

species	data	document	Last updated
Greylag Goose	Hunting bag	Methodology	27042022

The Greylag Goose is hunted in Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Germany, Belgium, France and Spain, but not in The Netherlands.

Country	Hunting season
Norway	10.08- 23.12 and 21.08-23.12 ¹
Sweden	11.08-31.12 ²
Finland	20.08-31.12
Denmark	01.08-31.01 ³
The Netherlands	Protected
Belgium	01.05-30.09 ⁴
France	start Aug/Sep-until 31.01/20.02
Germany	Different in each region, eg. In Schleswig-Holstein 01.08.-31.01., but from 01.09. to 31.10 and from 16.01-31.01 only for damage defense on endangered arable and grassland crops (https://www.schleswig-holstein.de/DE/Fachinhalte/A/artenschutz/Downloads/Jahresbericht_zur_biologischen_Vielfalt_2021.html)
Spain	Different in each region, available from https://www.fecaza.com/caza/modalidades/#veda . In Andalusia the season is from 10 October to 30 January, but in Doñana from 14 November, and only allowed Saturdays, Sundays and on public holidays.

In general, there is an absence of harmonisation among the different hunting bag collecting schemes in Europe. Moreover, there is a lack of information on how calculations are made with the local/regional data to produce the national hunting bag statistics. Thus, making inference about flyway totals is very difficult (Aubry et al. 2020). Furthermore, it is not always clear whether the national derogation data are additional to or included in the reported hunting data in countries where both hunting and derogation occurs.

Norway: Reporting the harvest is mandatory and hunters report their bags online. In the period 1984 / 1985-1992 / 1993, the statistics were calculated on the basis of data from a representative sample of hunters. From 1993/1994, the report form was sent to everyone who paid the hunting fee. In the years 1994 / 1995-1999 / 2000, a sample survey was also sent out to those who did not report. As of 2000/2001, a fee was introduced for non-reporting. As of this year, no supplement has been calculated for those who have not reported.

¹ Nordland & Troms: 15 Aug – 23 Dec, Finnmark: (some limitations in areas with Lesser White-fronted Geese) 21 Aug – 23 Dec
At sea:10 Sept – 23 Dec

² In all regions except in: Gotlands län (20/7-31/12, but only on main island and on Fårö. No hunting all other islands).
Norrbottens län (21/8-30/9. Along border river to Finland Hunting, 20/8 (11 o'clock) to 30/9 - Same rules as in Finland)

³ In August only on farmland and at a distance of 300 meters from wetlands

⁴ Prevent damage on natural habitats, fauna and flora

Sweden (by Niklas Liljebäck, Swedish Association for Hunting and Wildlife Management): Harvest data in Sweden are reported on a voluntary basis except in the case of five species where returns are obligatory, namely moose, red deer and three spp. of large carnivores i.e. species with quotas/licenses. The Wildlife Management system in Sweden is geographically based, since almost all hunting is done in "hunting teams" or hunting clubs that hold the hunting rights on a specific piece of land for periods of long duration (often large areas and across many generations). This means that the smallest unit (geographically speaking) is relatively stable in terms of occupation. The system is focused on hunting of large mammals (moose, deer (three spp.), wild boar, etc.). All hunting teams nominate someone responsible for reporting harvest (mandatory for the five species above) and other data used in Swedish Game Management (moose survey, large carnivore observations etc.). These geographically stable units are then organized at a secondary level ('jaktvårdskrets') which include many hunting areas (about 300 such second-level units exist in Sweden) before data are collated at the County level and later used to generate national data.

The voluntary basis for reporting provides for high level of quality amongst the submitted data. Data from reporting hunting teams are used to calculate the number of individuals shot per 1000 hectares for each species. This value is used to extrapolate the harvest from areas with good data to those areas without reporting. The extrapolation requires local knowledge to generate a correction factor that is representative for the specific areas and species concerned.

Throughout this process the Swedish Association for Hunting and Wildlife Management (SAHWM) is responsible for the collection and quality control of the data. The organization's network provides the opportunity for quality control down to the smallest area reporting unit. To ensure the delivery of the highest possible quality of data, it is necessary that those responsible for reporting feel comfortable to give data to the receiving body and to see that it is used in an appropriate fashion. The Government of Sweden commissions SAHWM to produce national harvest data for all species that are permitted to be hunted during an open season (but see the next section for those species hunted under derogations/'skydds jakt').

Protective hunting, derogations ('skydds jakt')

There are two types of 'skydds jakt' possible in Sweden: one that can be undertaken without a license from the statutory authorities (type I) and another type that requires a license from those authorities (type II). Under type I, there is no explicit existing channel for reporting numbers shot, since this is not required under the hunting law and is not clearly stated in the commissioning contract to SAHWM. However, SAHWM has strong indications that most hunters report numbers of all species shot under Type I 'skydds jakt' as part of their normal hunting activity. For type II hunting, the statutory authorities giving the permit/derogation are responsible for the collection of data, but to our knowledge there is no system for collating data at a national level.

Finland: New reporting system from 2021. Based on mandatory harvest reporting, which started 2021 for greylag. This mean that figures are not directly comparable to older data due to change in the harvest data collection system. Note: Hunting allowed only in coastal regions/municipalities. Daily bag limit 2 greylags/day

Denmark: Reporting the harvest is mandatory and hunters report their bags online. From before 2015: the 'correction factor' which is discussed with the biostatistician at the moment has to do with the transition in the bag stats from paper to online reporting from 2006-2012. Not only did this cause some bumps in terms of hunters' participation but hunters were also asked to report per species, which they

did not do in the past. Before the transition, hunters reported 'geese' and the species specific distribution was then made via the wing survey (and similarly for dabbling ducks). In that transition there are some hidden problems or bugs which are investigated right now.

Germany: Different in each region

Belgium: The hunting bag for Flanders has to be submitted by the hunters by the 1st of April.

France: France has only recorded national harvest totals at approximately 12-year intervals so far but has introduced a new app-declaration system as of 2019 (although not mandatory). From 2014-2019 an estimate of the sampling by season is provided, these estimates are made through the crossing of different data available.

Spain: Hunting bag statistics from Spain are available from Andalusia expected to hold the majority of the Greylag.

Geese in Spain during winter:

- Region of Andalusia (incl. the site Marismas del Guadalquivir) and
- Region of Castilla y Leon: Zamora Province (incl. Villafáfila Lagoons Natural Reserve)
- Palencia Province (incl. the lagoons of La Nava, Boada and Pedraza)