

2020-21 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 (KDWPT) 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 KDWPT for tagging within seven days of the close of the season (K.A.R. 115-5-2). All five KDWPT 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 KDWPT annually since the tagging program began is provided in **Figure 1**. In 2020-21, 144 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 harvest, and just under a fourth (23.6%) were taken by individuals whose primary target was swift fox. This has been typical in recent years that most of the swift fox taken have been taken while the furharvester was primarily in pursuit of some other species. Usually this is coyote, as was the case this year. The pelt market for coyotes has been about the only bright spot in the fur trade over the past several years, and it seems this has largely driven swift fox harvest.

Twenty-six furharvesters took swift foxes during the season, down from 36 last season. Annual season bag per furharvester is provided in **Table 2**.

Swift fox season opened on November 18, 2020 and ended February 15, 2021. One tagger failed to record date of harvest for 27 foxes this season, but date of harvest for the remainder is provided in **Figure 2**. Harvest by month is as follows: November – 30, December – 30, January – 48, February – 9 (n=117).

Swift foxes were harvested from 16 western Kansas counties in 2020-21. Counties from which swift foxes have been harvested since 2013 and the most recent year of harvest is provided in **Figure 3**.

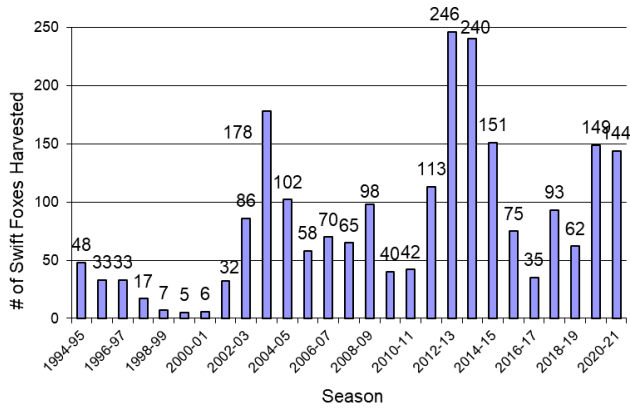


Figure 1. Number of swift foxes pelt tagged annually by KDWPT since a tagging program was initiated in 1994.

Table 1. Method of harvest and the primary species being pursued when swift foxes were taken during the 2020-21 furharvesting season in Kansas.

Method of Harvest	Target Species				Subtotal	
	Swift Fox	Coyote	Canine	Salvage	Number	Percent
Foothold trap	4	101	2		107	74.3
Bodygrip trap	30				30	20.8
Rifle		3			3	2.1
Salvage				4	4	2.8
Subtotal Number	34	104	2	4	144	
Percent	23.6	72.2	1.4	2.8		100.0

Table 2. Total bag of swift foxes by individual furharvesters during the 2020-21 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	8	30.8%	30.8%	8	5.6%	5.6%
2	3	11.5%	42.3%	6	4.2%	9.7%
4	6	23.1%	65.4%	24	16.7%	26.4%
6	2	7.7%	73.1%	12	8.3%	34.7%
8	1	3.8%	76.9%	8	5.6%	40.3%
9	2	7.7%	84.6%	18	12.5%	52.8%
10	2	7.7%	92.3%	20	13.9%	66.7%
18	1	3.8%	96.2%	18	12.5%	79.2%
30	1	3.8%	100.0%	30	20.8%	100.0%
	26			144		

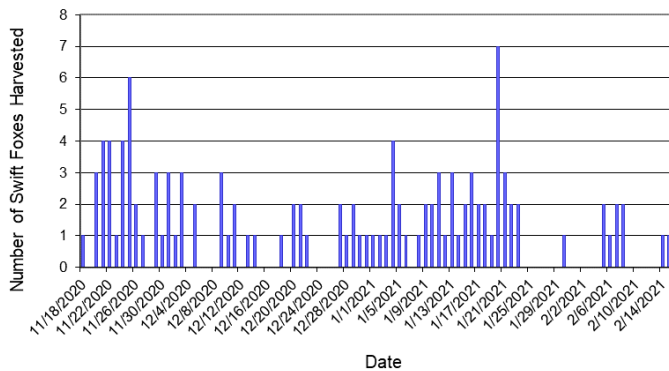


Figure 2. Estimated number of swift foxes taken per day during the 2020-21 furharvesting season (n=117).

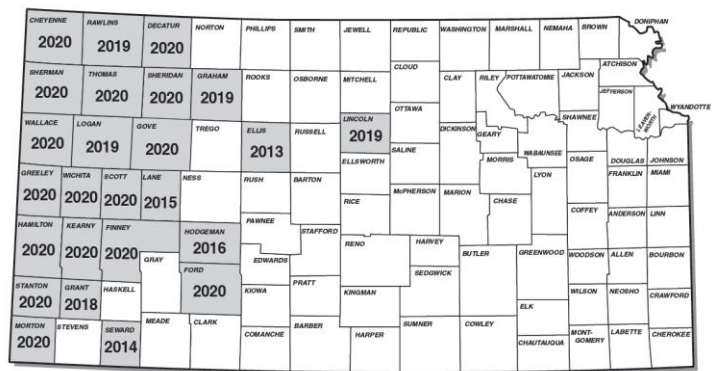


Figure 3. Kansas counties from which swift foxes have been harvested since 2013, and the most recent season of harvest (2020 = 2020-21 harvest season).

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