

2013-14 SWIFT FOX PELT TAGGING REPORT

PERFORMANCE REPORT STATEWIDE WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND SURVEYS

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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 (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 2013-14, 239 swift foxes were taken by furharvesters in Kansas. This is the second most on record since the pelt tagging program began, surpassed only by the 246 taken last season.

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 93% of the harvest.

A total of 41 furharvesters took swift foxes during the season, down from 46 last season. An average of less than 16 furharvesters took swift foxes over the 5 years prior (2007-2011). The current number of furharvesters harvesting swift foxes is likely the result of generally increasing furharvesting participation in recent years. (More furharvester licenses were sold in 2013 than ever before. The furharvester license was established in 1983.) Annual season bag per furharvester is provided in **Table 2**.

Habitat types from which swift foxes were taken are presented in **Table 3**. Shortgrass prairie and dryland crop ground are the two dominant habitats where swift fox are harvested.

Notes:

Swift fox season opened on November 13, 2013 and ended February 15, 2014. Harvest by month is as follows: November – 44, December – 95, January – 88, February – 9 (n=236).

Swift foxes were harvested from fourteen western Kansas counties in 2013-14, including Cheyenne, Ellis, Finney, Greeley, Gove, Kearny, Logan, Rawlins, Scott, Sheridan, Sherman, Thomas, Wallace, and Wichita.

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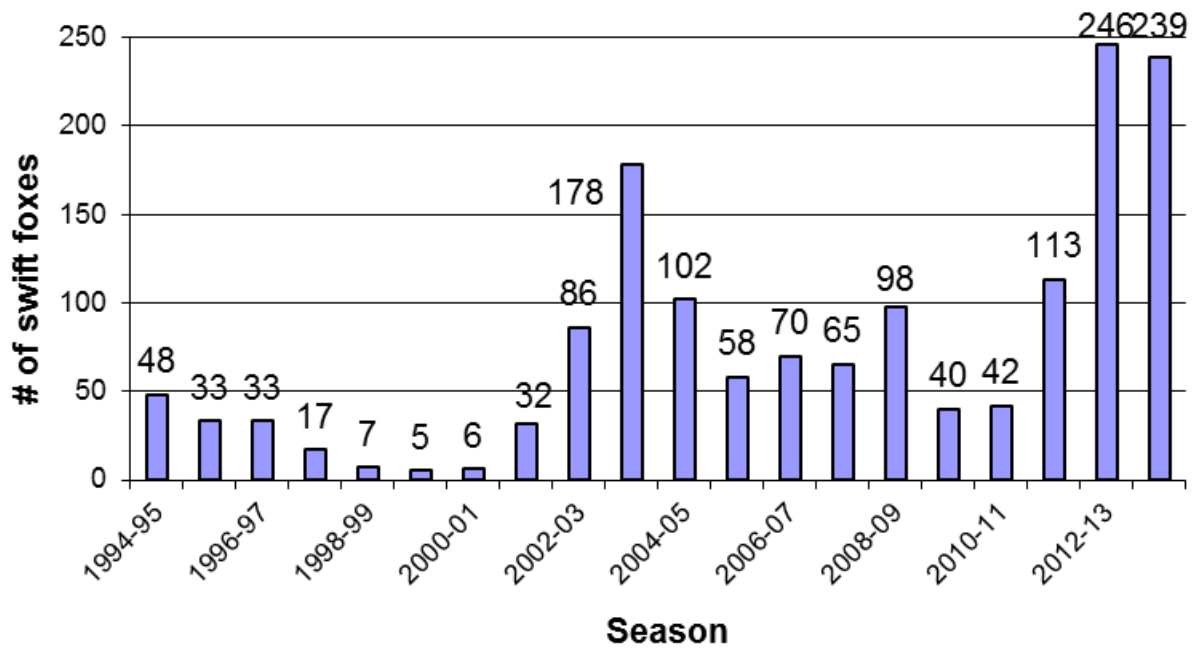


Figure 1. Number of swift foxes pelt tagged annually by KDWP since a tagging program was initiated in 1994.

Table 1. Methods used to take swift foxes during the 2013-14 furbearer season in Kansas.

Method of Harvest	Target Species					Subtotal	
	Swift Fox	Coyote	Badger	Bobcat	Unspecified	Number	Percent
Foothold trap	137	29	2	3	1	172	72.0
Body-gripping trap	6	4				10	4.2
Cage trap	33		1	5		39	16.3
Snare		2				2	0.8
Rifle	3	1				4	1.7
Shotgun		2			1	3	1.3
Salvage	7					7	2.9
Unspecified					2	2	0.8
Subtotal Number	186	38	3	8	4	239	
Percent	77.8	15.9	1.3	3.3	1.7		100.0

Table 2. Total bag of swift foxes by individual furharvesters during the 2013-14 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	15	36.59%	36.59%	15	6.28%	6.28%
2	10	24.39%	24.39%	20	8.37%	14.64%
3	5	12.20%	36.59%	15	6.28%	20.92%
4	1	2.44%	39.02%	4	1.67%	22.59%
5	1	2.44%	41.46%	5	2.09%	24.69%
6	1	2.44%	80.49%	6	2.51%	27.20%
8	2	4.88%	85.37%	16	6.69%	33.89%
17	1	2.44%	39.02%	17	7.11%	41.00%
19	1	2.44%	26.83%	19	7.95%	48.95%
20	1	2.44%	41.46%	20	8.37%	57.32%
21	1	2.44%	43.90%	21	8.79%	66.11%
25	1	2.44%	46.34%	25	10.46%	76.57%
56	1	2.44%	100.00%	56	23.43%	100.00%
	41			239		

Table 3. Habitat types from which swift foxes were taken during the 2013-14 furbearer season in Kansas. (The “immediate habitat” type is that from which the swift fox was specifically 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	83	34.7
Dryland crop	18	7.5
Irrigated crop	6	2.5
Unspecified	1	0.4
Dryland crop		
Short-grass prairie	13	5.4
Dryland crop	89	37.2
Irrigated crop		
Short-grass prairie	3	1.3
Dryland crop	4	1.7
Irrigated crop	8	3.3
CRP		
Dryland crop	6	200.0
Wooded area		
Wooded area	3	1.3
Unspecified	5	2.1
Total	239	100.0