

**2024
MIGRATORY GAME BIRD
JOB COMPLETION**

September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024



Photo by A. Anderson

By

Courtney Rudd, Migratory Game Bird and Wetland Biologist
Wyoming Game and Fish Department

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Introduction

In cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (Department) Migratory Game Bird Section (MGBS) conducted annual surveys to derive population indices for management. The MGBS participated in dove banding in coordination with regional partners in the Central Management Unit. Flyway membership dues in 2024 helped support the Central Flyway pre-season duck banding project in North Dakota and funds from the MGBS supported habitat conservation efforts for breeding waterfowl in Prairie Canada. The MGBS remains strongly committed to Central Flyway management efforts, including the development and revision of management plans for the various migratory game bird populations and annual season setting. These processes are accomplished through participation on the Flyway Technical Committee meetings in winter and late summer. Wyoming sends representatives to both the Pacific Flyway and Central Flyway Technical and Council meetings.

Currently, the USFWS Division of Migratory Bird Management (DMBM) establishes migratory game bird regulatory frameworks during an annual meeting in September. Proposed regulations are developed for the subsequent year hunting seasons based on data and analyses available at that time. Experience gained through the Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) process, which began in 1995, indicates the most appropriate regulatory package and can be reliably selected a year in advance based on current year harvest, breeding population, and wetland condition data. The Central and Pacific Flyway Technical Committee and Council meet in August or September each year to formalize regulation selection, and the Technical Committee will meet in February or March to address management plans and other technical issues.

The MGBS is involved in the management of all migratory game birds in the Central and Pacific Flyway portions of Wyoming. The section also coordinates trumpeter swan management with the nongame program and assists with the maintenance of goose hunting pits located on the Springer Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA). Annual projects vary and the Department regularly assists partners in research or management efforts. In the summer of 2024, the section partnered the Wyoming Wetland Society and the nongame section to release 5 captive-raised yearling trumpeter swans at a site in the southwestern Wind River Mountains. Each swan was released with a GPS collar. Future plans include additional yearling releases in the general vicinity of the June 2024 effort.

During the past year, substantial personnel time was devoted to wetland and habitat management projects across the state. Multiple projects at Department WHMAs are underway or in planning stages. Local involvement was maintained in the Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV). The Department participated in the State Conservation Partnership (formerly the Wyoming Bird Habitat Conservation Partnership), which serves both the IWJV and Northern Great Plains Joint Venture (NGPJV) in the state. The IWJV administrative boundary encompasses the majority of Wyoming and the NGPJV encompasses seven counties in northeast Wyoming.

Ducks and Mergansers

Population Surveys

The annual duck breeding ground survey historically flown by the Department was suspended after 1999. Forecasts of fall duck flights are based on trends in duck breeding populations and water conditions on breeding grounds throughout the traditional survey areas in the Northern US and Canada. The traditional survey area does not include Wyoming and survey data historically collected from within Wyoming were not used in developing fall flight predictions.

In 2024, conditions throughout much of the traditional survey areas in Canada continued to decline, with above average winter temperatures, below average winter and early spring precipitation, and above average late spring precipitation, which was not beneficial to nesting efforts. The U.S. prairies were in better condition, improved from 2023. The estimated number of ponds in all of the traditional survey area was 4% greater than the 2023 estimate and 1% lower than the long term average (LTA). The population of breeding ducks was 5% greater compared to 2023 and was 4% below the LTA. Further information is contained in the Waterfowl Population Status report (USFWS, 2024).

A midwinter waterfowl survey is conducted during early January. The number of ducks present in Wyoming is highly influenced by weather conditions and varies substantially from year to year. The mid-winter duck count in the Central Flyway portion of Wyoming was 72% below the long-term average in 2024 (Table 1).

2023-2024 Harvest

In the 2023 season, the Department estimated 66,751 ducks were harvested in Wyoming (Tables 2-4). Since the early 2000s, trends in Wyoming duck harvest have not correlated well with the increasing duck population, possibly due to severe drought that prevailed throughout much of that period. Waterfowl management areas in Wyoming are depicted in Fig. 1.

Mallards are the most prevalent species harvested in Wyoming (Raftovich et al., 2024). American wigeon, blue-winged teal, green-winged teal, and northern pintail are also well represented. Harvest estimates derived from the USFWS's Harvest Information Program (HIP) have consistently deviated from the Department's estimates. These data can be found in Table 5. Historic season dates are summarized in Table 25.

Recommendations

1. Continue to support and participate in the Flyway system of waterfowl management.
2. Continue to support objectives of the Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) program and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.
3. Work with Department personnel, joint ventures, the State Conservation Partnership, Ducks Unlimited, and other interests to identify and develop wetland habitat projects designed to increase local duck production, hold more birds in the spring and fall, and provide additional harvest opportunity.
4. Increase public access within key waterfowl harvest areas statewide.
5. Provide technical consultation to recommend and implement wetland management practices that attract and hold additional waterfowl on Commission-owned WHMAs.
6. Provide biological information when requested and make recommendations to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the development and eventual management of refuge lands.
7. Support duck banding efforts in both the Central and Pacific Flyways.
8. Engage in state and regional research efforts to inform migratory game bird management and wetland habitat conservation.
9. Review and critique federal policies and regulations affecting waterfowl management in Wyoming.

WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREAS IN WYOMING

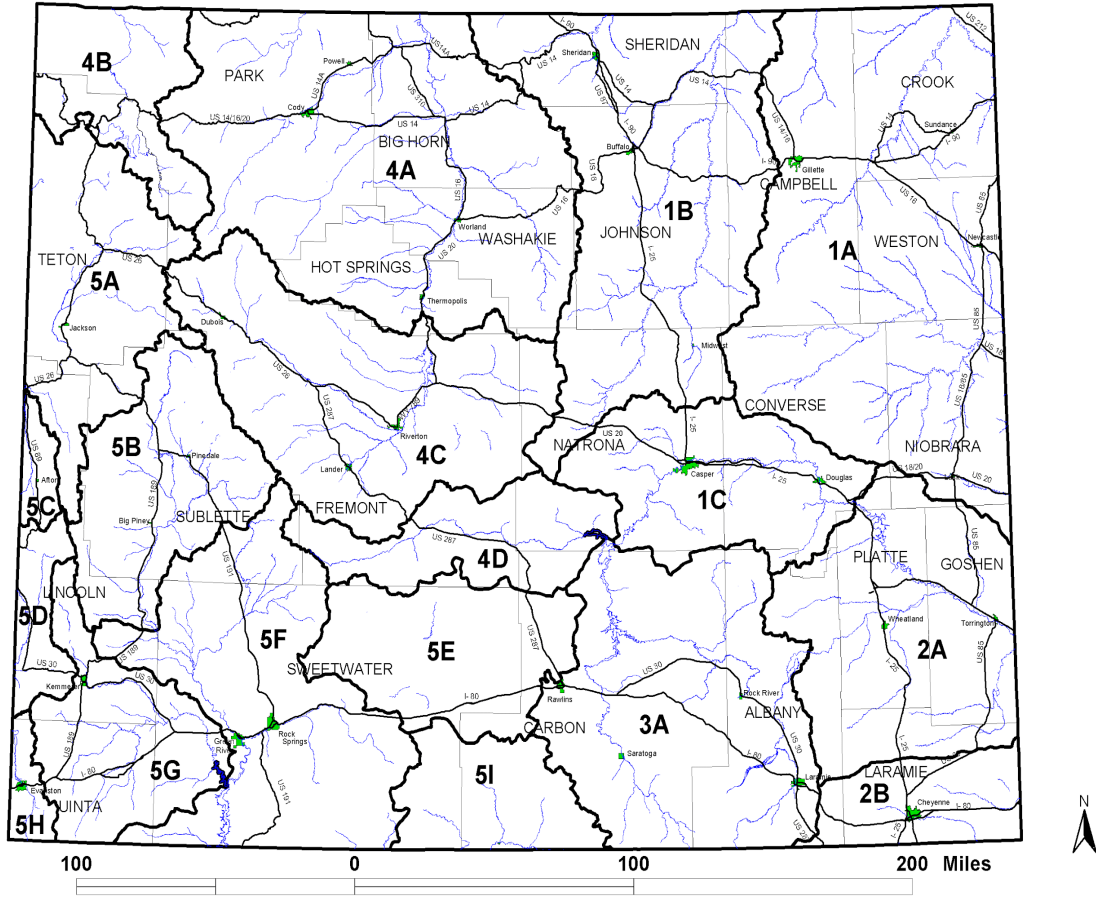


Fig. 1. Waterfowl management areas in Wyoming.

Table 1. Changes in ducks and mergansers counted during the mid-winter survey in Wyoming, 2023 to 2024.

Species	2024	2023	Percent Change from 2023	LTA ^a	Percent Change from LTA
Mallard	15,306	11,467	+33	48,762	-76
Gadwall	0	0	-	731	-
American wigeon	0	0	-	827	-
Green-winged teal	0	0	-	376	-
Northern shoveler	0	0	-	11	-
Northern pintail	0	0	-	144	-
Wood duck	0	0	-	16	-
Redhead	0	0	-	11	-
Canvasback	0	0	-	0	-
Scaup	0	0	-	21	-
Ringneck	0	0	-	79	-
Goldeneye	1,346	2,255	-40	6,930	-67
Bufflehead	0	0	-	93	-
Ruddy duck	0	0	-	6	-
Mergansers	996	159	+526	2,048	-92
TOTAL	17,648	13,881	+27	62,435	-72

^aLong Term Average from 1992-2023

Source: WGFD data published in Cooper, 2024

Table 2. Duck harvest and hunter activity by flyway 2019-2023.

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Central Flyway					
No. Hunters	5,197	6,287	5,466	3,219	4,702
No. Days	29,002	37,506	29,422	18,343	24,479
Harvest	49,155	64,034	46,397	31,915	41,881
Pacific Flyway					
No. Hunters	1,864	2,043	2,065	1,095	1,593
No. Days	8,507	10,246	11,712	6,731	8,020
Harvest	17,596	16,939	19,735	10,955	15,305
Total					
No. Hunters	7,061	7,862	6,929	3,919	5,767
No. Days	37,509	47,752	41,134	25,074	32,499
Harvest	66,751	80,973	66,132	42,870	57,186

Source: WGFD 2019-2023

Table 3. Duck harvest and hunter activity within waterfowl management areas in the Central Flyway of Wyoming.

Management Area			2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Missouri/Cheyenne/ Little Powder Rivers	1A	No. Hunters	339	365	216	139	216
		No. Days	1,803	1,683	1,005	623	737
		Harvest	3,367	2,723	1,417	946	1,324
Tongue/Little Big Horn /Powder Rivers	1B	No. Hunters	367	296	323	165	273
		No. Days	1,631	1,524	1,326	1,087	1,339
		Harvest	2,520	3,516	1,177	2,817	2,964
Central North Platte River	1C	No. Hunters	1,134	996	793	431	662
		No. Days	7,575	6,448	5,223	2,835	4,534
		Harvest	11,464	11,915	9,246	4,831	7,177
Lower North Platte River	2A	No. Hunters	948	1,243	1,092	656	1,208
		No. Days	4,491	6,438	5,796	3,989	5,205
		Harvest	8,625	9,364	8,530	4,541	7,248
South Platte River	2B	No. Hunters	96	234	185	64	166
		No. Days	639	1,180	805	550	998
		Harvest	1,459	1,582	1,522	1,262	1,770
Upper North Platte River	3A	No. Hunters	493	531	545	413	428
		No. Days	3,006	3,183	2,130	2,534	1,917
		Harvest	4,319	6,399	3,843	5,517	3,390
Big Horn River	4A	No. Hunters	1,116	1,573	1,445	642	1,140
		No. Days	5,850	11,474	8,373	3,516	6,947
		Harvest	10,570	19,489	13,751	5,803	13,200
Yellowstone River	4B	No. Hunters	7	36	5	37	23
		No. Days	20	89	16	148	31
		Harvest	40	217	5	370	25
Wind River	4C	No. Hunters	637	912	776	521	521
		No. Days	3,743	5,052	4,083	2,558	2,457
		Harvest	6,387	7,935	6,392	4,898	4,126
Sweetwater River	4D	No. Hunters	60	101	86	151	65
		No. Days	244	435	665	503	314
		Harvest	404	894	514	930	657
Total Central Flyway		No. Hunters	5,197	6,287	5,466	3,219	4,702
		No. Days	29,002	37,506	29,422	18,343	24,479
		Harvest	49,155	64,034	46,397	31,915	41,881

Source: WGFD 2019-2023

Table 4. Duck harvest and hunter activity within waterfowl management areas in the Pacific Flyway of Wyoming.

Management Area			2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Snake River	5A	No. Hunters	269	340	303	302	254
		No. Days	1,130	1,578	1,509	1,535	1,477
		Harvest	2,113	2,593	2,684	2,056	2,357
Upper Green River Basin	5B	No. Hunters	271	319	208	93	164
		No. Days	1,227	1,885	1,173	301	741
		Harvest	2,854	2,474	1,803	476	1,297
Salt River	5C	No. Hunters	229	179	286	64	234
		No. Days	1,352	880	2,016	416	1,996
		Harvest	2,977	1,964	3,028	502	4,308
Lower Bear River	5D	No. Hunters	117	60	214	87	148
		No. Days	507	215	2,047	284	720
		Harvest	1,051	527	2,705	492	1,751
Great Divide Basin	5E	No. Hunters	15	55	20	53	82
		No. Days	15	249	189	395	357
		Harvest	29	284	73	1,534	556
Lower Green River Basin	5F	No. Hunters	470	538	511	199	467
		No. Days	2,254	2,650	2,210	1,380	1,543
		Harvest	4,653	3,965	4,165	2,350	2,805
Ham's/Black's Fork	5G	No. Hunters	264	54	32	23	47
		No. Days	992	486	96	46	535
		Harvest	2,235	1,385	290	89	923
Upper Bear River	5H	No. Hunters	146	395	408	217	144
		No. Days	581	1,887	2,283	1,534	518
		Harvest	1,193	3,028	4,567	2,795	791
Little Snake River	5I	No. Hunters	83	103	83	57	53
		No. Days	449	416	189	840	133
		Harvest	491	719	420	661	517
Total Pacific Flyway		No. Hunters	1,864	2,043	2,065	1,095	1,593
		No. Days	8,507	10,246	11,712	6,731	8,020
		Harvest	17,596	16,939	19,735	10,955	15,305

Source: WGFD 2019-2023

Table 5. HIP estimates of duck harvest and hunter activity in Wyoming during the 2021-2023 hunting seasons.

Duck Species Composition	2023		2022		2021	
		%		%		%
Mallard	28,997	62.5	6,166	31.9	14,587	63.1
Gadwall	414	0.9	2,467	12.7	785	3.4
American Wigeon	1,657	3.6	2,941	15.2	3,352	14.5
Green-winged teal	6,214	13.4	2,467	12.7	1,812	7.8
Blue-winged Teal/Cinnamon teal	4,557	9.8	1,897	9.8	1,117	4.8
Northern shoveler	828	1.8	759	3.9	211	0.9
Northern pintail	1,657	3.6	474	2.4	393	1.7
Wood duck	414	0.9	95	0.5	272	1.2
Redhead	0	0.0	95	0.5	30	0.1
Canvasback	0	0.0	95	0.5	60	0.3
Lesser scaup	0	0.0	95	0.5	60	0.3
Ring-necked duck	0	0.0	854	4.4	211	0.9
Goldeneyes	1,657	3.6	379	2.0	91	0.4
Bufflehead	0	0.0	0	0.0	30	0.1
Ruddy duck	0	0.0	474	2.4	0	0.0
Hooded merganser	0	0.0	95	0.5	0	0.0
Other mergansers	0	0.0	0	0.0	30	0.1
Other ducks	0	0.0	0	0.0	60	0.3
Total Duck Harvest	46,400		19,353		23,101	
Total Active Duck Hunters	4,800		3,300		3,700	
Total Duck Hunter Days a Field	23,800		8,900		19,400	
Seasonal Harvest Per Hunter	10		5.8		6.2	
Sample Sizes	112		204		765	

Source: Raftovich et al. 2024

Geese

Hi-Line Population of Canada Geese

Population Surveys

The range wide count of HLP Canada geese was 329,000 during spring of 2024, down 1% from the 10 year LTA. Wetland conditions were mixed in the Canadian portion, with some drought still present. The HLP range in southern Alberta, southern Saskatchewan, and western Montana was generally good.

State and federal agencies conduct the MWS throughout the US during the first full week in January. The purpose is to estimate the continental population and distribution of wintering waterfowl. Numbers of geese present in Wyoming during the winter period can fluctuate markedly from year to year and within a year dependent on seasonal weather and water conditions. The 2024 count was 31.1% lower than that of 2023, and 27.2% lower than the 5-year average (Table 6).

2023-24 Harvest

According to the state harvest survey, during the 2023-24 hunting season, harvest of Hi-Line and CFAN geese decreased by 58% from 2022 (Table 7). Harvest fluctuations from year to year tend to be more related to weather influences on goose distribution rather than to actual changes in the total population. Historic season dates are summarized in Table 26.

During 2023-24, the standard shooting hours for dark geese were ½ hour before sunrise until sunset except within the following areas: Goshen County north of Wyoming Highway 313 on the west side of U.S. Highway 85, and north of County Road 32 on the east side of U.S. Highway 85. Within these defined areas, the shooting hours were ½ hour before sunrise until 1:00 p.m., except when all-day hunting was allowed September 30 through October 11 and on all Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays from November 18 through the close of the dark goose season. This was a change from previous years to the time period when and boundary description of where the restricted hunting hours apply.

Rocky Mountain Population of Canada Geese

Population Surveys

Spring population surveys of the Rocky Mountain Population (RMP) of Canada geese are based on the spring waterfowl breeding survey, as well as several state surveys. The 2023 estimate was approximately 320,000, 2% below the 10 year LTA.

In January 2024, 17,311 geese were counted in the Wyoming Central Flyway portion of the RMP range compared to 14,910 geese in 2023 (Table 6). Again, these counts vary markedly from year to year depending on weather conditions.

2023-24 Harvest

Early Season

Regulations governing Wyoming's early Canada goose season are summarized in Table 26. Wyoming does not offer an early Canada goose season in the Central Flyway portion of the RMP range. The justification for a September hunting season is to reduce damage problems by moving birds off private irrigated hay meadows and croplands while providing additional recreational hunting opportunities. In 2023, the early season harvest comprised 34% of the total goose harvest in the Pacific Flyway (Tables 9 and 10).

Regular Season

Canada goose harvests during the regular waterfowl hunting season are summarized in Tables 7, 8, and 10. RMP (Western) Canada geese comprise most of the harvest in the management areas that constitute the Central Flyway portion of their range, and almost all geese harvested in the Pacific Flyway. The estimated total regular season harvest of all RMP geese in both flyways was 9,721 (Table 7).

Central Flyway Arctic Nesting Canada Geese

Population Surveys

The West-tier CFAN nests on Victoria and Jenny Lind Islands and on the Canadian mainland from Queen Maud Gulf west and south to the Mackenzie River and northern Alberta. West-tier CFAN geese migrate through Wyoming each fall and spring and a small number winter in Wyoming. The 2024 MWS index across the Central Flyway was 505,497 (Cooper, 2024). During the 2024 MWS in Wyoming, 1,688 CFAN geese were counted (Table 6). Since 1999, ground surveys have been conducted as an alternative means to classify large and small Canada

geese present in Carbon, Converse, Goshen, Natrona, and Platte counties in conjunction with the MWS.

Western Central Flyway Population of Light Geese

Population Surveys

The Western Central Flyway Population is comprised of over two-thirds lesser snow geese and nearly one third Ross' geese. These geese breed in the central and western Canadian Arctic. Large colonies are present at Queen Maude Gulf and Banks Island.

State and federal agencies conduct the mid-winter waterfowl survey during the first two weeks of January to estimate continental populations of wintering waterfowl. In January 2024, 320,986 light geese were counted throughout the U.S. portion of the Western Central Flyway population's winter range (Cooper, 2024). Generally, very few light geese are present in Wyoming during December and January.

2023-24 Harvest

The most recent light goose hunting regulations are summarized in Table 25. In 2024, the Department implemented the 24th consecutive year of the Light Goose Conservation Order (Table 25). Participants were required to purchase a Conservation Order Special Management Permit and complete a survey card provided with the permit. Use of electronic callers and hunting one-half hour after sunset were allowed. Light goose harvest during the Conservation Order is summarized in Table 11. Regular season harvest is summarized by federal HIP surveys (Raftovich, 2024). Very few light geese are harvested during the regular hunting season.

Recommendations

1. Continue to maintain liberal hunting seasons and bag limits.
2. Continue harvest surveys.
3. Continue the mid-winter waterfowl survey.
4. Continue ground classifications during the mid-winter waterfowl survey to estimate proportions of HLP and CFAN (large and small) Canada geese that are present.
5. Support management based on a single population of arctic-nesting, white-cheeked geese.
6. Continue the general, early Canada goose hunt in the Pacific Flyway portion of Wyoming to address local damage problems.
7. Continue to implement the Light Goose Conservation Order in Wyoming.

Table 6. Central Flyway mid-winter surveys of white-cheeked geese in Wyoming, 2020-2024.

Population	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	Average
Hi-line	14,976	30,483	48,905	18,270	25,787	27,684
CFAN	1,688	3,886	8,147	3,214	4,618	4,311
RMP	17,311	14,910	21,049	9,705	10,318	14,659
Total White-Cheeked Geese	33,975	49,279	78,101	31,189	40,723	46,653

Source: WGFD data published in Cooper 2022-2024, Dubovsky 2012-2021

Table 7. Regular Season Hunter Activity and Harvest of Hi-Line, RMP, and CFAN geese in Wyoming.

Population	2023	2022	Percent Change 2022-2023	Average 2007-2022	Percent Above/Below Average
Hi-Line & CFAN					
No. Hunters	3,281	4,437	-26	3,001	+9
No. Rec. Days	16,940	25,607	-34	16,404	+3
Harvest	17,338	41,213	-58	18,811	-8
RMP Central Flyway					
No. Hunters	1,406	2,326	-40	1,371	+3
No. Rec. Days	6,219	12,877	-52	7,621	-18
Harvest	7,393	19,956	-63	9,565	-23
RMP Pacific Flyway					
No. Hunters	885	963	-8	1,113	-20
No. Rec. Days	3,994	4,761	-16	4,358	-8
Harvest	2,328	2,056	+13	2,738	-15
Total Harvest					
No. Hunters	5,412	7,407	-27	5,484	-1
No. Rec. Days	27,153	43,245	-37	28,382	-4
Harvest	27,059	63,225	-57	31,115	-13
Birds/Hunter	5.0	8.5	-41	5.7	-12

Source: WGFD 2008-2024

Table 8. White-cheeked goose harvest in the Central Flyway of Wyoming

Management Area		2023	2022	2021	Percent Change 2022-2023	Average 2007- 2022	Percent Above/Below Average
Missouri/Cheyenne/ Little Powder Rivers	1A No. Hunters	259	309	284	-16	195	+33
	No. Rec. Days	1,504	1,477	1,634	+2	758	+98
	Harvest	950	1,798	891	-47	1,032	-8
Tongue/Little Big Horn /Powder Rivers	1B No. Hunters	200	240	217	-17	169	+19
	No. Rec. Days	929	1,089	819	-15	672	+38
	Harvest	781	1,094	944	-29	598	+31
Central North Platte River	1C No. Hunters	680	893	745	-24	551	+23
	No. Rec. Days	4,418	5,169	3,565	-15	3,049	+45
	Harvest	2,875	5,670	4,005	-49	2,368	+21
Lower North Platte River	2A No. Hunters	1,861	2,544	2,305	-27	1,836	+1
	No. Rec. Days	8,563	15,210	21,695	-44	10,713	-20
	Harvest	11,661	29,473	12,409	-60	13,758	-15
South Platte River	2B No. Hunters	82	177	143	-54	88	-7
	No. Rec. Days	424	967	1,303	-56	445	-5
	Harvest	429	1,354	742	-68	475	-10
Upper North Platte River	3A No. Hunters	199	274	229	-27	162	+23
	No. Rec. Days	1,102	1,695	690	-35	766	+44
	Harvest	642	1,824	883	-65	580	+11
Big Horn River	4A No. Hunters	1,002	1,574	1,534	-36	934	+7
	No. Rec. Days	3,969	9,318	11,851	-57	5,730	-31
	Harvest	5,755	16,450	8,974	-65	7,379	-22
Yellowstone River	4B No. Hunters	18	25	15	-28	21	-14
	No. Rec. Days	43	42	5	+2	60	-28
	Harvest	129	112	25	+15	44	+195
Wind River	4C No. Hunters	353	628	436	-44	387	-9
	No. Rec. Days	2,083	3,040	2,314	-31	1,720	+21
	Harvest	1,474	2,719	2,199	-46	2,011	-27
Sweetwater River	4D No. Hunters	33	99	87	-67	28	+16
	No. Rec. Days	124	477	452	-74	112	+10
	Harvest	35	675	560	-95	131	-73

Source: WGFD 2008-2023

Table 9. Hunter activity and harvest of white-checked geese during the early season in the Pacific Flyway of Wyoming.

Population			2023	2022	2021	Percent Change 2022- 2023	Average 2007-2022	Percent Above/Below Average
Snake River	5A	No. Hunters	61	95	72	-36	77	-21
		Hunter Days	130	266	FALSE	-51	179	-27
		Harvest	251	426	241	-41	218	+15
Upper Green River	5B	No. Hunters	50	39	49	+28	42	+18
		Hunter Days	83	61	171	+36	93	-11
		Harvest	82	121	135	-32	91	-10
Salt River	5C	No. Hunters	38	42	78	-10	66	-42
		Hunter Days	112	87	141	+29	158	-29
		Harvest	159	153	251	+4	178	-10
Lower Bear River	5D	No. Hunters	55	5	70	+1000	47	+17
		Hunter Days	132	5	284	+2540	111	+19
		Harvest	110	10	184	+1000	94	+17
Great Divide Basin	5E	No. Hunters	0	0	-	-	2	-100
		Hunter Days	0	0	-	-	3	-100
		Harvest	0	0	-	-	2	-100
Lower Green River	5F	No. Hunters	146	143	235	+2	143	+2
		Hunter Days	326	355	864	-8	327	-0
		Harvest	432	345	799	+25	317	+36
Ham's Fork-Black's Fork	5G	No. Hunters	93	29	19	+221	58	+60
		Hunter Days	183	37	64	+395	126	+46
		Harvest	123	15	67	+720	113	+9
Upper Bear River	5H	No. Hunters	45	142	76	-68	38	+19
		Hunter Days	93	443	562	-79	107	-13
		Harvest	22	223	407	-90	84	-74
Little Snake River	5I	No. Hunters	7	5	-	+40	7	-3
		Hunter Days	7	25	-	-72	13	-45
		Harvest	0	15	-	-100	13	-100
Total	No. Hunters		464	486	594	-5	480	-3
	Hunter Days		1066	1279	2315	-17	1117	-5
	Harvest		1179	1308	2084	-10	1108	+6
	Birds/Hunter		2.54	2.69	3.51	-6	2.30	+10

Source: WGFD 2008-2023

Table 10. White-cheeked goose harvest of during the regular season in the Pacific Flyway of Wyoming.

Management Area		2023	2022	Percent Change 2022-2023	Average 2007- 2022	Percent Above/Below Average
Snake River	5A No. Hunters	132	102	+29	149	-11
	No. Rec. Days	538	284	+89	513	+5
	Harvest	439	269	+63	400	+10
Upper Green River Basin	5B No. Hunters	119	109	+9	113	+5
	No. Rec. Days	570	852	-33	406	+40
	Harvest	250	131	+91	225	+11
Salt River	5C No. Hunters	99	96	+3	146	-32
	No. Rec. Days	441	357	+24	690	-36
	Harvest	180	168	+7	437	-59
Lower Bear River	5D No. Hunters	68	51	+33	101	-32
	No. Rec. Days	486	160	+204	387	+26
	Harvest	688	151	+356	280	+145
Great Divide Basin	5E No. Hunters	0	25	-100	13	-100
	No. Rec. Days	0	232	-100	60	-100
	Harvest	0	205	-100	58	-100
Lower Green River Basin	5F No. Hunters	218	305	-29	315	-31
	No. Rec. Days	961	1,472	-35	1299	-26
	Harvest	492	611	-19	753	-35
Ham's/Black's Fork	5G No. Hunters	145	22	+559	132	+10
	No. Rec. Days	576	387	+49	511	+13
	Harvest	191	52	+267	263	-27
Upper Bear River	5H No. Hunters	92	201	-54	121	-24
	No. Rec. Days	410	865	-53	410	+0
	Harvest	81	212	-62	260	-69
Little Snake River	5I No. Hunters	12	52	-77	24	-51
	No. Rec. Days	12	152	-92	82	-85
	Harvest	7	257	-97	62	-89

Source: WGFD 2008-2023

Table 11. Harvest and hunter activity for the Wyoming light goose conservation order 2020-2024.

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	Average
Permits Sold	179	166	225	175	189	187
Total Survey Respondents	53	60	61	51	77	60
% Responded	30	36.0	39.0	29.0	41.0	35
Active Hunters	142	124	178	134	140	144
Total Days Hunted	726	423	712	471	407	548
Days/Hunter	5	3	4	4	7	5
Geese Harvested	1604	1345	2445	1261	805	1492
Geese Knocked Down, but not retrieved	71	44	33	51	37	47
Total Harvest	1675	1389	2478	1312	842	1539
Harvest/Hunter	12	11	14	10	6	11

Source: WGFD 2024

Sandhill Cranes

Rocky Mountain Population of Sandhill Cranes

Population Surveys

The principal index used to monitor Rocky Mountain Population (RMP) sandhill cranes is derived from a multi-state cooperative survey of pre-migration staging areas conducted during September. The 2023 count totaled 27,267 cranes (Table 12). Annual production is estimated by classifying the proportion of juveniles within the crane population staging in the San Luis Valley, Colorado in October. The recruitment rate during the 2023 survey was 11.9% (Table 13).

September crane surveys conducted on established and experimental survey areas in Wyoming are summarized in Table 14. In 2023, 5,527 cranes were counted in RMP staging areas of central and western Wyoming.

In the Pacific Flyway portion of Wyoming, crane counts are conducted in mid-September after the crane hunting season has ended. Informal, late August counts of cranes flying off roosts suggest crane numbers may be higher just prior to hunts in the upper Salt River and the Big Sandy/Eden Reservoirs. Therefore, the number of cranes counted during pre-migration staging surveys in the Salt River, Bear River, Uinta, and Farson hunt areas may not be representative of cranes actually present at the start of the crane hunt.

Early hunting seasons are designed to reduce crop depredation by shifting the distribution of cranes away from agricultural fields. The limited harvest has minimal impact on the breeding population of cranes in Wyoming, but crane and concurrent early goose hunts in the Pacific Flyway portion of Wyoming may account for some changes in distribution (Rod Drewein, pers. com., Lockman et al. 1987).

The distribution of staging cranes has expanded in recent years. An area near Worland was added to the Bighorn Basin survey area in 2007. There is also a substantial influx of cranes, presumably from Montana, after surveys are completed in both the Wind River Basin and Bighorn Basin.

2023 Harvest

The Pacific and Central Flyway Management Plan for the Rocky Mountain Population of Sandhill Cranes allows regulated harvest of cranes when the population index exceeds 15,000 based on an average of the 3 most recent reliable surveys conducted on the fall pre-migration staging areas. A prescriptive model is used to allocate annual harvest among states. Wyoming's 2023 harvest allocation slightly decreased to 326 cranes. The number of permits issued has been approximately twice the allowable harvest allocation based on our experience of permit success.

During 2023, 215 cranes were harvested in the seven Wyoming hunt areas (Table 15). Permit success ranged from 19% in Area 2 to 47% in Area 4, with an average of 36%. Hunter success averaged 52% across all hunt areas. Harvest rates fluctuate from year to year in all 7 hunt areas. Changes in harvest rates appear to be influenced by permit numbers and crane availability in any given year. Shifts in crane distribution are likely responsible for some fluctuations in harvest and hunter success. Land use changes including conversions from agriculture to subdivisions, changes in grain crop type and distribution, and reduced hunter access also appear to impact hunter success in some hunt areas, particularly in the Bear River and Star Valley hunt areas. RMP crane hunting seasons are summarized in Table 24.

Mid-Continent Population of Sandhill Cranes

Population Surveys

The Mid-Continent Population (MCP) of sandhill cranes is comprised predominantly of lesser sandhill cranes (*Grus canadensis canadensis*), and includes components of the greater subspecies (*G. c. tabida*). Since 1982, the MCP remained comparatively stable for many years, but has increased in recent years. The photo-corrected, 3-year average for 2024 was 819,494 cranes, which is above the established population-objective range of 350,000- 475,000 cranes.

Cranes affiliated with the Mid-Continent Population do not nest in Wyoming. Most of the migration bypasses Wyoming to the east. Significant spring and fall staging has been documented in Wyoming in recent years. The past few years, 7,000-15,000 cranes have stopped to rest during daylight hours at Keyhole Reservoir around the 10th to 30th of October. In March of 2024, 9,705 cranes were counted on and around Table Mountain WHMA (Table 16).

2023 Harvest

Recent harvest statistics for mid-continent sandhill cranes are summarized in Table 17. During the 2023 season, 159 MCP sandhill cranes were harvested in Wyoming according to HIP surveys. The Department began including Area 7 in its harvest survey in 2022, and estimated 173 cranes were harvested in 2023. As mentioned above, most MCP cranes pass east of Wyoming. Those that migrate through Wyoming do so over the course of a few days and do not stage in predictable concentrations. The timing of migration also varies from year to year. Consequently, most hunting is opportunistic, though permit application and harvest numbers have been increasing in recent years.

Recommendations

1. Continue the RMP harvest survey to estimate harvest and hunter activity.
2. Continue the coordinated spring survey of mid-continent sandhill cranes staging at Table Mountain WHMA.
3. Continue to monitor changes in RMP crane distribution.
4. Continue to monitor the success rate of RMP crane hunters to assure Wyoming's harvest allocation is not exceeded.
5. Continue to monitor the success rate of RMP crane hunters to afford meaningful hunting opportunities, especially in areas where crop damage has been documented.
6. Continue to survey cranes on fall pre-migration staging areas.

Table 12. September pre-migration staging area counts by state of the Rocky Mountain Population of greater sandhill cranes.

Year	Colorado ^a	Idaho	Montana	Utah	Wyoming	Total
1987	1,443	10,686	1,447	1,578	2,327	17,481
1992	3,181	5,801	5,264	2,810	2,248	19,304
1995	2,284	6,864	3,681	1,528	1,671	16,028
1996	1,255	8,334	2,974	1,849	2,526	16,938
1997	1,604	8,132	3,595	2,450	2,255	18,036
1998	1,273	8,067	3,415	2,185	3,162	18,102
1999	1,102	8,761	3,141	2,292	4,205	19,501
2000	749	9,337	3,598	2,416	3,890	19,990
2001	666	7,160	4,585	1,522	2,626	16,559
2002	1,355	7,698	4,843	1,869	3,038	18,803
2003	745	7,822	4,964	2,546	3,446	19,523
2004	1,410	7,152	4,637	2,239	3,072	18,510
2005	1,052	7,668	5,588	2,646	3,911	20,865
2007	1,743	8,262	6,509	2,401	3,907	22,822
2008	1,080	6,123	6,419	3,708	3,826	21,156
2009	1,162	6,934	6,329	2,283	3,613	20,321
2010	985	5,776	7,335	3,242	3,726	21,064
2011	1,347	5,029	6,642	1,498	2,978	17,494
2012	413	3,432	5,876	2,109	3,587	15,417
2013	1,594	5,228	7,218	2,732	3,588	20,360
2014	1,258	6,064	6,555	2,783	3,008	19,668
2015	1,089	6,454	9,493	3,698	3,596	24,330
2016 ^b	1,135	5,445	7,507	3,298	4,879	22,264
2017	1,658	4,066	7,149	2,994	3,725	19,592
2018	1,908	4,469	7,553	2,770	5,101	21,801
2019	1,879	4,428	7,511	3,106	4,366	21,290
2020	1,446	5,096	9,264	3,222	6,608	25,636
2021	3,141	3,091	7,783	3,889	6,059	23,963
2022	1,526	3,957	6,844	2,330	3,975	18,632
2023	1,740	4,200	10,169	5,631	5,527	27,267
Mean	1,441	6,385	5,930	2,654	3,682	20,091

^a Colorado counts include migrants that had arrived at the staging areas in the San Luis Valley.

^b Wyoming added six new survey areas per management plan guidelines.

Source: Thorpe et.al., 2024

Table 13. Population and allowable harvest of RMP Cranes.

Year	September Total	3 Year Population Average	Recruitment Rate	3 Year Recruitment Average	Total Allowable Harvest	Wyoming Allowable Harvest
1999	19,501	18,546	8.4	9.8	966	71
2000	19,990	19,198	6.7	8.8	1,128	95
2001	16,559	18,683	5.8	7.0	1,163	110
2002	18,803	18,451	5.2	5.9	829	79
2003	19,523	18,295	7.1	6.0	668	67
2004	18,510	18,945	9.4	7.2	660	66
2005	20,865	19,633	10.8	9.1	910	86
2006	Cancelled	19,633	9.9	10.0	1,320	123
2007	22,822	20,732	8.3	9.7	1,456	136
2008	21,156	21,614	9.1	9.1	1,744	165
2009	20,321	21,433	11.5	9.6	1,940	188
2010	21,064	20,847	8.4	9.6	1,985	193
2011	17,494	19,626	6.6	8.8	1,780	175
2012	15,417	17,992	7.8	7.6	1,275	123
2013	20,360	17,757	6.6	7.0	774	80
2014	19,668	18,482	10.3	8.2	677	70
2015	24,330	21,453	11.3	9.4	937	94
2016	22,264	22,087	8.8	10.2	1,946	188
2017	19,592	22,062	7.9	9.4	2,362	241
2018	21,801	21,219	7.9	8.2	2,168	211
2019	21,290	20,894	8.9	8.2	1,628	169
2020	25,636	22,909	9.7	8.8	1,536	168
2021	23,963	23,630	8.7	9.1	2,378	289
2022	18,632	22,744	10.7	9.7	2,778	348
2023	27,267	23,287	11.9	10.5	2,546	326

Source: FWS unpublished data

Table 14. Pre-migration staging areas and associated September estimates.

Survey Area	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
(1) Baggs	9	25	4	9	13	6	21	4	0	0	5	0	0	0	2	0	2	NS	5	0	4	3
(2) Bear River Valley	982	886	1,073	741	369	1,046	148	909	692	163	379	490	539	488	153	264	510	NS	96	149	233	246
(3) Greybull River/Otto	147	33	5	36	123	58	77	6	109	99	197	166	185	454	283	481	374	NS	437	179	439	286
(4) Shoshone River/Ralston	234	155	607	482	172	228	294	303	109	384	366	446	341	470	389	196	386	NS	938	680	742	414
(5) Worland	156	108	61	124	206	28	50	85	134	174	113	31	96	322	215	201	24					
(6) Big Piney-Daniel	37	27	42	28	32	2	167	57	114	19	239	117	14	76	91	138	46	NS	3	58	174	40
(7) Bridger Valley	65	61	78	152	70	150	90	32	28	18	22	103	105	75	51	42	116	NS	273	43	125	33
(8) Lonetree	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	NS	NS	50					
(9) Farson	1,045	1,009	1,715	2,285	1,586	1,506	1,578	1,864	2,087	1,295	1,354	1,665	988	1,297	1,463	1,957	1,431	NS	1,382	1,256	813	1,051
(10) Hams Fork	41	28	10	39	2	0	35	0	2	0	35	15	101	18	90	51	149	NS	161	24	4	0
(11) Pinedale-Cora-Boulder	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	45	0	8	NS	35	2	2	2
(12) Seedskaadee NWR	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	0	6	4	4	0	0	NS	0	3	2	6
(13) Saratoga	127	74	20	2	12	62	2	2	3	0	12	69	60	26	5	11	0	NS	2	85	193	0
(14) Jackson Hole (Elk Refuge)	36	4	0	48	148	78	72	68	33	150	279	23	69	132	220	118	64	NS	40	84	117	121
(15) Star Valley	338	179	145	212	305	579	166	329	192	467	223	182	198	127	257	234	314	NS	191	234	316	304
(16) Hidden Valley	491	180	123	995	44	40	11	25	0	122	56	112	88	40	19	3	0	NS	43	119	39	58
(17) Ocean Lake	2	0	17	29	9	101	22	35	0	48	228	67	73	14	200	25	391	NS	96	113	229	433
(18) Riverview Valley	715	298	414	397	137	56	66	153	93	60	80	98	115	181	126	105	42	NS	209	43	14	41
Natrona County	623	469	780	207	413	238	104	479	359	452	139											
Johnson County	38	0	192	144	165	359	440	150	35	518	235											
Sheridan County	441	439	773	748	558	564	380	375	83	430	150											
Total		3,975	6,059	6,680	4,366	5,101	3,725	4,879	3,596	3,003	3,588	3,587	2,978	3,726	3,613	3,826	3,907	0	3,911	3,072	3,446	3,038

* Natrona, Johnson, and Sheridan Counties not included in the total count until 2016.

Source: WGFD unpublished data

Table 15. Harvest statistics from RMP sandhill crane hunts in Wyoming 2004-2023.

Hunt Area	Year																			
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
1 Bear River																				
No. Hunters	26	27	27	14	12	18	16	19	16	7	12	23	25	20	24	27	21	18	24	15
Hunter Days	77	42	63	26	25	41	34	58	36	13	30	48	46	33	46	51	44	27	47	29
Days/Hunter	3.0	1.5	2.3	1.9	2.1	2.3	2.1	3.1	2.3	2	2.5	2.1	2.1	1.7	1.9	1.9	2.1	1.5	2	1.9
Harvest	10	20	14	9	7	9	7	4	10	5	5	13	9	11	18	17	9	12	14	12
Cranes/Hunter	0.38	0.74	0.52	0.64	0.58	0.5	0.44	0.21	0.625	0.72	0.42	0.57	0.41	0.55	0.75	0.63	0.43	0.67	0.58	0.76
2 Salt River																				
No. Hunters	25	30	27	15	17	25	27	20	16	10	7	13	25	26	22	22	11	30	23	15
Hunter Days	70	77	114	36	37	45	53	50	37	20	21	36	61	109	54	45	29	87	59	48
Days/Hunter	2.8	2.5	4.2	2.4	2.2	2.3	2	2.5	2.4	2	3	2.8	2.4	4.2	2.5	2.1	2.6	3	2.6	3.3
Harvest	7	22	16	5	8	8	17	12	11	7	3	10	13	6	8	10	8	12	10	7
Cranes/Hunter	0.28	0.73	0.59	0.33	0.47	0.32	0.63	0.60	0.688	0.7	0.43	0.77	0.52	0.23	0.36	0.45	0.7	0.42	0.43	0.46
3 Eden/Farson																				
No. Hunters	112	121	98	64	65	76	85	60	33	30	38	49	86	85	83	69	54	73	43	35
Hunter Days	270	348	229	102	114	146	186	99	51	54	64	76	171	151	152	137	103	135	82	65
Days/Hunter	2.4	2.8	2.3	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.2	1.7	1.5	1.8	1.7	1.5	2	1.8	1.8	2	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Harvest	46	49	48	39	42	59	52	48	29	19	20	39	48	63	46	37	42	58	31	24
Cranes/Hunter	0.41	0.40	0.49	0.61	0.65	0.78	0.61	0.80	0.88	0.63	0.53	0.8	0.56	0.74	0.55	0.54	0.77	0.79	0.72	0.68
4 Riverton																				
No. Hunters	103	116	74	37	57	85	75	83	36	47	41	59	71	91	73	70	65	83	48	55
Hunter Days	368	558	194	107	132	256	187	192	104	106	98	149	166	196	133	121	118	155	90	91
Days/Hunter	3.6	4.8	2.6	2.9	2.3	3	2.5	2.3	2.9	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.3	2.2	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.6
Harvest	68	78	51	28	35	32	57	48	20	35	16	30	42	46	58	45	45	55	28	37
Cranes/Hunter	0.66	0.67	0.69	0.76	0.61	0.38	0.76	0.58	0.56	0.73	0.39	0.51	0.59	0.51	0.79	0.64	0.69	0.66	0.58	0.66
5 Uinta																				
No. Hunters	23	30	18	6	5	10	15	11	6	6	3	10	11	10	8	10				
Hunter Days	77	56	45	14	8	16	39	26	22	11	9	47	37	13	22	20				
Days/Hunter	3.4	1.8	2.5	2.3	1.6	1.6	2.6	2.3	4	1.8	3	4.7	3.4	1.3	2.8	2				
Harvest	14	15	10	4	3	8	11	9	2	4	0	0	7	3	2	3				
Cranes/Hunter	0.61	0.50	0.56	0.67	0.60	0.80	0.73	0.82	0.33	0.67	0	0	0.64	0.3	0.25	0.3				
6 Big Horn																				
No. Hunters	115	118	89	68	67	98	75	78	57	44	46	62	82	96	93	83	62	101	58	54
Hunter Days	448	647	340	260	164	282	238	214	125	73	119	165	228	192	217	191	124	276	152	110
Days/Hunter	3.9	5.5	3.8	3.8	2.4	2.9	3.2	2.8	2.2	1.7	2.6	2.7	2.8	2	2.3	2.3	2	2.6	2.6	2.1
Harvest	65	71	38	27	39	63	34	34	31	33	31	42	42	53	6.3	50	35	57	33	44
Cranes/Hunter	0.57	0.60	0.43	0.40	0.58	0.64	0.45	0.44	0.54	0.75	0.67	0.68	0.51	0.55	0.68	0.6	0.56	0.56	0.57	0.82
8 N/J/S																				
No. Hunters	32	38	33	8	11	17	25	13												
Hunter Days	136	166	116	23	50	64	77	27												
Days/Hunter	4.3	4.3	3.5	2.9	4.5	3.8	3.1	2.2												
Harvest	19	22	17	2	8	10	15	4												
Cranes/Hunter	0.59	0.58	0.52	0.25	0.73	0.59	0.60	0.31												
Total																				
Harvest Allocation	326	348	289	168	169	211	240	188	94	74	87	135	165	197	192	165	131	209	144	104
Permits Issued	593	634	524	306	306	410	460	381	216	163	180	270	352	395	387	330	266	401	254	206
No. Hunters	417	481	366	212	234	329	318	283	164	144	147	216	297	328	303	281	213	305	196	174
Hunter Days	1371	1898	1101	568	530	850	814	666	375	276	342	521	709	695	624	562	418	687	430	343
Days/Hunter	3.3	3.9	3	2.7	2.3	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.3	1.9	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.1	2.1	2	2	2.3	2.2	2
Harvest	215	277	194	114	142	136	193	158	104	101	74	134	161	182	195	162	138	194	116	124
Cranes/Hunter	0.52	0.58	0.53	0.54	0.61	0.41	0.61	0.56	0.63	0.70	0.41	0.62	0.54	0.55	0.64	0.58	0.65	0.64	0.59	0.71

Source: WGFD 2005-2023

Table 16. Coordinated spring Mid-continent sandhill crane survey counts, WY.

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	Average
Table Mountain WHMA	9,705	6,100	3,650	4,512	4,500	5,693

Source: WGFD unpublished data

Table 17. Harvest Statistics of Mid-continent sandhill cranes 1975-2023.

Year	Permits Issued	Active Hunters	Retrieved Harvest	Birds / Hunter
1975-1979 Mean	47	20	8	0.4
1980-1989 Mean	39	11	6	0.5
1990-1999 Mean	38	8	5	0.6
2000	58	11	10	0.9
2001	72	13	7	0.5
2002	54	15	22	1.5
2003	50	10	7	0.7
2004	61	16	4	0.3
2005	68	24	16	0.7
2006	78	25	20	0.8
2007	58	19	20	1.1
2008	73	24	24	1.0
2009	62	67	8	0.1
2010	86	29	25	0.9
2011	86	41	20	0.5
2012	102	39	41	1.1
2013	106	35	41	1.2
2014	433	70	37	0.5
2015	454	78	28	0.4
2016	569	96	83	0.9
2017	646	305	263	0.9
2018	392	94	33	0.4
2019	714	138	82	0.6
2020	619	177	182	1.0
2021	621	116	79	0.7
2022	1,182	347	233	0.7
2023	804	255	159	0.6

Source: Seamans 2024

Other Webless Migratory Game Birds

Mourning Doves

2023 Harvest

Dove harvest in 2023 decreased from 2022 and was slightly below the long term average of 26,948. We continue to rely on harvest estimates derived from the Department-run harvest survey, as HIP-derived estimates continue to have excessively wide confidence intervals. Recent dove hunting seasons are listed in Table 24.

Banding

In 2008, the National Mourning Dove Task Force recommended that all states not currently banding mourning doves begin a banding program. Regional banding data from within each management unit provides specific population information to support implementation of both the Mourning Dove National Strategic Harvest Management Plan and relevant interim harvest strategies. In 2004, the USFWS Service Regulations Committee (SRC) required that a mourning dove harvest management strategy be developed for each management unit. Combined banding goals for the Wyoming portions of 4 Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) are 191 after hatch year (AHY) and 202 hatch year (HY) (393 total) mourning doves each year beginning in 2009.

In 2024, mourning doves were trapped and banded at five locations in the state. Personnel banded 508 mourning doves (Table 20).

Wilson's Snipe

2023 Harvest

Snipe hunting and harvest in Wyoming have varied slightly over the past decade. The HIP harvest estimate for Wyoming in 2023 was 400 (Raftovich et al., 2024). Confidence intervals about HIP-derived estimates continue to be excessively wide. Recent snipe hunting seasons are listed in Table 24.

Sora and Virginia Rail

2023 Harvest

Rail harvest and hunting in Wyoming is low. The HIP harvest estimate for Wyoming in 2023 was 100 (Raftovich et al., 2024). Confidence intervals around HIP-derived estimates continue to be excessively wide. Recent rail hunting seasons are listed in Table 24.

American Coot

2023-24 Harvest

For the most part, American coots are not actively hunted in Wyoming. Harvest has been nominal over the past several decades. The 2023 HIP harvest estimate was 400 (Raftovich et al., 2024). Confidence intervals around HIP-derived estimates also continue to be excessively wide. Recent American coot hunting seasons are listed in Table 24.

Recommendations

1. Maintain hunting opportunity for all species of webless migratory game birds.
2. Continue to participate in dove banding statewide, focus on meeting banding goals while not banding excessively at any specific location.
3. Continue to support wetlands projects that provide habitat for rails and Wilson's snipe.

Table 18. Statewide mourning dove harvest in Wyoming.

Year	Hunters	Days	Days / Hunter	Harvest	Birds / Hunter
2004	2,471	7,645	3.09	32,142	13.01
2005	3,194	9,080	2.84	44,280	13.86
2006	2,461	7,141	2.90	32,807	13.33
2007	2,351	8,256	3.51	36,670	15.60
2008	2,315	7,482	3.23	29,994	12.96
2009	1,949	5,598	2.87	22,278	11.43
2010	2,528	8,096	3.20	28,906	11.43
2011	2,291	6,735	2.94	23,607	10.30
2012	2,263	7,260	3.21	28,402	12.55
2013	2,310	6,730	2.91	23,485	10.17
2014	2,235	6,857	3.07	27,791	12.43
2015	2,095	6,931	3.31	24,873	11.87
2016	2,255	6,758	3.00	23,920	10.61
2017	1,903	5,201	2.73	18,242	9.59
2018	2,119	6,637	3.13	20,420	9.64
2019	2,239	8,167	3.65	25,482	11.38
2020	1,023	3,656	3.57	9,526	9.31
2021	2,042	7,030	3.44	20,966	10.27
2022	3,570	12,808	3.59	38,415	10.76
2023	2,502	8,725	3.49	26,752	10.69
Average	2,306	7,340	3.18	26,948	11.56

Source: WGFD 2005-2023

Table 19. HIP estimates of mourning dove harvest and hunter activity in Wyoming.

YEAR	Hunters	Days	Days / Hunter	Harvest	Birds / Hunter
2004	3,200	8,700	2.72	43,700	13.66
2005	2,500	6,600	2.64	34,100	13.64
2006	2,300	6,500	2.83	29,500	12.83
2007	4,000	8,800	2.20	42,600	10.65
2008	2,500	5,900	2.36	30,100	12.04
2009	2,300	5,800	2.52	20,600	8.96
2010	2,700	7,100	2.63	32,100	11.89
2011	2,700	5,100	1.89	25,000	9.26
2012	2,700	6,300	2.33	25,300	9.37
2013	3,100	7,200	2.32	34,200	11.03
2014	1,500	3,500	2.33	21,100	14.07
2015	1,700	3,300	1.94	14,900	8.76
2016	1,700	3,700	2.18	20,100	11.82
2017	700	2,200	3.14	9,400	13.43
2018	1,400	3,200	2.29	14,800	10.57
2019	1,300	2,800	2.15	13,200	10.50
2020	1,000	2,300	2.30	11,300	10.80
2021	1,200	2,900	2.42	10,000	8.10
2022	1,400	4,400	3.14	19,200	13.50
2023	1,800	4,900	2.72	18,300	10.00
Average	2,085	5,060	2.45	23,475	11.24

Source: Raftovich et al. 2024, Raftovich et al. 2023, Raftovich et al. 2021, Raftovich et al. 2019, Raftovich et al. 2018, Raftovich et al. 2017, Raftovich et al. 2015, Raftovich and Wilkins 2013, Raftovich et al. 2011, Raftovich et al. 2009, Richkus et al. 2007, Padding et al. 2005

Table 20. Mourning doves banded by Department personnel to date.

Band Date	Location	Age			TOTAL
		UNK	HY	AHY	
2007	Casper	0	1	4	5
2008	Casper	1	21	24	46
2012	Cheyenne	0	11	25	36
2012	Downar	1	15	17	33
2013	Casper	0	1	2	3
2013	Cheyenne	57	34	35	126
2013	Downar	1	0	3	4
2013	Speas	3	4	9	16
2014	Casper	0	90	89	179
2014	Cheyenne	1	27	87	115
2014	Downar	3	14	34	51
2015	Casper	0	27	117	144
2015	Cheyenne	3	29	55	87
2016	Savery	0	1	18	19
2016	Casper	0	67	127	194
2016	Springer WHMA	0	1	13	14
2016	Cheyenne	6	57	176	239
2017	Rawlins	0	17	39	56
2017	Seedskadee NWR	0	32	129	161
2017	Casper	1	22	86	109
2017	Springer WHMA	0	2	15	17
2017	Cheyenne	13	63	181	257
2018	Baggs	0	7	16	23
2018	Cody	0	30	42	72
2018	Lander	0	0	1	1
2018	Rawlins	0	12	47	59
2018	Casper	0	71	146	217
2018	Glenrock	0	0	1	1
2018	Newcastle	0	10	67	77
2018	Wheatland	0	29	27	56
2018	Springer WHMA	0	8	22	30
2018	Cheyenne	18	39	179	236
2019	Cody	0	8	18	26
2019	Greybull	0	0	10	10
2019	Lander	0	7	16	23
2019	Opal	0	0	4	4
2019	Saratoga	0	10	40	50
2019	Seedskadee NWR	1	13	66	80
2019	Casper	0	115	227	342
2019	Dayton	0	1	19	20
2019	Glenrock	0	4	5	9
2019	Newcastle	0	9	53	62

Table 20. (continued).

Band Date	Location	UNK	HY	AHY	TOTAL
2019	Wheatland	0	6	12	18
2019	Springer WHMA	1	3	1	5
2019	Cheyenne	1	45	46	92
2020	Baggs	0	50	11	61
2020	Cody	0	3	7	10
2020	Greybull	0	0	17	17
2020	Lander	2	7	26	35
2020	Opal	0	0	0	0
2020	Saratoga		4	36	40
2020	Seedskaelee	14	25	41	80
2020	Casper	27	44	45	116
2020	Dayton	0	1	20	21
2020	Glenrock	0	11	13	24
2020	Newcastle	0	14	34	48
2020	Wheatland	0	4	1	5
2020	Cheyenne HQ	4	15	67	86
2021	Baggs	0	34	57	91
2021	Cody	0	0	0	0
2021	Lander	10	6	18	34
2021	Saratoga	0	12	108	120
2021	Seedskaelee	0	20	120	140
2021	Casper	4	0	2	6
2021	Dayton	0	0	0	0
2021	Glenrock	0	0	0	0
2021	Newcastle	0	22	48	70
2021	Cheyenne HQ	0	15	43	58
2021	Sybillie	0	4	43	47
2022	Seedskaelee	0	49	133	182
2022	Casper	5	35	39	79
2022	Wheatland	0	0	0	0
2023	Baggs	0	19	51	70
2023	Lander	12	4	1	17
2023	Saratoga	0	2	1	3
2023	Seedskaelee	14	4	82	100
2023	Sybillie	12	9	29	50
2023	Wheatland	0	1	2	3
2023	Casper	0	7	38	45
2023	Cheyenne HQ	5	13	80	98
2024	Baggs	6	24	71	101
2024	Seedskaelee	0	35	115	150
2024	Cheyenne	1	10	30	41
2024	Casper	2	101	66	169
2024	Sybillie	17	10	17	44
Total		246	1577	3862	5685

Source: WGFD unpublished data

Table 21. HIP estimates of snipe harvest and hunter activity in Wyoming.

Year	Hunters	Days	Days / Hunter	Harvest	Birds/ Hunter
2004	300	500	1.67	400	1.33
2005	100	300	3.00	400	4.00
2006	100	300	3.00	100	1.00
2007	100	100	1.00	200	2.00
2008	100	200	2.00	300	3.00
2009	50	50	1.00	100	2.00
2010	400	600	1.50	1,200	3.00
2011	100	200	2.00	400	4.00
2012	300	600	2.00	600	2.00
2013	50	100	2.00	100	2.00
2014	100	200	2.00	100	1.00
2015	50	100	2.00	100	2.00
2016	50	100	2.00	100	2.00
2017	200	800	4.00	300	1.50
2018	200	400	2.00	300	1.50
2019	100	200	2.00	200	3.90
2020	100	200	2.00	300	3.90
2021	100	400	4.00	200	1.40
2022	100	200	2.00	50	0.70
2023	100	500	5.00	400	3.60
Average	135	303	2.31	293	2.29

Source: Raftovich et al. 2024, Raftovich et al. 2023, Raftovich et al. 2021, Raftovich et al. 2019, Raftovich et al. 2018, Raftovich et al. 2017, Raftovich et al. 2015, Raftovich and Wilkins 2013, Raftovich et al. 2011, Raftovich et al. 2009, Richkus et al. 2007, Padding et al. 2005

Table 22. HIP estimates of rail harvest and hunter activity in Wyoming.

Year	Hunters	Days	Days / Hunter	Harvest	Birds/ Hunter
2004	50	50	1.00	50	1.00
2005	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
2006	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
2007	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
2008	50	50	1.00	50	1.00
2009	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
2010	50	50	1.00	0	0.00
2011	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
2012	50	50	1.00	0	0.00
2013	50	50	1.00	50	1.00
2014	50	50	1.00	0	0.00
2015	100	300	3.00	500	5.00
2016	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
2017	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
2018	50	50	1.00	0	0.00
2019	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
2020	50	50	1.00	0	0.00
2021	100	100	1.00	100	0.90
2022	50	50	1.00	50	0.50
2023	500	1,400	2.80	100	0.20
Average	57.50	112.50	0.79	45.00	0.48

Source: Raftovich et al. 2024, Raftovich et al. 2023, Raftovich et al. 2021, Raftovich et al. 2019, Raftovich et al. 2018, Raftovich et al. 2017, Raftovich et al. 2015, Raftovich and Wilkins 2013, Raftovich et al. 2011, Raftovich et al. 2009, Richkus et al. 2007, Padding et al. 2005

Table 23. HIP estimates of American coot harvest and hunter activity in Wyoming.

Year	Hunters	Days	Days/ Hunter	Harvest	Birds / Hunter
2004	100	100	1.00	200	2.00
2005	100	100	1.00	100	1.00
2006	100	500	5.00	900	9.00
2007	50	50	1.00	50	1.00
2008	200	200	1.00	200	1.00
2009	50	50	1.00	50	1.00
2010	200	200	1.00	600	3.00
2011	200	500	2.50	100	0.50
2012	400	1,800	4.50	3,200	8.00
2013	100	300	3.00	600	6.00
2014	100	400	4.00	300	3.00
2015	50	100	2.00	200	4.00
2016	50	100	2.00	400	8.00
2017	200	300	1.50	300	1.50
2018	300	500	1.67	300	1.00
2019	100	100	1.00	100	0.80
2020	100	200	2.00	100	0.80
2021	100	200	2.00	700	13.30
2022	50	300	6.00	100	1.50
2023	100	400	4.00	400	4.50
Average	133	320	2.36	445	3.55

Source: Raftovich et al. 2024, Raftovich et al. 2023, Raftovich et al. 2021, Raftovich et al. 2019, Raftovich et al. 2018, Raftovich et al. 2017, Raftovich et al. 2015, Raftovich and Wilkins 2013, Raftovich et al. 2011, Raftovich et al. 2009, Richkus et al. 2007, Padding et al. 2005

Table 24. Wilson's snipe, sandhill crane, mourning dove, and rail hunting seasons in Wyoming, 1996-2023

Year	Wilson's Snipe	RMP Sandhill Crane							Area 8 Natrona,		Mourning Dove	Sora and Virginia Rail
		MCP Sandhill Crane Area 7	Area 1 Bear/Ham's Fork	Area 2 Salt River	Area 3 Farson/Eden	Area 4 Riverton Area	Area 5 Uinta	Area 6 Big Horn Basin	Johnson, Sheridan			
1996	15	10	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 21 - Sep. 27	-	Sep. 21 - Sep. 23	-	Sep. 1 - Oct. 20	16	
1997	14	Sep. 13 - Nov. 9	Sep. 1 - Sep. 7	Sep. 1 - Sep. 7	Sep. 1 - Sep. 7	Sep. 20 - Sep. 28	-	Sep. 20 - Sep. 22	-	Sep. 1 - Oct. 19	17	
1998	13	Sep. 12 - Nov. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 7	Sep. 1 - Sep. 7	Sep. 1 - Sep. 7	Sep. 19 - Sep. 30	-	Sep. 19 - Sep. 30	-	Sep. 1 - Oct. 30	15	
1999	Sep. 1 - Dec. 2	Sep. 11 - Nov. 7	Sep. 1 - Sep. 14	Sep. 1 - Sep. 7	Sep. 1 - Sep. 7	Sep. 18 - Sep. 29	-	Sep. 18 - Sep. 29	-	Sep. 1 - Oct. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 4	
2000	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 9 - Nov. 5	Sep. 1 - Sep. 14	Sep. 1 - Sep. 7	Sep. 1 - Sep. 7	Sep. 16 - Oct. 6	-	Sep. 16 - Oct. 1	-	Sep. 1 - Oct. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	
2001	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	11	Sep. 1 - Sep. 14	Sep. 1 - Sep. 7	Sep. 1 - Sep. 7	Sep. 15 - Oct. 5	-	Sep. 15 - Sep. 30	-	Sep. 1 - Oct. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	
2002	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	10	Sep. 1 - Sep. 14	Sep. 1 - Sep. 7	Sep. 1 - Sep. 7	11	-	Sep. 21 - Oct. 6	-	Sep. 1 - Oct. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	
2003	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 13 - Nov. 9	Sep. 1 - Sep. 14	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 20 - Oct. 20	-	Sep. 20 - Oct. 5	-	Sep. 1 - Oct. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	
2004	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	14	Sep. 1 - Sep. 14	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 18 - Oct. 8	-	Sep. 18 - Oct. 8	-	Sep. 1 - Oct. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	
2005	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	13	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 17 - Oct. 7	-	Sep. 17 - Oct. 2	-	Sep. 1 - Oct. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	
2006	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 16 - Nov. 12	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 16 - Oct. 6	-	Sep. 16 - Oct. 1	-	Sep. 1 - Oct. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	
2007	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 15 - Nov. 11	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 15 - Oct. 5	-	Sep. 15 - Sep. 30	-	Sep. 1 - Oct. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	
2008	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 13 - Nov. 9	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 13 - Oct. 3	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 13 - Sep. 28	-	Sep. 1 - Oct. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	
2009	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 19 - Nov. 15	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 19 - Oct. 9	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 19 - Oct. 4	-	Sep. 1 - Oct. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	
2010	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 18 - Nov. 14	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 18 - Oct. 10	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 18 - Oct. 3	-	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	
2011	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 17 - Nov. 13	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 17 - Oct. 9	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 17 - Oct. 2	-	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	
2012	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 15 - Nov. 11	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 15 - Oct. 7	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 15 - Oct. 7	-	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	
2013	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 14 - Nov. 10	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 14 - Oct. 6	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 14 - Oct. 6	-	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	
2014	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 13 - Nov. 9	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 13 - Oct. 5	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 13 - Oct. 5	-	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	
2015	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 19 - Nov. 15	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 19 - Oct. 11	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 19 - Oct. 11	-	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	
2016	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 17 - Nov. 13	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 17 - Oct. 9	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 17 - Oct. 9	Sep. 17 - Oct. 9	Sep. 1 - Nov. 29	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	
2017	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 16 - Nov. 12	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 16 - Oct. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 16 - Oct. 8	Sep. 16 - Oct. 8	Sep. 1 - Nov. 29	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	
2018	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 15 - Nov. 11	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 15 - Oct. 7	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 15 - Oct. 7	Sep. 1 - Sep. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 29	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	
2019	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 14 - Nov. 10	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 28 - Oct. 20	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 14 - Oct. 6	Sep. 1 - Sep. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 29	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	
2020	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 12 - Nov. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Oct. 3 - Oct. 25	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 19 - Oct. 11	Sep. 1 - Sep. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 29	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	
2021	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 11 - Nov. 7	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Oct. 2 - Oct. 24	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 18 - Oct. 10	Sep. 1 - Sep. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 29	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	
2022	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 10 - Nov. 6	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Oct. 1 - Oct. 23	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 17 - Oct. 9	Sep. 1 - Sep. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 29	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	
2023	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 9 - Nov. 5	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 30 - Oct. 22	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 16 - Oct. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 29	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	

Table 25. Duck, merganser, American coot, and light goose hunting seasons, 1996-2023

Year	Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots				Light Geese		
	C1	C1A	C2	Pacific Flyway	Central Flyway	Pacific Flyway	Conservation Order
1996	Oct 5-Oct 20 Nov 2-Dec 15 Dec 21-Jan 12	-	Sep 28-Oct 27 Nov 2-Dec 1 Dec 14-Jan 5	Sep 28-Dec 29	Oct 5-Dec 19 Feb 14-Mar 10	-	-
1997	Oct 4-Oct 26 Nov 1-Dec 21 Dec 22-Jan 13	-	Oct 4-Jan 8	Oct 4-Jan 17	Oct 4-Dec 24 Feb 14-Mar 10	-	-
1998	Oct 3-Oct 25 Oct 31-Jan 11	-	Oct 3-Jan 7	Oct 3-Jan 16	Oct 3-Dec 22 Feb 13-Mar 10	-	-
1999	Oct 2-Oct 24 Oct 30-Jan 11	-	Oct 2-Jan 6	Oct 2-Jan 15	Oct 2-Dec 26 Feb 13-Mar 10	-	-
2000	Oct 7-Oct 22 Oct 28-Jan 16	-	Sep 30-Oct 22 Nov 4-Jan 16	Sep 30-Jan 13	Oct 7-Dec 31 Jan 19-Feb 8	-	Mar 1-Mar 31
2001	Oct 6-Oct 21 Oct 27-Jan 15	-	Sep 29-Oct 21 Oct 27-Jan 8	Sep 29-Jan 12	Oct 6-Dec 31 Jan 27-Feb 14	-	Mar 1-Mar 31
2002	Oct 5-Oct 20 Oct 26-Jan 14	-	Sep 21-Oct 20 Oct 26-Dec 8 Dec 14-Jan 5	Sep 21-Jan 4	Oct 5-Dec 31 Jan 27-Feb 13	-	Mar 1-Apr 6
2003	Oct 4-Oct 19 Oct 25-Jan 13	-	Sep 27-Oct 19 Oct 25-Dec 14	Sep 27-Jan 10	Oct 4-Dec 31 Jan 27-Feb 12	-	Mar 1-Apr 6
2004	Oct 2-Oct 17 Oct 23-Jan 11	-	Sep 25-Oct 17 Oct 23-Dec 12 Dec 18-Jan 9	Sep 25-Jan 8	Oct 2-Dec 31 Jan 27-Feb 10	-	Feb 21-Apr 3
2005	Oct 1-Oct 16 Oct 29-Jan 17	-	Oct 1-Oct 23 Nov 5-Jan 17	Sep 24-Jan 7	Oct 1-Dec 31 Jan 27-Feb 9	-	Feb 20-Apr 2
2006	Oct 7-Oct 24 Nov 4-Jan 21	-	Sep 30-Oct 22 Nov 4-Jan 16	Sep 23-Jan 6	Oct 7-Jan 7 Jan 27-Feb 8	-	Feb 19-Apr 8
2007	Oct 6-Oct 23 Nov 3-Jan 20	-	Sept 29-Oct 21 Nov 3-Jan 15	Sep 22-Jan 5	Oct 6-Jan 1 Jan 26-Feb 12	-	Feb 25-Apr 13
2008	Oct 4-Oct 21 Nov 1-Jan 18	-	Sep 27-Oct 9 Nov 1-Jan 13	Sep 27-Jan 9	Oct 4-Jan 1 Jan 26-Feb 9	-	Feb 23-Apr 12
2009	Oct 3-Oct 20 Oct 31-Jan 17	-	Sep 26-Oct 20 Oct 31-Jan 10	Sept 26-Jan 8	Oct 3-Dec 27 Jan 21-Feb 8	-	Feb 22-Apr 11
2010	Oct 2-Oct 19 Oct 30-Jan 16	-	Sep 25-Nov 28 Dec 11-Jan 11	Sep 25-Jan 7	Oct 2-Dec 26 Jan 20-Feb 7	-	Feb 21-Apr 10
2011	Oct 1-Oct 16 Oct 29-Jan 17	-	Sep 24-Nov 27 Dec 10-Jan 10	Sep 24-Jan 6	Oct 1-Dec 25 Jan 28-Feb 15	-	Feb 20-Apr 8
2012	Oct 6-Oct 21 Nov 3-Jan 22	-	Sep 22-Nov 25	Sep 22-Jan 4	Oct 6-Dec 30 Jan 30-Feb 17	-	Feb 25-Apr 7
2013	Oct 22 Nov 2-Ja	-	-Dec 1 Dec 14-J	Sep 21-Jan 3	Dec 30 Jan 30-Fe	-	Feb 24-Apr 6

Table 25. (continued).

Year	<u>Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots</u>				<u>Light Geese</u>		Conservation Order
	C1	C1A	C2	Pacific Flyway	Central Flyway	Pacific Flyway	
2014	Oct 4-Oct 22 Nov 1-Jan 17	-	Sep 27-Dec 7 Dec 13-Jan 6	Sep 27-Jan 9	Oct 4-Dec 31 Jan 31-Feb 15	-	Feb 23-Apr 12
2015	Oct 3-Oct 21 Oct 31-Jan 16	-	Sep 26-Dec 6 Dec 12-Jan 5	Sep 26-Jan 8	Oct 3-Dec 31 Jan 31-Feb 14	-	Feb 22-Apr 10
2016	Oct 1-Oct 18 Oct 29-Jan 15	-	Sep 24-Dec 4 Dec 10-Jan 3	Sep 24-Jan 6	Oct 1-Dec 29 Jan 29-Feb 12	-	Feb 13-Apr 9
2017	Sep 30-Oct 17 Oct 28-Jan 14	-	Sep 23-Dec 3 Dec 9-Jan 2	Sep 23-Jan 5	Oct 1-Dec 29 Jan 29-Feb 12	Sep. 23 - Dec. 28	Feb 19-Apr 8
2018	Sep 29-Oct 16 Oct 28-Jan 14	-	Sep 22-Dec 2 Dec 8-Jan 1	Sep 22-Jan 4	Sep 29-Dec 30 Feb 6-Feb 17	Sep 22 - Dec 27	Feb 18-Apr 7
2019	Sep 28 -Oct 15 Oct 26-Jan 12	Sep 28 -Oct 15 Oct 26-Jan 12	Sep 21-Dec 1 Dec 14-Jan 7	Sep 21-Jan 3	Sep 28-Dec 29 Feb 5-Feb 16	Sep. 21 - Dec. 26	Feb 17-Apr 30
2020	Oct. 3 -Oct 18 Oct 31-Jan 19	Oct. 3 -Oct 18 Oct 31-Jan 19	Sep 26-Dec 6 Dec 19-Jan 12	Sep 26-Jan 8	Oct 3-Jan 3 Feb 3-Feb 14	Sep. 26 - Dec. 31	Feb 15-Apr 30
2021	Oct. 2 -Oct 17 Nov 6 -Jan 25	Oct. 2 -Oct 17 Nov 6 -Jan 25	Sep 25-Dec 5 Dec 18-Jan 11	Sep 25-Jan 7	Oct 2-Jan 2 Feb 2-Feb 13	Sep. 25 - Dec. 30	Feb 14-Apr 30
2022	Oct. 1 -Oct 16 Nov 5 -Jan 24	Oct. 1 -Oct 16 Nov 5 -Jan 24	Sep 24-Dec 4 Dec 17-Jan 10	Sep 24-Jan 6	Oct 1-Jan 1 Feb 1-Feb 12	Sep. 24 - Dec. 29	Feb 13-Apr 30
2023	Sep 30-Oct 15 Nov 4-Jan 23	Sep 30-Oct 15 Nov 4-Jan 23	Sep 23-Dec 3 Dec 16-Jan 9	Sep 23-Jan 5	Sep 30-Dec 31 Feb 7-Feb 18	Sep. 23 - Dec. 28	Feb 19-Apr 30

Table 26. Dark goose hunting seasons, 2010-2023.

Year	Dark Geese									
	C1	C1A	Goshen and Platte	Converse and Platte	Converse	Goshen	C2	Bighorn and Fremont	Pacific Flyway Early Season	Pacific Flyway
1996	Oct 5-Jan 19	-	-	Oct 19-Jan 31	-	Nov 16-Jan 31	Sep 28-Jan 12	-	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 28-Jan 5
1997	Oct 4-Jan 17	-	-	Oct 18-Jan 31	-	Nov 14-Jan 31	Oct 4-Jan 18	-	Sep 1-Sep 7	Oct 4-Jan 11
1998	Oct 3-Jan 16	-	-	Oct 18-Jan 31	-	Nov 14-Jan 31	Oct 3-Jan 16	-	Sep 1-Sep 7	Oct 3-Jan 9
1999	Oct 2-Jan 5	-	-	Oct 18-Jan 31	-	Nov 13-Jan 31	Oct 2-Jan 15	-	Sep 1-Sep 7	Oct 2-Jan 8
2000	Oct 7-Jan 20	-	Oct 7-Oct 22 Nov 11-Feb 8	-	Oct 18-Jan 31	-	Sep 30-Oct 22 Nov 4-Jan 25	-	Sep 1-Sep 7	Sep 30-Jan 6
2001	Oct 6-Oct 19	-	Oct 6-Oct 21 Nov 17-Feb	-	Oct 18-Jan 31	-	Sep 29-Oct 21 Oct 27-Jan 17	-	Sep 1-Sep 7	Sep 29-Jan 5
2002	Oct 5-Jan 18	-	Oct 5-Oct 20 Nov 16-Feb	-	Oct 18-Jan 31	-	Sep 28-Oct 20 Oct 26-Jan 16	-	Sep 1-Sep 7	Sep 28-Jan 4
2003	Oct 4-Oct 19 Nov 1-Dec 14 Dec 20-Feb 3	-	Oct 4-Oct 19 Nov 15-Feb 12	-	-	-	Sep 27-Oct 12 Nov 1-Dec 14	-	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 27-Jan 2
2004	Oct 2-Oct 17 Oct 30-Dec 12 Dec 18-	-	Oct 2-Oct 17 Nov 13-Feb 10	-	-	-	Sep 25-Jan 8	-	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 25-Dec 31
2005	Oct 1-Oct 16 Oct 29-Dec 11 Dec 17-Jan	-	Oct 1-Oct 16 Nov 12-Feb 9	-	-	-	Oct 1-Jan 14	Sep 25-Oct 10 Oct 30-Dec 12	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 24-Dec 30
2006	Oct 7-Oct 22 Nov 4-Dec 10 Dec 16-Feb 6	-	Oct 7-Oct 22 Nov 4-Dec 10 Dec 16-Feb 6	-	-	-	Oct 1-Jan 14	Sep 30-Oct 22 Nov 4-Dec 10 Dec 16-Jan 30	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 23-Dec 29
2007	Oct 6-Oct 23 Nov 3-Dec 9 Dec 15-Feb 3 Oct 4-Oct 21	-	Oct 6-Oct 23 Nov 17-Feb 12	-	-	-	Sep 29-Dec 2 Dec 15-Jan 24	Sep 29-Oct 21 Nov 3-Dec 9 Dec 15-Jan 29	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 22-Dec 28
2008	Nov 1-Dec 7 Dec 13-Jan 31 Oct 3-Oct 20	-	Oct 4-Oct 21 Nov 15-Feb 9	-	-	-	Sep 27-Nov 21 30 Dec 13-Jan 21	Sep 27-Oct 19 Nov 1-Dec 7 Dec 13-Jan 26	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 27-Jan 1
2009	Oct 31-Dec 6 Dec 12-Jan 30 Oct 2-Oct 19	-	Oct 3-Oct 20 Nov 14-Feb 8	-	-	-	Sep 26-Nov 29 Dec 12-Jan 20	Sep 26-Oct 20 Oct 31-Dec 6 Dec 12-Jan 23	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 26-Dec 31
2010	Nov 6-Dec 5 Dec 11-Feb 5 Oct 1-Oct 16	-	Oct 2-Oct 19 Nov 13-Feb 7	-	-	-	Sep 25-Nov 19 28 Dec 11-Jan 19	Sep 25-Oct 19 Oct 30-Dec 5 Dec 11-Jan 22	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 25-Dec 30
2011	Nov 5-Dec 4 Dec 10-Jan 28 Oct 6-Oct 21	-	Oct 1-Oct 16 Nov 19-Feb 12	-	-	-	Sep 24-Nov 18 27 Dec 10-Jan 18	Sep 24-Oct 18 Nov 5-Dec 4 Dec 10-Jan 28	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 24-Jan 6
2012	Nov 3-Dec 2 Dec 8-Feb 4 Oct 5-Oct 22	-	Oct 6-Oct 21 Nov 21-Feb 17	-	-	-	Sep 22-Nov 16 25 Dec 8-Jan 16	-	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 22-Dec 27
2013	Nov 2-Dec 1 Dec 7-Feb 1 Oct 4-Oct 22	-	Oct 5-Oct 22 Nov 22-Feb 16	-	-	-	Sep 21-Dec 1 Dec 14-Jan 15	-	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 21-Dec 26
2014	Nov 1-Nov 30 Dec 6-Jan	-	Oct 4-Oct 22 Nov 22-Feb 15	-	-	-	Sep 27-Dec 7 Dec 13-Jan 14	-	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 27-Jan 1
2015	Oct 3-Oct 21 Oct 31-Nov 29 Dec 5-Jan	-	Oct 3-Oct 21 Nov 21-Feb 14	-	-	-	Sep 26-Dec 6 Dec 12-Jan 13	-	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 26-Dec 31

Table 26. (continued).

Year	Dark Geese									
	C1	C1A	Goshen and Platte	Converse and Platte	Converse	Goshen	C2	Bighorn and Fremont	Flyway Early Season	Pacific Flyway
2016	Oct 1-Oct 18		Oct 1-Oct 18				Sep 24-Dec 4			
	Oct 29-Nov 27 Dec 3-Jan 12	-	Nov 18-Feb 12	-	-	-	Dec 10-Jan 11	-	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 24-Dec 29
2017	Sep 30-Oct 17		Sep 30-Oct 11				Sep 23-Dec 3			
	Oct 28-Nov 26 Dec 2-Jan 18	-	Nov 18-Feb 18	-	-	-	Dec 9-Jan 10	-	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 23-Dec 28
2018	Sep 29-Oct 16		Sep 29-Oct 10				Sep 22-Dec 2			
	Oct 28-Nov 26 Dec 2-Jan 17	-	Nov 17-Feb 17	-	-	-	Dec 8-Jan 9	-	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 22-Dec 27
2019	Sep 28-Oct 6	Sep 28-Oct 9					Sep 21-Dec 1			
	Nov 9-Dec 1 Dec 6-Feb 16	Nov 16-Feb 16	-	-	-	-	Dec 14-Jan 15	-	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 21-Dec 26
2020	Oct 3-Oct 11	Oct 3-Oct 14					Sep 26-Dec 6			
	Nov 7-Nov 29 Dec 4-Feb 14	Nov 14-Feb 14	-	-	-	-	Dec 19-Jan 20	-	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 26-Dec 31
2021	Oct 2-Oct 10	Oct 2-Oct 13					Sep 25-Dec 5			
	Nov 6-Nov 28 Dec 3-Feb 13	Nov 13-Feb 13	-	-	-	-	Dec 18-Jan 19	-	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 25-Dec 30
2022	Oct 1-Oct 9	Oct 1-Oct 12					Sep 24-Dec 4			
	Nov 5-Nov 27 Dec 2-Feb 12	Nov 12-Feb 12	-	-	-	-	Dec 17-Jan 18	-	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 24-Dec 29
2023	Sep 30-Oct 8	Sep 30-Oct 11					Sep 23-Dec 3			
	Nov 4-Nov 26 Dec 8-Feb 18	Nov 18-Feb 18	-	-	-	-	Dec 16-Jan 17	-	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 23-Dec 28

American Crow

Harvest

Recent crow seasons are summarized in Table 27. The crow harvest and hunter activity are unknown in Wyoming. Since a license is not required to hunt crows, there is no means to identify a sample frame in order to conduct a harvest survey. The very limited hunting that takes place has had essentially no impact on crow populations.

Recommendations

1. Maintain hunting opportunity for recreation and to assist with depredation control.

Table 27. Recent crow hunting seasons in Wyoming.

Year	Season Dates	Bag/Possession Limits
2004	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2005	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2006	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2007	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2008	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2009	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2010	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2011	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2012	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2013	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2014	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2015	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2016	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2017	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2018	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2019	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2020	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2021	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2022	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2023	November 1 - February 28	None/None

Trumpeter and Tundra Swans

Discussion:

Swans are federally defined as migratory game birds [50 CFR 20.11(a)] and hunted in several states. Small resident and restored populations of breeding trumpeter swans inhabit portions of western Wyoming. Comparatively, few tundra swans migrate through the State. Wyoming's resident population of trumpeter swans has increased and expanded its distribution in recent years, particularly in the Upper Green River Basin. Additional restoration efforts are ongoing. The MGBS addresses certain aspects of swan management through the Flyway process and jointly manages the species in the state, in coordination with the Nongame Program. There is no open hunting season on swans in Wyoming. Refer to Nongame completion reports for swan monitoring data and more detailed information about the restoration program.

Bump-Sullivan Managed Goose Hunt

Introduction

Springer/Bump-Sullivan Reservoir and Table Mountain WHMAs are the principal public goose hunting areas in Goshen County. Bump-Sullivan Reservoir has been a popular goose hunting area for over 50 years. A managed goose hunt was initiated there during the 1993-94 hunting season to reduce competition among parties and improve hunting quality. Twelve blinds were erected around the reservoir and four pass shooting pits were established in a field at the northwest corner of Springer WHMA. An additional property was acquired at the south end of Springer WHMA which opened three field hunting pits to include in the managed goose hunt. Hunters were required to check in at the Springer Check Station and a drawing was conducted before shooting hours each morning to assign hunting blinds or pits. A goose special management permit was also instituted to help offset the cost of blind maintenance and operation of the check station.

Due to drought conditions and low reservoir levels prevalent from 2002-2010, goose hunting opportunities and interest declined within the managed hunt boundaries. For the 2011-12 dark goose hunting season and thereafter, the Department decided not to require persons participating in the hunt to purchase a special management permit and the check station was not operated. Pits and blinds are occupied on a first-come, first-served basis. The hunt will continue to be managed in this manner until such time as demand may increase to the point that access needs to be controlled through a permitting system.

Recommendations

1. Support efforts to improve water supplies into Bump-Sullivan Reservoir.
2. Continue annual pit maintenance.
3. Replace lower section of pits as needed.
4. Monitor public use and demand for the pits/blinds

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