

MOURNING DOVE

The 2023 mourning dove season was open 1 September - 9 November statewide. The daily limit was 15 birds, possession 30. To hunt doves, residents were required to hold a small game, 1-day small game, adult or senior combination, or youth small game license; nonresidents were required to obtain a nonresident small game or nonresident youth small game license. All hunters were also required to purchase a Migratory Bird Certificate.

In 2023, 24,328 resident and 81,380 nonresident licenses were issued to hunt doves. Approximately 41% of resident migratory bird hunters and 19% of nonresident small game hunters were surveyed for the mourning dove season. Survey response rates were 31% for residents and 29% for nonresidents.

Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting doves, there were an estimated 8,463 active dove hunters. The five counties with the highest reported dove harvests were Hughes, Yankton, Charles Mix, Codington, and Brown.

An estimated total of 180,046 doves were harvested during the 2023 season. When asked their satisfaction on the season, (1 being least, 7 being most satisfied), resident dove hunters reported an average satisfaction rating of 5.20, nonresidents 5.75.

Summary comparison of the 2014 - 2023 mourning dove seasons

Year	<i>Residents</i>					<i>Nonresidents</i>				
	<i>Number Hunters</i>	<i>Harvest</i>	<i>Ave Day Hunted</i>	<i>Ave Bag</i>	<i>Satisfaction</i>	<i>Number Hunters</i>	<i>Harvest</i>	<i>Ave Day Hunted</i>	<i>Ave Bag</i>	<i>Satisfaction</i>
2014	8,345	167,407	4.67	20.06	5.05	316	3,991	2.95	12.62	5.71
2015	7,255	127,217	4.66	17.53	5.07	396	7,705	3.29	19.46	5.83
2016	7,131	122,876	4.19	17.23	4.89	318	3,601	2.79	11.32	5.59
2017	6,828	124,052	4.11	18.17	5.12	275	3,463	3.79	12.58	4.63
2018	6,531	120,835	4.16	18.50	5.12	275	3,571	3.22	13.00	5.72
2019	6,003	102,771	3.92	17.12	5.14	290	3,827	3.15	13.20	4.85
2020	6,844	122,464	4.45	17.89	5.21	416	7,158	3.55	17.23	6.06
2021	6,298	107,736	4.04	17.11	5.15	393	6,923	3.35	17.62	5.38
2022	6,855	141,349	4.39	20.62	5.29	506	7,652	3.32	15.13	6.35
2023	8,024	169,500	4.32	21.12	5.20	439	10,546	3.33	24.04	5.75

MOURNING DOVE HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2023

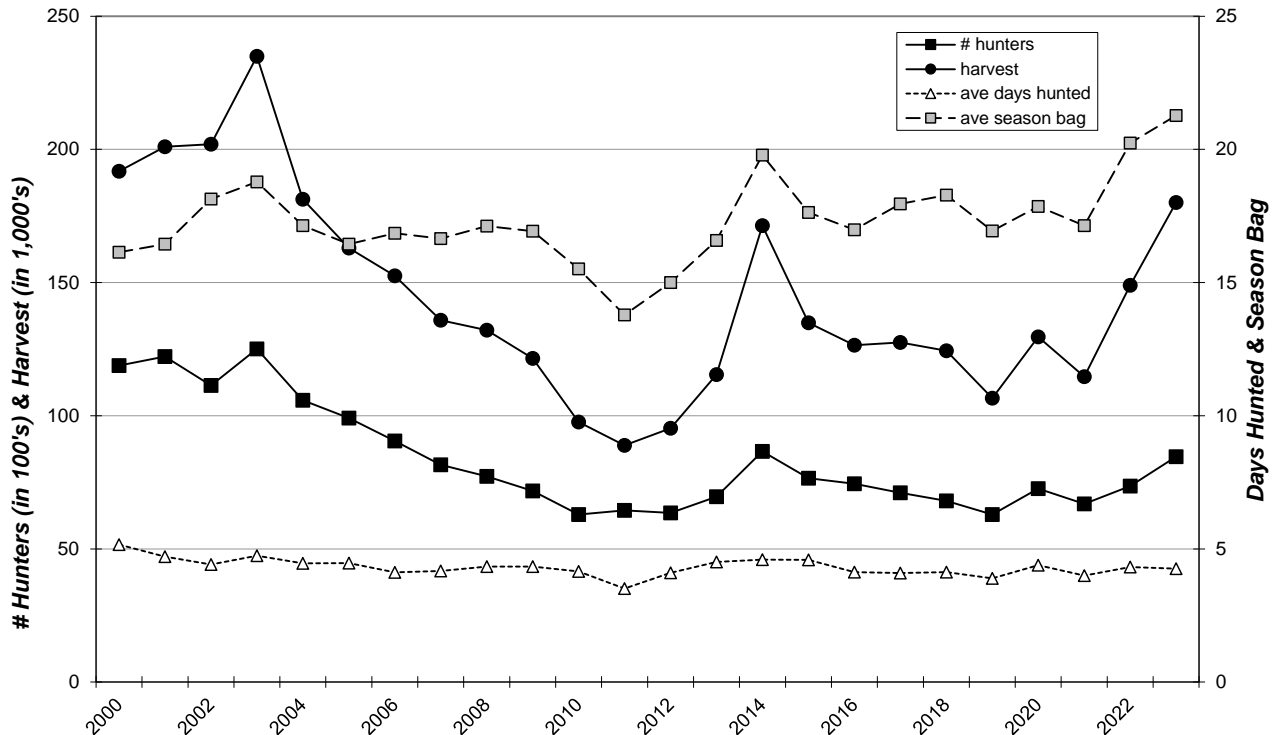
Last Revised: 11 June 2024

	Resident	Non Resident
Licenses Sold *	24,328	81,380
Unique License Holders	24,327	79,729
Projected ACTIVE MOURNING DOVE HUNTERS	8,024	439
Number Sampled by Survey	9,985	14,991
Number Responded to Survey	3,056	4,362
Responded and Participated in Season	1,008	24
Responded but DID NOT HUNT	2,048	4,338
Survey Response Rate	30.6%	29.1%
No. Hunters Reporting Dove Days	1,008	24
Total Reported Dove Hunted Days	4,350	80
Average Days Hunted Doves	4.32	3.33
Total Reported Doves Bagged	21,292	577
Average Dove Bag for Season	21.12	24.04
Projected Days Dove Hunting	34,629	1,462
Projected No. Dove Hunters	8,024	439
Projected Dove Bag	169,500	10,546
Avg Days Hunted		4.26
TOTAL DOVE HARVEST =		180,046
Dove Hunter Mean Satisfaction Score *1*	5.20	5.75

* Nonresident number represents total number of small game licenses sold.

1 Based on scale of 1-7 with 1=very dissatisfied & 7=very satisfied.

STATEWIDE MOURNING DOVE HARVEST, 2000-2023



Mourning Dove Harvest Distribution by County 2023

COUNTY	HUNTER DISTRIBUTION				HARVEST DISTRIBUTION				Birds/Hunter **
	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *	
Minnehaha	46	377	4.5	381	763	6,282	3.5	6,318	16.7
Pennington	2	16	0.2	17	6	49	0.0	50	3.0
Brown	43	353	4.2	356	936	7,706	4.3	7,751	21.9
Beadle	26	213	2.5	215	450	3,705	2.1	3,726	17.4
Codington	44	361	4.3	364	871	7,171	4.0	7,213	19.9
Brookings	47	385	4.6	389	801	6,595	3.7	6,633	17.1
Yankton	37	303	3.6	306	870	7,163	4.0	7,205	23.6
Davison	26	213	2.5	215	669	5,508	3.1	5,540	25.8
Lawrence	3	25	0.3	25	73	601	0.3	605	24.4
Aurora	18	148	1.8	149	383	3,153	1.8	3,172	21.4
Bennett	9	74	0.9	74	123	1,013	0.6	1,019	13.7
Bon Homme	17	139	1.7	141	284	2,338	1.3	2,352	16.8
Brule	20	164	2.0	165	542	4,462	2.5	4,488	27.2
Buffalo	2	16	0.2	17	32	263	0.1	265	16.1
Butte	10	82	1.0	83	206	1,696	0.9	1,706	20.7
Campbell	2	16	0.2	17	22	181	0.1	182	11.0
Charles Mix	38	312	3.7	314	975	8,027	4.5	8,074	25.8
Clark	11	90	1.1	91	178	1,465	0.8	1,474	16.2
Clay	12	98	1.2	99	123	1,013	0.6	1,019	10.3
Corson	3	25	0.3	25	120	988	0.6	994	40.2
Custer	12	98	1.2	99	254	2,091	1.2	2,103	21.2
Day	24	197	2.3	199	361	2,972	1.7	2,989	15.1
Deuel	14	115	1.4	116	337	2,775	1.5	2,791	24.2
Dewey	2	16	0.2	17	19	156	0.1	157	9.5
Douglas	10	82	1.0	83	318	2,618	1.5	2,633	31.9
Edmunds	10	82	1.0	83	234	1,927	1.1	1,938	23.5
Fall River	16	131	1.6	132	209	1,721	1.0	1,731	13.1
Faulk	5	41	0.5	41	22	181	0.1	182	4.4
Grant	15	123	1.5	124	362	2,980	1.7	2,998	24.2
Gregory	9	74	0.9	74	157	1,293	0.7	1,300	17.5
Haakon	7	57	0.7	58	119	980	0.5	985	17.1
Hamlin	8	66	0.8	66	160	1,317	0.7	1,325	20.1
Hand	4	33	0.4	33	68	560	0.3	563	17.1
Hanson	10	82	1.0	83	238	1,959	1.1	1,971	23.9
Harding	1	8	0.1	8	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Hughes	69	566	6.7	571	1,783	14,679	8.2	14,765	25.9
Hutchinson	10	82	1.0	83	280	2,305	1.3	2,319	28.1
Hyde	2	16	0.2	17	50	412	0.2	414	25.1
Jackson	10	82	1.0	83	260	2,141	1.2	2,153	26.1
Jerauld	3	25	0.3	25	68	560	0.3	563	22.8
Jones	8	66	0.8	66	141	1,161	0.6	1,168	17.7
Kingsbury	15	123	1.5	124	530	4,363	2.4	4,389	35.5
Lake	13	107	1.3	108	267	2,198	1.2	2,211	20.6
Lincoln	26	213	2.5	215	377	3,104	1.7	3,122	14.6
Lyman	11	90	1.1	91	367	3,021	1.7	3,039	33.5
McCook	29	238	2.8	240	524	4,314	2.4	4,339	18.1
McPherson	7	57	0.7	58	188	1,548	0.9	1,557	27.0
Marshall	9	74	0.9	74	105	864	0.5	870	11.7
Meade	31	254	3.0	256	548	4,512	2.5	4,538	17.7
Mellette	3	25	0.3	25	57	469	0.3	472	19.1
Miner	9	74	0.9	74	119	980	0.5	985	13.3
Moody	4	33	0.4	33	66	543	0.3	547	16.6
Perkins	38	312	3.7	314	570	4,693	2.6	4,720	15.1
Potter	12	98	1.2	99	294	2,420	1.4	2,435	24.6
Roberts	8	66	0.8	66	240	1,976	1.1	1,987	30.1
Sanborn	13	107	1.3	108	174	1,433	0.8	1,441	13.4
Spink	9	74	0.9	74	138	1,136	0.6	1,143	15.4
Stanley	16	131	1.6	132	642	5,286	3.0	5,316	40.3
Sully	28	230	2.7	232	624	5,137	2.9	5,167	22.4
Tripp	9	74	0.9	74	300	2,470	1.4	2,484	33.5
Turner	19	156	1.9	157	570	4,693	2.6	4,720	30.1
Union	19	156	1.9	157	303	2,495	1.4	2,509	16.0
Walworth	18	148	1.8	149	531	4,372	2.4	4,397	29.6
Ziebach	2	16	0.2	17	31	255	0.1	257	15.6
Shannon	9	74	0.9	74	300	2,470	1.4	2,484	33.5
Todd	1	8	0.1	8	10	82	0.0	83	10.0
Unk/Unreported	9	74	-	-	127	1,046	-	-	14.2
TOTALS:	1,032	8,463	100%	8,463	21,869	180,046	100%	180,046	21.27

Last Revised: 13 June 2024

* Includes unknown county projection values by assuming unknown county values are distributed the same as reported county values. Total values may be different due to rounding.

** Calculation uses "# projected" values without correction for unknown/unreported county values.