



2023 SMALL GAME HUNTER MAIL SURVEY

Prepared by staff in the Wildlife Research Unit

INTRODUCTION

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR), Division of Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Research unit annually conducts a mail survey of small game hunters. The small game mail survey was initiated in 1976 as a means to gather small game harvest information, which is used to inform our constituency and guide decisions about hunting regulations and season structure.

METHODS

A postcard survey (Figure 1) was mailed in early March 2024 following the close of the 2023-24 small game hunting season. Hunters who returned it within three weeks were eliminated from a follow-up mailing to non-respondents. The sampling frame consisted of individuals who purchased a small game hunting license (any type) for the 2023-24 small game hunting season (N=230,283). A stratified random sample (n=7,000, 3%), allocated proportionally by license type, was drawn from the MNDNR electronic licensing system (ELS) database. Small game license types included: Resident Senior Citizen, Resident Youth, Resident Adult, Resident Individual Sport, Resident Combination Sport, Resident Lifetime, Resident Lifetime Sport, Non-resident Youth, and Non-resident Adult. For analysis, license types were pooled into "Resident" (N=220,218) and "Non-resident" (N=10,065) (Figure 2). Also, beginning in 2017, license holders <18-years old at the time of the survey were excluded from the sampling frame but included in the overall expansion for sampling. This group comprised <3% of license holders and thus estimates should be comparable among years.

Recipients were asked if they hunted small game in 2023-24 and if not, they were instructed to return the survey. Respondents who hunted were asked: (1) total number of days they hunted small game, (2) number bagged by species, (3) number of days hunted by species, and (4) the county in which they hunted most for each species listed. Returned surveys were checked for completeness, consistency, and biological practicability. Dual key-entry and quality control checks were used to minimize transcription errors. Data was tabulated using Viking Data Entry VDE+ software and analyzed using R programming language (R version 4.4.1 (2024-06-24 ucrt); R Core Team 2024).

RESULTS

Survey Response and Overall License Sales Trends

Statewide (resident and non-resident) small game license sales and survey response rate are shown in Figure 2. Of the 7,000 mailed surveys, 180 surveys were returned as undeliverable; 2,210 surveys were completed and returned for an adjusted response rate of 32%, which has slowly declined over time. The percent of respondents who said they hunted or did not hunt is reported in Table 1. Overall, statewide license sales (230,283 small game licenses) increased by 1% from the previous year and were 5% below the 10-year average (242,688 licenses;

Figure 2, Table 2). Non-resident small game license sales (10,065 licenses) increased 13% in 2023 and were 40% above the 10-year average (7,204 licenses; Table 2).

Estimates by Species

Harvest trends for the four most sought-after small game species (ducks – all species, Canada geese, ruffed grouse, and ring-necked pheasants) in Minnesota since 2002 are shown in Figure 3 and discussed separately below. Non-resident estimates for these four species over the past decade are shown in Table 3. For all other species, the estimated number of statewide hunters and harvest for 2023-24, the previous year, and the 10-year averages are shown in Tables 4 and 5, respectively. Table 6 shows the estimated mean harvest per active hunter and Table 7 shows the estimated mean harvest for successful hunters and hunter success rates (%) for all species for 2023-24, the previous year, and the 10-year averages. Tables 4-6 also provide trend information (i.e., the percent change) for annual and 10-year comparisons. One caveat is that sample sizes (i.e., the number of respondents that reported hunting a particular species) are small and sampling error is relatively large for most species and years (e.g., Tables 4 and 5), especially for species with $n < 30$ and where reported harvest has a skewed distribution. Thus, caution is advised when comparing point estimates of harvest statistics between individual years. The value of the small game survey is long-term trends in license/stamp sales, active hunters, and harvest statistics, especially for the top four taxonomic groups (ducks, Canada geese, ruffed grouse, and ring-necked pheasants).

Ducks – all species

In 2023, state duck stamp sales (81,976 stamps) were similar to last year's sales (81,864 stamps) and 7% below the 10-year average (87,889 stamps; Table 2). An estimated 50,434 hunters pursued ducks in 2023 which was 12% higher than last year's estimate (45,172 hunters) but 24% below the 10-year average (66,362 hunters; Table 4). The 2023 harvest estimate (565,716 ducks) was 20% above last year's estimated harvest (470,309 ducks) but 15% below the 10-year average (662,184 ducks; Table 5). Overall, duck hunters harvested an average of 11.2 ducks/hunter, which was slightly greater than the 10-year average (10.0 ducks/hunter; Table 6). Successful hunters bagged slightly more ducks in 2023 (13.3 ducks) compared to the 10-year average (11.8 ducks) despite similar success rates (84% and 85%, respectively; Table 7).

Canada geese

An estimated 29,698 hunters harvested approximately 146,823 Canada geese in 2023 (Tables 4 and 5) for an average of 4.9 geese/ hunter. The estimated number of goose hunters was 9% above last year's estimate (27,207 hunters) but 32% below the 10-year average (43,600 hunters; Tables 4 and 5). This year's estimated goose harvest (146,823) was 15% above last year's estimated harvest (127,520) but 36% below the 10-year average (228,047). Hunter success (76%) and mean harvest per successful hunter (6.5 geese) were similar to the 10-year averages (75%; 6.8 geese; Table 7).

Ruffed grouse

In 2023, an estimated 66,793 hunters harvested an estimated 339,592 ruffed grouse (Tables 4 and 5). The estimated number of hunters was slightly greater last year's estimate (64,591 hunters) but 7% below the 10-year average (72,089 hunters; Table 4). In contrast, this year's estimated grouse harvest was 43% above last year's estimated harvest (237,700 grouse) and 34% above the 10-year average (253,859 grouse; Table 5). The mean harvest per active hunter (5.1 grouse) was greater in 2023 than the previous year (3.7 grouse) and the 10-year average (3.5 grouse; Table 6). Hunter success (73%) was similar to the 10-year average (70%), whereas

mean harvest per successful hunter (6.9 grouse/hunter) was almost 2 birds more than the 10-year average (5.0 grouse; Table 7).

Ring-necked pheasants

Pheasant stamp sales in 2023 (79,037 stamps) were 2% greater than 2022 sales (77,448 stamps) and nearly 4% greater than the 10-year average (76,344 stamps; Table 2). An estimated 50,642 hunters harvested an estimated 208,821 roosters in 2023 (Tables 4 and 5). These estimates represent 8% fewer hunters compared to the 10-year average (55,078 hunters; Table 4) but a harvest increase of 2% over last year and 6% above the 10-year average (204,052 and 196,965 roosters, respectively; Table 5). The mean harvest per active hunter was 4.1 roosters, which was only slightly greater than the 10-year average (3.6 roosters; Table 6). The hunter success rate (72%) in 2023 was higher than the 10-year average (68%) although the mean harvest per successful hunter (5.7 roosters) was only slightly above the 10-year average (5.3 roosters; Table 7).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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FIGURES AND TABLES

Dear Small Game Hunter:

You have been selected at random from among Minnesota's small game hunting license buyers to assist us in evaluating the 2023-2024 small game hunting season (**March 2023-February 2024**). We need information to estimate the season's harvest and to help set future small game seasons. Answer only for your Minnesota 2023 hunting experience.

YOUR RESPONSE IS NEEDED EVEN IF YOU DID NOT HUNT OR HARVEST SMALL GAME

Please fill out the attached questionnaire and mail as soon as possible. A reminder will be sent to individuals not returning the questionnaire within three weeks. No envelope or stamp is necessary; just tear along the perforation and drop into a mailbox.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION

Wildlife Research Program Manager
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Department of Natural Resources

2023 Small Game Hunter Report

1. Did you hunt small game, listed below, in Minnesota this year (March 2023 - Feb 2024)? No Yes (Please check box)
2. Indicate the **total number of days** spent hunting small game of all species listed below, in Minnesota. _____
3. For the species you hunted indicate your harvest, number of days hunted, and county in which you hunted most for each species, even if **None** were bagged. Report only game **you personally** bagged and retrieved in Minnesota. **Do not** include birds taken on shooting preserves or game farms.

| | Number You bagged | Days Hunted | County |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|--------|
| Ducks (all species) | 01 | _____ | _____ |
| Coots (mud hens) | 50 | _____ | _____ |
| Canada geese | 40 | _____ | _____ |
| Other geese | 41 | _____ | _____ |
| Snipe (jacksnipe) | 51 | _____ | _____ |
| Rails and gallinules | 52 | _____ | _____ |
| Crows | 53 | _____ | _____ |
| Woodcock | 60 | _____ | _____ |
| Mourning Dove | 65 | _____ | _____ |
| Pheasant | 70 | _____ | _____ |
| Ruffed grouse (Forest partridge) | 71 | _____ | _____ |
| Spruce grouse | 72 | _____ | _____ |
| Sharp-tailed grouse | 73 | _____ | _____ |
| Hungarian (Gray) partridge | 74 | _____ | _____ |
| Fox squirrel | 89 | _____ | _____ |
| Gray squirrel | 90 | _____ | _____ |
| Cottontail rabbit | 91 | _____ | _____ |
| Jackrabbit | 92 | _____ | _____ |
| Snowshoe hare | 93 | _____ | _____ |
| Badger | 35 | _____ | _____ |
| Coyote (brush wolf) | 97 | _____ | _____ |
| Gray fox | 96 | _____ | _____ |
| Raccoon | 94 | _____ | _____ |
| Red fox | 95 | _____ | _____ |

Figure 1. Sample of Small Game Hunter survey card.

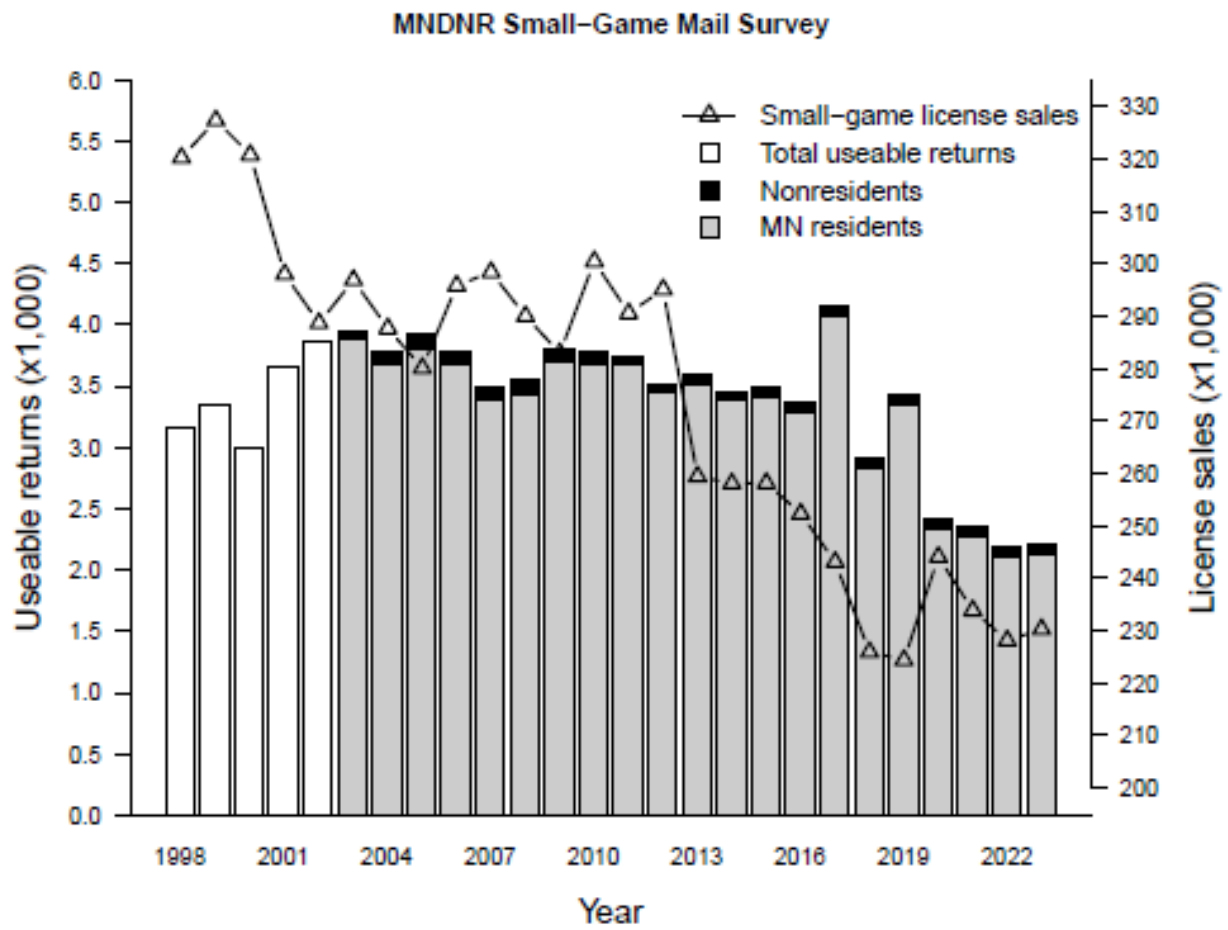


Figure 2. Number of Minnesota small game licenses sold and usable returned surveys, 1998-2023. Includes resident and non-resident licenses and excludes duplicate and free licenses.

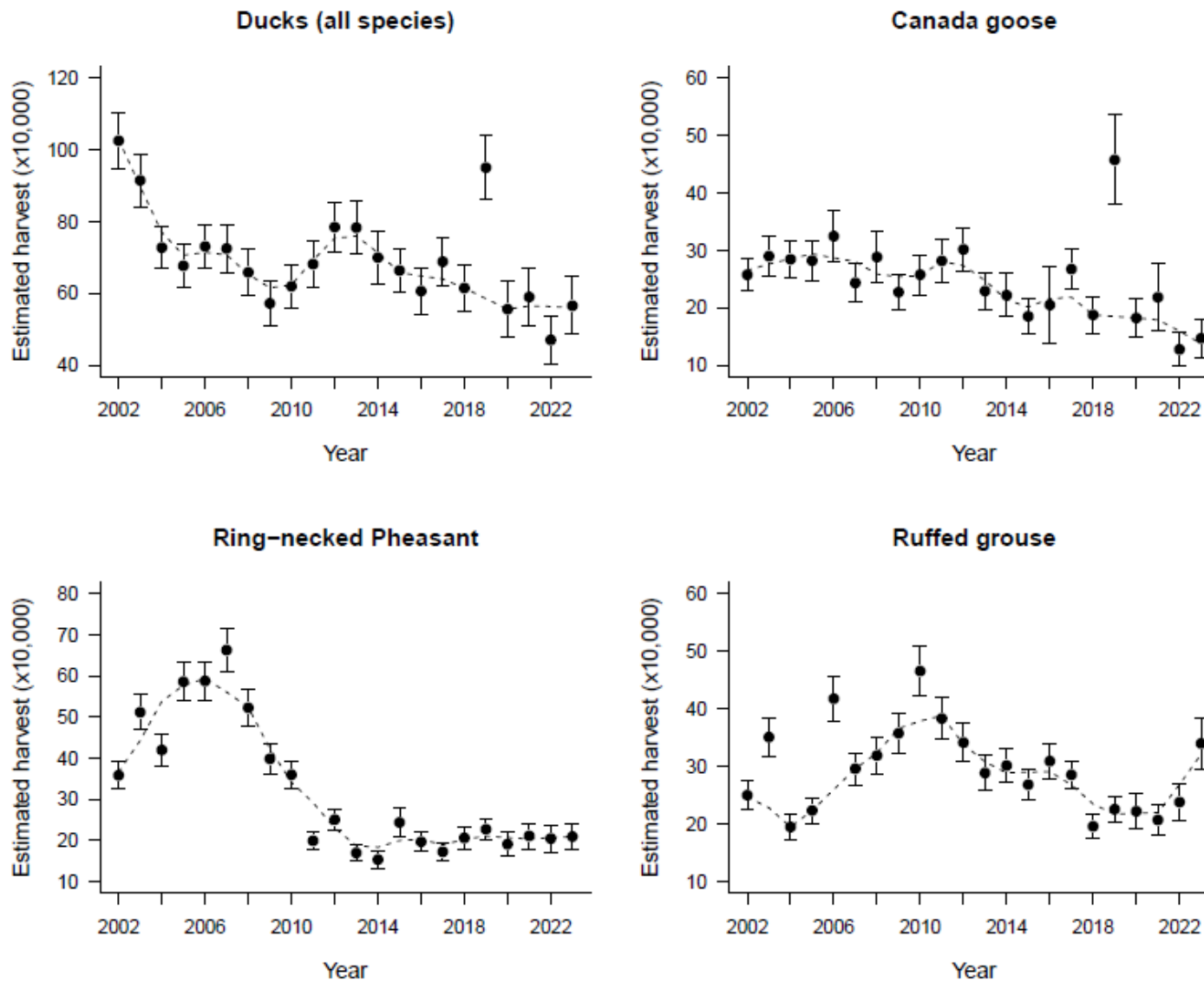


Figure 3. Harvest trends for top four small game species harvested in Minnesota, 2002-2023.

Table 1. Percent of respondents who hunted small game, 2013-14 through 2023-2024^a.

| | | Returns from mail survey | Projections from license sales |
|-----------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2013-14 | Hunted | 2,586 (72%) | 186,317 |
| | Did not hunt | <u>1,003 (28%)</u> | <u>72,264</u> |
| | | 3,589 (100%) | 258,581 |
| 2014-15 | Hunted | 2,476 (72%) | 185,186 |
| | Did not hunt | <u>975 (28%)</u> | <u>72,923</u> |
| | | 3,451 (100%) | 258,109 |
| 2015-16 | Hunted | 2,505 (72%) | 185,604 |
| | Did not hunt | <u>980 (28%)</u> | <u>72,612</u> |
| | | 3,485 (100%) | 258,216 |
| 2016-17 | Hunted | 2,426 (72%) | 181,614 |
| | Did not hunt | <u>945 (28%)</u> | <u>70,744</u> |
| | | 3,371 (100%) | 252,358 |
| 2017-18 | Hunted | 2,768 (66%) | 161,658 |
| | Did not hunt | <u>1,395 (34%)</u> | <u>81,472</u> |
| | | 4,163 (100%) | 243,130 |
| 2018-19 | Hunted | 2,000 (69%) | 155,601 |
| | Did not hunt | <u>904 (31%)</u> | <u>70,331</u> |
| | | 2,904 (100%) | 225,932 |
| 2019-20 | Hunted | 2,524 (73%) | 164,896 |
| | Did not hunt | <u>911 (27%)</u> | <u>59,517</u> |
| | | 3,435 (100%) | 224,413 |
| 2020-21 | Hunted | 1,487 (62%) | 150,425 |
| | Did not hunt | <u>926 (38%)</u> | <u>93,675</u> |
| | | 2,413 (100%) | 244,100 |
| 2021-22 | Hunted | 1,399 (59%) | 138,891 |
| | Did not hunt | <u>957 (41%)</u> | <u>95,010</u> |
| | | 2,356 (100%) | 233,901 |
| 2022-23 | Hunted | 1,383 (63%) | 143,615 |
| | Did not hunt | <u>814 (37%)</u> | <u>84,528</u> |
| | | 2,197 (100%) | 228,143 |
| 2023-2024 | Hunted | 1,360 (62%) | 141,713 |
| | Did not hunt | <u>850 (38%)</u> | <u>88,570</u> |
| | | 2,210 (100%) | 230,283 |

^a Includes resident and non-resident information. Excludes duplicates and free licenses (youth under 16, active-duty military and disabled veterans).

Table 2. Statewide (resident and non-resident) small game hunting license sales and stamp sales, 2013-14 through 2023-24.

| | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total small game license sales ^a | 258,581 | 258,109 | 258,208 | 252,358 | 243,130 | 225,932 | 224,413 | 244,100 | 233,901 | 228,143 | 230,283 |
| Non-resident license sales ^b | 6,031 | 6,056 | 6,755 | 6,701 | 6,854 | 6,718 | 6,887 | 8,375 | 8,730 | 8,927 | 10,065 |
| State duck stamp sales | 93,412 | 94,265 | 92,176 | 88,905 | 86,258 | 82,955 | 86,568 | 88,163 | 84,327 | 81,864 | 81,976 |
| Pheasant stamp sales | 77,597 | 74,295 | 77,750 | 76,920 | 71,925 | 72,192 | 74,921 | 81,850 | 78,538 | 77,448 | 79,037 |

^a Includes all types of small game licenses. Duplicate and free licenses not included.

^b Excludes duplicate licenses and non-resident shooting preserve licenses.

Table 3. Mail survey results^a of non-resident small game hunters, 2013-14 through 2023-24.

| | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Estimated non-residents and (percent) of all licensed non-residents hunting: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ducks | 2,010 (33) | 2,340 (39) | 1,850 (27) | 2,320 (35) | 2,350 (34) | 1,680 (25) | 3,040 (44) | 1,230 (15) | 3,740 (43) | 1,632 (18) | 2,517 (25) |
| Canada goose | 1,270 (21) | 1,300 (21) | 650 (10) | 770 (12) | 1,730 (25) | 1,260 (19) | 3,120 (45) | 1,560 (19) | 1,770 (20) | 1,152 (13) | 1,678 (17) |
| Ring-necked pheasant | 1,420 (24) | 1,380 (23) | 1,480 (22) | 1,550 (23) | 1,520 (22) | 2,350 (35) | 1,120 (16) | 890 (11) | 1,460 (17) | 4,032 (45) | 1,798 (18) |
| Ruffed grouse | 2,010 (33) | 2,600 (43) | 2,870 (43) | 3,520 (53) | 2,280 (33) | 2,270 (34) | 1,760 (26) | 3,800 (45) | 2,700 (31) | 3,648 (41) | 4,674 (46) |
| Estimated non-resident harvest: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ducks | 20,410 | 13,060 | 16,863 | 17,701 | 15,717 | 15,792 | 21,228 | 5,810 | 39,395 | 7,008 | 13,664 |
| Canada goose | 3,650 | 2,680 | 1,484 | 1,462 | 6,994 | 2,940 | 15,060 | 4,134 | 30,039 | 4,224 | 5,873 |
| Ring-necked pheasant | 3,430 | 3,720 | 6,581 | 4,040 | 7,274 | 6,048 | 2,645 | 5,141 | 5,924 | 14,112 | 7,432 |
| Ruffed grouse | 4,990 | 9,090 | 13,805 | 11,772 | 6,994 | 2,856 | 4,325 | 24,793 | 11,020 | 7,104 | 16,659 |

^a Estimates for non-resident hunters are generally based on small samples sizes; harvest estimates therefore have moderate to high sampling uncertainty.

Table 4. Estimated number of statewide hunters (residents and non-residents) by species for current year (2023-24), previous year (2022-23), and the preceding 10-year (2013-2022) average. Annual and 10-year trends (% change) are also shown.

| | 2023-24 | | | 2022-23 | | | 10-yr mean (2013-22) | | Change from 2022 | | Change from 10-yr mean | |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|-------|---------|---------|-------|-------------------------|-----|---------------------|--------|---------------------------|--------|
| | n | Hunters | SE | n | Hunters | SE | Hunters | SE | % | 95% CI | % | 95% CI |
| Ducks | 484 | 50,434 | 2,017 | 435 | 45,172 | 1,931 | 66,362 | 610 | 12 | 7 | -24 | 3 |
| Canada geese | 285 | 29,698 | 1,635 | 262 | 27,207 | 1,571 | 43,600 | 523 | 9 | 9 | -32 | 4 |
| Other geese | 15 | 1,564 | 401 | 12 | 1,247 | 358 | 2,288 | 132 | 25 | 48 | -32 | 18 |
| American coot | 17 | 1,772 | 427 | 28 | 2,908 | 544 | 3,333 | 160 | -39 | 19 | -47 | 13 |
| Common snipe | 9 | 938 | 311 | 9 | 935 | 310 | 1,010 | 89 | 0 | 47 | -7 | 32 |
| Rails & Gallinules | 1 | 105 | 104 | 4 | 416 | 207 | 279 | 46 | -75 | 28 | -62 | 38 |
| American crow | 36 | 3,752 | 618 | 30 | 3,116 | 563 | 6,468 | 217 | 20 | 29 | -42 | 10 |
| American woodcock | 96 | 10,004 | 994 | 113 | 11,735 | 1,071 | 11,295 | 291 | -15 | 12 | -11 | 9 |
| Mourning dove | 46 | 4,794 | 697 | 43 | 4,466 | 672 | 7,992 | 243 | 7 | 22 | -40 | 9 |
| Ring-necked pheasant | 486 | 50,642 | 2,020 | 504 | 52,337 | 2,038 | 55,078 | 579 | -3 | 5 | -8 | 4 |
| Ruffed grouse | 641 | 66,793 | 2,213 | 622 | 64,591 | 2,183 | 72,089 | 629 | 3 | 5 | -7 | 3 |
| Spruce grouse | 78 | 8,128 | 900 | 79 | 8,204 | 903 | 8,384 | 252 | -1 | 15 | -3 | 11 |
| Sharp-tailed grouse | 45 | 4,690 | 689 | 40 | 4,154 | 648 | 4,881 | 193 | 13 | 24 | -4 | 15 |
| Gray partridge | 15 | 1,564 | 401 | 17 | 1,766 | 425 | 1,994 | 123 | -11 | 31 | -22 | 21 |
| Gray squirrel | 152 | 15,839 | 1,235 | 133 | 13,812 | 1,156 | 19,197 | 370 | 15 | 13 | -17 | 7 |
| Fox squirrel | 87 | 9,066 | 949 | 69 | 7,166 | 846 | 10,545 | 278 | 27 | 20 | -14 | 9 |
| Eastern cottontail | 77 | 8,024 | 895 | 79 | 8,204 | 903 | 12,099 | 297 | -2 | 15 | -34 | 8 |
| White-tailed jackrabbit | 9 | 938 | 311 | 8 | 831 | 292 | 981 | 89 | 13 | 55 | -4 | 33 |
| Snowshoe hare | 33 | 3,439 | 592 | 14 | 1,454 | 386 | 2,952 | 148 | 137 | 75 | 16 | 21 |
| Raccoon | 46 | 4,794 | 697 | 36 | 3,739 | 616 | 6,034 | 213 | 28 | 28 | -21 | 12 |
| Red fox | 17 | 1,772 | 427 | 21 | 2,181 | 472 | 3,864 | 169 | -19 | 26 | -54 | 11 |
| Gray fox ^a | 0 | NA | NA | 5 | 520 | 231 | 1,039 | 87 | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Coyote | 90 | 9,379 | 964 | 89 | 9,243 | 956 | 15,635 | 334 | 1 | 15 | -40 | 6 |
| Badger | 4 | 417 | 208 | 1 | 104 | 104 | 286 | 46 | 301 | 448 | 46 | 76 |

^aGray fox was not reported by any hunter in our 2023-24 survey.

Table 5. Estimated hunter harvest (residents and non-residents) by species for current year (2023-24), previous year (2022-23), and the preceding 10-year (2013-2022) average. Annual and 10-year trends (% change) are also shown.

| | 2023-24 | | | 2022-23 | | | 10-yr mean (2013-22) | | Change from 2022 | | Change from 10-yr mean | |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|--------|-------------------------|--------|---------------------|--------|---------------------------|--------|
| | n | Harvest | SE | n | Harvest | SE | Harvest | SE | % | 95% CI | % | 95% CI |
| Ducks | 484 | 565,716 | 41,006 | 435 | 470,309 | 34,290 | 662,184 | 11,571 | 20 | 12 | -15 | 6 |
| Canada geese | 285 | 146,823 | 17,417 | 262 | 127,520 | 14,697 | 228,047 | 7,492 | 15 | 19 | -36 | 8 |
| Other geese | 15 | 3,128 | 2,116 | 12 | 1,767 | 1,165 | 5,234 | 810 | 77 | 167 | -40 | 41 |
| American coot | 17 | 6,150 | 2,787 | 28 | 5,089 | 1,718 | 13,715 | 1,334 | 21 | 68 | -55 | 21 |
| Common snipe | 9 | 626 | 529 | 9 | 728 | 373 | 1,284 | 195 | -14 | 85 | -51 | 42 |
| Rails & Gallinules | 1 | NA | NA | 4 | 104 | 104 | 571 | 149 | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| American crow | 36 | 34,602 | 11,771 | 30 | 10,595 | 2,374 | 50,670 | 4,171 | 227 | 133 | -32 | 24 |
| American woodcock | 96 | 37,515 | 8,223 | 113 | 34,479 | 6,924 | 34,143 | 1,855 | 9 | 32 | 10 | 25 |
| Mourning dove | 46 | 52,422 | 12,487 | 43 | 39,883 | 10,441 | 71,482 | 3,981 | 31 | 47 | -27 | 18 |
| Ring-necked pheasant | 486 | 208,821 | 16,695 | 504 | 204,052 | 16,760 | 196,965 | 4,345 | 2 | 12 | 6 | 9 |
| Ruffed grouse | 641 | 339,592 | 22,420 | 622 | 237,700 | 16,446 | 253,859 | 4,483 | 43 | 14 | 34 | 9 |
| Spruce grouse | 78 | 17,507 | 3,836 | 79 | 13,916 | 3,363 | 11,497 | 704 | 26 | 41 | 52 | 35 |
| Sharp-tailed grouse | 45 | 13,445 | 4,084 | 40 | 5,401 | 1,739 | 8,031 | 841 | 149 | 110 | 67 | 54 |
| Gray partridge | 15 | 1,252 | 640 | 17 | 1,766 | 807 | 2,874 | 370 | -29 | 49 | -56 | 23 |
| Gray squirrel | 152 | 68,984 | 9,426 | 133 | 94,504 | 14,734 | 92,014 | 3,337 | -27 | 15 | -25 | 11 |
| Fox squirrel | 87 | 25,219 | 4,696 | 69 | 23,368 | 4,934 | 33,770 | 1,508 | 8 | 30 | -25 | 14 |
| Eastern cottontail | 77 | 24,594 | 7,171 | 79 | 22,951 | 3,997 | 35,956 | 1,484 | 7 | 36 | -32 | 20 |
| White-tailed jackrabbit | 9 | 1,664 | 8 | 8 | 624 | 327 | 1,246 | 306 | 117 | 156 | 9 | 60 |
| Snowshoe hare | 33 | 11,151 | 3,194 | 14 | 1,247 | 547 | 5,352 | 521 | 794 | 468 | 108 | 63 |
| Raccoon | 46 | 21,469 | 4,789 | 36 | 12,464 | 2,887 | 38,045 | 3,061 | 72 | 55 | -44 | 13 |
| Red fox | 17 | 2,085 | 671 | 21 | 2,285 | 744 | 4,259 | 381 | -9 | 42 | -51 | 16 |
| Gray fox ^a | 0 | NA | NA | 5 | 208 | 207 | 839 | 165 | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Coyote | 90 | 19,175 | 4,341 | 89 | 23,264 | 4,896 | 32,677 | 2,239 | -18 | 25 | -41 | 14 |
| Badger | 4 | 522 | 275 | 1 | 104 | --- | 220 | 46 | 402 | --- | 137 | 134 |

^aGray fox was not reported by any hunter in our 2023-24 survey.

Table 6. Mean harvest per active hunter (residents and non-residents) for current year (2023-24), previous year (2022-23), and the preceding 10-year (2013-2022) average. Annual and 10-year trends (% change) are also shown.

| | 2023-24 | | | 2022-23 | | | 10-yr mean (2013-22) | | Change from 2022 | | Change from 10-yr mean | |
|-------------------------|---------|------|------|---------|------|------|-------------------------|------|---------------------|--------|---------------------------|--------|
| | n | Mean | SE | n | Mean | SE | Mean | SE | % | 95% CI | % | 95% CI |
| Ducks | 484 | 11.2 | 0.68 | 435 | 10.4 | 0.62 | 10.0 | 0.15 | 8 | 9 | 12 | 7 |
| Canada geese | 285 | 4.9 | 0.52 | 262 | 4.7 | 0.47 | 5.2 | 0.16 | 4 | 15 | -6 | 10 |
| Other geese | 15 | 2.0 | 1.30 | 12 | 1.4 | 0.88 | 2.1 | 0.30 | 43 | 129 | -5 | 63 |
| American coot | 17 | 3.5 | 1.37 | 28 | 1.8 | 0.50 | 4.1 | 0.35 | 94 | 94 | -15 | 34 |
| Common snipe | 9 | 0.7 | 0.55 | 9 | 0.8 | 0.32 | 1.2 | 0.15 | -13 | 77 | -42 | 46 |
| Rails & Gallinules | NA | NA | NA | 4 | 0.2 | 0.25 | 1.9 | 0.46 | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| American crow | 36 | 9.2 | 2.78 | 30 | 3.4 | 0.46 | 7.4 | 0.62 | 171 | 90 | 24 | 39 |
| American woodcock | 96 | 3.8 | 0.74 | 113 | 2.9 | 0.53 | 3.0 | 0.14 | 31 | 35 | 27 | 25 |
| Mourning dove | 46 | 10.9 | 2.09 | 43 | 8.9 | 1.94 | 8.9 | 0.45 | 22 | 35 | 22 | 24 |
| Ring-necked pheasant | 486 | 4.1 | 0.29 | 504 | 3.9 | 0.28 | 3.6 | 0.07 | 5 | 11 | 14 | 8 |
| Ruffed grouse | 641 | 5.1 | 0.29 | 622 | 3.7 | 0.22 | 3.5 | 0.06 | 38 | 11 | 46 | 9 |
| Spruce grouse | 78 | 2.2 | 0.41 | 79 | 1.7 | 0.37 | 1.4 | 0.07 | 29 | 37 | 57 | 30 |
| Sharp-tailed grouse | 45 | 2.9 | 0.77 | 40 | 1.3 | 0.37 | 1.7 | 0.17 | 123 | 87 | 71 | 48 |
| Gray partridge | 15 | 0.8 | 0.37 | 17 | 1.0 | 0.40 | 1.4 | 0.17 | -20 | 49 | -43 | 27 |
| Gray squirrel | 152 | 4.4 | 0.49 | 133 | 6.8 | 0.90 | 4.9 | 0.17 | -35 | 11 | -10 | 10 |
| Fox squirrel | 87 | 2.8 | 0.43 | 69 | 3.3 | 0.58 | 3.2 | 0.13 | -15 | 20 | -13 | 14 |
| Eastern cottontail | 77 | 3.1 | 0.83 | 79 | 2.8 | 0.38 | 3.0 | 0.11 | 11 | 33 | 3 | 28 |
| White-tailed jackrabbit | 9 | 1.4 | 0.55 | 8 | 0.8 | 0.31 | 1.2 | 0.23 | 75 | 97 | 17 | 51 |
| Snowshoe hare | 33 | 3.2 | 0.75 | 14 | 0.9 | 0.31 | 1.8 | 0.15 | 256 | 149 | 78 | 44 |
| Raccoon | 46 | 4.5 | 0.77 | 36 | 3.3 | 0.55 | 6.2 | 0.50 | 36 | 33 | -27 | 14 |
| Red fox | 17 | 1.2 | 0.26 | 21 | 1.0 | 0.26 | 1.1 | 0.10 | 20 | 41 | 9 | 26 |
| Gray fox ^a | NA | NA | NA | 5 | 0.4 | 0.40 | 0.7 | 0.12 | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Coyote | 90 | 2.0 | 0.41 | 89 | 2.5 | 0.46 | 2.2 | 0.16 | -20 | 22 | -9 | 20 |
| Badger | 4 | 1.2 | 0.25 | 1 | 1.0 | --- | 0.8 | 0.08 | 20 | --- | 50 | 35 |

^aGray fox was not reported by any hunter in our 2023-24 survey.

Table 7. Hunter success rates and mean harvest per successful hunter (residents and non-residents) for current year (2023-24), previous year (2022-23), and the preceding 10-year (2013-2022) average.

| | 2023-24 | | | | 2022-23 | | | | 10-yr mean (2013-22) | | |
|-------------------------|---------|-----------|------|------|---------|-----------|------|------|----------------------|------|------|
| | n | % Success | Mean | SE | n | % Success | Mean | SE | % Success | Mean | SE |
| Ducks | 408 | 84 | 13.3 | 0.76 | 359 | 83 | 12.6 | 0.69 | 85 | 11.8 | 0.15 |
| Canada geese | 217 | 76 | 6.5 | 0.65 | 185 | 71 | 6.6 | 0.61 | 75 | 6.8 | 0.16 |
| Other geese | 8 | 53 | 3.8 | 2.32 | 4 | 33 | 4.2 | 2.13 | 41 | 5.1 | 0.30 |
| American coot | 12 | 71 | 4.9 | 1.80 | 17 | 61 | 2.9 | 0.70 | 71 | 5.7 | 0.35 |
| Common snipe | 2 | 22 | 3.0 | 1.99 | 5 | 56 | 1.4 | 0.40 | 59 | 1.9 | 0.15 |
| Rails & Gallinules | NA | NA | NA | NA | 1 | 25 | 1.0 | --- | 44 | 4.1 | 0.46 |
| American crow | 33 | 92 | 10.1 | 3.00 | 25 | 83 | 4.1 | 0.44 | 86 | 8.7 | 0.62 |
| American woodcock | 73 | 76 | 4.9 | 0.93 | 81 | 72 | 4.1 | 0.70 | 68 | 4.5 | 0.14 |
| Mourning dove | 35 | 76 | 14.4 | 2.48 | 37 | 86 | 10.4 | 2.16 | 83 | 10.8 | 0.45 |
| Ring-necked pheasant | 352 | 72 | 5.7 | 0.36 | 341 | 68 | 5.8 | 0.38 | 68 | 5.3 | 0.07 |
| Ruffed grouse | 469 | 73 | 6.9 | 0.36 | 427 | 69 | 5.4 | 0.29 | 70 | 5.0 | 0.06 |
| Spruce grouse | 43 | 55 | 3.9 | 0.63 | 38 | 48 | 3.5 | 0.65 | 53 | 2.6 | 0.07 |
| Sharp-tailed grouse | 25 | 56 | 5.2 | 1.21 | 16 | 40 | 3.2 | 0.69 | 46 | 3.6 | 0.17 |
| Gray partridge | 5 | 33 | 2.4 | 0.67 | 8 | 47 | 2.1 | 0.66 | 44 | 3.2 | 0.17 |
| Gray squirrel | 117 | 77 | 5.7 | 0.59 | 110 | 83 | 8.3 | 1.04 | 83 | 5.9 | 0.17 |
| Fox squirrel | 60 | 69 | 4.0 | 0.55 | 48 | 70 | 4.7 | 0.74 | 77 | 4.2 | 0.13 |
| Eastern cottontail | 53 | 69 | 4.5 | 1.16 | 60 | 76 | 3.7 | 0.44 | 76 | 3.9 | 0.11 |
| White-tailed jackrabbit | 5 | 56 | 2.6 | 0.60 | 4 | 50 | 1.5 | 0.29 | 47 | 2.6 | 0.23 |
| Snowshoe hare | 26 | 79 | 4.1 | 0.88 | 7 | 50 | 1.7 | 0.42 | 59 | 2.9 | 0.15 |
| Raccoon | 43 | 93 | 4.8 | 0.80 | 30 | 83 | 4.0 | 0.59 | 90 | 6.8 | 0.50 |
| Red fox | 12 | 71 | 1.7 | 0.26 | 14 | 67 | 1.6 | 0.31 | 55 | 2.0 | 0.10 |
| Gray fox ^a | 0 | NA | NA | NA | 1 | 20 | 2.0 | --- | 35 | 1.8 | 0.12 |
| Coyote | 56 | 62 | 3.3 | 0.61 | 61 | 69 | 3.7 | 0.62 | 56 | 3.8 | 0.16 |
| Badger | 4 | 100 | 1.2 | 0.25 | 1 | 100 | 1.0 | --- | 72 | 1.1 | 0.08 |

^aGray fox was not reported by any hunter in our 2023-24 survey.