

# 2010-11 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-17

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September 2011

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## 2010-11 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 foxes presented annually to KDWP for pelt tagging since the tagging program was initiated is presented in **Figure 1**. In 2010-11, 42 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 76% and 14% of the harvest, respectively. **Table 2** shows the primary species being pursued at the time the swift fox was taken.

A total of 16 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 17, 2010 and ended February 15, 2011. Harvest by month is as follows: November – 1, December – 22, January – 14, February – .

Swift foxes were harvested from nine western Kansas counties in 2010-11, including Finney, Gove, Hamilton, Logan, Rawlins, Scott, Sherman, Thomas, and Wallace.

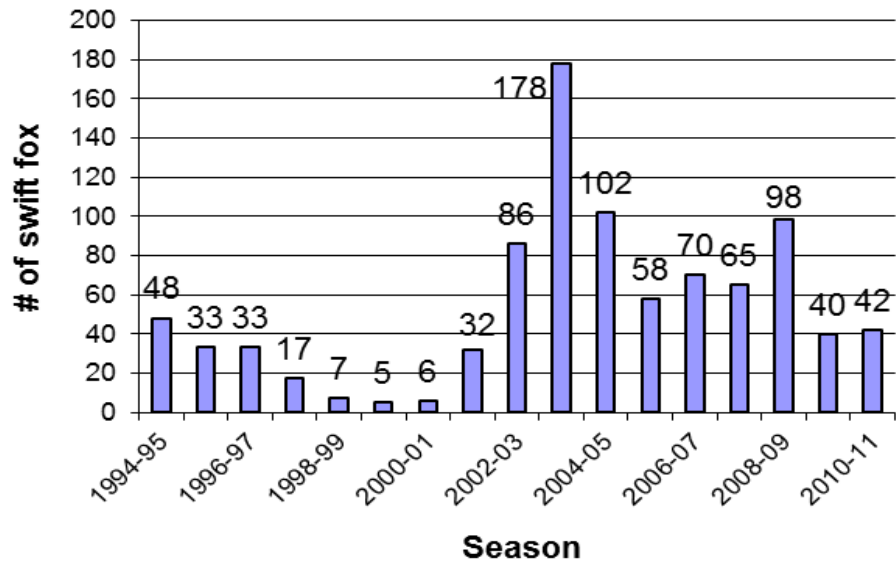


Figure 1. Number of swift foxes pelt tagged annually by KDWP since a tagging program was initiated in 1994.

Table 1. Methods used to take swift foxes during the 2010-11 furbearer season in Kansas.

Method of Take	Number of Swift Fox	Percent of Swift Fox
foothold trap	15	36
bodygripping trap	12	29
cage trap	4	10
snare	1	2
rifle	5	12
shotgun	1	2
salvage	4	10
Total	42	100

Table 2. Primary species being pursued when swift foxes were taken during the 2010-11 furbearer season in Kansas.

Target Species	Number of Swift Fox	Percent of Swift Fox
Swift fox	27	64
Coyote	11	26
Salvage	4	10
Total	42	100

Table 3. Total bag of swift foxes by individual furharvesters during the 2010-11 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	10	62.50%	62.50%	10	23.81%	23.81%
2	1	6.25%	68.75%	2	4.76%	28.57%
3	1	6.25%	75.00%	3	7.14%	35.71%
4	1	6.25%	81.25%	4	9.52%	45.24%
5	1	6.25%	87.50%	5	11.90%	57.14%
6	1	6.25%	93.75%	6	14.29%	71.43%
12	1	6.25%	100.00%	12	28.57%	100.00%
	16			42		

Table 4. Habitat types from which swift foxes were taken during the 2010-11 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
<b>General Habitat</b>		
<b>Short-grass prairie</b>		
Short-grass prairie	15	35.7
Dryland crop	9	21.4
<b>Dryland crop</b>		
Short-grass prairie	1	2.4
Dryland crop	17	40.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100</b>