

# 2018-19 SWIFT FOX PELT TAGGING REPORT

## PERFORMANCE REPORT STATEWIDE WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND SURVEYS

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## 2018-19 Swift Fox Pelt Tagging Report

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The swift fox (*Vulpes velox*) is classified as a furbearer in Kansas (K.S.A. 32-701 (e)). There has been a harvest season for swift fox in Kansas since 1982. Since that time, harvest information has been acquired by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) through an annual Furbearer Harvest Survey. Additionally, a pelt tagging program was initiated in 1994 to acquire more precise information on swift fox distribution and harvest.

Any swift fox taken in Kansas must be presented to KDWPT for tagging within seven days of the close of the season (K.A.R. 115-5-2). All five KDWPT regional and district offices as well as biologists and conservation officers within or near the swift fox range are provided with tags. The number of swift foxes presented annually to KDWPT for pelt tagging since the tagging program was initiated is presented in **Figure 1**. In 2018-19, 62 swift foxes were taken by furharvesters in Kansas.

Swift foxes may be taken using equipment authorized in K.A.R. 115-5-1. **Table 1** provides a breakdown of the methods used to take swift foxes and the primary species being pursued at the time the swift fox was taken. Trapping accounted for over 82% of the harvest, but just 19.4% of the harvest was taken by individuals whose primary target was swift fox. In each of the last five years, fewer than 30% of swift fox were taken as the primary target species. In the 10 years prior to that, almost 70% on average were taken as a primary target. This season, almost 70% were taken by trappers primarily targeting coyotes or unspecified "canine". Over the past several years, it seems the strong coyote pelt market has driven swift fox harvest.

Just 15 furharvesters took swift foxes during the season, down from 24 last season. Annual season bag per furharvester is provided in **Table 2**.

Swift fox season opened on November 14, 2018 and ended February 15, 2019. Daily harvest is provided in **Figure 2**. Harvest by month is as follows: November – 11, December – 34, January – 15, February – 2 (n=62).

Swift foxes were harvested from eight western Kansas counties in 2018-19. Counties from which swift foxes have been harvested since 2013 and the most recent year of harvest is provided in **Figure 3**.

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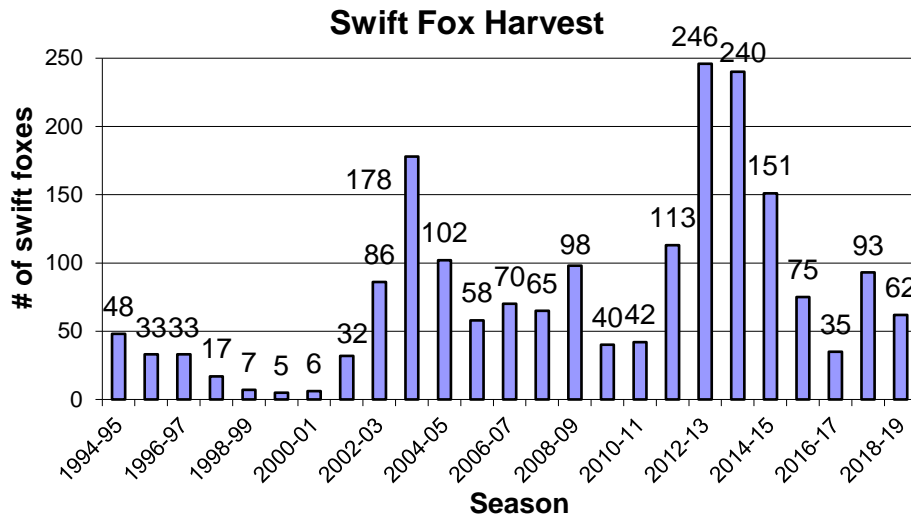


Figure 1. Number of swift foxes pelt tagged annually by KDWP since a tagging program was initiated in 1994.

Table 1. Methods used to take swift foxes during the 2018-19 furbearer season in Kansas.

Method of Harvest	Target Species						Subtotal Number	Percent
	Swift Fox	Coyote	Badger	Bobcat	“Canine”	Salvage		
Foothold trap	3	24		5	18		50	80.6
Cage trap			1				1	1.6
Rifle	8	1					9	14.5
Shotgun	1						1	1.6
Salvage						1	1	1.6
<b>Subtotal Number</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>62</b>	
<b>Percent</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>29.0</b>	<b>1.6</b>		<b>100.0</b>

Table 2. Total bag of swift foxes by individual furharvesters during the 2018-19 furbearer season in Kansas.

Season Bag per Furharvester	Number of Furharvesters	Percent of Furharvesters	Cumulative Percent of Furharvesters	Total number of Swift Fox Taken	Percent of Swift Fox Taken	Cumulative Percent of Swift Fox Taken
1	5	33.3%	33.3%	5	8.1%	8.1%
2	3	20.0%	53.3%	6	9.7%	17.7%
3	3	20.0%	73.3%	9	14.5%	32.3%
7	1	6.7%	80.0%	7	11.3%	43.5%
8	1	6.7%	86.7%	8	12.9%	56.5%
9	1	6.7%	93.3%	9	14.5%	71.0%
18	1	6.7%	100.0%	18	29.0%	100.0%

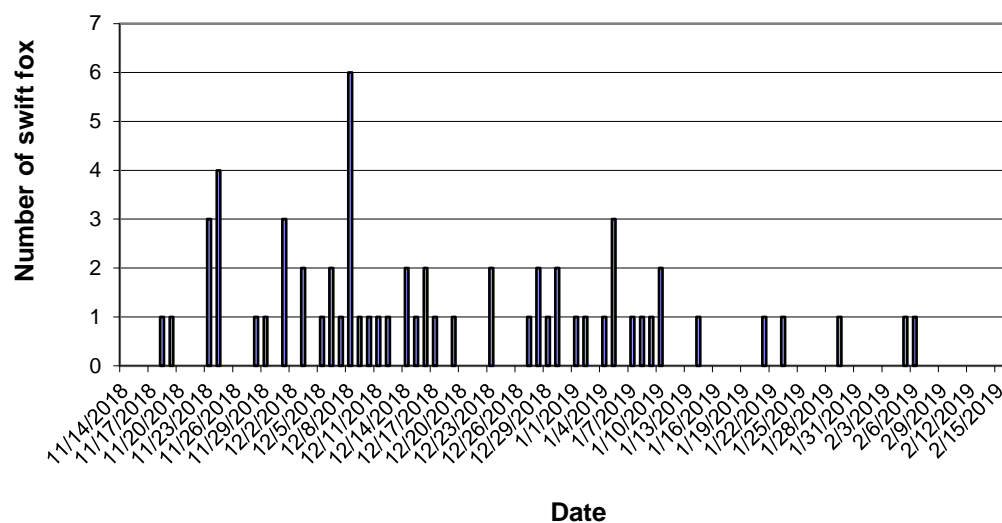


Figure 2. Estimated number of swift foxes taken per day during the 2018-19 furharvesting season (n=62).

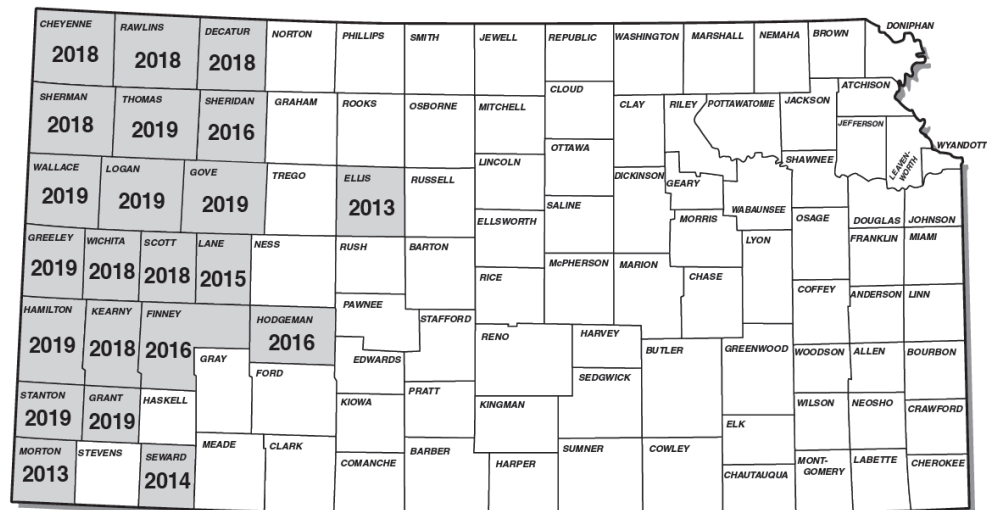


Figure 3. Kansas counties from which swift foxes have been harvested since 2013, and the most recent year of harvest.

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