

# **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 2020 Light Goose Conservation Order covered 17 February - 15 May statewide. The daily bag and possession limits were unlimited. To hunt light geese, residents were required to hold small game, 1-day small game, adult, senior or junior combination, or youth small game licenses 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 2020, there were a projected 4,908 license holders who hunted at least one day for light geese during the conservation order dates (2,078 residents, 2,830 nonresidents). From the survey responses, there were a projected total of 96,846 light geese harvested.

The average days hunted projected to a total of 22,695 recreation days for the conservation order. Brown, Yankton, Clark, Beadle, and Edmunds county hunters had the highest reported harvest, accounting for an estimated 50% of the total harvest.

## Comparison of the 2011 - 2020 Conservation Order light goose statistics

<i>Year</i>	<i>Residents</i>			<i>Nonresidents</i>		
	<i>Number Hunters</i>	<i>Harvest</i>	<i>Total Days Hunted</i>	<i>Number Hunters</i>	<i>Harvest</i>	<i>Total Days Hunted</i>
2011	2,503	33,569	15,600	3,617	77,786	26,766
2012	2,324	37,655	13,885	2,494	70,703	16,538
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

## **SPRING LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST FOR 2020**

Last Revised: 1 Sept 2020

	<b>Resident</b>	<b>Nonresident</b>
<b>CONSERVATION ORDER LIGHT GOOSE Licenses Sold *3*</b>	10,786	3,083
<b>Projected ACTIVE CONS ORDER LIGHT GOOSE HUNTERS</b>	<b>2,078</b>	<b>2,830</b>
Number Sampled for Survey	2,967	1,469
Number Responded to Survey	1,734	732
Responded and Participated in Season	<b>334</b>	<b>672</b>
Responded but DID NOT HUNT	1,400	60
<b>Survey Response Rate</b>	<b>58.4%</b>	<b>49.8%</b>
<b>TOTAL LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST CONSERVATION ORDER = 96,846</b>		
<b>Late Season (Conservation Order) 2/17 - 3/10 Period:</b>		
No. Hunters Reporting Light Goose Days	214	207
Total Reported Light Goose Hunted Days	799	647
<b>Average Days Hunted Light Geese</b>	<b>3.73</b>	<b>3.13</b>
Total Reported Light Geese Bagged	1,644	3,231
<b>Average Light Goose Bag for Season</b>	<b>7.68</b>	<b>15.61</b>
<b>Projected Days Light Goose Hunting</b>	<b>4,970</b>	<b>2,725</b>
<b>Projected No. Light Goose Hunters</b>	<b>1,331</b>	<b>872</b>
<b>Projected Light Goose Bag</b>	<b>10,226</b>	<b>13,608</b>
<b>TOTAL LIGHT GEESE HARVESTED 2/17 - 3/10 = 23,834</b>		
<b>Late Season (Conservation Order) 3/11 - 5/15 Period:</b>		
No. Hunters Reporting Light Goose Days	223	536
Total Reported Light Goose Hunted Days	1,001	2,083
<b>Average Days Hunted Light Geese</b>	<b>4.49</b>	<b>3.89</b>
Total Reported Light Geese Bagged	3,366	12,364
<b>Average Light Goose Bag for Season</b>	<b>15.09</b>	<b>23.07</b>
<b>Projected Days Light Goose Hunting</b>	<b>6,227</b>	<b>8,773</b>
<b>Projected No. Light Goose Hunters</b>	<b>1,387</b>	<b>2,257</b>
<b>Projected Light Goose Bag</b>	<b>20,938</b>	<b>52,074</b>
<b>TOTAL LIGHT GEESE HARVESTED 3/11 - 5/15 = 73,012</b>		
Reported Geese bagged over decoys	2,048	5,262
<b>Projected Geese bagged over decoys</b>	<b>12,739</b>	<b>22,162</b>
<b>Total bagged over decoys = 34,901</b>		
Reported Geese shot but not retrieved	297	572
<b>Projected Geese Shot but Not Retrieved</b>	<b>1,847</b>	<b>2,409</b>
<b>Total not retrieved = 4,257</b>		
<i>*3* Numbers of resident licenses sold are based on the number of migratory bird certificates in the 2020 database purchased prior to April 21</i>		