

2011-12 SWIFT FOX PELT TAGGING REPORT

PERFORMANCE REPORT STATEWIDE WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND SURVEYS

A Contribution of Pittman-Robertson Funds
Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration

Grant W-39-R-18

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

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June 2012

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2011-12 Swift Fox Pelt Tagging Report

Prepared by Matt Peek, Furbearer Biologist

The swift fox (*Vulpes velox*) is classified as a furbearer in Kansas (K.S.A. 32-701 (e)). The first swift fox harvest season in Kansas in recent times was initiated in 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 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 2011-12, 113 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. Trapping and hunting accounted for 90% and 7% of the harvest, respectively. **Table 2** shows the primary species being pursued at the time the swift fox was taken.

A total of 19 furharvesters took swift foxes during the season. The annual season bag per furharvester is given in **Table 3**. Habitat types from which swift foxes were taken are presented in **Table 4**. Shortgrass prairie and dryland crop ground are the two dominant habitats where swift fox are harvested.

Notes:

Swift fox season opened on November 16, 2011 and ended February 15, 2012. Harvest by month is as follows: November – 6, December – 51, January – 14, February – 0 (date of harvest was unspecified on 10 foxes).

Swift foxes were harvested from nine western Kansas counties in 2011-12, including Finney, Gove, Hamilton, Lane, Logan, Rawlins, Scott, Sherman, Thomas, and Wallace.

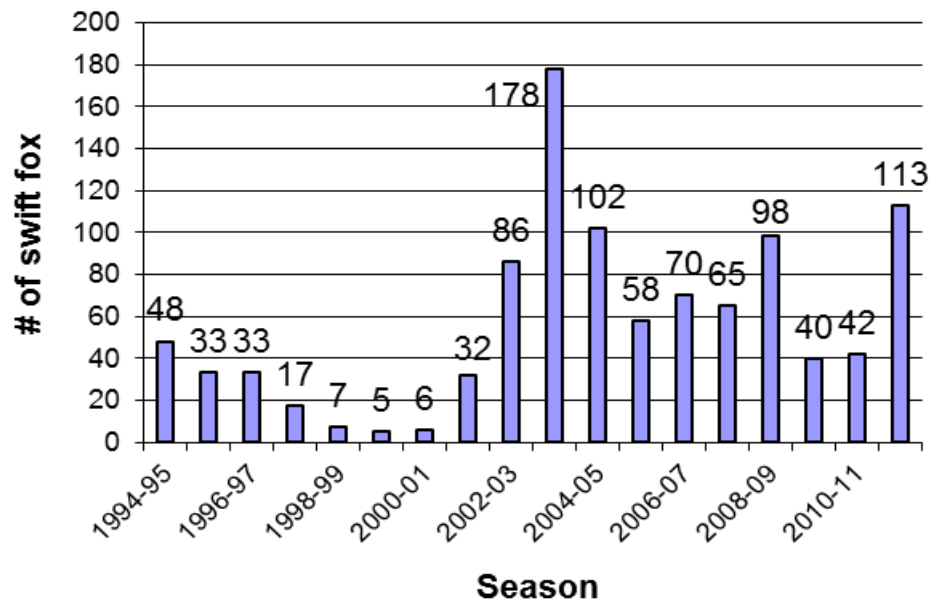


Figure 1. Number of swift foxes pelt tagged annually by KDWP since a tagging program was initiated in 1994.

Table 1. Methods used to take swift foxes during the 2011-12 furbearer season in Kansas.

Method of Take	Number of Swift Fox	Percent of Swift Fox
foothold trap	88	78
bodygripping trap	10	9
cage trap	4	4
rifle	6	5
shotgun	2	2
salvage	3	3
Total	113	100

Table 2. Primary species being pursued when swift foxes were taken during the 2011-12 furbearer season in Kansas.

Target Species	Number of Swift Fox	Percent of Swift Fox
swift fox	54	48
coyote	49	43
bobcat	3	3
coon/fox/skunk	1	1
rabbit	1	1
deer	1	1
pheasant	1	1
salvage	3	3
Total	113	100

Table 3. Total bag of swift foxes by individual furharvesters during the 2011-12 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	9	47.37%	47.37%	9	7.96%	7.96%
2	3	15.79%	63.16%	6	5.31%	13.27%
3	1	5.26%	68.42%	3	2.65%	15.93%
6	1	5.26%	73.68%	6	5.31%	21.24%
11	2	10.53%	84.21%	22	19.47%	40.71%
12	1	5.26%	89.47%	12	10.62%	51.33%
19	1	5.26%	94.74%	19	16.81%	68.14%
36	1	5.26%	100.00%	36	31.86%	100.00%
	19			113		

Table 4. Habitat types from which swift foxes were taken during the 2011-12 furbearer season in Kansas. (The “immediate habitat” type is that from which the swift fox was taken, and the “general habitat” type is the predominant habitat within 2 miles of the harvest site.

Immediate Habitat	Number of Swift Fox Harvested	Percent of Total Harvest
General Habitat		
Short-grass prairie		
Short-grass prairie	1	0.9
Dryland crop	21	18.6
CRP	3	2.7
Dryland crop		
Short-grass prairie	47	41.6
Dryland crop	22	19.5
CRP	10	8.8
Unspecified	2	1.8
CRP		
Dryland crop	2	1.8
Suburban/Town		
suburban/town	1	0.9
Unspecified	4	3.5
Total	113	100