

# 2023-24 SWIFT FOX PELT TAGGING REPORT

## PERFORMANCE REPORT STATEWIDE WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND SURVEYS

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### **Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks**

Chris Kennedy  
Secretary

Prepared by

Matt Peek  
Furbearer Biologist

Jake George  
Wildlife Division Director



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## 2023-24 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)). 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 2023-24, 38 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 95% of the swift fox harvest this season, and 74% were taken by individuals whose primary target was swift fox. Presumably the depressed coyote pelt market resulted in fewer incidentally taken swift foxes by those pursuing coyotes.

Just nine furharvesters took swift foxes during the season. Annual season bag per furharvester is provided in **Table 2**.

Swift fox season opened on November 15, 2023. The season closure was extended last year from February 15 to the end of February. Date of harvest is provided in **Figure 2**. Harvest by month is as follows: November – 6, December – 8, January – 16, February – 8 (n=38). Six foxes were harvested during the season after February 15.

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

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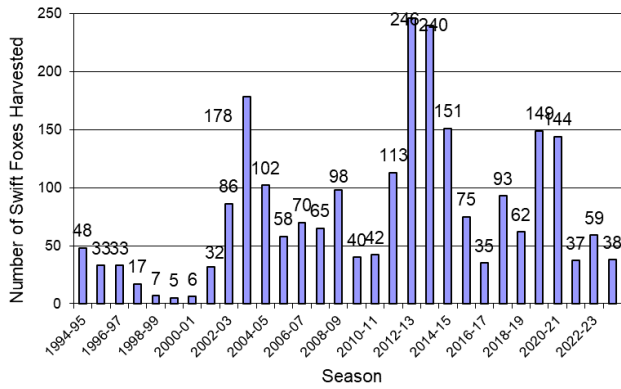


Figure 1. Number of swift foxes pelt tagged annually by KDWP since a tagging program was initiated in 1994.

Table 1. Method of harvest and the primary species being pursued when swift foxes were taken during the 2023-24 furharvesting season in Kansas.

Method of Harvest	Target Species			Subtotal	
	Swift Fox	Coyote	Bobcat	Number	Percent
Foothold trap	1	6	1	8	21
Bodygrip trap	18			18	47
Cage trap	9		1	10	26
Rifle		2		2	5
<b>Subtotal Number</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>38</b>	
<b>Percent</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>100</b>

Table 2. Total bag of swift foxes by individual furharvesters during the 2023-24 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	5	55.6%	55.6%	5	13%	13%
2	1	11.1%	66.7%	2	5%	18%
3	1	11.1%	77.8%	3	8%	26%
9	1	11.1%	88.9%	9	24%	50%
19	1	11.1%	100.0%	19	50%	100%
	<b>9</b>			<b>38</b>		

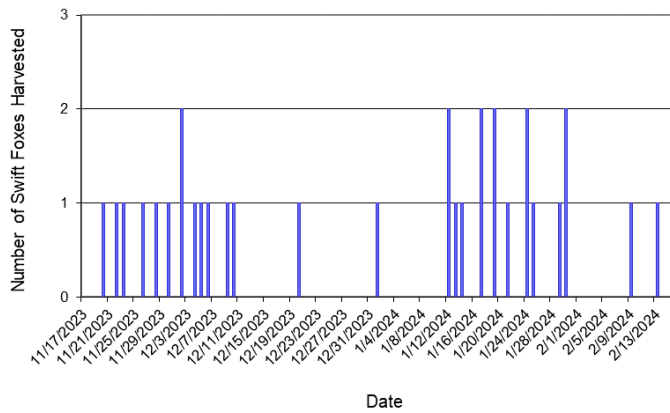


Figure 2. Reported number of swift foxes taken per day during the 2023-24 furharvesting season (n=38).

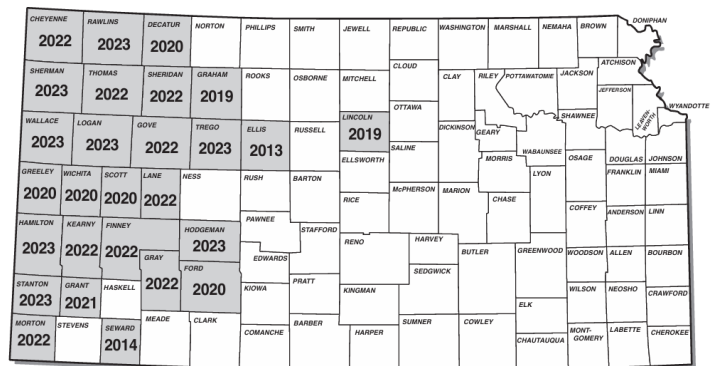


Figure 3. Kansas counties from which swift foxes have been harvested since 2013, and the most recent season of harvest (2023 = 2023-24 harvest season).

**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