10,249	4,650	2,578	12,838	10,729
Coyote	61,108	65,668	56,523	60,154	49,139	74,626	83,036
Duck	674,362	540,023	431,067	373,242	598,518	525,867	458,747
Fox	943	148	1,553	1,074	1,203	1,343	2,201
Goose	47,012	40,148	41,849	17,299	35,840	61,527	39,277
Opossum	1,418	2,194	11,025	4,644	2,835	8,363	6,452
Rabbit	41,897	45,403	73,139	55,675	49,458	47,438	71,550
Raccoon	80,732	37,783	65,685	31,936	49,482	35,047	94,205
Snipe	884	2,222	466	709	1,031	1,316	3,157
Squirrel	240,929	179,245	276,172	240,401	226,875	225,927	287,589
Wild hog	344,407	258,924	255,364	295,418	340,697	335,421	313,410
Woodcock	534	222	621	946	601	2,825	921

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Small Game Hunting: Mean Days per Hunter Trends

Species	Mean Days per Hunter						
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Bobcat	4.1	5.6	1.2	1.9	0.7	1.0	1.5
Coot	3.1	7.9	0.5	1.9	5.0	3.0	1.1
Coyote	7.3	4.3	4.3	7.5	3.3	5.3	4.6
Duck	11.3	10.1	10.1	9.5	12.3	10.5	9.8
Fox	1.0	7.8	5.1	7.3	1.0	5.6	5.3
Goose	6.2	5.2	5.4	3.9	5.3	5.7	4.3
Opossum	1.3	1.6	16.1	7.9	3.6	2.0	2.5
Rabbit	6.4	9.1	6.4	7.5	5.6	5.7	11.6
Raccoon	17.6	17.7	25.5	32.8	22.1	13.5	21.5
Snipe	3.0	11.0	0.8	1.0	1.5	1.4	2.8
Squirrel	7.1	6.2	5.1	6.6	6.1	5.4	6.0
Wild hog	8.4	6.5	5.4	6.8	6.4	6.8	5.1
Woodcock	12.5	0.0	1.8	4.8	1.7	3.9	2.3

* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

Small Game Hunting: Days per Harvest Trends

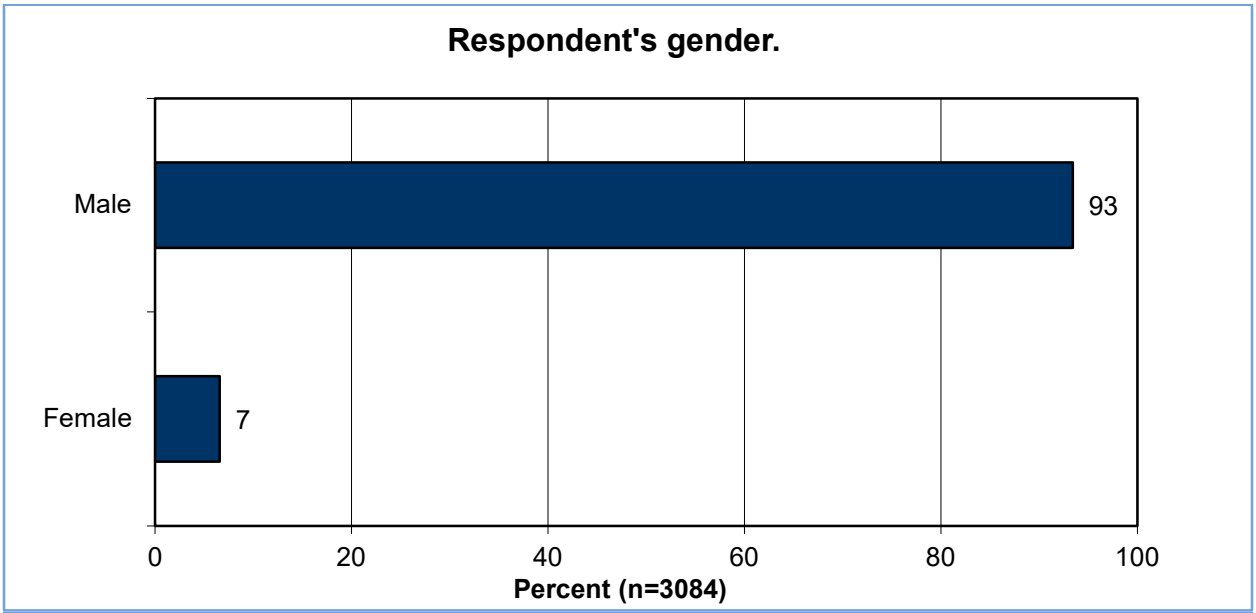
Species	Mean Days per Harvest						
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	*2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Bobcat	3.7	4.7	1.3	1.9	0.8	1.3	1.6
Coot	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.3	1.4	0.3	0.2
Coyote	1.9	0.9	1.5	1.8	0.9	1.6	1.2
Duck	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5
Fox	0.9	15.5	3.3	6.0	0.9	3.1	2.9
Goose	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.7
Opossum	0.5	0.5	1.6	1.2	1.5	0.6	0.5
Rabbit	0.8	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.9	1.2	1.6
Raccoon	1.2	2.0	2.2	3.9	2.6	2.5	1.8
Snipe	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4
Squirrel	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Wild hog	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.6
Woodcock	3.8	**	0.9	1.8	0.7	1.4	1.2

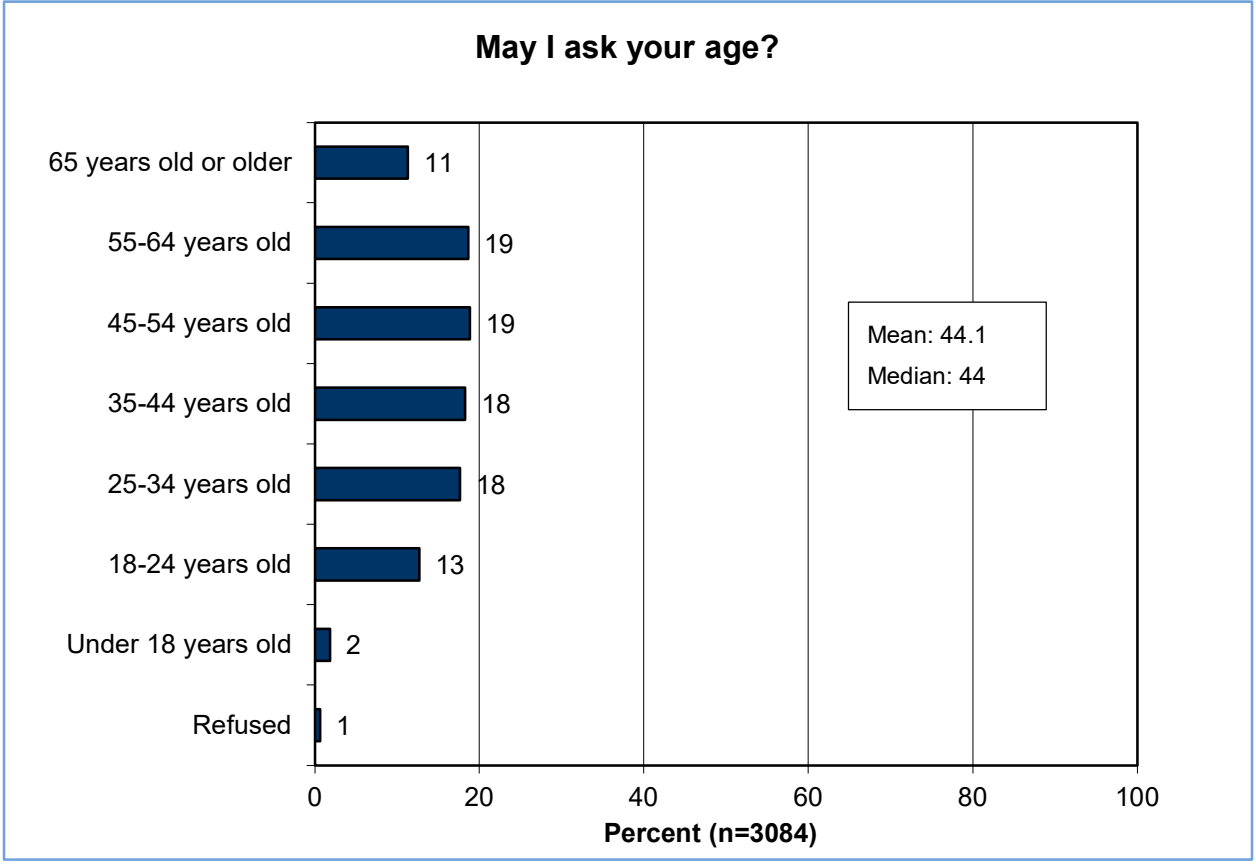
* The Resident Bait Privilege License was added in 2020-2021 and all subsequent years, so use comparisons with caution.

**No hunters in the survey specifically hunted woodcock (i.e., 0 days hunting woodcock) but there was reported harvest.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

- The age and gender of Alabama licensed hunters in the 2023-2024 seasons are shown below. The overwhelming majority of hunters are male, and the median age is 44 years. The graphs are only of those licensed hunters who hunted in 2023-2024 and were given the full survey.





ABOUT RESPONSIVE MANAGEMENT

Responsive Management is an internationally recognized survey research firm specializing in natural resource and outdoor recreation issues. Our mission is to help natural resource and outdoor recreation agencies, businesses, and organizations better understand and work with their constituents, customers, and the public.

Focusing only on natural resource and outdoor recreation issues, Responsive Management has conducted telephone, mail, and online surveys, as well as multi-modal surveys, on-site intercepts, focus groups, public meetings, personal interviews, needs assessments, program evaluations, marketing and communication plans, and other forms of human dimensions research measuring how people relate to the natural world for more than 30 years. Utilizing our in-house, full-service survey facilities with 75 professional interviewers, we have conducted studies in all 50 states and 15 countries worldwide, totaling more than 1,000 human dimensions projects *only* on natural resource and outdoor recreation issues.

Responsive Management has conducted research for every state fish and wildlife agency and every federal natural resource agency, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Coast Guard, and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Additionally, we have also provided research for all the major conservation NGOs including the Archery Trade Association, the American Sportfishing Association, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Dallas Safari Club, Ducks Unlimited, Environmental Defense Fund, the Izaak Walton League of America, the National Rifle Association, the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the National Wildlife Federation, the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Safari Club International, the Sierra Club, Trout Unlimited, and the Wildlife Management Institute.

Other nonprofit and NGO clients include the American Museum of Natural History, the BoatUS Foundation, the National Association of Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, and the Ocean Conservancy. As well, Responsive Management conducts market research and product testing for numerous outdoor recreation manufacturers and industry leaders, such as Winchester Ammunition, Vista Outdoor (whose brands include Federal Premium, CamelBak, Bushnell, Primos, and more), Trijicon, Yamaha, and others.

Responsive Management also provides data collection for the nation's top universities, including Auburn University, Clemson University, Colorado State University, Duke University, George Mason University, Michigan State University, Mississippi State University, North Carolina State University, Oregon State University, Penn State University, Rutgers University, Stanford University, Texas Tech, University of California-Davis, University of Florida, University of Montana, University of New Hampshire, University of Southern California, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Tech, West Virginia University, Yale University, and many more.

Our research has been upheld in U.S. Courts, used in peer-reviewed journals, and presented at major wildlife and natural resource conferences around the world. Responsive Management's research has also been featured in many of the nation's top media, including *Newsweek*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, CNN, National Public Radio, and on the front pages of *The Washington Post* and *USA Today*.

responsivemanagement.com