U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

American Woodcock

Population Status, 2025

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of Migratory Bird Management
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This report contains annual estimates of migratory bird abundance, harvest, and hunter participation and activity. Due to the large volume of data, the number of years, and geographic areas involved, data tables may be large and complex. Readers that may need help reading and interpreting the data, or that may need data presented in an alternative format to facilitate reading and interpretation, should contact the author at mark_seamans@fws.gov.

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AMERICAN WOODCOCK POPULATION STATUS, 2025

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Abstract: The American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) Singing-ground Survey data for 2025 indicated that the index for singing males was similar to last year's estimate in both the Eastern and Central Management Regions. Over the most recent 10 years (2015–2025), the Central Management Region had a significant negative trend whereas the Eastern Management Region had a non-significant trend. Both regions had a significant, long-term (1968–2025) negative trend: Eastern = -0.74%/year; Central = -0.52%/year. The 2024 recruitment index in the U.S. portion of the Eastern Region (1.14 immatures per adult female) was 25.7% less than the 2023 index and 29.5% lower than the long-term regional average, while the recruitment index in the Central Region (1.23 immatures per adult female) was 4.2% greater than the 2023 index, and 17.7% less than the long-term regional average. Estimates from the Harvest Information Program indicated that U.S. woodcock hunters in the Eastern Region spent 223,100 days afield and harvested 56,900 woodcock during the 2024–25 season, while in the Central Region hunters spent 395,700 days afield and harvested 154,200 woodcock.

INTRODUCTION

The American woodcock is a popular game bird throughout eastern North America. The management objective of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is to stabilize woodcock populations, while ultimately returning the population to a level that occurred in the early 1970s (Kelley et al. 2008). Reliable annual population estimates, harvest estimates, and information on recruitment and distribution are essential for comprehensive woodcock management. This information is difficult and often impractical to obtain. Woodcock are difficult to find and count because of their cryptic coloration, small size, and preference for areas with dense vegetation. The Singing-ground Survey (SGS) was developed to provide indices to changes in abundance. The Parts-collection Survey (PCS) provides annual indices of woodcock recruitment. The Harvest Information Program (HIP) utilizes a sampling frame of woodcock hunters to estimate annual harvest and hunter days spent afield.

This report summarizes the results of these surveys and presents an assessment of the population status of woodcock as of early June 2025. The report is intended to assist managers in regulating the sport harvest of woodcock and to draw attention to areas where management actions are needed. Historical woodcock hunting regulations are summarized in Appendix A.

The primary purpose of this report is to facilitate the prompt distribution of timely information. Results are preliminary and may change with the inclusion of additional data.

METHODS

Woodcock Management Regions

Woodcock are managed based on 2 regions or populations, Eastern and Central (Fig. 1), as recommended by Owen et al. (1977). Coon et al. (1977) reviewed the concept of management regions for woodcock and recommended the current configuration over several alternatives. This configuration was biologically justified because analysis of band recovery data indicated that there was little crossover between the regions (Krohn et al. 1974, Martin et al. 1969). Furthermore, the boundary between the two regions conforms to the boundary between the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways. The results of the PCS and SGS, as well from HIP, are reported by state or province, and management region. Although state and province level results are included in this report, analyses are designed to support management decisions made at the management region scale.

Singing-ground Survey

The SGS was developed to exploit the conspicuous courtship display of the male woodcock. Early studies demonstrated that counts of singing males provide indices to woodcock population abundance and could be used to monitor annual changes (Mendall and Aldous 1943, Goudy 1960, Duke 1966, Whitcomb 1974). Before 1968, counts were conducted on nonrandomly located routes. Beginning in 1968, routes were relocated along lightly traveled secondary roads in the center of randomly

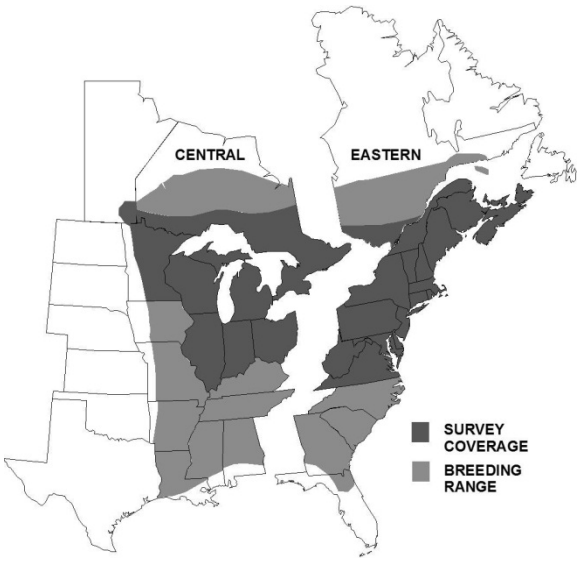

Fig. 1. Woodcock management regions, breeding range, and Singing-ground Survey coverage.

chosen 10-minute degree blocks within each state and province in the central and northern portions of the woodcock's breeding range (Fig. 1). Data collected prior to 1968 are not included in this report.

Each route was 3.6 miles (5.4 km) long and consisted of 10 listening points. The routes were surveyed shortly after sunset by an observer who drove to each of the 10 stops and recorded the number of woodcock heard peenting (the vocalization by displaying male woodcock on the ground). Acceptable dates for conducting the survey were assigned by latitude to coincide with peaks in courtship behavior of local woodcock. In most states and provinces, the peak of courtship activity (including local woodcock and woodcock still migrating) occurred earlier in the spring and local reproduction may have already been underway when the survey was conducted. However, it was necessary to conduct the survey during the designated survey dates to minimize the counting of migrating woodcock. Because adverse weather conditions may affect courtship behavior and/or the ability of observers to hear woodcock, surveys were only conducted when wind, precipitation, and temperature conditions were within prescribed limits.

The survey consists of about 1,500 routes. To avoid expending unnecessary resources and funds, approximately two-thirds of these routes were selected for survey each year. The remaining routes were carried as "constant zero" routes. Routes for which no woodcock were heard for 2 consecutive years enter this constant zero status and were not surveyed for the next 5 years. If woodcock were heard on a constant zero route during its next survey, the route reverted to normal status and was surveyed again each year. Data from constant zero routes were included in the analysis only for the years they were surveyed. Sauer and Bortner (1991) reviewed the implementation and analysis of the SGS in more detail.

Trends in the number of male woodcock heard were estimated using a hierarchical model. Sauer et al. (2008) described a hierarchical log-linear model for estimation of population change from SGS data. Sauer et al. (2021) compared the Sauer et al. (2008) model with a model with additional forms for year effects and the distribution of overdispersion effects and concluded that population change is best modeled as the difference in expected counts between successive years (their 'D' model). We used this new D model for inference in this report. The 2 model forms are similar except in how year effects are modeled. The old approach (denoted as the 'S' in Sauer et al. 2021) modeled year effects as random effects in the context of a slope parameter to estimate population change, whereas the D model describes population change as the difference in expected counts between successive years. The D model provides population trend and annual index values that are generally comparable to the estimates provided by the previous model, except that the D model provides slightly fewer extreme estimates of trend.

For the hierarchical model, the log of the expected value of the counts was modeled as a linear combination of strata-specific intercepts and year effects, a random effect for each unique combination of route and observer, a start-up effect on the route for first year counts by new observers, and overdispersion. The parameters of interest were treated as random and were assumed to follow distributions that were governed by additional parameters. The hierarchical model is fit using Bayesian methods. Markov-chain Monte Carlo methods were used to iteratively produce sequences of parameter estimates which were used to describe the distribution of the parameters of interest. After an initial "burn-in" period, means, medians, and credible (i.e., Bayesian confidence) intervals (CI) for the parameters were estimated from the replicates. Annual indices for a stratum (state or province) are a function of year effects, defined as exponentiated random strata and year effects. Population trends were defined as ratios of the indices at the start and end of the interval of interest, taken to the appropriate power to estimate a yearly change (Sauer et al. 2021). Trend estimates were expressed as percent change per year, while indices were expressed as the number of singing males per route. Annual indices were calculated for the 2 regions and each state and province, while short-term (2024-2025), 10-year (2015-2025) and long-term (1968–2025) trends were evaluated for each region as well as for each state and province.

Due to SARS-CoV-2 (i.e., coronavirus) related restrictions in Canada and the U.S., only a portion of the

SGS (n=329 routes) was conducted in 2020. Indices for states and provinces with little or no data for 2020 were estimated with the hierarchical model using strata-specific intercepts and year effects that were calculated from the limited 2020 data and the long-term dataset.

Credible intervals were used to describe uncertainty around the estimates when fitting hierarchical models. If the CI did not overlap 0 for a trend estimate, the trend was considered significant. We present the median and 95% CIs of 10,000 samples (i.e., we simulated 20,000 replicates and thinned by 2), which were calculated after an initial burn-in of 20,000 iterations to allow the series to converge. Refer to Link and Sauer (2002) and Sauer et al. (2008, 2021) for a detailed description of the statistical model and fitting process.

The reported sample sizes are the number of routes on which trend estimates are based. Each route was to be surveyed during the peak time of daily singing activity. For editing purposes, "acceptable" stops were surveyed between 22 and 58 minutes after sunset (or between 15 and 51 minutes after sunset on overcast evenings). Due to observer error or road conditions, some stops on some routes were surveyed before or after the peak times of singing activity. Earlier analysis revealed that routes with 8 or fewer acceptable stops tended to be biased low. Beginning with data from 1988, only route observations with at least 9 acceptable stops were included in the analysis. Route observations prior to 1988 are used regardless of the number of acceptable stops. Routes for which data were received after 13 June 2025 were not included in this analysis but will be included in future trend estimates.

Parts-collection Survey

The primary objective of the PCS is to provide data on the reproductive success of woodcock. The survey is administered as a cooperative effort between woodcock hunters, the USFWS, and state wildlife agencies. Participants in the 2024 (i.e., covers the September 2024 to January 2025 hunting season) survey included hunters who either: (1) participated in past surveys; (2) were a subset of hunters who indicated on the HIP Survey that they hunted woodcock; or (3) contacted the USFWS to volunteer for the survey.

Parts-collection Survey participants were provided with prepaid mailing envelopes and asked to submit 1 wing from each woodcock they harvested. Hunters were asked to record the date of the hunt as well as the state and county where the bird was shot. Hunters were not asked to submit envelopes for unsuccessful hunts. The age and gender of birds were determined by examining plumage characteristics (Martin 1964, Sepik 1994).

The ratio of immature birds per adult female in the harvest provides an index to recruitment of young into the population. The 2024 recruitment index for each state with ≥125 submitted wings was calculated as the number of immatures per adult female. The regional indices for 2024 were weighted by the relative contribution of each state to the cumulative number of adult female and immature wings received during 1963–2023.

Harvest Information Program

The HIP was cooperatively developed by the USFWS and state wildlife agencies to provide reliable annual estimates of hunter activity and harvest for all migratory game birds (Elden et al. 2002). The HIP sampling frame consists of all migratory game bird hunters. Under this program, state wildlife agencies collect the name, address, and additional information from each migratory bird hunter in their state and send that information to the USFWS. The USFWS then selects stratified random samples of those hunters and asks them to voluntarily provide detailed information about their hunting activity. For example, hunters selected for the woodcock harvest survey are asked to complete a daily diary about their woodcock hunting and harvest during the current year's hunting season. Their responses are then used to develop nationwide woodcock harvest estimates. The HIP survey estimates of woodcock harvest have been available since 1999. Although estimates from 1999–2002 have been finalized, the estimates from 2003–2024 should be considered preliminary as refinements are still being made in the sampling frame and estimation techniques. Canadian hunter and harvest estimates, which were obtained through the Canadian National Harvest Survey Program, are presented in Appendix B (Gendron and Smith 2025).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Singing-ground Survey

Data for 827 routes were submitted by 13 June 2025 (Table 1). Compared to last year, the number of woodcock heard in 2025 did not change in the Eastern or Central Management Region (Table 1). Trends for individual states and provinces are reported in Table 1. Consistency in route coverage over time is a critical component of precision in estimation of population change. Low precision of 2-year change estimates reflects the low numbers of routes surveyed by the same observer in both years. Ensuring that observers participate for several years on the same route would greatly enhance the quality of the results.

The 10-year trend (2015–2025) indicated a significant negative trend in the Central Management Region, and no trend in the Eastern Management Region (Table 1, Fig. 2). Many states and provinces in both management regions have experienced significant long-term (1968–2025) declines as measured by the SGS (Table 1, Fig. 3). The long-term trend estimate was

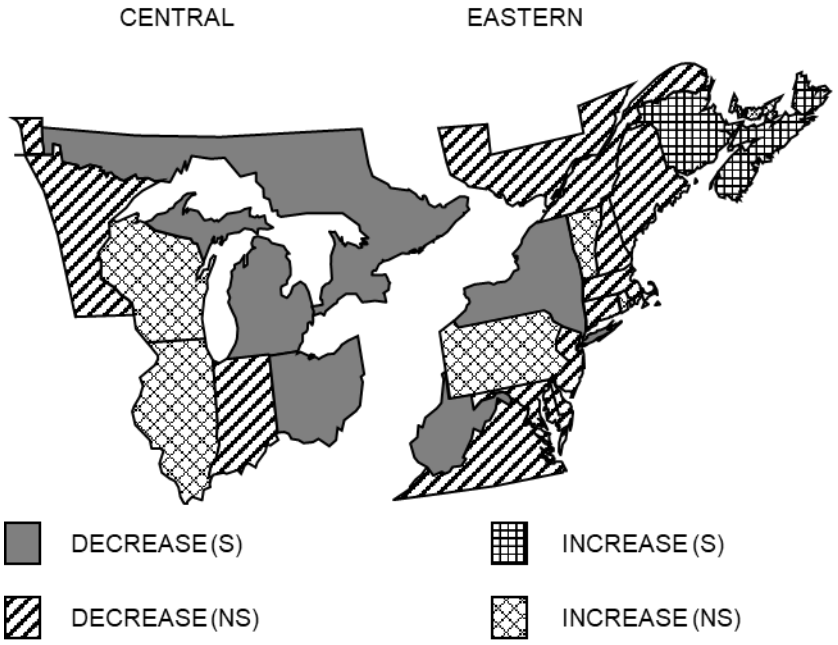

Fig. 2. Ten-year trends in the number of American woodcock heard on the Singing-ground Survey, 2015–2025, as determined by the hierarchical modeling method. A significant trend (S) does not include zero in the 95% credible interval, while a non-significant (NS) trend does include zero.

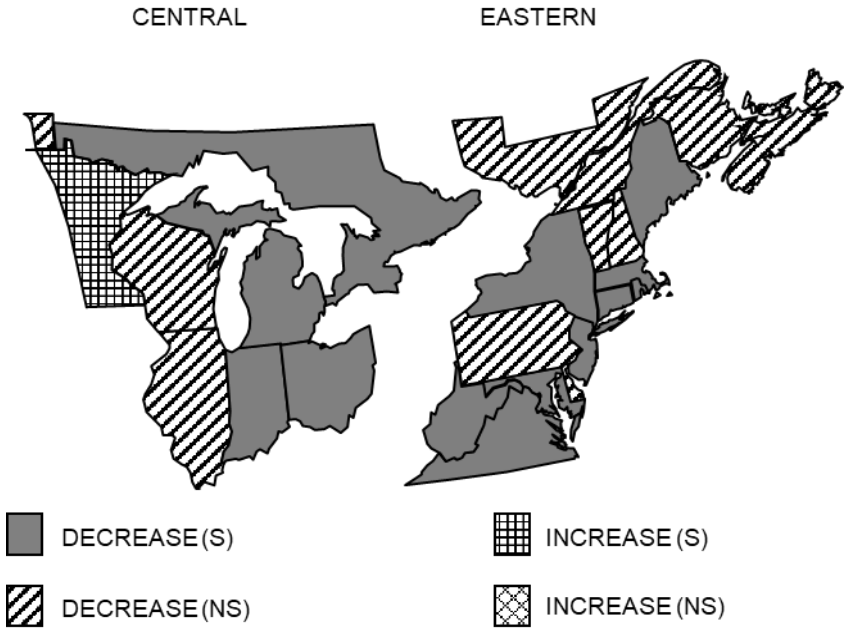

Fig. 3. Long-term trends in the number of American woodcock heard on the Singing-ground Survey, 1968–2025, as determined by the hierarchical modeling method. A significant trend (S) does not include zero in the 95% credible interval, while a non-significant (NS) trend does include zero.

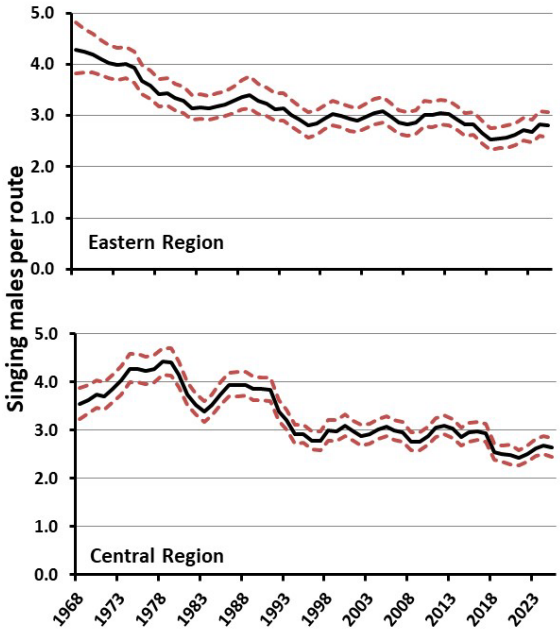

Fig. 4. Annual indices of the number of American woodcock heard during the Singing-ground Survey, 1968–2025 as estimated using hierarchical modeling. The red dashed lines represent the 95% credible interval for the estimate**.**

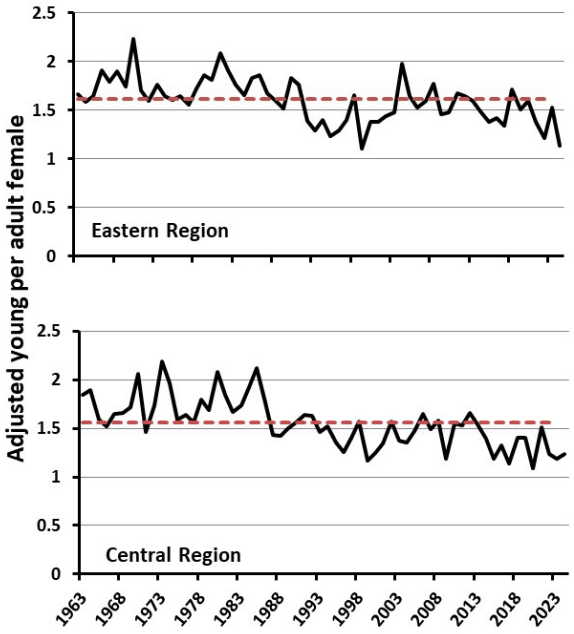

Fig. 5. American woodcock **a**nnual indices of recruitment (U.S.), 1963–2024. The red dashed line is the 1963–2023 average.

−0.74%/year in the Eastern Management Region and -0.52%/year in the Central Management Region (Table 1).

In the Eastern Region, the 2025 index was 2.81 singing males per route, while it was 2.63 in the Central Management Region (Figure 4, Table 2). Annual indices (1968–2025) by state, province, and region are available in Table 2.

Parts-collection Survey

A total of 767 woodcock hunters (Table 3) from states with a woodcock season sent in a total of 6,120 usable woodcock wings for the 2024 PCS (Table 4).

The 2024 recruitment index in the U.S. portion of the Eastern Region (1.14 immatures per adult female) was 25.7% less than the 2023 index of 1.53, and 29.5% less than the long-term (1963–2023) regional average of 1.61 (Table 4, Fig 5). In the Central Region, the 2024 recruitment index (1.23 immatures per adult female) was 4.2% greater than the 2023 index of 1.18 and was 17.7% less than the long-term regional average of 1.50 (Table 4, Fig 5). Percent change for all comparisons was calculated using unrounded recruitment indices.

Harvest Information Program

Estimates of woodcock harvest, number of active hunters, days afield, and seasonal hunting success from the 2024–2025 HIP survey are provided in Table 5. In the Eastern Management Region, woodcock hunters spent an estimated 223,100 days afield (Figure 6) and harvested 56,900 birds (Figure 7) during the 2024–2025 hunting season. In the Eastern Region, harvest in 2024–2025 was 23.3% less than the long-term (1999–2023) average (74,200 birds/year) and 27.6% less than last year (78,700 birds). Woodcock hunters in the Central Region spent an estimated 395.700 days afield (Figure 6) and harvested 154,200 birds (Figure 7) during the 2024–25 hunting season. In the Central Region, harvest in 2024–25 was 18.5% less than the long-term (1999–2023) average (189,300 birds/year) and was 3.9% less than last year (160,500 birds).

Although HIP provides statewide estimates of woodcock hunter numbers, it is not possible to develop regional estimates due to some hunters being registered for HIP in more than one state. Therefore, regional estimates of seasonal hunting success rates cannot be determined on a per hunter basis. All estimates have been rounded to the nearest hundred. Data from Canada indicate that the annual number of successful hunters and annual harvest have been similar since 2009 (Appendix B). The most recent data available indicate that an estimated 2,973 successful hunters harvested 19,868 woodcock during the 2023 season in Canada (Gendron and Smith 2025; Appendix B).

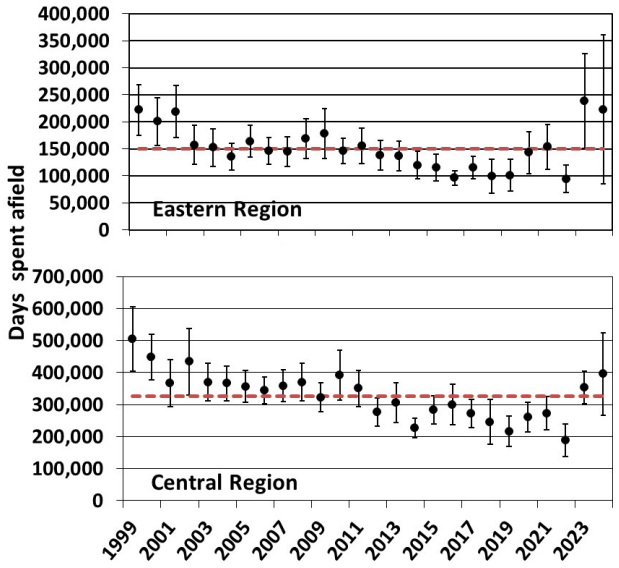

Fig. 6. Harvest Information Program Survey estimates of days spent afield by U.S. woodcock hunters, 1999–2024. The dashed line represents the 1999–2023 average and error bars represent the 95% confidence interval of the point estimate.

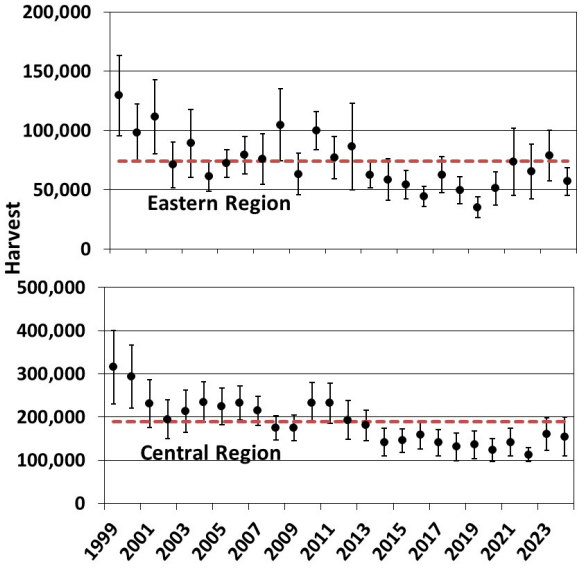

Fig. 7. Harvest Information Program Survey estimates of U.S. woodcock harvest, 1999–2024. The dashed line represents the 1999–2023 average and the error bars represent the 95% confidence interval of the point estimate.

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Table 1. Short-term (2024–2025), 10-year (2015–2025), and long-term (1968–2025) trends (% change per year[a]) in the number of American woodcock heard during the Singing-ground Survey. Trends and 95% credible intervals (CI) were estimated using a hierarchical log-linear modeling technique (Sauer et al. 2021).

State, Province, or Region	Routes 2024[b]	Routes 2025[c]	n[d]	Short-Term % Change	Short-term Lower 95% CI	Short-term Upper 95% CI	10-year % Change	10-year Lower 95% CI	10-year Upper 95% CI	Long-term % Change	Long-Term Lower 95% CI	Long-Term Upper 95% CI
CT	3	5	11	-0.75	-23.32	27.97	-1.73	-7.08	3.45	-2.00	-3.52	-0.59
DE	1	1	3	-0.41	-30.71	41.61	-1.02	-13.67	8.48	-1.91	-7.46	0.68
ME	54	49	78	-1.01	-13.63	13.08	-0.58	-2.53	1.39	-0.96	-1.41	-0.51
MD	7	6	26	4.21	-18.81	39.43	-0.74	-6.72	5.44	-2.88	-4.26	-1.55
MA	9	7	23	0.19	-19.43	24.72	-2.84	-6.82	1.17	-2.34	-3.28	-1.39
NB	56	56	76	2.56	-11.28	17.84	2.15	0.19	4.23	-0.54	-1.10	0.00
NH	12	13	19	-2.38	-20.10	16.44	-1.03	-4.57	2.52	-0.59	-1.43	0.22
NJ	7	8	19	-7.54	-37.74	32.40	-2.73	-10.35	5.12	-4.43	-5.96	-3.04
NY	80	79	120	-0.38	-11.09	11.08	-2.56	-4.26	-0.96	-0.86	-1.26	-0.47
NS	47	45	67	4.23	-8.68	19.62	3.13	1.00	5.44	-0.05	-0.61	0.51
PA	34	31	86	-1.63	-17.30	14.42	1.52	-1.45	4.72	-0.42	-1.04	0.20
PEI	9	6	13	2.32	-16.57	27.27	2.31	-1.32	6.57	-0.32	-1.28	0.68
QUE	37	39	160	-4.24	-17.46	7.81	-1.02	-3.59	1.35	-0.32	-1.04	0.39
RI	3	1	5	1.49	-31.59	55.59	1.81	-8.17	16.94	-2.57	-5.46	-0.07
VT	15	16	24	-6.75	-26.53	16.05	0.28	-3.03	3.69	-0.61	-1.43	0.28
VA	8	6	75	-1.26	-27.93	34.12	-0.69	-7.70	7.05	-4.23	-5.58	-3.02
WV	19	17	59	-6.11	-25.40	15.30	-4.92	-9.18	-0.90	-2.75	-3.69	-1.88
Eastern	**401**	**385**	**864**	**-0.72**	**-6.06**	**4.64**	**-0.05**	**-0.93**	**0.83**	**-0.74**	**-0.99**	**-0.50**
IL	18	23	51	-4.39	-41.11	55.16	1.09	-7.13	9.88	-0.88	-2.63	1.02
IN	19	20	63	-7.41	-33.95	22.18	-2.48	-8.84	3.83	-3.61	-4.85	-2.53
MB[e]	9	16	31	-3.96	-22.62	16.70	-1.71	-4.93	1.42	-0.68	-2.82	1.28
MI	101	103	161	-3.44	-13.26	6.80	-1.71	-3.02	-0.41	-0.68	-0.99	-0.37
MN	78	84	128	3.16	-9.09	17.05	-0.25	-1.89	1.41	1.02	0.53	1.52
OH	27	33	74	-8.14	-27.57	10.79	-5.24	-8.32	-2.28	-2.05	-2.74	-1.39
ON	82	83	181	-4.55	-16.20	7.71	-1.74	-3.34	-0.12	-1.03	-1.41	-0.65
WI	82	80	136	0.93	-10.63	13.47	0.17	-1.50	1.87	0.00	-0.40	0.39
Central	**416**	**442**	**794**	**-1.62**	**-7.02**	**4.09**	**-1.13**	**-1.87**	**-0.39**	**-0.52**	**-0.71**	**-0.33**
Continent	**817**	**827**	**1,658**	**-1.18**	**-4.97**	**2.72**	**-0.59**	**-1.16**	**0.00**	**-0.64**	**-0.79**	**-0.48**

[a] Median of route trends estimated used hierarchical modeling. To estimate the total percent change over several years, use: $(100((\%\ change/100)+1)^{y})-100$, where y is the number of years. Note: extrapolating the estimated trend statistic (% change per year) over time (e.g., 30 years) may exaggerate the total change over the period.

[b] Total number of routes surveyed in 2024.

[c] Total number of routes surveyed in 2025 for which data were received by 13 June 2025.

[d] Number of routes with at least 1 year of non-zero data between 1968 and 2025.

[e] Manitoba began participating in the Singing-ground Survey in 1992.

Table 2. Breeding population indices (singing-males per route) for American woodcock from the Singing-ground Survey, 1968–2025. These indices are based on 1968–2025 trends that were estimated using hierarchical modeling techniques. Dashes indicate no data were available for that year.

State, Province, or Region	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Eastern Region																
CT	----	3.01	3.03	2.90	2.86	2.65	2.48	2.28	1.91	1.69	1.49	1.44	1.43	1.47	1.54	1.49
DE	0.81	0.80	0.81	0.80	0.81	0.82	0.81	0.80	0.71	0.66	0.63	0.62	0.63	0.64	0.65	0.66
MA	----	3.86	3.95	3.96	3.76	3.77	3.42	2.88	2.60	2.48	2.38	2.36	2.17	2.11	1.91	1.78
MD	1.78	1.84	1.78	1.72	1.66	1.60	1.52	1.44	1.30	1.29	1.30	1.31	1.33	1.26	1.14	0.99
ME	6.84	6.88	7.30	6.93	6.85	7.08	7.37	7.48	6.90	6.01	5.67	5.75	5.35	5.47	4.81	4.95
NB	----	10.44	9.76	8.82	8.38	7.91	8.16	8.26	7.02	7.25	6.18	6.00	5.38	5.59	5.37	5.26
NH	----	3.84	3.88	3.73	3.81	3.55	3.66	3.57	3.50	3.46	3.38	3.33	3.38	3.22	2.96	2.92
NJ	4.07	4.10	4.83	5.85	5.43	5.90	5.42	4.33	3.17	2.76	2.42	2.44	2.05	1.85	1.76	1.84
NS	4.81	4.38	4.00	4.19	4.19	4.34	4.45	4.32	4.15	4.06	4.02	3.66	3.43	3.18	3.05	3.13
NY	4.67	4.65	4.36	4.48	4.42	4.44	4.36	4.05	3.93	3.85	3.70	3.93	4.19	4.08	3.87	3.89
PA	2.07	2.05	2.14	2.11	2.05	1.97	1.79	1.73	1.70	1.65	1.59	1.55	1.44	1.37	1.34	1.34
PEI	----	4.81	4.85	4.88	4.76	4.87	5.20	5.66	5.38	5.03	4.68	4.38	3.88	3.68	3.77	4.09
QUE	----	----	----	5.03	5.09	5.04	5.09	5.09	5.10	5.22	5.54	5.75	5.83	5.67	5.65	5.75
RI	----	1.53	1.59	1.78	1.67	1.51	1.30	1.12	0.97	0.85	0.74	0.68	0.63	0.59	0.58	0.55
VA	----	1.32	1.31	1.15	1.03	0.95	1.08	1.03	0.97	0.91	0.81	0.76	0.70	0.75	0.78	0.76
VT	----	3.56	3.97	4.05	4.34	4.28	4.65	5.03	5.14	4.94	4.07	3.67	3.22	2.74	2.33	2.55
WV	1.60	1.60	1.49	1.45	1.50	1.42	1.34	1.29	1.18	1.06	0.96	1.03	1.06	1.14	1.11	1.05
Region	**4.28**	**4.24**	**4.19**	**4.10**	**4.03**	**3.99**	**4.02**	**3.93**	**3.69**	**3.58**	**3.42**	**3.44**	**3.34**	**3.29**	**3.14**	**3.16**
Central Region																
IL	----	----	0.24	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.30	0.28	0.25	0.28	0.34	0.32	0.32	0.41	0.45	0.76
IN	1.38	1.11	1.00	0.91	1.06	1.02	0.92	0.81	0.78	0.76	0.80	0.88	0.80	0.78	0.64	0.60
MB	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
MI	7.06	6.99	6.98	6.72	6.87	7.34	8.16	8.35	8.05	7.69	7.97	7.92	7.44	6.73	6.68	6.01
MN	----	2.37	2.46	2.71	2.89	3.34	3.89	3.92	3.98	4.10	4.28	4.18	4.47	4.15	3.95	3.63
OH	----	----	1.64	1.56	1.53	1.45	1.50	1.42	1.49	1.43	1.31	1.23	1.23	1.26	1.16	1.14
ON	7.43	8.17	8.60	8.48	9.03	9.12	9.21	9.05	9.22	9.54	9.87	9.96	9.31	8.16	7.09	6.85
WI	3.46	3.58	3.94	3.96	4.07	4.29	4.43	4.49	4.35	4.62	4.79	4.73	4.03	3.51	3.48	3.46
Region	**3.54**	**3.62**	**3.74**	**3.70**	**3.86**	**4.03**	**4.28**	**4.28**	**4.23**	**4.27**	**4.42**	**4.40**	**4.15**	**3.75**	**3.53**	**3.38**
Continent	**3.92**	**3.94**	**3.97**	**3.90**	**3.95**	**4.01**	**4.15**	**4.11**	**3.96**	**3.93**	**3.92**	**3.92**	**3.74**	**3.52**	**3.33**	**3.28**

Table 2. Continued

State, Province, or Region	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Eastern Region																
CT	1.45	1.45	1.45	1.40	1.39	1.25	1.19	1.14	1.07	1.04	1.07	1.13	1.15	1.12	1.10	1.08
DE	0.64	0.63	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.59	0.58	0.59	0.61	0.62	0.64	0.63	0.63	0.59
MA	1.83	1.84	1.80	1.75	1.68	1.57	1.50	1.44	1.36	1.32	1.33	1.35	1.40	1.49	1.59	1.77
MD	0.90	0.81	0.72	0.66	0.62	0.59	0.57	0.53	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.47	0.47	0.44	0.42	0.42
ME	5.14	5.41	5.80	6.08	5.83	5.64	4.92	4.93	4.55	4.54	4.31	4.17	3.81	3.90	4.02	4.30
NB	4.93	4.91	4.56	4.81	5.45	6.10	5.66	5.33	5.33	5.96	6.19	5.90	5.49	5.84	6.08	6.62
NH	2.98	3.22	3.64	3.53	3.42	3.33	3.23	3.28	3.22	3.29	3.45	3.74	3.85	3.93	3.97	3.98
NJ	1.93	1.89	1.81	1.85	1.60	1.46	1.34	1.22	1.05	0.93	0.86	0.90	0.90	0.85	0.89	0.92
NS	3.13	3.22	3.26	3.08	3.14	3.13	3.10	3.25	3.35	3.42	3.31	3.38	3.43	3.41	3.55	3.84
NY	3.67	3.81	3.67	3.61	3.70	3.59	3.78	3.80	3.58	3.36	3.05	2.97	2.88	2.91	2.97	3.00
PA	1.36	1.35	1.36	1.35	1.36	1.40	1.50	1.57	1.49	1.46	1.38	1.42	1.43	1.43	1.47	1.40
PEI	4.32	4.47	4.59	4.45	4.60	4.63	4.37	4.16	4.00	3.84	3.75	3.88	4.03	3.98	3.82	3.60
QUE	5.79	5.90	6.10	6.39	6.71	6.88	6.66	6.46	6.36	6.30	6.01	5.58	5.27	5.31	5.53	5.48
RI	0.52	0.49	0.46	0.44	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.43	0.41	0.40	0.38
VA	0.83	0.60	0.57	0.53	0.47	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.44	0.41	0.37	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.29	0.28
VT	2.63	2.71	3.03	3.49	3.84	3.85	3.64	3.42	2.83	2.77	2.68	2.66	2.69	2.92	3.29	3.73
WV	0.99	0.94	0.91	0.89	0.86	0.85	0.85	0.81	0.79	0.78	0.80	0.83	0.79	0.77	0.73	0.72
Region	**3.14**	**3.18**	**3.21**	**3.29**	**3.37**	**3.41**	**3.30**	**3.24**	**3.13**	**3.13**	**3.02**	**2.92**	**2.80**	**2.86**	**2.95**	**3.03**
Central Region																
IL	0.79	0.95	0.97	1.00	0.67	0.62	0.50	0.58	0.51	0.49	0.41	0.37	0.39	0.38	0.41	0.44
IN	0.59	0.59	0.63	0.62	0.59	0.59	0.66	0.66	0.61	0.53	0.48	0.44	0.42	0.42	0.44	0.42
MB	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	6.37	6.39	6.18	5.85	5.02	4.14	4.15	4.18
MI	6.50	6.78	7.04	6.82	7.07	7.00	7.05	7.28	6.08	5.80	5.31	5.56	5.42	5.38	5.94	5.46
MN	3.59	3.88	4.12	4.24	4.48	4.10	4.48	4.33	3.85	3.72	3.44	3.41	3.30	3.18	3.53	3.77
OH	1.14	1.07	1.02	1.03	1.07	1.05	1.18	1.16	1.13	1.05	1.01	0.96	0.93	0.85	0.87	0.80
ON	6.99	7.65	8.03	8.01	8.11	8.08	7.81	7.67	7.16	6.64	5.91	5.88	5.24	5.49	5.73	5.77
WI	3.68	3.80	4.20	4.31	4.15	4.11	3.93	3.73	3.23	3.08	2.81	2.76	2.71	2.68	2.84	3.10
Region	**3.52**	**3.74**	**3.94**	**3.94**	**3.95**	**3.86**	**3.86**	**3.83**	**3.39**	**3.21**	**2.91**	**2.92**	**2.78**	**2.78**	**2.99**	**2.98**
Continent	**3.33**	**3.46**	**3.58**	**3.61**	**3.66**	**3.64**	**3.58**	**3.54**	**3.26**	**3.17**	**2.97**	**2.92**	**2.79**	**2.82**	**2.97**	**3.01**

Table 2. Continued

State, Province, or Region	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Eastern Region																
CT	1.01	0.94	0.90	0.89	0.88	0.89	0.90	0.94	1.00	1.04	1.10	1.20	1.24	1.21	1.20	1.16
DE	0.56	0.52	0.49	0.47	0.45	0.43	0.41	0.39	0.37	0.36	0.35	0.34	0.33	0.32	0.31	0.30
MA	1.75	1.71	1.72	1.75	1.80	1.73	1.70	1.66	1.69	1.65	1.57	1.46	1.37	1.34	1.34	1.37
MD	0.45	0.46	0.44	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.44	0.43	0.42	0.40	0.39	0.37	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.37
ME	4.43	4.16	4.01	4.20	4.40	4.53	4.49	4.29	4.29	4.31	4.58	4.74	4.78	4.69	4.45	4.19
NB	6.67	6.88	6.95	7.37	7.54	7.90	7.36	6.81	6.46	6.21	7.25	7.32	7.65	7.28	6.80	6.22
NH	3.76	3.75	3.77	3.93	3.94	3.76	3.44	3.10	3.09	3.33	3.41	3.31	3.43	3.41	3.33	3.06
NJ	0.87	0.80	0.71	0.67	0.58	0.54	0.54	0.56	0.55	0.56	0.49	0.53	0.58	0.55	0.48	0.40
NS	3.87	3.68	3.44	3.39	3.49	3.39	3.25	3.18	3.14	3.24	3.56	3.57	3.92	4.14	3.85	3.43
NY	2.94	2.89	2.91	3.08	3.26	3.21	3.22	3.13	3.12	3.35	3.56	3.51	3.59	3.61	3.57	3.70
PA	1.29	1.36	1.40	1.44	1.48	1.51	1.47	1.48	1.57	1.61	1.61	1.46	1.34	1.29	1.37	1.40
PEI	3.49	3.23	2.95	2.90	2.94	3.08	3.21	3.16	3.00	3.05	3.09	3.30	3.45	3.39	3.46	3.20
QUE	5.29	5.22	5.15	5.20	5.24	5.27	5.05	4.91	4.85	4.88	4.86	4.84	4.81	4.91	4.79	4.68
RI	0.37	0.36	0.35	0.33	0.32	0.31	0.30	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	0.28	0.28	0.29
VA	0.25	0.22	0.21	0.21	0.20	0.19	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.13
VT	3.77	3.32	3.05	3.09	3.18	3.30	3.22	2.90	2.70	2.73	2.79	2.72	2.76	2.62	2.45	2.45
WV	0.69	0.64	0.62	0.61	0.58	0.56	0.57	0.59	0.61	0.63	0.63	0.65	0.65	0.60	0.58	0.54
Region	**2.99**	**2.94**	**2.90**	**2.98**	**3.06**	**3.09**	**2.98**	**2.86**	**2.83**	**2.86**	**3.02**	**3.01**	**3.06**	**3.04**	**2.93**	**2.82**
Central Region																
IL	0.46	0.50	0.55	0.69	0.67	0.44	0.38	0.27	0.21	0.17	0.15	0.13	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.13
IN	0.39	0.37	0.33	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.29	0.28	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.25	0.24	0.23	0.22	0.22
MB	4.31	4.29	4.05	4.25	4.26	4.50	4.37	4.42	4.45	4.66	4.91	5.30	5.22	4.87	4.85	5.14
MI	5.51	5.33	5.42	5.59	5.65	5.49	5.16	4.99	4.74	4.75	4.98	5.43	5.73	5.92	5.78	5.68
MN	4.09	3.81	3.32	3.33	3.48	3.77	3.72	3.72	3.56	3.86	4.44	4.46	4.26	3.82	3.54	4.30
OH	0.80	0.80	0.81	0.85	1.00	0.99	0.93	0.82	0.85	0.98	1.00	1.00	0.99	0.97	0.92	0.90
ON	6.27	6.02	5.93	5.72	5.94	6.23	6.19	6.14	5.54	5.17	4.98	5.32	5.43	5.21	5.05	4.89
WI	3.03	2.90	2.67	2.76	2.89	3.16	3.18	3.40	3.21	3.22	3.35	3.63	3.78	3.72	3.26	3.40
Region	**3.10**	**2.97**	**2.88**	**2.92**	**3.02**	**3.08**	**2.99**	**2.96**	**2.77**	**2.77**	**2.88**	**3.05**	**3.10**	**3.03**	**2.86**	**2.95**
Continent	**3.04**	**2.96**	**2.89**	**2.95**	**3.04**	**3.09**	**2.99**	**2.91**	**2.80**	**2.82**	**2.95**	**3.03**	**3.08**	**3.03**	**2.90**	**2.89**

Table 2. Continued

State, Province, or Region	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Eastern Region										
CT	1.16	1.15	1.12	1.07	1.06	1.04	1.03	0.99	0.98	0.97
DE	0.29	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	0.26
MA	1.29	1.18	1.08	1.04	0.99	1.00	1.04	1.03	1.02	1.02
MD	0.37	0.37	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.32	0.31	0.31	0.32	0.34
ME	4.33	3.84	3.60	3.78	3.82	4.01	4.00	3.76	4.00	3.95
NB	6.20	5.22	4.93	5.59	5.58	5.56	6.08	6.40	7.51	7.69
NH	2.89	2.64	2.52	2.50	2.67	2.80	2.88	2.84	2.82	2.74
NJ	0.38	0.35	0.33	0.32	0.34	0.34	0.37	0.36	0.33	0.31
NS	3.41	3.31	3.24	3.32	3.33	3.65	4.07	4.22	4.47	4.67
NY	3.67	3.62	3.27	3.18	3.15	3.10	3.04	2.86	2.86	2.85
PA	1.43	1.43	1.44	1.44	1.46	1.49	1.54	1.61	1.66	1.63
PEI	2.98	3.06	3.06	3.19	3.47	3.80	3.82	3.80	3.95	4.04
QUE	4.68	4.60	4.41	4.27	4.34	4.40	4.47	4.38	4.43	4.23
RI	0.29	0.29	0.30	0.31	0.33	0.33	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.35
VA	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.12	0.12
VT	2.64	2.51	2.46	2.21	2.17	2.40	2.70	2.65	2.72	2.54
WV	0.53	0.53	0.50	0.49	0.47	0.43	0.40	0.36	0.35	0.33
Region	**2.83**	**2.67**	**2.53**	**2.56**	**2.58**	**2.63**	**2.71**	**2.69**	**2.83**	**2.81**
Central Region										
IL	0.13	0.14	0.15	0.16	0.19	0.17	0.19	0.14	0.16	0.15
IN	0.22	0.21	0.21	0.20	0.19	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.17
MB	5.34	5.70	5.42	5.30	5.08	4.87	4.60	4.57	4.50	4.31
MI	5.39	5.13	4.17	4.31	4.30	4.29	4.69	4.86	4.95	4.77
MN	4.98	5.09	4.54	4.25	4.14	3.87	3.84	4.07	4.07	4.19
OH	0.84	0.76	0.75	0.75	0.66	0.57	0.54	0.54	0.58	0.53
ON	4.76	4.62	4.08	3.83	3.82	3.82	3.89	4.19	4.30	4.11
WI	3.44	3.58	3.13	3.19	3.21	3.14	3.21	3.36	3.43	3.46
Region	**2.97**	**2.94**	**2.55**	**2.51**	**2.49**	**2.43**	**2.51**	**2.63**	**2.68**	**2.63**
Continent	**2.90**	**2.80**	**2.54**	**2.54**	**2.54**	**2.53**	**2.61**	**2.66**	**2.76**	**2.72**

Table 3. The number of U.S. hunters by state who submitted woodcock wings for the 2023–2024 and 2024–2025 Parts-collection Surveys. This number may include a small number of hunters who were sent envelopes in prior years and who subsequently submitted wings from birds shot in the current survey year. In addition, some hunters hunted and submitted wings from more than 1 state.

State of residence	2023-2024 Season	2024-2025 Season
Alabama	1	4
Arkansas	3	4
Connecticut	15	12
Delaware	7	4
Florida	0	0
Georgia	9	11
Illinois	0	1
Indiana	14	11
Iowa	4	5
Kansas	1	3
Kentucky	4	5
Louisiana	16	21
Maine	81	73
Maryland	11	5
Massachusetts	28	21
Michigan	274	179
Minnesota	83	64
Mississippi	4	5
Missouri	13	9
Nebraska	1	2
New Hampshire	39	40
New Jersey	17	8
New York	35	27
North Carolina	10	16
North Dakota	0	0
Ohio	13	8
Oklahoma	1	1
Pennsylvania	30	25
Rhode Island	2	1
South Carolina	9	16
Tennessee	1	3
Texas	6	2
Vermont	33	34
Virginia	24	21
West Virginia	9	9
Wisconsin	145	117
Total	**943**	**767**

Table 4. Number of woodcock wings received from hunters, and indices of recruitment in the U.S. Recruitment indices for individual states with ≥125 submitted wings were calculated as the ratio of immatures per adult female. The regional indices for 2024 were weighted by the relative contribution of each state to the cumulative number of adult female and immature wings received during 1963–2023.

State or Region of harvest	Total Wings 1963-2023	Total Wings 2024	Adult Female Wings 1963-2023	Adult Female Wings 2024	Immature Wings 1963-2023	Immature Wings 2024	Recruitment Index 1963-2023	Recruitment Index 2024
CT	16,253	65	3,661	17	9,862	37	2.69	----
DE	735	11	123	6	491	4	3.99	----
FL	678	0	153	0	422	0	2.76	----
GA	3,557	72	1,128	29	1,496	29	1.33	----
ME	95,601	579	28,372	206	47,608	229	1.68	1.11
MD	5,348	21	1,313	7	3,045	9	2.32	----
MA	26,955	218	8,483	83	12,997	86	1.53	1.04
NH	40,762	350	13,264	108	18,866	157	1.42	1.45
NJ	28,553	44	6,606	19	16,895	17	2.56	----
NY	68,148	211	23,208	81	30,580	79	1.32	0.98
NC	5,223	203	1,710	75	2,396	83	1.40	1.11
PA	35,511	97	11,305	31	16,357	47	1.45	----
RI	2,513	9	488	5	1,662	2	3.41	----
SC	4,982	171	1,615	67	2,210	57	1.37	0.85
VT	32,069	312	10,532	105	14,580	125	1.38	1.19
VA	8,022	253	2,156	79	4,273	116	1.98	1.47
WV	6,841	29	2,077	11	3,397	14	1.64	----
Eastern Region	**381,751**	**2,645**	**116,194**	**929**	**187,137**	**1,091**	**1.61**	**1.14**
AL	1,115	26	327	8	491	10	1.50	----
AR	629	12	206	3	256	5	1.24	----
IL	1,521	1	359	0	851	1	2.37	----
IN	9,245	44	2,394	9	5,066	26	2.12	----
IA	1,435	11	464	6	645	3	1.39	----
KS	56	11	11	3	27	5	----	----
KY	1,424	24	364	6	714	10	1.96	----
LA	34,973	335	7,915	98	22,506	201	2.84	2.05
MI	159,011	1,174	52,555	419	77,253	524	1.47	1.25
MN	52,721	558	19,044	217	22,303	196	1.17	0.90
MS	2,061	45	579	13	1,042	18	1.80	----
MO	5,120	80	1,415	27	2,462	26	1.74	----
NE	21	5	8	1	10	3	----	----
ND	4	0	3	0	1	0	----	----
OH	15,991	57	4,930	23	7,502	18	1.52	----
OK	179	1	40	0	94	1	2.35	----
TN	1,413	9	384	3	711	5	1.85	----
TX	1,361	9	418	5	633	4	1.51	----
WI	108,573	1,073	37,398	407	50,305	439	1.35	1.08
Central Region	**396,853**	**3,475**	**128,814**	**1,248**	**192,872**	**1,495**	**1.50**	**1.23**

Table 5. Preliminary estimates of woodcock harvest, hunter numbers, days afield, and hunter success from the 2024–2025 Harvest Information Program (note: estimates rounded to the nearest 100 for harvest, hunters, and days afield).

State or Region	Harvest	Harvest SE	Active Woodcock Hunters	Active Woodcock Hunters SE	Days Afield	Days Afield SE	Season Harvest Per Hunter	Season Harvest Per Hunter SE
CT	700	200	300	0	2,000	300	2.57	0.81
DE	0	0	0	0	100	100	0.50	0.57
FL	200	100	200	100	500	300	1.20	0.77
GA	2,600	600	600	100	5,000	900	4.13	1.10
MA	1,900	400	600	0	4,600	600	3.40	0.75
MD	400	100	400	0	1,500	300	1.06	0.36
ME	9,600	1,000	4,200	2,100	24,300	10,600	2.28	1.18
NC	12,300	4,700	5,800	3,200	24,100	11,300	2.13	1.43
NH	5,400	600	5,400	4,300	13,100	4,300	0.99	0.79
NJ	800	100	4,700	2,800	70,300	65,400	0.16	0.10
NY	4,700	2,100	5,100	2,900	22,100	13,100	0.93	0.68
PA	6,300	2,700	9,700	4,400	38,600	15,800	0.65	0.40
RI	100	0	100	0	400	100	0.85	0.50
SC	3,600	600	700	0	4,100	600	5.43	1.02
VA	5,500	800	3,200	2,300	7,400	2,400	1.73	1.30
VT	2,500	400	600	0	4,100	400	4.49	0.66
WV	300	100	100	0	800	100	2.36	0.60
Eastern Region	**56,900**	**6,100**	**41,600**	**na[a]**	**223,100**	**70,500**	**na[b]**	**na[b]**
AL	300	100	100	0	700	300	2.22	1.27
AR	1,800	700	200	100	1,500	500	7.53	3.40
IA	100	0	100	0	700	200	0.44	0.22
IL	300	200	100	0	800	400	3.8	2.95
IN	900	500	2,000	1,800	2,700	1,800	0.45	0.47
KS	100	0	0	0	300	100	1.40	1.10
KY	1,300	400	200	0	1,900	600	5.95	1.86
LA	10,200	1,900	3,400	2,200	9,300	2,400	3.01	2.04
MI	37,900	8,700	18,400	5,300	134,000	43,300	2.06	0.75
MN	51,200	15,300	24,300	6,000	119,000	34,100	2.10	0.81
MO	4,100	3,000	3,200	3,000	7,300	6,000	1.25	1.48
MS	200	100	2,900	2,800	8,900	8,400	0.06	0.07
NE	100	0	100	0	600	200	0.71	0.46
OH	1,100	200	2,000	1,600	5,500	3,200	0.54	0.44
OK	100	100	100	100	200	200	1.00	1.19
TN	800	300	3,500	3,300	12,100	9,900	0.21	0.20
TX	1,800	400	400	0	1,700	300	4.43	0.99
WI	42,000	14,100	14,800	3,600	88,400	32,000	2.83	1.17
Central Region	**154,200**	**22,800**	**76,000**	**na[a]**	**395,700**	**65,500**	**na[b]**	**na[b]**
U.S. Total	**211,200**	**23,600**	**117,600**	**na[a]**	**618,800**	**96,200**	**na[b]**	**na[b]**

[a] Hunter number estimates at the regional and national levels may be biased high because the HIP sample frames are state specific; therefore, hunters were counted more than once if they hunted in >1 state. Variance was inestimable.

[b] Regional estimates of hunter success could not be obtained due to the occurrence of individual hunters being registered in the Harvest Information Program in more than 1 state.

Appendix A. History of federal framework dates, season lengths, and daily bag limits for hunting American woodcock in the U.S. portion of the Eastern and Central Regions, 1918 – 2025.

Eastern Year(s)	Eastern Outside Dates	Eastern Season Length	Eastern Daily Bag Limit	Central Year(s)	Central Outside Dates	Central Season Length	Central Daily Bag Limit
1918-26	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31	60	6	1918-26	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31	60	6
1927	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31	60	4	1927	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31	60	4
1928-39	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31	30	4	1928-39	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31	30	4
1940-47	Oct. 1 - Jan. 6	15	4	1940-47	Oct. 1 - Jan. 6	15	4
1948-52	Oct. 1 - Jan. 20	30	4	1948-52	Oct. 1 - Jan. 20	30	4
1953	Oct. 1 - Jan. 20	40	4	1953	Oct. 1 - Jan. 20	40	4
1954	Oct. 1 - Jan. 10	40	4	1954	Oct. 1 - Jan. 10	40	4
1955-57	Oct. 1 - Jan. 20	40	4	1955-57	Oct. 1 - Jan. 20	40	4
1958-60	Oct. 1 - Jan. 15	40	4	1958-60	Oct. 1 - Jan. 15	40	4
1961-62	Sep. 1 - Jan. 15	40	4	1961-62	Sep. 1 - Jan. 15	40	4
1963-64	Sep. 1 - Jan. 15	50	5	1963-64	Sep. 1 - Jan. 15	50	5
1965-66	Sep. 1 - Jan. 30	50	5	1965-66	Sep. 1 - Jan. 30	50	5
1967-69	Sep. 1 - Jan. 31	65	5	1967-69	Sep. 1 - Jan. 31	65	5
1970-71	Sep. 1 - Feb. 15	65	5	1970-71	Sep. 1 - Feb. 15	65	5
1972-81	Sep. 1 - Feb. 28	65	5	1972-90	Sep. 1 - Feb. 28	65	5
1982	Oct. 5 - Feb. 28	65	5	1991-96	Sep. 1 - Jan. 31	65	5
1983-84	Oct. 1 - Feb. 28	65	5	1997-20	Sep. 22[a] - Jan. 31	45	3
1985-96	Oct. 1 - Jan. 31	45	3	2021-25	Sep. 13 - Jan 31	45	3
1997-01	Oct. 6 - Jan. 31	30	3				
2002-10	Oct. 1 - Jan. 31	30	3				
2011-20	Oct. 1 - Jan. 31	45	3				
2021-25	Sep. 13 - Jan 31	45	3				

[a] Saturday nearest September 22nd.

Appendix B. Estimates for the number of successful woodcock hunters and woodcock harvest in Canada (Gendron and Smith 2025).

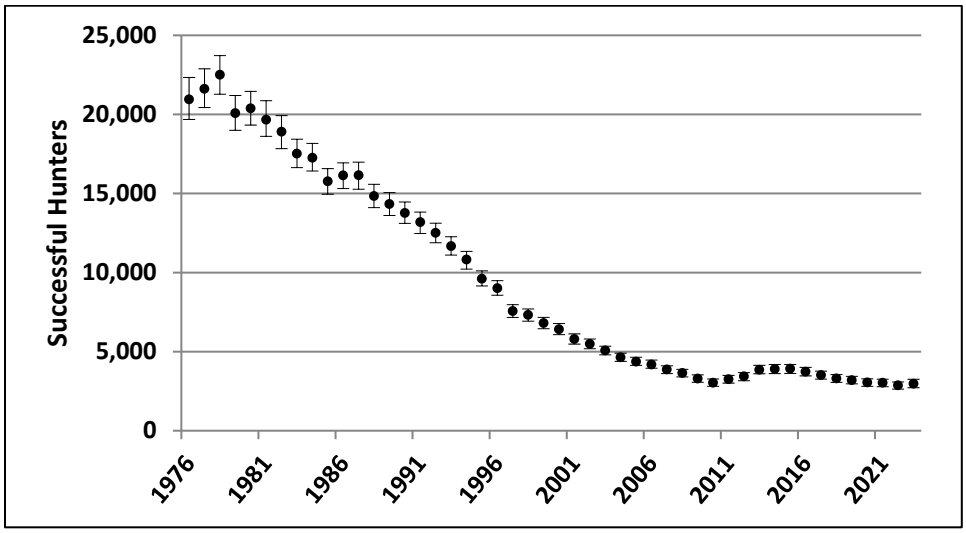

Figure B1. Estimated number of successful woodcock hunters in Canada and associated 95% confidence intervals, 1972–2023.

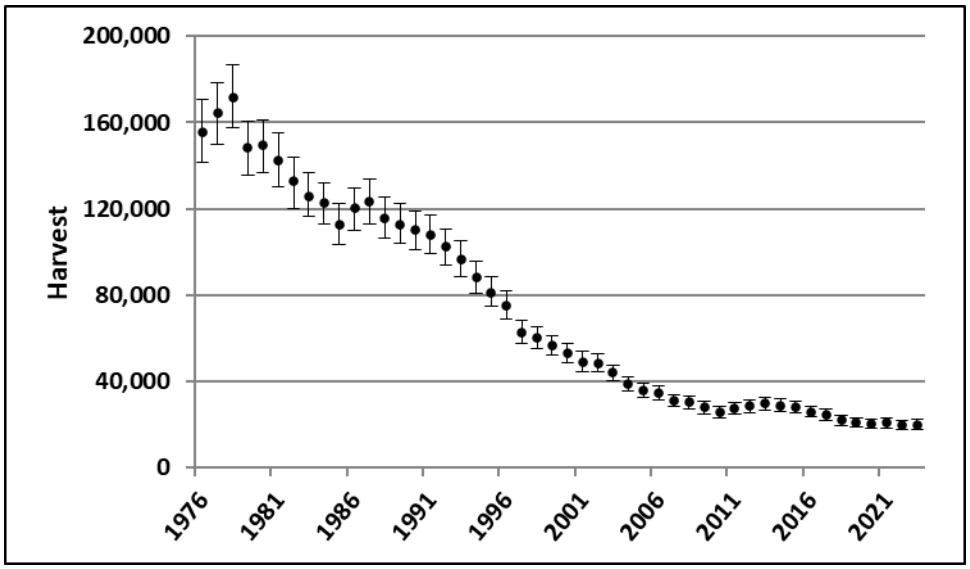

Figure B2. Estimated woodcock harvest in Canada and associated 95% confidence intervals, 1969–2023.

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