

*Human*Dimensions
Research Program



Federal Aid Project
Number W-112-R-8
Job Number 101.3
Wildlife Restoration
July 1, 1998 - June 30, 1999

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Results of the 1998-1999 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey



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May 23, 2002

Suggested Citation:

Miller, C.A., W.L. Anderson, L.K. Campbell, J. A. Yeagle, and K. Caldwell. 2002. Results of the 1998 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. Job Completion Report, Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration W-112-R-8. Waterfowl Program Periodic Report 101. Human Dimensions Program Report HR-98-01. Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign, IL.

ABSTRACT

A random sample of 5,182 waterfowl hunters in Illinois was selected from migratory bird hunters registered for the 1998 federal Harvest Information Program (HIP). Hunters were mailed a self-administered, return mail questionnaire seeking information about hunting activities, harvest, and attitudes toward seasons for both duck and goose hunting. A total of 3,752 (72.4%) hunters responded, of which 2,264 purchased a 1998 Illinois Migratory Waterfowl stamp; 88.7% of these stamp purchasers hunted waterfowl in Illinois in 1998-99. During the 1998-99 season, 50,288 hunters took part in duck and/or goose hunting, spent 795,561 days afield, and harvested 471,072 birds. Duck hunters comprised 83% of the waterfowl hunting population, with 48% hunting ducks exclusively. Goose hunters made up 52% of the population, and 17% hunted geese only. A total of 10,307 hunters harvested 21,270 teal and spent 33,049 days afield. Duck hunters (n=41,755) spent 517,372 days afield and harvested an estimated 386,862 ducks. During the early September Canada goose season an estimated 11,981 hunters hunted 37,322 days and harvested 7,852 geese. During the regular Canada goose season 26,343 hunters spent 202,676 days afield and harvested 43,222 Canada geese. Adult hunters (n=3,343) took 5,142 youths afield during Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day.

Hunters in all zones favored the early September Canada goose season. Hunters in the North and Central Zones favored extending statewide the telephone system for monitoring Canada goose harvest, whereas hunters in the South Zone favored leaving the system as it was at the time of the survey. North Zone hunters preferred 11 days for the first segment of the regular goose season, with a 14-day closed interval prior to the second season and a 21 day second season with no days for the second closed period. "No opinion" was the most frequent response for the second closed period. Central Zone hunters reported "No opinion" as their most frequent response to the same items. Hunters in the South Zone favored retaining the current (at the time of the survey) opening dates, and most hunters in the North and Central Zones had no opinion. Hunters

in all zones favored shorter seasons with higher bag limits over longer seasons with lower bag limits. Hunters preferred September 11 as the opening date for September teal season and Thursday opener/Sunday closure for duck season. Hunters favored dates for 1998 duck season to be used again for the 1999 season.

METHODS

A total of 5,182 waterfowl hunters were sampled from the population of approximately 51,000 Illinois waterfowl hunters registered with the federal Harvest Information Program (HIP). Beginning in January 1999, hunters were mailed a 6-page self-administered questionnaire and a letter of explanation (Appendix A and B). The questionnaire addressed days afield, harvest, and attitudes toward specific issues related to waterfowl seasons, limits, and management practices. Two successive mailings were conducted through May 1999. We received 3,752 (72.4%) questionnaires from hunters in the sample, of which 2,264 purchased a 1998 Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp; 2,009 (88.7%) of these stamp purchasers hunted waterfowl in Illinois in 1998-99.

Estimates for harvest, days afield, and confidence intervals were computed following the procedures outlined in Anderson et al. (1998). Coded data were entered and analyzed using SPSS 6.0.

SEASON LENGTHS AND BAG LIMITS

The early teal season in Illinois was expanded from 9 days in 1997 to 16 days (September 5-20) during 1998. The daily bag limit was any aggregate of 4 blue-winged or green-winged teal. Legal shooting hours were from sunrise to sunset.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) allowed the states to have a special “Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day” again in 1998 (Appendix C). This was the 3rd consecutive year for this special hunt. The day selected had to occur on a weekend or holiday, and it had to be outside the regular duck season. Youths ≤ 15 years of age could participate, provided they were accompanied by an adult at least 18 years old. The bag limits for ducks, mergansers, and coots were the same as those in effect during the regular duck season. Geese were added to the youth hunt in 1998, with the limits being 1 Canada goose, 20 snow geese, 2 white-fronts, and 2 brants. Illinois’ 1998 youth hunt

occurred on October 3 in the North Zone, October 17 in the Central Zone, and October 31 in the South Zone. Legal shooting hours were ½ hour before sunrise to sunset.

The regular duck season was 60 days in length in 1998, and the daily bag limit was 6 ducks per day using the Conventional System (Appendix C). The bag limit could include no more than 4 mallards (2 hens), 2 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 1 black duck, 1 pintail, and 1 canvasback. Legal shooting time was ½ hour before sunrise to sunset. Except for changing the bag limit for pintails from 3 to 1, Illinois' duck hunting regulations did not change from 1997 to 1998.

The early September Canada goose season was expanded to the entire state during 1998. The dates were September 1-15, and the daily bag limits were 5 in the Northeast Zone (Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties) and 2 elsewhere. Legal shooting hours were ½ hour before sunrise to sunset. In comparison, the early Canada goose season in 1997 occurred on September 1-14 in the Northeast Zone and on September 6-14 (same as September teal season) in the remainder of the North Zone and in all of the Central Zone. There was no September Canada goose season in the South Zone in 1997.

For the regular goose season, Canada geese could be hunted for a maximum of 67 days in Illinois during 1998-99. However, because of restricted quotas, the actual days of hunting were less (explained below). The statewide quota was 40,800 Canada geese. In comparison, a maximum of 78 days was allowed in 1997-98, and the statewide quota was 74,600 Canada geese.

The 1998-99 Canada goose seasons in the North and Central Zones were split into 3 segments (Appendix C). The Canada goose harvest monitoring system that was implemented in 18 counties in these zones in 1994 was continued during 1998. Goose hunters in these counties were required to obtain a special permit, which was issued free with purchase of the Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp. Canada goose hunters had to report Canada geese harvested daily utilizing a toll-free phone number (1-800-WETLAND) in these select counties. The quotas were 5,600 Canada geese for the North Quota Zone Counties and 7,100 for the Central Quota Zone Counties during 1998-99. Procedures for calculating the quotas are described in a document prepared by the DNR's Waterfowl Program (Anonymous 1994). Based on this monitoring system, the 1998-99

Canada goose season was discontinued after 50 days in the North Zone and after 40 days in the Central Zone.

For the Southern Illinois Quota Zone (SIQZ) and Rend Lake Quota Zone (RLQZ), the quotas were 13,100 and 2,300 Canada geese, respectively, during 1998-99. The goose harvests in these zones are monitored on public hunting areas and commercial clubs via Daily Registration Forms (DRF). The season is closed in the SIQZ when the quota is reached in that zone. The same rule applies to the RLQZ. For the remainder of the South Zone, the Canada goose season is closed when the quotas are reached in both the SIQZ and RLQZ. Based on harvest numbers tabulated from the DRF's, the 1998-99 Canada goose season was closed after 50 days in the SIQZ, after 57 days in the RLQZ, and after 57 days in the remainder of the South Zone.

In all zones, the bag limit was 1 Canada goose per day during the first 53 days of hunting during 1998-99 (Appendix C). On the 54th through 67th day in those seasons that were still open, the bag limit was 2 Canada geese per day. In 1997-98, the bag limit was 2 Canada geese per day statewide for the entire season.

In an effort to control the burdening snow/blue goose population, the FWS permitted the states to have long and late hunting seasons for this species again during 1998-99. In Illinois, the seasons were 106 days in length in the North and Central Zones, and 105 days in the South Zone (Appendix C). The seasons in the North and Central Zones were split into 2 segments. The bag limit was 20 geese per day.

The FWS also permitted the states to have spring hunting seasons for snow/blue geese in 1999. In Illinois, the season ran from March 11-31 statewide, and there was no daily bag limit. In addition, hunters could legally use electronic calls and hunt until ½ hour after sunset.

RESULTS

Waterfowl Harvest and Days Afield

A total of 50,288 hunters participated in waterfowl hunting during the 1998-1999 season, resulting in a 8.1% decline from 1997-1998 participation. These hunters spent 795,561 days afield and had a combined harvest of 471,072 birds (Table 1). More

hunters (48%) hunted ducks only than those who hunted geese only (17%) or both ducks and geese (35%) (Table 2).

Teal

An estimated 10,307 hunters hunted teal during the September teal season in 1998. Participation declined 12.8% from 1997, possibly due to high temperatures during much of the season. Teal hunters spent 33,049 days afield during the season and harvested 21,270 birds (Table 3). The 16-day season was 7 days longer in 1998 and allowed for higher days afield per hunter. Teal hunters harvested an average of 2.06 birds per season, compared to 1.86 birds per season per hunter average during the 1997 September teal season (Table 4).

Youth Waterfowl Hunts

Participation in youth waterfowl hunts increased from 4,322 youths during 1997 to 5,142 youths in 1998. Average harvest per youth was 0.81 ducks in 1998, essentially the same as in 1997 (Table 5).

Ducks

An estimated 41,755 hunters spent 517,372 days afield during the 1998-1999 season. Although participation decreased 2.0% from the 1997-1998 season, days afield increased 0.5% from the previous year. Hunters harvested 200,030 mallards (an increase of 37% over 1997-1998). Wood duck harvest also increased to 57,393 (+28%). Total duck harvest for the 1998-1999 season was estimated at 386,862, a 33% increase over the previous year (Table 6). Duck hunters averaged 12.39 days afield per hunter, and harvested an average of 0.75 ducks per day and 9.27 ducks per season (Table 7).

Geese

Participation in the early September Canada goose season was about the same in 1998 as in 1997 (Table 8). Hunters during the regular Canada goose season declined to 26,343 during 1998-1999, a decrease of 21% from 1997-1998. Hunters spent 202,676

days afield and harvested 43,222 Canada geese (Table 9). Hunter participation was highest in the Southern Illinois Quota Zone (8,522 hunters) (Table 10). Canada goose harvest is presented by administrative region, waterfowl zone, and county in Tables 11 and 12.

Attitudes and Opinions

Attitudes of duck and goose hunters toward various waterfowl hunting regulations are summarized in Tables 13-21.

REFERENCES

- Anderson, W.L., R. M. Marshalla, R.M. Whitton, and D.J. Holm. 1998. Illinois waterfowl harvest, hunter activity, and attitudes toward youth waterfowl hunting day, quality hunting, and duck/goose regulations, plus sex/age of hunters, 1996-97 season. Ill. Dep. Nat. Res., Waterfowl Program, Period Rep. 95. 79pp.
- _____, and R.A. Williamson. 1994. Illinois waterfowl harvest, hunter activity, and attitudes toward September teal season, duck shooting time, and goose hunting regulations, in 1992-93. Ill. Dep. Conser., Waterfowl Program, Period Rep. 80. 58pp + appendix.
- Anonymous. 1994. 1994 Canada goose harvest control proposal. Ill. Dep. Conserv., Waterfowl Program Rep., Springfield. 7pp.

Table 1. Summary of Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps purchased, hunter activity, and waterfowl harvest in Illinois from 1981 through 1998 hunting seasons.

Season (Year)	Stamps Purchased	Hunters	Days Afield	Waterfowl Harvested ^a
1981	61,929	63,652	874,730	413,264
1982	57,691	58,766	795,807	392,897
1983	56,162	58,240	815,523	475,601
1984	55,250	56,533	748,390	420,357
1985	55,670	56,899	699,113	392,253
1986	59,734	61,876	887,446	467,164
1987	58,803 (5,550) ^b	60,371	814,918	354,194
1988 ^c	53,498 (4,350)	53,450	644,056	264,316
1989 ^c	55,693 (3,570)	55,709	749,033	322,359
1990 ^c	55,009 (2,390)	55,152	708,391	270,796
1991 ^c	58,421 (2,130)	59,038	855,279	406,854
1992	51,261 (1,395)	51,274	714,550	292,535
1993	50,976 (995)	51,340	682,498	326,446
1994	57,543 (955)	53,226	816,185	332,803
1995	60,564 (665)	55,454	884,328	498,854
1996	62,417 (545)	56,956	836,793	376,248
1997	59,961 (480)	54,715	881,030	401,236
1998	54,550 (450)	50,288	795,561	471,072

^a Teal, ducks, coots, and geese combined. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service suspended the September teal season in 1988 through 1991.

^b Stamps purchased for commercial art purposes. These stamps were not included in the numbers to the left.

^c Estimates of waterfowl hunters and days afield for these years reduced to 92.48% - 96.48% of the original estimates. Estimates of waterfowl (teal, ducks, coots, and geese combined) harvested reduced to 94.54% - 97.74% of original estimates. See last paragraph of the METHODS section in Anderson and Williamson (1994) for explanation.

Table 2. The percentage of waterfowl hunters who hunted ducks, and the percentage who hunted geese, in Illinois from 1981 through 1998 seasons.

Season (Year)	Percentage Who Hunted:			Percentage Who Were:	
	Ducks Only	Geese Only	Both Ducks and Geese	Duck Hunters	Goose Hunters
1981	63	14	23	86	37
1982	59	11	30	89	31
1983	55	13	32	87	45
1984	60	12	28	88	40
1985	61	10	29	90	39
1986	51	13	36	87	49
1987	47	14	39	86	53
1988	36	19	45	81	64
1989	29	21	50	79	71
1990	27	30	43	70	73
1991	26	27	47	73	74
1992	31	24	45	76	69
1993	30	20	50	80	69
1994	30	17	53	83	70
1995	33	23	44	77	67
1996	36	23	41	77	64
1997	39	22	39	78	61
1998	48	17	35	83	52

Table 3. Summary of teal harvest and hunter activity during the September teal season in Illinois from 1981 through 1998.

Year	Hunters	Days Afield	Number of Teal
1981	14,802	38,586	22,946
1982	14,863	41,856	28,785
1983	13,295	39,475	29,355
1984	14,158	39,481	32,730
1985	13,852	36,521	29,260
1986	15,449	40,241	30,375
1987	12,297	32,582	23,193
1988 ^a	-----	-----	-----
1989 ^a	-----	-----	-----
1990 ^a	-----	-----	-----
1991 ^a	-----	-----	-----
1992	7,696	18,265	12,069
1993	6,474	16,722	8,562
1994	8,062	20,341	12,436
1995	9,123	24,865	19,731
1996	8,964	22,825	11,565
1997	11,819	32,179	22,005
1998	10,307	33,049	21,270

^a The September teal season was suspended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during these years.

Table 4. Rates of teal harvest and hunter activity during the September teal season in Illinois in 1981 through 1998.

Year	Season Length/ Bag Limit	Days Afield Per Hunter	Teal Harvest Per Hunter	
			Per Day	Per Season
1981	9/4	2.61	0.59	1.55
1982	9/4	2.82	0.69	1.94
1983	9/4	2.97	0.74	2.21
1984	9/4	2.79	0.83	2.31
1985	9/4	2.64	0.80	2.11
1986	9/4	2.60	0.75	1.97
1987	9/4	2.65	0.71	1.89
1988 ^a	----	----	----	----
1989 ^a	----	----	----	----
1990 ^a	----	----	----	----
1991 ^a	----	----	----	----
1992	9/4	2.37	0.66	1.57
1993	9/4	2.58	0.51	1.32
1994	9/4	2.52	0.61	1.54
1995	9/4	2.73	0.79	2.16
1996	9/4	2.55	0.51	1.29
1997	9/4	2.72	0.68	1.86
1998	16/4	3.21	0.64	2.06

^a The September teal season was suspended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during these years.

Table 5. Waterfowl harvest and hunter activity during the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day in Illinois, 1996-1998.

Characteristic	1996	1997	1998
Adult hunters who took \geq 1 youths afield	2,749	3,163	3,343
Youth hunters participating	4,353	4,322	5,142
Mean youths per hunting party	1.58	1.37	1.54
<u>Waterfowl Harvest</u>			
Total Ducks	3,171	3,451	4,159
Ducks per youth hunter	0.73	0.80	0.81
Total Coots	230	387	208
Coots per youth hunter	0.05	0.09	0.04
Total Geese ^a	----	----	289
Geese per youth hunter			0.06

^a Could not hunt geese during the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day in 1996 and 1997.

Table 6. Summary of duck and coot harvests and hunter activity during the regular duck season in Illinois from 1981 through 1998.

Season (Year)	Hunters	Days Afield	Number of Ducks				Coots
			Mallards	Wood Ducks	Other Ducks	Total	
1981	54,744	703,534	170,972	72,065	94,947	337,984	4,950
1982	52,220	646,394	163,439	61,706	101,989	327,134	5,905
1983	50,440	651,409	220,317	72,237	110,862	403,416	10,472
1984	49,715	606,325	182,132	52,955	120,016	355,103	7,702
1985	51,362	556,800	168,549	51,216	97,155	316,920	5,773
1986	53,588	638,090	201,676	65,414	112,490	379,580	7,372
1987	51,704	558,172	155,783	58,488	74,748	289,019	2,694
1988 ^a	43,233	381,985	119,149	23,743	42,836	185,728	1,936
1989 ^a	43,841	407,478	133,128	28,065	63,073	224,266	2,049
1990 ^a	38,759	350,119	112,370	33,253	51,562	197,185	2,287
1991 ^a	42,911	393,247	177,221	49,556	80,793	307,570	1,101
1992	39,272	362,275	124,112	34,280	58,035	216,427	3,275
1993	40,941	366,656	134,334	39,906	43,360	217,600	1,445
1994	44,447	475,264	137,263	44,683	64,998 ^b	246,944	3,880
1995	42,499	482,620	230,505	47,155	99,632 ^b	377,292	3,386
1996	44,219	460,517	163,311	38,783	82,431 ^b	284,525	3,286
1997	42,587	514,934	145,533	44,678	100,950 ^b	291,161	3,935
1998	41,755	517,372	200,030	57,393	129,439 ^b	386,862	2,920

^a Estimates of duck hunters, days afield, ducks and coots harvested for these years have been reduced to 92.48% - 96.48% of the original estimates. See last paragraph of the METHODS section in Anderson and Williamson (1994) for explanation.

^b Includes 3,760 canvasback in 1994, 5,393 canvasback in 1995, 4,348 canvasback in 1996, 5,800 in 1997, and 3,948 in 1998.

Table 7. Rates of duck harvest and hunter activity during the regular duck season in Illinois from 1981 through 1998.

Year	Season Length/ Bag Limit ^b	Days Afield Per Hunter	Duck Harvest Per Hunter ^a	
			Per Day	Per Season
1981	50/10(4)	12.85	0.48	6.17
1982	50/10(4)	12.38	0.51	6.26
1983	50/10(4)	12.91	0.62	8.00
1984	50/10(4)	12.20	0.59	7.14
1985	40/5(3)	10.84	0.57	6.17
1986	40/5(3)	11.91	0.59	7.08
1987	40/5(3)	10.80	0.52	5.59
1988	30/3(2)	8.84	0.49	4.30
1989	30/3(2)	9.29	0.55	5.12
1990	30/3(2)	9.03	0.54	4.90
1991	30/3(2)	9.16	0.72	6.57
1992	30/3(2)	9.22	0.57	5.22
1993	30/3(2)	8.96	0.58	5.21
1994	40/3(2)	10.96	0.51	5.47
1995	50/5(4)	11.36	0.74	8.40
1996	50/5(4)	10.41	0.58	6.03
1997	60/6(4)	12.09	0.57	6.84
1998	60/6(4)	12.39	0.75	9.27

^aExcludes ducks harvested coincidentally to goose hunting.

^bThe Point System was used in 1981-1987. A maximum of 10 ducks (4 mallards) was allowed in 1981-1984, and a maximum of 5 ducks (3 mallards) was allowed in 1985-1987. The Conventional (Straight) System was used in 1988-1998.

Table 8. Canada goose harvest and hunter activity during the early September Canada goose season in Illinois, 1997-1998.

Waterfowl Zone	Hunters		Days Afield		Canada Geese	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
Northeast ^a	3,438	3,158	11,039	10,552	5,405	3,125
North ^b	2,139	1,679	6,952	5,339	2,216	1,059
Central ^b	5,768	5,915	15,890	18,247	3,774	3,046
South	-----	677	-----	1,880	-----	384
Unknown	420	552	1,107	1,304	48	238
Total	11,765	11,981	34,988	37,322	11,443	7,852

^a Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties.

^b Excluding those counties in the Northeast Zone.

Table 9. Summary of goose harvest and hunter activity during the regular goose season in Illinois from 1981-82 through 1998-99.

Season (Year)	Hunters	Days Afield	Number of Geese		
			Canada Geese	Other Geese	Total
1981	23,610	132,610	44,302 (6,312) ^a	3,082 (1,719)	47,384 (8,031)
1982	24,058	107,557	29,574 (4,968)	1,499 (710)	31,073 (5,678)
1983	26,199	124,639	31,395 (4,325)	962 (577)	32,357 (4,902)
1984	22,426	102,583	23,147 (2,859)	1,675 (593)	24,822 (3,452)
1985	22,160	105,792	37,976 (5,248)	2,324 (753)	40,300 (6,001)
1986	30,327	200,291	45,535 (11,348)	2,625 (832)	48,160 (12,180)
1987	32,246	224,164	36,103 (3,563)	1,525 (499)	37,628 (4,062)
1988 ^b	34,456	251,176	72,550 (3,871)	1,832 (350)	74,382 (4,221)
1989 ^b	39,459	329,369	91,379 (2,988)	1,715 (182)	93,094 (3,170)
1990 ^b	40,459	346,036	67,127 (1,515)	1,319 (97)	68,446 (1,612)
1991 ^b	43,692	450,807	92,239 (1,245)	2,434 (70)	94,673 (1,315)
1992	35,253	334,010	59,352 (2,679)	1,412 (170)	60,764 (2,849)
1993	35,489	299,120	93,361 (1,260)	1,314 (82)	94,675 (1,342)
1994	37,090	320,580	67,790 (1,895)	1,753 (77)	69,543 (1,972)
1995	37,060	367,341	92,478 (4,034)	3,183 (245)	95,661 (4,279)
1996	36,582	339,253	65,864 (2,527)	4,939 ^c (114)	70,803 (2,641)
1997	33,498	295,107	61,282 (4,772)	7,572 ^d (438)	68,854 (5,210)
1998	26,343	202,676	43,222 (2,463)	4,290 ^e (305)	47,512 (2,968)

^aNumber of geese harvested coincidentally to duck hunting.

^bThe estimates of goose hunters and days afield for these years have been reduced to 92.48% -96.48% of the original estimates. The estimates for geese harvested have not been reduced. See last paragraph of the METHODS section in Anderson and Williamson (1994) for explanation.

^cIncludes 4,063 snow/blue geese.

^dIncludes 5,941 snow/blue geese.

^eIncludes 3,734 snow/blue geese.

Table 10. Goose harvest and hunter activity by zones in Illinois, (1998-99 regular season).

Zone	Hunters	Days Afield	Canada Geese	Snow/Blue Geese	Other Geese	Total Geese
Southern Quota	8,522	53,363	16,605	847	238	17,690
Rend Lake	2,682	12,758	3,496	543	93	4,132
North	2,156	7,946	2,960	0	0	2,960
North Quota	3,484	25,742	3,893	53	0	3,946
Central	6,341	30,003	4,152	861	40	5,053
Central Quota	6,868	54,090	5,548	344	53	5,945
Southern	2,983	17,921	6,528	1,086	132	7,746
Unknown	150	851	40	0	0	40
Total	26,343 ^a	202,676	43,222	3,734	556	47,512

^a The total is less than the sum of the above values because some hunters were active in >1 zone.

Table 11. Harvest of Canada geese by administrative region and county during the regular goose season in Illinois in 1996-97 through 1998-99. Due to rounding to whole numbers, some small discrepancies may occur in these data.

County	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	Mean
<u>Administrative Region 1A</u>				
Boone	140	146	13	100
Carroll	0	146	305	150
DeKalb	38	122	53	71
Jo Daviess	13	49	26	29
Lee	140	97	146	128
Ogle	0	195	371	189
Stephenson	279	0	26	102
Whiteside	102	146	212	153
Winnebago	876	389	821	695
Region 1A Total	1,587	1,290	1,973	1,617
<u>Administrative Region 1B</u>				
Bureau	254	341	331	309
Fulton	5,079	3,994	2,503	3,859
Henderson	470	146	106	241
Henry	1,244	317	185	582
Knox	1,130	1,290	583	1,001
LaSalle	483	414	199	365
Marshall	419	146	238	268
McDonough	0	0	0	0
Mercer	38	97	119	85
Peoria	533	195	331	353
Putnam	63	73	53	63
Rock Island	254	755	185	398
Stark	114	170	13	99
Tazewell	254	1,217	159	543
Warren	0	170	13	61
Woodford	190	49	106	115
Region 1B Total	10,527	9,374	5,125	8,342
<u>Administrative Region 2</u>				
Cook	1,003	1,193	543	913
Du Page	800	1,217	358	792
Grundy	1,130	609	212	650
Kane	1,067	1,144	1,245	1,152
Kankakee	368	609	305	427
Kendall	127	146	185	153
Lake	1,397	2,532	821	1,583
McHenry	2,057	1,242	993	1,431
Will	2,184	1,315	1,232	1,577
Region 2 Total	10,133	10,007	5,893	8,678

Table 11. Continued – page 2.

County	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	Mean
<u>Administrative Region 3A</u>				
Adams	559	341	66	322
Brown	0	0	0	0
Calhoun	686	755	79	506
Cass	216	0	0	72
Christian	330	390	278	333
Greene	0	195	53	83
Hancock	38	0	0	13
Jersey	609	0	146	252
Logan	63	122	0	62
Macoupin	241	97	185	174
Mason	622	1,118	185	642
Menard	0	0	40	13
Montgomery	38	49	0	29
Morgan	241	609	185	345
Pike	622	463	106	397
Sangamon	89	511	79	226
Schuyler	178	49	40	89
Scott	0	73	0	24
Region 3A Total	4,532	4,772	1,443	3,582
<u>Administrative Region 3B</u>				
Champaign	317	195	93	201
Clark	140	49	79	89
Coles	51	0	53	35
Cumberland	0	0	53	18
DeWitt	292	341	66	233
Douglas	51	0	79	43
Edgar	0	146	0	49
Ford	0	0	40	13
Iroquois	89	365	199	218
Livingston	89	365	172	209
Macon	305	170	172	216
McLean	190	487	13	230
Moultrie	127	0	26	51
Piatt	13	0	199	71
Shelby	13	0	0	4
Vermilion	63	146	119	109
Region 3B Total	1,740	2,264	1,364	1,789

Table 11. Continued – page 3.

County	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	Mean
<u>Administrative Region 4</u>				
Bond	102	97	40	80
Clinton	165	0	66	77
Madison	990	657	212	620
Monroe	190	146	132	156
Randolph	495	609	1,390	831
St. Clair	1,219	1,315	900	1,145
Washington	25	341	66	144
Region 4 Total	3,187	3,165	2,807	3,053
<u>Administrative Region 5</u>				
Clay	0	0	0	0
Crawford	0	97	172	90
Edwards	0	0	66	22
Effingham	0	0	0	0
Fayette	609	3,774	755	1,713
Gallatin	51	0	26	26
Hamilton	0	0	66	22
Hardin	0	0	0	0
Jasper	51	0	185	79
Johnson	229	49	318	199
Lawrence	25	0	13	13
Marion	0	24	53	26
Massac	51	0	53	35
Perry	1,498	1,948	1,324	1,590
Pope	0	0	0	0
Pulaski	381	49	583	338
Richland	38	146	13	66
Saline	470	0	569	346
Wabash	0	0	119	40
Wayne	292	0	0	97
White	267	0	159	142
Subtotal	3,962	6,087	4,476	4,842
Rend Lake Quota Zone	5,028	2,118	3,496	3,547
Southern IL Quota Zone	25,091	22,010	16,605	21,235
Region 5 Total	34,081	30,215	24,577	29,624
Unknown	76	195	40	104
Statewide Total	65,864	61,282	43,222	56,789

Table 12. Harvest of Canada geese by waterfowl zone and county during the regular goose season in Illinois in 1996-97 through 1998-99. Due to rounding to whole numbers, some small discrepancies may occur in these data.

County	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	Mean
<u>North Waterfowl Zone</u>				
Boone	140	146	13	100
Bureau ^a	127	171	166	155
Carroll	0	146	305	150
Cook	1,003	1,193	543	913
DeKalb	38	122	53	71
Du Page	800	1,217	358	792
Jo Daviess	13	49	26	29
Kane	1,067	1,144	1,245	1,152
Kendall	127	146	185	152
LaSalle ^b	160	146	67	124
Lake	1,397	2,532	821	1,583
Lee	140	97	146	128
McHenry	2,057	1,242	993	1,431
Ogle	0	195	371	189
Rock Island ^a	127	365	93	195
Stephenson	279	0	26	102
Whiteside	102	146	212	153
Will ^b	721	438	411	523
Winnebago	876	389	821	695
North Zone Total	9,174	9,884	6,853	8,637
<u>Central Waterfowl Zone</u>				
Adams	559	341	66	322
Brown	0	0	0	0
Bureau ^a	127	170	165	154
Calhoun	686	755	79	506
Cass	216	0	0	72
Champaign	317	195	93	201
Christian	330	390	278	333
Clark ^c	70	24	40	45
Coles	51	0	53	35
Cumberland	0	0	53	18
DeWitt	292	341	66	233
Douglas	51	0	79	43
Edgar	0	146	0	49
Ford	0	0	40	13
Fulton	5,079	3,994	2,503	3,859
Greene	0	195	53	83
Grundy	1,130	609	212	650
Hancock	38	0	0	13
Henderson	470	146	106	241

Table 12. Continued – page 2.

County	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	Mean
<u>Central Waterfowl Zone (continued)</u>				
Henry	1,244	317	185	582
Iroquois	89	365	199	218
Jersey	609	0	146	252
Kankakee	368	609	305	427
Knox	1,130	1,290	583	1,001
LaSalle ^b	324	268	132	241
Livingston	89	365	172	209
Logan	63	122	0	62
Macon	305	170	172	216
Macoupin	241	97	185	174
Madison	990	657	212	620
Marshall	419	146	238	268
Mason	622	1,118	185	642
McDonough	0	0	0	0
McLean	190	487	13	230
Menard	0	0	40	13
Mercer	38	97	119	85
Monroe	190	146	132	156
Montgomery	38	49	0	29
Morgan	241	609	185	345
Moultrie	127	0	26	51
Peoria	533	195	331	353
Piatt	13	0	199	71
Pike	622	463	106	397
Putnam	63	73	53	63
Rock Island ^a	127	390	92	203
Sangamon	89	511	79	226
Schuyler	178	49	40	89
Scott	0	73	0	24
Shelby	13	0	0	4
St. Clair ^c	610	657	450	572
Stark	114	170	13	99
Tazewell	254	1,217	159	543
Vermillion	63	146	119	109
Warren	0	170	13	61
Will ^b	1,463	877	821	1,054
Woodford	190	49	106	115
Central Zone Total	21,065	19,258	9,700	16,674

Table 12. Continued – page 3.

County	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	Mean
<u>South Waterfowl Zone</u>				
Bond	102	97	40	80
Clark ^c	70	25	39	45
Clay	0	0	0	0
Clinton	165	0	66	77
Crawford	0	97	172	90
Edwards	0	0	66	22
Effingham	0	0	0	0
Fayette	609	3,774	755	1,713
Gallatin	51	0	26	26
Hamilton	0	0	66	22
Hardin	0	0	0	0
Jasper	51	0	185	79
Johnson	229	49	318	199
Lawrence	25	0	13	13
Marion	0	24	53	26
Massac	51	0	53	35
Perry	1,498	1,948	1,324	1,590
Pope	0	0	0	0
Pulaski	381	49	583	338
Randolph	495	609	1,390	831
Richland	38	146	13	66
Saline	470	0	569	346
St. Clair ^c	610	658	450	573
Wabash	0	0	119	40
Washington	25	341	66	144
Wayne	292	0	0	97
White	267	0	159	142
Subtotal	5,429	7,817	6,528	6,591
Rend Lake Quota Zone	5,028	2,118	3,496	3,547
Southern IL Quota Zone	25,091	22,010	16,605	21,235
South Zone Total	35,548	31,945	26,629	31,374
Unknown	76	195	40	104
Statewide Total	65,864	61,282	43,222	56,789

^a50% in North Zone and 50% in Central Zone.

^b33% in North Zone and 67% in Central Zone.

^c50% in Central Zone and 50% in South Zone.

Table 13. Attitudes of waterfowl hunters toward the early September Canada goose season in Illinois in 1998. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Responses to the question:

With approval from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Illinois had an early (September 1-15) Canada goose season statewide in 1998. The purpose of this early season was to provide sportsmen with additional opportunities to hunt local Canada geese and, in some areas, to increase the harvest of geese that have become nuisances. Did you like or dislike this early Canada goose season with respect to the counties listed below?

In your county of residence:

	Responses by Waterfowl Zones			
	North	Central	South	Entire State
	(225)	(469)	(355)	(1869)
Liked	61.8%	56.3%	33.8%	43.7%
Disliked	15.6	18.8	20.3	15.4
No Opinion	22.7	24.9	45.9	40.9

In the county where you goose hunt most:

	Responses by Waterfowl Zones			
	North	Central	South	Entire State
	(209)	(435)	(342)	(1702)
Liked	67.5%	57.2%	30.4%	43.1%
Disliked	14.8	20.9	22.8	16.2
No Opinion	17.7	21.8	46.8	40.7

In the county where you duck hunt most:

	Responses by Waterfowl Zones			
	North	Central	South	Entire State
	(202)	(417)	(335)	(1663)
Liked	59.9%	51.6%	29.0%	40.0%
Disliked	13.9	19.2	19.4	14.8
No Opinion	26.2	29.3	51.6	45.2

Table 14. Attitudes of goose hunters toward applying the daily phone-in monitoring system to all goose hunters in each zone (Illinois 1998-99). Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Response to the question:

The DNR has operated a pilot Canada goose harvest monitoring system in 6 counties in the North Zone and 14 counties in the Central since 1994-95. During the regular goose season, hunters in these counties must have a special permit (issued free), and they must report the Canada geese they harvest via a toll-free phone number within 24 hours. Currently, the hunting season is closed in the entire North (or Central) Zone when the quota is reached in the monitored counties. This system is designed to provide for longer goose seasons and prevent over harvest. With these facts in mind, what do you think about dividing the state into 3 Canada goose quota zones (North, Central, and South) and applying the daily phone-in harvest monitoring system to all goose hunters in each zone instead of using the current monitoring systems.

	Responses by Waterfowl Zones			
	North	Central	South	Entire State
	(238)	(480)	(368)	(1957)
Apply statewide	58.0%	52.9%	28.8%	42.0%
Leave as is	25.2	28.1	49.7	28.2
No opinion	16.8	19.0	21.5	29.8

Table 15. Attitudes of goose hunters toward the dates for the regular Canada goose season in the North Zone for the 1999-00 season (Illinois 1998-99). Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Responses to the question:

In the North Zone, the 1998-99 Canada goose season was open during the first 11 days of the duck season, then closed for 21 days. The second segment was open for 21 days, then closed for 7 days. The final segment was scheduled for 35 days, bringing the season total to 67 days. For the 1999-00 season, which of the following options do you prefer for Canada goose harvest in the North Zone? In answering the question, assume that the 1999 duck season will open on a date similar to that used in 1998, and that the Canada goose season will be scheduled to run for 67 days, but may have to be closed after 20-50 days. In addition, look at a calendar to determine when Thanksgiving and other holidays will occur.

	North Zone
1 st season segment:	(217)
4 – days	12.9%
11 – days	34.6
18 – days	22.1
No opinion	30.4
1 st closed period	(213)
14 – days	43.2%
21 – days	17.8
28 – days	6.6
No opinion	32.4
2 nd season segment	(211)
7 – days	4.3%
14 – days	13.3
21 – days	49.3
No opinion	33.2
2 nd closed period	(214)
0 – days	29.0%
7 – days	23.8
14 – days	12.1
No opinion	35.0

Table 16. Attitudes of goose hunters toward the dates for the regular Canada goose season in the Central Zone for the 1999-00 season (Illinois 1998-99). Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Responses to the questions:

In the Central Zone, the 1998-99 Canada goose season was open during the first 4 days of the duck season, then closed for 28 days. The second segment was open for 14 days, then closed for 7 days. The final segment was scheduled for 49 days, bringing the season total to 67 days. For the 1999-00 season, which of the following options do you prefer for Canada goose hunting in the Central Zone? In answering this question, assume that the 1999 duck season will open on a date similar to that used in 1998, and that the Canada goose season will be scheduled to run for 67 days, but may have to be closed after 20-50 days. Also, remember that the Canada goose season cannot go past January 31—thus, a late season may result in loss of days. In addition, look at a calendar to determine when Thanksgiving and other holidays will occur.

	Central Zone
1 st season segment:	(414)
4 – days	29.4%
11 – days	21.5
18 – days	14.7
No opinion	34.3
1 st closed period	(400)
14 – days	29.8%
21 – days	12.0
28 – days	22.3
No opinion	36.0
2 nd season segment	(397)
7 – days	12.3%
14 – days	17.1
21 – days	34.0
No opinion	36.5
2 nd closed period	(405)
0 – days	30.9%
7 – days	15.1
14 – days	17.5
No opinion	36.5

Table 17. Attitudes of goose hunters toward the dates for the regular Canada goose season in the South Zone for the 1999-00 season (Illinois 1998-99). Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Responses to the question:

In the South Zone, the 1998-99 Canada goose season opened on November 26, which was (Thursday) Thanksgiving Day.

*What do you think about using a similar date (November 25) for opening the Canada goose hunting season in the South Zone in 1999-00? In answering this question, remember that the Canada goose season cannot go past January 31—thus, a late season may result in loss of days.

	Responses by Waterfowl Zones			
	North	Central	South	Entire State
	(174)	(400)	(371)	(1763)
Too early	6.9%	15.3%	36.9%	17.5%
About right	21.8	33.5	52.3	34.1
Too late	5.2	6.5	3.5	4.8
No opinion	66.1	44.8	7.3	43.6

*Would you prefer that the Canada goose season open on Thanksgiving Day or the day after Thanksgiving.

	Responses by Waterfowl Zones			
	North	Central	South	Entire State
	(178)	(411)	(360)	(1754)
Thanksgiving Day	15.2%	23.6%	38.9%	25.5%
Day after Thanksgiving	23.6	33.1	42.8	30.8
No opinion	61.2	43.3	18.3	43.7

Table 18. Attitudes of goose hunters toward more days and a daily bag of 1 Canada goose or fewer days and a daily bag of 2 Canada geese (Illinois 1998-99). Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Responses to the question:

If Canada goose hunting regulations have to be more restrictive during the 1999-00 season, would you prefer more days and a daily bag of 1 Canada goose or fewer days and a daily bag of 2 Canada geese?

	Responses by Waterfowl Zones			
	North	Central	South	Entire State
	(227)	(469)	(363)	(1912)
(a) 50 days and 1 goose	37.0%	39.2%	35.3%	32.6%
35 days and 2 geese	58.1	56.9	62.0	53.7
No opinion	4.8	3.8	2.8	13.7
	(177)	(368)	(273)	(1503)
(b) 43 days and 1 goose	36.7%	37.2%	31.1%	29.2%
30 days and 2 geese	55.4	57.1	64.5	52.8
No opinion	7.9	5.7	4.4	18.0
	(175)	(367)	(272)	(1488)
(c) 33 days and 1 goose	40.6%	44.7%	39.3%	33.5%
23 days and 2 geese	51.4	48.8	55.1	47.8
No opinion	8.0	6.5	5.5	18.7
	(174)	(364)	(267)	(1475)
(d) 23 days and 1 goose	41.4%	45.1%	38.6%	34.0%
16 days and 2 geese	48.9	47.3	52.4	45.6
No opinion	9.8	7.7	9.0	20.3
	(174)	(364)	(266)	(1471)
(e) 13 days and 1 goose	40.2%	42.6%	40.2%	32.8%
9 days and 2 geese	50.0	48.6	50.4	46.1
No opinion	9.8	8.8	9.4	21.1

Table 19. Attitudes of waterfowl hunters toward dates for the September teal season (Illinois 1998-99). Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Responses to the question:

Which of the following dates would you prefer for the September Teal season in Illinois in 1999? In answering this question, assume that the season will be 16 days long again in 1999.

	Responses by Waterfowl Zones			
	North	Central	South	Entire State
	(237)	(482)	(372)	(1967)
Sept. 4 – 19	18.1%	15.6%	12.1%	14.1%
Sept. 11 – 26	32.9	46.7	46.0	44.6
No opinion	48.9	37.8	41.9	41.3

Table 20. Attitudes of duck hunters toward the dates for the regular duck season (Illinois 1998-99). Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Responses to the questions:

The 1998-99 regular duck season began on a Thursday and ended on a Sunday. Did you like these opening and closing days or would you have preferred that the season open on a Saturday and end on a Tuesday?

	Responses by Waterfowl Zones			
	North	Central	South	Entire State
	(243)	(492)	(376)	(2019)
Liked Thursday opening/ Sunday closing	51.0%	52.4%	59.0%	52.6%
Preferred Saturday opening/ Tuesday closing	28.8	31.5	23.7	28.0
No opinion	20.2	16.1	17.3	19.3

The dates for Illinois's 1998-99 regular duck season were October 8-December 6 in the North Zone, October 22-Dec. 20 in the Central Zone, and November 12-January 10 in the South Zone. If Illinois is offered another 60-day season, what do you think about using similar dates for the 1999-00 duck season?

	Responses by Waterfowl Zones			
	North	Central	South	Entire State
	(243)	(492)	(378)	(2021)
Too early	33.7%	40.9%	41.0%	35.3%
About right	56.0	49.0	46.0	51.1
Too late	2.1	3.9	4.5	4.3
No opinion	8.2	6.3	8.5	9.4

Table 21. Attitudes of duck hunters toward opening and closing days of the regular duck season (Illinois 1998-99). Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Responses to the questions:

If the 1999-00 regular duck season is shortened to 45 days, would you prefer a Friday opening and Sunday closing or a Saturday opening and Monday closing?

	Responses by Waterfowl Zones			
	North	Central	South	Entire State
	(243)	(490)	(377)	(2021)
Prefer Friday opening/ Sunday closing	51.4%	53.1%	58.6%	53.1%
Prefer Saturday opening/ Monday closing	29.2	31.6	24.7	28.6
No opinion	19.3	15.3	16.7	18.2

If the 1999-00 duck season is shortened to 45 days, should the reduction in days be taken from the front of the season, from the back of the season, or from both the front and back of the season?

	Responses by Waterfowl Zones			
	North	Central	South	Entire State
	(241)	(492)	(377)	(2023)
All from front of season	48.5%	57.5%	67.9%	54.2%
All from back of season	16.6	10.0	10.3	13.1
Both front and back	24.9	23.8	13.8	22.5
No opinion	10.0	8.7	8.0	10.1