



2019-20 New Mexico Small Game Voluntary Harvest Reports

Small game harvest is managed by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (Department). A Game Hunting License is required to legally take small game. Submission of a harvest report is voluntary, and license holders are able to make submissions through the Department's online Harvest Reporting System. For license holders who decided to submit a report, information was collected on if they hunted, what species of small game was harvested, the number harvested, and the county of harvest. Hunters may report hunting in more than one county. There were 31,618 license holders who voluntarily reported they did not hunt small game, 2,326 license holders who reported hunting without harvesting, and 2,883 who reported hunting and harvesting. The return rate of all small game license holders submitting a harvest report was 27.45%.

Resident small game hunters submitted a total of 2,499 species harvest reports, with the potential that some hunters may have filed more than one report if they hunted multiple species. A greater number of small game harvest reports were filed in 2019-20 compared to 2018-19 (Table 2). Of the license holders who filed a report, hunters were generally satisfied with their small game hunting experience in New Mexico. Individual species small game hunting ratings ranged from 3.0 to 4.2 out of 5.

Small game harvest can be variable year to year. Small game populations are subject to extreme fluctuations due to annual weather conditions. Poor winter or spring moisture and extreme weather events can reduce the number of breeding adults or lead to poor reproductive success. During years of good weather conditions, populations can rebound very quickly.

This report summarizes the reported harvest data for all small game including: quail (scaled, Gambel's, northern bobwhite, and Montezuma), pheasants, dusky grouse, Eurasian collared-doves, and squirrels (Abert's, gray, red, and fox). Information provided from survey results assists the Department with development of recommendations for future small game harvest opportunities.

Table 2. Comparison of the annual number of harvest reports submitted and number of small game reported harvested.

Species	Reports 14-15	Harvest 14-15	Reports 15-16*	Harvest 15-16*	Reports 16-17*	Harvest 16-17*	Reports 17-18*	Harvest 17-18*	Reports 18-19*	Harvest 18-19*	Reports 19-20*	Harvest 19-20*
Scaled Quail	1,129	17,037	1,987	41,633	1,508	27,793	1,431	24,911	988	13,943	1,013	14,161
Gambel's Quail	453	4,047	527	5,280	447	4,124	487	5,014	324	2,505	370	3,306
Northern Bobwhite	110	1,231	210	2,824	152	1,838	151	1,894	100	1,039	104	1,392
Montezuma Quail	41	230	65	506	31	147	28	117	22	99	34	164
Unknown Quail	146	1,925	N/A	N/A	204	2,886	159	2,177	106	1,315	103	1,336
Pheasant	26	48	35	70	40	72	41	89	28	57	33	58
Dusky Grouse	422	1,405	374	1,186	346	1,091	273	805	235	652	249	724
Eurasian Collared-Dove	549	11,242	548	12,858	471	14,843	451	10,915	397	8,179	337	5,177
Gray Squirrel	19	49	19	80	21	90	26	101	11	26	14	35
Abert's Squirrel	129	559	120	547	140	761	148	723	81	361	103	476
Red Squirrel	47	238	44	288	34	192	37	153	20	136	41	208
Fox Squirrel	1	4	1	5	2	10	3	8	1	4	1	2
Unknown Squirrel	101	338	86	357	83	308	84	275	64	189	97	347

*Some harvest reports were made outside of species ranges. These reports are categorized as unknown species.

Species Reports

Scaled Quail

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Bernalillo	5	250	3.4
Catron	1	1	5.0
Chaves	167	2050	3.4
Colfax	2	13	5.0
Curry	31	347	3.6
De Baca	22	252	3.9
Dona Ana	41	327	3.5
Eddy	353	5941	3.5
Grant	9	48	4.3
Guadalupe	5	39	3.8
Harding	2	26	4.0
Hidalgo	14	82	4.1
Lea	178	2825	3.7
Lincoln	11	152	3.5
Luna	30	180	3.3
Otero	3	20	3.7
Quay	25	290	3.7
Roosevelt	55	816	3.8
San Juan	3	32	2.3
San Miguel	3	20	3.3
Sandoval	4	78	3.8
Sierra	14	91	3.1
Socorro	25	202	3.8
Taos	1	4	5.0
Union	6	57	4.7
Valencia	3	18	3.3
TOTAL	1,013	14,161	3.6

Gambel's Quail

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Bernalillo	1	5	5.0
Catron	9	38	3.8
Dona Ana	88	757	3.7
Grant	48	454	3.8
Hidalgo	37	402	3.5
Lincoln	2	6	3.0
Luna	56	613	3.3
Otero	16	165	3.6
San Juan	3	11	2.3
Sandoval	2	7	3.5
Sierra	40	348	3.4
Socorro	60	441	3.6
Valencia	8	59	3.5
TOTAL	370	3,306	3.5

*Several reports were made outside known Gambel's Quail range. These reports were considered a misclassification, and were changed to unknown quail.

Montezuma Quail

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Catron	1	3	3.0
Dona Ana	7	36	4.3
Eddy	7	50	3.0
Grant	6	29	3.8
Lincoln	2	4	4.5
Luna	3	11	3.7
Otero	1	4	5.0
Sierra	1	5	5.0
Socorro	6	22	3.5
TOTAL	34	164	3.8

*Several reports were made outside known Montezuma Quail range. These reports were considered a misclassification, and were changed to unknown quail.

Northern Bobwhite Quail

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Chaves	5	33	3.0
Curry	31	400	3.5
De Baca	2	10	3.5
Eddy	10	82	4.0
Guadalupe	1	10	4.0
Lea	20	377	3.9
Quay	2	36	4.5
Roosevelt	32	441	3.9
Union	1	3	4.0
TOTAL	104	1,392	3.8

*Several reports were made outside known Northern Bobwhite range. These reports were considered a misclassification, and were changed to unknown quail.

Unknown Quail

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Chaves	18	195	3.4
Cibola	1	4	3.0
Curry	6	89	3.7
Eddy	42	589	3.8
Grant	1	8	2.0
Lea	23	380	4.1
Quay	2	22	4.0
Roosevelt	6	35	4.0
San Miguel	1	4	4.0
Torrance	1	2	3.0
Union	1	3	5.0
Valencia	1	5	5.0
TOTAL	103	1,336	3.8

*Reports outside of individual species range were changed to unknown quail.

Ring-necked Pheasant

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Bernalillo	2	4	4.5
Chaves	12	16	4.4
Eddy	5	6	3.6
San Juan	1	10	5.0
Socorro	7	13	3.6
Union	4	7	4.3
Valencia	2	2	5.0
TOTAL	33	58	4.2

Dusky Grouse

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Catron	1	2	3.0
Cibola	1	1	4.0
Colfax	9	31	4.2
Los Alamos	2	2	3.0
Mora	17	53	4.2
Rio Arriba	69	196	3.9
San Miguel	21	51	3.7
San Juan	1	2	5.0
Sandoval	14	39	3.9
Santa Fe	21	44	3.7
Taos	93	303	3.8
TOTAL	249	724	3.8

Eurasian Collared Dove

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Bernalillo	5	31	4.4
Catron	1	36	5.0
Chaves	57	1055	4.0
Cibola	1	20	5.0
Colfax	2	21	5.0
Curry	9	85	3.9
De Baca	4	26	3.5
Dona Ana	68	895	4.0
Eddy	55	1213	3.8
Grant	9	59	3.1
Hidalgo	1	3	4.0
Lea	29	477	3.9
Lincoln	1	10	4.0
Luna	6	62	3.8
Mora	1	3	4.0
Otero	6	100	3.0
Quay	1	10	5.0
Roosevelt	10	253	4.0
San Juan	6	72	3.5
San Miguel	1	25	4.0
Santa Fe	3	35	4.3
Sierra	11	115	3.8
Socorro	21	207	3.8
Torrance	8	116	4.0
Union	4	51	4.0
Valencia	17	197	4.1
TOTAL	337	5,177	3.9

Abert's Squirrel

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Bernalillo	2	2	2.0
Catron	23	193	4.4
Cibola	13	65	3.5
Colfax	1	3	3.0
Grant	11	57	3.7
Los Alamos	2	4	4.0
Rio Arriba	13	26	3.8
San Juan	2	3	4.0
San Miguel	2	3	4.5
Sandoval	3	7	3.0
Santa Fe	3	6	4.0
Sierra	7	21	4.3
Socorro	5	19	4.2
Torrance	14	51	4.4
Valencia	2	16	4.0
TOTAL	103	476	4.0

*Several reports were made outside known Fox Squirrel range. These reports were considered a misclassification, and were changed to unknown squirrel.

Red Squirrel

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Bernalillo	1	3	2.0
Catron	1	10	5.0
Cibola	1	1	2.0
Grant	2	4	3.5
Lincoln	2	9	3.0
Los Alamos	1	16	3.0
Mora	1	2	3.0
Otero	9	64	4.3
Rio Arriba	5	26	3.8
San Miguel	1	10	5.0
Sandoval	12	51	4.3
Santa Fe	3	10	4.3
Sierra	1	1	3.0
Taos	1	1	5.0
TOTAL	41	208	4.0

*Several reports were made outside known Red Squirrel range. These reports were considered a misclassification, and were changed to unknown squirrel.

Gray Squirrel

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Catron	6	14	4.2
Grant	7	18	3.3
Sierra	1	3	4.0
TOTAL	14	35	3.7

*Several reports were made outside known Gray Squirrel range. These reports were considered a misclassification, and were changed to unknown squirrel.

Fox Squirrel

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Lincoln	1	2	3.0
TOTAL	1	2	3.0

*Several reports were made outside known Fox Squirrel range. These reports were considered a misclassification, and were changed to unknown squirrel.

Unknown Squirrel

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Bernalillo	2	5	3
Chaves	3	13	4.3
Cibola	7	28	3.9
Dona Ana	1	2	5
Eddy	2	6	5
Lincoln	5	13	4.2
Los Alamos	8	33	4.3
McKinley	1	1	4
Mora	1	4	3
Otero	7	28	4.4
Rio Arriba	14	32	3.7
San Juan	2	17	4.5
San Miguel	8	24	4.6
Sandoval	19	84	3.9
Santa Fe	4	12	4
Socorro	5	25	4.2
Taos	5	13	4.6
Valencia	3	7	4.7
TOTAL	97	347	4.1

*Reports outside of individual species range were changed to unknown squirrel.