

# **LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION ORDER**

Information provided in this section pertains only to the Spring Light Goose Conservation Order in South Dakota. The previous section reported only on the regular season.

The 2022 Light Goose Conservation Order covered 14 February - 15 May statewide. The daily bag and possession limits were unlimited. To hunt light geese, residents were required to hold a small game, 1-day small game, adult or senior combination, or youth small game license plus a migratory bird certification. Nonresidents were required to obtain a nonresident Spring Light Goose or a nonresident Youth Spring Light Goose license. Hunters were not required to possess a federal waterfowl stamp to participate in the conservation order.

Harvest surveys were sent to both resident and nonresident hunters. In 2022, there were a projected 6,430 license holders who hunted at least one day for light geese during the conservation order dates (2,101 residents, 4,329 nonresidents). From the survey responses, there were a projected total of 169,646 light geese harvested.

The average days hunted projected to a total of 28,466 recreation days for the conservation order. Hunters in Brown, Yankton, Clark, Edmunds, and Kingsbury counties had the highest reported harvest, accounting for 52% of the total estimate.

## Comparison of the 2013 - 2022 Conservation Order light goose statistics

Year	Residents			Nonresidents		
	Number Hunters	Harvest	Total Days Hunted	Number Hunters	Harvest	Total Days Hunted
2013	3,166	53,571	15,502	4,142	114,926	15,856
2014	2,159	41,386	11,832	4,514	107,730	17,949
2015	2,147	53,046	12,402	4,277	112,285	16,569
2016	1,866	36,572	9,485	3,843	89,627	15,076
2017	2,672	56,683	16,068	4,448	124,777	17,559
2018	2,736	51,260	14,029	4,643	114,819	18,548
2019	1,413	31,475	6,976	2,700	49,219	9,490
2020	2,078	31,164	11,197	2,830	65,682	11,498
2021	1,755	32,553	9,144	4,446	95,776	17,870
2022	2,101	51,071	10,856	4,329	118,576	17,610

## **SPRING LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST FOR 2022**

Last Revised: 26 Sept 2022

	<b>Resident</b>	<b>Nonresident</b>
<b>CONSERVATION ORDER LIGHT GOOSE Licenses Sold *3*</b>	25,876	4,573
<b>Projected ACTIVE CONS ORDER LIGHT GOOSE HUNTERS</b>	<b>2,101</b>	<b>4,329</b>
Number Sampled for Survey	11,913	3,692
Number Responded to Survey	2,734	1,107
Responded and Participated in Season	<b>222</b>	<b>1,048</b>
Responded but DID NOT HUNT	2,512	59
<b>Survey Response Rate</b>	<b>22.9%</b>	<b>30.0%</b>
<b>TOTAL LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST CONSERVATION ORDER = 169,646</b>		
<b>Late Season (Conservation Order) 2/14 - 3/10 Period:</b>		
No. Hunters Reporting Light Goose Days	117	159
Total Reported Light Goose Hunted Days	439	508
<b>Average Days Hunted Light Geese</b>	<b>3.75</b>	<b>3.19</b>
Total Reported Light Geese Bagged	1,637	3,844
<b>Average Light Goose Bag for Season</b>	<b>13.99</b>	<b>24.18</b>
<b>Projected Days Light Goose Hunting</b>	<b>4,155</b>	<b>2,099</b>
<b>Projected No. Light Goose Hunters</b>	<b>1,107</b>	<b>657</b>
<b>Projected Light Goose Bag</b>	<b>15,493</b>	<b>15,880</b>
<b>TOTAL LIGHT GEESSE HARVESTED 2/14 - 3/10 = 31,373</b>		
<b>Late Season (Conservation Order) 3/11 - 5/15 Period:</b>		
No. Hunters Reporting Light Goose Days	172	944
Total Reported Light Goose Hunted Days	708	3,755
<b>Average Days Hunted Light Geese</b>	<b>4.12</b>	<b>3.98</b>
Total Reported Light Geese Bagged	3,759	24,860
<b>Average Light Goose Bag for Season</b>	<b>21.85</b>	<b>26.33</b>
<b>Projected Days Light Goose Hunting</b>	<b>6,701</b>	<b>15,512</b>
<b>Projected No. Light Goose Hunters</b>	<b>1,628</b>	<b>3,900</b>
<b>Projected Light Goose Bag</b>	<b>35,577</b>	<b>102,696</b>
<b>TOTAL LIGHT GEESSE HARVESTED 3/11 - 5/15 = 138,273</b>		
Reported Geese bagged over decoys	3,605	25,015
<b>Projected Geese bagged over decoys</b>	<b>34,120</b>	<b>103,337</b>
<b>Total bagged over decoys = 137,456</b>		
Reported Geese shot but not retrieved	213	653
<b>Projected Geese Shot but Not Retrieved</b>	<b>2,016</b>	<b>2,698</b>
<b>Total not retrieved = 4,713</b>		
<i>*3* Numbers of resident licenses sold are based on the number of 2021 migratory bird certificates in the database purchased prior to May 1, 2022</i>		