TUNDRA SWAN

The 2025 Tundra Swan season was open from October 4, 2025 - January 9, 2026 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 2025 Tundra Swan season (1,100 residents, 200 nonresidents) and 1,295 licenses were sold (1,052 residents, 243 nonresidents; 116 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 235 swans harvested during the 2025 season. An estimated 14 swans were crippled and not recovered. When asked about their satisfaction on the season, (1 being least satisfied, 7 being most satisfied), swan hunters reported an average rating of 4.86. 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 (3.01 days) projected to a total of 2,318 recreation days for the season.

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

Comparison of the 2016 – 2025 Tundra Swan seasons

	Licenses Sold			Harvest	Avg Days	Percent	Average
Year	Resident	Nonres	Total	(w/o cripples)	Hunted	Success	Satisfaction
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
2025	1,052	243	1,295	235	3.01	18%	4.86

2025 Tundra Swan Harvest Projections

Last Revised:	Licenses										Harvest Projections					Ave.	Ave.
12-Feb-2026	Resident			Nonresident													
Unit/Type	App. 1st Choice *	Available	Sold	App. 1st Choice *	Available	Sold	Hunters	Response Rate	Tag Success	Cripples **	Adults	Juvnles	Unk.	Total Harvest	Days Hunted	Satis-faction
00A-81	533	1,100	1,052	0	200	243	1,179	53.7%	18%	14	203	26	6	235	3.01	4.86

** 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 2025

	HARVEST DISTRIBUTION			
COUNTY	***# Reported***	***# Projected***	***% of Total***	***# Proj w/ Unk ****
Brown	23	43	21.5	50
Beadle	1	2	0.9	2
Codington	1	2	0.9	2
Brookings	0	0	0.0	0
Yankton	0	0	0.0	0
Campbell	2	4	1.9	4
Clark	12	22	11.2	26
Day	12	22	11.2	26
Deuel	2	4	1.9	4
Douglas	0	0	0.0	0
Edmunds	10	19	9.3	22
Faulk	2	4	1.9	4
Grant	0	0	0.0	0
Hamlin	5	9	4.7	11
Hand	3	6	2.8	7
Hughes	0	0	0.0	0
Hyde	0	0	0.0	0
Kingsbury	0	0	0.0	0
Lake	0	0	0.0	0
McPherson	21	39	19.6	46
Marshall	7	13	6.5	15
Miner	0	0	0.0	0
Potter	0	0	0.0	0
Roberts	4	7	3.7	9
Spink	2	4	1.9	4
Sully	0	0	0.0	0
Walworth	0	0	0.0	0
Unk/Unreported	19	35	-	
TOTALS:	***126***	***235***	***100%***	***235***

Last Revised: 12 Feb 2026

** 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, 1990-2025

