



2021–22 New Mexico Small Game Voluntary Harvest Report

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 submit a report, information is 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 36,066 license holders who voluntarily reported they did not hunt small game, 2,188 license holders who reported hunting without harvesting, and 2,318 who reported hunting and harvesting. The return rate of all game hunting license holders submitting a harvest report for small game was 22.6%.

Successful small game hunters submitted a total of 1,666 species harvest reports, with the potential that some hunters may have filed more than one report if they hunted multiple species. Of the license holders who filed a report, hunters were generally satisfied with their small game hunting experience in New Mexico. Species small game hunting satisfaction ratings ranged from 3.1 to 4.0 out of 5.

Fewer small game harvest reports were filed in 2021–22 compared to 2020–21 (Table 2). Though voluntary harvest reporting makes it hard to draw conclusions about trends in hunter numbers and harvests, there were likely fewer hunters in the field due to small game population declines caused by severe drought.

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 16-17	Harvest 16-17	Reports 17-18	Harvest 17-18	Reports 18-19	Harvest 18-19	Reports 19-20	Harvest 19-20	Reports 20-21	Harvest 20-21	Reports 21-22	Harvest 21-22
Scaled Quail	1,508	27,793	1,431	24,911	988	13,943	1,013	14,161	1,087	13,271	388	3,383
Gambel's Quail	447	4,124	487	5,014	324	2,505	370	3,306	637	6,782	382	3,220
Northern Bobwhite	152	1,838	151	1,894	100	1,039	104	1,392	88	790	30	194
Montezuma Quail	31	147	28	117	22	99	34	164	26	144	12	77
Unknown Quail*	204	2,886	159	2,177	106	1,315	103	1,336	102	974	40	299
Pheasant	40	72	41	89	28	57	33	58	29	53	20	53
Dusky Grouse	346	1,091	273	805	235	652	249	724	373	1,100	266	734
Eurasian Collared-Dove	471	14,843	451	10,915	397	8,179	337	5,177	381	5,594	303	3,961
Gray Squirrel	21	90	26	101	11	26	14	35	28	107	8	15
Abert's Squirrel	140	761	148	723	81	361	103	476	144	534	89	358
Red Squirrel	34	192	37	153	20	136	41	208	71	533	46	197
Fox Squirrel	2	10	3	8	1	4	1	2	1	1	1	4
Unknown Squirrel*	83	308	84	275	64	189	97	347	100	372	79	226
TOTAL	3,479	54,155	3,319	47,182	2,377	28,505	2,499	27,386	3,067	30,255	1,644	12,721

*Reports outside of species range were considered a misclassification and were changed to unknown.

Species Reports

Scaled Quail

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Bernalillo	6	119	3.3
Chaves	55	451	2.9
Cibola	1	20	4.0
Curry	11	102	3.0
De Baca	12	128	3.1
Dona Ana	39	293	3.6
Eddy	82	583	2.7
Grant	12	99	3.7
Harding	3	12	2.0
Hidalgo	16	115	3.9
Lea	34	491	2.5
Lincoln	5	36	3.6
Luna	41	315	3.2
Otero	1	2	3.0
Quay	8	91	2.1
Roosevelt	20	253	3.8
San Miguel	1	20	4.0
Sandoval	1	1	5.0
Sierra	9	43	3.8
Socorro	27	186	3.3
Union	3	18	3.7
Valencia	1	5	3.0
TOTAL	388	3,383	3.1

Gambel's Quail

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Bernalillo	2	7	4.5
Catron	2	11	3.0
Dona Ana	84	657	3.6
Grant	60	515	3.8
Hidalgo	53	495	3.5
Lincoln	1	16	3.0
Luna	56	547	3.5
Otero	17	102	3.4
San Juan	5	58	4.0
Sandoval	2	7	3.5
Sierra	35	447	3.6
Socorro	59	346	3.7
Valencia	6	12	4.3
TOTAL	382	3,220	3.6

*Reports outside of species range were considered a misclassification and were changed to unknown quail.

Montezuma Quail

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Catron	1	4	2.0
Chaves	1	17	4.0
Dona Ana	1	3	4.0
Grant	2	31	3.5
Hidalgo	3	8	3.0
Otero	1	4	3.0
Sierra	1	7	4.0
Socorro	2	3	3.5
TOTAL	12	77	3.3

*Reports outside of species range were considered a misclassification and were changed to unknown quail.

Northern Bobwhite Quail

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Chaves	1	3	2.0
Curry	14	121	2.9
Eddy	2	7	3.5
Guadalupe	1	5	4.0
Lea	5	27	3.8
Quay	1	4	3.0
Roosevelt	6	27	3.5
TOTAL	30	194	3.2

*Reports outside of species range were considered a misclassification and were changed to unknown quail.

Unknown Quail

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Chaves	5	32	3.2
Colfax	1	3	4.0
Curry	3	38	4.7
De Baca	1	2	4.0
Eddy	15	97	3.6
Lea	8	93	3.3
Lincoln	1	2	3.0
Quay	1	10	3.0
Roosevelt	1	11	5.0
Socorro	3	10	4.7
Valencia	1	1	2.0
TOTAL	40	299	3.6

*Reports outside of species range were considered a misclassification and were changed to unknown quail.

Ring-necked Pheasant

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Chaves	2	5	3.5
Curry	3	5	3.0
Eddy	5	17	3.2
Socorro	7	19	4.4
Union	2	6	4.0
Valencia	1	1	5.0
TOTAL	20	53	3.8

Dusky Grouse

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Colfax	9	27	4.1
Mora	14	34	3.7
Rio Arriba	81	199	3.7
San Miguel	25	57	4.0
Sandoval	15	32	3.5
Santa Fe	19	51	3.9
Taos	103	334	3.9
TOTAL	266	734	3.8

Eurasian Collared Dove

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Bernalillo	3	14	4.0
Chaves	36	688	4.0
Cibola	1	1	1.0
Curry	9	42	3.9
De Baca	4	21	3.3
Dona Ana	61	629	3.7
Eddy	67	1,287	3.6
Grant	9	100	3.6
Lea	25	350	3.4
Lincoln	1	10	5.0
Luna	2	10	4.0
McKinley	1	2	2.0
Otero	5	23	3.6
Quay	1	5	5.0
Rio Arriba	1	5	3.0
Roosevelt	9	123	4.0
San Juan	6	40	3.2
Sandoval	1	3	4.0
Santa Fe	5	19	4.6
Sierra	8	77	2.9
Socorro	23	218	3.7
Taos	1	2	4.0
Torrance	3	17	3.0
Union	2	40	4.5
Valencia	19	235	3.9
TOTAL	303	3,961	3.7

Abert's Squirrel

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Bernalillo	1	6	3.0
Catron	18	111	4.2
Cibola	11	36	4.0
Colfax	1	1	4.0
Grant	8	32	4.0
Los Alamos	2	5	4.5
McKinley	4	11	4.8
Rio Arriba	8	16	3.5
San Juan	2	6	3.5
San Miguel	3	10	3.7
Sandoval	5	12	3.6
Santa Fe	2	3	3.5
Sierra	5	17	4.4
Socorro	9	55	4.0
Taos	1	2	2.0
Torrance	8	34	4.0
Valencia	1	1	3.0
TOTAL	89	358	4.0

*Reports outside of species range were considered a misclassification and were changed to unknown squirrel.

Red Squirrel

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Bernalillo	1	2	2.0
Catron	2	6	3.5
Colfax	1	2	5.0
Grant	1	1	2.0
Lincoln	5	17	3.6
Mora	1	2	5.0
Otero	11	36	4.0
Rio Arriba	2	9	3.5
San Miguel	4	19	3.5
Sandoval	14	86	4.4
Santa Fe	2	5	5.0
Sierra	1	10	5.0
Taos	1	2	5.0
TOTAL	46	197	4.0

*Reports outside of species range were considered a misclassification and were changed to unknown squirrel.

Gray Squirrel

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Catron	3	7	4.0
Grant	4	7	3.8
Sierra	1	1	5.0
TOTAL	8	15	4.0

*Reports outside of species range were considered a misclassification and were changed to unknown squirrel.

Fox Squirrel

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Eddy	1	4	1
TOTAL	1	4	1

*Reports outside of species range were considered a misclassification and were changed to unknown squirrel.

Unknown Squirrel

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Bernalillo	2	5	3.5
Chaves	2	8	5.0
Cibola	8	24	3.9
Dona Ana	2	5	4.5
Grant	1	1	3.0
Guadalupe	1	1	3.0
Hidalgo	1	1	5.0
Lincoln	4	18	4.3
Los Alamos	3	15	4.3
McKinley	2	4	3.5
Mora	1	6	4.0
Otero	4	9	4.0
Quay	1	1	1.0
Rio Arriba	13	36	3.8
San Miguel	5	15	4.2
Sandoval	13	35	3.8
Santa Fe	5	16	4.0
Sierra	1	1	5.0
Socorro	2	3	2.5
Taos	4	11	4.0
Torrance	3	10	3.3
Valencia	1	1	1.0
TOTAL	79	226	3.8

*Reports outside of species range were considered a misclassification and were changed to unknown squirrel.