

# 2009-10 SWIFT FOX PELT TAGGING REPORT

PERFORMANCE REPORT  
STATEWIDE WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND SURVEYS

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## 2009-10 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 2009-10, 39 swift foxes were taken by furharvesters in Kansas. This included 27 foxes that were taken as a part of the swift fox Best Management Practices (BMP) trap testing project. (More information on this project can be found at the following website: [http://www.fishwildlife.org/furbearer\\_bmp.html](http://www.fishwildlife.org/furbearer_bmp.html).)

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 77% and 15% of the harvest, respectively. **Table 2** shows the primary species being pursued at the time the swift fox was taken.

A total of 12 furharvesters took swift foxes during the season. The single furharvester who took the most swift fox (n=21) accounted for over half of the total harvest. The annual season bag per furharvester is given in **Table 3**.

### Notes:

Swift fox season opened on November 18, 2009 and ended February 15, 2010. Harvest by month is as follows: November – 1, December – 34, January – 2, February – 2.

Swift foxes were harvested from seven western Kansas counties in 2009-10, including Greeley, Hamilton, Kearny, Logan, Rawlins, Thomas, and Wallace.

The 27 swift foxes that were taken as part of the BMP trap testing project were harvested by two furharvesters during December. Fourteen of the foxes were taken in foothold traps and 13 were taken in cage traps. Swift fox was the target species for all these foxes, and the furharvesters who participated had final season bags of 21 and seven foxes.

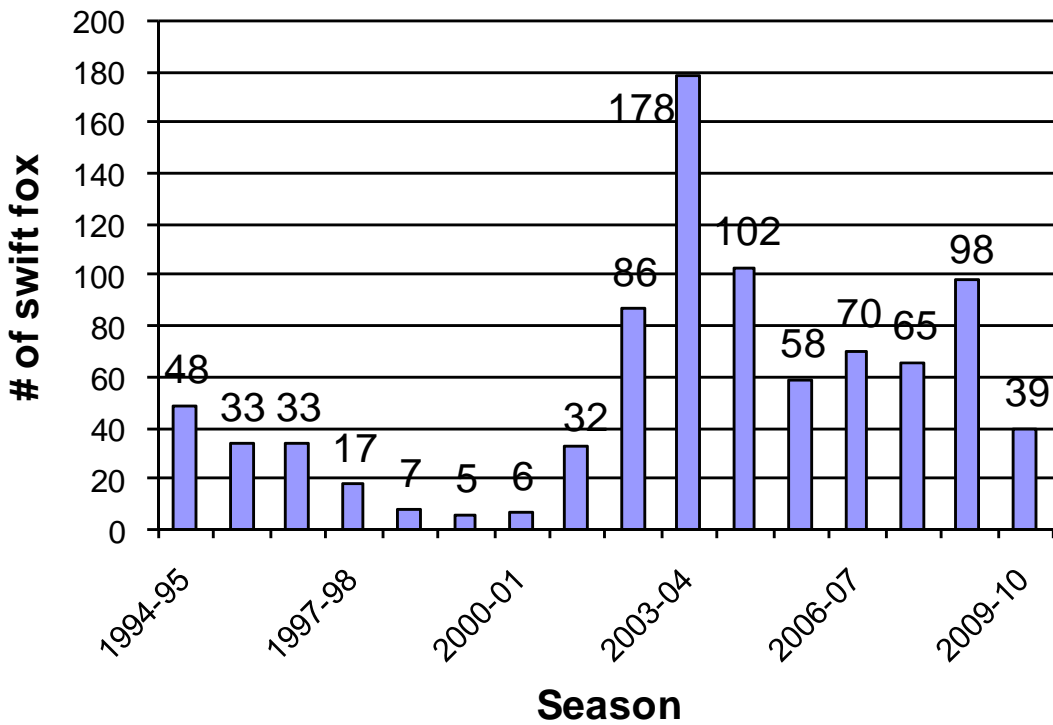


Figure 1. Number of swift foxes pelt tagged annually by KDWP since a tagging program was initiated in 1994.

Table 1. Methods used to take swift foxes during the 2009-10 furbearer season in Kansas.

Method of Take	Number of Swift Fox	Percent of Swift Fox
foothold trap	17	44
cage trap	13	33
rifle	4	10
shotgun	2	5
salvage	3	8
Total	39	100

Table 2. Primary species being pursued when swift foxes were taken during the 2009-10 furbearer season in Kansas.

Target Species	Number of Swift Fox	Percent of Swift Fox
Swift fox	32	82
Coyote	2	5
Bobcat	1	3
Pheasant	1	3
Salvage	3	8
Total	97	100

Table 3. Total bag of swift foxes by individual furharvesters during the 2009-10 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	75.00%	75.00%	9	23.08%	23.08%
2	1	8.33%	16.67%	2	5.13%	28.21%
7	1	8.33%	91.67%	7	17.95%	46.15%
21	1	8.33%	100.00%	21	53.85%	100.00%
	12			39		