

TUNDRA SWAN

The 2024 Tundra Swan season was open from September 28 - January 10 in the following counties: Campbell, Walworth, Potter, Sully, Hughes, Hyde, Hand, Faulk, Spink, McPherson, Edmunds, Brown, Marshall, Roberts, Day, Grant, Codington, Clark, Hamlin, Deuel, Beadle, Kingsbury, Brookings, Buffalo, Jerauld, Brule, Aurora, Sanborn, Miner, Lake, Moody, Davison, Hanson, McCook, and Minnehaha. Residents and nonresidents could purchase up to two licenses. To hunt swans, residents were required to hold a small game, 1-day small game, senior, adult, or junior combination, or youth small game license, plus a migratory bird certification. Nonresidents were required to obtain a nonresident waterfowl license, plus a migratory bird certification. All hunters aged 16 and over were also required to obtain a federal waterfowl stamp. In addition, all hunters needed to apply for and receive a lottery-issued Tundra Swan license.

There were 1,300 licenses available for the 2024 Tundra Swan season (1,100 residents, 200 nonresidents) and 1,300 licenses were sold (1,000 residents, 300 nonresidents; 136 hunters purchased two licenses each). All swan hunters that provided a valid email address were surveyed using Survey 123 Software, and the response rate was 54%.

From the survey responses, there were a projected 232 swans harvested during the 2024 season. An estimated 8 swans were crippled and not recovered. When asked their satisfaction on the season, (1 being least satisfied, 7 being most satisfied), swan hunters reported an average rating of 5.00. From those who responded, 35% indicated they did not hunt for swans (some hunters indicate they just purchase the license in case they happen to see a swan while hunting other waterfowl). The average days hunted by swan hunters (3.20 days) projected to a total of 2,436 recreation days for the season.

The two counties with the highest reported swan harvests were Brown and McPherson.

Comparison of the 2015 – 2024 Tundra Swan seasons

Year	Licenses Sold			Harvest (w/o cripples)	Avg Days Hunted	Percent Success	Average Satisfaction
	Resident	Nonres	Total				
2015	1,088	211	1,299	229	3.07	18%	5.09
2016	938	145	1,083	82	2.96	8%	4.81
2017	888	180	1,068	232	5.17	22%	5.10
2018	973	216	1,189	179	4.71	15%	4.85
2019	972	213	1,185	214	4.18	18%	5.11
2020	919	247	1,166	189	4.76	16%	4.76
2021	982	215	1,197	86	4.49	7%	4.49
2022	958	307	1,265	142	4.68	11%	4.72
2023	1,022	276	1,298	294	4.64	23%	5.11
2024	1,000	300	1,300	232	3.20	18%	5.00

2024 Tundra Swan Harvest Projections

Licenses																
Last Revised: 5-Jun-2025																
Unit/Type	Resident			Nonresident			Hunters	Response Rate	Tag Success	Harvest Projections				Total Harvest	Ave. Days Hunted	Ave. Satis- faction
	App. 1st Choice *	Available	Sold	App. 1st Choice *	Available	Sold				Cripples **	Adults	Juvnles	Unk.			
00A-81	400	1,100	1,000	2	200	300	1,164	54.3%	18%	8	210	22	0	232	3.20	5.00

* Number of 1st drawing applicants with that season as 1st choice.

** Cripple estimate not included in Total Harvest Estimate.

Satisfaction is based on scale with 1=very dissatisfied and 7=very satisfied.

* Number of 1st drawing applicants with that season as 1st choice.

** Cripple estimate not included in Total Harvest Estimate.

Satisfaction is based on scale with 1=very dissatisfied and 7=very satisfied.

Tundra Swan Harvest Distribution by County 2024

COUNTY	HARVEST DISTRIBUTION			
	# Reported	# Projected	% of Total	# Proj w/ Unk *
Brown	17	31	16.0	37
Beadle	1	2	0.9	2
Codington	2	4	1.9	4
Brookings	2	4	1.9	4
Yankton	0	0	0.0	0
Campbell	4	7	3.8	9
Clark	7	13	6.6	15
Day	15	28	14.2	33
Deuel	0	0	0.0	0
Douglas	0	0	0.0	0
Edmunds	7	13	6.6	15
Faulk	0	0	0.0	0
Grant	1	2	0.9	2
Hamlin	2	4	1.9	4
Hand	0	0	0.0	0
Hughes	1	2	0.9	2
Hyde	0	0	0.0	0
Kingsbury	1	2	0.9	2
Lake	0	0	0.0	0
McPherson	20	37	18.9	44
Marshall	15	28	14.2	33
Miner	0	0	0.0	0
Potter	1	2	0.9	2
Roberts	7	13	6.6	15
Spink	3	6	2.8	7
Sully	0	0	0.0	0
Walworth	0	0	0.0	0
Unk/Unreported	20	37	-	
TOTALS:	126	232	100%	232

Last Revised: 5 June 2025

* 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.

TUNDRA SWAN HARVEST, 1990-2024

