



2024–25 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 small game 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, hunting days, and the county of harvest. Hunters may report hunting in more than one county. There were 37,028 license holders who voluntarily reported they did not hunt small game, 1,579 license holders who reported hunting without harvesting, and 2,350 who reported hunting and harvesting. The return rate of all game hunting license holders submitting a harvest report for small game was 26.1%.

Successful small game hunters submitted a total of 1,952 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. Individual species small game hunting satisfaction ratings ranged from 2.0 to 4.1 out of 5.

Though voluntary harvest reporting makes it challenging to draw conclusions about changes in hunter numbers and harvests, number of reports, total harvest, and harvest/hunter, can give us a broad overview of small game hunting and populations trends. Small game hunter numbers appeared to be down in 2024-25 compared to 2023-24 (Table 1). Fewer hunters filed small game reports and average harvest per hunter was down.

Small game populations vary year to year and 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. In 2024, breeding season drought led to poor reproduction for many small game species in New Mexico. With most of the small game species numbers depressed, this likely resulted in fewer hunters going afield.

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

Species	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	Reports 22-23	Harvest 22-23	Reports 23-24	Harvest 23-24	Reports 24-25	Harvest 24-25
Scaled Quail	1,431	24,911	988	13,943	1,013	14,161	1,087	13,271	388	3,383	559	4,879	688	6,658	524	4,651
Gambel's Quail	487	5,014	324	2,505	370	3,306	637	6,782	382	3,220	465	4,351	540	4,763	409	3,394
Northern Bobwhite	151	1,894	100	1,039	104	1,392	88	790	30	194	31	290	62	554	45	370
Montezuma Quail	28	117	22	99	34	164	26	144	12	77	33	121	51	257	30	147
Unknown Quail*	159	2,177	106	1,315	103	1,336	102	974	40	299	57	460	73	679	63	474
Pheasant	41	89	28	57	33	58	29	53	20	53	28	52	14	29	21	42
Dusky Grouse	273	805	235	652	249	724	373	1,100	266	734	262	771	370	1,252	335	1,104
Eurasian Collared-Dove	451	10,915	397	8,179	337	5,177	381	5,594	303	3,961	290	4,406	241	3,808	222	2,870
Abert's Squirrel	148	723	81	361	103	476	144	534	89	358	87	325	106	454	156	629
Red Squirrel	37	153	20	136	41	208	71	533	46	197	42	481	34	184	43	256
Gray Squirrel	26	101	11	26	14	35	28	107	8	15	20	67	25	63	18	42
Fox Squirrel	3	8	1	4	1	2	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	2	1	1
Unknown Squirrel*	84	275	64	189	97	347	100	372	79	226	64	225	113	499	78	264
TOTAL	3,319	47,182	2,377	28,505	2,499	27,386	3,067	30,255	1,644	12,721	1,939	16,429	2,318	19,202	1,945	14,244

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

Species Reports

Scaled Quail

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Bernalillo	1	5	5.0
Chaves	78	781	3.4
Cibola	1	25	4.0
Curry	25	340	3.7
De Baca	15	138	3.7
Dona Ana	21	83	3.6
Eddy	132	1318	3.0
Grant	17	81	3.5
Guadalupe	8	73	2.6
Harding	3	75	3.7
Hidalgo	6	27	3.0
Lea	62	696	3.2
Lincoln	7	45	3.6
Luna	31	180	3.5
Otero	8	36	3.5
Quay	17	145	3.5
Roosevelt	34	299	3.8
San Juan	3	18	3.7
Sandoval	1	1	3.0
Santa Fe	1	2	2.0
Sierra	16	81	3.8
Socorro	31	144	3.3
Union	5	50	3.0
Valencia	1	8	4.0
TOTAL	524	4,651	3.3

Gambel's Quail

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Bernalillo	2	8	4.0
Catron	10	99	3.9
Dona Ana	53	470	3.4
Grant	64	590	3.4
Hidalgo	46	424	3.5
Lincoln	4	15	3.5
Luna	59	417	3.5
Otero	13	129	3.7
San Juan	19	190	3.7
Sandoval	3	13	3.0
Santa Fe	1	5	4.0
Sierra	53	436	3.5
Socorro	77	574	3.8
Valencia	5	24	3.6
TOTAL	409	3,394	3.5

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

Montezuma Quail

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Catron	6	48	3.0
Dona Ana	2	5	3.5
Grant	3	13	3.3
Hidalgo	3	4	3.3
Lincoln	3	18	4.3
Luna	1	2	4.0
Otero	3	29	3.7
Sierra	5	22	4.0
Socorro	4	6	3.8
TOTAL	30	147	3.4

*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	4	13	3.3
Curry	16	144	3.8
Eddy	1	1	1.0
Lea	6	50	3.2
Quay	1	12	3.0
Roosevelt	17	150	4.1
TOTAL	45	370	3.7

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

Unknown Quail

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Chaves	11	98	3.4
Curry	2	14	3.5
De Baca	2	19	2.5
Dona Ana	2	2	5.0
Eddy	23	156	3.3
Grant	1	5	4.0
Lea	8	28	3.0625
Quay	4	74	4.3
Rio Arriba	1	6	4.0
Roosevelt	3	58	3.7
San Juan	3	7	4.0
Sierra	1	1	3.0
Socorro	1	1	3.0
Valencia	1	5	4.0
TOTAL	63	474	3.4

*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	3	3	4.0
Curry	1	1	1.0
Eddy	6	11	3.8
Quay	1	5	5.0
Socorro	4	11	4.0
Valencia	6	11	4.2
TOTAL	21	42	3.9

*Reports outside of species range were considered an error and removed from analysis.

Dusky Grouse

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Colfax	15	66	4.1
Mora	17	43	4.0
Rio Arriba	95	294	3.9
San Miguel	31	98	3.7
Sandoval	17	66	4.0
Santa Fe	10	24	3.7
Taos	150	513	3.9
TOTAL	335	1,104	3.9

*Reports outside of species range were considered an error and removed from analysis.

Eurasian Collared Dove

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Catron	2	22	4.5
Chaves	22	346	3.6
Cibola	1	4	4.0
Curry	7	34	4.1
De Baca	1	15	3.0
Dona Ana	52	898	4.0
Eddy	37	570	3.5
Grant	3	48	3.7
Guadalupe	1	8	4.0
Harding	1	5	3.0
Hidalgo	1	20	3.0
Lea	15	203	3.8
Lincoln	2	8	4.0
Luna	4	44	3.8
Otero	7	59	4.1
Roosevelt	6	50	3.8
San Juan	6	18	3.3
San Miguel	2	6	3.5
Sandoval	2	29	5.0
Santa Fe	3	21	2.7
Sierra	6	115	3.8
Socorro	21	183	3.5
Torrance	4	29	4.0
Union	1	30	2.0
Valencia	15	105	4.1
TOTAL	222	2,870	3.8

Abert's Squirrel

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Bernalillo	4	27	4.0
Catron	44	225	4.3
Cibola	9	20	4.2
Grant	18	85	4.1
Los Alamos	4	14	4.5
Luna	1	3	4.0
McKinley	1	2	3.0
Rio Arriba	20	47	4.0
San Juan	1	4	3.0
San Miguel	1	2	5.0
Sandoval	8	19	3.9
Santa Fe	4	8	3.8
Sierra	9	46	4.1
Socorro	20	94	4.1
Taos	1	1	1.0
Torrance	9	20	4.1
Valencia	2	12	4.0
TOTAL	156	629	4.1

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

Red Squirrel

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Grant	1	3	4.0
Lincoln	3	11	3.3
Los Alamos	1	4	3.0
Mora	2	3	3.5
Otero	12	106	4.0
Rio Arriba	5	19	3.8
San Miguel	1	5	4.0
Sandoval	12	92	4.4
Santa Fe	5	12	2.8
Taos	1	1	3.0
TOTAL	43	256	3.8

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

Gray Squirrel

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Catron	11	22	3.5
Grant	4	10	4.0
Sierra	3	10	4.0
TOTAL	18	42	3.7

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

Fox Squirrel

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Colfax	1	1	2
TOTAL	1	1	2

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

Unknown Squirrel

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Hunter Rating
Bernalillo	3	15	4.7
Catron	2	7	4.5
Chaves	2	3	2.5
Cibola	7	11	4.1
Lincoln	3	8	3.3
Los Alamos	5	13	4.2
Luna	1	2	3.0
McKinley	1	2	4.0
Mora	3	12	4.3
Otero	7	39	4.6
Quay	1	1	1.0
Rio Arriba	10	33	4.3
Roosevelt	1	2	4.0
San Juan	3	13	4.0
San Miguel	4	7	3.8
Sandoval	12	56	3.9
Santa Fe	4	8	4.3
Sierra	1	6	4.0
Socorro	1	2	2.0
Taos	4	10	4.3
Torrance	2	13	4.5
Valencia	1	1	4.0
TOTAL	78	264	4.0

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