

2017-18 SWIFT FOX PELT TAGGING REPORT

PERFORMANCE REPORT STATEWIDE WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND SURVEYS

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The swift fox (*Vulpes velox*) is classified as a furbearer in Kansas (K.S.A. 32-701 (e)). There has been a harvest season for swift fox in Kansas since 1982. Since that time, harvest information has been acquired by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) through an annual Furbearer Harvest Survey. Additionally, a pelt tagging program was initiated in 1994 to acquire more precise information on swift fox distribution and harvest.

Any swift fox taken in Kansas must be presented to KDWPT for tagging within seven days of the close of the season (K.A.R. 115-5-2). All five KDWPT regional and district offices as well as biologists and conservation officers within or near the swift fox range are provided with tags. The number of swift foxes presented annually to KDWPT for pelt tagging since the tagging program was initiated is presented in **Figure 1**. In 2017-18, 93 swift foxes were taken by furharvesters in Kansas.

Swift foxes may be taken using equipment authorized in K.A.R. 115-5-1. **Table 1** provides a breakdown of the methods used to take swift foxes and the primary species being pursued at the time the swift fox was taken. Trapping accounted for over 88% of the harvest, but just 21.5% of the harvest was taken by individuals whose primary target was swift fox. In each of the last four years, fewer than 30% of swift fox were taken as the primary target species. In the 10 years prior to that, almost 70% on average were taken as a primary target. This season, almost 70% were taken by trappers primarily targeting coyotes. Over the past several years and particularly this year, the strong coyote pelt market has driven swift fox harvest.

Twenty-four furharvesters took swift foxes during the season, up from just 16 last season. Annual season bag per furharvester is provided in **Table 2**.

Swift fox season opened on November 15, 2017 and ended February 15, 2018. Daily harvest is provided in **Figure 2**. Harvest by month is as follows: November – 17, December – 36, January – 34, February – 6 (n=93).

Swift foxes were harvested from 11 western Kansas counties in 2017-18. Counties from which swift foxes have been harvested since 2013 and the most recent year of harvest is provided in **Figure 3**.

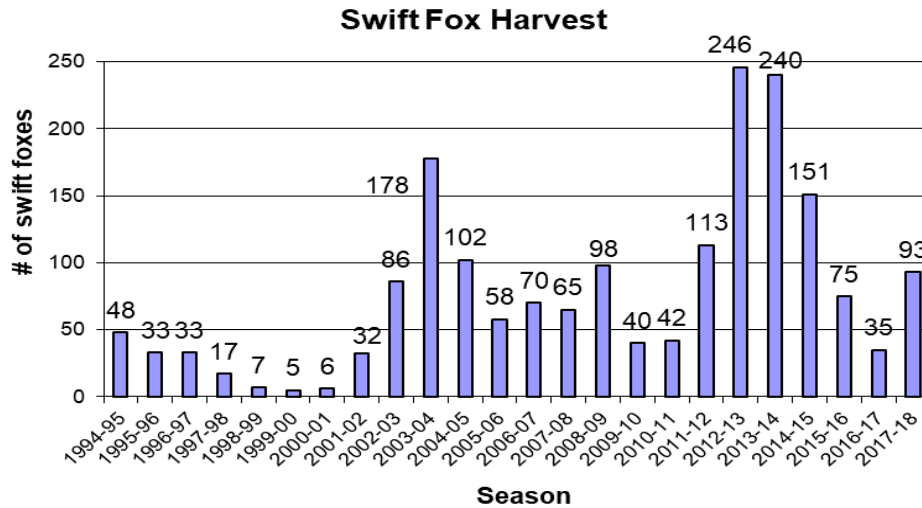


Figure 1. Number of swift foxes pelt tagged annually by KDWP since a tagging program was initiated in 1994.

Table 1. Methods used to take swift foxes during the 2017-18 furbearer season in Kansas.

Method of Harvest	Target Species					Subtotal Number	Percent
	Swift Fox	Coyote	Badger	Salvage	"Canine"		
Foothold trap	14	64	1		1	80	86.0
Bodygrip trap	1		1			2	2.2
Rifle	4	1				5	5.4
Shotgun	1					1	1.1
Salvage				5		5	5.4
Subtotal Number	20	65	2	5	1	93	
Percent	21.5	69.9	2.2	5.4	1.1		100.0

Table 2. Total bag of swift foxes by individual furharvesters during the 2017-18 furbearer season in Kansas.

Season Bag per Furharvester	Number of Furharvesters	Percent of Furharvesters	Cumulative Percent of Furharvesters	Total number of Swift Fox Taken	Percent of Swift Fox Taken	Cumulative Percent of Swift Fox Taken
1	14	58.3%	58.3%	14	15.1%	15.1%
2	2	8.3%	66.7%	4	4.3%	19.4%
4	1	4.2%	70.8%	4	4.3%	23.7%
5	1	4.2%	75.0%	5	5.4%	29.0%
7	3	12.5%	87.5%	21	22.6%	51.6%
9	1	4.2%	91.7%	9	9.7%	61.3%
17	1	4.2%	95.8%	17	18.3%	79.6%
19	1	4.2%	100.0%	19	20.4%	100.0%
	24			93		

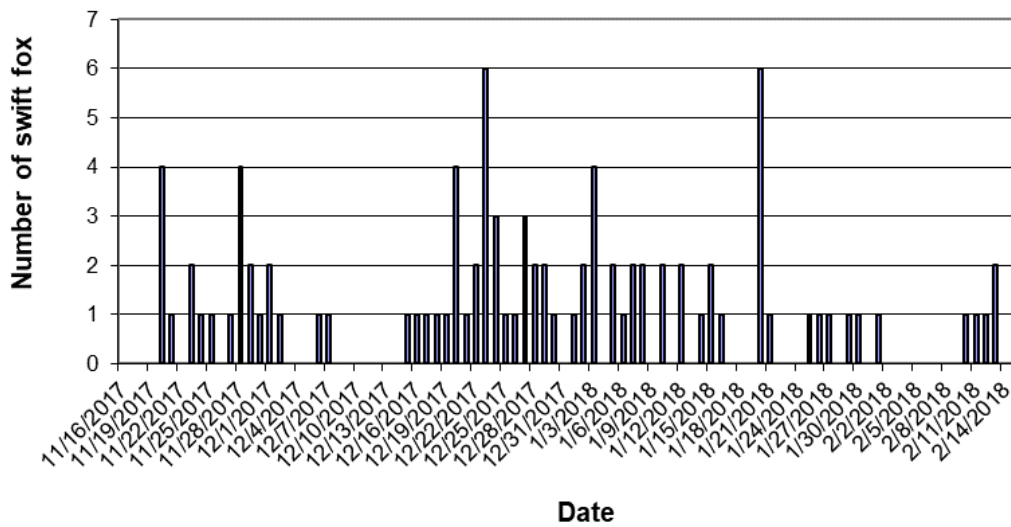


Figure 2. Estimated number of swift foxes taken per day during the 2017-18 furharvesting season (n=93).

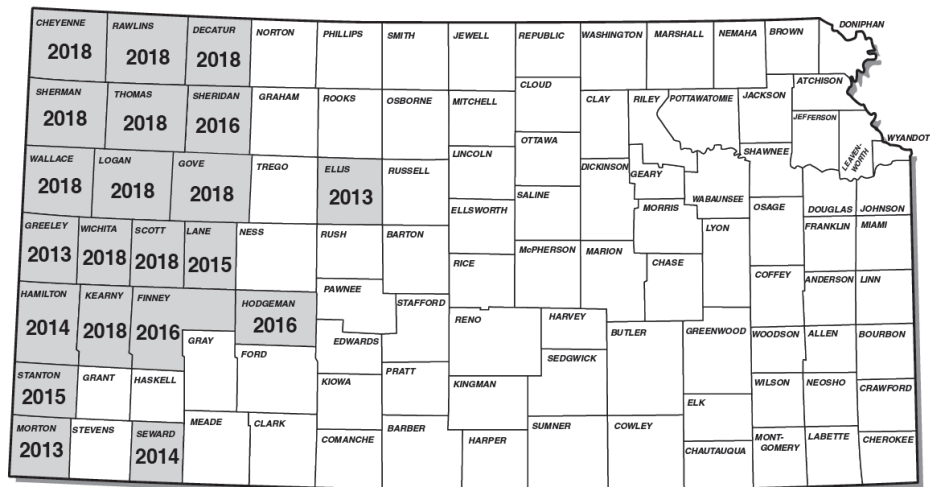


Figure 3. Kansas counties from which swift foxes have been harvested since 2013, and the most recent year of harvest.

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