

2021-22 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 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). KDWP regional and district offices as well as biologists and conservation officers within or near the swift fox range are provided with tags. The number of swift foxes pelt tagged by KDWP annually since the tagging program began is provided in **Figure 1**. In 2021-22, 37 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 and the primary species being pursued at the time the swift fox was taken. Trapping accounted for all but one of these foxes (97%), and over half (54%) were taken by individuals whose primary target was swift fox. Prior to this season, the pelt market for coyotes had been about the only bright spot in the fur trade for several years. It appeared the pursuit of coyotes had largely driven swift fox harvest. Now that the coyote market has declined, it appears swift fox harvest followed accordingly.

Thirteen furharvesters took swift foxes during the season, down from 26 last season. Annual season bag per furharvester is provided in **Table 2**.

Swift fox season opened on November 17, 2021 and ended February 15, 2022. Date of harvest is provided in **Figure 2**. Harvest by month is as follows: November – 18, December – 16, January – 2, February – 1 (n=37).

Swift foxes were harvested from 10 western Kansas counties in 2021-22. Counties from which swift foxes have been harvested since 2013 and the most recent year of harvest is provided in **Figure 3**.

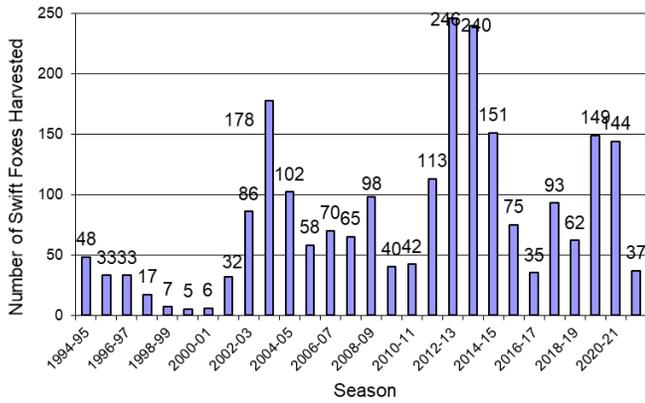


Figure 1. Number of swift foxes pelt tagged annually by KDWP since a tagging program was initiated in 1994.

Table 1. Method of harvest and the primary species being pursued when swift foxes were taken during the 2021-22 furharvesting season in Kansas.

Method of Harvest	Target Species			Subtotal Number	Percent
	Swift Fox	Unspec. Coyote	Canine		
Foothold trap	14	15	2	31	83.8
Bodygrip trap	4			4	10.8
Snare	1			1	2.7
Rifle	1			1	2.7
Subtotal Number	20	15	2	37	
Percent	54.1	40.5	5.4		100.0

Table 2. Total bag of swift foxes by individual furharvesters during the 2021-22 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	69.2%	69.2%	9	24.3%	24.3%
4	2	15.4%	84.6%	8	21.6%	45.9%
6	1	7.7%	92.3%	6	16.2%	62.2%
14	1	7.7%	100.0%	14	37.8%	100.0%
	13			37		

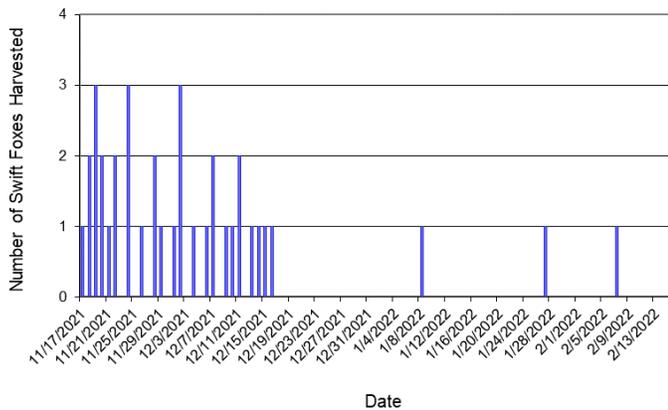


Figure 2. Estimated number of swift foxes taken per day during the 2021-22 furharvesting season (n=37).

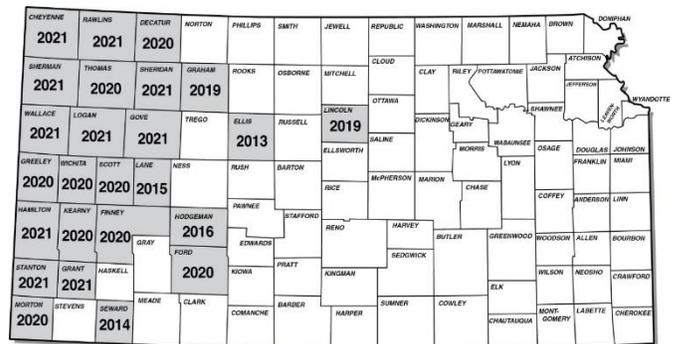


Figure 3. Kansas counties from which swift foxes have been harvested since 2013, and the most recent season of harvest (2021 = 2021-22 harvest season).

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

This program receives Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior and its bureaus prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex (in educational programs). If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, or if you desire further information, please write to: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Diversity and Civil Rights Programs- External Programs, 4040 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 130, Arlington, VA 22203