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# **South Dakota GAME REPORT**

**No. 2024 – 05**

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**2023**

**Annual Report**

## **SMALL GAME, UPLAND BIRD & MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HARVEST PROJECTIONS**

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## PREFACE

Harvest estimates reported herein for the 2023 small game, upland bird, and migratory bird seasons were developed as described in Wildlife Survey Manual, 2009-2015, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks. If species specific methodologies are not reported there, the methodologies are presented within this report.

Corey Huxoll, (Division of Wildlife, Office of Wildlife Administration - Planning - Surveys Section), was responsible for development of these harvest estimates as part of Federal Aid for Wildlife Restoration as Project W-95-R. All harvest survey responses were received through the Internet using Survey123 Software.

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## Statewide Combined Harvest

| 2023 Statewide Small Game, Upland Bird & Migratory Game Bird Harvest Projection Summary |                   |          |                     |           |                |                  |         |                               |                               |                                |                                  |                                 |                                 |                        |               | last revised:<br>14 Aug 2024 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------|---------------------|-----------|----------------|------------------|---------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Harvest Statistic                                                                       | Cottontail        | Squirrel | Pheasant            | Partridge | Prairie Grouse | Tundra Swan      | Ducks   | Canada Geese<br>(all seasons) | Canada Geese<br>(August Take) | Canada Geese<br>(Sept. season) | Canada Geese<br>(special season) | Light Geese<br>(regular season) | Light Geese<br>(conserv. order) | White-fronted<br>Geese | Mourning Dove | Grand Totals                 |
| <b><u>Licenses/Tags</u></b>                                                             | <b>Small Game</b> |          | <b>Upland Birds</b> |           |                | <b>Waterfowl</b> |         |                               |                               |                                |                                  |                                 |                                 |                        |               | 215,700                      |
| <b>Resident</b>                                                                         |                   |          |                     |           |                |                  |         |                               |                               |                                |                                  |                                 |                                 |                        |               |                              |
| Licenses Available                                                                      | unlim.            | unlim.   | unlim.              | unlim.    | unlim.         | 1,100            | unlim.  | unlim.                        | unlim.                        | unlim.                         | 800                              | unlim.                          | unlim.                          | unlim.                 | unlim.        |                              |
| Proj. Active/Sold/Issued                                                                | 4,158             | 2,096    | 56,457              | 2,701     | 9,617          | 1,022            | 11,726  | 9,361                         | 1,263                         | 2,746                          | 647                              | 3,781                           | 3,537                           | 2,117                  | 8,024         |                              |
| <b>Nonresident</b>                                                                      |                   |          |                     |           |                |                  |         |                               |                               |                                |                                  |                                 |                                 |                        |               |                              |
| Licenses Available                                                                      | unlim.            | unlim.   | unlim.              | unlim.    | unlim.         | 200              | unlim.  | unlim.                        | N/A                           | unlim.                         | N/A                              | unlim.                          | unlim.                          | unlim.                 | unlim.        |                              |
| Proj. Active/Sold/Issued                                                                | 688               | 107      | 77,004              | 2,580     | 7,567          | 276              | 4,594   | 2,295                         | N/A                           | 261                            | N/A                              | 1,224                           | 3,688                           | 642                    | 439           |                              |
| <b>Totals</b>                                                                           |                   |          |                     |           |                |                  |         |                               |                               |                                |                                  |                                 |                                 |                        |               |                              |
| Licenses Available                                                                      | unlim.            | unlim.   | unlim.              | unlim.    | unlim.         | 1,300            | unlim.  | unlim.                        | unlim.                        | unlim.                         | 800                              | unlim.                          | unlim.                          | unlim.                 | unlim.        | 812,119                      |
| Proj. Active/Sold/Issued                                                                | 4,845             | 2,203    | 133,461             | 5,281     | 17,184         | 1,298            | 16,319  | 11,657                        | 1,263                         | 3,008                          | 647                              | 5,005                           | 7,225                           | 2,759                  | 8,463         |                              |
| <b><u>Hunting Recreation</u></b>                                                        |                   |          |                     |           |                |                  |         |                               |                               |                                |                                  |                                 |                                 |                        |               |                              |
| <b>Residents</b>                                                                        |                   |          |                     |           |                |                  |         |                               |                               |                                |                                  |                                 |                                 |                        |               |                              |
| Average Days Hunted                                                                     | 8.27              | 6.50     | 8.05                | 6.97      | 5.80           | 4.56             | 7.40    | 6.70                          | 2.50                          | N/A                            | 0.98                             | 5.64                            | 4.10                            | 5.92                   | 4.32          |                              |
| Total Days Hunted                                                                       | 33,165            | 12,760   | 454,645             | 18,850    | 55,505         | 4,746            | 86,721  | 62,744                        | 3,159                         | N/A                            | 388                              | 21,318                          | 14,497                          | 12,538                 | 34,629        | 441,288                      |
| Average Season Bag                                                                      | 6.32              | 4.33     | 10.13               | 1.30      | 4.78           | N/A              | 16.20   | 8.40                          | 8.74                          | 8.56                           | 1.03                             | 19.58                           | 17.46                           | 3.02                   | 21.12         |                              |
| Mean Satisfaction Score                                                                 | 5.19              | 5.19     | 5.03                | 5.03      | 5.03           | 5.17             | 5.07    | 4.97                          | -                             | 5.48                           | 4.69                             | 5.13                            | -                               | -                      | 5.20          |                              |
| <b>Nonresidents</b>                                                                     |                   |          |                     |           |                |                  |         |                               |                               |                                |                                  |                                 |                                 |                        |               |                              |
| Average Days Hunted                                                                     | 4.38              | 4.50     | 4.43                | 4.56      | 4.04           | 4.86             | 4.40    | 4.02                          | -                             | 3.11                           | -                                | 3.97                            | 3.76                            | 4.14                   | 3.33          |                              |
| Total Days Hunted                                                                       | 2,916             | 481      | 341,201             | 11,813    | 30,675         | 1,282            | 20,192  | 9,081                         | -                             | 814                            | -                                | 4,862                           | 13,856                          | 2,653                  | 1,462         | 1,253,407                    |
| Average Season Bag                                                                      | 2.65              | 2.00     | 8.71                | 1.51      | 3.10           | N/A              | 13.04   | 2.59                          | -                             | 8.67                           | -                                | 15.27                           | 27.88                           | 2.31                   | 24.04         |                              |
| Mean Satisfaction Score                                                                 | 5.51              | 5.51     | 5.72                | 5.72      | 5.72           | 5.07             | 5.51    | 5.48                          | -                             | 5.10                           | -                                | 5.58                            | -                               | -                      | 5.75          |                              |
| <b>Total Days Hunted</b>                                                                | 36,082            | 13,242   | 795,846             | 30,663    | 86,180         | 6,028            | 106,913 | 71,825                        | 3,159                         | N/A                            | 388                              | 26,180                          | 28,353                          | 15,191                 | 36,091        |                              |
| <b><u>Harvest</u></b>                                                                   |                   |          |                     |           |                |                  |         |                               |                               |                                |                                  |                                 |                                 |                        |               |                              |
| Residents                                                                               | 25,148            | 8,281    | 572,159             | 3,441     | 46,228         | N/A              | 189,983 | 78,633                        | 11,035                        | 23,499                         | 408                              | 74,048                          | 61,751                          | 6,392                  | 169,500       | 2,137,783                    |
| Nonresidents                                                                            | 1,803             | 214      | 671,036             | 4,014     | 23,214         | N/A              | 59,912  | 5,925                         | -                             | 2,265                          | -                                | 18,692                          | 102,820                         | 1,484                  | 10,546        |                              |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                            | 26,951            | 8,495    | 1,243,194           | 7,455     | 69,443         | 294              | 249,895 | 84,558                        | 11,035                        | 25,764                         | 408                              | 92,740                          | 164,572                         | 7,876                  | 180,046       |                              |

## **COTTONTAIL & SQUIRREL**

The 2023 cottontail rabbit and tree squirrel seasons covered 1 September 2023 - 29 February 2024. Harvest surveys were sent to resident and nonresident hunters after the close of the pheasant season on 31 January 2024. It is assumed that this captured the majority of cottontail and squirrel hunting and harvest.

For cottontail, the daily limit was 10, possession 30, and the season was open statewide. For squirrel, the daily limit was 5, possession 15, and the season was open statewide. Residents holding small game, 1-day small game, adult or senior combination, or youth small game licenses were eligible to participate in the season. Nonresidents were required to obtain either a small game or a youth small game license to hunt upland game.

In 2023, there were 84,610 resident and 81,380 nonresident licenses issued that allowed holders to hunt small game. Approximately 15,000 residents and 15,000 nonresidents were surveyed for the small game seasons. Survey response rates were 28% for residents and 29% for nonresidents.

Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting cottontails, there were a projected 4,158 resident and 688 nonresident cottontail hunters. Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting squirrels, there were a projected 2,096 resident and 107 nonresident hunters. An estimated 26,951 cottontails and 8,495 squirrels were harvested during the 2023 small game seasons.

When asked their satisfaction on the season, (1 being least satisfied, 7 being most satisfied), resident hunters reported an average satisfaction level of 5.19, while nonresidents reported a rating of 5.51.

### Comparison of the 2014 - 2023 cottontail and squirrel harvests

| Year | Cottontails |        |          |        | Squirrels |        |          |        |
|------|-------------|--------|----------|--------|-----------|--------|----------|--------|
|      | Hunters     |        | Harvest  |        | Hunters   |        | Harvest  |        |
|      | Resident    | Nonres | Resident | Nonres | Resident  | Nonres | Resident | Nonres |
| 2014 | 5,366       | 754    | 28,276   | 1,591  | 2,552     | 150    | 9,587    | 241    |
| 2015 | 5,779       | 1,020  | 37,407   | 2,397  | 2,870     | 171    | 13,311   | 180    |
| 2016 | 5,584       | 754    | 35,649   | 2,224  | 2,786     | 181    | 11,614   | 262    |
| 2017 | 4,628       | 607    | 22,711   | 1,561  | 2,571     | 87     | 9,850    | 260    |
| 2018 | 4,341       | 475    | 19,386   | 937    | 2,302     | 141    | 8,241    | 293    |
| 2019 | 3,563       | 437    | 19,329   | 604    | 2,542     | 87     | 12,077   | 116    |
| 2020 | 4,871       | 597    | 27,026   | 928    | 3,174     | 119    | 12,757   | 239    |
| 2021 | 4,063       | 754    | 19,385   | 754    | 2,248     | 74     | 8,014    | 59     |
| 2022 | 5,333       | 796    | 33,910   | 1,943  | 2,466     | 80     | 9,949    | 48     |
| 2023 | 4,158       | 688    | 25,148   | 1,803  | 2,096     | 107    | 8,281    | 214    |

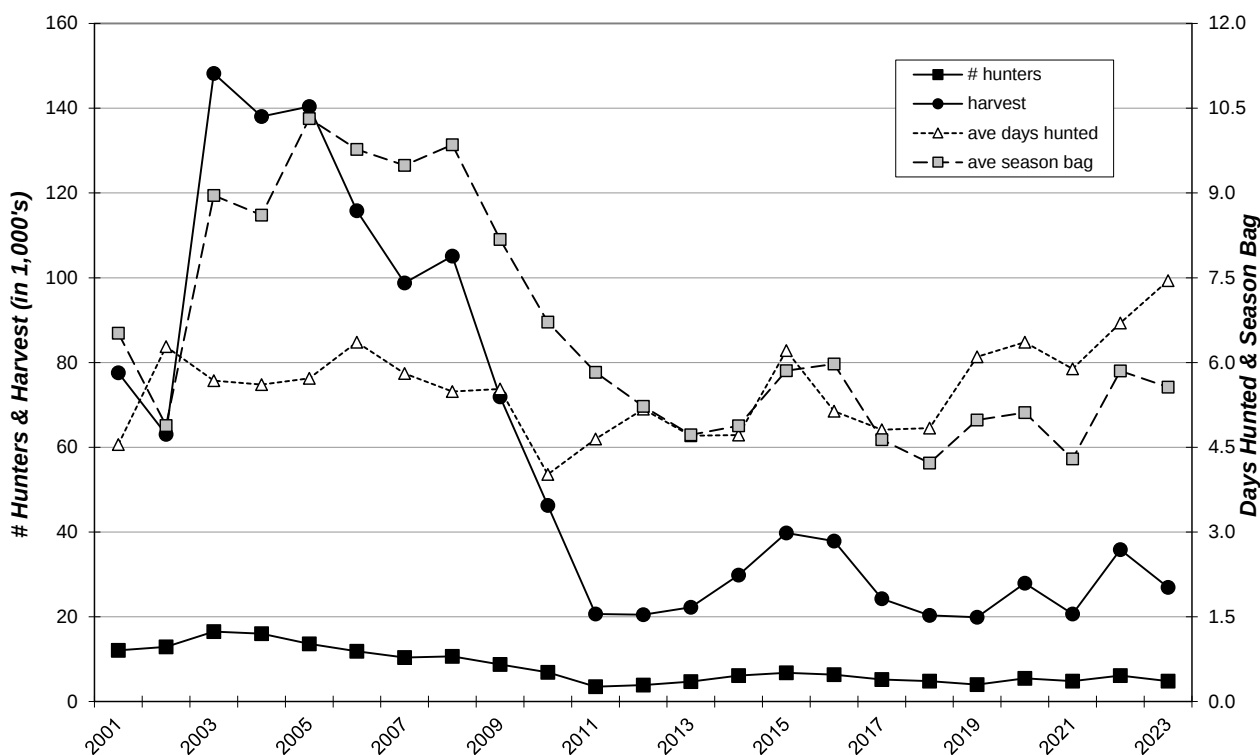
Survey design changed in 2010 and 2014 so results may not be directly comparable to previous years.

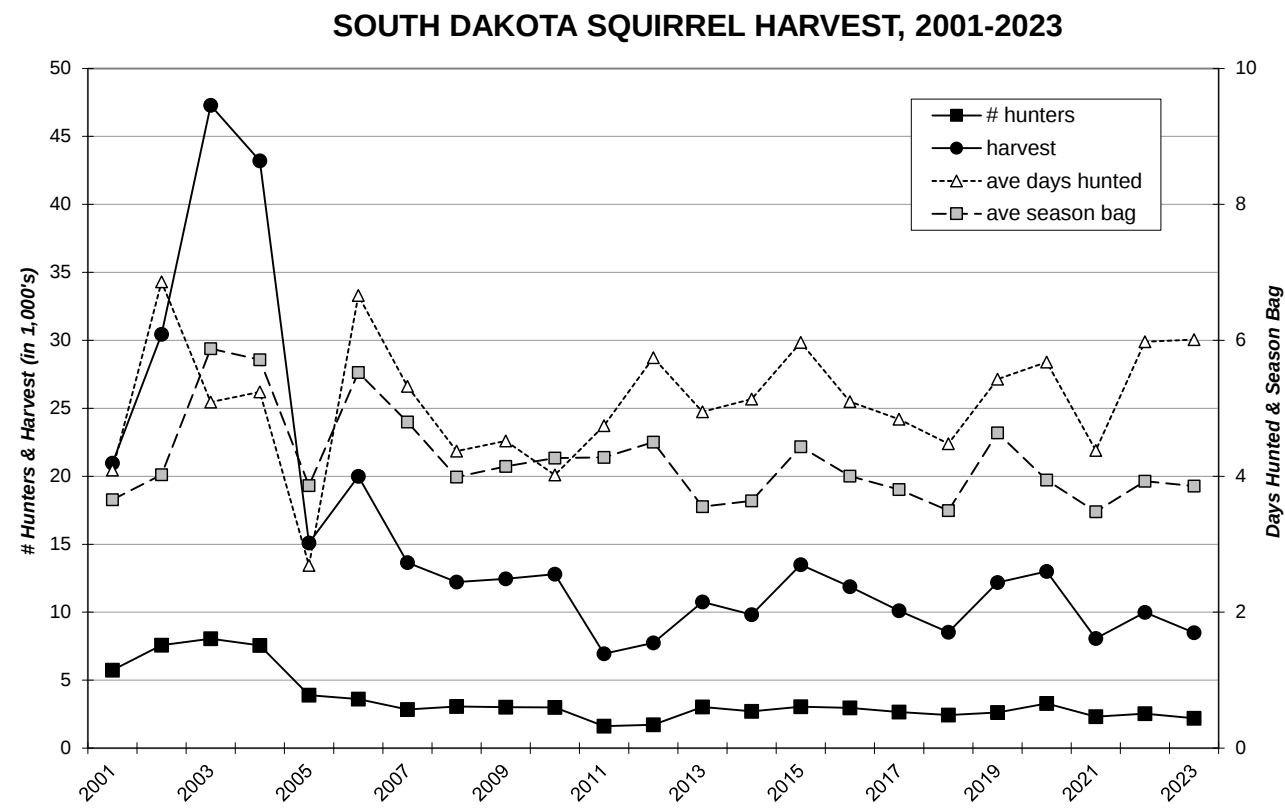
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Corey Huxoll

| UPLAND GAME HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2023 |                                 |                 |               |               |                  |                    |                |                  |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Last Revised: 14 Aug 2024                |                                 |                 |               |               |                  | NONRESIDENT TOTALS |                |                  |
|                                          | RESIDENT TOTALS BY LICENSE TYPE |                 |               |               |                  |                    |                |                  |
|                                          | Comb-<br>ination                | Senior<br>Combo | Small<br>Game | Youth<br>SmGm | Sum<br>Estimates | Nonres<br>Sm Game  | Youth<br>Sm Gm | Sum<br>Estimates |
| Licenses Sold                            | 46,849                          | 11,549          | 20,154        | 6,058         | 84,610           | 78,120             | 3,260          | 81,380           |
| Projected ACTIVE UPLAND GAME HUNTERS     | 2,359                           | 506             | 1,135         | 627           | 4,628            | 695                | 46             | 741              |
| Number Sampled by Survey                 | 8,586                           | 1,952           | 3,391         | 1,055         | 14,984           | 14,439             | 552            | 14,991           |
| Number Responded to Survey               | 2,482                           | 844             | 639           | 203           | 4,168            | 4,292              | 70             | 4,362            |
| % Responded and Participated in Season   | 5%                              | 4%              | 6%            | 10%           | 5%               | 1%                 | 1%             | 1%               |
| Responded and Participated in Season     | 125                             | 37              | 36            | 21            | 219              | 39                 | 1              | 40               |
| Responded but DID NOT HUNT               | 2,357                           | 807             | 603           | 182           | 3,949            | 4,253              | 69             | 4,322            |
| Survey Response Rate                     | 28.9%                           | 43.2%           | 18.8%         | 19.2%         | 27.8%            | 29.7%              | 12.7%          | 29.1%            |
| No. Hunters Reporting Cottontail Days    | 110                             | 30              | 35            | 19            | 194              | 36                 | 1              | 37               |
| Sum Cottontail Hunted Days               | 956                             | 286             | 238           | 124           | 1,604            | 161                | 1              | 162              |
| Average Days Hunted Cottontails          | 8.69                            | 9.53            | 6.80          | 6.53          | 8.27             | 4.47               | 1.00           | 4.38             |
| Sum Cottontails Bagged                   | 803                             | 182             | 164           | 78            | 1,227            | 96                 | 2              | 98               |
| Average Cottontail Bag for Season        | 7.30                            | 6.07            | 4.69          | 4.11          | 6.32             | 2.67               | 2.00           | 2.65             |
| Projected Days Cottontail Hunting        | 18,045                          | 3,914           | 7,506         | 3,700         | 33,165           | 2,870              | 46             | 2,916            |
| Projected No. Cottontail Hunters         | 2,076                           | 411             | 1,104         | 567           | 4,158            | 642                | 46             | 688              |
| Projected Cottontail Bag                 | 15,157                          | 2,490           | 5,173         | 2,328         | 25,148           | 1,711              | 92             | 1,803            |
| TOTAL COTTONTAIL HARVEST =               |                                 |                 |               |               |                  | 26,951             |                |                  |
| No. Hunters Reporting Squirrel Days      | 63                              | 19              | 12            | 9             | 103              | 6                  | 0              | 6                |
| Sum Squirrel Hunted Days                 | 423                             | 167             | 61            | 19            | 670              | 27                 |                | 27               |
| Average Days Hunted Squirrels            | 6.71                            | 8.79            | 5.08          | 2.11          | 6.50             | 4.50               | 0.00           | 4.50             |
| Sum Squirrels Bagged                     | 259                             | 139             | 34            | 14            | 446              | 12                 |                | 12               |
| Average Squirrel Bag for Season          | 4.11                            | 7.32            | 2.83          | 1.56          | 4.33             | 2.00               | 0.00           | 2.00             |
| Projected Days Squirrel Hunting          | 7,984                           | 2,285           | 1,924         | 567           | 12,760           | 481                | 0              | 481              |
| Projected No. Squirrel Hunters           | 1,189                           | 260             | 378           | 269           | 2,096            | 107                | 0              | 107              |
| Projected Squirrel Bag                   | 4,889                           | 1,902           | 1,072         | 418           | 8,281            | 214                | 0              | 214              |
| TOTAL SQUIRREL HARVEST =                 |                                 |                 |               |               |                  | 8,495              |                |                  |
| Mean Satisfaction Score *                | 5.10                            | 5.03            | 5.69          | 5.14          | 5.19             | 5.53               | 5.00           | 5.51             |

\* Based on scale of 1-7 with 1="very dissatisfied" and 7="very satisfied"

### SOUTH DAKOTA COTTONTAIL HARVEST, 2001-2023





## **PHEASANT**

The 2023 pheasant season was open from 21 October 2023 – 31 January 2024 statewide. There was also a Youth season open 30 September - 8 October on public and private land and an early resident season open 14-16 October on public lands only. The daily limit was 3 cock pheasants, possession 15. To hunt pheasants, residents were required to hold small game, 1-day small game, adult or senior combination, or youth small game licenses; nonresidents were required to obtain adult or youth small game or nonresident shooting preserve licenses. Harvest surveys were sent to both resident and nonresident hunters. No shooting preserve license holders were surveyed and none of their harvest is included in the estimates below. Separate Department records showed a total harvest of 375,716 pheasants on private shooting preserves in 2023, of which 21,863 (6%) were designated as wild birds.

In 2023, there were 84,610 resident and 81,380 nonresident licenses issued that allowed holders to hunt pheasants. Approximately 15,000 residents and 15,000 nonresidents were surveyed for the upland bird seasons. Survey response rates were 28% for residents and 29% for nonresidents.

Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting pheasants, there were a projected 56,457 resident and 77,004 nonresident pheasant hunters.

A projected 1,243,194 pheasants were harvested (572,159 by residents, 671,036 by nonresidents) during the 2023 seasons. When asked their satisfaction on the season, (1 being least satisfied, 7 being most satisfied), resident upland bird hunters reported an average satisfaction rating of 5.03 while nonresidents reported a satisfaction rating of 5.72.

An estimated 20,108 residents participated in the early, resident-only season. The projected harvest for this season was 27,406 birds.

The Youth season overall participation rate was approximately 5.2%; nonresidents were not surveyed on their participation.

The five counties with the highest reported harvests from highest to lowest were Brown, Beadle, Spink, Brule, and Lyman.

### Comparison of the 2014 - 2023 Pheasant season statistics

| Year | Resident Hunters |         |                |         |              | Nonresident Hunters |         |                |         |              |
|------|------------------|---------|----------------|---------|--------------|---------------------|---------|----------------|---------|--------------|
|      | Number Hunters   | Harvest | Ave Day Hunted | Ave Bag | Satisfaction | Number Hunters      | Harvest | Ave Day Hunted | Ave Bag | Satisfaction |
| 2014 | 61,776           | 504,144 | 6.31           | 8.32    | 4.85         | 79,195              | 695,660 | 4.16           | 8.79    | 5.52         |
| 2015 | 65,135           | 517,942 | 6.17           | 8.06    | 4.98         | 84,901              | 737,936 | 4.15           | 8.71    | 5.49         |
| 2016 | 61,746           | 478,099 | 6.24           | 7.86    | 4.72         | 81,141              | 692,497 | 4.14           | 8.57    | 5.43         |
| 2017 | 52,538           | 326,936 | 6.08           | 6.30    | 4.23         | 67,232              | 501,773 | 3.96           | 7.47    | 5.06         |
| 2018 | 53,577           | 392,020 | 6.26           | 7.38    | 4.64         | 69,018              | 558,863 | 4.06           | 8.11    | 5.38         |
| 2019 | 47,403           | 354,742 | 6.17           | 7.48    | 4.67         | 63,801              | 474,754 | 4.04           | 7.44    | 5.28         |
| 2020 | 59,042           | 518,288 | 8.09           | 9.28    | 5.06         | 62,289              | 560,618 | 4.47           | 9.00    | 5.75         |
| 2021 | 54,411           | 473,728 | 7.62           | 8.71    | 4.75         | 75,606              | 593,695 | 4.30           | 7.85    | 5.38         |
| 2022 | 53,846           | 510,957 | 7.75           | 9.49    | 5.09         | 73,887              | 647,759 | 4.25           | 8.77    | 5.85         |
| 2023 | 56,457           | 572,159 | 8.05           | 10.13   | 5.03         | 77,004              | 671,036 | 4.43           | 8.71    | 5.72         |

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Corey Huxoll

| <b><u>PHEASANT HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2023</u></b>                       |                                               |        |         |        |           |                                  |          |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------|---------|--------|-----------|----------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| Revised:<br>4/11/2024                                                     | <b><u>RESIDENT TOTALS BY LICENSE TYPE</u></b> |        |         |        |           | <b><u>NONRESIDENT TOTALS</u></b> |          |           |
|                                                                           |                                               | Senior | Small   | Youth  | Sum       | Nonres                           | Youth Sm | Sum       |
|                                                                           | Combo                                         | Combo  | Game    | SmGm   | Estimates | Sm Game                          | Game     | Estimates |
| Licenses Sold                                                             | 46,849                                        | 11,549 | 20,154  | 6,058  | 84,610    | 78,120                           | 3,260    | 81,380    |
| Projected ACTIVE UPLAND BIRD HUNTERS                                      | 30,541                                        | 6,554  | 15,612  | 4,775  | 57,482    | 74,982                           | 2,984    | 77,966    |
| Number Sampled by Survey                                                  | 8,586                                         | 1,952  | 3,391   | 1,055  | 14,984    | 14,439                           | 552      | 14,991    |
| Number Responded to Survey                                                | 2,482                                         | 844    | 639     | 203    | 4,168     | 4,292                            | 70       | 4,362     |
| % Responded and Participated in Season                                    | 65%                                           | 57%    | 77%     | 79%    | 66%       | 98%                              | 93%      | 98%       |
| Responded and Participated in Season                                      | 1,618                                         | 479    | 495     | 160    | 2,752     | 4,206                            | 65       | 4,271     |
| Responded but DID NOT HUNT                                                | 864                                           | 365    | 144     | 43     | 1,416     | 86                               | 5        | 91        |
| Survey Response Rate                                                      | 28.9%                                         | 43.2%  | 18.8%   | 19.2%  | 27.8%     | 29.7%                            | 12.7%    | 29.1%     |
| No. Hunters Reporting Pheasant Days                                       | 1,584                                         | 467    | 489     | 159    | 2,699     | 4,152                            | 65       | 4,217     |
| Sum Pheasant Hunted Days                                                  | 13,235                                        | 4,207  | 3,720   | 1,003  | 22,165    | 18,485                           | 254      | 18,739    |
| Average Days Hunted Pheasants                                             | 8.36                                          | 9.01   | 7.61    | 6.31   | 8.05      | 4.45                             | 3.91     | 4.43      |
| Sum Pheasants Bagged                                                      | 17,716                                        | 5,099  | 4,257   | 1,130  | 28,202    | 36,505                           | 441      | 36,946    |
| Average Pheasant Bag for Season                                           | 11.18                                         | 10.92  | 8.71    | 7.11   | 10.13     | 8.79                             | 6.78     | 8.71      |
| Projected Days Pheasant Hunting                                           | 249,817                                       | 57,567 | 117,328 | 29,932 | 454,645   | 329,539                          | 11,662   | 341,201   |
| Projected No. Pheasant Hunters                                            | 29,899                                        | 6,390  | 15,423  | 4,745  | 56,457    | 74,019                           | 2,984    | 77,004    |
| Projected Pheasant Bag                                                    | 334,398                                       | 69,773 | 134,265 | 33,722 | 572,159   | 650,788                          | 20,248   | 671,036   |
| LCI (95%)                                                                 | 311,189                                       | 60,546 | 115,804 | 25,086 | 539,609   | 635,950                          | 16,044   | 655,639   |
| UCI (95%)                                                                 | 358,007                                       | 79,292 | 153,072 | 42,609 | 604,775   | 665,627                          | 24,545   | 686,478   |
| TOTAL PHEASANT HARVEST =                                                  |                                               |        |         |        |           | 1,243,194                        |          |           |
| LCI (95%) =                                                               |                                               |        |         |        |           | 1,207,126                        |          |           |
| UCI (95%) =                                                               |                                               |        |         |        |           | 1,279,272                        |          |           |
| <b><u>RESIDENT-ONLY OPENING WEEKEND:</u></b>                              |                                               |        |         |        |           |                                  |          |           |
| No. Hunters Reporting Pheasant Days                                       | 578                                           | 161    | 165     | 60     | 964       | -                                | -        | -         |
| Sum Pheasant Hunted Days                                                  | 397                                           | 101    | 102     | 41     | 641       | -                                | -        | -         |
| Average Days Hunted Pheasants                                             | 0.69                                          | 0.63   | 0.62    | 0.68   | 0.66      | -                                | -        | -         |
| Sum Pheasants Bagged                                                      | 841                                           | 204    | 209     | 72     | 1,326     | -                                | -        | -         |
| Average Pheasant Bag for Weekend                                          | 1.46                                          | 1.27   | 1.27    | 1.20   | 1.36      | -                                | -        | -         |
| Projected Days Pheasant Hunting                                           | 7,494                                         | 1,382  | 3,217   | 1,224  | 13,316    | -                                | -        | -         |
| Projected No. Pheasant Hunters                                            | 10,910                                        | 2,203  | 5,204   | 1,791  | 20,108    | -                                | -        | -         |
| Projected Pheasant Bag                                                    | 15,874                                        | 2,791  | 6,592   | 2,149  | 27,406    | -                                | -        | -         |
| RESIDENT-ONLY WEEKEND PHEASANT HARVEST =                                  |                                               |        |         |        |           | 27,406                           |          |           |
| <b><u>YOUTH SEASON PARTICIPATION:</u></b>                                 |                                               |        |         |        |           |                                  |          |           |
| No. Hunters Reporting Participation                                       | 133                                           | 43     | 29      | 30     | 205       | -                                | -        | -         |
| Projected No. Hunters Participating                                       | 2,510                                         | 588    | 915     | 895    | 4,013     | -                                | -        | -         |
| Percent Hunters Participating                                             | 5.4%                                          | 5.1%   | 4.5%    | 14.8%  | 5.2%      | -                                | -        | -         |
| <b><u>MENTORED YOUTH PARTICIPATION:</u></b>                               |                                               |        |         |        |           |                                  |          |           |
| No. Hunters Reporting Participation                                       | 93                                            | 29     | 18      | NA     | 140       | -                                | -        | -         |
| Projected No. Hunters Participating                                       | 1,755                                         | 38     | 74      |        | 1,867     | -                                | -        | -         |
| Percent Hunters Participating                                             | 3.7%                                          | 3.4%   | 2.8%    |        | 3.4%      | -                                | -        | -         |
| Upland Bird Hunters Mean Satisfaction Score *                             | 5.07                                          | 4.94   | 5.02    | 5.01   | 5.03      | 5.73                             | 5.67     | 5.72      |
| * Based on scale of 1-7 with 1="very dissatisfied" and 7="very satisfied" |                                               |        |         |        |           |                                  |          |           |

| <b>RESIDENT-ONLY WEEKEND 2023 PHEASANT SEASON PARTICIPATION AND BAG</b> |               |             |            |          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|------------|----------|
| Last Revised: 6 May 2024                                                |               |             |            |          |
|                                                                         | # Days Hunted | # Responded | % of Total | Ave. Bag |
| Residents                                                               | 0             | 3,527       | 84.6%      |          |
|                                                                         | 1             | 386         | 9.3%       | 1.23     |
|                                                                         | 2             | 187         | 4.5%       | 2.87     |
|                                                                         | 3             | 68          | 1.6%       | 4.63     |

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| Total Pheasant Harvest Distribution by County 2023                                                                                                                               |                     |            |                 |                      |            |                 |                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| COUNTY                                                                                                                                                                           | HUNTER DISTRIBUTION |            |                 | HARVEST DISTRIBUTION |            |                 | Birds/Hunter ** |
|                                                                                                                                                                                  | # Projected         | % of Total | # Proj w/ Unk * | # Projected          | % of Total | # Proj w/ Unk * |                 |
| Minnehaha                                                                                                                                                                        | 2,021               | 1.6        | 2,054           | 14,618               | 1.2        | 14,785          | 7.2             |
| Pennington                                                                                                                                                                       | 290                 | 0.2        | 295             | 1,592                | 0.1        | 1,609           | 5.5             |
| Brown                                                                                                                                                                            | 8,118               | 6.3        | 8,454           | 73,520               | 6.1        | 75,938          | 9.1             |
| Beadle                                                                                                                                                                           | 6,324               | 4.9        | 6,554           | 61,176               | 5.1        | 62,906          | 9.7             |
| Codington                                                                                                                                                                        | 2,956               | 2.3        | 3,020           | 26,337               | 2.2        | 26,729          | 8.9             |
| Brookings                                                                                                                                                                        | 3,276               | 2.5        | 3,366           | 28,325               | 2.3        | 28,948          | 8.6             |
| Yankton                                                                                                                                                                          | 1,207               | 0.9        | 1,236           | 8,055                | 0.7        | 8,205           | 6.7             |
| Davison                                                                                                                                                                          | 3,198               | 2.5        | 3,321           | 28,305               | 2.3        | 29,203          | 8.8             |
| Lawrence                                                                                                                                                                         | 18                  | 0.0        | 19              | 218                  | 0.0        | 228             | 11.9            |
| Aurora                                                                                                                                                                           | 4,517               | 3.5        | 4,685           | 42,200               | 3.5        | 43,533          | 9.3             |
| Bennett                                                                                                                                                                          | 911                 | 0.7        | 943             | 4,083                | 0.3        | 4,198           | 4.5             |
| Bon Homme                                                                                                                                                                        | 915                 | 0.7        | 934             | 6,263                | 0.5        | 6,345           | 6.8             |
| Brule                                                                                                                                                                            | 5,557               | 4.3        | 5,793           | 50,361               | 4.2        | 52,299          | 9.1             |
| Buffalo                                                                                                                                                                          | 611                 | 0.5        | 635             | 5,492                | 0.5        | 5,671           | 9.0             |
| Butte                                                                                                                                                                            | 235                 | 0.2        | 242             | 1,332                | 0.1        | 1,366           | 5.7             |
| Campbell                                                                                                                                                                         | 1,652               | 1.3        | 1,726           | 21,510               | 1.8        | 22,289          | 13.0            |
| Charles Mix                                                                                                                                                                      | 3,512               | 2.7        | 3,644           | 33,987               | 2.8        | 35,132          | 9.7             |
| Clark                                                                                                                                                                            | 3,543               | 2.7        | 3,673           | 36,656               | 3.0        | 37,675          | 10.3            |
| Clay                                                                                                                                                                             | 677                 | 0.5        | 695             | 4,522                | 0.4        | 4,623           | 6.7             |
| Corson                                                                                                                                                                           | 653                 | 0.5        | 677             | 5,669                | 0.5        | 5,831           | 8.7             |
| Custer                                                                                                                                                                           | 57                  | 0.0        | 60              | 309                  | 0.0        | 324             | 5.4             |
| Day                                                                                                                                                                              | 2,219               | 1.7        | 2,311           | 15,692               | 1.3        | 16,221          | 7.1             |
| Deuel                                                                                                                                                                            | 1,048               | 0.8        | 1,072           | 7,909                | 0.7        | 8,045           | 7.5             |
| Dewey                                                                                                                                                                            | 789                 | 0.6        | 818             | 7,835                | 0.6        | 8,072           | 9.9             |
| Douglas                                                                                                                                                                          | 1,094               | 0.8        | 1,130           | 13,330               | 1.1        | 13,662          | 12.2            |
| Edmunds                                                                                                                                                                          | 3,219               | 2.5        | 3,342           | 33,996               | 2.8        | 35,028          | 10.6            |
| Fall River                                                                                                                                                                       | 434                 | 0.3        | 441             | 1,996                | 0.2        | 2,031           | 4.6             |
| Faulk                                                                                                                                                                            | 3,453               | 2.7        | 3,602           | 34,155               | 2.8        | 35,396          | 9.9             |
| Grant                                                                                                                                                                            | 669                 | 0.5        | 683             | 3,968                | 0.3        | 4,052           | 5.9             |
| Gregory                                                                                                                                                                          | 3,871               | 3.0        | 4,042           | 35,328               | 2.9        | 36,726          | 9.1             |
| Haakon                                                                                                                                                                           | 674                 | 0.5        | 693             | 3,754                | 0.3        | 3,854           | 5.6             |
| Hamlin                                                                                                                                                                           | 1,654               | 1.3        | 1,692           | 14,915               | 1.2        | 15,169          | 9.0             |
| Hand                                                                                                                                                                             | 2,971               | 2.3        | 3,084           | 28,800               | 2.4        | 29,714          | 9.7             |
| Hanson                                                                                                                                                                           | 1,256               | 1.0        | 1,295           | 14,730               | 1.2        | 15,046          | 11.7            |
| Harding                                                                                                                                                                          | 305                 | 0.2        | 317             | 1,759                | 0.1        | 1,817           | 5.8             |
| Hughes                                                                                                                                                                           | 3,544               | 2.7        | 3,668           | 39,468               | 3.3        | 40,451          | 11.1            |
| Hutchinson                                                                                                                                                                       | 2,063               | 1.6        | 2,132           | 19,210               | 1.6        | 19,738          | 9.3             |
| Hyde                                                                                                                                                                             | 914                 | 0.7        | 951             | 9,680                | 0.8        | 10,001          | 10.6            |
| Jackson                                                                                                                                                                          | 329                 | 0.3        | 341             | 1,673                | 0.1        | 1,739           | 5.1             |
| Jerauld                                                                                                                                                                          | 1,316               | 1.0        | 1,368           | 12,249               | 1.0        | 12,643          | 9.3             |
| Jones                                                                                                                                                                            | 1,271               | 1.0        | 1,329           | 9,835                | 0.8        | 10,257          | 7.7             |
| Kingsbury                                                                                                                                                                        | 2,445               | 1.9        | 2,523           | 20,456               | 1.7        | 21,101          | 8.4             |
| Lake                                                                                                                                                                             | 1,738               | 1.3        | 1,777           | 16,301               | 1.3        | 16,579          | 9.4             |
| Lincoln                                                                                                                                                                          | 941                 | 0.7        | 959             | 7,121                | 0.6        | 7,208           | 7.6             |
| Lyman                                                                                                                                                                            | 4,717               | 3.7        | 4,920           | 44,339               | 3.7        | 46,032          | 9.4             |
| McCook                                                                                                                                                                           | 1,947               | 1.5        | 1,988           | 23,222               | 1.9        | 23,522          | 11.9            |
| McPherson                                                                                                                                                                        | 1,853               | 1.4        | 1,937           | 16,130               | 1.3        | 16,775          | 8.7             |
| Marshall                                                                                                                                                                         | 1,452               | 1.1        | 1,503           | 13,688               | 1.1        | 14,018          | 9.4             |
| Meade                                                                                                                                                                            | 224                 | 0.2        | 235             | 1,209                | 0.1        | 1,264           | 5.4             |
| Mellette                                                                                                                                                                         | 285                 | 0.2        | 296             | 2,795                | 0.2        | 2,902           | 9.8             |
| Miner                                                                                                                                                                            | 2,933               | 2.3        | 3,027           | 34,557               | 2.9        | 35,437          | 11.8            |
| Moody                                                                                                                                                                            | 1,017               | 0.8        | 1,037           | 8,592                | 0.7        | 8,723           | 8.5             |
| Perkins                                                                                                                                                                          | 2,089               | 1.6        | 2,157           | 17,915               | 1.5        | 18,424          | 8.6             |
| Potter                                                                                                                                                                           | 2,958               | 2.3        | 3,075           | 29,207               | 2.4        | 30,165          | 9.9             |
| Roberts                                                                                                                                                                          | 904                 | 0.7        | 926             | 7,950                | 0.7        | 8,086           | 8.8             |
| Sanborn                                                                                                                                                                          | 2,199               | 1.7        | 2,278           | 22,356               | 1.9        | 22,992          | 10.2            |
| Spink                                                                                                                                                                            | 5,153               | 4.0        | 5,368           | 57,546               | 4.8        | 59,612          | 11.2            |
| Stanley                                                                                                                                                                          | 1,078               | 0.8        | 1,118           | 8,546                | 0.7        | 8,809           | 7.9             |
| Sully                                                                                                                                                                            | 2,226               | 1.7        | 2,292           | 27,459               | 2.3        | 28,072          | 12.3            |
| Tripp                                                                                                                                                                            | 4,814               | 3.7        | 5,014           | 42,561               | 3.5        | 44,036          | 8.8             |
| Turner                                                                                                                                                                           | 962                 | 0.7        | 980             | 10,581               | 0.9        | 10,707          | 11.0            |
| Union                                                                                                                                                                            | 363                 | 0.3        | 371             | 2,539                | 0.2        | 2,586           | 7.0             |
| Walworth                                                                                                                                                                         | 2,595               | 2.0        | 2,692           | 21,902               | 1.8        | 22,668          | 8.4             |
| Ziebach                                                                                                                                                                          | 394                 | 0.3        | 406             | 4,333                | 0.4        | 4,434           | 11.0            |
| Oglala Lakota                                                                                                                                                                    | 42                  | 0.0        | 42              | 162                  | 0.0        | 164             | 3.9             |
| Todd                                                                                                                                                                             | 193                 | 0.1        | 200             | 1,328                | 0.1        | 1,377           | 6.9             |
| Unk/Unreported                                                                                                                                                                   | 4,598               | -          | -               | 35,587               | -          | -               | 7.7             |
| TOTALS:                                                                                                                                                                          | 133,461             | 100%       | 133,461         | 1,243,194            | 100%       | 1,243,194       | 9.32            |
| Last Revised: 6 May 2024                                                                                                                                                         |                     |            |                 |                      |            |                 |                 |
| * 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. |                     |            |                 |                      |            |                 |                 |
| ** Calculation uses "# projected" values without correction for unknown/unreported county values.                                                                                |                     |            |                 |                      |            |                 |                 |

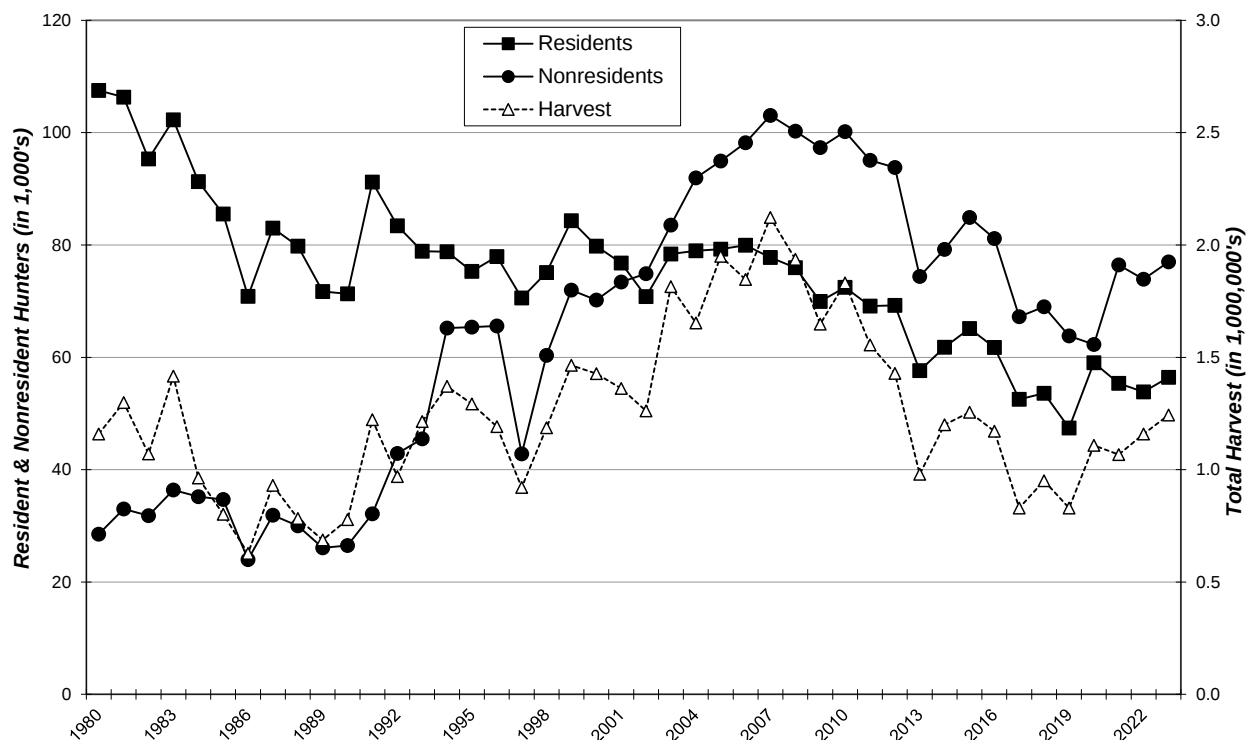
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| <b>Resident Pheasant Harvest Distribution by County 2023</b>                                                                                                                     |                            |                    |                   |                        |                             |                    |                   |                        |                        |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--|
| <b>COUNTY</b>                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>HUNTER DISTRIBUTION</b> |                    |                   |                        | <b>HARVEST DISTRIBUTION</b> |                    |                   |                        | <b>Birds/Hunter **</b> |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b># Reported</b>          | <b># Projected</b> | <b>% of Total</b> | <b># Proj w/ Unk *</b> | <b># Reported</b>           | <b># Projected</b> | <b>% of Total</b> | <b># Proj w/ Unk *</b> |                        |  |
| Minnehaha                                                                                                                                                                        | 87                         | 1,820              | 3.3               | 1,842                  | 665                         | 13,491             | 2.4               | 13,604                 | 7.4                    |  |
| Pennington                                                                                                                                                                       | 13                         | 272                | 0.5               | 275                    | 74                          | 1,501              | 0.3               | 1,514                  | 5.5                    |  |
| Brown                                                                                                                                                                            | 114                        | 2,385              | 4.3               | 2,414                  | 1,392                       | 28,241             | 5.0               | 28,477                 | 11.8                   |  |
| Beadle                                                                                                                                                                           | 126                        | 2,636              | 4.7               | 2,668                  | 1,506                       | 30,554             | 5.4               | 30,809                 | 11.6                   |  |
| Codington                                                                                                                                                                        | 109                        | 2,280              | 4.1               | 2,308                  | 1,086                       | 22,033             | 3.9               | 22,217                 | 9.7                    |  |
| Brookings                                                                                                                                                                        | 99                         | 2,071              | 3.7               | 2,096                  | 919                         | 18,645             | 3.3               | 18,801                 | 9.0                    |  |
| Yankton                                                                                                                                                                          | 42                         | 879                | 1.6               | 889                    | 295                         | 5,985              | 1.1               | 6,035                  | 6.8                    |  |
| Davison                                                                                                                                                                          | 56                         | 1,171              | 2.1               | 1,186                  | 576                         | 11,686             | 2.1               | 11,784                 | 10.0                   |  |
| Lawrence                                                                                                                                                                         | 0                          | 0                  | 0.0               | 0                      | 0                           | 0                  | 0.0               | 0                      | 0                      |  |
| Aurora                                                                                                                                                                           | 85                         | 1,778              | 3.2               | 1,800                  | 867                         | 17,590             | 3.1               | 17,737                 | 9.9                    |  |
| Bennett                                                                                                                                                                          | 20                         | 418                | 0.8               | 424                    | 101                         | 2,049              | 0.4               | 2,066                  | 4.9                    |  |
| Bon Homme                                                                                                                                                                        | 35                         | 732                | 1.3               | 741                    | 272                         | 5,518              | 1.0               | 5,564                  | 7.5                    |  |
| Brule                                                                                                                                                                            | 71                         | 1,485              | 2.7               | 1,504                  | 605                         | 12,274             | 2.2               | 12,377                 | 8.3                    |  |
| Buffalo                                                                                                                                                                          | 10                         | 209                | 0.4               | 212                    | 106                         | 2,151              | 0.4               | 2,169                  | 10.3                   |  |
| Butte                                                                                                                                                                            | 6                          | 126                | 0.2               | 127                    | 37                          | 751                | 0.1               | 757                    | 6.0                    |  |
| Campbell                                                                                                                                                                         | 17                         | 356                | 0.6               | 360                    | 319                         | 6,472              | 1.1               | 6,526                  | 18.2                   |  |
| Charles Mix                                                                                                                                                                      | 64                         | 1,339              | 2.4               | 1,355                  | 609                         | 12,355             | 2.2               | 12,459                 | 9.2                    |  |
| Clark                                                                                                                                                                            | 69                         | 1,443              | 2.6               | 1,461                  | 925                         | 18,766             | 3.3               | 18,923                 | 13.0                   |  |
| Clay                                                                                                                                                                             | 21                         | 439                | 0.8               | 445                    | 145                         | 2,942              | 0.5               | 2,966                  | 6.7                    |  |
| Corson                                                                                                                                                                           | 12                         | 251                | 0.5               | 254                    | 138                         | 2,800              | 0.5               | 2,823                  | 11.2                   |  |
| Custer                                                                                                                                                                           | 1                          | 21                 | 0.0               | 21                     | 0                           | 0                  | 0.0               | 0                      | 0.0                    |  |
| Day                                                                                                                                                                              | 31                         | 648                | 1.2               | 656                    | 282                         | 5,721              | 1.0               | 5,769                  | 8.8                    |  |
| Deuel                                                                                                                                                                            | 37                         | 774                | 1.4               | 784                    | 303                         | 6,147              | 1.1               | 6,199                  | 7.9                    |  |
| Dewey                                                                                                                                                                            | 15                         | 314                | 0.6               | 318                    | 174                         | 3,530              | 0.6               | 3,560                  | 11.3                   |  |
| Douglas                                                                                                                                                                          | 27                         | 565                | 1.0               | 572                    | 384                         | 7,791              | 1.4               | 7,856                  | 13.8                   |  |
| Edmunds                                                                                                                                                                          | 57                         | 1,192              | 2.1               | 1,207                  | 750                         | 15,216             | 2.7               | 15,343                 | 12.8                   |  |
| Fall River                                                                                                                                                                       | 19                         | 397                | 0.7               | 402                    | 76                          | 1,542              | 0.3               | 1,555                  | 3.9                    |  |
| Faulk                                                                                                                                                                            | 42                         | 879                | 1.6               | 889                    | 500                         | 10,144             | 1.8               | 10,229                 | 11.5                   |  |
| Grant                                                                                                                                                                            | 25                         | 523                | 0.9               | 529                    | 132                         | 2,678              | 0.5               | 2,700                  | 5.1                    |  |
| Gregory                                                                                                                                                                          | 41                         | 858                | 1.5               | 868                    | 377                         | 7,649              | 1.3               | 7,713                  | 8.9                    |  |
| Haakon                                                                                                                                                                           | 20                         | 418                | 0.8               | 424                    | 100                         | 2,029              | 0.4               | 2,046                  | 4.8                    |  |
| Hamlin                                                                                                                                                                           | 59                         | 1,234              | 2.2               | 1,249                  | 574                         | 11,645             | 2.1               | 11,743                 | 9.4                    |  |
| Hand                                                                                                                                                                             | 53                         | 1,109              | 2.0               | 1,122                  | 587                         | 11,909             | 2.1               | 12,009                 | 10.7                   |  |
| Hanson                                                                                                                                                                           | 33                         | 690                | 1.2               | 699                    | 487                         | 9,880              | 1.7               | 9,963                  | 14.3                   |  |
| Harding                                                                                                                                                                          | 5                          | 105                | 0.2               | 106                    | 33                          | 669                | 0.1               | 675                    | 6.4                    |  |
| Hughes                                                                                                                                                                           | 76                         | 1,590              | 2.9               | 1,609                  | 1,137                       | 23,067             | 4.1               | 23,260                 | 14.5                   |  |
| Hutchinson                                                                                                                                                                       | 48                         | 1,004              | 1.8               | 1,016                  | 493                         | 10,002             | 1.8               | 10,086                 | 10.0                   |  |
| Hyde                                                                                                                                                                             | 14                         | 293                | 0.5               | 296                    | 179                         | 3,632              | 0.6               | 3,662                  | 12.4                   |  |
| Jackson                                                                                                                                                                          | 7                          | 146                | 0.3               | 148                    | 18                          | 365                | 0.1               | 368                    | 2.5                    |  |
| Jerauld                                                                                                                                                                          | 21                         | 439                | 0.8               | 445                    | 243                         | 4,930              | 0.9               | 4,971                  | 11.2                   |  |
| Jones                                                                                                                                                                            | 11                         | 230                | 0.4               | 233                    | 64                          | 1,298              | 0.2               | 1,309                  | 5.6                    |  |
| Kingsbury                                                                                                                                                                        | 61                         | 1,276              | 2.3               | 1,292                  | 421                         | 8,541              | 1.5               | 8,613                  | 6.7                    |  |
| Lake                                                                                                                                                                             | 63                         | 1,318              | 2.4               | 1,334                  | 628                         | 12,741             | 2.2               | 12,847                 | 9.7                    |  |
| Lincoln                                                                                                                                                                          | 38                         | 795                | 1.4               | 805                    | 317                         | 6,431              | 1.1               | 6,485                  | 8.1                    |  |
| Lyman                                                                                                                                                                            | 57                         | 1,192              | 2.1               | 1,207                  | 549                         | 11,138             | 2.0               | 11,231                 | 9.3                    |  |
| McCook                                                                                                                                                                           | 73                         | 1,527              | 2.7               | 1,546                  | 1,013                       | 20,552             | 3.6               | 20,724                 | 13.5                   |  |
| McPherson                                                                                                                                                                        | 17                         | 356                | 0.6               | 360                    | 163                         | 3,307              | 0.6               | 3,335                  | 9.3                    |  |
| Marshall                                                                                                                                                                         | 31                         | 648                | 1.2               | 656                    | 407                         | 8,257              | 1.5               | 8,326                  | 12.7                   |  |
| Meade                                                                                                                                                                            | 2                          | 42                 | 0.1               | 42                     | 5                           | 101                | 0.0               | 102                    | 2.4                    |  |
| Mellette                                                                                                                                                                         | 4                          | 84                 | 0.2               | 85                     | 33                          | 669                | 0.1               | 675                    | 8.0                    |  |
| Miner                                                                                                                                                                            | 73                         | 1,527              | 2.7               | 1,546                  | 971                         | 19,700             | 3.5               | 19,864                 | 12.9                   |  |
| Moody                                                                                                                                                                            | 39                         | 816                | 1.5               | 826                    | 351                         | 7,121              | 1.3               | 7,181                  | 8.7                    |  |
| Perkins                                                                                                                                                                          | 51                         | 1,067              | 1.9               | 1,080                  | 439                         | 8,906              | 1.6               | 8,981                  | 8.3                    |  |
| Potter                                                                                                                                                                           | 48                         | 1,004              | 1.8               | 1,016                  | 556                         | 11,280             | 2.0               | 11,374                 | 11.2                   |  |
| Roberts                                                                                                                                                                          | 31                         | 648                | 1.2               | 656                    | 305                         | 6,188              | 1.1               | 6,240                  | 9.5                    |  |
| Sanborn                                                                                                                                                                          | 44                         | 920                | 1.7               | 932                    | 546                         | 11,077             | 2.0               | 11,170                 | 12.0                   |  |
| Spink                                                                                                                                                                            | 70                         | 1,464              | 2.6               | 1,482                  | 875                         | 17,752             | 3.1               | 17,900                 | 12.1                   |  |
| Stanley                                                                                                                                                                          | 21                         | 439                | 0.8               | 445                    | 184                         | 3,733              | 0.7               | 3,764                  | 8.5                    |  |
| Sully                                                                                                                                                                            | 61                         | 1,276              | 2.3               | 1,292                  | 879                         | 17,833             | 3.1               | 17,982                 | 14.0                   |  |
| Tripp                                                                                                                                                                            | 66                         | 1,381              | 2.5               | 1,398                  | 712                         | 14,445             | 2.5               | 14,566                 | 10.5                   |  |
| Turner                                                                                                                                                                           | 39                         | 816                | 1.5               | 826                    | 475                         | 9,637              | 1.7               | 9,717                  | 11.8                   |  |
| Union                                                                                                                                                                            | 13                         | 272                | 0.5               | 275                    | 92                          | 1,866              | 0.3               | 1,882                  | 6.9                    |  |
| Walworth                                                                                                                                                                         | 49                         | 1,025              | 1.8               | 1,038                  | 358                         | 7,263              | 1.3               | 7,324                  | 7.1                    |  |
| Ziebach                                                                                                                                                                          | 11                         | 230                | 0.4               | 233                    | 133                         | 2,698              | 0.5               | 2,721                  | 11.7                   |  |
| Oglala Lakota                                                                                                                                                                    | 2                          | 42                 | 0.1               | 42                     | 8                           | 162                | 0.0               | 164                    | 3.9                    |  |
| Todd                                                                                                                                                                             | 4                          | 84                 | 0.2               | 85                     | 18                          | 365                | 0.1               | 368                    | 4.4                    |  |
| Unk/Unreported                                                                                                                                                                   | 33                         | 690                | -                 | -                      | 234                         | 4,747              | -                 | -                      | 6.9                    |  |
| <b>TOTALS:</b>                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>2,699</b>               | <b>56,457</b>      | <b>100%</b>       | <b>56,457</b>          | <b>28,202</b>               | <b>572,159</b>     | <b>100%</b>       | <b>572,159</b>         | <b>10.13</b>           |  |
| Last Revised: 6 May 2024                                                                                                                                                         |                            |                    |                   |                        |                             |                    |                   |                        |                        |  |
| * 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. |                            |                    |                   |                        |                             |                    |                   |                        |                        |  |
| ** Calculation uses "# projected" values without correction for unknown/unreported county values.                                                                                |                            |                    |                   |                        |                             |                    |                   |                        |                        |  |

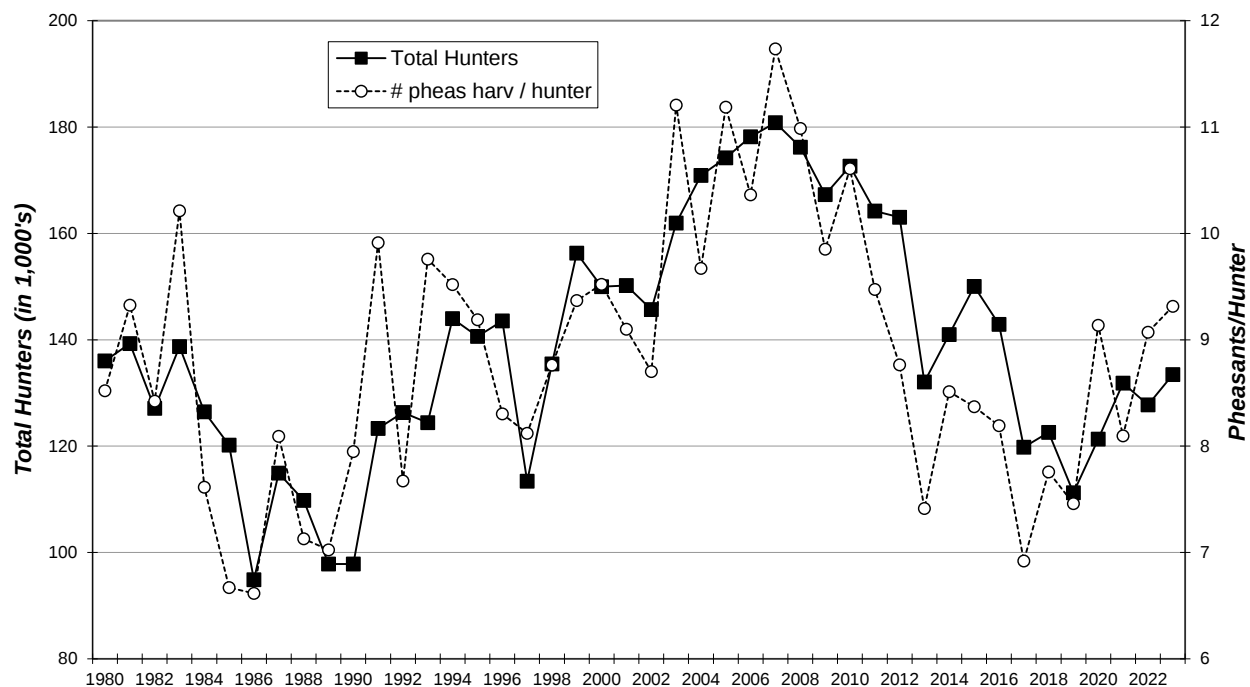
**South Dakota Game Report No 2024-05 - 2023 Small Game, Upland Bird & Migratory Bird Harvest Projections**  
**Corey Huxoll**

| <b>Nonresident Pheasant Harvest Distribution by County 2023</b>                                                                                                                         |                            |                    |                   |                        |                             |                    |                   |                        |                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>COUNTY</b>                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>HUNTER DISTRIBUTION</b> |                    |                   |                        | <b>HARVEST DISTRIBUTION</b> |                    |                   |                        | <b>Birds/Hunter **</b> |
|                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b># Reported</b>          | <b># Projected</b> | <b>% of Total</b> | <b># Proj w/ Unk *</b> | <b># Reported</b>           | <b># Projected</b> | <b>% of Total</b> | <b># Proj w/ Unk *</b> |                        |
| Minnehaha                                                                                                                                                                               | 11                         | 201                | 0.3               | 212                    | 62                          | 1,126              | 0.2               | 1,180                  | 5.6                    |
| Pennington                                                                                                                                                                              | 1                          | 18                 | 0.0               | 19                     | 5                           | 91                 | 0.0               | 95                     | 5.0                    |
| Brown                                                                                                                                                                                   | 314                        | 5,734              | 7.8               | 6,040                  | 2,493                       | 45,279             | 7.1               | 47,461                 | 7.9                    |
| Beadle                                                                                                                                                                                  | 202                        | 3,689              | 5.0               | 3,886                  | 1,686                       | 30,622             | 4.8               | 32,097                 | 8.3                    |
| Codington                                                                                                                                                                               | 37                         | 676                | 0.9               | 712                    | 237                         | 4,305              | 0.7               | 4,512                  | 6.4                    |
| Brookings                                                                                                                                                                               | 66                         | 1,205              | 1.6               | 1,270                  | 533                         | 9,681              | 1.5               | 10,147                 | 8.0                    |
| Yankton                                                                                                                                                                                 | 18                         | 329                | 0.4               | 346                    | 114                         | 2,071              | 0.3               | 2,170                  | 6.3                    |
| Davison                                                                                                                                                                                 | 111                        | 2,027              | 2.8               | 2,135                  | 915                         | 16,619             | 2.6               | 17,419                 | 8.2                    |
| Lawrence                                                                                                                                                                                | 1                          | 18                 | 0.0               | 19                     | 12                          | 218                | 0.0               | 228                    | 11.9                   |
| Aurora                                                                                                                                                                                  | 150                        | 2,739              | 3.7               | 2,885                  | 1,355                       | 24,610             | 3.8               | 25,796                 | 9.0                    |
| Bennett                                                                                                                                                                                 | 27                         | 493                | 0.7               | 519                    | 112                         | 2,034              | 0.3               | 2,132                  | 4.1                    |
| Bon Homme                                                                                                                                                                               | 10                         | 183                | 0.2               | 192                    | 41                          | 745                | 0.1               | 781                    | 4.1                    |
| Brule                                                                                                                                                                                   | 223                        | 4,072              | 5.6               | 4,290                  | 2,097                       | 38,087             | 5.9               | 39,922                 | 9.4                    |
| Buffalo                                                                                                                                                                                 | 22                         | 402                | 0.5               | 423                    | 184                         | 3,342              | 0.5               | 3,503                  | 8.3                    |
| Butte                                                                                                                                                                                   | 6                          | 110                | 0.1               | 115                    | 32                          | 581                | 0.1               | 609                    | 5.3                    |
| Campbell                                                                                                                                                                                | 71                         | 1,296              | 1.8               | 1,366                  | 828                         | 15,039             | 2.3               | 15,763                 | 11.6                   |
| Charles Mix                                                                                                                                                                             | 119                        | 2,173              | 3.0               | 2,289                  | 1,191                       | 21,632             | 3.4               | 22,674                 | 10.0                   |
| Clark                                                                                                                                                                                   | 115                        | 2,100              | 2.9               | 2,212                  | 985                         | 17,890             | 2.8               | 18,752                 | 8.5                    |
| Clay                                                                                                                                                                                    | 13                         | 237                | 0.3               | 250                    | 87                          | 1,580              | 0.2               | 1,656                  | 6.7                    |
| Corson                                                                                                                                                                                  | 22                         | 402                | 0.5               | 423                    | 158                         | 2,870              | 0.4               | 3,008                  | 7.1                    |
| Custer                                                                                                                                                                                  | 2                          | 37                 | 0.0               | 38                     | 17                          | 309                | 0.0               | 324                    | 8.5                    |
| Day                                                                                                                                                                                     | 86                         | 1,570              | 2.1               | 1,654                  | 549                         | 9,971              | 1.6               | 10,452                 | 6.3                    |
| Deuel                                                                                                                                                                                   | 15                         | 274                | 0.4               | 289                    | 97                          | 1,762              | 0.3               | 1,847                  | 6.4                    |
| Dewey                                                                                                                                                                                   | 26                         | 475                | 0.6               | 500                    | 237                         | 4,305              | 0.7               | 4,512                  | 9.1                    |
| Douglas                                                                                                                                                                                 | 29                         | 530                | 0.7               | 558                    | 305                         | 5,540              | 0.9               | 5,806                  | 10.5                   |
| Edmunds                                                                                                                                                                                 | 111                        | 2,027              | 2.8               | 2,135                  | 1,034                       | 18,780             | 2.9               | 19,685                 | 9.3                    |
| Fall River                                                                                                                                                                              | 2                          | 37                 | 0.0               | 38                     | 25                          | 454                | 0.1               | 476                    | 12.4                   |
| Faulk                                                                                                                                                                                   | 141                        | 2,575              | 3.5               | 2,712                  | 1,322                       | 24,011             | 3.8               | 25,168                 | 9.3                    |
| Grant                                                                                                                                                                                   | 8                          | 146                | 0.2               | 154                    | 71                          | 1,290              | 0.2               | 1,352                  | 8.8                    |
| Gregory                                                                                                                                                                                 | 165                        | 3,013              | 4.1               | 3,174                  | 1,524                       | 27,680             | 4.3               | 29,013                 | 9.2                    |
| Haakon                                                                                                                                                                                  | 14                         | 256                | 0.3               | 269                    | 95                          | 1,725              | 0.3               | 1,809                  | 6.7                    |
| Hamlin                                                                                                                                                                                  | 23                         | 420                | 0.6               | 442                    | 180                         | 3,269              | 0.5               | 3,427                  | 7.8                    |
| Hand                                                                                                                                                                                    | 102                        | 1,863              | 2.5               | 1,962                  | 930                         | 16,891             | 2.6               | 17,705                 | 9.1                    |
| Hanson                                                                                                                                                                                  | 31                         | 566                | 0.8               | 596                    | 267                         | 4,849              | 0.8               | 5,083                  | 8.6                    |
| Harding                                                                                                                                                                                 | 11                         | 201                | 0.3               | 212                    | 60                          | 1,090              | 0.2               | 1,142                  | 5.4                    |
| Hughes                                                                                                                                                                                  | 107                        | 1,954              | 2.7               | 2,058                  | 903                         | 16,401             | 2.6               | 17,191                 | 8.4                    |
| Hutchinson                                                                                                                                                                              | 58                         | 1,059              | 1.4               | 1,116                  | 507                         | 9,208              | 1.4               | 9,652                  | 8.7                    |
| Hyde                                                                                                                                                                                    | 34                         | 621                | 0.8               | 654                    | 333                         | 6,048              | 0.9               | 6,340                  | 9.7                    |
| Jackson                                                                                                                                                                                 | 10                         | 183                | 0.2               | 192                    | 72                          | 1,308              | 0.2               | 1,371                  | 7.2                    |
| Jerauld                                                                                                                                                                                 | 48                         | 876                | 1.2               | 923                    | 403                         | 7,320              | 1.1               | 7,672                  | 8.4                    |
| Jones                                                                                                                                                                                   | 57                         | 1,041              | 1.4               | 1,096                  | 470                         | 8,536              | 1.3               | 8,948                  | 8.2                    |
| Kingsbury                                                                                                                                                                               | 64                         | 1,169              | 1.6               | 1,231                  | 656                         | 11,915             | 1.9               | 12,489                 | 10.2                   |
| Lake                                                                                                                                                                                    | 23                         | 420                | 0.6               | 442                    | 196                         | 3,560              | 0.6               | 3,731                  | 8.5                    |
| Lincoln                                                                                                                                                                                 | 8                          | 146                | 0.2               | 154                    | 38                          | 690                | 0.1               | 723                    | 4.7                    |
| Lyman                                                                                                                                                                                   | 193                        | 3,524              | 4.8               | 3,713                  | 1,828                       | 33,201             | 5.2               | 34,801                 | 9.4                    |
| McCook                                                                                                                                                                                  | 23                         | 420                | 0.6               | 442                    | 147                         | 2,670              | 0.4               | 2,799                  | 6.4                    |
| McPherson                                                                                                                                                                               | 82                         | 1,497              | 2.0               | 1,577                  | 706                         | 12,823             | 2.0               | 13,441                 | 8.6                    |
| Marshall                                                                                                                                                                                | 44                         | 803                | 1.1               | 846                    | 299                         | 5,431              | 0.8               | 5,692                  | 6.8                    |
| Meade                                                                                                                                                                                   | 10                         | 183                | 0.2               | 192                    | 61                          | 1,108              | 0.2               | 1,161                  | 6.1                    |
| Mellette                                                                                                                                                                                | 11                         | 201                | 0.3               | 212                    | 117                         | 2,125              | 0.3               | 2,227                  | 10.6                   |
| Miner                                                                                                                                                                                   | 77                         | 1,406              | 1.9               | 1,481                  | 818                         | 14,857             | 2.3               | 15,573                 | 10.6                   |
| Moody                                                                                                                                                                                   | 11                         | 201                | 0.3               | 212                    | 81                          | 1,471              | 0.2               | 1,542                  | 7.3                    |
| Perkins                                                                                                                                                                                 | 56                         | 1,023              | 1.4               | 1,077                  | 496                         | 9,009              | 1.4               | 9,443                  | 8.8                    |
| Potter                                                                                                                                                                                  | 107                        | 1,954              | 2.7               | 2,058                  | 987                         | 17,926             | 2.8               | 18,790                 | 9.2                    |
| Roberts                                                                                                                                                                                 | 14                         | 256                | 0.3               | 269                    | 97                          | 1,762              | 0.3               | 1,847                  | 6.9                    |
| Sanborn                                                                                                                                                                                 | 70                         | 1,278              | 1.7               | 1,347                  | 621                         | 11,279             | 1.8               | 11,822                 | 8.8                    |
| Spink                                                                                                                                                                                   | 202                        | 3,689              | 5.0               | 3,886                  | 2,191                       | 39,794             | 6.2               | 41,711                 | 10.8                   |
| Stanley                                                                                                                                                                                 | 35                         | 639                | 0.9               | 673                    | 265                         | 4,813              | 0.8               | 5,045                  | 7.5                    |
| Sully                                                                                                                                                                                   | 52                         | 950                | 1.3               | 1,000                  | 530                         | 9,626              | 1.5               | 10,090                 | 10.1                   |
| Tripp                                                                                                                                                                                   | 188                        | 3,433              | 4.7               | 3,616                  | 1,548                       | 28,116             | 4.4               | 29,470                 | 8.2                    |
| Turner                                                                                                                                                                                  | 8                          | 146                | 0.2               | 154                    | 52                          | 944                | 0.1               | 990                    | 6.5                    |
| Union                                                                                                                                                                                   | 5                          | 91                 | 0.1               | 96                     | 37                          | 672                | 0.1               | 704                    | 7.4                    |
| Walworth                                                                                                                                                                                | 86                         | 1,570              | 2.1               | 1,654                  | 806                         | 14,639             | 2.3               | 15,344                 | 9.3                    |
| Ziebach                                                                                                                                                                                 | 9                          | 164                | 0.2               | 173                    | 90                          | 1,635              | 0.3               | 1,713                  | 9.9                    |
| Oglala Lakota                                                                                                                                                                           | 0                          | 0                  | 0.0               | 0                      | 0                           | 0                  | 0.0               | 0                      | 0                      |
| Todd                                                                                                                                                                                    | 6                          | 110                | 0.1               | 115                    | 53                          | 963                | 0.2               | 1,009                  | 8.8                    |
| Unk/Unreported                                                                                                                                                                          | 214                        | 3,908              | -                 | -                      | 1,698                       | 30,840             | -                 | -                      | 7.9                    |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>4,217</b>               | <b>77,004</b>      | <b>100%</b>       | <b>77,004</b>          | <b>36,946</b>               | <b>671,036</b>     | <b>100%</b>       | <b>671,036</b>         | <b>8.71</b>            |
| <i>Last Revised: 6 May 2024</i>                                                                                                                                                         |                            |                    |                   |                        |                             |                    |                   |                        |                        |
| <i>* 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.</i> |                            |                    |                   |                        |                             |                    |                   |                        |                        |
| <i>** Calculation uses "# projected" values without correction for unknown/unreported county values.</i>                                                                                |                            |                    |                   |                        |                             |                    |                   |                        |                        |

## SOUTH DAKOTA PHEASANT HARVEST 1980-2023

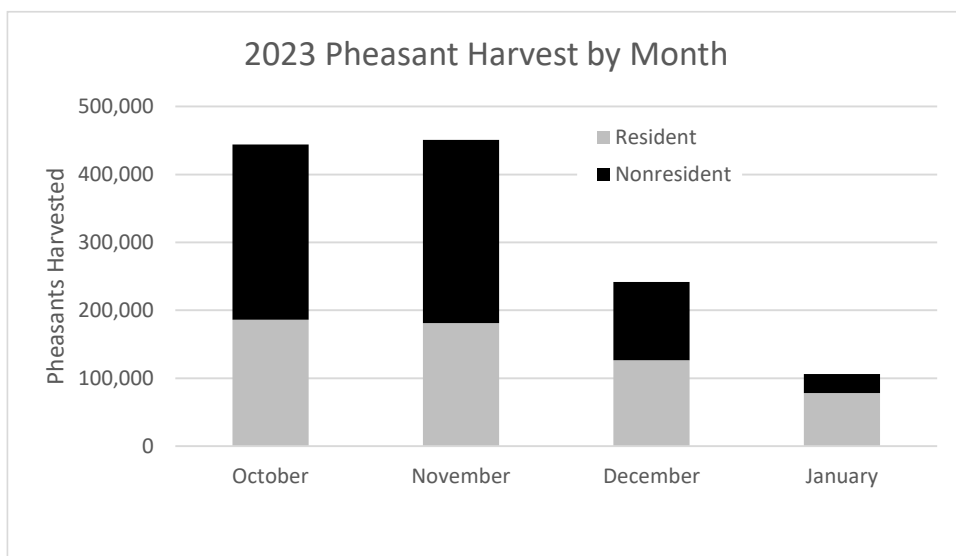


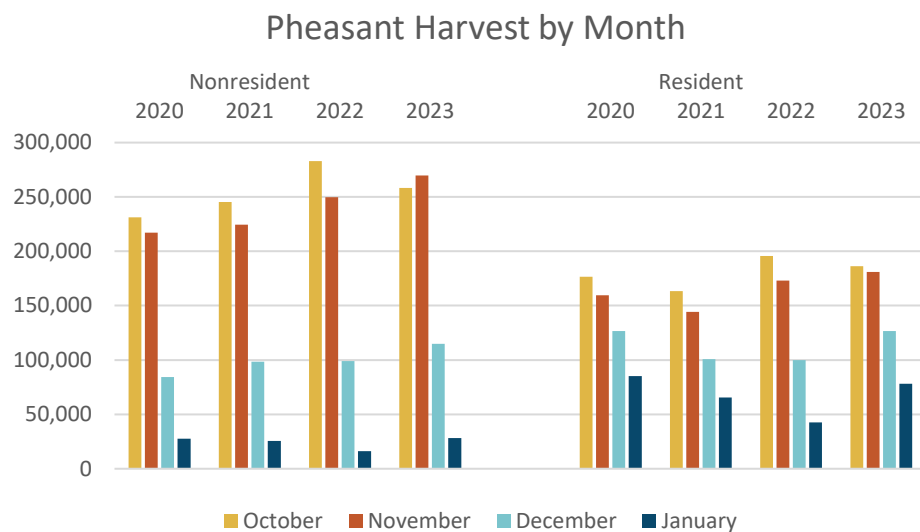
## SOUTH DAKOTA PHEASANT HUNTERS AND AVERAGE SEASON HARVEST 1980-2023



**South Dakota Game Report No 2024-05 - 2023 Small Game, Upland Bird & Migratory Bird Harvest Projections**  
*Corey Huxoll*

| <b>2023 ESTIMATES OF PHEASANT HUNTING BY MONTH</b> |                                 |                 |               |                  |                  |                    |                  |                  |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Revised:<br>5/6/2024                               | RESIDENT TOTALS BY LICENSE TYPE |                 |               |                  |                  | NONRESIDENT TOTALS |                  |                  |
|                                                    | Combo                           | Senior<br>Combo | Small<br>Game | Youth<br>Sm Game | Sum<br>Estimates | Nonres<br>Sm Game  | Youth<br>Sm Game | Sum<br>Estimates |
| Projected Days Pheasant Hunting                    | 249,817                         | 57,567          | 117,328       | 29,932           | 454,645          | 329,539            | 11,662           | 341,201          |
| Projected No. Pheasant Hunters                     | 29,899                          | 6,390           | 15,423        | 4,745            | 56,457           | 74,019             | 2,984            | 77,004           |
| Projected Pheasant Bag                             | 334,398                         | 69,773          | 134,265       | 33,722           | 572,159          | 650,788            | 20,248           | 671,036          |
| <b>TOTAL PHEASANT HARVEST =</b>                    |                                 |                 |               |                  |                  | <b>1,243,194</b>   |                  |                  |
| Percent Reporting Pheasant Days October            | 66%                             | 72%             | 64%           | 67%              |                  | 45%                | 54%              |                  |
| Percent Reporting Pheasant Days November           | 63%                             | 64%             | 64%           | 67%              |                  | 48%                | 42%              |                  |
| Percent Reporting Pheasant Days December           | 51%                             | 47%             | 41%           | 40%              |                  | 21%                | 15%              |                  |
| Percent Reporting Pheasant Days January            | 33%                             | 28%             | 22%           | 19%              |                  | 6%                 | 5%               |                  |
| Projected Pheasant Hunters October                 | 19,838                          | 4,584           | 9,840         | 3,193            | <b>37,456</b>    | 33,533             | 1,607            | <b>35,140</b>    |
| Projected Pheasant Hunters November                | 18,876                          | 4,105           | 9,935         | 3,163            | <b>36,079</b>    | 35,459             | 1,240            | <b>36,698</b>    |
| Projected Pheasant Hunters December                | 15,119                          | 3,010           | 6,276         | 1,880            | <b>26,286</b>    | 15,599             | 459              | <b>16,058</b>    |
| Projected Pheasant Hunters January                 | 9,815                           | 1,806           | 3,438         | 925              | <b>15,984</b>    | 4,492              | 138              | <b>4,630</b>     |
| Percent Pheasant Harvest October                   | 31%                             | 35%             | 34%           | 36%              |                  | 38%                | 51%              |                  |
| Percent Pheasant Harvest November                  | 31%                             | 33%             | 33%           | 32%              |                  | 40%                | 33%              |                  |
| Percent Pheasant Harvest December                  | 23%                             | 22%             | 20%           | 21%              |                  | 17%                | 11%              |                  |
| Percent Pheasant Harvest January                   | 15%                             | 11%             | 12%           | 11%              |                  | 4%                 | 5%               |                  |
| Projected Pheasant Harvest October                 | 103,741                         | 24,111          | 46,199        | 12,188           | <b>186,239</b>   | 247,691            | 10,370           | <b>258,061</b>   |
| Projected Pheasant Harvest November                | 102,710                         | 22,817          | 44,692        | 10,888           | <b>181,107</b>   | 263,177            | 6,586            | <b>269,762</b>   |
| Projected Pheasant Harvest December                | 77,051                          | 15,402          | 27,211        | 6,956            | <b>126,620</b>   | 112,696            | 2,310            | <b>115,006</b>   |
| Projected Pheasant Harvest January                 | 50,896                          | 7,443           | 16,163        | 3,690            | <b>78,193</b>    | 27,224             | 983              | <b>28,207</b>    |





### Private Shooting Preserve Pheasant Harvest, 2014- 2023

| Year    | Pheasants Released | Released Pheasant Harvest | Wild Pheasant Harvest | Total Harvest |
|---------|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| 2014-15 | 420,074            | 234,003 (87%)             | 34,313 (13%)          | 268,316       |
| 2015-16 | 432,304            | 243,168 (88%)             | 33,196 (12%)          | 276,383       |
| 2016-17 | 438,287            | 250,029 (89%)             | 30,507 (11%)          | 280,536       |
| 2017-18 | 468,668            | 264,291 (93%)             | 18,963 (7%)           | 283,254       |
| 2018-19 | 499,442            | 279,243 (91%)             | 26,744 (9%)           | 305,987       |
| 2019-20 | 499,179            | 283,988 (92%)             | 25,316 (8%)           | 306,430       |
| 2020-21 | 451,662            | 252,597 (91%)             | 23,974 (9%)           | 276,571       |
| 2021-22 | 579,672            | 330,674 (94%)             | 21,104 (6%)           | 350,581       |
| 2022-23 | 597,137            | 338,488 (94%)             | 21,047 (6%)           | 359,535       |
| 2023-24 | 612,857            | 354,133 (94%)             | 21,863 (6%)           | 375,716       |

\*Summary of private shooting preserve records

## **PARTRIDGE**

The 2023 partridge season was open 16 September 2023 - 71 January 2024 statewide. Harvest surveys were sent to both resident and nonresident hunters. The daily limit was 5 birds, possession 15. To hunt partridge residents were required to hold small game, 1-day small game, adult or senior combination, or youth small game licenses; nonresidents were required to obtain adult or youth small game or nonresident shooting preserve licenses. Harvest surveys were sent to both resident and nonresident hunters. No shooting preserve license holders were surveyed and none of their harvest is included in any of the data in this report.

In 2023, there were 84,610 resident and 81,380 nonresident licenses issued that allowed holders to hunt partridge. Approximately 15,000 residents and 15,000 nonresidents were surveyed for the upland bird seasons. Survey response rates were 28% for residents and 29% for nonresidents.

Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting partridge, there were a projected 2,701 resident and 2,580 nonresident partridge hunters.

An estimated 7,455 partridge were harvested (3,441 by residents, 4,014 by nonresidents) during the 2023 season. When asked their satisfaction on the season, (1 being least satisfied, 7 being most satisfied), resident upland bird hunters reported an average satisfaction rating of 5.03 while nonresidents reported a higher satisfaction rating of 5.72.

### Comparison of the 2014 - 2023 partridge harvests

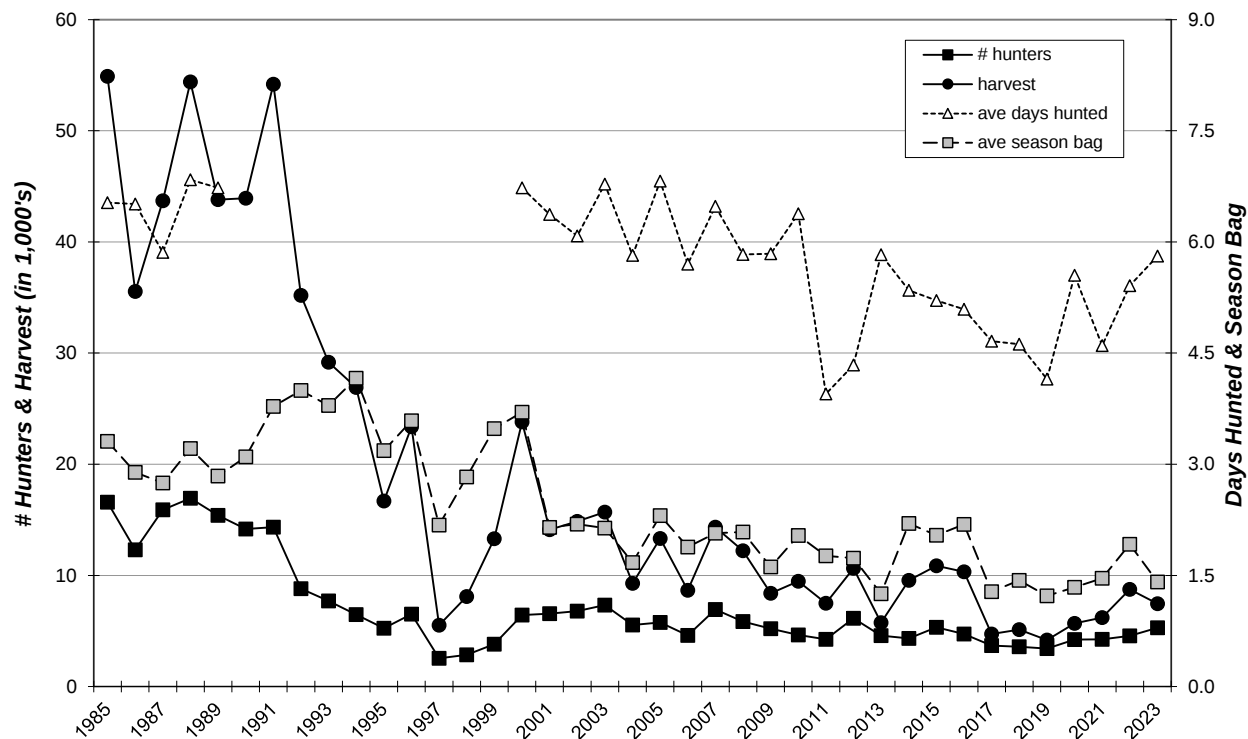
| Year | Residents |         |                 |         | Nonresidents |         |                 |         |
|------|-----------|---------|-----------------|---------|--------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
|      | Hunters   | Harvest | Ave Days Hunted | Ave Bag | Hunters      | Harvest | Ave Days Hunted | Ave Bag |
| 2014 | 2,355     | 5,942   | 6.27            | 2.43    | 1,985        | 3,609   | 4.13            | 1.82    |
| 2015 | 3,189     | 5,840   | 5.63            | 1.85    | 2,133        | 5,019   | 4.05            | 3.08    |
| 2016 | 2,516     | 7,053   | 5.87            | 2.73    | 2,204        | 3,272   | 4.21            | 1.48    |
| 2017 | 2,005     | 2,496   | 5.44            | 1.24    | 1,682        | 2,224   | 3.93            | 1.32    |
| 2018 | 1,672     | 1,223   | 4.82            | 0.75    | 1,904        | 3,900   | 4.38            | 2.05    |
| 2019 | 1,850     | 1,703   | 5.48            | 1.04    | 1,565        | 2,478   | 4.34            | 1.58    |
| 2020 | 2,432     | 3,505   | 6.85            | 1.46    | 1,806        | 2,177   | 4.32            | 1.21    |
| 2021 | 1,851     | 2,766   | 4.78            | 1.50    | 2,398        | 3,448   | 4.47            | 1.44    |
| 2022 | 2,236     | 4,362   | 6.70            | 1.99    | 2,318        | 4,379   | 4.15            | 1.94    |
| 2023 | 2,701     | 3,441   | 6.97            | 1.30    | 2,580        | 4,014   | 4.56            | 1.51    |

South Dakota Game Report No 2024-05 - 2023 Small Game, Upland Bird & Migratory Bird Harvest Projections  
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| <b>PARTRIDGE HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2023</b> |                                 |                 |               |               |                  |                    |                  |                  |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Revised:<br>4/11/2024                         | RESIDENT TOTALS BY LICENSE TYPE |                 |               |               |                  | NONRESIDENT TOTALS |                  |                  |
|                                               | Combo                           | Senior<br>Combo | Small<br>Game | Youth<br>SmGm | Sum<br>Estimates | Nonres<br>Sm Game  | Youth Sm<br>Game | Sum<br>Estimates |
| Licenses Sold                                 | 46,849                          | 11,549          | 20,154        | 6,058         | 84,610           | 78,120             | 3,260            | 81,380           |
| Projected ACTIVE UPLAND BIRD HUNTERS          | 30,541                          | 6,554           | 15,612        | 4,775         | 57,482           | 74,982             | 2,984            | 77,966           |
| Number Sampled by Survey                      | 8,586                           | 1,952           | 3,391         | 1,055         | 14,984           | 14,439             | 552              | 14,991           |
| Number Responded to Survey                    | 2,482                           | 844             | 639           | 203           | 4,168            | 4,292              | 70               | 4,362            |
| % Responded and Participated in Season        | 65%                             | 57%             | 77%           | 79%           | 66%              | 98%                | 93%              | 98%              |
| Responded and Participated in Season          | 1,618                           | 479             | 495           | 160           | 2,752            | 4,206              | 65               | 4,271            |
| Responded but DID NOT HUNT                    | 864                             | 365             | 144           | 43            | 1,416            | 86                 | 5                | 91               |
| Survey Response Rate                          | 28.9%                           | 43.2%           | 18.8%         | 19.2%         | 27.8%            | 29.7%              | 12.7%            | 29.1%            |
| No. Hunters Reporting Partridge Days          | 90                              | 23              | 18            | 4             | 135              | 137                | 3                | 140              |
| Sum Partridge Hunted Days                     | 608                             | 174             | 146           | 13            | 941              | 624                | 15               | 639              |
| Average Days Hunted Partridge                 | 6.76                            | 7.57            | 8.11          | 3.25          | 6.97             | 4.55               | 5.00             | 4.56             |
| Sum Partridge Bagged                          | 125                             | 27              | 15            | 8             | 175              | 202                | 9                | 211              |
| Average Season Partridge Bag                  | 1.39                            | 1.17            | 0.83          | 2.00          | 1.30             | 1.47               | 3.00             | 1.51             |
| Projected Days Partridge Hunting              | 11,476                          | 2,381           | 4,605         | 388           | 18,850           | 11,124             | 689              | 11,813           |
| Projected No. Partridge Hunters               | 1,699                           | 315             | 568           | 119           | 2,701            | 2,442              | 138              | 2,580            |
| Projected Partridge Bag                       | 2,359                           | 369             | 473           | 239           | 3,441            | 3,601              | 413              | 4,014            |
|                                               | TOTAL PARTRIDGE HARVEST =       |                 |               |               |                  | 7,455              |                  |                  |
| Upland Bird Hunters Mean Satisfaction Score * | 5.07                            | 4.94            | 5.02          | 5.01          | 5.03             | 5.73               | 5.67             | 5.72             |

\* Based on scale of 1-7 with 1="very dissatisfied" and 7="very satisfied"

## STATEWIDE PARTRIDGE HARVEST, 1985-2023



## **PRAIRIE CHICKEN & SHARP-TAILED GROUSE**

Historically, these two species, plus ruffed grouse, have been combined under the name "Prairie Grouse." In these reports, harvest estimates for these species were combined. In 2006, hunters were asked specifically how many of each species were harvested of the total harvest and 76% were identified as sharp-tailed grouse, 20% as prairie chickens, and 4% were unknown. They continue to be combined for the overall harvest estimates in this report.

The 2023 grouse season covered 16 September 2023 – 7 January 2024 statewide. Harvest surveys were sent to both resident and nonresident hunters. The daily limit was 3 birds, possession 15. To hunt grouse residents required to hold small game, 1-day small game, adult or senior combination, or youth small game licenses; nonresidents were required to obtain adult or youth small game or nonresident shooting preserve licenses. Harvest surveys were sent to both resident and nonresident hunters. No shooting preserve license holders were surveyed and none of their harvest is included in any of the data in this report.

In 2023, there were 84,610 resident and 81,380 nonresident licenses issued that allowed holders to hunt grouse. Approximately 15,000 residents and 15,000 nonresidents were surveyed for the upland bird seasons. Survey response rates were 28% for residents and 29% for nonresidents.

Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting grouse, there were a projected 9,617 resident and 7,567 nonresident grouse hunters. A projected total of 69,443 grouse were harvested (46,228 by residents, 23,214 by nonresidents) during the 2023 season.

When asked their satisfaction on the season, (1 being very dissatisfied, and 7 being very satisfied), resident upland bird hunters reported an average rating of 5.03 while nonresidents reported a rating of 5.72.

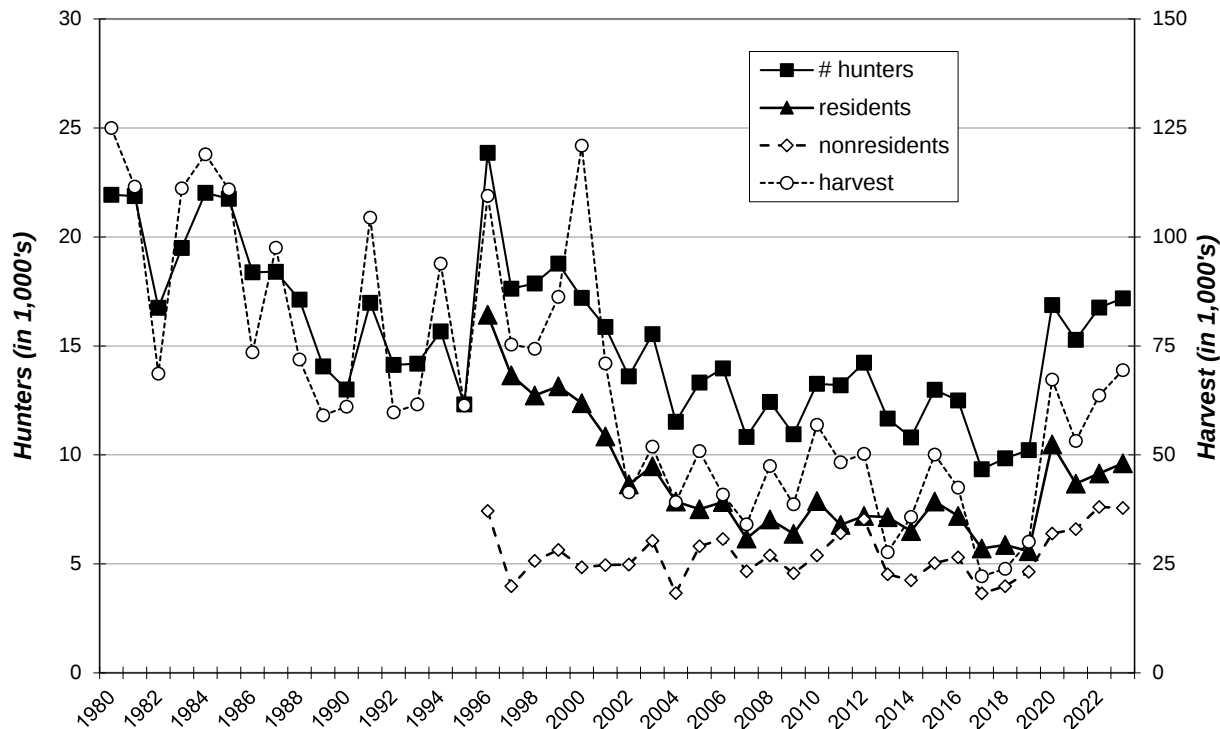
### Comparison of the 2014 - 2023 prairie grouse season statistics

| Year | Residents |         |                |         |              | Nonresidents |         |                |         |              |
|------|-----------|---------|----------------|---------|--------------|--------------|---------|----------------|---------|--------------|
|      | Hunters   | Harvest | Ave Day Hunted | Ave Bag | Satisfaction | Hunters      | Harvest | Ave Day Hunted | Ave Bag | Satisfaction |
| 2014 | 6,503     | 25,847  | 4.55           | 4.01    | 4.85         | 4,254        | 9,943   | 3.99           | 2.31    | 5.52         |
| 2015 | 7,866     | 34,506  | 4.72           | 4.40    | 4.98         | 5,032        | 15,388  | 4.05           | 3.08    | 5.49         |
| 2016 | 7,199     | 31,611  | 4.88           | 4.40    | 4.72         | 5,203        | 11,294  | 4.04           | 2.18    | 5.43         |
| 2017 | 5,703     | 15,863  | 4.57           | 2.80    | 4.23         | 3,645        | 6,290   | 3.81           | 1.73    | 5.06         |
| 2018 | 5,868     | 16,431  | 4.36           | 2.83    | 4.64         | 3,979        | 7,429   | 4.08           | 1.87    | 5.38         |
| 2019 | 5,583     | 18,601  | 4.45           | 3.33    | 4.67         | 4,637        | 11,452  | 3.74           | 2.47    | 5.28         |
| 2020 | 10,487    | 48,947  | 5.14           | 4.78    | 5.06         | 6,389        | 18,314  | 4.33           | 2.88    | 5.75         |
| 2021 | 8,680     | 36,583  | 5.55           | 4.28    | 4.75         | 6,597        | 16,636  | 4.22           | 2.53    | 5.38         |
| 2022 | 9,149     | 40,263  | 5.53           | 4.46    | 5.09         | 7,616        | 23,354  | 3.97           | 3.10    | 5.85         |
| 2023 | 9,617     | 46,228  | 5.80           | 4.78    | 5.03         | 7,567        | 23,214  | 4.04           | 3.10    | 5.72         |

| <b>PRAIRIE GROUSE HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2023</b>   |                                        |              |               |              |               |                           |              |               |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Revised:<br>4/11/2024                                | <b>RESIDENT TOTALS BY LICENSE TYPE</b> |              |               |              |               | <b>NONRESIDENT TOTALS</b> |              |               |
|                                                      |                                        | Senior       | Small         | Youth        | Sum           | Nonres                    | Youth Sm     | Sum           |
|                                                      | Combo                                  | Combo        | Game          | SmGm         | Estimates     | Sm Game                   | Game         | Estimates     |
| <b>Licenses Sold</b>                                 | 46,849                                 | 11,549       | 20,154        | 6,058        | <b>84,610</b> | 78,120                    | 3,260        | <b>81,380</b> |
| <b>Projected ACTIVE UPLAND BIRD HUNTERS</b>          | <b>30,541</b>                          | <b>6,554</b> | <b>15,612</b> | <b>4,775</b> | <b>57,482</b> | <b>74,982</b>             | <b>2,984</b> | <b>77,966</b> |
| Number Sampled by Survey                             | 8,586                                  | 1,952        | 3,391         | 1,055        | <b>14,984</b> | 14,439                    | 552          | <b>14,991</b> |
| Number Responded to Survey                           | 2,482                                  | 844          | 639           | 203          | <b>4,168</b>  | 4,292                     | 70           | <b>4,362</b>  |
| % Responded and Participated in Season               | 65%                                    | 57%          | 77%           | 79%          | 66%           | 98%                       | 93%          | 98%           |
| Responded and Participated in Season                 | 1,618                                  | 479          | 495           | 160          | <b>2,752</b>  | 4,206                     | 65           | <b>4,271</b>  |
| Responded but DID NOT HUNT                           | 864                                    | 365          | 144           | 43           | <b>1,416</b>  | 86                        | 5            | <b>91</b>     |
| <b>Survey Response Rate</b>                          | <b>28.9%</b>                           | <b>43.2%</b> | <b>18.8%</b>  | <b>19.2%</b> | <b>27.8%</b>  | <b>29.7%</b>              | <b>12.7%</b> | <b>29.1%</b>  |
| No. Hunters Reporting Prairie Grouse Days            | 313                                    | 94           | 56            | 22           | <b>485</b>    | 409                       | 6            | <b>415</b>    |
| Sum Prairie Grouse Hunted Days                       | 1,831                                  | 552          | 329           | 101          | <b>2,813</b>  | 1,646                     | 29           | <b>1,675</b>  |
| Average Days Hunted Prairie Grouse                   | <b>5.85</b>                            | <b>5.87</b>  | <b>5.88</b>   | <b>4.59</b>  | <b>5.80</b>   | <b>4.02</b>               | <b>4.83</b>  | <b>4.04</b>   |
| Sum Prairie Grouse Bagged                            | 1,662                                  | 320          | 266           | 70           | <b>2,318</b>  | 1,279                     | 9            | <b>1,288</b>  |
| Average Season Prairie Grouse Bag                    | <b>5.31</b>                            | <b>3.40</b>  | <b>4.75</b>   | <b>3.18</b>  | <b>4.78</b>   | <b>3.13</b>               | <b>1.50</b>  | <b>3.10</b>   |
| <b>Projected Days Prairie Grouse Hunting</b>         | <b>34,561</b>                          | <b>7,553</b> | <b>10,377</b> | <b>3,014</b> | <b>55,505</b> | <b>29,344</b>             | <b>1,332</b> | <b>30,675</b> |
| <b>Projected No. Prairie Grouse Hunters</b>          | <b>5,908</b>                           | <b>1,286</b> | <b>1,766</b>  | <b>657</b>   | <b>9,617</b>  | <b>7,291</b>              | <b>275</b>   | <b>7,567</b>  |
| <b>Projected Prairie Grouse Bag</b>                  | <b>31,371</b>                          | <b>4,379</b> | <b>8,390</b>  | <b>2,089</b> | <b>46,228</b> | <b>22,801</b>             | <b>413</b>   | <b>23,214</b> |
|                                                      | <b>TOTAL PRAIRIE GROUSE HARVEST =</b>  |              |               |              |               | <b>69,443</b>             |              |               |
| <b>Upland Bird Hunters Mean Satisfaction Score *</b> | 5.07                                   | 4.94         | 5.02          | 5.01         | 5.03          | 5.73                      | 5.67         | 5.72          |

\* Based on scale of 1-7 with 1="very dissatisfied" and 7="very satisfied"

## PRAIRIE GROUSE HUNTERS & HARVEST 1980-2023



South Dakota Game Report No 2024-05 - 2023 Small Game, Upland Bird & Migratory Bird Harvest Projections  
Corey Huxoll

| Resident Grouse Harvest Distribution by County 2023                                                                                                                              |                     |              |               |                 |                      |               |             |                 |              |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| COUNTY                                                                                                                                                                           | HUNTER DISTRIBUTION |              |               |                 | HARVEST DISTRIBUTION |               |             |                 | Birds/Hunter |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                  | # Reported          | # Projected  | % of Total    | # Proj w/ Unk * | # Reported           | # Projected   | % of Total  | # Proj w/ Unk * |              |  |
| Minnehaha                                                                                                                                                                        | 0                   | 0            | 0.0           | 0               | 0                    | 0             | 0.0         | 0               | 0            |  |
| Pennington                                                                                                                                                                       | 23                  | 456          | 5.0           | 479             | 155                  | 3,091         | 7.1         | 3,290           | 6.8          |  |
| Brown                                                                                                                                                                            | 1                   | 20           | 0.2           | 21              | 0                    | 0             | 0.0         | 0               | 0.0          |  |
| Beadle                                                                                                                                                                           | 2                   | 40           | 0.4           | 42              | 6                    | 120           | 0.3         | 127             | 3.0          |  |
| Codington                                                                                                                                                                        | 0                   | 0            | 0.0           | 0               | 0                    | 0             | 0.0         | 0               | 0            |  |
| Brookings                                                                                                                                                                        | 0                   | 0            | 0.0           | 0               | 0                    | 0             | 0.0         | 0               | 0            |  |
| Yankton                                                                                                                                                                          | 0                   | 0            | 0.0           | 0               | 0                    | 0             | 0.0         | 0               | 0            |  |
| Davison                                                                                                                                                                          | 1                   | 20           | 0.2           | 21              | 0                    | 0             | 0.0         | 0               | 0.0          |  |
| Lawrence                                                                                                                                                                         | 1                   | 20           | 0.2           | 21              | 6                    | 120           | 0.3         | 127             | 6.0          |  |
| Aurora                                                                                                                                                                           | 1                   | 20           | 0.2           | 21              | 0                    | 0             | 0.0         | 0               | 0.0          |  |
| Bennett                                                                                                                                                                          | 6                   | 119          | 1.3           | 125             | 11                   | 219           | 0.5         | 233             | 1.8          |  |
| Bon Homme                                                                                                                                                                        | 1                   | 20           | 0.2           | 21              | 10                   | 199           | 0.5         | 212             | 10.1         |  |
| Brule                                                                                                                                                                            | 10                  | 198          | 2.2           | 208             | 7                    | 140           | 0.3         | 149             | 0.7          |  |
| Buffalo                                                                                                                                                                          | 3                   | 59           | 0.6           | 62              | 8                    | 160           | 0.4         | 170             | 2.7          |  |
| Butte                                                                                                                                                                            | 11                  | 218          | 2.4           | 229             | 68                   | 1,356         | 3.1         | 1,443           | 6.2          |  |
| Campbell                                                                                                                                                                         | 3                   | 59           | 0.6           | 62              | 5                    | 100           | 0.2         | 106             | 1.7          |  |
| Charles Mix                                                                                                                                                                      | 10                  | 198          | 2.2           | 208             | 17                   | 339           | 0.8         | 361             | 1.7          |  |
| Clark                                                                                                                                                                            | 1                   | 20           | 0.2           | 21              | 4                    | 80            | 0.2         | 85              | 4.0          |  |
| Clay                                                                                                                                                                             | 1                   | 20           | 0.2           | 21              | 0                    | 0             | 0.0         | 0               | 0.0          |  |
| Corson                                                                                                                                                                           | 14                  | 278          | 3.0           | 291             | 69                   | 1,376         | 3.2         | 1,465           | 5.0          |  |
| Custer                                                                                                                                                                           | 2                   | 40           | 0.4           | 42              | 2                    | 40            | 0.1         | 42              | 1.0          |  |
| Day                                                                                                                                                                              | 1                   | 20           | 0.2           | 21              | 0                    | 0             | 0.0         | 0               | 0.0          |  |
| Deuel                                                                                                                                                                            | 1                   | 20           | 0.2           | 21              | 0                    | 0             | 0.0         | 0               | 0.0          |  |
| Dewey                                                                                                                                                                            | 16                  | 317          | 3.5           | 333             | 135                  | 2,692         | 6.2         | 2,865           | 8.5          |  |
| Douglas                                                                                                                                                                          | 1                   | 20           | 0.2           | 21              | 2                    | 40            | 0.1         | 42              | 2.0          |  |
| Edmunds                                                                                                                                                                          | 2                   | 40           | 0.4           | 42              | 7                    | 140           | 0.3         | 149             | 3.5          |  |
| Fall River                                                                                                                                                                       | 12                  | 238          | 2.6           | 250             | 17                   | 339           | 0.8         | 361             | 1.4          |  |
| Faulk                                                                                                                                                                            | 2                   | 40           | 0.4           | 42              | 4                    | 80            | 0.2         | 85              | 2.0          |  |
| Grant                                                                                                                                                                            | 7                   | 139          | 1.5           | 146             | 7                    | 140           | 0.3         | 149             | 1.0          |  |
| Gregory                                                                                                                                                                          | 12                  | 238          | 2.6           | 250             | 9                    | 179           | 0.4         | 191             | 0.8          |  |
| Haakon                                                                                                                                                                           | 20                  | 397          | 4.3           | 416             | 89                   | 1,775         | 4.1         | 1,889           | 4.5          |  |
| Hamlin                                                                                                                                                                           | 0                   | 0            | 0.0           | 0               | 0                    | 0             | 0.0         | 0               | 0            |  |
| Hand                                                                                                                                                                             | 5                   | 99           | 1.1           | 104             | 5                    | 100           | 0.2         | 106             | 1.0          |  |
| Hanson                                                                                                                                                                           | 1                   | 20           | 0.2           | 21              | 0                    | 0             | 0.0         | 0               | 0.0          |  |
| Harding                                                                                                                                                                          | 17                  | 337          | 3.7           | 354             | 89                   | 1,775         | 4.1         | 1,889           | 5.3          |  |
| Hughes                                                                                                                                                                           | 10                  | 198          | 2.2           | 208             | 43                   | 858           | 2.0         | 913             | 4.3          |  |
| Hutchinson                                                                                                                                                                       | 0                   | 0            | 0.0           | 0               | 0                    | 0             | 0.0         | 0               | 0            |  |
| Hyde                                                                                                                                                                             | 5                   | 99           | 1.1           | 104             | 25                   | 499           | 1.1         | 531             | 5.0          |  |
| Jackson                                                                                                                                                                          | 6                   | 119          | 1.3           | 125             | 38                   | 758           | 1.7         | 807             | 6.4          |  |
| Jerauld                                                                                                                                                                          | 0                   | 0            | 0.0           | 0               | 0                    | 0             | 0.0         | 0               | 0            |  |
| Jones                                                                                                                                                                            | 12                  | 238          | 2.6           | 250             | 45                   | 897           | 2.1         | 955             | 3.8          |  |
| Kingsbury                                                                                                                                                                        | 0                   | 0            | 0.0           | 0               | 0                    | 0             | 0.0         | 0               | 0            |  |
| Lake                                                                                                                                                                             | 0                   | 0            | 0.0           | 0               | 0                    | 0             | 0.0         | 0               | 0            |  |
| Lincoln                                                                                                                                                                          | 0                   | 0            | 0.0           | 0               | 0                    | 0             | 0.0         | 0               | 0            |  |
| Lyman                                                                                                                                                                            | 31                  | 615          | 6.7           | 645             | 155                  | 3,091         | 7.1         | 3,290           | 5.0          |  |
| McCook                                                                                                                                                                           | 0                   | 0            | 0.0           | 0               | 0                    | 0             | 0.0         | 0               | 0            |  |
| McPherson                                                                                                                                                                        | 10                  | 198          | 2.2           | 208             | 31                   | 618           | 1.4         | 658             | 3.1          |  |
| Marshall                                                                                                                                                                         | 7                   | 139          | 1.5           | 146             | 31                   | 618           | 1.4         | 658             | 4.5          |  |
| Meade                                                                                                                                                                            | 29                  | 575          | 6.3           | 604             | 178                  | 3,550         | 8.2         | 3,778           | 6.2          |  |
| Mellette                                                                                                                                                                         | 7                   | 139          | 1.5           | 146             | 22                   | 439           | 1.0         | 467             | 3.2          |  |
| Miner                                                                                                                                                                            | 0                   | 0            | 0.0           | 0               | 0                    | 0             | 0.0         | 0               | 0            |  |
| Moody                                                                                                                                                                            | 0                   | 0            | 0.0           | 0               | 0                    | 0             | 0.0         | 0               | 0            |  |
| Perkins                                                                                                                                                                          | 56                  | 1,110        | 12.1          | 1,166           | 317                  | 6,322         | 14.6        | 6,728           | 5.7          |  |
| Potter                                                                                                                                                                           | 7                   | 139          | 1.5           | 146             | 21                   | 419           | 1.0         | 446             | 3.0          |  |
| Roberts                                                                                                                                                                          | 4                   | 79           | 0.9           | 83              | 11                   | 219           | 0.5         | 233             | 2.8          |  |
| Sanborn                                                                                                                                                                          | 0                   | 0            | 0.0           | 0               | 0                    | 0             | 0.0         | 0               | 0            |  |
| Spink                                                                                                                                                                            | 0                   | 0            | 0.0           | 0               | 0                    | 0             | 0.0         | 0               | 0            |  |
| Stanley                                                                                                                                                                          | 41                  | 813          | 8.9           | 853             | 317                  | 6,322         | 14.6        | 6,728           | 7.8          |  |
| Sully                                                                                                                                                                            | 7                   | 139          | 1.5           | 146             | 11                   | 219           | 0.5         | 233             | 1.6          |  |
| Tripp                                                                                                                                                                            | 14                  | 278          | 3.0           | 291             | 75                   | 1,496         | 3.4         | 1,592           | 5.4          |  |
| Turner                                                                                                                                                                           | 0                   | 0            | 0.0           | 0               | 0                    | 0             | 0.0         | 0               | 0            |  |
| Union                                                                                                                                                                            | 0                   | 0            | 0.0           | 0               | 0                    | 0             | 0.0         | 0               | 0            |  |
| Walworth                                                                                                                                                                         | 8                   | 159          | 1.7           | 167             | 3                    | 60            | 0.1         | 64              | 0.4          |  |
| Ziebach                                                                                                                                                                          | 15                  | 297          | 3.2           | 312             | 100                  | 1,994         | 4.6         | 2,123           | 6.7          |  |
| Oglala Lakota                                                                                                                                                                    | 1                   | 20           | 0.2           | 21              | 3                    | 60            | 0.1         | 64              | 3.0          |  |
| Todd                                                                                                                                                                             | 4                   | 79           | 0.9           | 83              | 20                   | 399           | 0.9         | 425             | 5.0          |  |
| Unknown                                                                                                                                                                          | 23                  | 456          | -             | -               | 140                  | 2,792         | -           | -               | 6.1          |  |
| <b>TOTALS:</b>                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>485</b>          | <b>9,617</b> | <b>100.0%</b> | <b>9,617</b>    | <b>2,318</b>         | <b>46,228</b> | <b>100%</b> | <b>46,228</b>   | <b>4.81</b>  |  |
| Last Revised: 6 May 2024                                                                                                                                                         |                     |              |               |                 |                      |               |             |                 |              |  |
| * 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. |                     |              |               |                 |                      |               |             |                 |              |  |
| ** Calculation uses "# projected" values without correction for unknown/unreported county values.                                                                                |                     |              |               |                 |                      |               |             |                 |              |  |

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Corey Huxoll

| Nonresident Grouse Harvest Distribution by County 2023                                                                                                                           |                     |             |            |                 |  |                      |             |            |                 |              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|------------|-----------------|--|----------------------|-------------|------------|-----------------|--------------|
| COUNTY                                                                                                                                                                           | HUNTER DISTRIBUTION |             |            |                 |  | HARVEST DISTRIBUTION |             |            |                 | Birds/Hunter |
|                                                                                                                                                                                  | # Reported          | # Projected | % of Total | # Proj w/ Unk * |  | # Reported           | # Projected | % of Total | # Proj w/ Unk * |              |
| Minnehaha                                                                                                                                                                        | 0                   | 0           | 0.0        | 0               |  | 0                    | 0           | 0.0        | 0               | 0            |
| Pennington                                                                                                                                                                       | 2                   | 36          | 0.5        | 40              |  | 0                    | 0           | 0.0        | 0               | 0.0          |
| Brown                                                                                                                                                                            | 6                   | 109         | 1.6        | 120             |  | 7                    | 126         | 0.6        | 140             | 1.2          |
| Beadle                                                                                                                                                                           | 3                   | 55          | 0.8        | 60              |  | 5                    | 90          | 0.4        | 100             | 1.6          |
| Codington                                                                                                                                                                        | 1                   | 18          | 0.3        | 20              |  | 0                    | 0           | 0.0        | 0               | 0.0          |
| Brookings                                                                                                                                                                        | 0                   | 0           | 0.0        | 0               |  | 0                    | 0           | 0.0        | 0               | 0            |
| Yankton                                                                                                                                                                          | 0                   | 0           | 0.0        | 0               |  | 0                    | 0           | 0.0        | 0               | 0            |
| Davison                                                                                                                                                                          | 2                   | 36          | 0.5        | 40              |  | 0                    | 0           | 0.0        | 0               | 0.0          |
| Lawrence                                                                                                                                                                         | 1                   | 18          | 0.3        | 20              |  | 3                    | 54          | 0.3        | 60              | 3.0          |
| Aurora                                                                                                                                                                           | 3                   | 55          | 0.8        | 60              |  | 1                    | 18          | 0.1        | 20              | 0.3          |
| Bennett                                                                                                                                                                          | 5                   | 91          | 1.3        | 100             |  | 4                    | 72          | 0.3        | 80              | 0.8          |
| Bon Homme                                                                                                                                                                        | 0                   | 0           | 0.0        | 0               |  | 0                    | 0           | 0.0        | 0               | 0            |
| Brule                                                                                                                                                                            | 12                  | 219         | 3.2        | 240             |  | 10                   | 180         | 0.9        | 200             | 0.8          |
| Buffalo                                                                                                                                                                          | 2                   | 36          | 0.5        | 40              |  | 6                    | 108         | 0.5        | 120             | 3.0          |
| Butte                                                                                                                                                                            | 1                   | 18          | 0.3        | 20              |  | 3                    | 54          | 0.3        | 60              | 3.0          |
| Campbell                                                                                                                                                                         | 4                   | 73          | 1.1        | 80              |  | 6                    | 108         | 0.5        | 120             | 1.5          |
| Chas Mix                                                                                                                                                                         | 2                   | 36          | 0.5        | 40              |  | 3                    | 54          | 0.3        | 60              | 1.5          |
| Clark                                                                                                                                                                            | 0                   | 0           | 0.0        | 0               |  | 0                    | 0           | 0.0        | 0               | 0            |
| Clay                                                                                                                                                                             | 0                   | 0           | 0.0        | 0               |  | 0                    | 0           | 0.0        | 0               | 0            |
| Corson                                                                                                                                                                           | 14                  | 255         | 3.7        | 280             |  | 51                   | 919         | 4.4        | 1,021           | 3.6          |
| Custer                                                                                                                                                                           | 0                   | 0           | 0.0        | 0               |  | 0                    | 0           | 0.0        | 0               | 0            |
| Day                                                                                                                                                                              | 1                   | 18          | 0.3        | 20              |  | 0                    | 0           | 0.0        | 0               | 0.0          |
| Deuel                                                                                                                                                                            | 0                   | 0           | 0.0        | 0               |  | 0                    | 0           | 0.0        | 0               | 0            |
| Dewey                                                                                                                                                                            | 15                  | 274         | 4.0        | 300             |  | 83                   | 1,496       | 7.2        | 1,661           | 5.5          |
| Douglas                                                                                                                                                                          | 1                   | 18          | 0.3        | 20              |  | 0                    | 0           | 0.0        | 0               | 0.0          |
| Edmunds                                                                                                                                                                          | 3                   | 55          | 0.8        | 60              |  | 4                    | 72          | 0.3        | 80              | 1.3          |
| Fall River                                                                                                                                                                       | 0                   | 0           | 0.0        | 0               |  | 0                    | 0           | 0.0        | 0               | 0            |
| Faulk                                                                                                                                                                            | 3                   | 55          | 0.8        | 60              |  | 2                    | 36          | 0.2        | 40              | 0.7          |
| Grant                                                                                                                                                                            | 0                   | 0           | 0.0        | 0               |  | 0                    | 0           | 0.0        | 0               | 0            |
| Gregory                                                                                                                                                                          | 7                   | 128         | 1.9        | 140             |  | 2                    | 36          | 0.2        | 40              | 0.3          |
| Haakon                                                                                                                                                                           | 7                   | 128         | 1.9        | 140             |  | 33                   | 595         | 2.8        | 660             | 4.7          |
| Hamlin                                                                                                                                                                           | 2                   | 36          | 0.5        | 40              |  | 3                    | 54          | 0.3        | 60              | 1.5          |
| Hand                                                                                                                                                                             | 8                   | 146         | 2.1        | 160             |  | 4                    | 72          | 0.3        | 80              | 0.5          |
| Hanson                                                                                                                                                                           | 0                   | 0           | 0.0        | 0               |  | 0                    | 0           | 0.0        | 0               | 0            |
| Harding                                                                                                                                                                          | 6                   | 109         | 1.6        | 120             |  | 26                   | 469         | 2.2        | 520             | 4.3          |
| Hughes                                                                                                                                                                           | 23                  | 419         | 6.1        | 460             |  | 56                   | 1,009       | 4.8        | 1,121           | 2.4          |
| Hutchinson                                                                                                                                                                       | 1                   | 18          | 0.3        | 20              |  | 0                    | 0           | 0.0        | 0               | 0.0          |
| Hyde                                                                                                                                                                             | 2                   | 36          | 0.5        | 40              |  | 2                    | 36          | 0.2        | 40              | 1.0          |
| Jackson                                                                                                                                                                          | 6                   | 109         | 1.6        | 120             |  | 24                   | 433         | 2.1        | 480             | 4.0          |
| Jerauld                                                                                                                                                                          | 3                   | 55          | 0.8        | 60              |  | 0                    | 0           | 0.0        | 0               | 0.0          |
| Jones                                                                                                                                                                            | 20                  | 365         | 5.3        | 400             |  | 67                   | 1,208       | 5.8        | 1,341           | 3.3          |
| Kingsbury                                                                                                                                                                        | 2                   | 36          | 0.5        | 40              |  | 1                    | 18          | 0.1        | 20              | 0.5          |
| Lake                                                                                                                                                                             | 0                   | 0           | 0.0        | 0               |  | 0                    | 0           | 0.0        | 0               | 0            |
| Lincoln                                                                                                                                                                          | 1                   | 18          | 0.3        | 20              |  | 0                    | 0           | 0.0        | 0               | 0.0          |
| Lyman                                                                                                                                                                            | 46                  | 839         | 12.2       | 921             |  | 163                  | 2,938       | 14.1       | 3,262           | 3.5          |
| McCook                                                                                                                                                                           | 0                   | 0           | 0.0        | 0               |  | 0                    | 0           | 0.0        | 0               | 0            |
| McPherson                                                                                                                                                                        | 11                  | 201         | 2.9        | 220             |  | 12                   | 216         | 1.0        | 240             | 1.1          |
| Marshall                                                                                                                                                                         | 2                   | 36          | 0.5        | 40              |  | 0                    | 0           | 0.0        | 0               | 0.0          |
| Meade                                                                                                                                                                            | 5                   | 91          | 1.3        | 100             |  | 15                   | 270         | 1.3        | 300             | 3.0          |
| Mellette                                                                                                                                                                         | 8                   | 146         | 2.1        | 160             |  | 29                   | 523         | 2.5        | 580             | 3.6          |
| Miner                                                                                                                                                                            | 0                   | 0           | 0.0        | 0               |  | 0                    | 0           | 0.0        | 0               | 0            |
| Moody                                                                                                                                                                            | 0                   | 0           | 0.0        | 0               |  | 0                    | 0           | 0.0        | 0               | 0            |
| Perkins                                                                                                                                                                          | 43                  | 784         | 11.4       | 861             |  | 237                  | 4,272       | 20.4       | 4,743           | 5.4          |
| Potter                                                                                                                                                                           | 7                   | 128         | 1.9        | 140             |  | 9                    | 162         | 0.8        | 180             | 1.3          |
| Roberts                                                                                                                                                                          | 0                   | 0           | 0.0        | 0               |  | 0                    | 0           | 0.0        | 0               | 0            |
| Sanborn                                                                                                                                                                          | 1                   | 18          | 0.3        | 20              |  | 0                    | 0           | 0.0        | 0               | 0.0          |
| Spink                                                                                                                                                                            | 1                   | 18          | 0.3        | 20              |  | 3                    | 54          | 0.3        | 60              | 3.0          |
| Stanley                                                                                                                                                                          | 40                  | 729         | 10.6       | 801             |  | 169                  | 3,046       | 14.6       | 3,382           | 4.2          |
| Sully                                                                                                                                                                            | 4                   | 73          | 1.1        | 80              |  | 3                    | 54          | 0.3        | 60              | 0.7          |
| Tripp                                                                                                                                                                            | 23                  | 419         | 6.1        | 460             |  | 49                   | 883         | 4.2        | 981             | 2.1          |
| Turner                                                                                                                                                                           | 0                   | 0           | 0.0        | 0               |  | 0                    | 0           | 0.0        | 0               | 0            |
| Union                                                                                                                                                                            | 0                   | 0           | 0.0        | 0               |  | 0                    | 0           | 0.0        | 0               | 0            |
| Walworth                                                                                                                                                                         | 10                  | 182         | 2.6        | 200             |  | 20                   | 360         | 1.7        | 400             | 2.0          |
| Ziebach                                                                                                                                                                          | 5                   | 91          | 1.3        | 100             |  | 29                   | 523         | 2.5        | 580             | 5.7          |
| Oglala Lakota                                                                                                                                                                    | 0                   | 0           | 0.0        | 0               |  | 0                    | 0           | 0.0        | 0               | 0            |
| Todd                                                                                                                                                                             | 3                   | 55          | 0.8        | 60              |  | 16                   | 288         | 1.4        | 320             | 5.3          |
| Unknown                                                                                                                                                                          | 37                  | 675         | -          | -               |  | 128                  | 2,307       | -          | -               | 3.4          |
| TOTALS:                                                                                                                                                                          | 415                 | 7,567       | 100%       | 7,567           |  | 1,288                | 23,214      | 100%       | 23,214          | 3.07         |
| Last Revised: 6 May 2024                                                                                                                                                         |                     |             |            |                 |  |                      |             |            |                 |              |
| * 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. |                     |             |            |                 |  |                      |             |            |                 |              |
| ** Calculation uses "# projected" values without correction for unknown/unreported county values.                                                                                |                     |             |            |                 |  |                      |             |            |                 |              |

## **SAGE GROUSE**

The first modern sage grouse hunting season was held in 1955. Between 1955 and 1980, the season was open only about half the years, primarily during the 1970s, and seasons were restrictive. Length of season ranged from 2 to 7 days, with many seasons held during the week with daily bag limits of 1 or 2 birds. In 1980, the population was declining and continued to decline until the mid-1980s. It then stabilized with some fluctuations from year to year. Currently, the population is considered too low to support having a hunting season. The sage grouse hunting season was re-opened in 2000, closed again in 2013, re-opened in 2016, and closed again in 2017.

### Comparison of the 2007-2023 Sage Grouse harvests

| Year    | # of Hunters | Total<br>Harvest | Harvest by County |         | Harvest by Age & Sex |                      |               |                 |
|---------|--------------|------------------|-------------------|---------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------|
|         |              |                  | Butte             | Harding | Hatch Year<br>Male   | Hatch Year<br>Female | Adult<br>Male | Adult<br>Female |
| 2007    | 25           | 10               | 2                 | 8       | 5                    | 2                    | 3             | 0               |
| 2008    | 24           | 17               | 5                 | 12      | 3                    | 5                    | 6             | 3               |
| 2009    | 20           | 7                | 3                 | 4       | 2                    | 3                    | 0             | 2               |
| 2010    | 26           | 12               | 9                 | 3       | 1                    | 0                    | 6             | 5               |
| 2011    | 27           | 11               | 6                 | 5       | 3                    | 2                    | 3             | 3               |
| 2012    | 35           | 9                | 2                 | 7       | 0                    | 0                    | 3             | 6               |
| 2013-15 | No Season    |                  |                   |         |                      |                      |               |                 |
| 2016    | 28           | 10               | 1                 | 9       | 3                    | 4                    | 1             | 2               |
| 2017-23 | No Season    |                  |                   |         |                      |                      |               |                 |

## **MOURNING DOVE**

The 2023 mourning dove season was open 1 September - 9 November statewide. The daily limit was 15 birds, possession 30. To hunt doves, residents were required to hold a small game, 1-day small game, adult or senior combination, or youth small game license; nonresidents were required to obtain a nonresident small game or nonresident youth small game license. All hunters were also required to purchase a Migratory Bird Certificate.

In 2023, 24,328 resident and 81,380 nonresident licenses were issued to hunt doves. Approximately 41% of resident migratory bird hunters and 19% of nonresident small game hunters were surveyed for the mourning dove season. Survey response rates were 31% for residents and 29% for nonresidents.

Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting doves, there were an estimated 8,463 active dove hunters. The five counties with the highest reported dove harvests were Hughes, Yankton, Charles Mix, Codington, and Brown.

An estimated total of 180,046 doves were harvested during the 2023 season. When asked their satisfaction on the season, (1 being least, 7 being most satisfied), resident dove hunters reported an average satisfaction rating of 5.20, nonresidents 5.75.

### Summary comparison of the 2014 - 2023 mourning dove seasons

| Year | Residents      |         |                |         |              | Nonresidents   |         |                |         |              |
|------|----------------|---------|----------------|---------|--------------|----------------|---------|----------------|---------|--------------|
|      | Number Hunters | Harvest | Ave Day Hunted | Ave Bag | Satisfaction | Number Hunters | Harvest | Ave Day Hunted | Ave Bag | Satisfaction |
| 2014 | 8,345          | 167,407 | 4.67           | 20.06   | 5.05         | 316            | 3,991   | 2.95           | 12.62   | 5.71         |
| 2015 | 7,255          | 127,217 | 4.66           | 17.53   | 5.07         | 396            | 7,705   | 3.29           | 19.46   | 5.83         |
| 2016 | 7,131          | 122,876 | 4.19           | 17.23   | 4.89         | 318            | 3,601   | 2.79           | 11.32   | 5.59         |
| 2017 | 6,828          | 124,052 | 4.11           | 18.17   | 5.12         | 275            | 3,463   | 3.79           | 12.58   | 4.63         |
| 2018 | 6,531          | 120,835 | 4.16           | 18.50   | 5.12         | 275            | 3,571   | 3.22           | 13.00   | 5.72         |
| 2019 | 6,003          | 102,771 | 3.92           | 17.12   | 5.14         | 290            | 3,827   | 3.15           | 13.20   | 4.85         |
| 2020 | 6,844          | 122,464 | 4.45           | 17.89   | 5.21         | 416            | 7,158   | 3.55           | 17.23   | 6.06         |
| 2021 | 6,298          | 107,736 | 4.04           | 17.11   | 5.15         | 393            | 6,923   | 3.35           | 17.62   | 5.38         |
| 2022 | 6,855          | 141,349 | 4.39           | 20.62   | 5.29         | 506            | 7,652   | 3.32           | 15.13   | 6.35         |
| 2023 | 8,024          | 169,500 | 4.32           | 21.12   | 5.20         | 439            | 10,546  | 3.33           | 24.04   | 5.75         |

## **MOURNING DOVE HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2023**

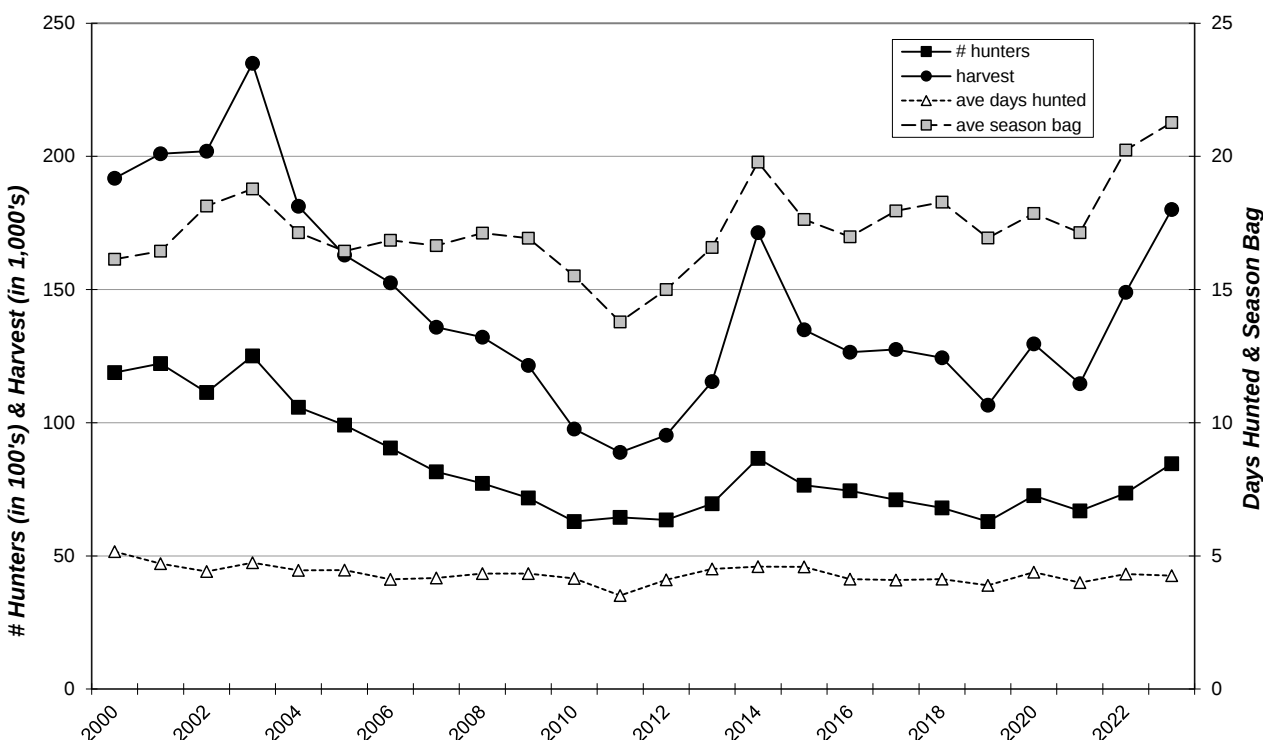
Last Revised: 11 June 2024

|                                                | Resident       | Non Resident   |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Licenses Sold *</b>                         | 24,328         | 81,380         |
| <b>Unique License Holders</b>                  | 24,327         | 79,729         |
| <b>Projected ACTIVE MOURNING DOVE HUNTERS</b>  | <b>8,024</b>   | <b>439</b>     |
| Number Sampled by Survey                       | 9,985          | 14,991         |
| Number Responded to Survey                     | 3,056          | 4,362          |
| Responded and Participated in Season           | 1,008          | 24             |
| Responded but DID NOT HUNT                     | <b>2,048</b>   | <b>4,338</b>   |
| <b>Survey Response Rate</b>                    | <b>30.6%</b>   | <b>29.1%</b>   |
| No. Hunters Reporting Dove Days                | 1,008          | 24             |
| Total Reported Dove Hunted Days                | 4,350          | 80             |
| <b>Average Days Hunted Doves</b>               | <b>4.32</b>    | <b>3.33</b>    |
| Total Reported Doves Bagged                    | 21,292         | 577            |
| <b>Average Dove Bag for Season</b>             | <b>21.12</b>   | <b>24.04</b>   |
| <b>Projected Days Dove Hunting</b>             | <b>34,629</b>  | <b>1,462</b>   |
| <b>Projected No. Dove Hunters</b>              | <b>8,024</b>   | <b>439</b>     |
| <b>Projected Dove Bag</b>                      | <b>169,500</b> | <b>10,546</b>  |
| <b>Avg Days Hunted</b>                         |                | <b>4.26</b>    |
| <b>TOTAL DOVE HARVEST =</b>                    |                | <b>180,046</b> |
| <b>Dove Hunter Mean Satisfaction Score *1*</b> | 5.20           | 5.75           |

\* Nonresident number represents total number of small game licenses sold.

\*1\* Based on scale of 1-7 with 1=very dissatisfied & 7=very satisfied.

## **STATEWIDE MOURNING DOVE HARVEST, 2000-2023**



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Corey Huxoll

| <b>Mourning Dove Harvest Distribution by County 2023</b>                                                                                                                         |                            |                    |                   |                        |                             |                    |                   |                        |                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>COUNTY</b>                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>HUNTER DISTRIBUTION</b> |                    |                   |                        | <b>HARVEST DISTRIBUTION</b> |                    |                   |                        | <b>Birds/Hunter **</b> |
|                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b># Reported</b>          | <b># Projected</b> | <b>% of Total</b> | <b># Proj w/ Unk *</b> | <b># Reported</b>           | <b># Projected</b> | <b>% of Total</b> | <b># Proj w/ Unk *</b> |                        |
| Minnehaha                                                                                                                                                                        | 46                         | 377                | 4.5               | 381                    | 763                         | 6,282              | 3.5               | 6,318                  | 16.7                   |
| Pennington                                                                                                                                                                       | 2                          | 16                 | 0.2               | 17                     | 6                           | 49                 | 0.0               | 50                     | 3.0                    |
| Brown                                                                                                                                                                            | 43                         | 353                | 4.2               | 356                    | 936                         | 7,706              | 4.3               | 7,751                  | 21.9                   |
| Beadle                                                                                                                                                                           | 26                         | 213                | 2.5               | 215                    | 450                         | 3,705              | 2.1               | 3,726                  | 17.4                   |
| Codington                                                                                                                                                                        | 44                         | 361                | 4.3               | 364                    | 871                         | 7,171              | 4.0               | 7,213                  | 19.9                   |
| Brookings                                                                                                                                                                        | 47                         | 385                | 4.6               | 389                    | 801                         | 6,595              | 3.7               | 6,633                  | 17.1                   |
| Yankton                                                                                                                                                                          | 37                         | 303                | 3.6               | 306                    | 870                         | 7,163              | 4.0               | 7,205                  | 23.6                   |
| Davison                                                                                                                                                                          | 26                         | 213                | 2.5               | 215                    | 669                         | 5,508              | 3.1               | 5,540                  | 25.8                   |
| Lawrence                                                                                                                                                                         | 3                          | 25                 | 0.3               | 25                     | 73                          | 601                | 0.3               | 605                    | 24.4                   |
| Aurora                                                                                                                                                                           | 18                         | 148                | 1.8               | 149                    | 383                         | 3,153              | 1.8               | 3,172                  | 21.4                   |
| Bennett                                                                                                                                                                          | 9                          | 74                 | 0.9               | 74                     | 123                         | 1,013              | 0.6               | 1,019                  | 13.7                   |
| Bon Homme                                                                                                                                                                        | 17                         | 139                | 1.7               | 141                    | 284                         | 2,338              | 1.3               | 2,352                  | 16.8                   |
| Brule                                                                                                                                                                            | 20                         | 164                | 2.0               | 165                    | 542                         | 4,462              | 2.5               | 4,488                  | 27.2                   |
| Buffalo                                                                                                                                                                          | 2                          | 16                 | 0.2               | 17                     | 32                          | 263                | 0.1               | 265                    | 16.1                   |
| Butte                                                                                                                                                                            | 10                         | 82                 | 1.0               | 83                     | 206                         | 1,696              | 0.9               | 1,706                  | 20.7                   |
| Campbell                                                                                                                                                                         | 2                          | 16                 | 0.2               | 17                     | 22                          | 181                | 0.1               | 182                    | 11.0                   |
| Charles Mix                                                                                                                                                                      | 38                         | 312                | 3.7               | 314                    | 975                         | 8,027              | 4.5               | 8,074                  | 25.8                   |
| Clark                                                                                                                                                                            | 11                         | 90                 | 1.1               | 91                     | 178                         | 1,465              | 0.8               | 1,474                  | 16.2                   |
| Clay                                                                                                                                                                             | 12                         | 98                 | 1.2               | 99                     | 123                         | 1,013              | 0.6               | 1,019                  | 10.3                   |
| Corson                                                                                                                                                                           | 3                          | 25                 | 0.3               | 25                     | 120                         | 988                | 0.6               | 994                    | 40.2                   |
| Custer                                                                                                                                                                           | 12                         | 98                 | 1.2               | 99                     | 254                         | 2,091              | 1.2               | 2,103                  | 21.2                   |
| Day                                                                                                                                                                              | 24                         | 197                | 2.3               | 199                    | 361                         | 2,972              | 1.7               | 2,989                  | 15.1                   |
| Deuel                                                                                                                                                                            | 14                         | 115                | 1.4               | 116                    | 337                         | 2,775              | 1.5               | 2,791                  | 24.2                   |
| Dewey                                                                                                                                                                            | 2                          | 16                 | 0.2               | 17                     | 19                          | 156                | 0.1               | 157                    | 9.5                    |
| Douglas                                                                                                                                                                          | 10                         | 82                 | 1.0               | 83                     | 318                         | 2,618              | 1.5               | 2,633                  | 31.9                   |
| Edmunds                                                                                                                                                                          | 10                         | 82                 | 1.0               | 83                     | 234                         | 1,927              | 1.1               | 1,938                  | 23.5                   |
| Fall River                                                                                                                                                                       | 16                         | 131                | 1.6               | 132                    | 209                         | 1,721              | 1.0               | 1,731                  | 13.1                   |
| Faulk                                                                                                                                                                            | 5                          | 41                 | 0.5               | 41                     | 22                          | 181                | 0.1               | 182                    | 4.4                    |
| Grant                                                                                                                                                                            | 15                         | 123                | 1.5               | 124                    | 362                         | 2,980              | 1.7               | 2,998                  | 24.2                   |
| Gregory                                                                                                                                                                          | 9                          | 74                 | 0.9               | 74                     | 157                         | 1,293              | 0.7               | 1,300                  | 17.5                   |
| Haakon                                                                                                                                                                           | 7                          | 57                 | 0.7               | 58                     | 119                         | 980                | 0.5               | 985                    | 17.1                   |
| Hamlin                                                                                                                                                                           | 8                          | 66                 | 0.8               | 66                     | 160                         | 1,317              | 0.7               | 1,325                  | 20.1                   |
| Hand                                                                                                                                                                             | 4                          | 33                 | 0.4               | 33                     | 68                          | 560                | 0.3               | 563                    | 17.1                   |
| Hanson                                                                                                                                                                           | 10                         | 82                 | 1.0               | 83                     | 238                         | 1,959              | 1.1               | 1,971                  | 23.9                   |
| Harding                                                                                                                                                                          | 1                          | 8                  | 0.1               | 8                      | 0                           | 0                  | 0.0               | 0                      | 0.0                    |
| Hughes                                                                                                                                                                           | 69                         | 566                | 6.7               | 571                    | 1,783                       | 14,679             | 8.2               | 14,765                 | 25.9                   |
| Hutchinson                                                                                                                                                                       | 10                         | 82                 | 1.0               | 83                     | 280                         | 2,305              | 1.3               | 2,319                  | 28.1                   |
| Hyde                                                                                                                                                                             | 2                          | 16                 | 0.2               | 17                     | 50                          | 412                | 0.2               | 414                    | 25.1                   |
| Jackson                                                                                                                                                                          | 10                         | 82                 | 1.0               | 83                     | 260                         | 2,141              | 1.2               | 2,153                  | 26.1                   |
| Jerauld                                                                                                                                                                          | 3                          | 25                 | 0.3               | 25                     | 68                          | 560                | 0.3               | 563                    | 22.8                   |
| Jones                                                                                                                                                                            | 8                          | 66                 | 0.8               | 66                     | 141                         | 1,161              | 0.6               | 1,168                  | 17.7                   |
| Kingsbury                                                                                                                                                                        | 15                         | 123                | 1.5               | 124                    | 530                         | 4,363              | 2.4               | 4,389                  | 35.5                   |
| Lake                                                                                                                                                                             | 13                         | 107                | 1.3               | 108                    | 267                         | 2,198              | 1.2               | 2,211                  | 20.6                   |
| Lincoln                                                                                                                                                                          | 26                         | 213                | 2.5               | 215                    | 377                         | 3,104              | 1.7               | 3,122                  | 14.6                   |
| Lyman                                                                                                                                                                            | 11                         | 90                 | 1.1               | 91                     | 367                         | 3,021              | 1.7               | 3,039                  | 33.5                   |
| McCook                                                                                                                                                                           | 29                         | 238                | 2.8               | 240                    | 524                         | 4,314              | 2.4               | 4,339                  | 18.1                   |
| McPherson                                                                                                                                                                        | 7                          | 57                 | 0.7               | 58                     | 188                         | 1,548              | 0.9               | 1,557                  | 27.0                   |
| Marshall                                                                                                                                                                         | 9                          | 74                 | 0.9               | 74                     | 105                         | 864                | 0.5               | 870                    | 11.7                   |
| Meade                                                                                                                                                                            | 31                         | 254                | 3.0               | 256                    | 548                         | 4,512              | 2.5               | 4,538                  | 17.7                   |
| Mellette                                                                                                                                                                         | 3                          | 25                 | 0.3               | 25                     | 57                          | 469                | 0.3               | 472                    | 19.1                   |
| Miner                                                                                                                                                                            | 9                          | 74                 | 0.9               | 74                     | 119                         | 980                | 0.5               | 985                    | 13.3                   |
| Moody                                                                                                                                                                            | 4                          | 33                 | 0.4               | 33                     | 66                          | 543                | 0.3               | 547                    | 16.6                   |
| Perkins                                                                                                                                                                          | 38                         | 312                | 3.7               | 314                    | 570                         | 4,693              | 2.6               | 4,720                  | 15.1                   |
| Potter                                                                                                                                                                           | 12                         | 98                 | 1.2               | 99                     | 294                         | 2,420              | 1.4               | 2,435                  | 24.6                   |
| Roberts                                                                                                                                                                          | 8                          | 66                 | 0.8               | 66                     | 240                         | 1,976              | 1.1               | 1,987                  | 30.1                   |
| Sanborn                                                                                                                                                                          | 13                         | 107                | 1.3               | 108                    | 174                         | 1,433              | 0.8               | 1,441                  | 13.4                   |
| Spink                                                                                                                                                                            | 9                          | 74                 | 0.9               | 74                     | 138                         | 1,136              | 0.6               | 1,143                  | 15.4                   |
| Stanley                                                                                                                                                                          | 16                         | 131                | 1.6               | 132                    | 642                         | 5,286              | 3.0               | 5,316                  | 40.3                   |
| Sully                                                                                                                                                                            | 28                         | 230                | 2.7               | 232                    | 624                         | 5,137              | 2.9               | 5,167                  | 22.4                   |
| Tripp                                                                                                                                                                            | 9                          | 74                 | 0.9               | 74                     | 300                         | 2,470              | 1.4               | 2,484                  | 33.5                   |
| Turner                                                                                                                                                                           | 19                         | 156                | 1.9               | 157                    | 570                         | 4,693              | 2.6               | 4,720                  | 30.1                   |
| Union                                                                                                                                                                            | 19                         | 156                | 1.9               | 157                    | 303                         | 2,495              | 1.4               | 2,509                  | 16.0                   |
| Walworth                                                                                                                                                                         | 18                         | 148                | 1.8               | 149                    | 531                         | 4,372              | 2.4               | 4,397                  | 29.6                   |
| Ziebach                                                                                                                                                                          | 2                          | 16                 | 0.2               | 17                     | 31                          | 255                | 0.1               | 257                    | 15.6                   |
| Shannon                                                                                                                                                                          | 9                          | 74                 | 0.9               | 74                     | 300                         | 2,470              | 1.4               | 2,484                  | 33.5                   |
| Todd                                                                                                                                                                             | 1                          | 8                  | 0.1               | 8                      | 10                          | 82                 | 0.0               | 83                     | 10.0                   |
| Unk/Unreported                                                                                                                                                                   | 9                          | 74                 | -                 | -                      | 127                         | 1,046              | -                 | -                      | 14.2                   |
| <b>TOTALS:</b>                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>1,032</b>               | <b>8,463</b>       | <b>100%</b>       | <b>8,463</b>           | <b>21,869</b>               | <b>180,046</b>     | <b>100%</b>       | <b>180,046</b>         | <b>21.27</b>           |
| Last Revised: 13 June 2024                                                                                                                                                       |                            |                    |                   |                        |                             |                    |                   |                        |                        |
| * 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. |                            |                    |                   |                        |                             |                    |                   |                        |                        |
| ** Calculation uses "# projected" values without correction for unknown/unreported county values.                                                                                |                            |                    |                   |                        |                             |                    |                   |                        |                        |

## WATERFOWL

In 2023, there were an estimated 16,614 active resident migratory bird hunters in South Dakota, of which 13,756 were active waterfowl hunters. There were also an estimated 4,847 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 31% for residents and 42% 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 5.01 for residents, and 5.50 for nonresidents.

Summary comparison of the 2014 - 2023 waterfowl seasons

| Year | Residents               |                          |                      |              | Nonresidents             |                      |              |
|------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
|      | Active Mig Bird Hunters | Active Waterfowl Hunters | Survey Response Rate | Satisfaction | Active Waterfowl Hunters | Survey Response Rate | Satisfaction |
| 2014 | 19,643                  | 16,921                   | 68%                  | 4.92         | 3,798                    | 80%                  | 5.17         |
| 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         |

### WATERFOWL HUNTING SUMMARY FOR 2023

Revised: 30 May 2024

|                                                  | NONRESIDENT TOTALS BY UNIT |       |       |       |       |       |       |     | NR Totals | Resident Total |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-----------|----------------|
|                                                  | 00A                        | 00B   | 11A   | 00V   | 00X   | 00Y   | 00Z   | YW1 |           |                |
| 1st Choice Applicants                            | 441                        | 5,180 | 28    | 197   | 23    | 578   | 281   | 26  | 6,754     | NA             |
| Licenses Available                               | 250                        | 3,925 | 25    | 550   | 750   | 500   | 300   | 100 | 6,400     | NA             |
| Licenses Sold *3*                                | 250                        | 3,911 | 24    | 547   | 406   | 496   | 300   | 34  | 5,968     | 24,328         |
| Projected ACTIVE MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTERS          | 216                        | 3,355 | 12    | 425   | 191   | 409   | 205   | 34  | 4,847     | 16,614         |
| Unique Licenseholders                            | 250                        | 3,910 | 24    | 547   | 389   | 496   | 300   | 34  | 5,950     | 24,327         |
| Number Sampled by Survey                         | 249                        | 3,889 | 24    | 544   | 416   | 494   | 299   | 0   | 5,915     | 9,985          |
| Number Responded to Survey                       | 110                        | 1,726 | 8     | 189   | 112   | 206   | 110   |     | 2,461     | 3,056          |
| % Responded and Participated in Season           | 86%                        | 86%   | 50%   | 78%   | 49%   | 83%   | 68%   |     | 82%       | 68%            |
| Responded and Participated in Season             | 95                         | 1,481 | 4     | 147   | 55    | 170   | 75    |     | 2,027     | 2,087          |
| Responded but DID NOT HUNT                       | 15                         | 245   | 4     | 42    | 57    | 36    | 35    |     | 434       | 969            |
| Survey Response Rate                             | 44.2%                      | 44.4% | 33.3% | 34.7% | 26.9% | 41.7% | 36.8% |     | 41.6%     | 30.6%          |
| <b>YOUTH SEASON PARTICIPATION:</b>               |                            |       |       |       |       |       |       |     |           |                |
| No. Hunters Reporting Participation              | N/A                        | N/A   | N/A   | N/A   | N/A   | N/A   | N/A   | N/A | N/A       | 152            |
| Projected No. Hunters Participating              |                            |       |       |       |       |       |       |     |           | 1,210          |
| Percent Hunters Participating                    |                            |       |       |       |       |       |       |     |           | 5.0%           |
| No. Hunters Reporting Goose or Duck Days         | 95                         | 1481  | 4     | 147   | 55    | 170   | 75    |     | 2,027     | 1,728          |
| Projected Waterfowl Hunters - Ducks and Geese    | 216                        | 3,355 | 12    | 425   | 191   | 409   | 205   | 34  | 4,847     | 13,756         |
| <b>TOTAL WATERFOWL HUNTERS =</b>                 |                            |       |       |       |       |       |       |     |           | <b>18,603</b>  |
| All Waterfowl Hunter Mean Satisfaction Score *1* | 4.47                       | 5.58  | 4.50  | 5.45  | 5.07  | 5.61  | 5.47  |     | 5.50      | 5.01           |

\*1\* Based on scale of 1-7 with 1=very dissatisfied & 7=very satisfied

\*3\* Numbers of resident licenses sold are based on the number of migratory bird certificates in the 2023 database

## **TUNDRA SWAN**

The 2023 Tundra Swan season was open from September 30 - January 12 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 2023 Tundra Swan season (1,100 residents, 200 nonresidents) and 1,298 licenses were sold (1,022 residents, 276 nonresidents; 155 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 294 swans harvested during the 2023 season. An estimated 15 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 5.11. From those who responded, 30% 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 (4.64 days) projected to a total of 3,110 recreation days for the season.

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

### Comparison of the 2014 – 2023 Tundra Swan seasons

| Year | Licenses Sold |        |       | Harvest<br>(w/o cripples) | Avg Days<br>Hunted | Percent<br>Success | Average<br>Satisfaction |
|------|---------------|--------|-------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
|      | Resident      | Nonres | Total |                           |                    |                    |                         |
| 2014 | 1,018         | 198    | 1,216 | 280                       | 3.27               | 23%                | 5.11                    |
| 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                    |

### 2023 Tundra Swan Harvest Projections

| Unit/Type | Licenses          |           |       |         |                   |           |      |         |               |             |             |        |         |      | Harvest Projections |      |      |  | Ave. Days Hunted | Ave. Satisfaction |
|-----------|-------------------|-----------|-------|---------|-------------------|-----------|------|---------|---------------|-------------|-------------|--------|---------|------|---------------------|------|------|--|------------------|-------------------|
|           | Resident          |           |       |         | Nonresident       |           |      |         |               |             |             |        |         |      |                     |      |      |  |                  |                   |
|           | App. 1st Choice * | Available | Sold  | Hunters | App. 1st Choice * | Available | Sold | Hunters | Response Rate | Tag Success | Cripples ** | Adults | Juvnles | Unk. | Total Harvest       |      |      |  |                  |                   |
| 00A-81    | 306               | 1.100     | 1.022 |         | 242               | 200       | 276  | 1.143   | 54.3%         | 23%         | 15          | 230    | 62      | 2    | 294                 | 4.64 | 5.11 |  |                  |                   |

\* 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.

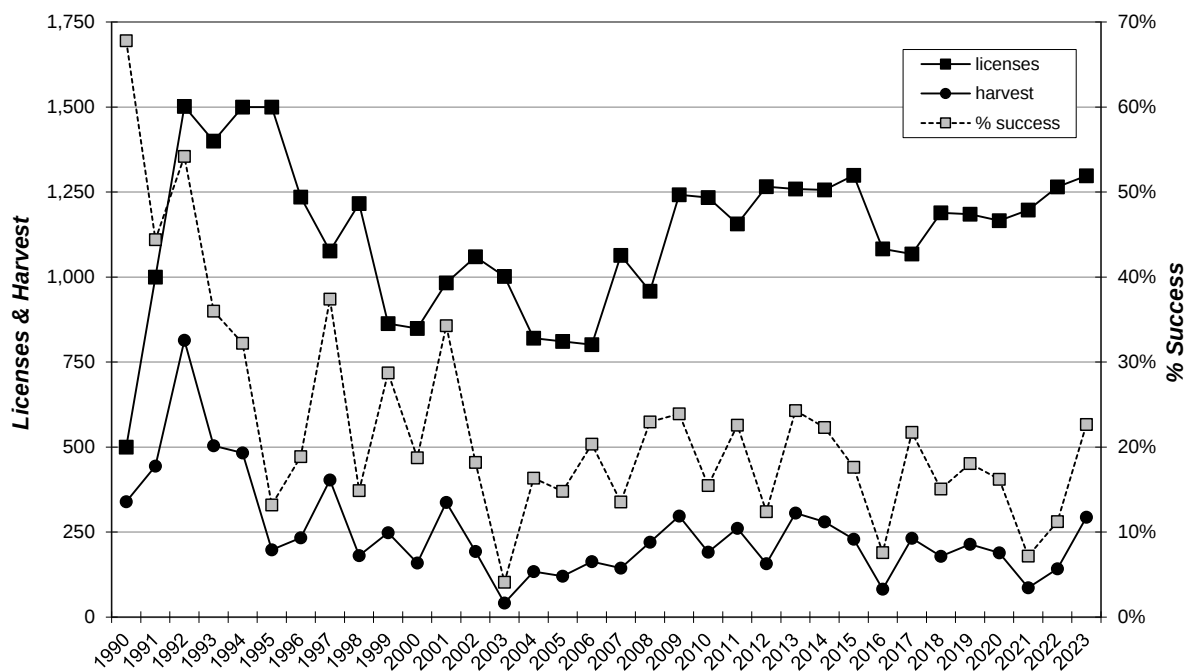
## Tundra Swan Harvest Distribution by County 2023

| COUNTY         | HARVEST DISTRIBUTION |             |             |                 |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
|                | # Reported           | # Projected | % of Total  | # Proj w/ Unk * |
| Brown          | 35                   | 65          | 23.3        | 69              |
| Beadle         | 3                    | 6           | 2.0         | 6               |
| Codington      | 1                    | 2           | 0.7         | 2               |
| Brookings      | 1                    | 2           | 0.7         | 2               |
| Campbell       | 4                    | 7           | 2.7         | 8               |
| Clark          | 17                   | 32          | 11.3        | 33              |
| Day            | 17                   | 32          | 11.3        | 33              |
| Deuel          | 2                    | 4           | 1.3         | 4               |
| Edmunds        | 4                    | 7           | 2.7         | 8               |
| Faulk          | 0                    | 0           | 0.0         | 0               |
| Grant          | 6                    | 11          | 4.0         | 12              |
| Hamlin         | 2                    | 4           | 1.3         | 4               |
| Hand           | 2                    | 4           | 1.3         | 4               |
| Kingsbury      | 1                    | 2           | 0.7         | 2               |
| Lake           | 0                    | 0           | 0.0         | 0               |
| McPherson      | 25                   | 47          | 16.7        | 49              |
| Marshall       | 8                    | 15          | 5.3         | 16              |
| Miner          | 1                    | 2           | 0.7         | 2               |
| Roberts        | 13                   | 24          | 8.7         | 25              |
| Spink          | 7                    | 13          | 4.7         | 14              |
| Sully          | 1                    | 2           | 0.7         | 2               |
| Unk/Unreported | 7                    | 13          | -           |                 |
| <b>TOTALS:</b> | <b>157</b>           | <b>294</b>  | <b>100%</b> | <b>294</b>      |

Last Revised: 29 May 2024

\* 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, 1990-2023



## **DUCKS (all species)**

The 2023 duck season was open 23 September 2023 - 18 January 2024 statewide, although some units/zones may have opened later and/or closed sooner. A special Youth Waterfowl season was open 9-10 September for youth that had not reached age 18 by the first day of the season. For the Traditional bag option, the daily limit was 6 ducks (including mergansers), which could include no more than 5 mallards (up to 2 hens), 1 scaup, 2 redheads, 3 wood ducks, 2 canvasbacks, or 1 pintail. Hunters could also harvest 2 bonus blue-winged teal daily during the first 16 days of the season. The daily limit on coots was 15. For the 3-Duck bag option, the daily limit was 3 ducks of any species or sex, including mergansers. The possession limit was three times the daily bag for each species. To hunt ducks, residents were required to hold small game, 1-day small game, adult or senior combination, or youth small game licenses 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 2023, there were an estimated 16,320 hunters who hunted at least one day for ducks (11,726 residents, 4,594 nonresidents). From the survey responses, there were a projected total of 249,895 ducks harvested (189,983 by residents, 59,912 by nonresidents). Nonresidents reported harvesting 8% of their ducks within 20 miles of the Missouri River. Average bag for residents was 16.20, and for nonresidents ranged from 7.50 in unit 00X to 22.00 in unit 11A.

The five counties with the highest reported resident hunter numbers were Clark, Day, Brown, Brookings, and Kingsbury. The five counties with the highest reported unit 00B nonresident hunter numbers were Day, Brown, Clark, McPherson, and Roberts.

When asked their satisfaction on the season, (1 being most dissatisfied, 7 being most satisfied), duck hunters reported an average satisfaction rating of 5.07 for residents and 5.51 for nonresidents.

The average days hunted by all hunters (7.40 residents, 4.40 nonresidents) projected to a total of 106,913 recreation days for the season.

### Comparison of the 2018 - 2023 duck season statistics

| Year | Resident Hunters |         |                |         |              | Nonresident Hunters |         |                |         |              |
|------|------------------|---------|----------------|---------|--------------|---------------------|---------|----------------|---------|--------------|
|      | Number Hunters   | Harvest | Ave Day Hunted | Ave Bag | Satisfaction | Number Hunters      | Harvest | Ave Day Hunted | Ave Bag | Satisfaction |
| 2018 | 10,271           | 134,307 | 6.88           | 13.08   | 4.99         | 4,051               | 41,515  | 4.31           | 10.25   | 5.11         |
| 2019 | 11,295           | 176,885 | 7.30           | 15.66   | 5.17         | 4,423               | 52,225  | 4.47           | 11.81   | 5.38         |
| 2020 | 12,285           | 190,515 | 7.75           | 15.51   | 5.15         | 4,274               | 51,169  | 4.36           | 11.97   | 5.38         |
| 2021 | 10,634           | 151,207 | 7.37           | 14.22   | 5.10         | 4,442               | 47,802  | 4.28           | 10.76   | 5.18         |
| 2022 | 10,417           | 158,173 | 7.40           | 15.18   | 5.10         | 4,267               | 52,082  | 4.34           | 12.21   | 5.40         |
| 2023 | 11,726           | 189,983 | 7.40           | 16.20   | 5.07         | 4,594               | 59,912  | 4.40           | 13.04   | 5.51         |

### **DUCK HUNTING SUMMARY FOR 2023**

Revised: 30 May 2024

|                                                         | NONRESIDENT TOTALS BY UNIT |        |       |       |       |       |       |     | NR Totals | Resident Total |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-----------|----------------|
|                                                         | 00A                        | 00B    | 11A   | 00V   | 00X   | 00Y   | 00Z   | YW1 |           |                |
| No. Hunters Reporting Duck Days                         | 88                         | 1,429  | 2     | 140   | 40    | 168   | 74    |     | 1,941     | 1,473          |
| Total Reported Duck Hunted Days                         | 583                        | 6,917  | 10    | 392   | 117   | 466   | 185   |     | 8,670     | 10,894         |
| Average Days Hunted Ducks                               | 6.63                       | 4.84   | 5.00  | 2.80  | 2.93  | 2.77  | 2.50  |     | 4.40      | 7.40           |
| Total Reported Ducks Bagged                             | 1,158                      | 20,689 | 44    | 1,343 | 300   | 1,526 | 615   |     | 25,675    | 23,866         |
| Average Duck Bag for Season                             | 13.16                      | 14.48  | 22.00 | 9.59  | 7.50  | 9.08  | 8.31  |     | 13.04     | 16.20          |
| Projected Days Duck Hunting                             | 1,325                      | 15,669 | 30    | 1,135 | 406   | 1,122 | 505   |     | 20,192    | 86,721         |
| Projected No. Duck Hunters                              | 200                        | 3,237  | 6     | 405   | 139   | 405   | 202   |     | 4,594     | 11,726         |
| Projected Duck Bag                                      | 2,632                      | 46,868 | 132   | 3,887 | 1,042 | 3,674 | 1,677 |     | 59,912    | 189,983        |
| Duck Harvest Reported Within 20 Miles of Missouri River | 1,020                      | 759    | 0     | 113   | 103   | 4     | 97    |     | 2,096     | N/A            |
| Projected Ducks Bagged w/in 20 miles of Missouri River  | 2,318                      | 1,719  | 0     | 327   | 358   | 10    | 265   |     | 4,997     | N/A            |
| <b>TOTAL DUCK HARVEST = 249,895</b>                     |                            |        |       |       |       |       |       |     |           |                |
| Duck Hunter Mean Satisfaction Score *1*                 | 4.48                       | 5.59   | 3.50  | 5.48  | 4.69  | 5.60  | 5.45  |     | 5.51      | 5.07           |

\*1\* Based on scale of 1-7 with 1=very dissatisfied & 7=very satisfied

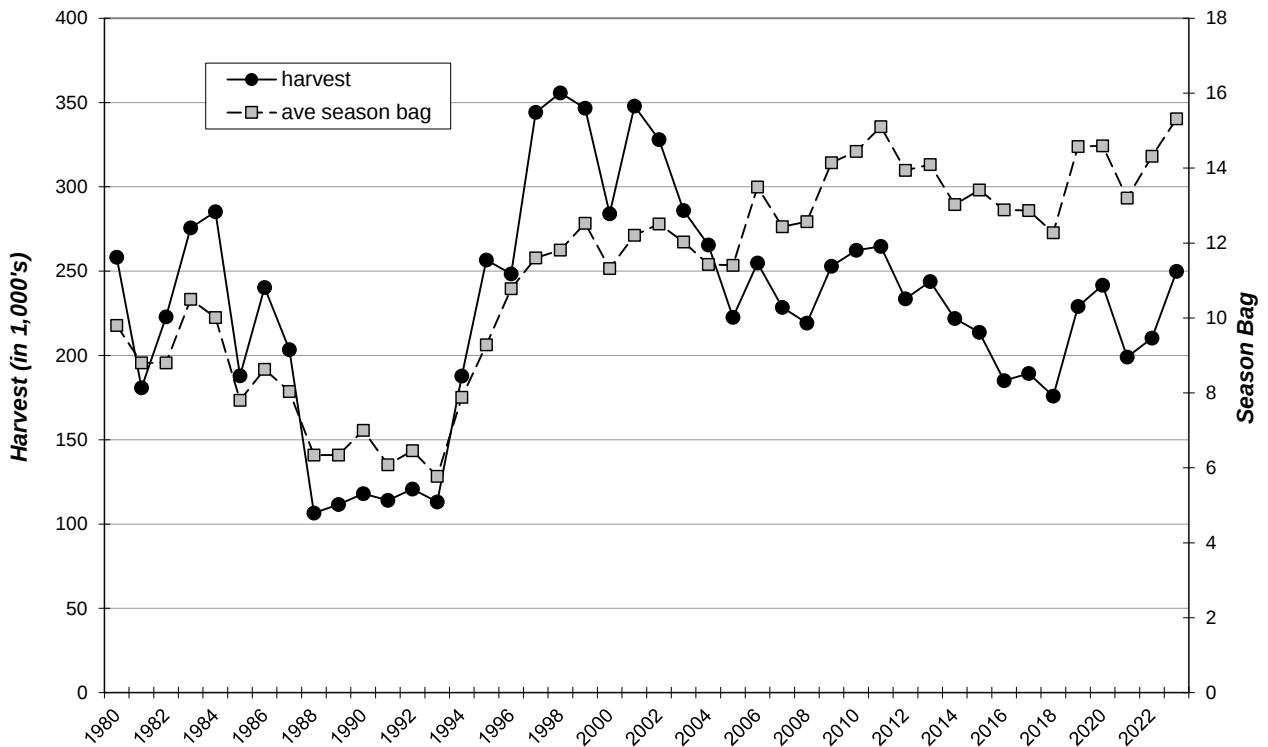
South Dakota Game Report No 2024-05 - 2023 Small Game, Upland Bird & Migratory Bird Harvest Projections  
Corey Huxoll

| Resident Duck Harvest Distribution by County 2023                                                                                                                                |                     |               |             |                 |                      |                |             |                 |                 |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| COUNTY                                                                                                                                                                           | HUNTER DISTRIBUTION |               |             |                 | HARVEST DISTRIBUTION |                |             |                 | Birds/Hunter ** |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                  | # Reported          | # Projected   | % of Total  | # Proj w/ Unk * | # Reported           | # Projected    | % of Total  | # Proj w/ Unk * |                 |  |
| Minnehaha                                                                                                                                                                        | 49                  | 390           | 3.4         | 394             | 835                  | 6,647          | 3.5         | 6,732           | 17.0            |  |
| Pennington                                                                                                                                                                       | 14                  | 111           | 1.0         | 113             | 155                  | 1,234          | 0.7         | 1,250           | 11.1            |  |
| Brown                                                                                                                                                                            | 102                 | 812           | 7.0         | 821             | 1,936                | 15,411         | 8.2         | 15,609          | 19.0            |  |
| Beadle                                                                                                                                                                           | 29                  | 231           | 2.0         | 233             | 413                  | 3,288          | 1.8         | 3,330           | 14.2            |  |
| Codington                                                                                                                                                                        | 70                  | 557           | 4.8         | 563             | 825                  | 6,567          | 3.5         | 6,652           | 11.8            |  |
| Brookings                                                                                                                                                                        | 76                  | 605           | 5.2         | 612             | 1,424                | 11,336         | 6.0         | 11,481          | 18.7            |  |
| Yankton                                                                                                                                                                          | 22                  | 175           | 1.5         | 177             | 418                  | 3,327          | 1.8         | 3,370           | 19.0            |  |
| Davison                                                                                                                                                                          | 13                  | 103           | 0.9         | 105             | 199                  | 1,584          | 0.8         | 1,604           | 15.3            |  |
| Lawrence                                                                                                                                                                         | 17                  | 135           | 1.2         | 137             | 124                  | 987            | 0.5         | 1,000           | 7.3             |  |
| Aurora                                                                                                                                                                           | 20                  | 159           | 1.4         | 161             | 350                  | 2,786          | 1.5         | 2,822           | 17.5            |  |
| Bennett                                                                                                                                                                          | 9                   | 72            | 0.6         | 72              | 69                   | 549            | 0.3         | 556             | 7.7             |  |
| Bon Homme                                                                                                                                                                        | 21                  | 167           | 1.4         | 169             | 410                  | 3,264          | 1.7         | 3,306           | 19.5            |  |
| Brule                                                                                                                                                                            | 24                  | 191           | 1.6         | 193             | 353                  | 2,810          | 1.5         | 2,846           | 14.7            |  |
| Buffalo                                                                                                                                                                          | 2                   | 16            | 0.1         | 16              | 16                   | 127            | 0.1         | 129             | 8.0             |  |
| Butte                                                                                                                                                                            | 23                  | 183           | 1.6         | 185             | 356                  | 2,834          | 1.5         | 2,870           | 15.5            |  |
| Campbell                                                                                                                                                                         | 5                   | 40            | 0.3         | 40              | 83                   | 661            | 0.4         | 669             | 16.6            |  |
| Charles Mix                                                                                                                                                                      | 21                  | 167           | 1.4         | 169             | 265                  | 2,110          | 1.1         | 2,137           | 12.6            |  |
| Clark                                                                                                                                                                            | 91                  | 724           | 6.2         | 732             | 2,043                | 16,263         | 8.7         | 16,472          | 22.5            |  |
| Clay                                                                                                                                                                             | 8                   | 64            | 0.5         | 64              | 109                  | 868            | 0.5         | 879             | 13.6            |  |
| Corson                                                                                                                                                                           | 1                   | 8             | 0.1         | 8               | 0                    | 0              | 0.0         | 0               | 0.0             |  |
| Custer                                                                                                                                                                           | 2                   | 16            | 0.1         | 16              | 20                   | 159            | 0.1         | 161             | 10.0            |  |
| Day                                                                                                                                                                              | 103                 | 820           | 7.1         | 829             | 1,951                | 15,531         | 8.3         | 15,730          | 18.9            |  |
| Deuel                                                                                                                                                                            | 20                  | 159           | 1.4         | 161             | 265                  | 2,110          | 1.1         | 2,137           | 13.3            |  |
| Dewey                                                                                                                                                                            | 1                   | 8             | 0.1         | 8               | 7                    | 56             | 0.0         | 56              | 7.0             |  |
| Douglas                                                                                                                                                                          | 11                  | 88            | 0.8         | 89              | 162                  | 1,290          | 0.7         | 1,306           | 14.7            |  |
| Edmunds                                                                                                                                                                          | 35                  | 279           | 2.4         | 282             | 543                  | 4,323          | 2.3         | 4,378           | 15.5            |  |
| Fall River                                                                                                                                                                       | 24                  | 191           | 1.6         | 193             | 334                  | 2,659          | 1.4         | 2,693           | 13.9            |  |
| Faulk                                                                                                                                                                            | 19                  | 151           | 1.3         | 153             | 266                  | 2,117          | 1.1         | 2,145           | 14.0            |  |
| Grant                                                                                                                                                                            | 17                  | 135           | 1.2         | 137             | 171                  | 1,361          | 0.7         | 1,379           | 10.1            |  |
| Gregory                                                                                                                                                                          | 1                   | 8             | 0.1         | 8               | 0                    | 0              | 0.0         | 0               | 0.0             |  |
| Haakon                                                                                                                                                                           | 3                   | 24            | 0.2         | 24              | 15                   | 119            | 0.1         | 121             | 5.0             |  |
| Hamlin                                                                                                                                                                           | 44                  | 350           | 3.0         | 354             | 620                  | 4,935          | 2.6         | 4,999           | 14.1            |  |
| Hand                                                                                                                                                                             | 31                  | 247           | 2.1         | 249             | 936                  | 7,451          | 4.0         | 7,546           | 30.2            |  |
| Hanson                                                                                                                                                                           | 8                   | 64            | 0.5         | 64              | 66                   | 525            | 0.3         | 532             | 8.3             |  |
| Harding                                                                                                                                                                          | 3                   | 24            | 0.2         | 24              | 8                    | 64             | 0.0         | 64              | 2.7             |  |
| Hughes                                                                                                                                                                           | 12                  | 96            | 0.8         | 97              | 71                   | 565            | 0.3         | 572             | 5.9             |  |
| Hutchinson                                                                                                                                                                       | 9                   | 72            | 0.6         | 72              | 106                  | 844            | 0.4         | 855             | 11.8            |  |
| Hyde                                                                                                                                                                             | 6                   | 48            | 0.4         | 48              | 50                   | 398            | 0.2         | 403             | 8.3             |  |
| Jackson                                                                                                                                                                          | 1                   | 8             | 0.1         | 8               | 0                    | 0              | 0.0         | 0               | 0.0             |  |
| Jerauld                                                                                                                                                                          | 10                  | 80            | 0.7         | 80              | 222                  | 1,767          | 0.9         | 1,790           | 22.2            |  |
| Jones                                                                                                                                                                            | 2                   | 16            | 0.1         | 16              | 11                   | 88             | 0.0         | 89              | 5.5             |  |
| Kingsbury                                                                                                                                                                        | 87                  | 693           | 6.0         | 700             | 1,862                | 14,822         | 7.9         | 15,012          | 21.4            |  |
| Lake                                                                                                                                                                             | 70                  | 557           | 4.8         | 563             | 1,270                | 10,110         | 5.4         | 10,239          | 18.1            |  |
| Lincoln                                                                                                                                                                          | 9                   | 72            | 0.6         | 72              | 217                  | 1,727          | 0.9         | 1,750           | 24.1            |  |
| Lyman                                                                                                                                                                            | 6                   | 48            | 0.4         | 48              | 24                   | 191            | 0.1         | 193             | 4.0             |  |
| McCook                                                                                                                                                                           | 41                  | 326           | 2.8         | 330             | 666                  | 5,302          | 2.8         | 5,370           | 16.2            |  |
| McPherson                                                                                                                                                                        | 25                  | 199           | 1.7         | 201             | 250                  | 1,990          | 1.1         | 2,016           | 10.0            |  |
| Marshall                                                                                                                                                                         | 37                  | 295           | 2.5         | 298             | 578                  | 4,601          | 2.5         | 4,660           | 15.6            |  |
| Meade                                                                                                                                                                            | 18                  | 143           | 1.2         | 145             | 131                  | 1,043          | 0.6         | 1,056           | 7.3             |  |
| Mellette                                                                                                                                                                         | 0                   | 0             | 0.0         | 0               | 0                    | 0              | 0.0         | 0               | 0               |  |
| Miner                                                                                                                                                                            | 14                  | 111           | 1.0         | 113             | 265                  | 2,110          | 1.1         | 2,137           | 18.9            |  |
| Moody                                                                                                                                                                            | 14                  | 111           | 1.0         | 113             | 198                  | 1,576          | 0.8         | 1,596           | 14.1            |  |
| Perkins                                                                                                                                                                          | 11                  | 88            | 0.8         | 89              | 57                   | 454            | 0.2         | 460             | 5.2             |  |
| Potter                                                                                                                                                                           | 21                  | 167           | 1.4         | 169             | 390                  | 3,105          | 1.7         | 3,144           | 18.6            |  |
| Roberts                                                                                                                                                                          | 44                  | 350           | 3.0         | 354             | 475                  | 3,781          | 2.0         | 3,830           | 10.8            |  |
| Sanborn                                                                                                                                                                          | 7                   | 56            | 0.5         | 56              | 61                   | 486            | 0.3         | 492             | 8.7             |  |
| Spink                                                                                                                                                                            | 28                  | 223           | 1.9         | 225             | 452                  | 3,598          | 1.9         | 3,644           | 16.1            |  |
| Stanley                                                                                                                                                                          | 6                   | 48            | 0.4         | 48              | 46                   | 366            | 0.2         | 371             | 7.7             |  |
| Sully                                                                                                                                                                            | 18                  | 143           | 1.2         | 145             | 226                  | 1,799          | 1.0         | 1,822           | 12.6            |  |
| Tripp                                                                                                                                                                            | 2                   | 16            | 0.1         | 16              | 5                    | 40             | 0.0         | 40              | 2.5             |  |
| Turner                                                                                                                                                                           | 7                   | 56            | 0.5         | 56              | 55                   | 438            | 0.2         | 443             | 7.9             |  |
| Union                                                                                                                                                                            | 2                   | 16            | 0.1         | 16              | 3                    | 24             | 0.0         | 24              | 1.5             |  |
| Walworth                                                                                                                                                                         | 10                  | 80            | 0.7         | 80              | 118                  | 939            | 0.5         | 951             | 11.8            |  |
| Ziebach                                                                                                                                                                          | 1                   | 8             | 0.1         | 8               | 8                    | 64             | 0.0         | 64              | 8.0             |  |
| Oglala Lakota                                                                                                                                                                    | 0                   | 0             | 0.0         | 0               | 0                    | 0              | 0.0         | 0               | 0               |  |
| Todd                                                                                                                                                                             | 0                   | 0             | 0.0         | 0               | 0                    | 0              | 0.0         | 0               | 0               |  |
| Unk/Unreported                                                                                                                                                                   | 16                  | 127           | -           | -               | 302                  | 2,404          | -           | -               | 18.9            |  |
| <b>TOTALS:</b>                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>1,473</b>        | <b>11,726</b> | <b>100%</b> | <b>11,726</b>   | <b>23,866</b>        | <b>189,983</b> | <b>100%</b> | <b>189,983</b>  | <b>16.20</b>    |  |
| Last Revised: 11 June 2024                                                                                                                                                       |                     |               |             |                 |                      |                |             |                 |                 |  |
| * 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. |                     |               |             |                 |                      |                |             |                 |                 |  |
| ** Calculation uses "# projected" values without correction for unknown/unreported county values.                                                                                |                     |               |             |                 |                      |                |             |                 |                 |  |

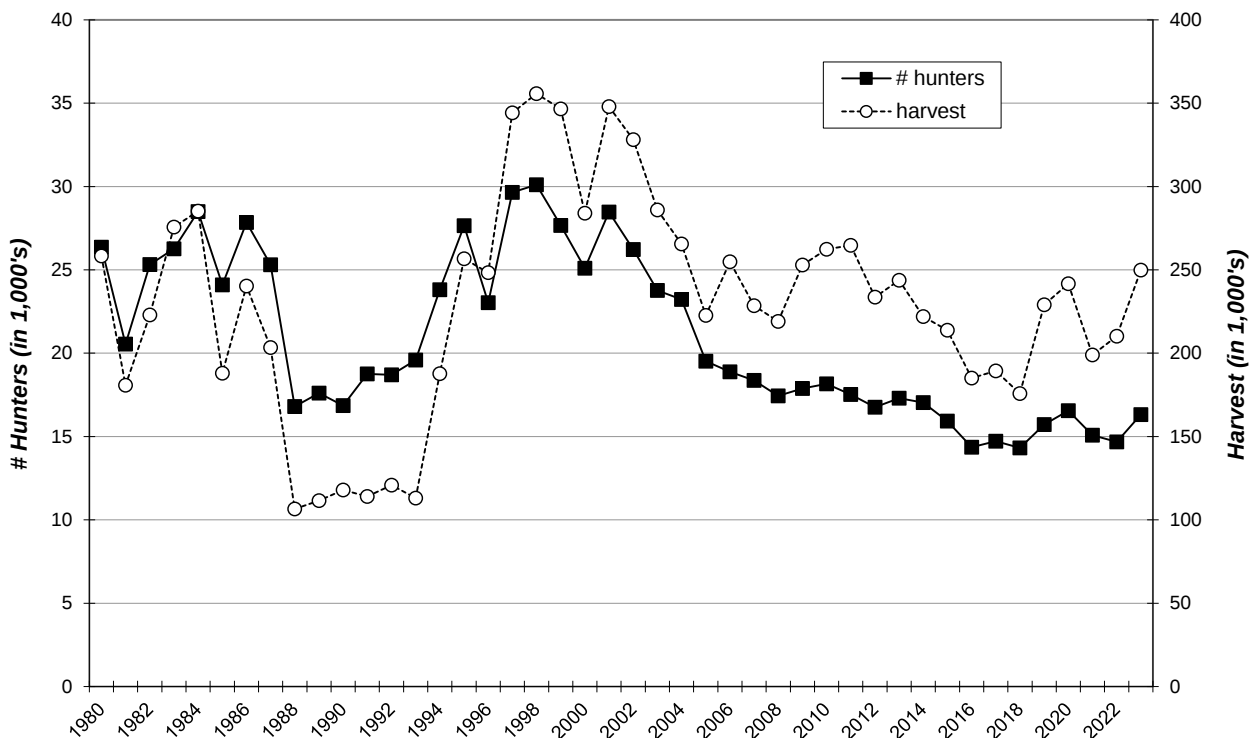
**South Dakota Game Report No 2024-05 - 2023 Small Game, Upland Bird & Migratory Bird Harvest Projections**  
*Corey Huxoll*

| 2023 Reported Nonresident Duck Hunting<br>Distribution by County |     |       |     |     |     |     |     |             |             |             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| COUNTY                                                           | 00A | 00B   | 00V | 00X | 00Y | 00Z | 11A | 00B PERCENT | 00V PERCENT | 00Y PERCENT |
| Minnehaha                                                        | 0   | 3     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0.2%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Pennington                                                       | 0   | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 0.0%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Brown                                                            | 0   | 140   | 43  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 10.2%       | 35.0%       | 0.0%        |
| Beadle                                                           | 0   | 29    | 2   | 2   | 0   | 4   | 0   | 2.1%        | 1.6%        | 0.0%        |
| Codington                                                        | 0   | 42    | 0   | 0   | 12  | 0   | 0   | 3.1%        | 0.0%        | 7.6%        |
| Brookings                                                        | 0   | 24    | 0   | 1   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 1.8%        | 0.0%        | 0.6%        |
| Yankton                                                          | 12  | 1     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0.1%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Davison                                                          | 0   | 5     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 0.4%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Lawrence                                                         | 0   | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 8   | 0   | 0.0%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Aurora                                                           | 0   | 18    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1.3%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Bennett                                                          | 0   | 4     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 2   | 0.3%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Bon Homme                                                        | 45  | 0     | 0   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0.0%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Brule                                                            | 0   | 31    | 0   | 1   | 0   | 4   | 0   | 2.3%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Buffalo                                                          | 0   | 1     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0.1%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Butte                                                            | 0   | 2     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 3   | 0   | 0.1%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Campbell                                                         | 0   | 15    | 8   | 1   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 1.1%        | 6.5%        | 0.6%        |
| Charles Mix                                                      | 18  | 2     | 1   | 2   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0.1%        | 0.8%        | 0.0%        |
| Clark                                                            | 0   | 111   | 1   | 0   | 22  | 0   | 0   | 8.1%        | 0.8%        | 14.0%       |
| Clay                                                             | 0   | 5     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0.4%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Corson                                                           | 0   | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0.0%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Custer                                                           | 0   | 1     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0.1%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Day                                                              | 0   | 322   | 0   | 0   | 68  | 0   | 0   | 23.5%       | 0.0%        | 43.3%       |
| Deuel                                                            | 0   | 7     | 0   | 0   | 3   | 0   | 0   | 0.5%        | 0.0%        | 1.9%        |
| Dewey                                                            | 0   | 0     | 0   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 0.0%        | 0.0%        | 0.6%        |
| Douglas                                                          | 0   | 8     | 0   | 0   | 1   | 8   | 0   | 0.6%        | 0.0%        | 0.6%        |
| Edmunds                                                          | 0   | 63    | 37  | 1   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 4.6%        | 30.1%       | 0.0%        |
| Fall River                                                       | 0   | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0.0%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Faulk                                                            | 0   | 42    | 11  | 2   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 3.1%        | 8.9%        | 0.0%        |
| Grant                                                            | 0   | 5     | 0   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 0.4%        | 0.0%        | 0.6%        |
| Gregory                                                          | 1   | 1     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0.1%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Haakon                                                           | 0   | 1     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0.1%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Hamlin                                                           | 0   | 23    | 0   | 0   | 5   | 0   | 0   | 1.7%        | 0.0%        | 3.2%        |
| Hand                                                             | 0   | 27    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 2   | 0   | 2.0%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Hanson                                                           | 0   | 4     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0.3%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Harding                                                          | 0   | 1     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0.1%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Hughes                                                           | 0   | 0     | 0   | 3   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 0.0%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Hutchinson                                                       | 0   | 3     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 0.2%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Hyde                                                             | 0   | 3     | 0   | 1   | 0   | 2   | 0   | 0.2%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Jackson                                                          | 0   | 1     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0.1%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Jerauld                                                          | 0   | 3     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 0.2%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Jones                                                            | 0   | 2     | 0   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0.1%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Kingsbury                                                        | 0   | 56    | 0   | 0   | 1   | 7   | 0   | 4.1%        | 0.0%        | 0.6%        |
| Lake                                                             | 0   | 10    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 0.7%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Lincoln                                                          | 0   | 1     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0.1%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Lyman                                                            | 0   | 4     | 0   | 3   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0.3%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| McCook                                                           | 0   | 8     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0.6%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| McPherson                                                        | 0   | 73    | 14  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 5.3%        | 11.4%       | 0.0%        |
| Marshall                                                         | 0   | 70    | 0   | 0   | 15  | 0   | 0   | 5.1%        | 0.0%        | 9.6%        |
| Meade                                                            | 0   | 1     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 2   | 0   | 0.1%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Mellette                                                         | 0   | 1     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0.1%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Miner                                                            | 0   | 15    | 0   | 2   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 1.1%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Moody                                                            | 0   | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0.0%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Perkins                                                          | 0   | 3     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 0.2%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Potter                                                           | 0   | 19    | 3   | 10  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1.4%        | 2.4%        | 0.0%        |
| Roberts                                                          | 0   | 93    | 0   | 2   | 23  | 0   | 0   | 6.8%        | 0.0%        | 14.6%       |
| Sanborn                                                          | 0   | 6     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 2   | 0   | 0.4%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Spink                                                            | 0   | 38    | 0   | 0   | 3   | 2   | 0   | 2.8%        | 0.0%        | 1.9%        |
| Stanley                                                          | 1   | 1     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0.1%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Sully                                                            | 0   | 4     | 0   | 5   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0.3%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Tripp                                                            | 0   | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 0.0%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Turner                                                           | 0   | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0.0%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Union                                                            | 5   | 1     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0.1%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Walworth                                                         | 0   | 16    | 3   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1.2%        | 2.4%        | 0.0%        |
| Ziebach                                                          | 0   | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0.0%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Oglala Lakota                                                    | 0   | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0.0%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| Todd                                                             | 0   | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0.0%        | 0.0%        | 0.0%        |
| TOTALS:                                                          | 82  | 1,370 | 123 | 38  | 157 | 53  | 2   | 100.0%      | 100.0%      | 100.0%      |
| Last updated: 11 June 2024                                       |     |       |     |     |     |     |     |             |             |             |

### STATEWIDE DUCK (all species) HARVEST, 1980-2023



### STATEWIDE DUCK SEASON PARTICIPATION, 1980-2023



## **CANADA GEESE (all seasons)**

Information provided in this section pertains to the entire Canada goose harvest in South Dakota and combines information from all seasons. The next two sections report specifically on the Early Fall (September) and Special Bennett County seasons.

The 2023 Canada goose season was open from 1 September 2023 - 18 February 2024 statewide, although some units may have opened later and/or closed sooner. The daily bag was 8 geese in Unit 1, but only 4 in Units 2 and 3 (refer to Hunting Handbook). Possession was three times the daily bag. Resident hunters were separately licensed for one Special Canada goose unit in Bennett County. To hunt geese, residents were required to hold small game, 1-day small game, youth small game, adult or senior combination licenses, 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. Special Canada goose season hunters were required to apply for and receive Special Canada goose season licenses.

In 2023, there were an estimated 11,657 hunters who hunted at least one day for Canada geese (9,361 residents, 2,295 nonresidents). From the survey responses, there were an estimated total of 84,558 Canada geese harvested (78,633 by residents, 5,925 by nonresidents). Average Canada goose bag for residents was 8.40, and for nonresidents 2.59. An estimated 13,219 Canada geese were harvested within 20 miles of the Missouri River.

The five counties with the highest reported harvest by residents were Brown, Day, Deuel, Clark, and Hughes, and by nonresidents in unit 00B were Day, Faulk, Roberts, Brown, and Edmunds.

When asked their satisfaction on the season, (1 being least satisfied, 7 being most satisfied), Canada goose hunters reported an average rating of 4.97 for residents and 5.48 for nonresidents. The average days hunted by all hunters (6.70 residents, 4.02 nonresidents) projected to a total of 71,825 recreation days for the season.

### Comparison of the 2014 - 2023 Canada goose harvest statistics

| Year | Resident Hunters |         |                 |         |              | Nonresident Hunters |         |                 |         |              |
|------|------------------|---------|-----------------|---------|--------------|---------------------|---------|-----------------|---------|--------------|
|      | Number Hunters   | Harvest | Ave Days Hunted | Ave Bag | Satisfaction | Number Hunters      | Harvest | Ave Days Hunted | Ave Bag | Satisfaction |
| 2014 | 12,130           | 97,956  | 6.92            | 8.08    | 4.96         | 1,969               | 5,193   | 4.31            | 2.76    | 5.22         |
| 2015 | 10,228           | 73,471  | 7.00            | 7.18    | 4.78         | 2,104               | 5,482   | 4.30            | 2.70    | 4.98         |
| 2016 | 9,964            | 85,809  | 6.98            | 8.61    | 4.87         | 2,046               | 5,485   | 4.51            | 2.77    | 4.86         |
| 2017 | 9,762            | 76,827  | 6.95            | 7.87    | 5.06         | 2,428               | 6,601   | 4.19            | 2.74    | 5.18         |
| 2018 | 8,633            | 63,848  | 6.67            | 7.40    | 4.93         | 2,289               | 5,638   | 4.17            | 2.52    | 5.11         |
| 2019 | 9,264            | 78,143  | 6.85            | 8.44    | 5.09         | 2,209               | 5,995   | 4.05            | 2.82    | 5.41         |
| 2020 | 10,356           | 93,682  | 6.96            | 9.05    | 5.07         | 2,199               | 6,924   | 3.96            | 3.15    | 5.38         |
| 2021 | 9,997            | 104,693 | 7.20            | 10.47   | 5.14         | 2,357               | 6,736   | 4.14            | 2.89    | 5.27         |
| 2022 | 8,973            | 90,680  | 6.96            | 10.11   | 5.07         | 2,327               | 8,209   | 4.11            | 3.55    | 5.51         |
| 2023 | 9,361            | 78,633  | 6.70            | 8.40    | 4.97         | 2,295               | 5,925   | 4.02            | 2.59    | 5.48         |

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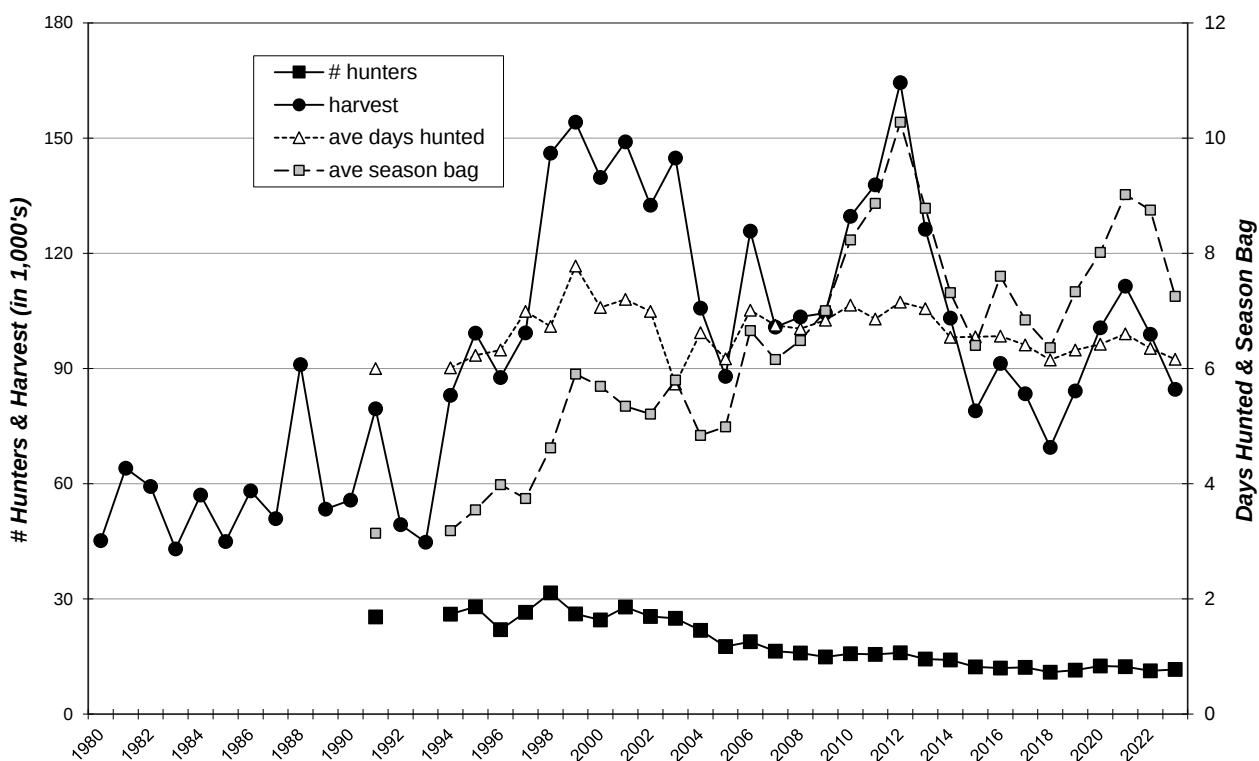
**CANADA GOOSE HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2023**

Revised: 30 May 2024

|                                                            | NONRESIDENT TOTALS BY UNIT |              |             |             |             |             |             |     | NR<br>Totals | Resident<br>Total |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----|--------------|-------------------|
|                                                            | 00A                        | 00B          | 11A         | 00V         | 00X         | 00Y         | 00Z         | YW1 |              |                   |
| No. Hunters Reporting Canada Goose Days                    | 58                         | 699          | 4           | 68          | 31          | 72          | 33          |     | 965          | 1,176             |
| Total Reported Canada Goose Hunted Days                    | 335                        | 2,980        | 17          | 199         | 77          | 203         | 68          |     | 3,879        | 7,882             |
| <b>Average Days Hunted Canada Geese</b>                    | <b>5.78</b>                | <b>4.26</b>  | <b>4.25</b> | <b>2.93</b> | <b>2.48</b> | <b>2.82</b> | <b>2.06</b> |     | <b>4.02</b>  | <b>6.70</b>       |
| Total Reported Canada Geese Bagged                         | 179                        | 1,901        | 5           | 143         | 98          | 109         | 66          |     | 2,501        | 9,878             |
| <b>Average Canada Goose Bag for Season</b>                 | <b>3.09</b>                | <b>2.72</b>  | <b>1.25</b> | <b>2.10</b> | <b>3.16</b> | <b>1.51</b> | <b>2.00</b> |     | <b>2.59</b>  | <b>8.40</b>       |
| <b>Projected Days Canada Goose Hunting</b>                 | <b>761</b>                 | <b>6,751</b> | <b>51</b>   | <b>576</b>  | <b>267</b>  | <b>489</b>  | <b>185</b>  |     | <b>9,081</b> | <b>62,744</b>     |
| Projected No. Canada Goose Hunters                         | 132                        | 1,583        | 12          | 197         | 108         | 173         | 90          |     | 2,295        | 9,361             |
| Projected Canada Goose Bag                                 | 407                        | 4,306        | 15          | 414         | 340         | 262         | 180         |     | 5,925        | 78,633            |
| Canada Geese Reported w/in 20 miles of Missouri River      | 176                        | 69           | 0           | 17          | 63          | 0           | 3           |     | 328          | 1,556             |
| Projected Canada Geese Bagged w/in 20 miles Missouri River | 400                        | 156          |             | 49          | 219         |             | 8           |     | 833          | 12,386            |
| <b>TOTAL CANADA GOOSE HARVEST ALL SEASONS = 84,558</b>     |                            |              |             |             |             |             |             |     |              |                   |
| Canada Goose Hunter Mean Satisfaction Score *1*            | 4.21                       | 5.67         | 4.50        | 5.18        | 5.32        | 5.14        | 5.39        |     | 5.48         | 4.97              |

\*1\* Based on scale of 1-7 with 1=very dissatisfied & 7=very satisfied

**STATEWIDE CANADA GOOSE (all seasons) HARVEST, 1980-2023**



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| <b>Resident Canada Goose Harvest Distribution by County 2023</b>                                                                                                                 |                            |                    |                   |                        |                             |                    |                   |                        |                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>COUNTY</b>                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>HUNTER DISTRIBUTION</b> |                    |                   |                        | <b>HARVEST DISTRIBUTION</b> |                    |                   |                        | <b>Birds/Hunter **</b> |
|                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b># Reported</b>          | <b># Projected</b> | <b>% of Total</b> | <b># Proj w/ Unk *</b> | <b># Reported</b>           | <b># Projected</b> | <b>% of Total</b> | <b># Proj w/ Unk *</b> |                        |
| Minnehaha                                                                                                                                                                        | 36                         | 287                | 3.1               | 294                    | 322                         | 2,563              | 3.3               | 2,605                  | 8.9                    |
| Pennington                                                                                                                                                                       | 11                         | 88                 | 1.0               | 90                     | 73                          | 581                | 0.8               | 591                    | 6.6                    |
| Brown                                                                                                                                                                            | 63                         | 502                | 5.5               | 514                    | 591                         | 4,705              | 6.1               | 4,781                  | 9.4                    |
| Beadle                                                                                                                                                                           | 27                         | 215                | 2.4               | 220                    | 198                         | 1,576              | 2.0               | 1,602                  | 7.3                    |
| Codington                                                                                                                                                                        | 49                         | 390                | 4.3               | 400                    | 246                         | 1,958              | 2.5               | 1,990                  | 5.0                    |
| Brookings                                                                                                                                                                        | 47                         | 374                | 4.1               | 384                    | 271                         | 2,157              | 2.8               | 2,192                  | 5.8                    |
| Yankton                                                                                                                                                                          | 18                         | 143                | 1.6               | 147                    | 160                         | 1,274              | 1.6               | 1,294                  | 8.9                    |
| Davison                                                                                                                                                                          | 7                          | 56                 | 0.6               | 57                     | 38                          | 302                | 0.4               | 307                    | 5.4                    |
| Lawrence                                                                                                                                                                         | 14                         | 111                | 1.2               | 114                    | 50                          | 398                | 0.5               | 404                    | 3.6                    |
| Aurora                                                                                                                                                                           | 14                         | 111                | 1.2               | 114                    | 88                          | 701                | 0.9               | 712                    | 6.3                    |
| Bennett                                                                                                                                                                          | 20                         | 159                | 1.7               | 163                    | 64                          | 509                | 0.7               | 518                    | 3.2                    |
| Bon Homme                                                                                                                                                                        | 23                         | 183                | 2.0               | 188                    | 125                         | 995                | 1.3               | 1,011                  | 5.4                    |
| Brule                                                                                                                                                                            | 20                         | 159                | 1.7               | 163                    | 78                          | 621                | 0.8               | 631                    | 3.9                    |
| Buffalo                                                                                                                                                                          | 1                          | 8                  | 0.1               | 8                      | 0                           | 0                  | 0.0               | 0                      | 0.0                    |
| Butte                                                                                                                                                                            | 23                         | 183                | 2.0               | 188                    | 151                         | 1,202              | 1.6               | 1,222                  | 6.6                    |
| Campbell                                                                                                                                                                         | 6                          | 48                 | 0.5               | 49                     | 118                         | 939                | 1.2               | 955                    | 19.7                   |
| Charles Mix                                                                                                                                                                      | 29                         | 231                | 2.5               | 237                    | 165                         | 1,313              | 1.7               | 1,335                  | 5.7                    |
| Clark                                                                                                                                                                            | 58                         | 462                | 5.1               | 473                    | 559                         | 4,450              | 5.8               | 4,522                  | 9.6                    |
| Clay                                                                                                                                                                             | 7                          | 56                 | 0.6               | 57                     | 25                          | 199                | 0.3               | 202                    | 3.6                    |
| Corson                                                                                                                                                                           | 0                          | 0                  | 0.0               | 0                      | 0                           | 0                  | 0.0               | 0                      | 0                      |
| Custer                                                                                                                                                                           | 1                          | 8                  | 0.1               | 8                      | 1                           | 8                  | 0.0               | 8                      | 1.0                    |
| Day                                                                                                                                                                              | 84                         | 669                | 7.3               | 686                    | 1,298                       | 10,333             | 13.4              | 10,501                 | 15.5                   |
| Deuel                                                                                                                                                                            | 16                         | 127                | 1.4               | 131                    | 391                         | 3,113              | 4.0               | 3,163                  | 24.4                   |
| Dewey                                                                                                                                                                            | 1                          | 8                  | 0.1               | 8                      | 15                          | 119                | 0.2               | 121                    | 15.0                   |
| Douglas                                                                                                                                                                          | 3                          | 24                 | 0.3               | 24                     | 14                          | 111                | 0.1               | 113                    | 4.7                    |
| Edmunds                                                                                                                                                                          | 19                         | 151                | 1.7               | 155                    | 298                         | 2,372              | 3.1               | 2,411                  | 15.7                   |
| Fall River                                                                                                                                                                       | 22                         | 175                | 1.9               | 180                    | 121                         | 963                | 1.2               | 979                    | 5.5                    |
| Faulk                                                                                                                                                                            | 11                         | 88                 | 1.0               | 90                     | 134                         | 1,067              | 1.4               | 1,084                  | 12.2                   |
| Grant                                                                                                                                                                            | 27                         | 215                | 2.4               | 220                    | 191                         | 1,520              | 2.0               | 1,545                  | 7.1                    |
| Gregory                                                                                                                                                                          | 1                          | 8                  | 0.1               | 8                      | 0                           | 0                  | 0.0               | 0                      | 0.0                    |
| Haakon                                                                                                                                                                           | 1                          | 8                  | 0.1               | 8                      | 1                           | 8                  | 0.0               | 8                      | 1.0                    |
| Hamlin                                                                                                                                                                           | 33                         | 263                | 2.9               | 269                    | 268                         | 2,133              | 2.8               | 2,168                  | 8.1                    |
| Hand                                                                                                                                                                             | 19                         | 151                | 1.7               | 155                    | 149                         | 1,186              | 1.5               | 1,205                  | 7.8                    |
| Hanson                                                                                                                                                                           | 7                          | 56                 | 0.6               | 57                     | 41                          | 326                | 0.4               | 332                    | 5.9                    |
| Harding                                                                                                                                                                          | 0                          | 0                  | 0.0               | 0                      | 0                           | 0                  | 0.0               | 0                      | 0                      |
| Hughes                                                                                                                                                                           | 61                         | 486                | 5.3               | 498                    | 375                         | 2,985              | 3.9               | 3,034                  | 6.1                    |
| Hutchinson                                                                                                                                                                       | 6                          | 48                 | 0.5               | 49                     | 79                          | 629                | 0.8               | 639                    | 13.2                   |
| Hyde                                                                                                                                                                             | 3                          | 24                 | 0.3               | 24                     | 8                           | 64                 | 0.1               | 65                     | 2.7                    |
| Jackson                                                                                                                                                                          | 1                          | 8                  | 0.1               | 8                      | 5                           | 40                 | 0.1               | 40                     | 5.0                    |
| Jerauld                                                                                                                                                                          | 10                         | 80                 | 0.9               | 82                     | 35                          | 279                | 0.4               | 283                    | 3.5                    |
| Jones                                                                                                                                                                            | 2                          | 16                 | 0.2               | 16                     | 3                           | 24                 | 0.0               | 24                     | 1.5                    |
| Kingsbury                                                                                                                                                                        | 47                         | 374                | 4.1               | 384                    | 349                         | 2,778              | 3.6               | 2,823                  | 7.4                    |
| Lake                                                                                                                                                                             | 46                         | 366                | 4.0               | 375                    | 302                         | 2,404              | 3.1               | 2,443                  | 6.6                    |
| Lincoln                                                                                                                                                                          | 19                         | 151                | 1.7               | 155                    | 260                         | 2,070              | 2.7               | 2,103                  | 13.7                   |
| Lyman                                                                                                                                                                            | 5                          | 40                 | 0.4               | 41                     | 31                          | 247                | 0.3               | 251                    | 6.2                    |
| McCook                                                                                                                                                                           | 21                         | 167                | 1.8               | 171                    | 60                          | 478                | 0.6               | 485                    | 2.9                    |
| McPherson                                                                                                                                                                        | 20                         | 159                | 1.7               | 163                    | 231                         | 1,839              | 2.4               | 1,869                  | 11.6                   |
| Marshall                                                                                                                                                                         | 28                         | 223                | 2.4               | 229                    | 218                         | 1,735              | 2.2               | 1,764                  | 7.8                    |
| Meade                                                                                                                                                                            | 8                          | 64                 | 0.7               | 65                     | 7                           | 56                 | 0.1               | 57                     | 0.9                    |
| Mellette                                                                                                                                                                         | 0                          | 0                  | 0.0               | 0                      | 0                           | 0                  | 0.0               | 0                      | 0                      |
| Miner                                                                                                                                                                            | 7                          | 56                 | 0.6               | 57                     | 254                         | 2,022              | 2.6               | 2,055                  | 36.3                   |
| Moody                                                                                                                                                                            | 5                          | 40                 | 0.4               | 41                     | 52                          | 414                | 0.5               | 421                    | 10.4                   |
| Perkins                                                                                                                                                                          | 11                         | 88                 | 1.0               | 90                     | 120                         | 955                | 1.2               | 971                    | 10.9                   |
| Potter                                                                                                                                                                           | 14                         | 111                | 1.2               | 114                    | 109                         | 868                | 1.1               | 882                    | 7.8                    |
| Roberts                                                                                                                                                                          | 41                         | 326                | 3.6               | 335                    | 348                         | 2,770              | 3.6               | 2,815                  | 8.5                    |
| Sanborn                                                                                                                                                                          | 4                          | 32                 | 0.3               | 33                     | 10                          | 80                 | 0.1               | 81                     | 2.5                    |
| Spink                                                                                                                                                                            | 16                         | 127                | 1.4               | 131                    | 168                         | 1,337              | 1.7               | 1,359                  | 10.5                   |
| Stanley                                                                                                                                                                          | 11                         | 88                 | 1.0               | 90                     | 100                         | 796                | 1.0               | 809                    | 9.1                    |
| Sully                                                                                                                                                                            | 18                         | 143                | 1.6               | 147                    | 193                         | 1,536              | 2.0               | 1,561                  | 10.7                   |
| Tripp                                                                                                                                                                            | 2                          | 16                 | 0.2               | 16                     | 1                           | 8                  | 0.0               | 8                      | 0.5                    |
| Turner                                                                                                                                                                           | 4                          | 32                 | 0.3               | 33                     | 0                           | 0                  | 0.0               | 0                      | 0.0                    |
| Union                                                                                                                                                                            | 10                         | 80                 | 0.9               | 82                     | 67                          | 533                | 0.7               | 542                    | 6.7                    |
| Walworth                                                                                                                                                                         | 8                          | 64                 | 0.7               | 65                     | 91                          | 724                | 0.9               | 736                    | 11.4                   |
| Ziebach                                                                                                                                                                          | 0                          | 0                  | 0.0               | 0                      | 0                           | 0                  | 0.0               | 0                      | 0                      |
| Shannon                                                                                                                                                                          | 1                          | 8                  | 0.1               | 8                      | 0                           | 0                  | 0.0               | 0                      | 0.0                    |
| Todd                                                                                                                                                                             | 0                          | 0                  | 0.0               | 0                      | 0                           | 0                  | 0.0               | 0                      | 0                      |
| Unk/Unreported                                                                                                                                                                   | 29                         | 231                | -                 | -                      | 158                         | 1,258              | -                 | -                      | 5.4                    |
| <b>TOTALS:</b>                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>1,176</b>               | <b>9,361</b>       | <b>100%</b>       | <b>9,361</b>           | <b>9,878</b>                | <b>78,633</b>      | <b>100%</b>       | <b>78,633</b>          | <b>8.40</b>            |
| Last Revised: 11 June 2024                                                                                                                                                       |                            |                    |                   |                        |                             |                    |                   |                        |                        |
| * 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. |                            |                    |                   |                        |                             |                    |                   |                        |                        |
| ** Calculation uses "# projected" values without correction for unknown/unreported county values.                                                                                |                            |                    |                   |                        |                             |                    |                   |                        |                        |

## **EARLY FALL CANADA GOOSE**

The 2023 Early Fall Canada goose season was open from 1-30 September in the Unit 1 counties specified in the 2023 hunting guide, which included most of the state. The daily bag limit was 8 geese and possession was 24. To hunt geese, residents were required to hold small game, 1-day small game, adult or senior combination, or youth small game licenses plus a migratory bird certification. Nonresidents were required to obtain a nonresident waterfowl license and migratory bird certification. All hunters aged 16 and over were also required to obtain a federal waterfowl stamp.

Resident hunters were surveyed utilizing the Migratory Bird Harvest Survey that is used to assess all migratory bird harvest for the year. Hunters were asked to break down how many geese they harvested during the Early Fall season out of the total number they harvested for the year. Nonresident hunters were surveyed using a separate Early Fall Canada Goose season survey.

In 2023, there were 24,621 hunters licensed to hunt the Early Fall Canada goose season (24,327 residents, 294 nonresidents). Approximately 41% (10,000) of the resident hunters and all nonresident hunters were surveyed. The survey response rates were 31% for residents and 37% for nonresidents.

A projected 3,008 hunters hunted at least one day in Unit 1 during the 2023 Early Fall season, and they harvested a projected 25,764 geese.

### Comparison of the 2014 - 2023 Early Fall Canada goose harvest statistics

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Number<br/>Hunters</b> | <b>Harvest</b> | <b>Average<br/>Season Bag</b> |
|-------------|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| 2014        | 5,106                     | 28,814         | 5.64                          |
| 2015        | 3,883                     | 20,735         | 5.34                          |
| 2016        | 3,366                     | 27,660         | 8.22                          |
| 2017        | 3,226                     | 25,808         | 8.00                          |
| 2018        | 2,716                     | 17,904         | 6.59                          |
| 2019        | 3,000                     | 21,054         | 7.02                          |
| 2020        | 3,857                     | 33,769         | 8.76                          |
| 2021        | 3,671                     | 33,179         | 9.04                          |
| 2022        | 3,034                     | 28,547         | 9.41                          |
| 2023        | 3,008                     | 25,764         | 8.57                          |

## EARLY FALL CANADA GOOSE HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2023

Last Revised: 11 June 2024

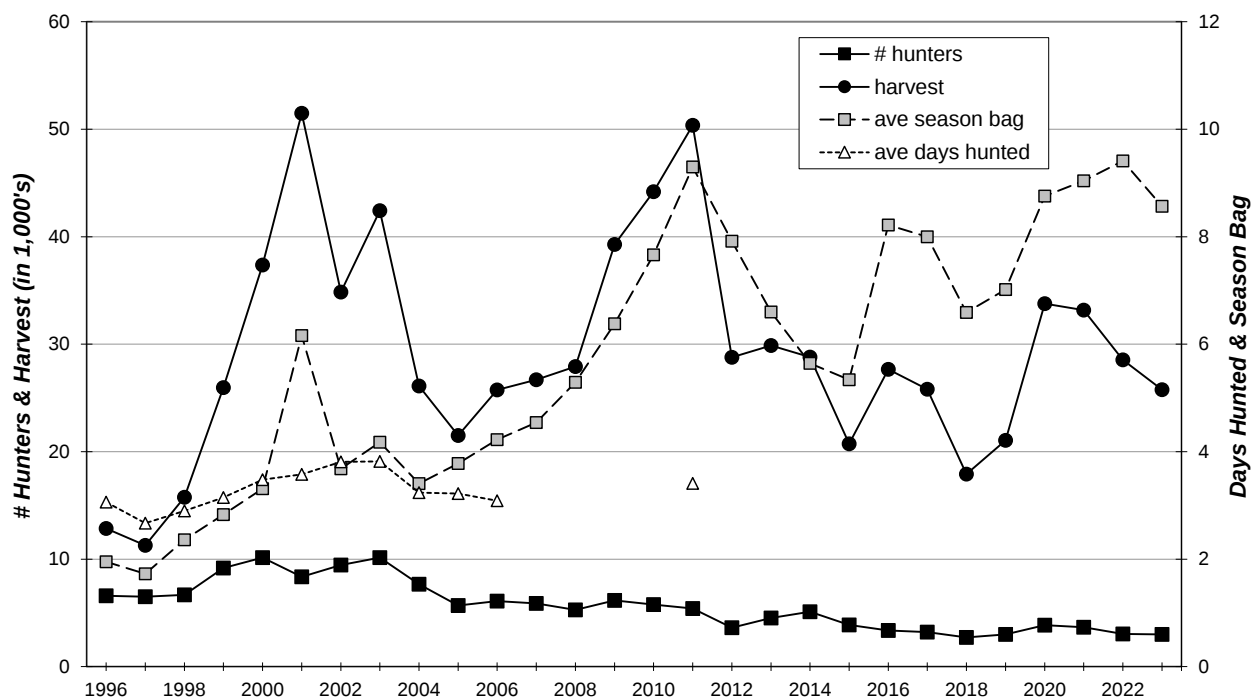
|                                                              | Resident     | Non Resident |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>EARLY FALL CANADA GOOSE SEASON Licenses Sold *1*</b>      | 24,328       | 294          |
| <b>Unique Licenseholders</b>                                 | 24,327       | 294          |
| <b>Projected No. Early Fall Canada Goose Hunters</b>         | 2,746        | 261          |
| Number Sampled by Survey                                     | 9,985        | 289          |
| Number Responded to Survey                                   | 3,056        | 108          |
| Responded and Participated in Season                         | <b>345</b>   | <b>96</b>    |
| Responded but DID NOT HUNT                                   | 2,711        | 12           |
| <b>Survey Response Rate</b>                                  | <b>30.6%</b> | <b>37.4%</b> |
| No. Hunters Reporting Early Fall Canada Goose Days           | 345          | 96           |
| Total Reported Early Fall Canada Goose Hunted Days           | UNK          | 299          |
| <b>Average Days Hunted Canada Geese</b>                      | <b>UNK</b>   | <b>3.11</b>  |
| Total Reported Canada Geese Bagged                           | 2,952        | 832          |
| <b>Average Canada Goose Bag for Early Fall</b>               | <b>8.56</b>  | <b>8.67</b>  |
| Projected Days Canada Goose Hunting Early Fall               | UNK          | 814          |
| Projected No. Early Fall Canada Goose Hunters                | 2,746        | 261          |
| Projected Canada Goose Bag                                   | 23,499       | 2,265        |
| <b>TOTAL CANADA GOOSE HARVEST EARLY FALL SEASON = 25,764</b> |              |              |
| <b>Canada Goose Hunter Mean Satisfaction Score *2*</b>       | 5.48         | 5.10         |

\*1\* For residents: number of licenses based on # Migratory Bird Certificates in the 2023 database

For nonresidents: number of Nonresident Waterfowl licenses sold in database

\*2\* Based on a scale of 1-7 with 1=very dissatisfied & 7=very satisfied

## EARLY FALL CANADA GOOSE HARVEST, 1996-2023



## **SPECIAL CANADA GOOSE**

The 2023 Special Unit Canada goose season was open from October 21 to December 24 in Bennett County. To hunt this resident-only season, hunters were required to hold small game, 1-day small game, senior or adult combination, or youth small game licenses plus a migratory bird certification, and for those hunters aged 16 and over, a federal waterfowl stamp. Additionally, hunters must have applied for and received a Special Canada goose license for that specific unit. Each license allowed the hunter to harvest 3 geese and individuals could have up to 3 licenses for the season, if licenses were left after the 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline drawing. A total of 169 hunters received multiple licenses for the 2023 season, including 82 hunters who received the maximum of 3 licenses each.

In 2023, there were 396 residents licensed to hunt the Special Canada goose season. All license holders who provided a valid email address when applying for their license were surveyed and 205 responses were received for a response rate of 52%.

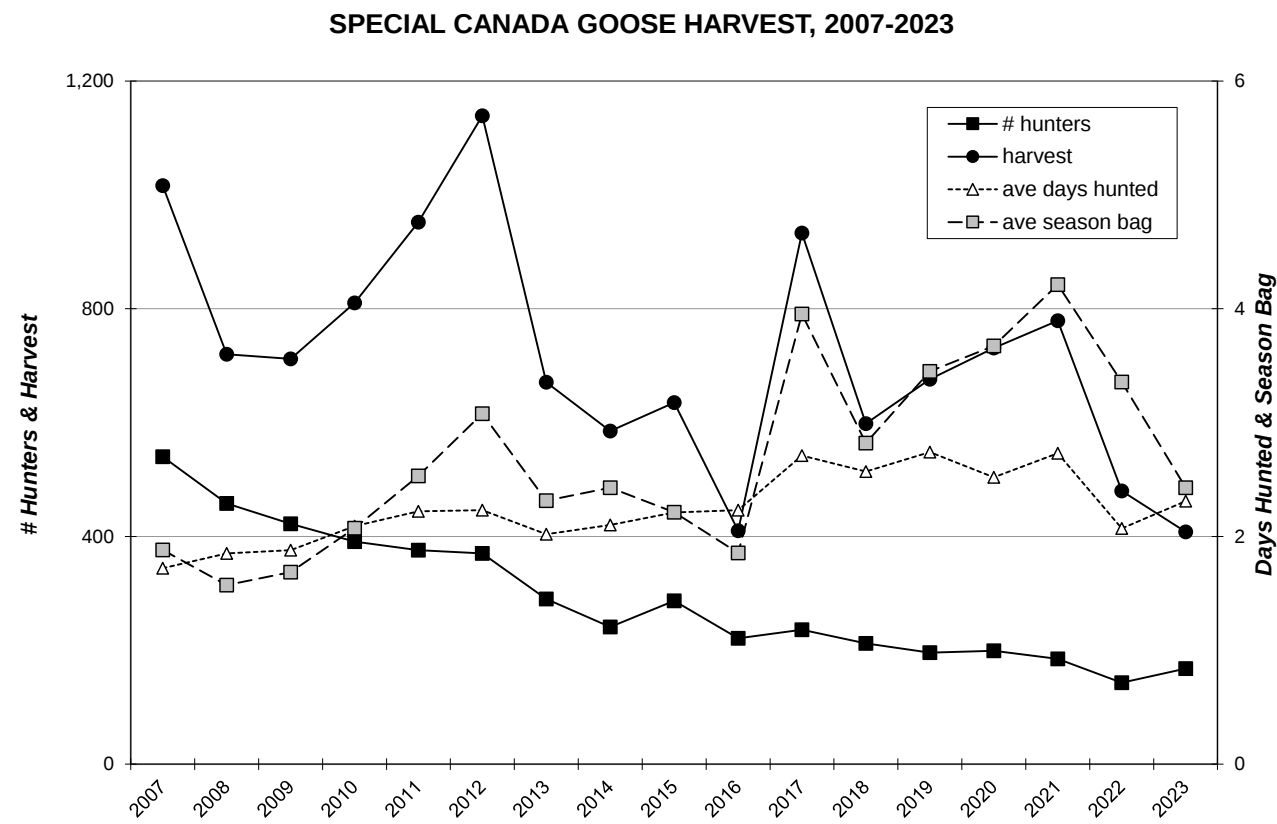
From the survey responses, there were an estimated 408 Canada geese harvested for an average bag of 1.03 per license holder. Of the 205 hunters who responded to the survey, 87 (42%) indicated that they hunted during this season. When asked their satisfaction on the season, (1 being least satisfied, 7 being most satisfied), hunters reported an average rating of 4.69.

### **SPECIAL CANADA GOOSE HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2023**

*Last Revised: 13 June 2024*

|                                                                | <b>Resident</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>SPECIAL CANADA GOOSE SEASON Licenses Sold</b>               | 647             |
| <b>Number Unique Licenseholders</b>                            | 396             |
| Number Sampled by Survey                                       | 391             |
| Number Responded to Survey                                     | 205             |
| Responded and Participated in Season                           | <b>87</b>       |
| Responded but DID NOT HUNT                                     | 118             |
| <b>Survey Response Rate</b>                                    | <b>52.4%</b>    |
| Total Reported Canada Goose Hunted Days                        | 201             |
| <b>Average Days Hunted Canada Geese</b>                        | <b>0.98</b>     |
| Total Reported Canada Geese Bagged                             | 211             |
| <b>Average Canada Goose Bag for Season</b>                     | <b>1.03</b>     |
| <b>Projected Days Canada Goose Hunting</b>                     | <b>388</b>      |
| <b>Projected No. Canada Goose Hunters</b>                      | <b>168</b>      |
| <b>Projected Canada Goose Bag</b>                              | <b>408</b>      |
| Reported Geese shot but not retrieved                          | 6               |
| <b>Projected Geese shot but not retrieved</b>                  | <b>27</b>       |
| <b>Special Canada Goose Hunter Mean Satisfaction Score *1*</b> | 4.69            |
| <b>TOTAL CANADA GOOSE HARVEST SPECIAL SEASON = 408</b>         |                 |

*\*1\* Based on scale of 1-7 with 1=very dissatisfied & 7=very satisfied*



# **AUGUST MANAGEMENT TAKE** **CANADA GOOSE**

The 2023 Canada goose August Management Take was open for residents only from 19-31 August in Aurora, Beadle, Bon Homme, Brookings, Brown, Clark, Clay, Codington, Davison, Day, Deuel, Edmunds, Faulk, Grant, Hamlin, Hanson, Hutchinson, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, Marshall, McCook, McPherson, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Roberts, Sanborn, Spink, Turner, Union, and Yankton counties, and Pennington County west of the Cheyenne River. The daily bag limit was 15 and there was no possession limit. To hunt geese, residents were required to hold a small game, 1-day small game, adult, or senior combination, or a youth small game license plus a migratory bird certification.

In 2023, there were 6,321 resident hunters licensed to hunt the Canada goose August Management Take. Approximately 79% (4,989) of the resident hunters were surveyed and 1,707 responded for a 34% rate.

There were a projected 1,263 license holders who hunted at least one day and harvested an estimated 11,035 Canada geese.

The five counties with the highest reported harvest were Day, Codington, Clark, Brookings, and Brown.

Summary comparison of the 2011-23 August Management Take Canada goose seasons

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Hunters</b> | <b>Harvest</b> | <b>Average Days Hunted</b> | <b>Average Season Bag</b> |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2011        | 3,211          | 30,300         | 2.74                       | 9.44                      |
| 2012        | 3,581          | 36,757         | 3.08                       | 10.26                     |
| 2013        | 2,345          | 18,592         | 3.42                       | 7.93                      |
| 2014        | 2,302          | 20,671         | 3.24                       | 8.98                      |
| 2015        | 1,686          | 10,221         | 3.03                       | 6.06                      |
| 2016-20*    | Unk            | Unk            | Unk                        | Unk                       |
| 2021        | 2,463          | 24,942         | 2.33                       | 10.13                     |
| 2022        | 1,603          | 14,094         | 2.47                       | 8.79                      |
| 2023        | 1,263          | 11,035         | 2.50                       | 8.74                      |

\*The 2016-20 seasons were open only west of the Cheyenne River in Pennington County.

| <b>August Management Take Canada Goose Harvest Distribution 2023</b>                                                                                                             |                            |                    |                   |                       |                             |                    |                       |                   |                       |                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Region</b>                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>HUNTER DISTRIBUTION</b> |                    |                   |                       | <b>HARVEST DISTRIBUTION</b> |                    |                       |                   |                       |                 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b># Reported</b>          | <b># Projected</b> | <b>% of Total</b> | <b># Proj w/ Unk*</b> | <b># Reported</b>           | <b># Projected</b> | <b>Birds/Hunter**</b> | <b>% of Total</b> | <b># Proj w/ Unk*</b> | <b>CI (95%)</b> |
| Northeast                                                                                                                                                                        | 178                        | 659                | 52.8              | 667                   | 1,728                       | 6,399              | 9.7                   | 59.6              | 6,575                 | +/-1,307        |
| Northwest                                                                                                                                                                        | 49                         | 181                | 14.5              | 184                   | 440                         | 1,629              | 9.0                   | 15.2              | 1,674                 | +/-656          |
| Central                                                                                                                                                                          | 65                         | 241                | 19.3              | 244                   | 439                         | 1,626              | 6.8                   | 15.1              | 1,670                 | +/-644          |
| Southeast                                                                                                                                                                        | 40                         | 148                | 11.9              | 150                   | 227                         | 841                | 5.7                   | 7.8               | 864                   | +/-398          |
| Pennington                                                                                                                                                                       | 5                          | 19                 | 1.5               | 19                    | 66                          | 244                | 13.2                  | 2.3               | 251                   | +/-344          |
| Unk/Unreported                                                                                                                                                                   | 4                          | 15                 | -                 | -                     | 80                          | 296                | -                     | -                 | -                     | -               |
| <b>TOTALS:</b>                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>341</b>                 | <b>1,263</b>       | <b>100%</b>       | <b>1,263</b>          | <b>2,980</b>                | <b>11,035</b>      | <b>8.74</b>           | <b>100%</b>       | <b>11,035</b>         |                 |
| Revised: 6 Oct 2023                                                                                                                                                              |                            |                    |                   |                       |                             |                    |                       |                   |                       |                 |
| * 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. |                            |                    |                   |                       |                             |                    |                       |                   |                       |                 |
| ** Calculation uses "# projected" values without correction for unknown/unreported county values.                                                                                |                            |                    |                   |                       |                             |                    |                       |                   |                       |                 |
| Northeast region includes: Marshall, Roberts, Day, Deuel, Hamlin, Clark, Codington and Grant counties                                                                            |                            |                    |                   |                       |                             |                    |                       |                   |                       |                 |
| Northwest region includes: Brown, Edmunds, Faulk, McPherson, and Spink counties                                                                                                  |                            |                    |                   |                       |                             |                    |                       |                   |                       |                 |
| Central region includes: Beadle, Davison, Aurora, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Brookings, Miner, Lake, Sanborn and Moody counties                                                         |                            |                    |                   |                       |                             |                    |                       |                   |                       |                 |
| Southeast region includes: Yankton, Bon Homme, Clay, Hanson, McCook, Minnehaha, Hutchinson, Lincoln, Turner and Union counties                                                   |                            |                    |                   |                       |                             |                    |                       |                   |                       |                 |

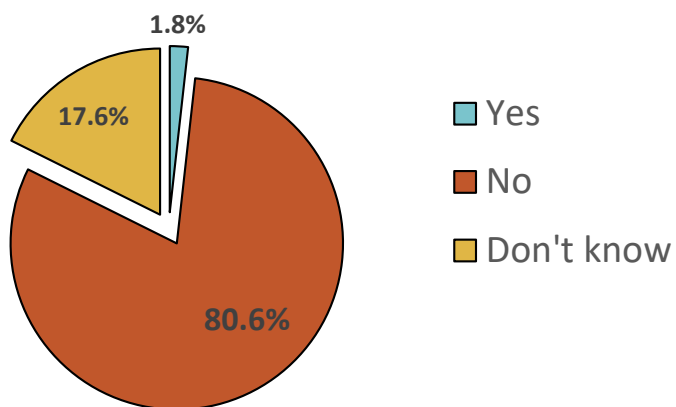
## **AUGUST TAKE CANADA GOOSE HARVEST FOR 2023**

Last Revised: 6 Oct 2023

|                                                        | Resident      |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>AUGUST CANADA GOOSE MGT TAKE Licenses Sold *4*</b>  | 6,321         |
| <b>Projected No. August Mgt Take Hunters</b>           | <b>1,263</b>  |
| Number Sampled by Survey                               | 4,989         |
| Number Responded to Survey                             | 1,707         |
| Responded and Participated in Season                   | <b>341</b>    |
| Responded but DID NOT HUNT                             | 1,366         |
| <b>Survey Response Rate</b>                            | <b>34.2%</b>  |
| No. Hunters Reporting August Canada Goose Days         | 341           |
| Total Reported August Canada Goose Hunted Days         | 853           |
| <b>Average Days Hunted Canada Geese</b>                | <b>2.50</b>   |
| Total Reported Canada Geese Bagged                     | 2,980         |
| Total Reported Canada Geese Shot but not Retrieved     | 112           |
| <b>Projected Canada Geese Shot but not Retrieved</b>   | <b>415</b>    |
| <b>Average Canada Goose Bag for August Take</b>        | <b>8.74</b>   |
| <b>Projected Days Canada Goose Hunting August Take</b> | <b>3,159</b>  |
| <b>Projected No. August Take Canada Goose Hunters</b>  | <b>1,263</b>  |
| <b>Projected Canada Goose Bag</b>                      | <b>11,035</b> |
| <b>TOTAL CANADA GOOSE HARVEST AUGUST TAKE = 11,035</b> |               |
| <b>95% CI: +/-1,689</b>                                |               |

\*4\* Numbers of resident licenses sold are based on the number of migratory bird certificates in the 2023 database purchased prior to August 26

Percent of respondents that hunted land enrolled in the August Management Take Access Program



**South Dakota Game Report No 2024-05 - 2023 Small Game, Upland Bird & Migratory Bird Harvest Projections**  
*Corey Huxoll*

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Season Dates</b> | <b>Counties Open to Hunting</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2010        | Aug 14-29           | Brookings, Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Hamlin, Grant, Kingsbury, Lake, McCook, Marshall, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Roberts                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 2011        | Aug 13-28           | Brookings, Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Hamlin, Hanson, Grant, Kingsbury, Lincoln, Lake, McCook, Marshall, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Roberts, Union                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2012        | Aug 4-26            | Brookings, Brown, Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Hamlin, Hanson, Hutchinson, Grant, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Marshall, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Roberts, Spink, Turner, Union                                                                                                                                               |
| 2013        | Aug 3-31            | Brookings, Brown, Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Hamlin, Hanson, Hutchinson, Grant, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Marshall, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Pennington, Roberts, Spink, Turner, Union                                                                                                                                   |
| 2014        | Aug 16-31           | Brookings, Brown, Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Hamlin, Hanson, Hutchinson, Grant, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Marshall, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Pennington, Roberts, Spink, Turner, Union                                                                                                                                   |
| 2015        | Aug 15-31           | Brookings, Brown, Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Hamlin, Hanson, Hutchinson, Grant, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Marshall, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Roberts, Spink, Turner, Union, Pennington County west of the Cheyenne River                                                                                                 |
| 2016-20     | Varied              | Pennington County west of the Cheyenne River                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 2021        | Aug 21-31           | Aurora, Bon Homme, Beadle, Brookings, Brown, Clark, Clay, Codington, Davison, Day, Deuel, Edmunds, Faulk, Grant, Hamlin, Hanson, Hutchinson, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, McPherson, Marshall, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Roberts, Sanborn, Spink, Turner, Union, Yankton, Pennington County west of the Cheyenne River |
| 2022        | Aug 20-31           | Aurora, Bon Homme, Beadle, Brookings, Brown, Clark, Clay, Codington, Davison, Day, Deuel, Edmunds, Faulk, Grant, Hamlin, Hanson, Hutchinson, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, McPherson, Marshall, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Roberts, Sanborn, Spink, Turner, Union, Yankton, Pennington County west of the Cheyenne River |
| 2023        | Aug 19-31           | Aurora, Bon Homme, Beadle, Brookings, Brown, Clark, Clay, Codington, Davison, Day, Deuel, Edmunds, Faulk, Grant, Hamlin, Hanson, Hutchinson, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, McPherson, Marshall, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Roberts, Sanborn, Spink, Turner, Union, Yankton, Pennington County west of the Cheyenne River |

## **LIGHT GEESE (regular season)**

Information provided in this section pertains only to the regular light goose season in South Dakota. The next section reports on the Spring Conservation Order.

The 2023 light goose season was open from 30 September -12 January statewide and included snow, blue, and Ross' geese and all other geese except Canada geese, brant and white-fronted geese. The daily bag was 50 geese with an unlimited season possession limit. To hunt geese, residents were required to hold small game, 1-day small game, adult or senior combination, or youth small game licenses 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 2023, there were an estimated 5,005 hunters who hunted at least one day for light geese during the regular season (3,781 residents, 1,224 nonresidents). The projected harvest was 92,740 light geese (74,048 by residents, 18,692 by nonresidents).

When asked their satisfaction on the season, (1 being least satisfied, 7 being most satisfied), those respondents who reported hunting at least one day for light geese reported an average rating of 5.13 for residents and 5.58 for nonresidents. The average days hunted by all hunters (5.64 residents, 3.97 for nonresidents) projects to a total of 26,180 recreation days for the season.

### Comparison of the 2014 - 2023 regular season light goose harvests

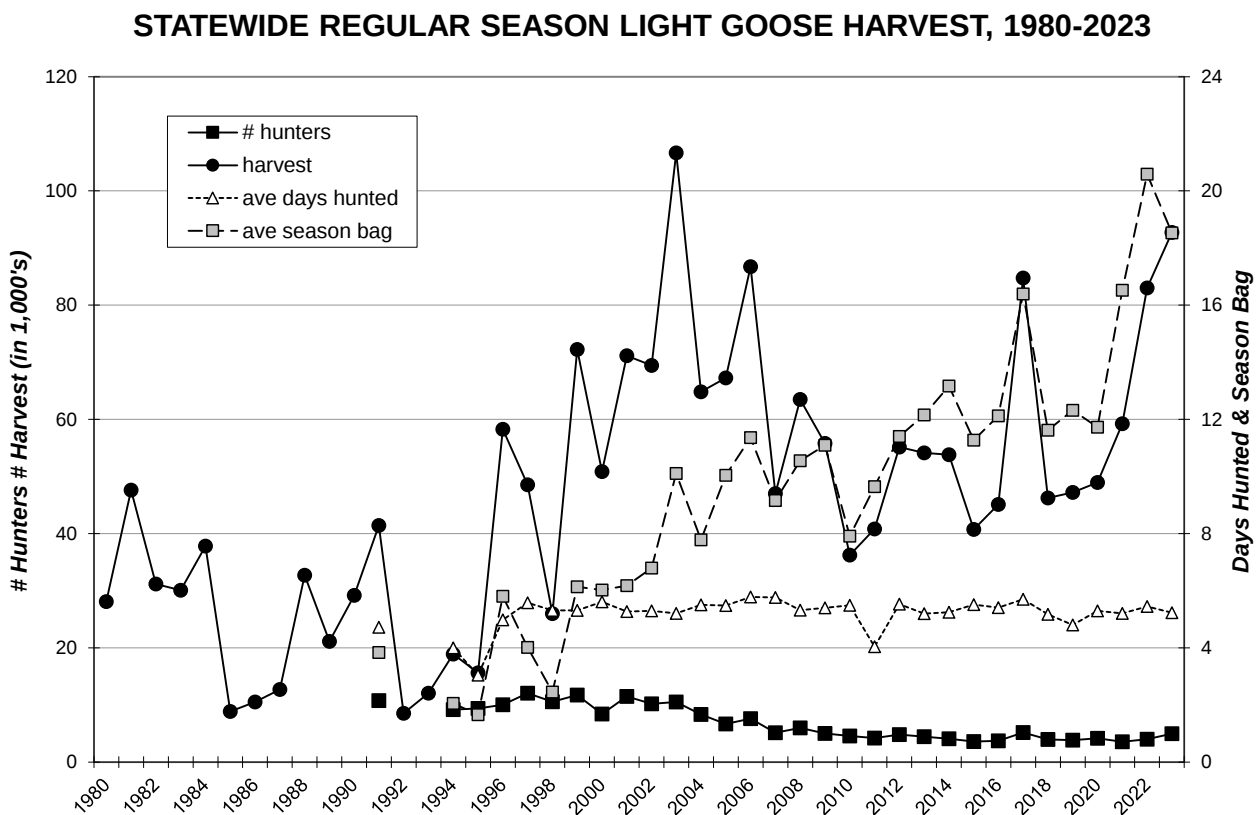
| Year | Residents      |         |                |         |              | Nonresidents   |         |                |         |              |
|------|----------------|---------|----------------|---------|--------------|----------------|---------|----------------|---------|--------------|
|      | Number Hunters | Harvest | Ave Day Hunted | Ave Bag | Satisfaction | Number Hunters | Harvest | Ave Day Hunted | Ave Bag | Satisfaction |
| 2014 | 3,572          | 49,460  | 5.34           | 13.85   | 4.92         | 514            | 4,355   | 4.58           | 8.47    | 5.02         |
| 2015 | 3,096          | 37,266  | 5.66           | 12.04   | 4.78         | 519            | 3,492   | 4.71           | 6.72    | 4.83         |
| 2016 | 3,206          | 39,841  | 5.41           | 12.43   | 4.85         | 515            | 5,263   | 5.40           | 10.22   | 4.77         |
| 2017 | 4,159          | 70,772  | 6.05           | 17.02   | 5.09         | 1,013          | 13,972  | 4.27           | 13.80   | 5.22         |
| 2018 | 3,099          | 39,624  | 5.40           | 12.79   | 4.93         | 883            | 6,644   | 4.39           | 7.53    | 4.85         |
| 2019 | 3,060          | 41,524  | 4.85           | 13.57   | 5.18         | 774            | 5,714   | 4.61           | 7.38    | 5.55         |
| 2020 | 3,415          | 43,499  | 5.61           | 12.74   | 5.17         | 761            | 5,473   | 3.92           | 7.20    | 5.27         |
| 2021 | 2,799          | 50,282  | 5.51           | 17.97   | 5.26         | 788            | 8,980   | 4.15           | 11.40   | 5.38         |
| 2022 | 3,182          | 72,756  | 5.83           | 22.87   | 5.06         | 852            | 10,267  | 4.01           | 12.05   | 5.64         |
| 2023 | 3,781          | 74,048  | 5.64           | 19.58   | 5.13         | 1,224          | 18,692  | 3.97           | 15.27   | 5.58         |

### **REGULAR SEASON LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2023**

Revised: 30 May 2024

|                                                          | NONRESIDENT TOTALS BY UNIT |              |     |              |              |             |             | NR Totals    | Resident Total |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|-----|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|
|                                                          | 00A                        | 00B          | 11A | 00V          | 00X          | 00Y         | 00Z         |              |                |
| <b>Regular Season:</b>                                   |                            |              |     |              |              |             |             |              |                |
| No. Hunters Reporting Light Goose Days                   | 19                         | 397          | 0   | 62           | 8            | 15          | 14          | 515          | 475            |
| Total Reported Light Goose Hunted Days                   | 116                        | 1,685        | 0   | 165          | 34           | 33          | 39          | 2,072        | 2,678          |
| <b>Average Days Hunted Light Geese</b>                   | <b>6.11</b>                | <b>4.24</b>  |     | <b>2.66</b>  | <b>4.25</b>  | <b>2.20</b> | <b>2.79</b> | <b>3.97</b>  | <b>5.64</b>    |
| Total Reported Light Geese Bagged                        | 120                        | 6,466        | 0   | 988          | 115          | 69          | 127         | 7,885        | 9,302          |
| <b>Average Light Goose Bag for Season</b>                | <b>6.32</b>                | <b>16.29</b> |     | <b>15.94</b> | <b>14.38</b> | <b>4.60</b> | <b>9.07</b> | <b>15.27</b> | <b>19.58</b>   |
| Projected Days Light Goose Hunting                       | 264                        | 3,817        | 0   | 478          | 118          | 79          | 106         | 4,862        | 21,318         |
| Projected No. Light Goose Hunters                        | 43                         | 899          | 0   | 179          | 28           | 36          | 38          | 1,224        | 3,781          |
| Projected Light Goose Bag                                | 273                        | 14,648       | 0   | 2,859        | 399          | 166         | 346         | 18,692       | 74,048         |
| <b>TOTAL LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST REGULAR SEASON = 92,740</b> |                            |              |     |              |              |             |             |              |                |
| <b>Light Goose Hunter Mean Satisfaction Score *1*</b>    | 4.42                       | 5.71         |     | 5.26         | 5.00         | 5.00        | 5.79        | 5.58         | 5.13           |

\*1\* Based on scale of 1-7 with 1=very dissatisfied & 7=very satisfied



## **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 2023 Light Goose Conservation Order covered 13 February - 15 May statewide. The daily bag and possession limits were unlimited. To hunt light geese, residents were required to hold a small game, 1-day small game, adult or senior combination, or youth small game license 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 2023, there were a projected 7,225 license holders who hunted at least one day for light geese during the conservation order dates (3,537 residents, 3,688 nonresidents). From the survey responses, there were a projected total of 164,572 light geese harvested.

Of those that reported hunting the Conservation Order during the previous five years, 8% of residents and 48% of nonresidents reported using a professional guide during the most recent season they hunted.

The average days hunted projected to a total of 28,353 recreation days for the conservation order. Hunters in Bon Homme, Yankton, Clark, Charles Mix, and Hutchinson counties had the highest reported harvest, accounting for 44% of the total estimate.

### Comparison of the 2014 - 2023 Conservation Order light goose statistics

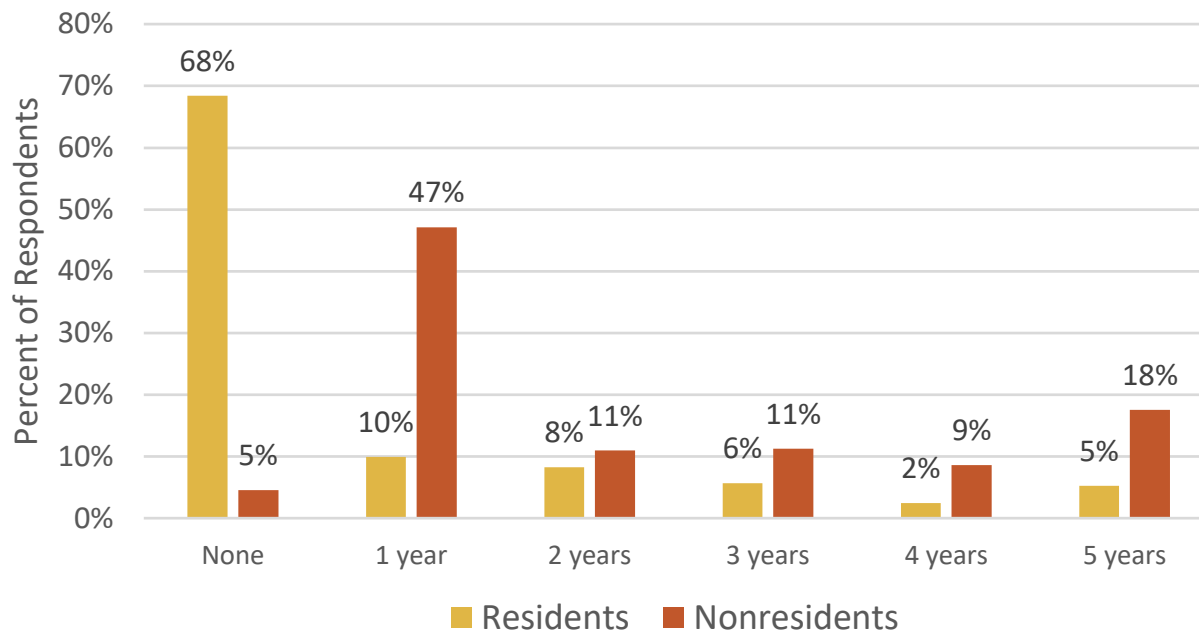
| <b>Year</b> | <b>Residents</b>          |                |                              | <b>Nonresidents</b>       |                |                              |
|-------------|---------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
|             | <b>Number<br/>Hunters</b> | <b>Harvest</b> | <b>Total Days<br/>Hunted</b> | <b>Number<br/>Hunters</b> | <b>Harvest</b> | <b>Total Days<br/>Hunted</b> |
| 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                       |
| 2021        | 1,755                     | 32,553         | 9,144                        | 4,446                     | 95,776         | 17,870                       |
| 2022        | 2,101                     | 51,071         | 10,856                       | 4,329                     | 118,576        | 17,610                       |
| 2023        | 3,537                     | 61,751         | 14,497                       | 3,688                     | 102,820        | 13,856                       |

## **SPRING LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST FOR 2023**

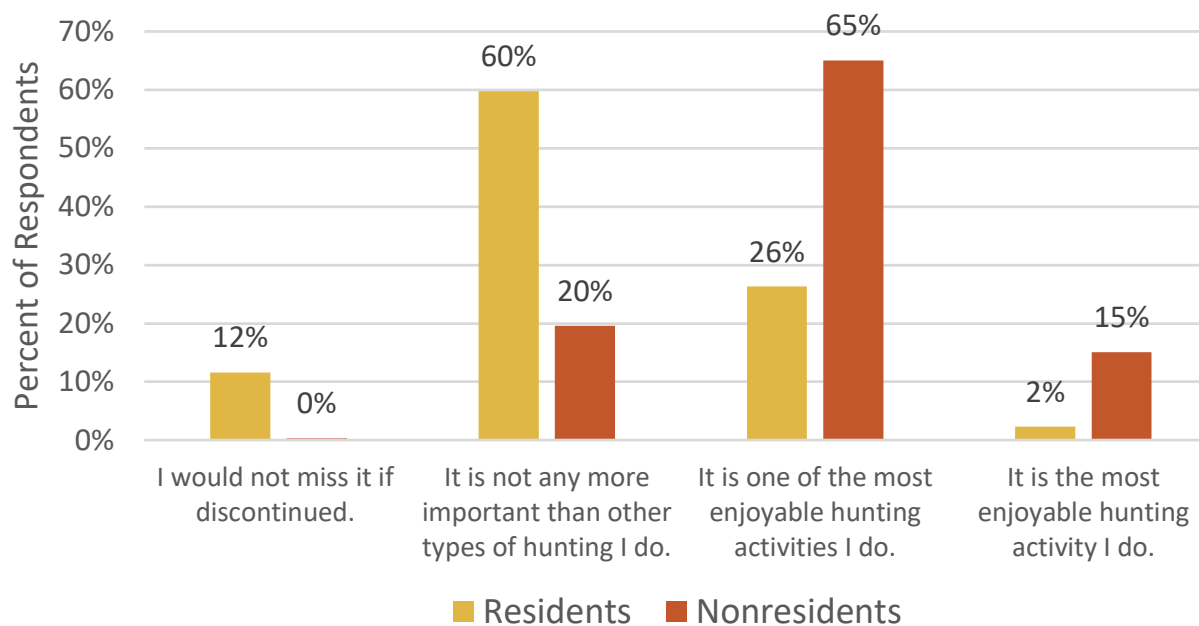
Last Revised: 19 Sept 2023

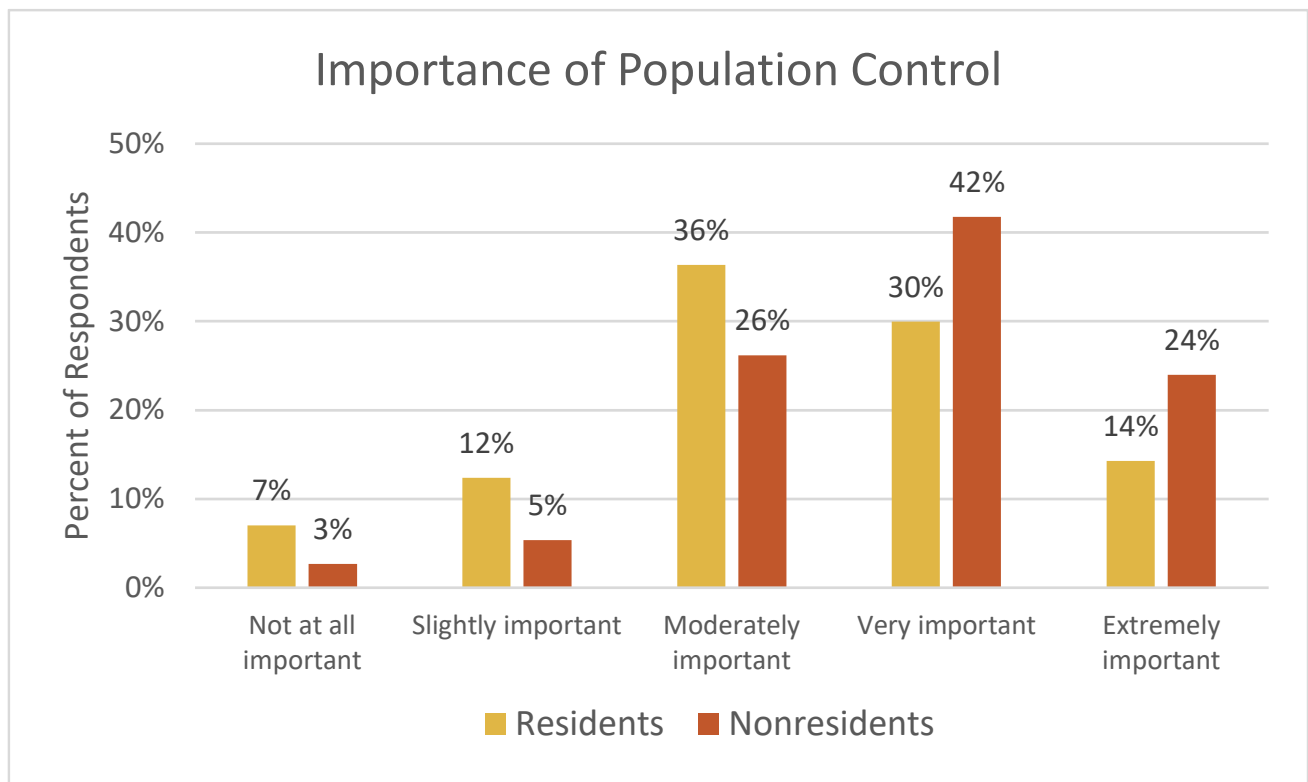
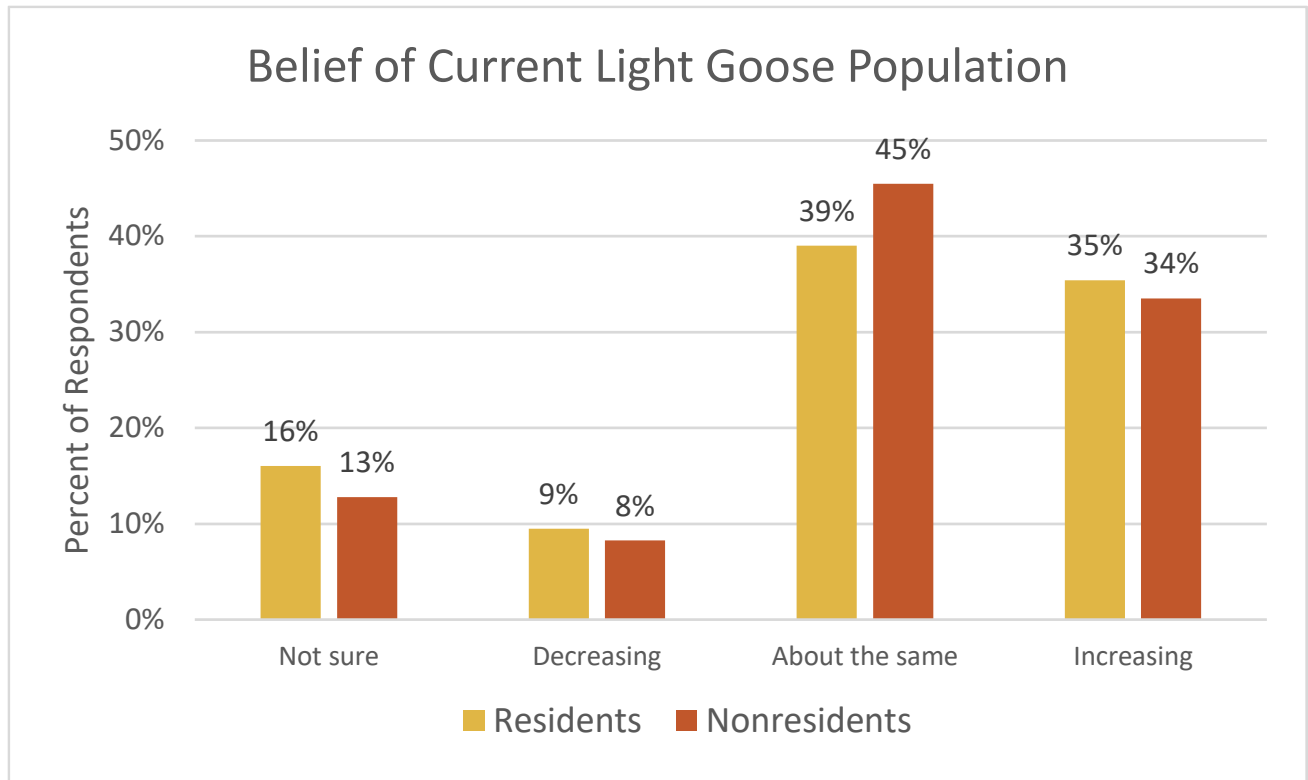
|                                                                                                                                                         | Resident      | Nonresident   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| CONSERVATION ORDER LIGHT GOOSE Licenses Sold *3*                                                                                                        | 24,432        | 3,940         |
| <b>Projected ACTIVE CONS ORDER LIGHT GOOSE HUNTERS</b>                                                                                                  | <b>3,537</b>  | <b>3,688</b>  |
| Number Sampled for Survey                                                                                                                               | 11,939        | 3,211         |
| Number Responded to Survey                                                                                                                              | 2,929         | 1,047         |
| Responded and Participated in Season                                                                                                                    | <b>424</b>    | <b>980</b>    |
| Responded but DID NOT HUNT                                                                                                                              | 2,505         | 67            |
| <b>Survey Response Rate</b>                                                                                                                             | <b>24.5%</b>  | <b>32.6%</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST CONSERVATION ORDER = 164,572</b>                                                                                           |               |               |
| <b>Late Season (Conservation Order) 2/13 - 3/10 Period:</b>                                                                                             |               |               |
| No. Hunters Reporting Light Goose Days                                                                                                                  | 176           | 119           |
| Total Reported Light Goose Hunted Days                                                                                                                  | 572           | 391           |
| <b>Average Days Hunted Light Geese</b>                                                                                                                  | <b>3.25</b>   | <b>3.29</b>   |
| Total Reported Light Geese Bagged                                                                                                                       | 1,872         | 2,710         |
| <b>Average Light Goose Bag for Season</b>                                                                                                               | <b>10.64</b>  | <b>22.77</b>  |
| <b>Projected Days Light Goose Hunting</b>                                                                                                               | <b>4,771</b>  | <b>1,471</b>  |
| <b>Projected No. Light Goose Hunters</b>                                                                                                                | <b>1,468</b>  | <b>448</b>    |
| <b>Projected Light Goose Bag</b>                                                                                                                        | <b>15,615</b> | <b>10,198</b> |
| <b>TOTAL LIGHT GEESE HARVESTED 2/13 - 3/10 = 25,813</b>                                                                                                 |               |               |
| <b>Late Season (Conservation Order) 3/11 - 5/15 Period:</b>                                                                                             |               |               |
| No. Hunters Reporting Light Goose Days                                                                                                                  | 333           | 889           |
| Total Reported Light Goose Hunted Days                                                                                                                  | 1,166         | 3,291         |
| <b>Average Days Hunted Light Geese</b>                                                                                                                  | <b>3.50</b>   | <b>3.70</b>   |
| Total Reported Light Geese Bagged                                                                                                                       | 5,531         | 24,613        |
| <b>Average Light Goose Bag for Season</b>                                                                                                               | <b>16.61</b>  | <b>27.69</b>  |
| <b>Projected Days Light Goose Hunting</b>                                                                                                               | <b>9,726</b>  | <b>12,384</b> |
| <b>Projected No. Light Goose Hunters</b>                                                                                                                | <b>2,778</b>  | <b>3,345</b>  |
| <b>Projected Light Goose Bag</b>                                                                                                                        | <b>46,136</b> | <b>92,622</b> |
| <b>TOTAL LIGHT GEESE HARVESTED 3/11 - 5/15 = 138,758</b>                                                                                                |               |               |
| Reported Geese bagged over decoys                                                                                                                       | 3,624         | 22,280        |
| <b>Projected Geese bagged over decoys</b>                                                                                                               | <b>30,229</b> | <b>83,843</b> |
| <b>Total bagged over decoys = 114,072</b>                                                                                                               |               |               |
| Reported Geese shot but not retrieved                                                                                                                   | 285           | 828           |
| <b>Projected Geese Shot but Not Retrieved</b>                                                                                                           | <b>2,377</b>  | <b>3,116</b>  |
| <b>Total not retrieved = 5,493</b>                                                                                                                      |               |               |
| <i>*3* Numbers of resident licenses sold are based on the number of 2022 migratory bird certificates in the database purchased prior to May 1, 2023</i> |               |               |

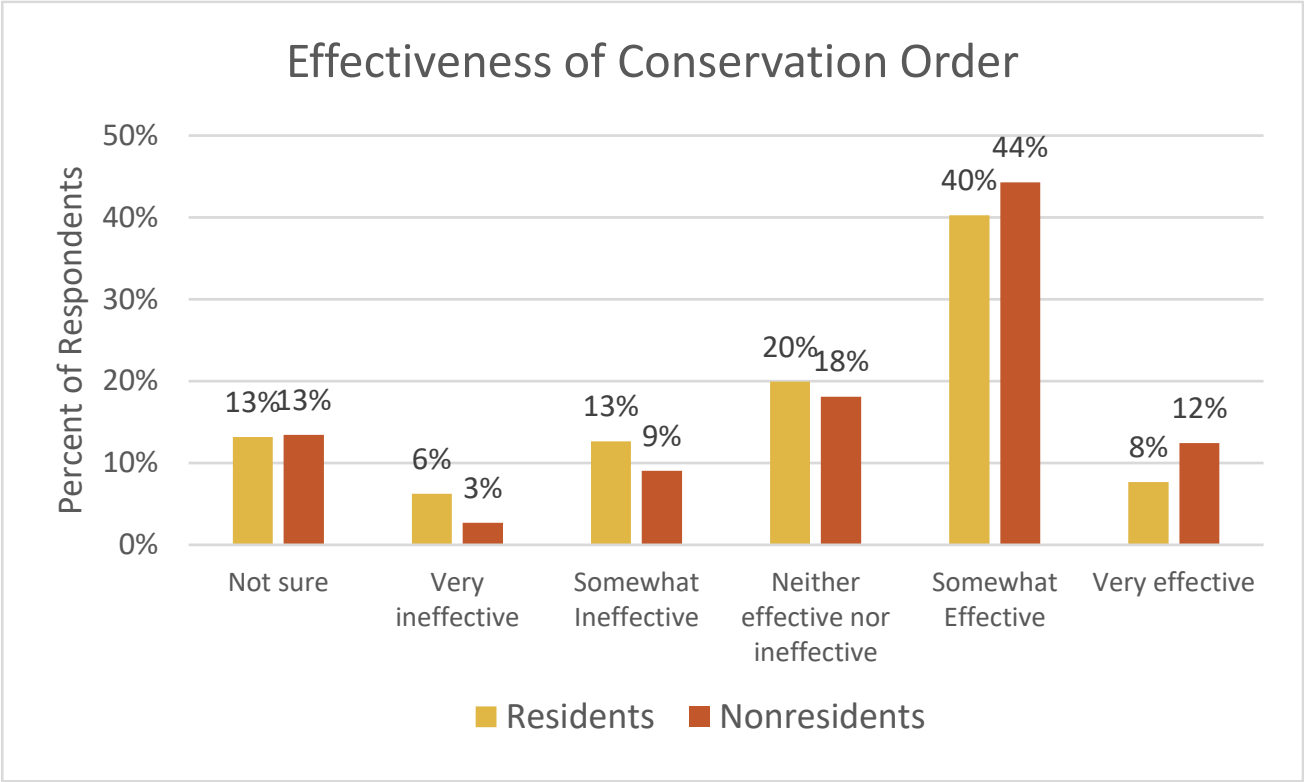
### Years Hunted of Previous Five



### Level of Enjoyment of Conservation Order







## **WHITE-FRONTED GEESE**

The 2023 white-fronted goose season was open from 30 September - 12 December statewide. The daily bag limit was 3 geese, and the season possession limit was 9. To hunt white-fronted geese, residents were required to hold small game, 1-day small game, adult or senior combination, or youth small game licenses 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.

Harvest surveys were sent to both resident and nonresident hunters. There were a projected 2,759 hunters who hunted at least one day for white-fronted geese (2,117 residents, 642 nonresidents). There were a projected 7,876 white-fronted geese harvested (6,392 by residents and 1,484 by nonresidents).

### Comparison of the 2014 - 2023 white-fronted goose harvests

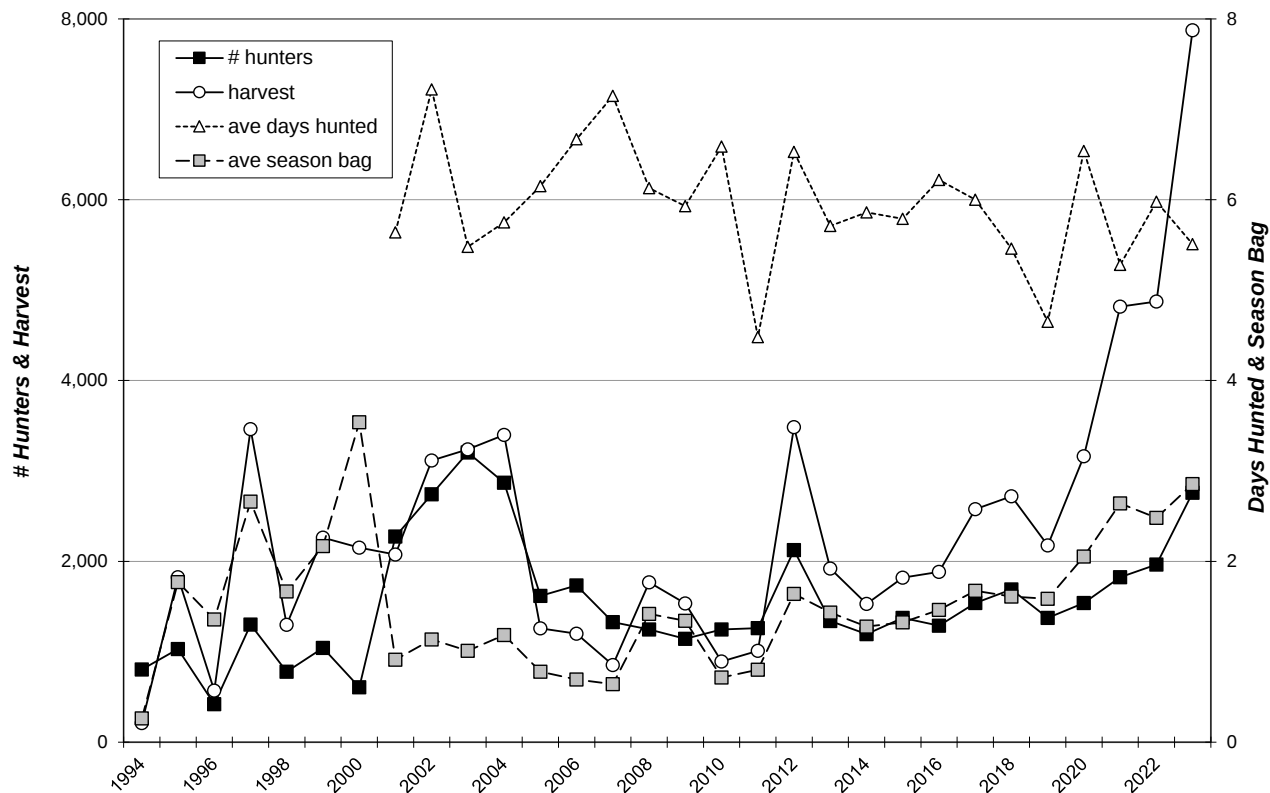
| Year | Residents      |         |                 |                 | Nonresidents   |         |                 |                 |
|------|----------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|
|      | Number Hunters | Harvest | Ave Days Hunted | Ave Bag, Season | Number Hunters | Harvest | Ave Days Hunted | Ave Bag, Season |
| 2014 | 951            | 1,378   | 6.13            | 1.45            | 244            | 151     | 4.80            | 0.62            |
| 2015 | 1,097          | 1,618   | 5.93            | 1.47            | 275            | 201     | 5.20            | 0.73            |
| 2016 | 992            | 1,707   | 6.43            | 1.72            | 295            | 176     | 5.52            | 0.60            |
| 2017 | 1,185          | 2,286   | 6.30            | 1.93            | 354            | 292     | 5.00            | 0.83            |
| 2018 | 1,262          | 2,428   | 5.67            | 1.92            | 426            | 293     | 4.83            | 0.69            |
| 2019 | 1,015          | 2,176   | 4.60            | 2.14            | 358            | 601     | 4.78            | 1.68            |
| 2020 | 1,256          | 2,804   | 7.05            | 2.23            | 283            | 359     | 4.26            | 1.27            |
| 2021 | 1,358          | 3,748   | 5.61            | 2.76            | 466            | 1,071   | 4.33            | 2.30            |
| 2022 | 1,494          | 3,939   | 6.64            | 2.64            | 470            | 935     | 3.88            | 1.99            |
| 2023 | 2,117          | 6,392   | 5.92            | 3.02            | 642            | 1,484   | 4.14            | 2.31            |

### **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2023**

Revised: 30 May 2024

|                                                   | NONRESIDENT TOTALS BY UNIT |             |     |             |             |             |             |     | NR Totals   | Resident Total |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|-----|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----|-------------|----------------|
|                                                   | 00A                        | 00B         | 11A | 00V         | 00X         | 00Y         | 00Z         | YW1 |             |                |
| No. Hunters Reporting White-fronted Goose Days    | 11                         | 206         | 0   | 39          | 1           | 6           | 7           |     | 270         | 266            |
| Total Reported White-fronted Goose Hunted Days    | 98                         | 896         | 0   | 103         | 1           | 14          | 24          |     | 1,136       | 1,575          |
| <b>Average Days Hunted White-fronted Geese</b>    | <b>8.91</b>                | <b>4.35</b> |     | <b>2.64</b> | <b>1.00</b> | <b>2.33</b> | <b>3.43</b> |     | <b>4.14</b> | <b>5.92</b>    |
| Total Reported White-fronted Geese Bagged         | 4                          | 544         | 0   | 75          | 3           | 4           | 2           |     | 632         | 803            |
| <b>Average White-fronted Goose Bag for Season</b> | <b>0.36</b>                | <b>2.64</b> |     | <b>1.92</b> | <b>3.00</b> | <b>0.67</b> | <b>0.29</b> |     | <b>2.31</b> | <b>3.02</b>    |
| Projected Days White-fronted Hunting              | 223                        | 2,030       | 0   | 298         | 3           | 34          | 65          |     | 2,653       | 12,538         |
| Projected No. White-fronted Goose Hunters         | 25                         | 467         | 0   | 113         | 3           | 14          | 19          |     | 642         | 2,117          |
| Projected White-fronted Goose Bag                 | 9                          | 1,232       | 0   | 217         | 10          | 10          | 5           |     | 1,484       | 6,392          |
| <b>TOTAL WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE HARVEST = 7,876</b>  |                            |             |     |             |             |             |             |     |             |                |

### STATEWIDE WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE HARVEST, 1994-2023



NOTE: Prior to 2001, the definition of a white-fronted goose hunter was one who bagged 1+ white-front. Starting in 2001, the definition was changed to a hunter who spent 1+ days hunting white-fronted geese. This definition increased the number of hunters and decreased the average season bag estimates, but not the overall harvest projections.

## **2023 Harvest Survey Response Rates**

|                                     | Overall Response | Proportion |             |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------|-------------|
|                                     |                  | Internet   | Mail-return |
| Sage Grouse                         | NA               | NA         | NA          |
| August Canada Goose                 | 34.3%            | 100%       | 0.0%        |
| Migratory Bird                      | 30.6%            | 100%       | 0.0%        |
| Nonresident Early Fall Canada Goose | 37.4%            | 100%       | 0.0%        |
| Nonresident Waterfowl               | 41.6%            | 100%       | 0.0%        |
| Nonresident Small Game              | 29.1%            | 100%       | 0.0%        |
| Resident Small Game                 | 27.8%            | 100%       | 0.0%        |
| Special Canada Goose                | 52.4%            | 100%       | 0.0%        |
| Spring Light Goose                  | 26.3%            | 100%       | 0.0%        |
| Tundra Swan                         | 54.3%            | 100%       | 0.0%        |

\*Note: Due to late responses received through the Internet, final response rates may be higher than those reported in previous sections. Late responses were not included in data summaries or analyses.