

2007-08 SWIFT FOX PELT TAGGING REPORT

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2007-08 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 and Parks (KDWP) 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 KDWP for tagging within seven days of the close of the season (K.A.R. 115- 5-2). All five KDWP regional offices as well as biologists and conservation officers within or near the swift fox range are provided with tags. The number of swift fox presented annually to KDWP for pelt tagging since the tagging program was initiated is presented in **Figure 1**. In 2007-08, 65 swift fox were taken by furharvesters in Kansas.

Swift fox 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 fox. Trapping and hunting accounted for 85% and 12% of the harvest, respectively. In the past, swift foxes were primarily taken incidental to coyote trapping. For the past two seasons, the majority of swift foxes have been taken by furharvesters intentionally harvesting them. **Table 2** shows the primary species being pursued at the time the swift fox was taken.

A total of 14 furharvesters took swift foxes during the season, and a single furharvester accounted for nearly 45% of the total harvest. The annual season bag per furharvester is given in **Table 3**. Habitat types from which swift fox 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 14, 2007 and ended February 15, 2008. Harvest by month is as follows: November – 21, December – 35, January – 8, February – 1.

Swift foxes were harvested from 8 western Kansas counties in 2007-08, and have been harvested from 14 counties over the past 3 seasons.

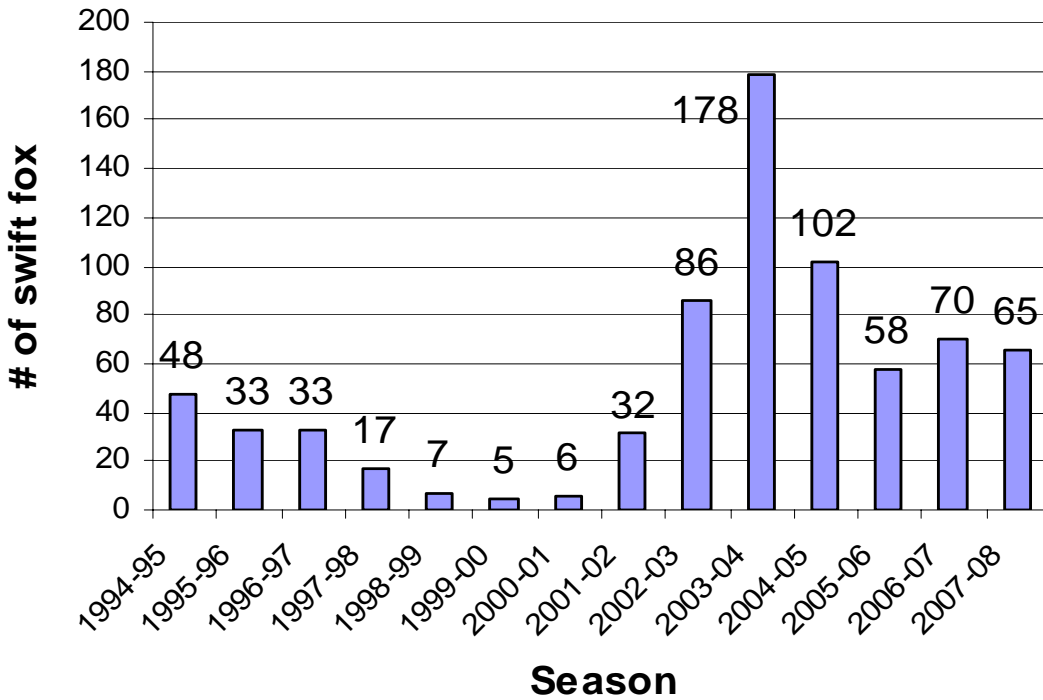


Figure 1. Number of swift fox pelt tagged annually by KDWP since a tagging program was initiated in 1994.

Table 1. Methods used to take swift fox during the 2007-08 furbearer season in Kansas.

Method of Take	Number of Swift Fox	Percent of Swift Fox
foothold trap	23	35
body gripping trap	31	48
cage trap	1	2
rifle	4	6
shotgun	4	6
salvage	2	3
Total	65	100

Table 2. Primary species being pursued when swift fox were taken during the 2007-08 furbearer season in Kansas.

Target Species	Number of Swift Fox	Percent of Swift Fox
swift fox	36	55
coyote	25	38
pheasant	2	3
salvage	2	3
Total	65	100

Table 3. Total bag of swift fox by individual furharvesters during the 2007-08 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	8	57.14%	57.14%	8	12.31%	12.31%
2	3	21.43%	78.57%	6	9.23%	21.54%
3	1	7.14%	85.71%	3	4.62%	26.15%
19	1	7.14%	92.86%	19	29.23%	55.38%
29	1	7.14%	100.00%	29	44.62%	100.00%
	14			65		

Table 4. Habitat types from which swift fox were taken during the 2007-08 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	15	25.9
Dryland crop	2	3.4
Dryland crop		
Dryland crop	32	55.2
CRP	8	13.8
CRP		
Dryland crop	1	1.7
Total	58	100