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# Results of the 1999-2000 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey



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August 16, 2002

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## Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey

### JOB COMPLETION REPORT

#### WILDLIFE HARVEST AND HUMAN DIMENSIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NUMBER: W-112-R-9  
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## **ABSTRACT**

A total of 3,160 (67%) Illinois waterfowl hunters responded to the 1999-2000 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. The number of hunters who hunted waterfowl during the 1999-2000 waterfowl season increased 15% from the previous season. Hunters reported a record 1,472,301 days afield, an increase of 85% over the 795,561 days reported for the 1998-1999 license year. Waterfowl harvest increased 66% from 471,072 birds during 1998-1999 to 783,195 during 1999-2000. Harvest estimates were as follows: 311,325 mallards, 69,930 wood ducks, and 181,650 other ducks. A total of 55,199 teal were harvested during the early September teal season. Goose hunters harvested 119,611 Canada geese during the regular Canada goose season.

## **OBJECTIVE**

To survey waterfowl (duck, goose, and coot) hunters annually to determine their activities, harvests, characteristics, attitudes, and opinions in Illinois.

## **METHODS**

A total of 4,748 waterfowl hunters were sampled from the population of approximately 61,000 Illinois waterfowl hunters registered with the federal Harvest Information Program (HIP). One-half of the hunters were mailed waterfowl hunting record forms prior to the season (Appendices A and B) (Miller and Anderson, 2002). After the season, all on the list were mailed an 8-page self-administered questionnaire and a letter of explanation (Appendices C and D). The questionnaire addressed days afield, harvest, and attitudes toward issues related to waterfowl season, limits, and management practices. Hunters received a follow-up postcard 10 days after the questionnaire, thanking them for returning their survey questionnaire and reminding nonrespondents to return the completed questionnaire. Nonrespondents received a second questionnaire 10 days after the postcard reminder, followed 10 days later with another postcard. We received 3,160 (67%) questionnaires from hunters in the sample, of which 2,766 (87.5%) hunted waterfowl in Illinois in 1999-2000. The long-term (1989-1998) average for percent of respondents hunting is 87.4%. Estimates of number of hunters, days afield, and waterfowl harvested were computed following the procedures outlined by Anderson et al. (1998). Coded data were entered and analyzed using SPSS 6.0.

## SEASON LENGTHS AND BAG LIMITS

Hunters enjoyed a 16-day early teal season with a 4-bird limit, a 15-day/2-or 5-goose daily limit September goose season, a 60-day/6-bird limit duck season, and a 119,000 statewide Canada goose quota (season dates and length varied according to zone). See Appendix E for details of dates, hours, and limits.

## RESULTS

### Waterfowl Harvest and Days Afield

The number of waterfowl hunters increased from 50,288 during 1998-1999 to 58,003 during the 1999-2000 seasons, resulting in an increase of 15% (Table 1). Hunters reported a record 1,472,301 days afield, an increase of 85% over the 795,561 days reported for the 1998-1999 license year. Waterfowl harvest increased 66% from 471,072 during 1998-1999 to 783,195 during 1999-2000. The percentage of hunters who hunted geese only during 1999-2000 (11%) declined appreciably from the 1998-1999 percentage (17%) (Table 2). More hunters reported hunting both ducks and geese during 1999-2000 (62%) than during 1998-1999 (35%).

### *Teal*

The number of early (September) season teal hunters increased 94% from 10,307 during 1998-1999 to 20,036 during 1999-2000 (Table 3). These hunters reported 124% more days afield (74,170) during the 1999-2000 early season compared to 1998-1999 (33,049), and they harvested 55,199 teal (green-winged teal, *Anas crecca*, and blue-winged teal, *A. discors*), an increase of 160% over the previous year's harvest. Teal hunters averaged 3.70 days afield during the early season, and harvested an average of 0.74 teal per hunter per day and 2.75 per hunter for the season (Table 4).

### *Youth Waterfowl Hunts*

Youth hunts gained participation during 1999-2000, as 5,505 adults accompanied 8,113 youths afield (Table 5). These figures represent a 58% increase in youths and a 65% increase in adults. Duck harvest by youths increased from 4,159 for the 1998-99 season to 5,835 ducks during 1999-2000.

### *Ducks*

Total duck hunters increased 10,095 (24%) from 41,755 hunters during 1998-1999 to 51,850 during 1999-2000 (Table 6). Duck hunters spent 860,368 days afield during 1999-2000, an increase of 66% from the 517,372 days reported during 1998-1999. Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) harvest increased 111,295 ducks (56%) from 200,030 during 1998-1999 to 311,325 during 1999-2000. Harvest of wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) grew by 12,537 ducks (22%) to 69,930 during the 1999-2000 season. Harvest of other ducks increased 52,211 (40%) to 181,650 ducks during the 1999-2000 season. Total duck harvest during 1999-2000 was 562,905 ducks, an increase of 176,043 ducks (46%) over 1998-1999. Coot (*Fulica americana*) harvest increased 25% from 2,920 for the 1998-1999 season to 3,654 for 1999-2000. Duck harvest rate per hunter per day declined from 0.75 duck for the 1998-1999 season to 0.65 duck for 1999-2000, whereas the average per hunter per season increased from 9.27 ducks for 1998-1999 to 10.86 ducks for 1999-2000 (Table 7).

### *Geese*

The September Canada goose season continued to increase in popularity. Statewide, 16,945 hunters participated in the early season, a 41% increase over the previous year (Table 8). The majority of hunters (9,869) hunted the Central Zone. Hunters harvested 20,223 Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*) throughout Illinois during this season, with half of this harvest (10,491) taken from the Central Zone.

Illinois goose hunters numbered 42,246 and spent 464,769 days afield during the 1999-2000 regular season (Table 9). Hunters harvested 119,611 Canada geese during this goose season (statewide quota was 119,000). Hunters also harvested 14,568 other geese (of which 12,220 were snow/blue geese, *Chen caerulescens*), for a total combined goose harvest of 134,179 birds. The Central Non-Quota Zone lead the state in number of goose hunters (13,712), whereas the Central Quota Zone lead for days afield (136,489) and number of Canada geese harvested (28,854) (Table 10). The Central Quota Zone was second in number of goose hunters (11,892). Canada goose harvest is presented by administrative region, waterfowl zone, and county in Tables 11 and 12.

Twelve percent of the respondents said they hunted snow geese during the special spring season in 1999. This compares to 33% who planned to hunt during the special season in 2000 (Table 13).

## Hunter Behavior and Attitudes

### *Areas Hunted*

Based on responses to this survey 53% of the state's duck harvest and 24% of the goose harvest occurs on public areas (Table 14). Another 38% of the duck harvest and 57% of the goose harvest takes place on private areas. The remainder of the harvest is associated with commercial areas.

### *Trips*

One quarter (25%) of hunters took overnight waterfowl hunting trips in Illinois during the 1999-2000 season (Table 15). The most frequent duration was 2 days, with an average of 2.3 trips of this length per hunter. A combination of ducks and geese were hunted by 41% of hunters taking trips; 31% hunted geese only and 27% hunted ducks only.

### *Motorized Decoys*

Motorized decoys (decoys with battery-operated swimming or wing movements) were used by 35% of hunters during the 1999-2000 season (Table 16). Battery-operated wing-movement decoys on poles were most popular and used by 17% of hunters, followed by vibrating decoys (16%), battery-operated wing-movement decoys on water (14%), and swimming decoys (10%) (Table 16). Although hunters may have used these decoys in combination, percentages reflect percentages of each type used individually. Most hunters (58%) did not feel use of mechanical decoys was unsportsmanlike, and 60% stated that equipment which will help bring birds into shooting range should be permitted (Miller 2002).

### *Duck Blind Permits*

Slightly less than half (45%) of waterfowl hunters applied for duck blind permits during the 1999-2000 season (Table 17). The most popular method for application was on-site

drawings for 1-, 2-, or 3-year blind allocations (n = 690), followed by on-site daily drawings (n = 486), mail-in applications (n = 157), and telephone reservations (n = 61). Slightly more than half of hunters (54%) were successful in their applications. The most frequent allocation were 1-day permits (n = 261), followed by 1-year allocations (n = 176), 3-year allocations (n = 143), and 2-year allocations (n = 73). When asked for their preference for pre-constructed blinds similar to those available at Banner Marsh, most hunters (56%) stated they were unaware of that type of blind and did not indicate a preference (Table 18). A majority of hunters (57%) favored reserving some of the current 1-, 2-, and 3-year blinds for daily reservations (Table 19). Most hunters (55%) favored a daily drawing on-site for these blinds. See Appendix F for additional information.

### *Season Preferences and Other Opinions*

The majority of hunters (56%) statewide favored opening duck season on a Thursday and closing on a Saturday (Table 20). This majority was observed for each zone: North Zone 59%, Central Zone 54%, South Zone 64%. Most hunters (54%) favored opening September teal season on September 2 for a 16-day season (Table 21).

A majority of hunters (66%) preferred the September Canada goose season open September 2 to coincide with the first day of teal season (Table 22). Most hunters (61%) favored the opening of goose season in the South Zone be structured similar to the previous season (1998-1999) (Table 23).

Opinions of other waterfowl hunting regulations are provided in Tables 24-30. Unsolicited comments of respondents are summarized in Appendix G.

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Table 1. Summary of Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps purchased, hunter activity, and waterfowl harvest in Illinois from 1981 through 1999 hunting seasons.

Season (Year)	Stamps Purchased	Hunters	Days Afield	Waterfowl Harvested <sup>a</sup>
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) <sup>b</sup>	60,371	814,918	354,194
1988 <sup>c</sup>	53,498 (4,350)	53,450	644,056	264,316
1989 <sup>c</sup>	55,693 (3,570)	55,709	749,033	322,359
1990 <sup>c</sup>	55,009 (2,390)	55,152	708,391	270,796
1991 <sup>c</sup>	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
1999	63,782 ( 350)	58,003	1,472,301	783,195

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

<sup>b</sup> Stamps purchased for commercial art purposes. These stamps were not included in the numbers to the left.

<sup>c</sup> 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 1999 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
1999	27	11	62	89	73

Table 3. Summary of teal harvest and hunter activity during the September teal season in Illinois from 1981 through 1999.

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 <sup>a</sup>	-----	-----	-----
1989 <sup>a</sup>	-----	-----	-----
1990 <sup>a</sup>	-----	-----	-----
1991 <sup>a</sup>	-----	-----	-----
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
1999	20,036	74,170	55,199

<sup>a</sup> 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 1999. Legal shooting hours were 7 am to 4 pm in 1981-1987 and 1992, and sunrise to sunset in 1993-1999.

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 <sup>a</sup>	----	----	----	----
1989 <sup>a</sup>	----	----	----	----
1990 <sup>a</sup>	----	----	----	----
1991 <sup>a</sup>	----	----	----	----
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
1999	16/4	3.70	0.74	2.75

<sup>a</sup> 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, 1996-1999.

Characteristic	1996	1997	1998	1999
Adult hunters who took $\geq 1$ youths afield	2,749	3,163	3,343	5,505
Youth hunters participating	4,353	4,322	5,142	8,113
Mean youths per hunting party	1.58	1.37	1.54	1.47
Waterfowl Harvest				
Total Ducks	3,171	3,451	4,159	5,835
Ducks per youth hunter	0.73	0.80	0.81	0.72
Total Coots	230	387	208	629
Coots per youth hunter	0.05	0.09	0.04	0.08
Total Geese <sup>a</sup>	----	----	289	571
Geese per youth hunter	----	----	0.06	0.07

<sup>a</sup>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 1999.

Season (Year)	Hunters	Days Afield	Ducks Harvested				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 <sup>a</sup>	43,233	381,985	119,149	23,743	42,836	185,728	1,936
1989 <sup>a</sup>	43,841	407,478	133,128	28,065	63,073	224,266	2,049
1990 <sup>a</sup>	38,759	350,119	112,370	33,253	51,562	197,185	2,287
1991 <sup>a</sup>	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 <sup>b</sup>	246,944	3,880
1995	42,499	482,620	230,505	47,155	99,632 <sup>b</sup>	377,292	3,386
1996	44,219	460,517	163,311	38,783	82,431 <sup>b</sup>	284,525	3,286
1997	42,587	514,934	145,533	44,678	100,950 <sup>b</sup>	291,161	3,935
1998	41,755	517,372	200,030	57,393	129,439 <sup>b</sup>	386,862	2,920
1999	51,850	860,368	311,325	69,930	181,650	562,905	3,654

<sup>a</sup> 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.

<sup>b</sup> Includes 3,760 canvasback in 1994, 5,393 canvasback in 1995, 4,348 canvasback in 1996, 5,800 in 1997, 3,948 in 1998, and 4,977 in 1999.

Table 7. Rates of duck harvest and hunter activity during the regular duck season in Illinois from 1981 through 1999.

Year	Season Length/ Bag Limit <sup>b</sup>	Days Afield Per Hunter	Duck Harvest Per Hunter <sup>a</sup>	
			Per Day	Per Season
1981	50/10(4,2)	12.85	0.48	6.17
1982	50/10(4,2)	12.38	0.51	6.26
1983	50/10(4,2)	12.91	0.62	8.00
1984	50/10(4,2)	12.20	0.59	7.14
1985	40/5(3,1)	10.84	0.57	6.17
1986	40/5(3,1)	11.91	0.59	7.08
1987	40/5(3,1)	10.80	0.52	5.59
1988	30/3(2,1)	8.84	0.49	4.30
1989	30/3(2,1)	9.29	0.55	5.12
1990	30/3(2,1)	9.03	0.54	4.90
1991	30/3(2,1)	9.16	0.72	6.57
1992	30/3(2,1)	9.22	0.57	5.22
1993	30/3(2,1)	8.96	0.58	5.21
1994	40/3(2,1)	10.96	0.51	5.47
1995	50/5(4,1)	11.36	0.74	8.40
1996	50/5(4,1)	10.41	0.58	6.03
1997	60/6(4,2)	12.09	0.57	6.84
1998	60/6(4,2)	12.39	0.75	9.27
1999	60/6(4,2)	16.59	0.65	10.86

<sup>a</sup>Excludes ducks harvested coincidentally to goose hunting.

<sup>b</sup>The Point System was used in 1981-1987. A maximum of 10 ducks (4 mallards, 2 hens) was allowed in 1981-1984, and a maximum of 5 ducks (3 mallards, 1 hen) was allowed in 1985-1987. The Conventional (Straight) System was used in 1988-1999.

Table 8. Canada goose harvest and hunter activity during the early September Canada goose season in Illinois, 1997 through 1999.

		Waterfowl Zone					Total
		Northeast <sup>a</sup>	North <sup>b</sup>	Central <sup>b</sup>	South	Unknown	
Hunters	1997	3,438	2,139	5,768	-----	420	11,765
	1998	3,158	1,679	5,915	677	552	11,981
	1999	3,758	2,247	9,869	693	378	16,945
Days							
Afield	1997	11,039	6,952	15,890	-----	1,107	34,988
	1998	10,552	5,339	18,247	1,880	1,304	37,322
	1999	11,779	10,016	39,768	2,625	693	64,881
Canada							
Geese	1997	5,405	2,216	3,774	-----	48	11,443
	1998	3,125	1,059	3,046	384	238	7,852
	1999	6,624	2,500	10,491	491	117	20,223

<sup>a</sup>Cook, Du Page, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties (bag limit = 5).

<sup>b</sup>Excluding those counties in the Northeast Zone (bag limit = 2).

Table 9. Summary of goose harvest and hunter activity during the regular goose season in Illinois from 1981-82 through 1999-00.

Season (Year)	Hunters	Days Afield	Number of Geese Harvested		
			Canada Geese	Other Geese	Total
1981	23,610	132,610	44,302 ( 6,312) <sup>a</sup>	3,082 (1,719) <sup>a</sup>	47,384 ( 8,031) <sup>a</sup>
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 <sup>b</sup>	34,456	251,176	72,550 ( 3,871)	1,832 ( 350)	74,382 ( 4,221)
1989 <sup>b</sup>	39,459	329,369	91,379 ( 2,988)	1,715 ( 182)	93,094 ( 3,170)
1990 <sup>b</sup>	40,459	346,036	67,127 ( 1,515)	1,319 ( 97)	68,446 ( 1,612)
1991 <sup>b</sup>	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 <sup>c</sup> ( 114)	70,803 ( 2,641)
1997	33,498	295,107	61,282 ( 4,772)	7,572 <sup>d</sup> ( 438)	68,854 ( 5,210)
1998	26,343	202,676	43,222 ( 2,463)	4,290 <sup>e</sup> ( 305)	47,512 ( 2,968)
1999	42,246	464,769	119,611 ( 1,846)	14,568 <sup>f</sup> ( 152)	134,179 ( 1,998)

<sup>a</sup>Number of geese harvested coincidentally to duck hunting.

<sup>b</sup>The 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.

<sup>c</sup>Includes 4,063 snow/blue geese.

<sup>d</sup>Includes 5,941 snow/blue geese.

<sup>e</sup>Includes 3,734 snow/blue geese.

<sup>f</sup>Includes 12,220 snow/blue geese.

Table 10. Goose harvest and hunter activity by zones in Illinois, (1999-00 regular season).

Zone	Hunters	Days Afield	Canada Geese	Snow/Blue Geese	Other Geese	Total Geese
Southern Quota	10,603	73,469	24,769	1,659	374	26,802
Rend Lake Quota	2,604	17,637	5,912	2,675	211	8,798
North Non-Quota	5,732	41,742	9,638	111	30	9,779
North Quota	4,779	53,681	17,797	257	23	18,077
Central Non-Quota	13,712	94,465	21,578	1,484	263	23,325
Central Quota	11,892	136,489	28,854	806	409	30,069
South Non-Quota	6,572	46,088	10,807	5,205	1,005	17,017
Unknown	189	1,198	256	23	33	312
Total	42,246 <sup>a</sup>	464,769	119,611	12,220	2,348	134,179

<sup>a</sup> 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 1997-98 through 1999-00. Due to rounding to whole numbers, some small discrepancies may occur in these data.

County	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	Mean
<u>Administrative Region 1A</u>				
Boone	146	13	502	220
Carroll	146	305	1,133	528
DeKalb	122	53	362	179
Jo Daviess	49	26	105	60
Lee	97	146	724	322
Ogle	195	371	467	344
Stephenson	0	26	456	161
Whiteside	146	212	841	400
Winnebago	389	821	1,636	949
Region 1A Total	1,290	1,973	6,227	3,163
<u>Administrative Region 1B</u>				
Bureau	341	331	1,098	590
Fulton	3,994	2,503	14,651	7,049
Henderson	146	106	304	185
Henry	317	185	1,063	522
Knox	1,290	583	2,313	1,395
LaSalle	414	199	1,437	683
Marshall	146	238	397	260
McDonough	0	0	608	203
Mercer	97	119	502	239
Peoria	195	331	1,262	596
Putnam	73	53	210	112
Rock Island	755	185	561	500
Stark	170	13	12	65
Tazewell	1,217	159	1,215	864
Warren	170	13	105	96
Woodford	49	106	596	250
Region 1B Total	9,374	5,125	26,333	13,611
<u>Administrative Region 2</u>				
Cook	1,193	543	888	875
Du Page	1,217	358	865	813
Grundy	609	212	958	593
Kane	1,144	1,245	4,323	2,237
Kankakee	609	305	1,367	760
Kendall	146	185	1,694	675
Lake	2,532	821	5,970	3,108
McHenry	1,242	993	4,989	2,408
Will	1,315	1,232	3,563	2,037
Region 2 Total	10,007	5,893	24,616	13,505

Table 11. Continued - page 2.

County	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	Mean
<u>Administrative Region 3A</u>				
Adams	341	66	1,752	720
Brown	0	0	70	23
Calhoun	755	79	1,168	667
Cass	0	0	23	8
Christian	390	278	210	293
Greene	195	53	152	133
Hancock	0	0	631	210
Jersey	0	146	292	146
Logan	122	0	269	130
Macoupin	97	185	619	300
Mason	1,118	185	1,157	820
Menard	0	40	584	208
Montgomery	49	0	234	94
Morgan	609	185	970	588
Pike	463	106	900	490
Sangamon	511	79	140	243
Schuyler	49	40	210	100
Scott	73	0	222	98
Region 3A Total	4,772	1,443	9,603	5,273
<u>Administrative Region 3B</u>				
Champaign	195	93	467	252
Clark	49	79	58	62
Coles	0	53	245	99
Cumberland	0	53	129	61
DeWitt	341	66	561	323
Douglas	0	79	0	26
Edgar	146	0	234	127
Ford	0	40	93	44
Iroquois	365	199	806	457
Livingston	365	172	386	308
Macon	170	172	210	184
McLean	487	13	3,493	1,331
Moultrie	0	26	339	122
Piatt	0	199	23	74
Shelby	0	0	549	183
Vermilion	146	119	794	353
Region 3B Total	2,264	1,364	8,388	4,005

Table 11. Continued – page 3.

County	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	Mean
<u>Administrative Region 4</u>				
Bond	97	40	93	77
Clinton	0	66	491	186
Madison	657	212	1,157	675
Monroe	146	132	117	132
Randolph	609	1,390	1,063	1,021
St. Clair	1,315	900	2,909	1,708
Washington	341	66	175	194
Region 4 Total	3,165	2,807	6,005	3,992
<u>Administrative Region 5</u>				
Clay	0	0	292	97
Crawford	97	172	35	101
Edwards	0	66	12	26
Effingham	0	0	47	16
Fayette	3,774	755	1,157	1,895
Gallatin	0	26	12	13
Hamilton	0	66	234	100
Hardin	0	0	0	0
Jasper	0	185	339	175
Johnson	49	318	105	157
Lawrence	0	13	0	4
Marion	24	53	876	318
Massac	0	53	210	88
Perry	1,948	1,324	2,933	2,068
Pope	0	0	0	0
Pulaski	49	583	257	296
Richland	146	13	70	76
Saline	0	569	58	209
Wabash	0	119	386	168
Wayne	0	0	82	27
White	0	159	397	185
Subtotal	6,087	4,476	7,502	6,022
Rend Lake Quota Zone	2,118	3,496	5,912	3,842
Southern IL Quota Zone	22,010	16,605	24,769	21,128
Region 5 Total	30,215	24,577	38,183	30,992
Unknown	195	40	256	164
Statewide Total	61,282	43,222	119,611	74,705

Table 12. Harvest of Canada geese by waterfowl zone and county during the regular goose season in Illinois in 1997-98 through 1999-00. Due to rounding to whole numbers, discrepancies may occur in these data.

County	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	Mean
<u>North Waterfowl Zone</u>				
Boone	146	13	502	220
Bureau <sup>a</sup>	171	166	549	295
Carroll	146	305	1,133	528
Cook	1,193	543	888	875
DeKalb	122	53	362	179
Du Page	1,217	358	865	813
Jo Daviess	49	26	105	60
Kane	1,144	1,245	4,323	2,237
Kendall	146	185	1,694	675
LaSalle <sup>b</sup>	146	67	474	229
Lake	2,532	821	5,970	3,108
Lee	97	146	724	322
McHenry	1,242	993	4,989	2,408
Ogle	195	371	467	344
Rock Island <sup>a</sup>	365	93	281	246
Stephenson	0	26	456	161
Whiteside	146	212	841	400
Will <sup>b</sup>	438	411	1,176	675
Winnebago	389	821	1,636	949
North Non-Quota	3,164	2,960	9,638	5,254
North Quota	6,720	3,893	17,797	9,470
North Zone Total	9,884	6,853	27,435	14,724
<u>Central Waterfowl Zone</u>				
Adams	341	66	1,752	720
Brown	0	0	70	23
Bureau <sup>a</sup>	170	165	549	295
Calhoun	755	79	1,168	667
Cass	0	0	23	8
Champaign	195	93	467	252
Christian	390	278	210	293
Clark <sup>c</sup>	24	40	29	31
Coles	0	53	245	99
Cumberland	0	53	129	61
DeWitt	341	66	561	323
Douglas	0	79	0	26
Edgar	146	0	234	127
Ford	0	40	93	44
Fulton	3,994	2,503	14,651	7,049
Greene	195	53	152	133
Grundy	609	212	958	593
Hancock	0	0	631	210
Henderson	146	106	304	185

Table 12. Continued – page 2.

County	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	Mean
<u>Central Waterfowl Zone (continued)</u>				
Henry	317	185	1,063	522
Iroquois	365	199	806	457
Jersey	0	146	292	146
Kankakee	609	305	1,367	760
Knox	1,290	583	2,313	1,395
LaSalle <sup>b</sup>	268	132	963	454
Livingston	365	172	386	308
Logan	122	0	269	130
Macon	170	172	210	184
Macoupin	97	185	619	300
Madison	657	212	1,157	675
Marshall	146	238	397	260
Mason	1,118	185	1,157	820
McDonough	0	0	608	203
McLean	487	13	3,493	1,331
Menard	0	40	584	208
Mercer	97	119	502	239
Monroe	146	132	117	132
Montgomery	49	0	234	94
Morgan	609	185	970	588
Moultrie	0	26	339	122
Peoria	195	331	1,262	596
Piatt	0	199	23	74
Pike	463	106	900	490
Putnam	73	53	210	112
Rock Island <sup>a</sup>	390	92	280	254
Sangamon	511	79	140	243
Schuyler	49	40	210	100
Scott	73	0	222	98
Shelby	0	0	549	183
St. Clair <sup>c</sup>	657	450	1,455	854
Stark	170	13	12	65
Tazewell	1,217	159	1,215	864
Vermillion	146	119	794	353
Warren	170	13	105	96
Will <sup>b</sup>	877	821	2,387	1,362
Woodford	49	106	596	250
Central Non-Quota	7,815	4,152	21,578	11,182
Central Quota	11,443	5,548	28,854	15,281
Central Zone Total	19,258	9,700	50,432	26,463

Table 12. Continued – page 3.

County	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	Mean
<u>South Waterfowl Zone</u>				
Bond	97	40	93	77
Clark <sup>c</sup>	25	39	29	31
Clay	0	0	292	97
Clinton	0	66	491	186
Crawford	97	172	35	101
Edwards	0	66	12	26
Effingham	0	0	47	16
Fayette	3,774	755	1,157	1,895
Gallatin	0	26	12	13
Hamilton	0	66	234	100
Hardin	0	0	0	0
Jasper	0	185	339	175
Johnson	49	318	105	157
Lawrence	0	13	0	4
Marion	24	53	876	318
Massac	0	53	210	88
Perry	1,948	1,324	2,933	2,068
Pope	0	0	0	0
Pulaski	49	583	257	296
Randolph	609	1,390	1,063	1,021
Richland	146	13	70	76
Saline	0	569	58	209
St. Clair <sup>c</sup>	658	450	1,454	854
Wabash	0	119	386	168
Washington	341	66	175	194
Wayne	0	0	82	27
White	0	159	397	185
South Non-Quota	7,817	6,528	10,807	8,384
Rend Lake Quota Zone	2,118	3,496	5,912	3,842
Southern IL Quota Zone	22,010	16,605	24,769	21,128
South Zone Total	31,945	26,629	41,488	33,354
Unknown	195	40	256	164
Statewide Total	61,282	43,222	119,611	74,705

<sup>a</sup>50% in North Zone and 50% in Central Zone.

<sup>b</sup>33% in North Zone and 67% in Central Zone.

<sup>c</sup>50% in Central Zone and 50% in South Zone.

Table 13. Do you plan to hunt snow geese during the special season in 2000 (held after Canada goose season)?

	Percent Response
Yes	33%
No	67%

If “Yes”, which zone do you plan to hunt?

North	11%
Central	53%
Southern	36%

Table 14. Waterfowl hunting activity on public and private lands in Illinois<sup>a</sup>. (n = 3,160)

Type of Area	Total Counties <sup>b</sup>	Days Hunted				Harvest			
		Ducks	%	Geese	%	Ducks	%	Geese	%
Public Area No Fee	87	352,746	52	91,939	25	208,515	51	21,054	20
Public Area With Daily Fee	32	14,495	2	13,981	4	7,759	2	4,416	4
Commercial (daily, weekly, or seasonal fee)	50	49,321	7	55,229	15	35,356	9	18,659	18
Noncommercial (private club or private land no fee)	98	264,880	39	200,455	55	153,947	38	59,412	57

<sup>a</sup>Total days and harvest do not equal totals reported in previous tables due to missing data for areas hunted.

Table 15. Did you take any overnight waterfowl trips in Illinois during the 1999-2000 season?

	<u>Percent Response</u>
Yes	25%
No	75%

If "Yes"

Please give the number of trips for the following duration:

	<u>Mean Number of Trips</u>
2 days	2.3
3 days	1.6
4 days	1.6
More than 4 days	1.3

What did you hunt on these trips?

	<u>Percent Response</u>
Ducks	27%
Geese	31%
Both ducks and geese	41%

Table 16. Did you use any of the following while duck hunting in 1999-2000? (n=2,766)

<u>Type of Decoy</u>	<u>Number of Respondents</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Battery-operated vibrating decoy	432	16%
Battery-operated swimming decoy	267	10%
Battery-operated "flapping" decoy that floats on water and wings flap (such as "Wonder Duck")	399	14%
Battery-operated "flapping" decoy that sits on pole and wings flap ("Miracle Duck", "Robo" Duck, etc.)	476	17%
One or more of the above	960	35%

Table 17. Did you apply for duck blind permits or attend blind site allocations on state sites during the 1999-2000 season?

	<u>Percent Response</u>
Yes	45%
No	55%

If "Yes"

Which of the following application procedures did you use in 1999-2000?	<u>Number of Respondents</u>
Mail-in	157
Telephone	61
On-site daily	486
On-site 1, 2, or 3 years	690

Were you successful in getting a permit or blind site allocation?	<u>Percent Response</u>
Yes	54%
No	46%

Which of the following describes the length of your permit or blind site allocation?	<u>Number of Respondents</u>
1 day	261
2 days	9
1 year	176
2 years	73
3 years	143

Table 18. Do you feel there should be more state waterfowl sites operated like Banner Marsh where hunters reserve, before the season, a constructed blind for up to 2 days and pay a daily fee?

	<u>Percent Response</u>
Yes	23%
No	21%
I'm not familiar with this type of system	56%

Table 19. Should some of the best blinds at state sites be available for daily reservations instead of the current 1, 2, and 3 year allocations? Sample sizes are in parentheses.

	Percent Response
Yes	(2,239) 57%
No	43%

If “Yes”, how should the best blinds be allocated at state sites?

	Percent Response
	(1,280)
On-site daily drawing	55%
Pre-season drawing at site	15%
Pre-season mail application to site for reservation	12%
Pre-season mail application to Springfield DNR office for reservation	17%
Pre-season telephone reservation	7%
Other – see appendix F	2%

Table 20. For duck season, which of the following would you prefer?

	Statewide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
Thursday opener with Saturday close	56%	59%	54%	64%
Saturday opener with Tuesday close	44%	41%	46%	35%

Table 21. For early Teal season, which of the following would you prefer?

	Percent Response
Opening September 2 with goose season and running for 16 days	54%
Opening September 9 one week after goose season and running for 16 days	46%

Table 22. Knowing September 2000 Canada goose season must close September 15, which of the following would you prefer for the season opener?

	Percent Response
Friday, September 1	34%
Saturday, September 2 to coincide with the first day of teal season	66%

Table 23. For the South Zone, which would you prefer for the opener for Canada goose season for fall 2000? (Season must close January 31)

	Statewide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
Split season: open with duck, close after 4-11 days, reopen in December	12%	13%	12%	13%
Open season similar to 1999 (near Thanksgiving and run straight through closing date)	61%	59%	63%	56%
Open in mid-December and run straight through closing date	27%	29%	25%	31%

Table 24. What is your opinion of the current boundaries for duck hunting in Illinois?

	Stay the Same	Move North	Move South
North/Central Zone	83%	6%	11%
Central/South Zone	82%	11%	8%

Table 25. Which of the following would you prefer for timing of the duck season opener?

	Statewide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
Earlier	9%	11%	9%	9%
Stay the same as 1999-2000 season	28%	30%	31%	22%
Later	63%	59%	59%	69%
If "Earlier", how much?		North <u>Zone</u>	Central <u>Zone</u>	South <u>Zone</u>
	<u>Statewide</u>			
Up to one week earlier	67%	75%	73%	57%
More than one week earlier	33%	25%	27%	43%
If "Later", how much?		North <u>Zone</u>	Central <u>Zone</u>	South <u>Zone</u>
	<u>Statewide</u>			
Up to one week later	30%	31%	32%	25%
More than one week later	70%	69%	68%	75%

Table 26. Would you support holding the statewide Youth Waterfowl Hunting day on Sunday in order to provide a day of instruction (Saturday) to the youths participating in the hunt?

	Percent Response
Yes, only if duck season opened on the following Saturday	13%
Yes, no matter if duck season opened on the following Thursday or Saturday	28%
Keep the Youth Waterfowl Hunting day on Saturday	59%

Table 27. Would you support a \$3.00 goose hunting permit if that money was used to improve Canada goose harvest monitoring in Illinois?

Percent Response	
Yes	31%
No	69%

Table 28. Given a high harvest quota, I favor a shorter season with a 3-goose daily bag limit versus a longer season with a 2-goose daily bag limit.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Unsure	Agree	Strongly Agree
Statewide	49%	27%	7%	9%	8%
North Zone	47%	27%	7%	8%	12%
Central Zone	49%	28%	7%	9%	7%
South Zone	49%	27%	5%	9%	10%

Table 29. Given a low harvest quota, I favor a shorter season with a 2-goose daily bag limit versus a longer season with a 1-goose daily bag limit.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Unsure	Agree	Strongly Agree
Statewide	28%	16%	9%	26%	22%
North Zone	33%	16%	7%	25%	20%
Central Zone	27%	16%	9%	28%	21%
South Zone	26%	17%	8%	23%	25%

Table 30. Your opinion as a hunter is important in managing our waterfowl. Please circle the number that corresponds to how much you agree or disagree with the following statements.

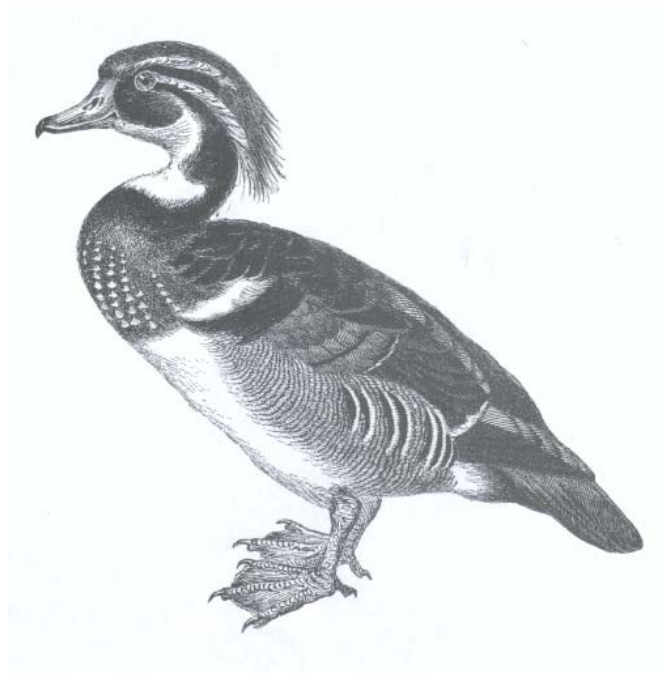
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Unsure	Agree	Strongly Agree
Given a high harvest quota, I favor a shorter season with a 3-goose daily bag limit versus a longer season with a 2-goose daily bag limit.	49%	27%	7%	9%	8%
Given a low harvest quota, I favor a shorter season with a 2-goose daily bag limit versus a longer season with a 1-goose daily bag limit.	28%	16%	9%	26%	21%
I find mechanical decoys to be unsportsmanlike.	31%	27%	21%	10%	11%
I am disappointed when I have no game to show for my efforts.	25%	37%	7%	19%	12%
Other hunters often interfere with my waterfowl hunting.	11%	38%	11%	28%	12%
It is important to have the best equipment available.	6%	26%	10%	38%	20%
My best days of hunting have been when I shoot my limit.	18%	52%	6%	18%	6%
Being able to shoot birds on the water has added to my enjoyment of hunting.	32%	32%	18%	13%	5%
I am disappointed if I don't get as many birds as other hunters in my party.	37%	55%	3%	4%	1%
If equipment will help get birds into shooting range then it should be used.	7%	13%	20%	38%	22%





# Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey

1999 – 2000 Season



ALL RESPONSES ARE CONFIDENTIAL  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!**

Postage-paid return envelope provided



Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Wildlife Resources  
and the  
Illinois Natural History Survey



The Department of Natural resources is requesting disclosure of information that is necessary to accomplish the statutory purpose as outlined under the Illinois Compiled Statutes, The Wildlife Code, Chapter 520. Disclosure of information is voluntary.

Please take 15 minutes of your time to complete this questionnaire. Your responses will tell us more about Illinois waterfowl hunters and important issues concerning waterfowl hunters in Illinois.

**Section 1. Waterfowl harvest and days afield.** Please complete this questionnaire for the past hunting season (September 1999 - January 2000). **Include only the waterfowl harvested and days hunted IN ILLINOIS.** List only your own hunting activities. Count part of a day as a whole day.

1. Did you hunt waterfowl in Illinois during the 1999-2000 season?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes (Please report harvest in following section)

\_\_\_\_\_ No (please complete the **last page and mail**)

**DUCK HUNTING**

- **Note: DO NOT include September teal season here**
- **DO NOT include days where you killed ducks while goose hunting**

County	Number of Days Hunted	Teal (exclude Sept. season)	Mallards	Wood Ducks	Canvas-backs	Other Ducks	Coots	Ducks downed but not retrieved

**GOOSE HUNTING**

- **Note: DO NOT include September goose season here**
- **DO NOT include days where you killed geese while duck hunting**

County	Number of Days Hunted	Canada Geese (exclude Sept. seas.)	Snow / Blue Geese	White-fronted (Specklebelly) Geese	Other Geese (Brant, etc.)	Geese downed but not retrieved

2. Please list the counties, days hunted and harvest for the following types of areas.

	County	Days Hunted		Harvest	
		Ducks	Geese	Ducks	Geese
<b>Public Area No Fee</b>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>Public Area with Daily Fee</b>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>Commercial (daily, weekly, or seasonal fee)</b>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>Noncommercial (private club or private land no fee)</b>	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

3. Did you take any overnight waterfowl hunting trips in Illinois during the 1999-2000 season?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes (please go to 3a and 3b)          \_\_\_\_\_ No

3a. If "Yes" please give the number of trips for the following duration:

52% 2 days          27% 3 days          2% 4 days          19% more than 4 days

3b. What did you hunt on these trips? (please check all that apply)

27% Ducks          31% Geese          42% Both ducks and Geese

<b>Section 2. Duck Hunting</b> Please answer the following questions regarding <b>Duck Hunting in Illinois.</b>
---

1. What is your opinion of the current boundaries for duck hunting in Illinois? (See enclosed map)

	<u>Stay the Same</u>	<u>Move North</u>	<u>Move South</u>
North/Central Zone	83%	6%	11%
Central/South Zone	82%	11%	8%

2. Did you use any of the following while duck hunting in 1999-2000? (Please check all that apply)

27% battery-operated vibrating decoy

17% battery-operated swimming decoy

25% battery-operated "flapping" decoy that floats on water and wings flap (such as "Wonder Duck")

30% battery-operated "flapping" decoy that sits on pole and wings flap ("Miracle Duck", "Robo" Duck, etc.)

3. Did you apply for duck blind permits or attend blind site allocation on state sites during the 1999-2000 season?

         Yes

         No

3a. Which of the following application procedures did you use in 1999-2000?  
(please check all that apply)

12% Mail-in

6% Telephone

35% On-site daily

47% On-site 1, 2, or 3 years

3b. Were you successful in getting a permit or blind site allocation?

         Yes

         No (go to question 4)

3c. Which of the following describes the length of your permit or blind site allocation?

41% 1 day

2% 2 days

26% 1 year

11% 2 years

21% 3 years

3d. Please name the site(s) where you had your permit or blind site allocation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you feel there should be more state waterfowl sites operated like Banner Marsh where hunters reserve, before the season, a constructed blind for up to 2 days and pay a daily fee?

         Yes

         No

         I'm not familiar with this type of system

5. Should some of the best blinds at state sites be available for daily reservations instead of the current 1, 2, and 3 year allocations?

         Yes

         No

5a. If you answered "Yes" for question 5, how should the best blinds be allocated at state sites?

50% on-site daily drawing

13% pre-season drawing at site

11% pre-season mail application to site for reservation

16% pre-season mail application to Springfield DNR office for reservation

7% pre-season telephone reservation

3% other (please list) \_\_\_\_\_

6. For duck season, which of the following would you prefer?

56% Thursday opener with Saturday close

44% Saturday opener with Tuesday close

7. Which of the following would you prefer for timing of the duck season opener?

9% Earlier If "Earlier", how much? 6% Up to one week earlier

3% More than one week earlier

28% Stay the same as 1999-2000 season

63% Later If "Later", how much? 19% Up to one week later

44% More than one week later

8. For early Teal season, which of the following would you prefer? (**Note:** Goose must close September 15)

54% Opening September 2 with goose season and running for 16 days

46% Opening September 9 one week after goose season and running for 16 days

9. Would you support holding the statewide Youth Waterfowl Hunting day on Sunday in order to provide a day of instruction (Saturday) to the youths participating in the hunt? (Choose one)

13% Yes, only if duck season opened on the following Saturday

28% Yes, no matter if duck season opened on the following Thursday or Saturday

59% Keep the Youth Waterfowl Hunting day on Saturday

### **September Teal Season**

10. Did you hunt teal during the 1999 September teal season?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes          \_\_\_\_\_ No

11a. If "Yes", how many days did you hunt and teal did you harvest in the 1999 September teal season?

\_\_\_\_\_ Days hunted          \_\_\_\_\_ Teal harvested

### **Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day**

11. Did you take a youth hunting during the 1999 special Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes          \_\_\_\_\_ No

11a. If you answered "Yes" how many youths did you take? \_\_\_\_\_ Youths

11b. How many waterfowl did the youth harvest? \_\_\_\_\_ ducks

\_\_\_\_\_ geese

\_\_\_\_\_ coots

11c. What was your relationship with the youth? (choose one)

35% own child    8% grandchild    11% nephew or niece    2% step-child  
11% neighbor    31% child of friend    3% other (please identify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 3. Goose Hunting** Please answer the following questions regarding **Goose Hunting in Illinois.**

**Early Canada Goose Season**

1. Did you hunt Canada geese during the early season (September 1 – 15, 1999)?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes (please go to question 2)

\_\_\_\_\_ No (please go to question 3)

2. If you answered “Yes” for question 1, please give the number of days, county or counties, and harvest for early Canada Goose season.

**Early Canada Goose Season**

Days Hunted	County	Geese Harvested

3. Knowing September 2000 Canada goose season must close September 15, which of the following would you prefer for the season opener?

34% Friday, September 1

66% Saturday, September 2 to coincide with the first day of teal season

**Regular Goose Season**

4. Would you support a \$3.00 goose hunting permit if that money was used to improve Canada goose harvest monitoring in Illinois?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No

5. If you hunted in the **Southern Illinois Quota Zone** in 1999-2000, which of the following areas did you hunt?

Area	Days Hunted	Geese Harvested
Non-commercial Area (no charge, public <u>or</u> private)		
Commercial (Fee charged, public <u>or</u> private)		

6. For the **South Zone**, which would you prefer for the opener for Canada goose season for fall 2000? (Season must close January 31)

12% split season: open with duck, close after 4-11 days, reopen in December

61% open season similar to 1999 (near Thanksgiving and run straight through closing date)

27% open in mid-December and run straight through closing date

**Section 4. Snow Goose Hunting** Please answer the following questions about snow goose hunting in Illinois  
 Please note: "Snow geese" also includes Ross' and Blue geese.

1. Did you hunt snow geese during the special spring season last year (March 10-March 31, 1999)?

       Yes           No

2. Do you plan to hunt snow geese during the special season in 2000 (held after Canada goose season)?

       Yes           No

2a. If "Yes", which zone do you plan to hunt?

  12%   North      53%   Central      35%   Southern

**Section 5. Hunter Opinions.** Your opinion as a hunter is important in managing our waterfowl. Please circle the number that corresponds to how much you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Unsure	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. Given a <u>high</u> harvest quota, I favor a shorter season with a 3-goose daily bag limit versus a longer season with a 2-goose daily bag limit.	49%	27%	7%	10%	8%
2. Given a <u>low</u> harvest quota, I favor a shorter season with a 2-goose daily bag limit versus a longer season with a 1-goose daily bag limit.	27%	16%	9%	26%	21%
3. I find mechanical decoys to be unsportsmanlike.	31%	27%	21%	10%	11%
4. I am disappointed when I have no game to show for my efforts.	25%	37%	7%	19%	12%
5. Other hunters often interfere with my waterfowl hunting.	11%	38%	11%	28%	12%
6. It is important to have the best equipment available.	6%	26%	10%	38%	20%
7. My best days of hunting have been when I shoot my limit.	18%	51%	6%	18%	6%
8. Being able to shoot birds on the water has added to my enjoyment of hunting.	32%	32%	18%	13%	5%
9. I am disappointed if I don't get as many birds as other hunters in my party.	37%	55%	4%	4%	1%
10. If equipment will help get birds into shooting range then it should be used.	7%	13%	20%	38%	22%

The following questions are important to help us understand more about the people involved in hunting in Illinois. Please tell us something about yourself by checking the responses that apply. All responses will be kept confidential.

1. How many years have you hunted in Illinois? \_\_\_\_\_ Years
2. What is your county of residence? \_\_\_\_\_ County
3. What is your gender?     99% Male           1% Female
4. What is your marital status?  
    18% Single (never married)  
    73% Married  
    9% Divorced/Separated/ Widowed
5. What is your approximate total (gross) household income?  
    5% less than 15,000           11% \$15,000 to \$29,999  
    23% \$30,000 to \$44,999       20% \$45,000 to \$59,999  
    15% \$60,000 to \$74,999       26% over \$75,000
6. Please give your age.       \_\_\_\_\_ years

**COMMENTS**

**RETURN ENVELOPE IS PROVIDED – POSTAGE-PAID  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ASSISTANCE!**

Your input will help us understand more about hunters and hunting in Illinois.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources receives federal assistance and therefore must comply with federal anti-discrimination laws. In compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Illinois Constitution, Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act as amended, and the U.S. Constitution, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, please contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, Department of Natural Resources, 524 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62701-1787, (217) 782-7616 or the officer of Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Dear Waterfowl Hunter,

You are one of a select group of Illinois hunters asked to provide information about your hunting activities during the 1999-2000 hunting season.

The information you and other selected hunters furnish our biologists is vital for proper waterfowl management and allows us to safeguard waterfowl populations while maximizing hunting opportunities.

This survey is limited to those hunters selected. Please take 15 minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire **even if you were not successful**. A stamped envelope is provided for returning the questionnaire to us.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey M. Ver Steeg  
Chief, Wildlife Resources

# 1999-2000 WATERFOWL HUNTING INFORMATION

New Regulations are Shaded

## DUCKS & EARLY CANADA GEESE

SPECIES	DATES (Inclusive)	HOURS	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Teal	Sept. 4-Sept. 19 (Statewide)	Sunrise to Sunset	4	8
Ducks	North Zone Oct. 7-Dec. 5 Central Zone Oct. 23-Dec. 21 South Zone Nov. 11-Jan. 9	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	6 (See section on Bag Limits) 5 (See section on Bag Limits)	2 x daily bag limit 2 x daily bag limit
Mergansers			15	30
Coots			5*	10
Early Canada Geese	Sept. 1-Sept. 15 (Northeast Zone only)		2*	4
Early Canada Geese	Sept. 1-Sept. 15 (North, Central & South Zones)			

\* Daily bag limit is five in Northeast Canada Goose Zone and two in the South Zone and that portion of the North & Central Zones outside the Northeast Canada Goose Zone.  
\* Includes Rend Lake and Southern IL Quota Zones.

## GEESE

SPECIES	DATES (Inclusive)	HOURS	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Canada Geese (a)				
North & Northern IL Quota Zone	Oct. 7-Jan. 5	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	2, except Dec. 19-Jan. 5 bag limit is 3	10
Central & Central IL Quota Zone	Oct. 23-Jan. 21		2, except Jan. 8-21 bag limit is 3	
South Zone	Nov. 26-Jan. 31	same as above	2	Unlimited
Southern IL & Rend Lake Quota Zone	Nov. 26-Jan. 31	1/2 hour before sunrise to 3 p.m.(b)		
Snow/Blue & Ross' Geese				
North & Northern IL Quota Zone	Oct. 7-Dec. 30 & Feb. 19-March 10(c)	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	20	Unlimited
Central & Central IL Quota Zone	Oct. 23-Dec. 25 & Jan. 29-March 10(c)			
South Zone	Nov. 26-Jan. 31(c)	1/2 hour before sunrise to 3 p.m.(d)		
Southern IL & Rend Lake Quota Zone	Nov. 26-Jan. 31(c)	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset		
White-fronted Geese				
North & Northern IL Quota Zone	Oct. 7-Dec. 30(e)	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	2	4
Central & Central IL Quota Zone	Oct. 23-Jan. 16(e)			
South Zone	Nov. 26-Jan. 31(e)(f)	1/2 hour before sunrise to 3 p.m.(d)		
Southern IL & Rend Lake Quota Zone	Nov. 26-Jan. 31(e)(f)			

(a) The Dept. of Natural Resources will close the Canada goose and brant season early in a quota zone and the entire zone within which a quota zone lies by giving 48 hours notice when quotas are reached in a quota zone. Entire zones will be closed as the following quota zones reach their quotas, respectively: Northern Illinois Quota Zone will close the North Zone; Central Illinois Quota Zone will close the Central Zone; Rend Lake Quota Zone AND Southern Illinois Quota Zone combined will close the South Zone.  
(b) During the last 3 days of Canada goose season (Jan. 29, 30 and 31) closing time is sunset.  
(c) The South Zone including quota zones, Call 217-782-6384 after Nov. 1 for details.  
(d) If Canada goose season closes early, brant, snow geese and white-fronted geese hunting hours will close at sunset thereafter.  
(e) White-fronted geese season may close with Canada geese if quotas are reached early. White-fronted geese season may open Nov. 11 in the South Zone including quota zones. Call 217-782-6384 after Nov. 1 for details.  
(f) White-fronted geese season in the South Zone including quota zones may close Feb. 15, 2000. Snow goose season may start Nov. 11 in the South Zone including quota zones. Call 217-782-6384 after Nov. 1 for details.

## LICENSES, STAMPS AND PERMITS

Hunters must have a current, valid hunting license, Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration number and Federal and State Migratory Waterfowl Stamps in their possession at all times when afield. All required State stamps must be signed or affixed to the hunting license in the appropriate space. Federal stamps must be signed in ink across the face of the stamp. Please refer to the 1999-2000 Digest of Hunting & Trapping Regulations for exemptions and further information.

Annual Fees Are (including agent's fees):

Resident Hunting License	.....\$ 7.50
Non-resident Hunting License 5 day/regular	.....\$28.75/\$50.75
Resident Senior Hunting License	.....\$ 4.00
State Waterfowl Stamp and Canada Goose Hunting Permit for Northern and Central IL Quota Zones	.....\$10.50*
Federal Waterfowl Stamp	.....\$15.00**
Sportsman's License (hunt-list)	.....\$19.25

\* The same fee as the stamp and permit.  
\*\* Canada goose permit must be issued with state waterfowl stamp and must have the same fee as the stamp and permit.  
\*\*\* Does not include agent's fee which may be 50¢ or 75¢.

## A State Habitat Stamp is NOT required to hunt waterfowl.

IF YOU WANT TO HUNT WATERFOWL IN ILLINOIS AND YOU ARE:

YOU NEED:	under 15	16-64	65 & Older	Disabled	Service-man	Land-owner
Hunting License	X	X	X			
Federal Waterfowl Stamp		X	X	X	X	X
State Waterfowl Stamp		X	X	X		
Harvest Information Program (HIP) Registration Number	X	X	X			

\* To hunt migratory game birds (geese, ducks, coots, mergansers; woodcock, snipe and rails), Lifetime license holders are exempt.  
\* For the purpose of this section, "DISABLED" = disabled American veterans with at least 10% service-related disabilities or disabled persons certified under Illinois Identification Card Act as having a Type 1 or Type 4, Class 2 disability.  
\* "SERVICE-MAN" = persons on leave from the Armed Services, having entered the military as an Illinois resident, "LANDOWNER" (or tenant) = those persons and their heirs and assigns and others permanently residing on their land and hunting on that land.

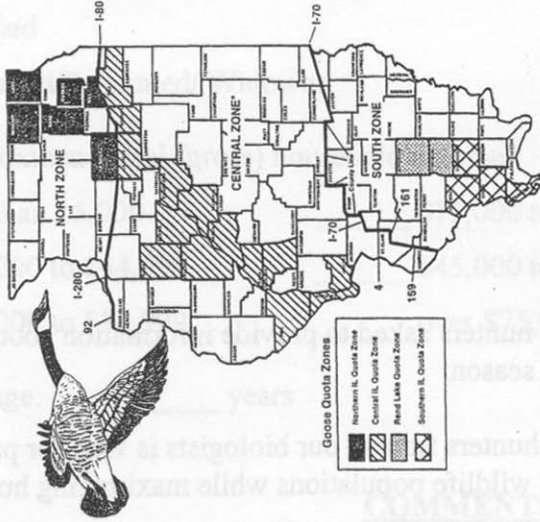
## YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAY\*

SPECIES	DATES		HOURS	DAILY LIMIT
	North Zone	Central Zone		
Ducks	Oct. 2	Oct. 16	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	6 (See section on Bag Limits)
Mergansers	Oct. 2	Oct. 16	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	5 (See section on Bag Limits)
Coots	Oct. 2	Oct. 16	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	15
Canada Geese	Oct. 2	Oct. 16	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	2
Snow Geese	Oct. 30	Oct. 30	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	20
White-fronted Geese & Brants	Oct. 30	Oct. 30	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	2 White-fronts 1 Brant

## \*Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day Regulations

- Youth hunters must be 15 years of age or younger and must have a hunting license and HIP registration number unless hunting on property where they reside.
- Only geese, ducks, mergansers and coots may be taken in addition to other game in season.
- An adult at least 18 years of age must accompany the youth hunter into the field. This adult cannot hunt geese, ducks, coots or mergansers but can participate in other open seasons.

Illinois Waterfowl Zones



**Bag Limit - DUCKS** - Bag limits on ducks are established by a conventional bag limit as follows: The basic daily bag limit shall be 6 ducks of any species, (except mergansers); however, no more than 4 shall be mallards (no more than 2 hen mallards) and not more than 8 scaup; 2 wood ducks, 2 redheads, and not more than 1 pintail, 1 black duck and 1 canvasback. The daily bag limit for all mergansers is 5, only 1 of which may be a hooded merganser. The possession limit for ducks and mergansers is twice the daily bag limit.

**Bag Limit - GEESE** - The daily bag limit for geese is separated by species as follows: 20 snow/blue geese, 2 Canada geese (3 during the last 18 days of the season in the North Zone and the last 14 days in the Central Zone); 2 white-fronted geese and 1 brant. There is no overall bag or possession limit on geese in general.

**WATERFOWL BANDS** - Hunters are again encouraged to report any waterfowl or other bird bands by calling 1-800-327-BAND (2263). You may now call this number 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You will receive a Certificate of Appreciation with information about the bird. The band is yours to keep. The operator will want to know the band number and how, when, and where it was recovered. You may report any band to this number, even if it is an old band that does not have the 800 number inscribed on it.



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524 South Second Street • Springfield, IL 62701-1787 • 217-782-6384

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## Appendix F

Question 5A (See Table 19)

How should the best blinds be allocated at state sites?

Allocation Procedure	Number of Responses
Use lottery drawing for blind sites per day	22
Open to anyone/give everyone a chance, first come first serve	6
Internet / on line	6
Draw river blinds for 1 year period (1 year allocations)	2
Drawing 1 time a week for the following week	2
Sold to the highest donating bidder	1
Reservation 1 day in advance	1
Monthly drawing	1
Reserve by drawing night before the hunt	1

## Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey 99-00 Comments

Number of Responses	Comments
338	<u>Change season lengths</u> – Split season, start season later, or lengthen season so the waterfowl have a chance to migrate south.
143	<u>Change quota zones</u> – Northern, Central, and Southern Illinois Quota Zones are unequal because of waterfowl migration variations (birds staying up north longer) and certain quota counties filling up faster than other counties.
85	<u>Not enough land available to hunt</u> – Difficulty finding a place to hunt / open up more state sites and refuges to hunting. Public ground is overcrowded. Enforce distances between hunting parties. Limit the amount of out-of-state hunters.
74	<u>Waterfowl population problems</u> – Changing migration patterns and weather cause an over abundance or diminished populations in certain areas. Habitat decline, conservation problems due to farming practices, and lack of food have caused problems with the waterfowl population.
55	<u>Greater enforcement of rules</u> – Enforce harsher penalties for those who break game laws: skybusting, shooting ducks on water, harvesting more than the bag limit. We need more trained wardens and sportsmen-like behavior.
52	<u>Blind drawings unfair</u> – Need daily drawings as well as yearly ones. Change time of draws. Keep up maintenance on blinds and make sure they hold four hunters. Give precedence to local hunters.
49	<u>Regulate equipment</u> – Outlaw mechanical (electronic/battery operated) decoys or limit amount of mechanical decoys one may possess. Outlaw steel shot.
37	<u>Allow use of decoys</u> – Do not outlaw mechanical decoys. Allow any device that will lure birds within range to prevent crippling. Allow for the shooting of crippled fowl on water.
23	<u>Expensive and inconvenient</u> – Tags and permits are too expensive. Too many rude, overzealous wardens and confusing rules. Did not receive harvest card or permit or they arrived too late.
21	<u>Carlyle Lake</u> – The walk-in area needs better access, it is too far to walk to sites. Limit the number of hunters here and enforce 200-yard distance between them because it is too crowded. Fix up the area. Perform daily drawings here.
19	<u>Youth hunts</u> – Stop or limit youth hunts. These hunts scare off birds prior to the waterfowl season, are dangerous, and adults are abusing the hunts. Change timing of youth hunts.
13	<u>Need more programs</u> – Provide more youth and women hunting programs. Teach sportsmanship.
12	<u>Politics interfering with sport</u> – Certain hunting areas receive more money than other areas. Unequal laws and bag limits.
8	<u>Activist problems</u> – Anti-hunting groups, anti-gun groups, media and public opinion are against hunters. To fill quotas faster people phone in fake kill numbers.
6	<u>Provide land access programs</u> – Develop programs to provide hunters access to private land by providing incentives, such as habitat planting, for farmers and landowners.
3	<u>Mail-ins</u> – Out-of-state hunters should be able to mail in for a public goose-hunting permit, not only get one over the Internet.
3	<u>Maps and information</u> – Provide maps or information on locations to hunt waterfowl or post the information on the Internet.
3	<u>Do not send surveys</u> – DNR shouldn't send surveys. Resource management should be based on "science", not public opinion.