

# **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 2018 Light Goose Conservation Order covered 19 February - 8 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 2018, there were a projected 7,379 license holders who hunted at least one day for light geese during the conservation order dates (2,736 residents, 4,643 nonresidents). From the survey responses, there were a projected total of 166,079 light geese harvested.

The average days hunted projected to a total of 32,577 recreation days for the conservation order. Brown, Yankton, Clark, Bon Homme, and Miner county hunters had the highest reported harvest, accounting for an estimated 43% of the total harvest.

## Comparison of the 2009 - 2018 Conservation Order light goose statistics

<b>Year</b>	<b>Residents</b>			<b>Nonresidents</b>		
	<b>Number Hunters</b>	<b>Harvest</b>	<b>Total Days Hunted</b>	<b>Number Hunters</b>	<b>Harvest</b>	<b>Total Days Hunted</b>
2009	2,895	38,184	15,173	3,621	78,765	15,063
2010	1,762	18,223	7,883	2,884	34,325	10,486
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

## **SPRING LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST FOR 2018**

Last Revised: 11 Sept 2018

	<b>Resident</b>	<b>Nonresident</b>
<b>CONSERVATION ORDER LIGHT GOOSE Licenses Sold *3*</b>	11,056	4,888
<b>Projected ACTIVE CONS ORDER LIGHT GOOSE HUNTERS</b>	<b>2,736</b>	<b>4,643</b>
Number Sampled for Survey	2,956	1,457
Number Responded to Survey	1,774	798
Responded and Participated in Season	<b>439</b>	<b>758</b>
Responded but DID NOT HUNT	1,335	40
<b>Survey Response Rate</b>	<b>60.0%</b>	<b>54.8%</b>
<b>TOTAL LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST CONSERVATION ORDER = 166,079</b>		
<b>Late Season (Conservation Order) 2/19 - 3/10 Period:</b>		
No. Hunters Reporting Light Goose Days	209	107
Total Reported Light Goose Hunted Days	776	334
<b>Average Days Hunted Light Geese</b>	<b>3.71</b>	<b>3.12</b>
Total Reported Light Geese Bagged	2,187	2,021
<b>Average Light Goose Bag for Season</b>	<b>10.46</b>	<b>18.89</b>
<b>Projected Days Light Goose Hunting</b>	<b>4,836</b>	<b>2,046</b>
<b>Projected No. Light Goose Hunters</b>	<b>1,303</b>	<b>655</b>
<b>Projected Light Goose Bag</b>	<b>13,630</b>	<b>12,379</b>
<b>TOTAL LIGHT GEESE HARVESTED 2/13 - 3/10 = 26,009</b>		
<b>Late Season (Conservation Order) 3/11 - 5/8 Period:</b>		
No. Hunters Reporting Light Goose Days	324	682
Total Reported Light Goose Hunted Days	1,475	2,694
<b>Average Days Hunted Light Geese</b>	<b>4.55</b>	<b>3.95</b>
Total Reported Light Geese Bagged	6,038	16,724
<b>Average Light Goose Bag for Season</b>	<b>18.64</b>	<b>24.52</b>
<b>Projected Days Light Goose Hunting</b>	<b>9,193</b>	<b>16,502</b>
<b>Projected No. Light Goose Hunters</b>	<b>2,019</b>	<b>4,177</b>
<b>Projected Light Goose Bag</b>	<b>37,630</b>	<b>102,440</b>
<b>TOTAL LIGHT GEESE HARVESTED 3/11 - 5/2 = 140,070</b>		
Reported Geese bagged over decoys	2,662	15,172
<b>Projected Geese bagged over decoys</b>	<b>16,590</b>	<b>92,933</b>
<b>Total bagged over decoys = 109,523</b>		
Reported Geese shot but not retrieved	485	743
<b>Projected Geese Shot but Not Retrieved</b>	<b>3,023</b>	<b>4,551</b>
<b>Total not retrieved = 7,574</b>		

\*3\* Numbers of resident licenses sold are based on the number of migratory bird certificates in the 2018

database purchased prior to April 21