WATERFOWL

In 2024, there were an estimated 15,601 active resident migratory bird hunters in South Dakota, of which 12,614 were active waterfowl hunters. There were also an estimated 4,889 nonresidents that participated in waterfowl hunting. All nonresident waterfowl license holders that provided a valid email address and a random sample of 10,000 resident migratory bird certificate holders were surveyed. Nonresident youth license holders were not surveyed. The survey response rates were 30% for residents and 41% for nonresidents.

When asked their satisfaction on the season, (1 being least satisfied, 7 being most satisfied), waterfowl hunters reported an overall average rating of 4.81 for residents, and 5.19 for nonresidents.

Summary comparison of the 2015 - 2024 waterfowl seasons

		Res	idents	Nonresidents					
Year	Active Mig Bird Hunters	Active Waterfowl Hunters	Survey Response Rate	Satisfaction	Active Waterfowl Hunters	Survey Response Rate	Satisfaction		
2015	17,231	14,579	64%	4.84	4,195	78%	4.91		
2016	16,461	13,770	61%	4.86	4,254	73%	4.79		
2017	16,478	13,814	60%	5.04	4,523	69%	5.16		
2018	15,371	12,750	60%	4.95	4,326	70%	5.10		
2019	15,316	13,401	62%	5.10	4,665	70%	5.37		
2020	16,819	14,597	37%	5.10	4,489	53%	5.37		
2021	15,406	13,177	36%	5.11	4,646	47%	5.18		
2022	15,219	12,498	33%	5.08	4,544	43%	5.41		
2023	16,614	13,756	31%	5.01	4,847	42%	5.50		
2024	15,601	12,614	30%	4.81	4,889	41%	5.19		

WATERFOWL HUNTING SUMMARY	FOR 2	024								
Revised: 27 May 2025										
	NONRESIDENT TOTALS BY UNIT								NR	Resident
	00A	00B	11A	00V	00X	00Y	00Z	YW1	Totals	Total
1st Choice Applicants	443	5,837	35	224	26	579	309		7,453	NA
Licenses Available	250	3,925	25	550	750	500	300	100	6,400	NA
Licenses Sold *3*	249	3,916	25	549	454	500	300	23	6,016	22,969
Projected ACTIVE MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTERS	191	3,331	18	443	264	392	227	23	4,889	15,601
Unique Licenseholders	249	3,915	25	549	445	500	300	23	6,006	22,968
Number Sampled by Survey	247	3,912	25	548	441	500	300	0	5,973	9,995
Number Responded to Survey	107	1,723	7	171	128	204	99		2,439	2,999
% Responded and Participated in Season	77%	85%	71%	81%	59%	78%	76%		82%	68%
Responded and Participated in Season	82	1,466	5	138	76	160	75		2,002	2,037
Responded but DID NOT HUNT	25	257	2	33	52	44	24		437	962
Survey Response Rate	43.3%	44.0%	28.0%	31.2%	29.0%	40.8%	33.0%		40.8%	30.0%
YOUTH SEASON PARTICIPATION:										
No. Hunters Reporting Participation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	176
Projected No. Hunters Participating										1,348
Percent Hunters Participating										5.9%
No. Hunters Reporting Goose or Duck Days	82	1466	5	138	76	160	75		2,002	1,647
Projected Waterfowl Hunters - Ducks and Geese	191	3,331	18	443	264	392	227	23	4,889	12,614
	TOTAL WATERFOWL HUNT							JNTERS =	17,503	
All Waterfowl Hunter Mean Satisfaction Score *1*	4.69	5.24	5.20	4.99	4.79	5.28	5.27		5.19	4.81
1 Based on scale of 1-7 with 1=very dissatisfied & 7=very satisfied	d									
3 Numbers of resident licenses sold are based on the number of migratory bird certificates in the 2024 database prior to Feb. 17, 2025										