

# **2006-07 SWIFT FOX PELT TAGGING REPORT**

## **PERFORMANCE REPORT STATEWIDE WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND SURVEYS**

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## 2006-07 Swift Fox Pelt Tagging Report

Prepared by Matt Peek, Furbearer Biologist

The swift fox (*Vulpes velox*) is classified as a furbearer in Kansas (K.S.A. 32-701 (e)). The first swift fox harvest season in Kansas in recent times was initiated in 1982. Since that time, harvest information has been acquired by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) 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 KDWP for tagging within seven days of the close of the season (K.A.R. 115- 5-2). All five KDWP regional offices as well as biologists and conservation officers within or near the swift fox range are provided with tags. The number of swift fox presented annually to KDWP for pelt tagging since the tagging program was initiated is presented in **Figure 1**. In 2006-07, 70 swift fox were taken by furharvesters in Kansas.

Swift fox 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 fox. Trapping and hunting accounted for 89% and 10% of the harvest, respectively. **Table 2** shows the primary species being pursued at the time the swift fox was taken. This is the highest percent on record of intentional swift fox harvest; until the past few seasons, swift foxes were primarily taken incidental to the harvest of other species, particularly coyote.

A total of 12 furharvesters took swift fox during the season, and a single furharvester accounted for 63% of the total harvest. The annual season bag per furharvester is given in **Table 3**. Habitat types from which swift fox were taken are presented in **Table 4**. Shortgrass prairie and dryland crop ground are the two dominant habitats where swift fox are harvested.

### Notes:

Swift fox season opened on November 15, 2006 and ended February 15, 2007. Harvest by month is as follows: November – 16, December – 28, January – 23, February – 3.

Swift foxes were harvested from 9 western Kansas counties in 2006-07, and have been harvested from 17 counties over the past 3 seasons.

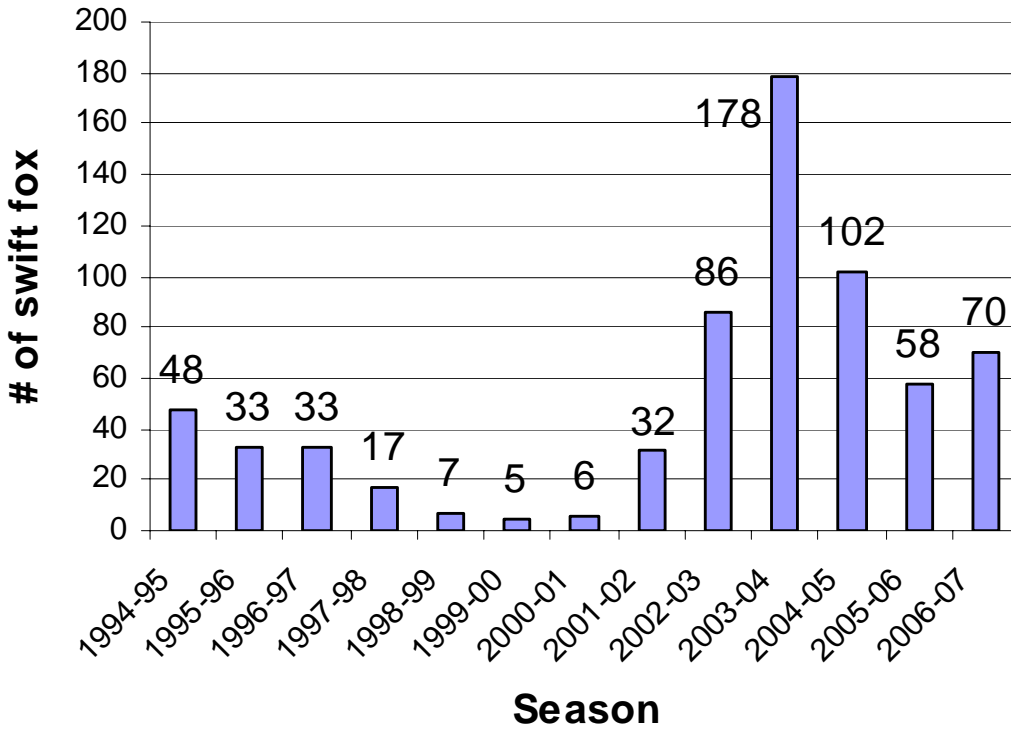


Figure 1. Number of swift fox pelt tagged annually by KDWP since a tagging program was initiated in 1994.

Table 1. Methods used to take swift fox during the 2006-07 furbearer season in Kansas.

Method of Take	Number of Swift Fox	Percent of Swift Fox
foothold trap	7	10.0
body gripping trap	50	71.4
cage trap	5	7.1
rifle	6	8.6
shotgun	1	1.4
salvage	1	1.4
Total	70	100.0

Table 2. Primary species being pursued when swift fox were taken during the 2006-07 furbearer season in Kansas.

Target Species	Number of Swift Fox	Percent of Swift Fox
swift fox	61	87.1
coyote	7	10.0
raccoon	1	1.4
salvage	1	1.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 3. Total bag of swift fox by individual furharvesters during the 2006-07 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	4	33.33%	33.33%	4	5.71%	5.71%
2	3	25.00%	58.33%	6	8.57%	14.29%
3	3	25.00%	83.33%	9	12.86%	27.14%
7	1	8.33%	91.67%	7	10.00%	37.14%
44	1	8.33%	100.00%	44	62.86%	100.00%
	12			70		

Table 4. Habitat types from which swift fox were taken during the 2006-07 furbearer season in Kansas. (The “immediate habitat” type is that from which the swift fox was taken, and the “general habitat” type is the predominant habitat within 2 miles of the harvest site.)

<b>Immediate Habitat</b>	<b>Number of Swift Fox Harvested</b>	<b>Percent of Total Harvest</b>
<b>General Habitat</b>		
<b>Short-grass prairie</b>		
Short-grass prairie	50	71.4
<b>Dryland crop</b>		
Dryland crop	16	22.9
<b>Irrigated crop</b>		
Irrigated crop	2	2.9
<b>CRP</b>		
CRP	1	1.4
Short-grass prairie	1	1.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>