

LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION ORDER

Information provided in this section pertains only to the Spring Light Goose Conservation Order in South Dakota. The previous section reported only on the regular season.

The 2017 Light Goose Conservation Order covered 13 February - 2 May statewide. The daily bag and possession limits were unlimited. To hunt light geese, residents were required to hold small game, 1-day small game, adult, senior or junior combination, or youth small game licenses plus a migratory bird certification. Nonresidents were required to obtain a nonresident Spring Light Goose or a nonresident Youth Spring Light Goose license. Hunters were not required to possess a federal waterfowl stamp to participate in the conservation order.

Harvest surveys were sent to both resident and nonresident hunters. In 2017, there were a projected 7,120 license holders who hunted at least one day for light geese during the conservation order dates (2,672 residents, 4,448 nonresidents). From the survey responses, there were a projected total of 181,460 light geese harvested.

The average days hunted projected to a total of 33,627 recreation days for the conservation order. Brown, Yankton, Clark, Spink, and Kingsbury county hunters had the highest reported harvest, accounting for an estimated 46% of the total harvest.

Comparison of the 2008 - 2017 Conservation Order light goose statistics

Year	Residents			Nonresidents		
	Number Hunters	Harvest	Total Days Hunted	Number Hunters	Harvest	Total Days Hunted
2008	3,330	45,995	18,925	3,271	61,142	12,406
2009	2,895	38,184	15,173	3,621	78,765	15,063
2010	1,762	18,223	7,883	2,884	34,325	10,486
2011	2,503	33,569	15,600	3,617	77,786	26,766
2012	2,324	37,655	13,885	2,494	70,703	16,538
2013	3,166	53,571	15,502	4,142	114,926	15,856
2014	2,159	41,386	11,832	4,514	107,730	17,949
2015	2,147	53,046	12,402	4,277	112,285	16,569
2016	1,866	36,572	9,485	3,843	89,627	15,076
2017	2,672	56,683	16,068	4,448	124,777	17,559

SPRING LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST FOR 2017

Last Revised: 23 Aug 2017

	Resident	Nonresident
CONSERVATION ORDER LIGHT GOOSE Licenses Sold *3*	12,783	4,651
Projected ACTIVE CONS ORDER LIGHT GOOSE HUNTERS	2,672	4,448
Number Sampled for Survey	2,930	1,359
Number Responded to Survey	1,794	779
Responded and Participated in Season	375	745
Responded but DID NOT HUNT	1,419	34
Survey Response Rate	61.2%	57.3%
TOTAL LIGHT GOOSE HARVEST CONSERVATION ORDER = 181,460		
Late Season (Conservation Order) 2/13 - 3/10 Period:		
No. Hunters Reporting Light Goose Days	237	256
Total Reported Light Goose Hunted Days	1,107	904
Average Days Hunted Light Geese	4.67	3.53
Total Reported Light Geese Bagged	3,386	6,383
Average Light Goose Bag for Season	14.29	24.93
Projected Days Light Goose Hunting	7,888	5,397
Projected No. Light Goose Hunters	1,689	1,528
Projected Light Goose Bag	24,127	38,110
TOTAL LIGHT GEESE HARVESTED 2/13 - 3/10 = 62,236		
Late Season (Conservation Order) 3/11 - 5/2 Period:		
No. Hunters Reporting Light Goose Days	246	564
Total Reported Light Goose Hunted Days	1,148	2,037
Average Days Hunted Light Geese	4.67	3.61
Total Reported Light Geese Bagged	4,569	14,516
Average Light Goose Bag for Season	18.57	25.74
Projected Days Light Goose Hunting	8,180	12,162
Projected No. Light Goose Hunters	1,753	3,367
Projected Light Goose Bag	32,556	86,667
TOTAL LIGHT GEESE HARVESTED 3/11 - 5/2 = 119,223		
Reported Geese bagged over decoys	4,273	17,766
Projected Geese bagged over decoys	30,447	106,071
Total bagged over decoys = 136,518		
Reported Geese shot but not retrieved	305	776
Projected Geese Shot but Not Retrieved	2,173	4,633
Total not retrieved = 6,806		

3 Numbers of resident licenses sold are based on the number of migratory bird certificates in the 2017

database purchased prior to April 21