

PARTRIDGE

The 2023 partridge season was open 16 September 2023 - 71 January 2024 statewide. Harvest surveys were sent to both resident and nonresident hunters. The daily limit was 5 birds, possession 15. To hunt partridge residents were required to hold small game, 1-day small game, adult or senior combination, or youth small game licenses; nonresidents were required to obtain adult or youth small game or nonresident shooting preserve licenses. Harvest surveys were sent to both resident and nonresident hunters. No shooting preserve license holders were surveyed and none of their harvest is included in any of the data in this report.

In 2023, there were 84,610 resident and 81,380 nonresident licenses issued that allowed holders to hunt partridge. Approximately 15,000 residents and 15,000 nonresidents were surveyed for the upland bird seasons. Survey response rates were 28% for residents and 29% for nonresidents.

Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting partridge, there were a projected 2,701 resident and 2,580 nonresident partridge hunters.

An estimated 7,455 partridge were harvested (3,441 by residents, 4,014 by nonresidents) during the 2023 season. When asked their satisfaction on the season, (1 being least satisfied, 7 being most satisfied), resident upland bird hunters reported an average satisfaction rating of 5.03 while nonresidents reported a higher satisfaction rating of 5.72.

Comparison of the 2014 - 2023 partridge harvests

Year	<i>Residents</i>				<i>Nonresidents</i>			
	<i>Hunters</i>	<i>Harvest</i>	<i>Ave Days Hunted</i>	<i>Ave Bag</i>	<i>Hunters</i>	<i>Harvest</i>	<i>Ave Days Hunted</i>	<i>Ave Bag</i>
2014	2,355	5,942	6.27	2.43	1,985	3,609	4.13	1.82
2015	3,189	5,840	5.63	1.85	2,133	5,019	4.05	3.08
2016	2,516	7,053	5.87	2.73	2,204	3,272	4.21	1.48
2017	2,005	2,496	5.44	1.24	1,682	2,224	3.93	1.32
2018	1,672	1,223	4.82	0.75	1,904	3,900	4.38	2.05
2019	1,850	1,703	5.48	1.04	1,565	2,478	4.34	1.58
2020	2,432	3,505	6.85	1.46	1,806	2,177	4.32	1.21
2021	1,851	2,766	4.78	1.50	2,398	3,448	4.47	1.44
2022	2,236	4,362	6.70	1.99	2,318	4,379	4.15	1.94
2023	2,701	3,441	6.97	1.30	2,580	4,014	4.56	1.51

PARTRIDGE HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2023

Revised:
4/11/2024

	RESIDENT TOTALS BY LICENSE TYPE					NONRESIDENT TOTALS		
	Combo	Senior Combo	Small Game	Youth SmGm	Sum Estimates	Nonres Sm Game	Youth Sm Game	Sum Estimates
Licenses Sold	46,849	11,549	20,154	6,058	84,610	78,120	3,260	81,380
Projected ACTIVE UPLAND BIRD HUNTERS	30,541	6,554	15,612	4,775	57,482	74,982	2,984	77,966
Number Sampled by Survey	8,586	1,952	3,391	1,055	14,984	14,439	552	14,991
Number Responded to Survey	2,482	844	639	203	4,168	4,292	70	4,362
% Responded and Participated in Season	65%	57%	77%	79%	66%	98%	93%	98%
Responded and Participated in Season	1,618	479	495	160	2,752	4,206	65	4,271
Responded but DID NOT HUNT	864	365	144	43	1,416	86	5	91
Survey Response Rate	28.9%	43.2%	18.8%	19.2%	27.8%	29.7%	12.7%	29.1%
No. Hunters Reporting Partridge Days	90	23	18	4	135	137	3	140
Sum Partridge Hunted Days	608	174	146	13	941	624	15	639
Average Days Hunted Partridge	6.76	7.57	8.11	3.25	6.97	4.55	5.00	4.56
Sum Partridge Bagged	125	27	15	8	175	202	9	211
Average Season Partridge Bag	1.39	1.17	0.83	2.00	1.30	1.47	3.00	1.51
Projected Days Partridge Hunting	11,476	2,381	4,605	388	18,850	11,124	689	11,813
Projected No. Partridge Hunters	1,699	315	568	119	2,701	2,442	138	2,580
Projected Partridge Bag	2,359	369	473	239	3,441	3,601	413	4,014
	TOTAL PARTRIDGE HARVEST =					7,455		
Upland Bird Hunters Mean Satisfaction Score *	5.07	4.94	5.02	5.01	5.03	5.73	5.67	5.72

* Based on scale of 1-7 with 1="very dissatisfied" and 7="very satisfied"

STATEWIDE PARTRIDGE HARVEST, 1985-2023

