

LOUISIANA BIG AND SMALL GAME HARVEST SURVEY FOR 2023-2024

Prepared by

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June 2024

Big and small game harvest indices for the 2023-24 hunting season were obtained through an online survey based on responses from purchasers of basic resident hunting licenses or any other resident license that included the basic resident hunting privileges for 2023-24. An email was sent to randomly selected hunters with up to two follow-up emails at one-week intervals for non-respondents. Since the 2012-13 season, senior license holders (those 60 and older that now are required to have a license) have been included in the survey. This was done because senior license holders make up a significant proportion of the total license holders (24.4% for the 2023-24 hunting season). The 2023-24 Game Harvest Survey (Appendix 1) was emailed to 13,688 (6% sample) residents with a valid email address. The email had a link to the online survey, only one response per computer IP address was allowed. Only responses from respondents that hunted during the 2023-24 hunting season were included in the report. The survey questionnaires were completed and returned by 2,499 individuals (18.3% return rate) before the cutoff date of 31 May. The estimated harvest and hunter efforts for the 2023-24 hunting seasons (Tables 1 and 8) utilized 1,738 responses. The procedures used to calculate the 2023-24 estimates were the same as those used for the 2022-23 harvest estimates. The 2023-24 harvest estimates were extrapolated based on the current year's license sales (including all lifetime license holders) of 296,212 (includes senior license holders and senior lifetime license holders that consider themselves to be hunters). When including all senior license holders and all senior lifetime license holders the number of licenses for the 2023-24 hunting season was 364,194. However, senior license holders, whether they hunt, fish, or hunt and fish receive the same license. Some of those license holders do not hunt. Therefore, the number of senior license holders was reduced to reflect an estimate of the percentage of senior hunters which did not hunt during the 2023-24 hunting season (48.5%). Hunter numbers reflect those that hunted a species even if they did not bag. No attempt was made to adjust the statistics to compensate for the lack of inclusion of hunters under 16 years old who are not required to purchase a basic license. Values presented are *indices* and are not necessarily the actual number of hunters and harvests.

WHITE-TAILED DEER

Deer hunters (221,500) spent about 5.0 million days afield during the 2023-24 deer hunting seasons and harvested 262,400 deer (Table 1). The total number of deer hunters (2.5% decrease) did not change significantly over last year's estimate. However, the number of deer harvested (20.5% increase) and number of days spent afield (13.0% increase) did increase significantly over last year's estimates. The number of deer harvested using modern firearms (21.2% increase) and the number of deer harvested still hunting (19.3% increase) as well as the number of days afield hunting with modern firearms (16.1% increase) and still hunting (15.1% increase) all increased significantly over last year's estimates. Beginning with the 2012-13 hunting season, senior license holders were included in the survey which resulted in an increased number of hunters. The number of deer hunters ($P = 0.5245$) did not change significantly from the 2012-13 hunting season. However, the deer harvest ($P = 0.0186$) increased significantly from the 2012-13 hunting season to the current hunting season (Figures 1, 2). The total number of license holders from the 2012-13 hunting season to the current hunting season has not change significantly ($P = 0.1142$) (Figure 3). Many deer hunters used 2 or 3 types of weapons. The number of hunters using modern firearms to take deer during the 2023-24 hunting season was 207,900 (Table 1) and their harvest was 208,600. They reported kills ranging from 0 to 11 (Table 2) and averaged hunting 17.7 days with

modern firearms (Table 3). Still hunting (without dogs) accounted for about 97% of the modern firearm harvest and 96% of the modern firearm days. Deer hunting and harvest characteristics for persons hunting with and without dogs are also provided (Table 2 and 3). About 2.8% of the modern firearm deer hunters used dogs at least once.

Deer hunters using bows and arrows (54,700) did not change significantly from last year's estimate of 57,500 hunters and they averaged 11.2 days afield per person (Table 3). They reported from 0 to 5 deer killed (Table 2). The number of deer taken with bows and arrows was 14,300. Persons with bow licenses could use bows that used a mechanical means to hold and release the arrow (crossbows) for the first time in 2008-09. An estimated 31,500 persons took advantage of this opportunity during the 2023-24 hunting season. Persons hunting with crossbows averaged 7.8 days afield (Table 3) and their reported harvest ranged from 0 to 4 deer (Table 2).

Primitive firearm hunters numbered 115,800 and they averaged 5.5 primitive firearm hunts per hunter (Table 3) and reported taking 0 to 4 deer with primitive firearms (Table 2) for a total deer harvest of 31,500 (Table 2).

State-wide, antlered deer comprised a greater percentage (53%) of the deer harvest than did non-antlered deer (45%) or button-bucks (3%) (Table 4).

This is the 17th year that an estimate for hog hunting has been produced. During the 2023-24 hunting season, it is estimated that 75,700 hunters took 500,900 hogs (up 27.5% over last year's estimate) while expending 560,000 efforts which is up 20.9% from last year's estimate of 463,300 efforts (Table 1, 5).

TURKEY

The number of turkey hunters remained fairly stable compared to the 2023 spring turkey hunting season, with 22,300 turkey hunters (Table 5). The number of recreational days spent turkey hunting was down 5.8% to last year's estimate (132,300 vs 140,400). In 2024, turkey hunters spent an average of 6.0 days hunting (Table 6). Hunters reported bagging from 0 to 2 turkeys (Table 7). The statewide harvest of gobblers was 6,000 in 2024 and 5,000 in 2023, an increase of 20.0%.

SMALL GAME

The number of small game hunters (98,900) was down 3.2% over last year's estimate (102,200). There was a significant decline ($P = 0.0022$) in the number of small game hunters from the 2012-13 hunting season to the present hunting season (Figure 4).

Small game hunters took about 1,061,800 trips in pursuit of small game during the 2023-24 hunting season for an average of 10.7 hunts per person. The number of hunters and harvest varied greatly among species (Tables 8 and 9). Nevertheless, 50-70 percent of the hunters for a particular species usually accounts for less than 20 percent of the harvest (Tables 10 and 11). In addition, large proportions of hunters go afield 5 days or fewer per season for a given species (Tables 12 and 13). The highest mean seasonal kill per hunter was recorded for duck (26.0 per hunter). Pen reared quail (19.2 per hunter) and mourning dove (18.9 per hunter) had the 2nd and 3rd, respectively,

highest seasonal bags and the lowest was for Eurasian collared doves (1.7 per hunter), followed by rails (2.5 per hunter) (Tables 10 and 11). Pen-reared quail, woodcock, and snipe hunters accounted for the lowest number of hunts per hunter (3.1, 3.3, 3.6, respectively), while raccoon hunters went hunting the most (14.4 per hunter), followed by gallinule hunters (11.4 per hunter) and goose hunters (11.2 per hunter) (Tables 12 and 13).

Resident Small Game

Squirrels remained the most popular small game animals in Louisiana with 711,200 (up 29.0% over last year's estimate) harvested by 55,600 hunters (Tables 8 and 9). Rabbits also continued to be the second most sought after resident small game animal. Rabbit hunters (20,800) bagged 165,800 rabbits (up 45.2% over last year's estimate). Persons hunting wild quail numbered 500 and they harvested an estimated 1,700 birds.

Pen-raised quail seasonal harvest was estimated this year for the 19th season because the *quail* (unspecified but assumed wild) estimate appeared relatively high for several years prior to the 2005-06 survey compared to the expected harvest. This could have been due to the inclusion of pen-raised birds in the harvest value. Several responses were excluded from those recent surveys before the addition of the pen-raised category because the respondents indicated that the quail were pen-raised. The number of persons hunting pen-raised quail and their harvest far exceeded those hunting wild quail, particularly the harvest. The results suggest that pen-raised quail had been included at least in estimates immediately prior to changing the format in 2005. The pen-raised harvest was estimated at 42,600.

For the eighth year we asked hunters if they harvested coyotes and if so how many they harvested. It was estimated that 18,400 hunters harvested 49,300 coyotes during the 2023-24 hunting season (Table 8). Bobcat harvest was estimated to be 4,600.

Migratory Game Birds

Webless

Doves continued to be the most sought after webless migratory game bird. During the 2023-24 hunting season, 31,200 hunters harvested 566,200 mourning doves during 110,100 days of dove hunting. The snipe harvest was 22,500 while snipe hunters numbered 2,200. Snipe hunters spent 7,300 days afield in 2023-24 (Tables 8 and 9). For the fifth year we asked questions concerning gallinule hunting. There were an estimated 2,400 gallinule hunters that harvested 22,800 gallinules during 27,300 days of hunting. The harvest index for woodcock was 12,300 and the number of woodcock hunters was 4,300. Woodcock hunters made 13,600 hunts (Tables 8 and 9). There were an estimated 680 rail hunters in 2023-24, and their harvest estimate was 1,700 (Tables 8 and 9).

Although Eurasian collared-doves are frequently associated with urban/suburban settings, this species also is increasing in rural settings. This year the harvest of this non-native dove was estimated to be 29,300 (Tables 8 and 9). White-winged doves were able to be taken during the dove season for the 18th year during the 2023-24 season. During the 2023-24 season 51,100 white-

winged doves were estimated to be harvested (Tables 8 and 9).

Waterfowl

There were an estimated 77,400 duck hunters for the 2023-24 hunting season. Duck hunters harvested 2,039,700 ducks, a decrease of 17.1% over last year's estimate (Table 8, 9). Goose hunters numbered 13,300. The goose harvest was estimated to be 122,000 (Tables 9 and 10). These values include participation and geese taken during the Special Goose Season (Conservation Order). Coot, while not technically waterfowl, are usually taken by persons hunting ducks. About 6,700 hunters bagged approximately 117,800 coots (Tables 8 and 9).

SPECIAL QUESTIONS

Age

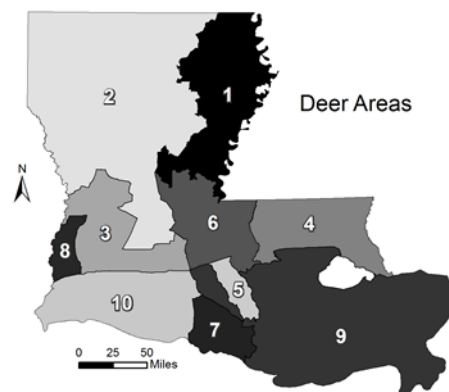
Hunters were asked their age. Of the 1,484 respondents to this question, ages ranged from 18 to 90 years of age. The average age was 55.6 years (up 1.9 years from last year's average of 53.7), the median age was 57 years (55 years last year) and the mode was 62 years of age (66 last year).

Deer tags

Survey respondents were asked if they obtained deer tags for the 2023-24 hunting season, if they hunted in Louisiana during the 2023-24 hunting season, and if they hunted deer in Louisiana during the 2023-24 hunting season. Twenty-nine percent (29.2%; 221 of 755 respondents) of survey respondents indicating that they did not hunt in Louisiana during the 2023-24 hunting season obtained deer tags. Thirty-two percent (31.5%; 98 of 311 respondents) of Louisiana hunters that did not hunt deer in Louisiana during the 2023-24 hunting season obtained deer tags. Most individuals (98.4%) hunting deer during the 2023-24 hunting season in Louisiana indicated that they obtained deer tags.

Deer Areas

We asked hunters on which of the Deer Areas (DA) they hunted deer during the 2023-24 hunting season, how many days they hunted within each DA and how many deer they harvested on each of the DAs. DA 2 had the most hunter days reported with 9,589 and DA 10 had the fewest with 110. DA 2 also had the highest harvest reporting rate with 567 harvested deer reported and DA 10 had the least with 4 harvested deer reported (Table 14).



Public Lands

Deer hunters were asked if they hunted deer on public lands. Most deer hunters (81%) did not hunt deer on public lands. Those hunting deer on public lands hunted deer an average of 11.5 days (range 1-65) on public lands. The average kill per deer hunter on public lands was 0.61 deer per hunter (range 0-5).

Pass on Bucks

Deer hunters were asked if they passed (elected not to harvest) any antlered bucks due to deer antler size or estimated age. Most respondents (68%) indicated that they did pass on antlered bucks due to antler size or estimated age. Of those hunters that hunted deer on private land but not public lands, 71% indicated that they did pass on antlered bucks due to antler size or estimated age. Of those hunting on public land, 53% indicated that they passed on antlered bucks due to antler size or estimated age.

Deer hunters that indicated they harvested the first legal buck regardless of antler size and estimated age were asked if they passed on any additional bucks due to antler size or estimated age before harvesting a second buck. Most respondents (66%) indicated that they did not pass on any additional bucks. Likewise, hunters hunting private land but not public land tended not to pass on any additional bucks (65%) and hunters hunting public land were even less likely to pass on any additional bucks (72%).

Turkey Tags

Survey respondents were asked if they obtained turkey tags for 2024 turkey season and if they hunted in Louisiana during the 2023-24 hunting season. Of those not hunting in Louisiana during the 2023-24 hunting season, seventeen percent (17.1%; 129 of 755) obtained turkey tags. Seventy-seven percent (76.9%; 445 of 578) of hunters that received turkey tags did not hunt turkeys. Eighty-one percent (81.2%; 574 of 707) of all license holders that received turkey tags did not hunt turkeys in Louisiana during the 2024 turkey season.

HIP

Hunters were asked if they obtained a HIP (Harvest Information Program) certification for the 2023-2024 migratory bird season. Most individuals (n = 449; 91%) hunting ducks indicated that they obtained a HIP certification for the 2023-24 migratory bird season. Likewise, most goose hunters (n = 73; 92%) indicated that they obtained a HIP certification for the 2023-24 hunting season. Most individuals hunting mourning doves (n = 180; 86%), woodcock (n = 24; 83%), snipe (n = 12; 100%), rail (n = 4; 100%), and gallinule (n = 14; 86%) indicated that they obtained a HIP certification for the 2023-24 hunting season.

Table 1. Hunting statistics for the 2023-24 deer hunting seasons based on 296,212 licensed hunters. Values include senior license holders.

Species	Hunters	Bag Harvest	Man Days
Deer (All Methods)	221,500 ± 6,000 ^a	262,400 ± 19,700	5,007,100 ± 280,200
Deer (Modern Firearms)	207,900 ± 5,300	208,600 ± 16,000	3,525,900 ± 200,600
Deer (MF Still Hunting)	206,000 ± 6,400	203,300 ± 15,500	3,400,700 ± 194,600
Deer (MF With Dogs)	7,700 ± 2,200	5,300 ± 4,100	125,200 ± 44,500
Deer (Bow and Arrow)	54,700 ± 5,400	14,300 ± 4,300	605,600 ± 91,500
Deer (Crossbow)	31,500 ± 4,300	8,000 ± 3,100	243,900 ± 51,100
Deer (Primitive Firearms)	115,800 ± 6,800	31,500 ± 5,600	631,800 ± 63,000
Turkey (Excludes Youth)	23,300 ± 3,700	6,000 ± 2,200	132,300 ± 29,000
Hogs	75,700 ± 6,100	500,900 ± 114,600	560,000 ± 153,400

^a Confidence intervals are calculated at $P = 0.05$

Table 2. Reported proportion of hunter kill for deer hunters by weapon type.

Kill Per Person	^a % Modern Firearms Hunters*	% Still Hunters	% Dog Hunters	% Primitive Firearm Hunters	% Archery Hunters	% Crossbow Hunters
0	43	44	72	79	81	82
1	31	31	17	16	14	14
2	14	14	0	3	3	2
3	8	7	6	1	1	2
4	3	3	2	< 1	< 1	1
5	1	1	0	0	1	0
6	1	1	0	0	0	0
7+	< 1	< 1	2	0	0	0
^bMean	1.0	1.0	0.66	0.27	0.26	0.25

^aPercentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

^bMean kill per hunter.

*Modern firearm hunters consist of still and dog hunters.

Table 3. Reported proportion of deer hunter efforts by days and weapon type.

Days Hunted Per Person	^a % Modern Firearms Hunters*	% Still Hunters	% Dog Hunters	% Primitive Firearm Hunters	% Archery Hunters	% Crossbow Hunters
1-5	19	20	23	71	39	57
6-10	23	24	20	21	32	27
11-15	16	16	9	4	12	9
16-20	13	13	16	2	5	3
21-25	7	7	2	< 1	4	1
26-30	11	11	16	1	5	1
31-35	2	2	11	0	1	0
36-40	3	3	2	0	1	1
41-45	1	1	0	< 1	0	1
46-50	1	1	0	< 1	< 1	1
50+	3	3	0	< 1	2	1
^bMean	17.7	17.2	16.7	5.5	11.2	7.8

^aPercentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

^bMean days hunted per hunter.

*Modern firearm hunters consist of still and dog hunters.

Table 4. Percent state-wide deer harvest for antlered, non-antlered, and button bucks by weapon type for 296,212 survey respondents, 2023-24 hunting season.

Weapon Type	Antlered Deer	Button Bucks	Non-Antlered
Still hunt	57.2%	2.7%	40.1%
Dog hunt	53.6%	3.6%	42.9%
Bow and Arrow	30.2%	0.9%	69.0%
Crossbow	46.2%	0.0%	53.9%
Primitive	49.1%	2.3%	48.7%
Total^a	52.2%	2.4%	45.4%

^aTotal consists of the average percent harvest for all weapon types combined.

Table 5. A comparison of hunting statistics for the 2023-24 and 2022-23 deer hunting seasons and the 2024 and 2023 spring turkey hunting seasons and wild hog.

	Hunters		% Change	Harvest		% Change	Days		% Change
	2023-24	2022-23	For	2023-24	2022-23	For	2023-24	2022-23	For Days
			Hunters			Harvest			
Deer (All Methods)	221,500	227,200	-2.5	262,400	217,700	20.5 ^a	5,007,100	4,429,400	13.0 ^a
Deer (Modern Firearms)	207,900	210,400	-1.2	208,600	171,900	21.3 ^a	3,525,900	3,036,100	16.1 ^a
Deer (MF Still Hunt)	206,000	209,800	-1.8	203,300	170,400	193. ^a	3,400,700	2,955,100	15.1 ^a
Deer (MF Dog Hunt)	7,700	7,500	2.7	5,300	1,600	231.3	125,200	81,000	54.6
Deer (Bow and Arrow)	54,700	57,500	-4.9	14,300	12,700	12.6	605,600	591,200	2.4
Deer (Crossbow)	31,500	33,700	-6.5	8,000	6,100	31.1	243,900	240,200	1.5
Deer (Primitive Firearms)	115,800	111,400	3.9	31,500	26,800	17.5	631,800	562,000	12.4
Turkey (Excludes Youth)	22,300	24,400	-8.6	6,000	5,000	20.0	132,300	140,400	-5.8
Hogs	75,700	76,900	-1.6	500,900	393,000	27.5	560,000	463,300	20.9

^a P value for difference is ≤ 0.05 based on non-overlap of confidence intervals.

Table 6. Reported proportion of turkey hunter efforts.

Days Hunted Per Person	% Turkey Hunters
1-5	60
6-10	26
11-15	10
16-20	2
21-25	2
26+	0

Table 7. Reported proportion of hunter kill for turkey hunters.

Kill Per Person	% Turkey Hunters
0	77
1	20
2	3

Table 8. Hunting statistics for the 2023-24 Small Game and Migratory Bird Hunting Seasons based on 296,212 licensed hunters.

Species	Hunters	Harvest	Days
Resident Game			
Squirrel	55,600 ± 5,400 ^a	711,200 ± 116,000	327,200 ± 49,600
Rabbit	20,800 ± 3,600	165,800 ± 71,700	94,100 ± 29,500
Wild Quail	500 ± 580	1,700 ± 3,300	2,000 ± 3,400
Pen-raised Quail	2,200 ± 1,200	42,600 ± 30,700	6,800 ± 7,000
Raccoon	4,900 ± 1,800	34,300 ± 20,000	56,600 ± 55,400
Coyote	18,400 ± 3,400	49,300 ± 16,900	
Bobcat	4,600 ± 1,700	4,600 ± 1,700	
Migratory Game			
Mourning Dove	31,200 ± 4,300	566,200 ± 153,100	110,100 ± 22,000
Eurasian Collared-Dove	4,900 ± 1,800	29,300 ± 18,000	
White-winged Dove	5,500 ± 1,900	51,100 ± 31,900	
Woodcock	4,300 ± 1,700	12,300 ± 13,900	13,600 ± 7,600
Snipe	2,200 ± 1,200	22,500 ± 22,000	7,300 ± 6,400
Gallinule	2,400 ± 1,200	22,800 ± 18,800	27,300 ± 19,600
Duck	77,400 ± 6,100	2,039,700 ± 298,700	856,100 ± 103,500
Goose	13,300 ± 2,900	122,000 ± 61,300	141,500 ± 46,700
Coot	6,700 ± 2,100	117,800 ± 52,900	58,600 ± 26,600
Rails	680 ± 670	1,700 ± 2,100	5,100 ± 6,100

^a Confidence intervals are calculated at $P=0.05$.

Table 9. A comparison of small game hunting statistics by species for the 2023-24 and 2022-23 hunting seasons.

	Hunters		% Change	Harvest		% Change	Days		% Change
	2023-2024	2022-2023	For Hunters	2023-2024	2022-2023	For Harvest	2023-2024	2022-2023	For Days
Resident Game									
Squirrel	55,600	51,200	8.6	711,200	551,400	29.0	327,200	258,900	26.4
Rabbit	20,800	17,700	17.5	165,800	114,200	45.2	94,100	69,100	36.2
Wild quail	500	500	0.0	1,700	^b	-	2,000	3,400	-41.2
Pen-raised quail	2,200	2,500	-12.0	42,600	70,600	-39.7	6,800	6,000	13.3
Raccoon	4,900	3,800	28.9	34,300	20,500	67.3	56,600	46,900	20.7
Coyote	18,400	19,900	-7.5	49,300	53,200	-7.3			
Bobcat	4,600	5,300	-13.2	4,600	4,900	-6.1			
Migratory Game									
Mourning dove	31,200	31,900	-2.2	566,200	535,800	5.7	110,100	105,600	4.3
E. collared-dove	4,900	3,800	28.9	29,300	26,400	11.0			
W.-winged dove	5,500	5,900	-6.8	51,100	93,300	-45.2			
Woodcock	4,300	3,600	19.4	12,300	24,900	-50.6	13,600	19,300	-29.5
Snipe	2,200	3,000	-26.7	22,500	27,400	-17.9	7,300	8,800	-17.0
Gallinule	2,400	1,700	41.2	22,800	40,200	-43.3	27,300	10,000	173.0
Duck	77,400	82,200	-5.8	2,039,700	2,460,000	-17.1	856,100	964,700	-11.3
Goose	13,300	15,800	-15.8	122,000	128,500	-5.1	141,500	158,000	-10.4
Coot	6,700	5,400	24.1	117,800	118,500	-0.6	58,600	34,800	68.4
Rail	680	490	38.8	1,700	2,600	-34.6	5,100	1,400	264.3

P value for difference is ≤ 0.05 based on non-overlap of confidence intervals.

^bNo quail reported harvested.

Table 10. Reported proportion of hunter kill for resident small game and wild hog, 2023-24 hunting season.

Kill Per Person	% Squirrel ^a Hunters	% Rabbit Hunters	% Wild Quail Hunters	% Raccoon Hunters	% Wild Hog Hunters
0	7	20	67	3	17
1-5	31	44	33	59	60
6-10	26	19	0	24	10
11-15	11	6	0	0	5
16-20	9	5	0	0	2
21-25	5	2	0	3	1
26-30	4	0	0	10	2
31-35	2	1	0	0	0
36-40	1	1	0	0	1
41-45	1	0	0	0	< 1
46-50	2	2	0	0	1
51+	3	2	0	0	2
^b Mean	12.9	8.3	3.3	6.9	7.5

^aPercentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

^bMean kill per hunter.

Table 11. Reported proportion of hunter kill for migratory small game, 2023-24 hunting season.

Kill Per Person	% Mourning ^a Dove Hunters	% Woodcock Hunters	% Snipe Hunters	% Gallinule Hunters	% Duck Hunters	% Goose Hunters	% Coot Hunters	% Rail Hunters
0	7	42	8	23	7	22	5	25
1-5	20	46	46	0	17	39	24	75
6-10	24	8	23	69	17	20	22	0
11-15	15	0	8	0	12	8	11	0
16-20	12	0	8	0	12	1	3	0
21-25	5	0	0	0	6	1	5	0
26-30	5	0	0	0	5	0	14	0
31-35	2	0	0	0	1	0	5	0
36-40	2	4	0	0	3	3	0	0
41-45	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
46-50	0	0	0	8	3	0	3	0
51+	6	0	8	0	14	4	8	0
^b Mean	18.9	3.0	10.2	8.9	26.0	9.7	18.7	2.5

^aPercentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

^bMean kill per hunter.

Table 12. Reported proportion of hunter efforts by days for resident small game and wild hog, 2023-24 hunting season.

Days Hunted per Person	% Squirrel ^a Hunters	% Rabbit Hunters	% Wild Quail Hunters	% Raccoon Hunters	% Wild Hog Hunters
1-5	66	83	66	57	59
6-10	24	9	33	22	16
11-15	3	2	0	9	8
16-20	4	1	0	0	5
21-25	< 1	2	0	0	2
26-30	2	2	0	4	5
31-35	0	1	0	0	1
36-40	0	1	0	0	< 1
41-45	0	0	0	0	< 1
46-50	< 1	0	0	0	1
51+	0	0	0	9	2
^b Mean	5.9	4.8	4.0	14.4	9.8

^aPercentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

^bMean days hunted per hunter.

Table 13. Reported proportion of hunter efforts by days for migratory small game, 2023-24 hunting season.

Days Hunted per Person	% Mourning ^a Dove Hunters	% Woodcock Hunters	% Snipe Hunters	% Gallinule Hunters	% Duck Hunters	% Goose Hunters	% Coot Hunters	% Rail Hunters
1-5	82	88	83	57	42	51	55	50
6-10	15	8	8	0	24	14	16	25
11-15	2	4	8	7	10	11	5	25
16-20	0	0	0	14	10	5	13	0
21-25	1	0	0	14	4	7	5	0
26-30	0	0	0	0	3	5	0	0
31-35	0	0	0	7	2	3	5	0
36-40	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
41-45	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
46-50	0	0	0	0	< 1	0	0	0
51+	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Mean	3.6	3.3	3.6	11.4	11.0	11.2	9.1	7.5

^aPercentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

^bMean days hunted per hunter.

Table 14. Total days hunted and total deer harvest by Deer Area (DA) for 1,737 survey respondents, 2023-24 hunting season.

DA	Total Days Hunted	Total Harvest
1	2637	183
2	9589	567
3	1266	81
4	2743	115
5	431	18
6	3088	173
7	329	51
8	308	18
9	1530	71
10	110	4
Totals	22031	1281

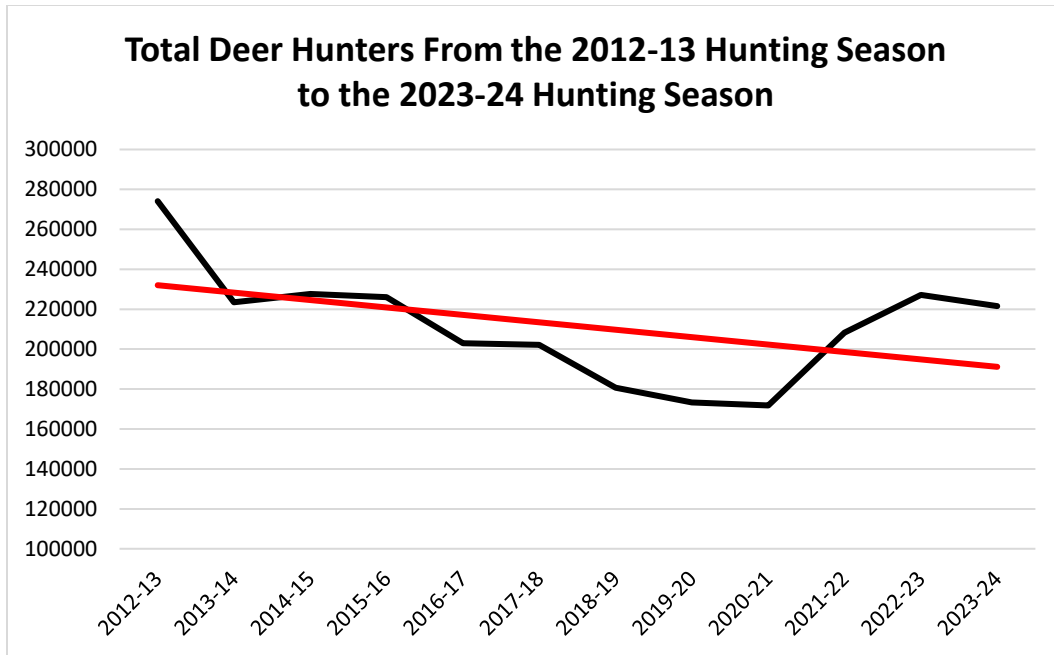


Figure 1. Regression of total number of deer hunters from the 2012-13 hunting season to the 2023-24 hunting season.

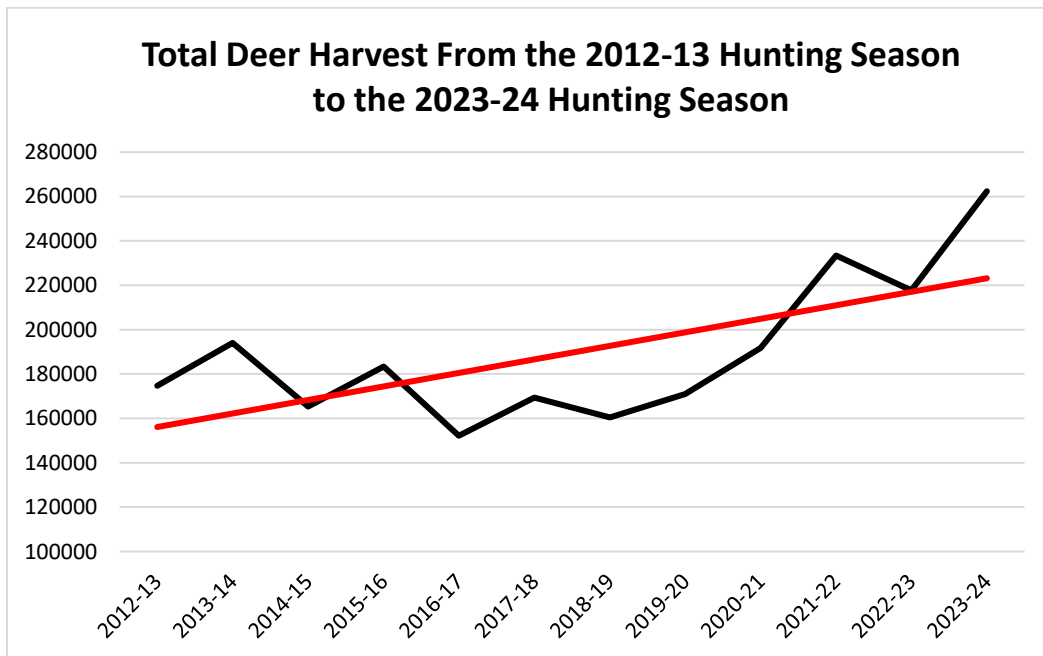


Figure 2 Regression of total deer harvest from the 2012-13 hunting season to the 2023-24 hunting season.

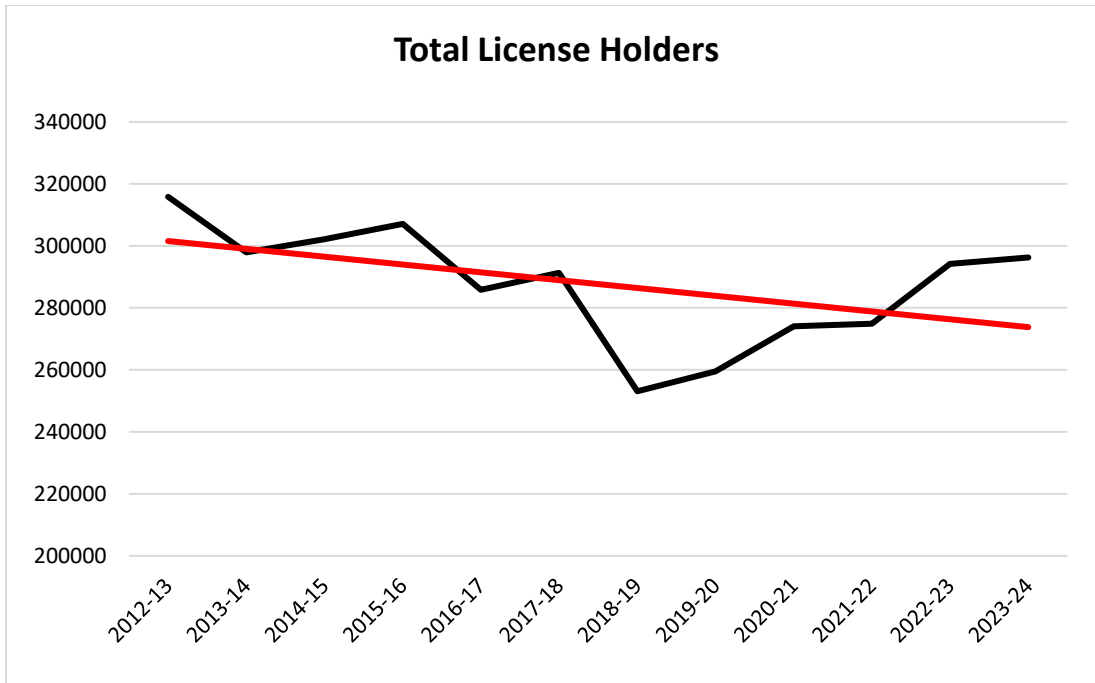


Figure 3. Regression of total number of license holders from the 2012-13 hunting season to the 2023-24 hunting season.

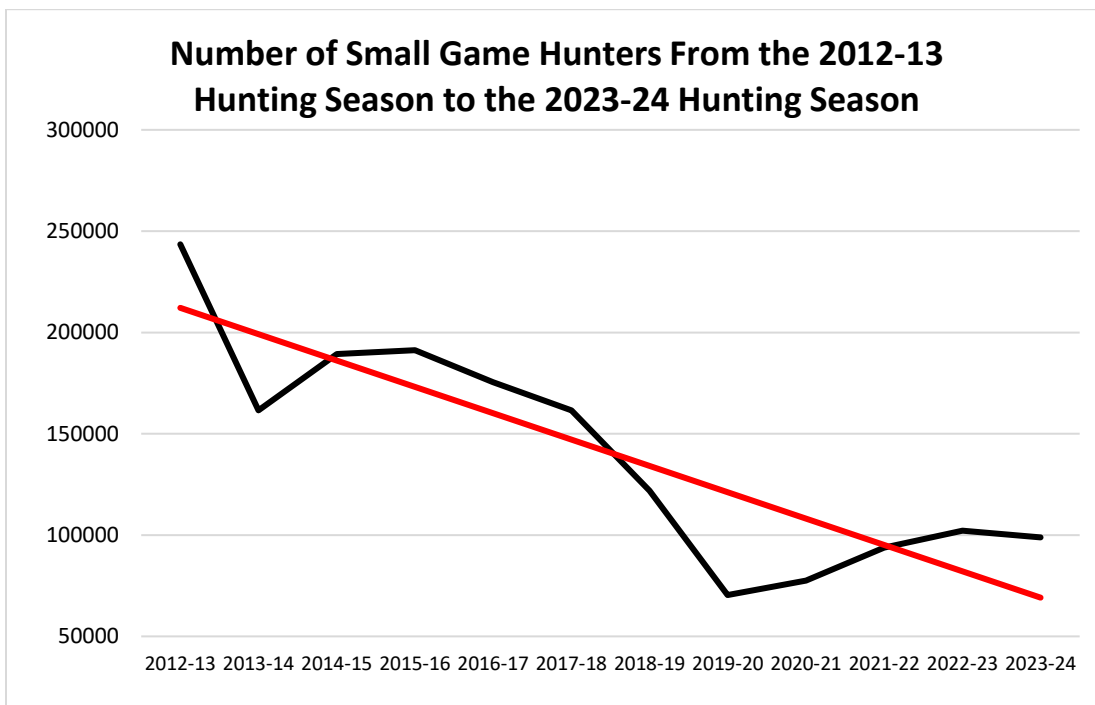


Figure 4. Regression of number of small game hunters from the 2012-13 hunting season to the 2023-24 hunting season.

Appendix 1. Hunter harvest survey.

2023-2024 LOUISIANA GAME HARVEST SURVEY - Online

Did you obtain **deer tags** for the 2023-24 deer season? Yes No

Did you obtain **turkey tags** for the 2023-24 deer season? Yes No

Did you hunt in Louisiana during the 2023-24 season? Yes No

Did you hunt white-tailed deer in Louisiana during the 2023-24 season? Yes No

Please list the number of days you hunted **deer** in Louisiana and your respective harvest by weapon during the 2023-24 deer season:

Modern firearm

- a. Still Hunt Days _____ Deer harvested _____
- b. Hunt with dogs Days _____ Deer harvested _____
- c. **Primitive firearm** Days _____ Deer harvested _____
- d. **Bow and Arrow** Days _____ Deer harvested _____
- e. **Crossbow** Days _____ Deer harvested _____

Total Deer Hunting Days _____ **Total** Deer harvested _____

Please list sex of deer harvested.

	Antlered Buck	Button Buck	Doe
Deer 1.	_____	_____	_____
Deer 2.	_____	_____	_____
Deer 3.	_____	_____	_____
Deer 4.	_____	_____	_____
Deer 5.	_____	_____	_____
Deer 6.	_____	_____	_____

Did you hunt deer on public land in Louisiana (such as a WMA, National Forest, Refuge) during the 2023-2024 season?

Yes No

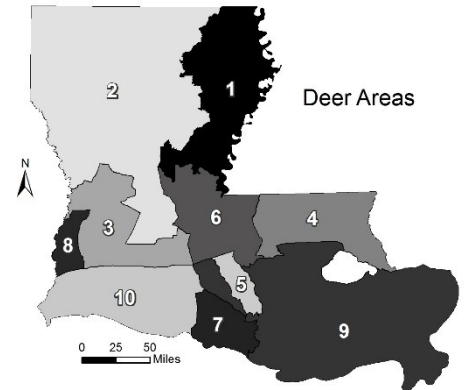
Number of days you hunted deer on public land _____

Number of deer you harvested on public land _____

For each of the Deer Areas (DA) that you hunted deer in during the 2023-24 deer season, record the total number of days you hunted deer by DA, regardless of type of weapon used, and total deer harvested within each DA. Please record the same for the total number of days and deer harvested on public land. If you hunted in a DA or Public Area but did not harvest a deer, record total deer harvested as 0 for that DA or Public Area.

Using the map to determine which Deer Areas (DA) you hunted in, write the total number of days you hunted in each DA and total deer harvested in each DA.

Deer Area	Total Days Hunted	Total Deer Harvested
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
Public Area		



Did you pass (elect not to harvest) any antlered bucks due to deer antler size or estimated age?
 Yes No

If you harvest the first legal antlered buck regardless of antler size and estimated age, did you pass any additional antlered bucks due to antler size or estimated age before harvesting a second antlered buck?
 Yes No

Did you harvest a **bobcat** during the 2023 calendar year?
 Yes No

B. If you harvested a **bobcat**, in what parish was the bobcat harvested? _____

Did you hunt or opportunistically shoot feral **hogs** during the 2023-24 hunting season?
 Yes No

If yes, how many times did you hunt or opportunistically shoot **hogs**, and how many hogs did you harvest during?

#Days _____ Hogs harvested _____

Did you hunt wild **turkey this spring (2024)** in Louisiana?
 Yes No

If yes, how many days did you hunt turkeys in Louisiana?
 Days hunted _____

How many **turkeys** did you harvest this spring?
 Turkeys harvested _____

Did you harvest **coyotes** during the 2023 calendar year?

- Yes No

B. If yes, how many coyotes did you harvest? _____

Did you obtain a HIP (Harvest Information Program) certification for the 2023-2024 migratory bird season?

- Yes No

Did you hunt light geese during the 2023-24 Conservation Order (special goose season when electronic calls can be used)? The special light goose season dates were December 04-15 and January 29-March 03 for the East Zone and December 04-10, January 08-12, and January 29-March 03 for the West Zone.

- Yes No

. How many days did you hunt light geese during the special goose season in December? _____

How many days did you hunt light geese during the special goose season in February and March? _____

In what parish did you hunt light geese most often during the special goose season? _____

How many light geese did you personally shoot and retrieve during this special season? _____

How many light geese did you personally shoot, but were UNABLE to retrieve? _____

How many of the last 5 years have you participated in the light goose conservation order? (Circle one number below)

0 1 2 3 4 5 Years

Compared to other wildlife management and conservation issues, how important is the population control of light geese?

- Not at all important
 Slightly important
 Moderately important
 Very important
 Extremely important

Since being enacted in 1999, how effective or ineffective do you feel the light goose conservation order has been at controlling light goose populations?

- Very ineffective
 Ineffective
 Neither effective nor ineffective
 Effective
 Very effective

What do you believe the current status of the light goose population to be?

- Increasing
 Decreasing
 About the same
 Don't know

How do you view your participation in the light goose conservation order?

- It is the most enjoyable hunting activity I do.
- It is one of the most enjoyable hunting activities I do.
- It is not any more important than other types of hunting I do.
- I would not miss it if were discontinued.

Did you use a professional guide or outfitter the last time you participated in the light goose conservation order?

- No
- Yes

Did you hunt small game mammals OR birds (including waterfowl) in Louisiana during the 2023-2024 hunting season?

- Yes
- No

If you hunted **small game animals and birds** in Louisiana, list the total number of days hunted and the total number harvested for each of the following during the 2022-23 hunting season:

Squirrels-Days Hunted _____ harvested _____

Rabbits-Days Hunted _____ harvested _____

Raccoons -Days Hunted _____ harvested _____

Wild Quail- Days Hunted _____ harvested _____

Pen-Reared Quail-Days Hunted _____ harvested _____

Mourning Doves- Days Hunted _____ harvested _____

White-Winged Doves - Days Hunted _____ harvested _____

Collared- Days Hunted _____ harvested _____

Woodcock- Days Hunted _____ harvested _____

Ducks- Days Hunted _____ harvested _____

Geese- Days Hunted _____ harvested _____

Coots- Days Hunted _____ harvested _____

Snipe- Days Hunted _____ harvested _____

Rails- Days Hunted _____ harvested _____

Gallinules- Days Hunted _____ harvested _____

How many total days did you hunt **small game animals and birds** during the 2023-24 hunting season?

Note:

If you hunted more than one species in a day (such as ducks & geese or squirrels & rabbits) count it as only one day of hunting. **Total Days** __

What is your age?

What is the zip code of your residence?

Please write any comments or questions you have about this survey or hunting in Louisiana in the space below: