



2025–26 New Mexico Small Game **Voluntary Harvest Report**



Small game harvest is managed by the New Mexico Department of Wildlife (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 37,417 license holders who voluntarily reported they did not hunt small game, 281 license holders who reported hunting without harvesting, and 3,383 who reported hunting and harvesting. The return rate of all game hunting license holders submitting a harvest report for small game was 25.9%.

Successful resident small game hunters submitted a total of 2,759 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 2.7 to 4.0 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 up in 2025-26 compared to 2024-25 (Table 1). More hunters filed small game reports, but the 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 2025, breeding season conditions were mixed across the state. In western New Mexico, drought led to poor reproduction for many small game species. But in eastern New Mexico precipitation led to good reproductive conditions and increased numbers.

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 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	Reports 25-26	Harvest 25-26
Scaled Quail	988	13,943	1,013	14,161	1,087	13,271	388	3,383	559	4,879	689	6,673	524	4,651	879	7,966
Gambel's Quail	324	2,505	370	3,306	637	6,782	382	3,220	465	4,351	540	4,763	409	3,394	393	1,393
Northern Bobwhite	100	1,039	104	1,392	88	790	30	194	31	290	62	554	45	370	78	523
Montezuma Quail	22	99	34	164	26	144	12	77	33	121	51	257	30	147	49	150
Unknown Quail*	106	1,315	103	1,336	102	974	40	299	57	460	72	664	63	474	117	662
Pheasant	28	57	33	58	29	53	20	53	28	52	14	29	21	42	44	52
Dusky Grouse	235	652	249	724	373	1,100	266	734	262	771	370	1,252	335	1,104	523	1,092
Eurasian Collared-Dove	397	8,179	337	5,177	381	5,594	303	3,961	290	4,406	241	3,808	222	2,870	307	3,331
Abert's Squirrel	81	361	103	476	144	534	89	358	87	325	106	454	156	629	177	516
Red Squirrel	20	136	41	208	71	533	46	197	42	481	34	184	43	256	37	152
Gray Squirrel	11	26	14	35	28	107	8	15	20	67	25	63	18	42	27	84
Fox Squirrel	1	4	1	2	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	2	1	1	4	3
Unknown Squirrel*	64	189	97	347	100	372	79	226	64	225	113	499	78	264	107	203
TOTAL	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	2,742	16,127

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

Species Reports

Scaled Quail

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Days	Hunter Rating
Bernalillo	2	32	6	5.0
Catron	3	42	11	4.0
Chaves	147	1,377	646	3.5
Cibola	5	32	38	3.4
Colfax	1	0	1	1.0
Curry	33	408	79	3.6
De Baca	26	243	69	3.8
Dona Ana	23	69	78	2.6
Eddy	251	2,285	1,067	3.2
Grant	6	20	35	2.2
Guadalupe	8	76	33	3.6
Harding	11	232	40	4.2
Hidalgo	6	30	29	2.8
Lea	141	1,381	457	3.5
Lincoln	9	35	24	2.7
Luna	26	74	81	2.4
Otero	3	4	15	3.3
Quay	32	387	71	3.8
Roosevelt	67	791	202	3.8
San Juan	3	6	7	2.7
San Miguel	5	31	9	4.2
Sandoval	2	8	6	2.5
Santa Fe	2	3	2	1.5
Sierra	14	55	57	2.6
Socorro	28	189	89	2.8
Torrance	6	21	13	2.2
Union	14	120	53	3.9
Valencia	5	15	7	3.4
TOTAL	879	7,966	3,225	3.3

Gambel's Quail

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Days	Hunter Rating
Bernalillo	1	0	2	3.0
Catron	4	8	13	2.3
Cibola	3	0	3	2.0
Dona Ana	76	231	256	2.8
Grant	53	227	206	2.6
Hidalgo	46	105	127	2.7
Lincoln	1	2	2	4.0
Luna	48	183	147	2.4
Otero	10	66	65	2.8
San Juan	23	100	57	2.9
Sandoval	2	0	9	3.5
Sierra	35	207	149	2.5
Socorro	81	235	272	2.9
Taos	1	0	1	1.0
Valencia	9	29	17	3.1
TOTAL	393	1,393	1,326	2.7

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

Montezuma Quail

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Days	Hunter Rating
Catron	7	13	19	2.6
Chaves	4	36	9	3.3
Cibola	1	0	2	3.0
Dona Ana	6	21	36	3.3
Eddy	5	34	9	3.0
Grant	4	3	5	1.5
Hidalgo	1	2	4	1.0
Lincoln	3	2	3	2.7
Luna	1	0	2	3.0
Otero	1	10	15	3.0
Sierra	9	26	21	2.4
Socorro	7	3	10	2.9
TOTAL	49	150	135	2.7

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

Northern Bobwhite Quail

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Days	Hunter Rating
Chaves	3	12	2	4.0
Curry	31	240	144	3.7
Eddy	5	42	26	2.8
Guadalupe	1	30	10	5.0
Harding	1	6	4	3.0
Lea	12	55	89	2.9
Quay	2	6	4	3.0
Roosevelt	22	131	65	3.8
Union	1	1	1	4.0
TOTAL	78	523	345	3.6

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

Unknown Quail

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Days	Hunter Rating
Chaves	22	176	111	3.3
Colfax	1	0	3	2.0
Curry	6	52	9	3.7
De Baca	2	2	11	2.0
Dona Ana	1	0	1	1.0
Eddy	38	239	128	3.6
Guadalupe	4	17	12	3.3
Harding	2	10	3	4.0
Lea	21	85	80	3.5
Quay	4	11	6	3.3
Rio Arriba	1	3	1	5.0
Roosevelt	9	61	15	4.1
San Juan	3	4	23	3.0
Socorro	2	2	5	4.0
Torrance	1	0	1	2.0
TOTAL	117	662	409	3.5

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

Dusky Grouse

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Days	Hunter Rating
Catron	1	5	10	4.0
Colfax	20	51	61	3.6
Los Alamos	8	4	20	2.5
Mora	33	56	139	3.8
Rio Arriba	151	258	572	3.4
San Miguel	49	90	194	3.7
Sandoval	47	73	203	3.4
Santa Fe	32	47	116	3.7
Taos	182	508	733	3.6
TOTAL	523	1,092	2,048	3.5

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

Ring-necked Pheasant

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Days	Hunter Rating
Bernalillo	2	6	1	4.0
Chaves	3	8	3	4.3
Curry	2	1	3	3.0
Eddy	16	10	20	2.9
Socorro	11	7	17	3.2
Union	6	5	9	3.7
Valencia	4	15	4	3.5
TOTAL	44	52	57	3.3

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

Eurasian Collared Dove

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Days	Hunter Rating
Bernalillo	5	6	26	2.8
Catron	1	20	7	4.0
Chaves	32	441	273	4.0
Cibola	2	11	4	3.5
Curry	9	62	40	3.3
De Baca	3	16	5	3.3
Dona Ana	66	824	323	3.8
Eddy	60	638	202	3.7
Grant	5	41	49	4.0
Guadalupe	1	8	1	4.0
Hidalgo	2	7	16	3.5
Lea	26	390	93	4.2
Lincoln	2	2	2	2.5
Luna	4	91	24	4.3
McKinley	1	0	4	3.0
Quay	4	72	24	4.0
Rio Arriba	1	5	1	5.0
Roosevelt	4	63	24	3.8
San Juan	6	32	21	3.3
San Miguel	1	30	3	4.0
Sandoval	3	7	8	3.3
Santa Fe	2	9	15	3.0
Sierra	7	38	20	3.6
Socorro	24	130	77	3.6
Taos	1	10	8	3.0
Torrance	9	158	66	4.1
Union	3	30	16	3.3
Valencia	23	190	77	3.6
TOTAL	307	3,331	1,429	3.7

Abert's Squirrel

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Days	Hunter Rating
Bernalillo	2	4	6	2.5
Catron	43	180	83	3.9
Cibola	9	20	24	3.8
Colfax	5	6	18	3.2
Grant	27	83	67	3.8
Los Alamos	2	2	1	4.5
McKinley	6	7	19	4.2
Rio Arriba	20	69	58	4.1
San Juan	3	0	6	3.0
San Miguel	4	5	8	4.0
Sandoval	19	41	37	3.5
Santa Fe	5	12	8	4.0
Sierra	4	12	7	4.0
Socorro	20	70	42	3.5
Taos	3	1	7	3.3
Torrance	4	4	6	3.8
Valencia	1	0	1	3.0
TOTAL	177	516	398	3.8

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

Red Squirrel

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Days	Hunter Rating
Catron	1	1	2	3.0
Grant	2	11	14	4.5
Los Alamos	1	6	5	4.0
Otero	14	57	52	3.9
Rio Arriba	2	4	9	4.0
San Miguel	7	18	7	4.1
Sandoval	6	44	12	3.0
Santa Fe	1	1	2	5.0
Sierra	1	8	6	5.0
Taos	2	2	5	3.5
TOTAL	37	152	114	3.9

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

Gray Squirrel

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Days	Hunter Rating
Catron	11	49	25	4.3
Grant	11	28	13	4.0
Sierra	5	7	8	3.4
TOTAL	27	84	46	4.0

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

Fox Squirrel

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Days	Hunter Rating
Chaves	1	1	20	3.0
Colfax	2	1	3	3.5
Eddy	1	1	1	3.0
TOTAL	4	3	24	3.3

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

Unknown Squirrel

County	Hunter Reports	Harvests	Days	Hunter Rating
Bernalillo	6	10	7	3.8
Catron	4	4	4	3.8
Chaves	1	1	2	4.0
Cibola	9	13	36	4.7
Colfax	2	2	1	3.5
Curry	1	0	2	1.0
De Baca	1	0	11	1.0
Dona Ana	4	10	10	3.5
Grant	1	6	2	3.0
Lincoln	3	3	14	3.0
Luna	1	0	3	5.0
McKinley	6	8	8	4.0
Mora	1	2	5	4.0
Otero	16	42	29	3.4
Rio Arriba	14	24	27	3.6
San Juan	2	3	6	4.0
San Miguel	8	16	15	3.5
Sandoval	8	17	29	3.5
Santa Fe	5	13	13	3.8
Socorro	2	1	8	3.0
Taos	6	7	32	3.2
Torrance	4	18	34	4.3
Valencia	2	3	2	4.0
TOTAL	107	203	300	3.6

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