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# Results of the 2001-2002 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey



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# RESULTS OF THE 2001-2002 ILLINOIS WATERFOWL HUNTER SURVEY

## JOB COMPLETION REPORT WILDLIFE HARVEST AND HUMAN DIMENSIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NUMBER: W-112-R-11  
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**ABSTRACT**

A total of 3,117 (66%) Illinois waterfowl hunters responded to the 2001-2002 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. Hunters reported spending 1,337,297 days afield, an increase of 20% from the 1,115,076 days expended during the 2000-2001 license year. The waterfowl harvest decreased 1.7% from 708,092 during 2000-2001 to 695,790 during 2001-2002. Duck harvest estimates were as follows: 305,180 mallards, 61,515 wood ducks, 167,883 other ducks, and 534,578 total ducks. A total of 36,013 teal were harvested during the early (September) teal season. Goose hunters harvested 64,907 Canada geese during the regular Canada goose season.

**OBJECTIVE**

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

**METHODS**

A total of 4,729 waterfowl hunters were sampled from the population of Illinois migratory bird hunters registered with the federal Harvest Information Program (HIP). Beginning in March 2002, hunters were mailed an 8-page, self-administered questionnaire and a letter of explanation (Appendices A and B). The questionnaire addressed days afield, harvest, and attitudes toward issues related to the waterfowl seasons, bag 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 3,117 (65.9%) questionnaires from hunters in the sample, of which 2,776 (89.1%) hunted waterfowl in Illinois in 2001-2002. 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 (September) teal season with a 4-bird daily bag limit, a 15-day/2-bird (or 5-bird) early (September) Canada goose season, a 60-day/6-bird duck season, and a 54,800 statewide Canada goose quota (season dates and lengths varied according to zone). See Appendix C for details of season dates, legal shooting hours, and bag limits.

## RESULTS

### Waterfowl Harvest and Days Afield

The number of waterfowl hunters increased from 56,954 during the 2000-2001 season to 59,029 during the 2001-2002 season, which represents a 3.6% increase in hunters (Table 1). Hunters reported spending 1,337,297 days afield in 2001-2002, an increase of 20% from the 1,115,076 days recorded for 2000-2001. The waterfowl harvest decreased 1.7% from 708,092 during 2000-2001 to 695,790 during 2001-2002. One-third (33%) of the hunters hunted ducks only, whereas 10% hunted geese only, and 57% hunted both ducks and geese (Table 2).

### *Teal*

The number of early (September) teal hunters increased 17% from 14,733 during 2000-2001 to 17,222 during 2001-2002 (Table 3). Days afield also increased 17% from 52,229 during 2000-2001 to 61,199 during 2001-2002. The 2001-2002 hunters harvested 36,013 blue-winged teal (*Anas discors*)green-winged teal (*A. crecca*), a decrease of 6.7% compared to the previous year's harvest.

The Central Zone accounted for >50% of the teal hunters, their days afield, and harvest (Table 4). Statewide, teal hunters averaged 3.55 days afield in 2001-2002, and they harvested an average of 0.59 teal per hunter per day and 2.09 teal per hunter per season (Table 5).

### *Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allowed Illinois and the other states to have 2 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days in 2001, the same as in 2000. From 1996 through 1999, only 1 day was designated specifically for youths. As a result, the number of adults and youths who participated in the program increased to 6,815 and 10,107, respectively, in 2000 (Table 6). Similarly, their numbers increased to 9,140 and 15,148 in 2001. In comparison, an estimated 5,505 adults and 8,113 youths participated in the youth hunting program in 1999. The youth waterfowl harvest (ducks, geese, and coots combined) increased from 7,035 birds in 1999 to 9,308 in 2000 to 13,178 in 2001.

### *Ducks*

Total duck hunters increased by 9,384 (21%) from 43,810 hunters during 2000-2001 to 53,194 during 2001-2002 (Table 7). Duck hunters spent 797,884 days afield during 2001-2002, an increase of 28% from the 621,542 days reported during 2000-2001. Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) harvest increased by 33,277 (12%) from 271,903 during 2000-2001 to 305,180 during 2001-2002. Harvest of wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) increased by 2,911 ducks (5.0%) to 61,515 during the 2001-2002 season. Harvest of other ducks increased slightly, by 0.6%, from 166,834 in 2000-2001 to 167,883 during the 2001-2002 season. Total duck harvest during 2001-2002 was 534,578, which is 7.5% greater than the 497,341 ducks reported for 2000-2001. The 2001-2002 duck harvest is presented by waterfowl zones and selected areas in Table 8. Statewide,

the duck harvest per hunter per day decreased from 0.80 for 2000-2001 to 0.67 for 2001-2002, and duck harvest per hunter per season decreased from 11.36 for 2000-2001 to 10.05 for 2001-2002 (Table 9).

Coot (*Fulica americana*) harvest increased 32%, from 2,206 for the 2000-2001 season to 2,904 for 2001-2002 (Table 7).

### *Geese*

An estimated 20,359 hunters participated in the early (September) Canada goose season in Illinois during 2001-2002 (Table 10). The majority of these hunters (10,807) were active in the Central Zone. They harvested 26,021 Canada geese throughout Illinois during the early season, with one-half (13,170) being taken in the Central Zone. From 2000-2001 to 2001-2002, the number of September Canada goose hunters increased 53% (from 13,289 to 20,359), their days afield increased 54% (from 47,831 to 73,587), and their harvest of Canada geese increased 64% (from 15,897 to 26,021). Data for September Canada goose hunting in Fulton County are summarized for 1997 through 2001 in Table 11.

During the regular goose season in 2001-2002, an estimated 39,570 hunters spent 382,102 days afield, and they harvested 64,907 Canada geese (Table 12). The statewide quota was 54,800 Canada geese. These hunters also harvested 15,319 snow/blue geese (*Chen caerulescens*), 2,579 white-fronted geese (*Anser albifrons frontalis*), and 291 other (unidentified) geese for a total combined harvest of 83,096 geese. The Central Non-Quota Zone lead the state in number of goose hunters (12,265) (Table 13). However, the Central Quota Zone was credited with the most days afield (108,927) and Canada geese harvested (17,600). The harvest of Canada geese is summarized by zone and year (1999-2000 through 2001-2002) in Table 14.

### *Crippling Losses*

Crippling losses (birds knocked down but not retrieved) were estimated at 88,019 ducks and 7,148 geese in Illinois during the 2001-2002 season (Table 15). These estimates, which are considered to be indices and not actual numbers, equate to 16.5 ducks and 8.6 geese lost per 100 harvested. It is noteworthy that the trend in crippling losses has been downward in recent years.

### Hunter Behavior and Attitudes

#### *September Teal/Canada Goose Seasons*

Majorities of September teal hunters (53%), duck hunters (51%), and all waterfowl hunters (51%) prefer opening the September teal season on September 7 (one week after September Canada goose season) and running for 16 days (Table 16). However, a majority of the September Canada goose hunters (59%) would like for the September teal season to open on September 1 (with September Canada goose season) and run for 16 days.

A plurality (44%) of the September teal hunters said they hunted both teal and Canada geese equally while afield (Table 17). However, a majority (54%) of the September Canada goose hunters claimed they directed their efforts primarily at Canada geese. When the 2 groups of hunters were combined, 29% hunted primarily teal, 40% hunted primarily Canada geese, and 31% hunted both teal and Canada geese equally. Nearly three-fourths (71%) of the September Canada goose hunters claimed they also pursued teal while afield (Table 18).

#### *Regular Duck Season*

Statewide, 43% of the duck hunters did most of their hunting on state or federal lands (Table 19). An additional 15% of the duck hunting occurred on private clubs, and the remaining 42% took

place on privately-owned property.

Almost one-half (46%) of the duck hunters were usually afield on weekends (Table 20). This compares to only 15% who were usually afield on weekdays. The remaining 39% hunted ducks equally on weekends and weekdays.

Majorities of duck hunters in the North Zone (55%), Central Zone (59%), South Zone (67%), and statewide (60%) prefer a Friday opener/Sunday close over a Saturday opener/Monday close for the duck season (Table 21).

For a 30-day season, 15% of North Zone duck hunters supported starting the 4<sup>th</sup> week in October, with 45% choosing earlier dates and 40% selecting later dates (Table 22). In the Central Zone, 28% of the hunters picked the 1<sup>st</sup> week in November, while 28% picked earlier dates and 44% chose later dates. In the South Zone, 19% opted for the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in November, with 40% voting for earlier dates and 41% picking later dates.

For a 45-day season, 33% of North Zone duck hunters supported starting the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in October, whereas 27% would like earlier dates and 40% wanted later dates (Table 23). In the Central Zone, 26% of the hunters selected the 1<sup>st</sup> week in November, 46% selected earlier dates, and 28% selected later dates. In the South Zone, 20% voted for the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in November, whereas 48% chose earlier dates and 32% chose later dates.

For a 60-day season, 29% of North Zone duck hunters supported starting the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in October, whereas 46% would like earlier dates and 25% would like later dates (Table 24). In the Central Zone, 24% of the hunters selected the 4<sup>th</sup> week in October, compared to 41% who wanted earlier dates and 35% who preferred later dates. In the South Zone, 22% voted to start the season the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in November, with 40% supporting earlier dates and 38% wanting later dates.

Majorities of the state's duck hunters (53%) and goose hunters (53%) thought it



moderately/very important that the duck and goose seasons open on the same date (Table 25). This sentiment prevailed in the North Zone and Central Zone, but not in the South Zone.

Statewide, majorities of the duck hunters (74%) and goose hunters (73%) want the duck and goose seasons to overlap by at least one-half (Table 26). These feeling were pervasive in all 3 zones.

### *Rotating-Wing Decoys*

Battery-operated rotating wing decoys were used by 76% of duck hunters statewide in 2001-2002 (Table 27). The practice was most common in the Central Zone, where 80% of duck hunters used these decoys. In 2000-2001, 61% of the state's duck hunters reported using battery-operated rotating wing decoys. Of the hunters who used rotating-wing decoys in 2001-2002, 38% always, 48% often, and 14%, rarely did so. The vast majority (86%) of these hunters had used rotating-wing decoys for 1 or 2 years. Almost all (92%) of the hunters indicated that the use of rotating-wing decoys did not influence the number of times they went afield to hunt ducks.

### *Duck Blind Drawings*

The questionnaire for the 2001-2002 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey contained a series of questions relating to the many duck blind drawings that are held on public hunting areas. Responses to these questions are summarized in Table 28. Statewide in 2001 or earlier years, 58% of the duck hunters had attended  $\geq 1$  blind drawings, 25% have had their name drawn as a blind builder, and 34% have had their name listed as a partner for a blind drawn by someone else. Generally speaking, the duck hunters are most comfortable with the status quo for regulations governing duck blind drawings. For instance, 64% of the hunters expressed a preference for retaining the current registration procedures for blind drawings (Table 28). In addition, majorities of hunters along the Illinois River

(81%) and in Northeast Illinois (75%) want to keep a 1-year blind allocation period, whereas hunters along the Mississippi River (58%) prefer staying with a 2-year allocation, and those associated with the Illinois-Mississippi Confluence feel strongly (70%) about maintaining a 3-year allocation period. However, 64% of the hunters support the idea of making  $\geq 1$  of the best blinds at state sites available for daily reservations.

### *Regular Goose Season*

One-half (48%) of the goose hunters in the North Zone do most of their Canada goose hunting over open water (Table 29). An additional 44% hunt Canada geese in fields before freeze-up. In the Central Zone, the percentages were 46% and 34%, respectively, with an additional 20% doing most of their Canada goose hunting in fields after freeze-up. In the South Zone, 34% of the hunters do most of their Canada goose hunting over open water, 44% in fields before freeze-up, and 22% in fields after freeze-up. When asked how freeze-up affects their Canada goose hunting, 71% to 88% of the hunters in the 3 zones claimed they switched to (or continued to) hunt in fields (Table 29).

When asked to express their opinions of split goose seasons, majorities of goose hunters in the North Zone (53%) and Central Zone (61%) opted for the first segment to last through the 1st or 2nd weekend of the duck season (Table 30). However, a majority of the goose hunters in the South Zone (54%) want the first segment to last through the 3rd or 4th weekend. Similarly, majorities of the hunters in the North Zone (83%) and Central Zone (57%) wanted the goose season to remain closed for 1 or 2 weeks. In contrast, a majority of the hunters in the South Zone (63%) prefer that the season stay closed for 2 or 3 weeks.

In the Southern Illinois Quota Zone, majorities of hunters (66%), their days afield (59%), and goose harvest (66%) took place on commercial (fee charged, public or private) areas (Table 31). The

percentages for non-commercial areas were 43%, 41%, and 34%, respectively.

### *Attitudes Toward Waterfowl Hunting*

The attitudes of waterfowl hunters toward waterfowl hunting are summarized in Table 32.

### *Characteristics of Waterfowl Hunters*

Waterfowl hunters who were active in Illinois during the 2001-2002 season were primarily in-state residents (95.8%) (Table 33). The remaining 4.2% were non-residents--i.e., were residents of other states. Resident hunters averaged 42 years of age, with 50% of them being between 31 and 50 years old. They have hunted waterfowl for an average of 21 years. Sixty percent of resident hunters belonged to  $\geq 1$  national, state, or local waterfowl hunting/waterfowl conservation organizations. By a wide margin, the organization most frequently mentioned was Ducks Unlimited. Two-thirds (68%) of the resident waterfowl hunters also hunted doves, woodcock, snipe, or rails during the 2001-2002 season.

About 2 waterfowl hunters in 3, or 63%, said they keep records of their waterfowl hunting activities (Table 34). Among the record-keeping hunters, 47% kept their own records and 38% used pre-season harvest cards mailed to them by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

## REFERENCES

- Anderson, W.L., R.W. 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. Conserv., Waterfowl Program, Period. Rep. 80. 58pp+appendix.

Table 1. Summary of Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps purchased, hunter activity, and waterfowl harvest in Illinois from 1981 through 2001 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
2000	62,701 ( 330)	56,954	1,115,076	708,092
2001	63,745 ( 300)	59,029	1,337,297	695,790

<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 2001 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
2000	34	23	43	77	66
2001	33	10	57	90	67

Table 3. Summary of teal harvest and hunter activity during the September teal season in Illinois from 1981 through 2001.

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
2000	14,733	52,229	38,597
2001	17,222	61,199	36,013

<sup>a</sup> The September teal season was suspended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during these years.

Table 4. Teal harvest and hunter activity by zones during the September teal season in Illinois in 2001.

	State- wide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone	Unknown
Hunters	17,243	2,930	10,108	3,206	999
Days Afield	61,199	9,917	37,650	9,747	3,885
Teal Harvest	36,013	4,660	22,767	6,692	1,894



Table 5. Rates of teal harvest and hunter activity during the September teal season in Illinois in 1981 through 2001.

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
2000	16/4	3.55	0.74	2.62
2001	16/4	3.55	0.59	2.09

<sup>a</sup> The September teal season was suspended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during these years.

Table 6. Waterfowl harvest and hunter activity during the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day(s) in Illinois, 1996-2001.

Characteristic	1996 <sup>a</sup>	1997 <sup>a</sup>	1998 <sup>a</sup>	1999 <sup>a</sup>	2000 <sup>b</sup>	2001 <sup>b</sup>
Adult hunters who took $\geq 1$ youths afield	2,749	3,163	3,343	5,505	6,815	9,140
Youth hunters participating	4,353	4,322	5,142	8,113	10,107	15,148
Youth days afield	4,353	4,322	5,142	8,113	14,079	22,525
Mean youths per hunting party	1.58	1.37	1.54	1.47	1.48	1.67
<u>Waterfowl Harvest</u>						
Total Ducks	3,171	3,451	4,159	5,835	8,388	11,727
Ducks per youth per day	0.73	0.80	0.81	0.72	0.60	0.52
Total Coots	230	387	208	629	38	480
Coots per youth per day	0.05	0.09	0.04	0.08	<0.01	0.02
Total Geese <sup>c</sup>	----	----	289	571	882	971
Geese per youth per day			0.06	0.07	0.06	0.04

<sup>a</sup>One day.

<sup>b</sup>Two days.

<sup>c</sup>Could not hunt geese during the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day in 1996 and 1997.

Table 7. Summary of duck and coot harvests and hunter activity during the regular duck season in Illinois from 1981 through 2001.

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 <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 <sup>b</sup>	562,905	3,654
2000	43,810	621,542	271,903	58,604	166,834 <sup>b</sup>	497,341	2,206
2001	53,194	797,884	305,180	61,515	167,883 <sup>b</sup>	534,578	2,904

<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, 4,977 in 1999, 4,231 in 2000 and 1,968 in 2001.

Table 8. Duck harvest and hunter activity by waterfowl zones and areas during the regular duck season in Illinois in 2001-02.

Waterfowl Zone	Hunters	Days Afield	Ducks Harvested
North	9,641	113,586	55,802
Central	31,449	505,351	343,778
South			
Carlyle Lake <sup>a</sup>	2,124	34,358	38,268
Rend Lake <sup>b</sup>	1,741	29,984	26,502
SIQZ <sup>c</sup>	3,249	42,895	24,140
Elsewhere	4,332	62,537	41,215
Total	11,446	169,774	130,125
Unknown	658	9,173	4,873
Statewide	53,194	797,884	534,578

<sup>a</sup>Bond, Clinton, and Fayette counties.

<sup>b</sup>Franklin and Jefferson counties.

<sup>c</sup>Alexander, Jackson, Union, and Williamson counties.

Table 9. Rates of duck harvest and hunter activity during the regular duck season in Illinois from 1981 through 2001.

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
2000	60/6(4,2)	14.19	0.80	11.36
2001	60/6(4,2)	15.00	0.67	10.05

<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 1988-2001.

Table 10. Canada goose harvest and hunter activity during the early September Canada goose season in Illinois, 1997 through 2001.

		Waterfowl Zone					
		Statewide	Northeast <sup>a</sup>	North <sup>b</sup>	Central <sup>b</sup>	South	Unknown
Hunters	1997	11,765	3,438	2,139	5,768	-----	420
	1998	11,981	3,158	1,679	5,915	677	552
	1999	16,945	3,758	2,247	9,869	693	378
	2000	13,289	3,274	2,136	6,908	971	0
	2001	20,359	4,510	2,808	10,807	2,085	149
Days							
Afield	1997	34,988	11,039	6,952	15,890	-----	1,107
	1998	37,322	10,552	5,339	18,247	1,880	1,304
	1999	64,881	11,779	10,016	39,768	2,625	693
	2000	47,831	9,378	8,018	27,078	3,357	0
	2001	73,587	15,360	10,999	40,208	6,318	702
Canada Geese							
Geese	1997	11,443	5,405	2,216	3,774	-----	48
	1998	7,852	3,125	1,059	3,046	384	238
	1999	20,223	6,624	2,500	10,491	491	117
	2000	15,897	4,143	2,048	8,774	932	0
	2001	26,021	8,151	2,828	13,170	1,580	290

<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 11. Canada goose harvest and hunter activity during the early September Canada goose season in Illinois, in 1997-2001.

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Fulton County:					
Hunters	955	1,003	1,365	777	1,681
Days Afield	3,056	3,083	5,753	2,747	7,127
Canada Geese	925	821	1,495	1,039	3,008

Table 12. Summary of goose harvest and hunter activity during the regular goose season in Illinois from 1981-82 through 2001-02.

Season (Year)	Hunters	Days Afield	Number of Geese		
			Canada Geese	Other Geese	Total
1981	23,610	132,610	44,302 ( 6,312) <sup>a</sup>	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 <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)
2000	37,593	383,367	128,387 ( 1,406)	16,356 <sup>g</sup> ( 0)	144,743(1,406)
2001	39,570	382,102	64,907 (1,761)	18,189 <sup>h</sup> ( 263)	83,096(2,024)

<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 and 2,173 white-fronted geese.

<sup>g</sup>Includes 14,797 snow/blue geese and 1,131 white-fronted geese.

<sup>h</sup>Includes 15,319 snow/blue geese and 2,579 white-fronted geese.

Table 13. Goose harvest and hunter activity by zones in Illinois, (2001-02 regular season).

Zone	Hunters	Days Afield	Canada Geese	Snow/Blue Geese	White-Fronted Geese	Other Geese	Total Geese
Southern Quota	6,212	42,357	6,599	1,067	457	28	8,151
Rend Lake Quota	2,021	13,360	2,606	1,386	291	0	4,283
North Non-Quota	5,084	42,097	7,167	14	14	0	7,195
North Quota	4,857	45,394	9,765	65	42	4	9,876
Central Non-Quota	12,265	79,963	13,032	2,766	243	97	16,138
Central Quota	10,907	108,927	17,600	2,042	319	93	20,054
Southern	6,244	46,260	7,514	7,937	1,213	69	16,733
Unknown	255	3,744	624	42	0	0	666
Total	39,570 <sup>a</sup>	382,102	64,907	15,319	2,579	291	83,096

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



Table 14. Canada goose harvest by zone during the regular goose season in Illinois in 1999-00 through 2001-02.

Zone	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	Mean
Southern Quota	24,769	35,815	6,599	22,394
Rend Lake Quota	5,912	6,130	2,606	4,883
North Non-Quota	9,638	8,395	7,167	8,400
North Quota	17,797	14,705	9,765	14,089
Central Non-Quota	21,578	24,661	13,032	19,757
Central Quota	28,854	20,193	17,600	22,216
Southern Non-Quota	10,807	18,075	7,514	12,132
Unknown	256	413	624	431
Statewide	119,611	128,387	64,907	104,302

Table 15. Summary of the number of ducks and geese that were crippled (knocked down but not retrieved) in Illinois from 1981 through 2001 seasons.

Year	Ducks		Geese	
	Total	Per 100 Bagged	Total	Per 100 Bagged
1981	104,216	30.8	12,573	26.5
1982	82,287	25.2	5,868	18.9
1983	96,907	24.0	7,627	23.6
1984	84,665	23.8	5,711	23.0
1985	100,191	31.6	15,918	39.5
1986	145,283	38.3	20,699	41.5
1987	98,155	34.0	18,375	48.8
1988 <sup>a</sup>	65,856	35.5	22,730	30.6
1989 <sup>a</sup>	66,150	29.5	21,696	23.3
1990 <sup>a</sup>	59,007	29.9	23,895	34.9
1991 <sup>a</sup>	74,932	24.4	27,164	28.7
1992	68,027	31.4	18,631	32.1
1993	62,250	28.6	21,067	22.3
1994	65,266	26.4	16,234	23.3
1995	86,834	23.0	18,391	19.2
1996	64,324 <sup>b</sup>	22.6	16,641 <sup>b</sup>	23.5
1997	67,979	23.3	12,490	18.1
1998	74,679	19.3	5,514	11.6
1999	95,961	17.0	12,934	9.6
2000	70,423	14.2	10,071	7.0
2001	88,019	16.5	7,148	8.6

<sup>a</sup>The estimates of ducks and geese crippled for these years have been reduced to 92.48% - 96.48% of the original estimates. The estimates for the number of geese crippled per 100 bagged have been similarly reduced. See last paragraph of the METHODS section in Anderson and Williamson (1994) for explanation.

<sup>b</sup>The 95% confidence intervals were  $\pm 10,983$  for ducks, and  $\pm 2,203$  for geese.

Table 16. For **early teal season**, which of the following would you prefer? (**Note:** Goose must close Sept. 15). Sample sizes are in parentheses (Illinois 2001).

	State- wide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
<u>All Waterfowl Hunters</u>	(2,319) <sup>a</sup>	(454)	(1,405)	(578)
Opening Sunday, Sept. 1 with goose season and running for 16 days	49%	61%	49%	41%
Opening Saturday, Sept. 7 one week after goose season and running for 16 days	51%	39%	51%	59%
<u>Duck Hunters</u>	(2,162) <sup>a</sup>	(390)	(1,284)	(465)
Opening Sunday, Sept. 1 with goose season and running for 16 days	49%	60%	48%	41%
Opening Saturday, Sept. 7 one week after goose season and running for 16 days	51%	40%	52%	59%
<u>September Teal Hunters</u>	(804) <sup>a</sup>	(137)	(467)	(151)
Opening Sunday, Sept. 1 with goose season and running for 16 days	47%	60%	44%	41%
Opening Saturday, Sept. 7 one week after goose season and running for 16 days	53%	40%	56%	59%
<u>September Canada Goose Hunters</u>	(856) <sup>a</sup>	(241)	(518)	(90)
Opening Sunday, Sept. 1 with goose season and running for 16 days	59%	68%	53%	63%
Opening Saturday, Sept. 7 one week after goose season and running for 16 days	41%	32%	47%	37%

<sup>a</sup>Includes a few respondents not identified as to zone.

Table 17. During the September waterfowl season, do you hunt primarily for: Sample sizes are in parentheses (Illinois 2001).

	State- wide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
<u>September Teal Hunters</u>	(807) <sup>a</sup>	(139)	(468)	(152)
Teal	43%	22%	45%	64%
Canada Geese	13	21	12	5
Both Teal and Geese Equally	44	57	43	31
<u>September Canada Goose Hunters</u>	(873) <sup>a</sup>	(254)	(521)	(91)
Teal	9%	3%	11%	11%
Canada Geese	54	61	51	52
Both Teal and Geese Equally	37	36	38	37
<u>Both Groups of Hunters</u>	(1,206) <sup>a</sup>	(288)	(711)	(203)
Teal	29%	11%	30%	49%
Canada Geese	40	55	38	25
Both Teal and Geese Equally	31	34	32	26

<sup>a</sup> Includes a few respondents not identified as to zone.

Table 18. Do you hunt **teal** while hunting geese during the September Canada goose season? Sample sizes are in parentheses (Illinois 2001).

	State- wide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
	(950) <sup>a</sup>	(280)	(566)	(97)
Always	34%	30%	36%	31%
Sometimes	37	38	36	39
Never	29	32	28	30

<sup>a</sup> Includes a few respondents not identified as to zone.

Table 19. On which of the following types of property did you hunt ducks most often during 2001-2002? Sample sizes are in parentheses (Illinois 2001-02).

	State- wide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
	(2,339) <sup>a</sup>	(416)	(1,395)	(501)
State lands	35%	25%	38%	35%
Federal lands	8	18	4	10
My own property	9	7	8	11
Private property owned by others	33	42	32	29
Private club	15	8	18	15

<sup>a</sup>Includes a few respondents not identified as to zone.

Table 20. Which days of the week do you usually hunt ducks? Sample sizes are in parentheses (Illinois 2001-02).

	State- wide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
	(2,365) <sup>a</sup>	(430)	(1,407)	(499)
Weekends	46%	52%	45%	44%
Weekdays	15	13	16	16
Weekend & weekdays equally	39	35	39	40

<sup>a</sup>Includes a few respondents not identified as to zone.

Table 21. For the **duck season** opening and closing days, which would you prefer? Sample sizes are in parentheses (Illinois 2001-02).

	State- wide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
	(2,300) <sup>a</sup>	(416)	(1,369)	(486)
Friday opener/Sunday close	60%	55%	59%	67%
Saturday opener/Monday close	40	45	41	33
For counties in Southern Illinois Quota Zone:				
	<u>Alexander</u>	<u>Union</u>	<u>Williamson &amp; Jackson</u>	<u>Total</u>
	(20)	(30)	(91)	(141)
Friday opener/Sunday close	75%	63%	64%	65%
Saturday opener/Monday close	25	37	36	35

<sup>a</sup>Includes a few respondents not identified as to zone.

Table 22. Which week would you prefer **duck season opens** for a **30-day season**? Sample sizes are in parentheses (Illinois 2001-02). The median value for each zone is underlined.

	State- wide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
	(2,320) <sup>a</sup>	(415)	(1,391)	(488)
October, 1 <sup>st</sup> week	3%	7%	3%	1%
October, 2 <sup>nd</sup> week	5	14	4	1
October, 3 <sup>rd</sup> week	10	24	8	3
October, 4 <sup>th</sup> week	11	<u>15</u>	13	4
November, 1 <sup>st</sup> week	24	23	<u>28</u>	14
November, 2 <sup>nd</sup> week	20	10	24	17
November, 3 <sup>rd</sup> week	11	5	10	<u>19</u>
November, 4 <sup>th</sup> week	5	1	4	10
December, 1 <sup>st</sup> week	6	1	4	16
December, 2 <sup>nd</sup> week	3	<1	1	9
December, 3 <sup>rd</sup> week	1	0	<1	3
December, 4 <sup>th</sup> week	1	<1	1	3

<sup>a</sup>Includes a few respondents not identified as to zone.

Table 23. Which week would you prefer **duck season opens** for a **45-day season**?  
 Sample sizes are in parentheses (Illinois 2001-02). The median value for each zone is underlined.

	State- wide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
	(2,306) <sup>a</sup>	(416)	(1,379)	(485)
October, 1 <sup>st</sup> week	3%	7%	3%	2%
October, 2 <sup>nd</sup> week	8	20	6	3
October, 3 <sup>rd</sup> week	16	<u>33</u>	16	3
October, 4 <sup>th</sup> week	16	16	21	6
November, 1 <sup>st</sup> week	21	13	<u>26</u>	13
November, 2 <sup>nd</sup> week	16	8	17	21
November, 3 <sup>rd</sup> week	9	2	7	<u>20</u>
November, 4 <sup>th</sup> week	4	1	2	13
December, 1 <sup>st</sup> week	3	0	1	12
December, 2 <sup>nd</sup> week	1	0	<1	4
December, 3 <sup>rd</sup> week	1	0	1	2
December, 4 <sup>th</sup> week	1	<1	<1	1

<sup>a</sup>Includes a few respondents not identified as to zone.

Table 24. Which week would you prefer **duck season opens** for a **60-day season**?  
 Sample sizes are in parentheses (Illinois 2001-02). The median value for each zone is underlined.

	State- wide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
	(2,309) <sup>a</sup>	(416)	(1,381)	(487)
October, 1 <sup>st</sup> week	7%	15%	6%	4%
October, 2 <sup>nd</sup> week	14	31	13	3
October, 3 <sup>rd</sup> week	20	<u>29</u>	22	5
October, 4 <sup>th</sup> week	18	11	<u>24</u>	9
November, 1 <sup>st</sup> week	19	9	21	19
November, 2 <sup>nd</sup> week	10	4	8	<u>22</u>
November, 3 <sup>rd</sup> week	6	1	3	20
November, 4 <sup>th</sup> week	2	<1	1	7
December, 1 <sup>st</sup> week	2	0	1	7
December, 2 <sup>nd</sup> week	1	0	<1	2
December, 3 <sup>rd</sup> week	<1	0	0	1
December, 4 <sup>th</sup> week	1	<1	1	1

<sup>a</sup>Includes a few respondents not identified as to zone.

Table 25. How important is it to you to have duck and Canada goose season open on the same day? Sample sizes are in parentheses (Illinois 2001-02).

	State-wide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
Duck hunters	(2,374) <sup>a</sup>	(428)	(1,411)	(506)
Unimportant	33%	22%	31%	50%
Slightly important	14	12	15	13
Moderately important	24	29	24	19
Very important	29	37	30	18
Goose hunters	(1,715) <sup>a</sup>	(355)	(897)	(452)
Unimportant	34%	24%	30%	50%
Slightly important	13	11	14	12
Moderately important	23	28	23	20
Very important	30	37	33	18

<sup>a</sup>Includes a few respondents not identified as to zone.

Table 26. How much of an overlap do you prefer between duck and Canada goose season? Sample sizes are in parentheses (Illinois 2001-02).

	State-wide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
Duck hunters	(2,256) <sup>a</sup>	(406)	(1,347)	(480)
Overlap completely	28%	41%	29%	16%
$\frac{3}{4}$ overlap	16	18	15	16
$\frac{1}{2}$ overlap	30	22	30	36
$\frac{1}{4}$ overlap	14	7	14	22
No overlap	12	12	12	10
Goose hunters	(1,642) <sup>a</sup>	(335)	(863)	(433)
Overlap completely	27%	38%	29%	15%
$\frac{3}{4}$ overlap	16	19	15	16
$\frac{1}{2}$ overlap	30	23	29	38
$\frac{1}{4}$ overlap	15	6	14	21
No overlap	12	14	13	10

<sup>a</sup>Includes a few respondents not identified as to zone.



Table 27. **Rotating-Wing Decoys** Please answer the following questions about your use of rotating-wing decoys. Note: “Rotating-wing decoy” refers to decoys that sit on poles and wings rotate by battery power. Sample sizes are in parentheses (Illinois 2001-02).

	State- wide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
Did you use a battery-operated rotating-wing decoy while duck hunting in 2001-2002?				
Yes	(2,483) <sup>a</sup> 76%	(450) 66%	(1,469) 80%	(534) 73%
No	24	34	20	27
How often did you use a battery-operated rotating wing decoy?				
Always	(1,863) <sup>a</sup> 38%	(295) 31%	(1,164) 42%	(386) 33%
Often	48	49	47	50
Rarely	14	20	11	17
How many seasons have you used your rotating-wing decoy?				
1 season	(1,875) <sup>a</sup> 31%	(296) 53%	(1,169) 27%	(392) 28%
2 seasons	55	43	57	59
3 seasons	13	4	15	12
≥4 seasons	1	<1	1	1
How would you say the use of a rotating-wing decoy has affected the amount of times you go duck hunting?				
I hunt much more often than before I had the rotating-wing decoy	(1,861) <sup>a</sup> 3%	(295) 2%	(1,160) 2%	(388) 3%
I hunt somewhat more often than before I had the rotating-wing decoy	4	4	4	5
I hunt about the same as before I had the rotating-wing decoy	92	92	93	89
I hunt less than before I had the rotating-wing decoy	1	2	1	3

<sup>a</sup>Includes a few respondents not identified as to zone.

Table 28. Please answer the following questions about duck blind drawings in Illinois (2001-02). Sample sizes are in parentheses.

	Illinois River <sup>a</sup>	Mississippi River <sup>a</sup>	Northeast Illinois <sup>a</sup>	Ill-Miss Confluence <sup>a</sup>	Else- where <sup>a</sup>	State- wide
Have you ever attended a duck blind drawing for a state-managed area						
	(604)	(197)	(354)	(211)	(1,122)	(2,488)
Yes	78%	76%	54%	86%	40%	58%
No	22	24	46	14	60	42
If “Yes,” did you register for the blind drawing?						
	(471)	(150)	(190)	(182)	(451)	(1,444)
Yes	95%	95%	91%	94%	89%	93%
No	5	5	9	6	11	7
In what year was the most recent drawing you attended?						
	(467)	(149)	(183)	(165)	(440)	(1,404)
≤1997	8%	14%	19%	8%	22%	14%
1998	3	1	5	9	6	5
1999	6	6	12	67	12	16
2000	10	4	16	4	15	11
2001	73	75	48	12	45	54
How often do you register for blind drawings?						
	(485)	(152)	(209)	(182)	(586)	(1,614)
Every allocation period	52%	57%	29%	67%	21%	40%
Most allocation periods	17	11	11	17	10	13
Some but not most periods	12	13	20	7	20	15
No longer register	19	19	40	9	49	32

Table 28 - continued.

Table 28. Continued – page 2.

	Illinois River	Mississippi River	Northeast Illinois	Ill-Miss Confluence	Else- where	State- wide
Have you ever had your name drawn at a blind drawing and been registered as the blind builder?						
	(548)	(177)	(293)	(195)	(851)	(2,064)
Yes	31%	46%	23%	44%	15%	25%
No	69	54	77	56	85	75
Have you ever had your name listed as a partner on a blind drawn by someone else?						
	(544)	(176)	(283)	(195)	(822)	(2,020)
Yes	35%	56%	32%	65%	22%	34%
No	65	44	68	35	78	66
Please name the site(s) where you had your <u>most recent</u> registration as a blind builder or partner.						
	(313)	(90)	(115)	(130)		
Most frequent	Sang – 24%	Pool 18 – 30%	Grass Lk – 32%	Stump Lk – 24%		
	W'ford – 18%	Pool 21 – 23%	DesPla – 22%	B'town – 16%		
	Rice Lk – 16%	Pool 16 – 13%	Mazona – 12%	Go/Dia – 14%		
	And Lk – 10%	Pool 17 – 10%	Powers – 10%	Glade – 11%		
	Spring Lk – 9%	Pool 24 – 6%	Red Wing – 6%	RipRap – 11%		
	Others – 23%	Others – 18%	Others – 18%	Others – 24%		

Table 28 - continued.

Table 28. Continued – page 3.

	Illinois River	Mississippi River	Northeast Illinois	Ill-Miss Confluence	Else- where	State- wide
Which of the following do you like BEST about attending blind drawings?						
	(453)	(143)	(182)	(180)	(495)	(1,453)
Social atmosphere	10%	2%	5%	1%	7%	6%
Family activity	1	0	1	1	3	2
Important part of waterfowl hunting	4	1	6	10	9	6
Chance to get a blind	68	80	69	82	67	71
Visit with other hunters	13	12	16	4	10	11
Information about season	4	5	3	2	4	4
If you no longer attend blind drawings, which of the following BEST describes why you <u>no longer attend</u> ?						
	(193)	(62)	(142)	(51)	(467)	(915)
Too crowded	9%	5%	8%	8%	17%	13%
Inconvenient time	4	1	6	6	2	3
Not enough blinds	7	10	13	16	7	8
Poor chances	44	42	36	41	26	33
Too far from home	6	3	8	6	17	12
Not important	30	39	29	23	31	31
The current registration procedure allows blind applicants (who may or may not be waterfowl hunters) who draw a blind for 1,2,or 3 years to list 2 other people as partners on the blind. Partners have the same claims to the blind as the successful blind applicant for the length of the blind allocation period.						
Do you favor this system of blind allocation?						
	(520)	(170)	(263)	(192)	(784)	(1,929)
Yes	72%	66%	67%	69%	57%	64%
No	28	34	33	31	43	36

Table 28 – continued.

Table 28. Continued – page 4.

	Illinois River	Mississippi River	Northeast Illinois	Ill-Miss Confluence	Else- where	State- wide
If you responded “No,” would you favor the following alternative?						
“Parties of 1-3 people register for the blind drawing as a group and if selected only this group can be registered on the blind as hunters for the entire blind allocation period (1-3 years depending on site).”						
Yes	(141) 69%	(58) 72%	(86) 56%	(58) 83%	(327) 55%	(670) 62%
No	31	28	44	17	45	38
What is your preference for the length of time blinds should be allocated at state managed areas?						
1 year	(524) 81%	(171) 20%	(270) 75%	(195) 6%	(810) 62%	(1,970) 59%
2 years	14	58	15	24	23	23
3 years	5	22	10	70	15	18
Do you feel there should be more state duck hunting sites where hunters reserve (through a lottery held before the season) a constructed blind for 1 to 2 days and pay a daily fee of \$10? (Banner Marsh currently uses such a system).						
Yes	(533) 50%	(171) 43%	(284) 67%	(193) 24%	(852) 56%	(2,033) 52%
No	50	57	33	76	44	48
How many of the best blinds at state sites should be available for daily reservations instead of the current 1, 2, or 3 year allocations through the blind drawing?						
None	(517) 39%	(166) 50%	(268) 27%	(189) 75%	(810) 25%	(2,033) 36%
1-2 blinds	15	9	11	9	15	13
3-4 blinds	22	13	23	8	22	20
≥ 5 blinds	24	28	39	8	38	31

Table 28 - continued.

Table 28. Continued – page 5.

	Illinois River	Mississippi River	Northeast Illinois	Ill-Miss Confluence	Else- where	State- wide
If this system was used, how should these blinds be allocated at state sites?						
	(462)	(129)	(253)	(136)	(758)	(1,738)
On-site daily drawing	62%	47%	40%	64%	51%	53%
Pre-season drawing on site	21	33	33	23	28	27
Half and half of above	17	20	27	13	21	20
If a pre-season drawing is used to allocate these blinds, what is your preference for the drawing?						
	(445)	(135)	(242)	(139)	(731)	(1,692)
Pre-season drawing held on site	66%	53%	47%	68%	47%	54%
Pre-season drawing held through the mail	34	47	53	32	53	46

<sup>a</sup>Based on county in which respondents duck hunted:

<u>Illinois River</u>	<u>Miss. River</u>	<u>N.E. Illinois</u>	<u>Ill-Miss Conf.</u>	<u>Elsewhere</u>
LaSalle	Rock Island	McHenry	Greene	All remaining
Putnam	Mercer	Lake	Calhoun	counties
Marshall	Henderson	Kane	Jersey	
Peoria	Hancock	Cook	Madison	
Woodford	Adams	Du Page		
Tazewell	Pike	Kendall		
Fulton		Will		
Mason		Grundy		
Cass		Kankakee		
Schuyler				
Brown				
Morgan				
Scott				

Table 29. Please answer the following questions regarding **regular season (Oct.-Jan.) Canada goose hunting in Illinois**. Sample sizes are in parentheses (2001-2002 season).

	State- wide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
In the zone where you did <u>most</u> of your Canada goose hunting, how did you hunt geese during the regular season?				
	(1,757) <sup>a</sup>	(365)	(915)	(466)
Over open water	44%	48%	46%	34%
In fields before freeze-up	38	44	34	44
In fields after freeze-up	18	8	20	22
How does freeze-up affect your Canada goose hunting activity in the zone where you do <u>most</u> of your hunting?				
	(1,743) <sup>a</sup>	(366)	(901)	(465)
Stop hunting because geese depart	18%	21%	21%	9%
Stop hunting because no access to fields	5	8	6	3
Switch to hunt fields	26	27	26	25
Continue hunting over fields	51	44	47	63

<sup>a</sup>Includes a few respondents not identified as to zone.

Table 30. Lengths of splits in goose season preferred by goose hunters. Sample sizes are in parentheses (Illinois 2001-02).

	State- wide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
Given a split Canada goose season and duck and goose season starting together, for the zone where you hunt Canada geese most often would you prefer the first segment of the goose season to last through.....				
	(1,639) <sup>a</sup>	(334)	(873)	(421)
1 <sup>st</sup> weekend of duck season	32%	25%	36%	27%
2 <sup>nd</sup> weekend of duck season	24	28	25	19
3 <sup>rd</sup> weekend of duck season	18	18	16	22
4 <sup>th</sup> weekend of duck season	26	29	23	32

If Canada goose season is split as indicated, how long should it remain closed before reopening?

	(1,634) <sup>a</sup>	(333)	(873)	(418)
1 week	21%	29%	21%	13%
2 weeks	40	54	36	39
3 weeks	21	12	23	24
4 weeks	18	5	20	24

<sup>a</sup>Includes a few respondents not identified as to zone.

Table 31. If you hunted geese in the **Southern Illinois Quota Zone** in 2001-02, what type of areas did you hunt?

County	Hunters	Days Afield	Geese Harvested
<u>Alexander</u>	(32)	(348)	(45)
Non-commercial area	25%	22%	31%
Commercial area	78	78	69
<u>Union</u>	(52)	(318)	(44)
Non-commercial area	35%	42%	36%
Commercial area	75	58	64
<u>Williamson &amp; Jackson</u>	(120)	(1,186)	(298)
Non-commercial area	41%	47%	34%
Commercial area	59	53	66
<u>Total</u>	(204)	(1,852)	(387)
Non-commercial area	43%	41%	34%
Commercial area	66	59	66



Table 32. Attitudes Toward Waterfowl Hunting Please state if you agree or disagree with the following statements by circling the number that matches your response. Sample sizes are in parentheses (Illinois 2001-02).

		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Not Sure	Agree	Strongly Agree
Waterfowl are managed to provide recreation for people	(3,011)	8%	21%	14%	42%	15%
Hunters should have equal access to state blinds	(3,022)	2	4	13	45	36
I am disappointed when I come home empty-handed	(3,044)	20	42	7	21	10
Blinds constructed by state site permit holders are the property of the party holding the allocation	(3,007)	7	14	28	35	16
There are too many waterfowl hunters on state sites	(3,023)	3	16	43	26	12
Illinois DNR considers hunters' opinions when determining waterfowl regulations and seasons	(3,033)	11	18	34	31	6
Other waterfowl hunters often interfere with my hunt	(3,036)	7	43	12	29	9
Seeing waterfowl is important for a satisfying hunt	(3,056)	2	7	2	52	37
I am disappointed if I do not get any shooting at waterfowl while hunting	(3,058)	14	43	6	29	8

Table 33. The following questions are important to help us understand more about the people involved in waterfowl hunting in Illinois. Please tell us something about yourself by checking the responses that apply (Illinois 2001-02).

What is your county of residence?

Residents of Illinois	2,657 (95.8%) <sup>a</sup>
Non-residents	116 ( 4.2%) <sup>a</sup>

Please give your age.

	<u>Residents</u> (n=2,643)	<u>Non-residents</u> (n=114)
Mean	42 years	47 years
Distribution:		
≤15 years	2%	1%
16-20 “	5%	1%
21-30 “	14%	5%
31-40 “	25%	25%
41-50 “	25%	32%
51-60 “	17%	21%
61-64 “	5%	7%
≥65 “	7%	8%

How many years have you hunted waterfowl?

	<u>Residents</u> (n=2,646)	<u>Non-residents</u> (n=116)
Mean	21 years	27 years
Distribution:		
≤5 years	20%	5%
6-10 “	15%	9%
11-20 “	22%	22%
21-30 “	21%	30%
31-40 “	12%	19%
≥41 “	10%	15%

How many years have you hunted waterfowl in Illinois?

	<u>Residents</u> (n=2,646)	<u>Non-residents</u> (n=116)
Mean	20 years	16 years
Distribution:		
1-5 years	21%	28%
6-10 “	16%	21%
11-20 “	21%	29%
21-30 “	20%	8%
31-40 “	12%	4%
≥41 “	10%	10%

Table 33 – continued.

Table 33. Continued - page 2.

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Do you belong to any national, state, or local waterfowl hunting/waterfowl conservation organizations?

	<u>Residents</u> (n=2,657)	<u>Non-Residents</u> (n=116)
Yes	60%	83%
Number of organizations:	(n=1,521)	(n=92)
1	79%	78%
2	16%	16%
≥3	5%	6%
Name of organizations:	(n=2,657)	(n=116)
Ducks Unlimited	53%	72%
Delta Waterfowl	5%	13%
Waterfowl USA	3%	5%
Migratory Waterfowl Hunters	2%	1%
Illinois Waterfowl Alliance	2%	0%
Tri-County Duck and Goose	2%	1%
Others	5% <sup>b</sup>	8% <sup>c</sup>

Did you hunt doves, woodcock, snipe, or rails during the 2001-2002 season?

	<u>Residents</u> (n=2,649)	<u>Non-residents</u> (n=116)
Yes	68%	47%

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<sup>a</sup>See Appendix D.

<sup>b</sup>47 other organizations.

<sup>c</sup>7 other organizations.

Table 34. Do you keep records of your hunting trips and/or harvest? Sample sizes are in parentheses (Illinois 2001-2002).

	Duck Hunters	Goose Hunters	All Waterfowl Hunters
Yes	(2,337) 63%	(1,681) 57%	(2,525) 63%
If "Yes," which of the following do you use to keep records?			
My own records	(1,472) 48%	(1,060) 48%	(1,572) 47%
Pre-season harvest card <sup>a</sup>	37	38	38
Club records	15	14	15

<sup>a</sup>Mailed to me from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Appendix A

Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey

2001 – 2002 Season

ALL RESPONSES ARE CONFIDENTIAL

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!**

Postage-paid return envelope provided

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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 30 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 2001 - March 2002). 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 2001-2002 season?

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

\_\_\_\_\_ No (please go to **Section 1, question 4**)

### **DUCK HUNTING**

- Report total harvest for each species in the box below the species name
- Note: **DO NOT include September teal season here**
- **DO NOT include number of days if ducks were killed 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**

- Report total harvest for each species in the box below the species name
- Note: **DO NOT include September goose season here**
- **DO NOT include number of days if geese were killed while duck hunting**

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

2. Do you keep records of your waterfowl hunting trips and/or harvests? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

2a. If "Yes," which of the following do you use to keep records?

\_\_\_\_\_ my own records

\_\_\_\_\_ the pre-season harvest card mailed to me from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources

\_\_\_\_\_ club records

3. On which of the following types of property did you hunt **ducks most often** during 2001-2002?

Please check one.

\_\_\_\_\_ State lands (state fish and wildlife areas, conservation areas, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Federal lands (national wildlife refuges, Corps of Engineers sites, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ My own private property

\_\_\_\_\_ Private property not owned by me (but not a club)

\_\_\_\_\_ Private waterfowl hunting club

4. How important is it to you to have duck and Canada goose season open on the same day? Circle **one** number.

Unimportant

Slightly important

Moderately important

Very important

1

2

3

4

5. How much of an overlap do you prefer between duck and Canada goose season?

\_\_\_\_\_ overlap completely

\_\_\_\_\_ 3/4 overlap

\_\_\_\_\_ half overlap

\_\_\_\_\_ 1/4 overlap

\_\_\_\_\_ no overlap at all

6. Given a split Canada goose season and duck and goose season starting together, for the zone where you **hunt Canada geese most often** would you prefer the first segment of the goose season to last through.... (assume 45-day duck and 50-day goose seasons).

\_\_\_\_\_ 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of duck season

\_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of duck season

\_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of duck season

\_\_\_\_\_ 4<sup>th</sup> weekend of duck season

7. If Canada goose season is split as indicated in # 6, how long should it remain closed before reopening?

\_\_\_\_\_ 1 week

\_\_\_\_\_ 2 weeks

\_\_\_\_\_ 3 weeks

\_\_\_\_\_ 4 weeks

8. For the **duck season** opening and closing days, which would you prefer? Choose **one** response.

\_\_\_\_\_ Friday opener/Sunday close

\_\_\_\_\_ Saturday opener/Monday close

8a. Which week would you prefer **duck season opens** for a **30-day season**. Check only one box.

	October	November	December
1 <sup>st</sup> week of month			
2 <sup>nd</sup> week of month			
3 <sup>rd</sup> week of month			
4 <sup>th</sup> week of month			

8b. Which week would you prefer **duck season opens** for a **45-day season**. Check only one box.

	October	November	December
1 <sup>st</sup> week of month			
2 <sup>nd</sup> week of month			
3 <sup>rd</sup> week of month			
4 <sup>th</sup> week of month			

8c. Which week would you prefer **duck season opens** for a **60-day season**. Check only one box.

	October	November	December
1 <sup>st</sup> week of month			
2 <sup>nd</sup> week of month			
3 <sup>rd</sup> week of month			
4 <sup>th</sup> week of month			

9. Which days of the week do you **usually** hunt ducks? Please choose **one** response.

\_\_\_\_\_ Weekends      \_\_\_\_\_ Weekdays      \_\_\_\_\_ Weekends and weekdays equally

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Opening Sunday, September 1 with goose season and running for 16 days

\_\_\_\_\_ Opening Saturday, September 7 one week after goose season opens and running for 16 days

11. Did you hunt teal during the 2001 September teal season?      \_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

11a. If "Yes," please state how many days you hunted and teal harvested in the 2001 September teal season.

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

12. During the September waterfowl season, do you hunt primarily for: (Choose **ONE** response).

\_\_\_\_\_ teal      \_\_\_\_\_ Canada geese      \_\_\_\_\_ both teal and Canada geese equally

13. Did you take a youth hunting during the 2001 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

13a. If you answered "Yes," how many youths did you take?      \_\_\_\_\_ youths

13b. Did the youth hunt both of the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days?      \_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

If "No," which day did you hunt?      \_\_\_\_\_ first day only      \_\_\_\_\_ second day only

13c. How many waterfowl did the youth harvest?

\_\_\_\_\_ ducks 1<sup>st</sup> day      \_\_\_\_\_ geese 1<sup>st</sup> day      \_\_\_\_\_ coots 1<sup>st</sup> day

\_\_\_\_\_ ducks 2<sup>nd</sup> day      \_\_\_\_\_ geese 2<sup>nd</sup> day      \_\_\_\_\_ coots 2<sup>nd</sup> day



**Section 2. Duck Blind Drawings** Please answer the following questions about duck blind drawings in Illinois.

1. Have you ever attended a duck blind drawing for a state-managed area? ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. If "Yes," did you register for the blind drawing? ☐ Yes ☐ No
3. In what year was the most recent drawing you attended?  year
4. How often do you register for blind drawings?  
☐ every allocation period  
☐ most allocation periods  
☐ some but not most allocation periods  
☐ I no longer register for blind drawings
5. Have you ever had your name drawn at a blind drawing and been registered as the blind builder?  
☐ Yes ☐ No
  - 5a. Have you ever had your name listed as a partner on a blind drawn by someone else?  
☐ Yes ☐ No
  - 5b. Please name the site(s) where you had your most recent registration as a blind builder or partner.
6. Which of the following do you **like BEST** about attending blind drawings? Choose **ONE** response.

<input type="checkbox"/> for the social atmosphere	<input type="checkbox"/> for the chance to get a blind
<input type="checkbox"/> family activity	<input type="checkbox"/> to visit with other waterfowl hunters
<input type="checkbox"/> important part of waterfowl hunting	<input type="checkbox"/> for information on upcoming seasons
7. If you no longer attend blind drawings, which of the following **BEST** describes why you no longer attend? Choose **ONE** response.

<input type="checkbox"/> too crowded	<input type="checkbox"/> poor chances at getting a blind
<input type="checkbox"/> inconvenient time	<input type="checkbox"/> too far from my home
<input type="checkbox"/> not enough blinds available	<input type="checkbox"/> not important to my waterfowl hunting
8. The current registration procedure allows blind applicants (who may or may not be waterfowl hunters) who draw a blind for 1, 2, or 3 years to list 2 other people as partners on the blind. Partners have the same claims to the blind as the successful blind applicant for the length of the blind allocation period.
  - 8a. Do you favor this system of blind allocation? ☐ Yes ☐ No
  - 8b. If you responded "No," would you favor the following alternative?  
"Parties of 1-3 people register for the blind drawing as a group and if selected only this group can be registered on the blind as hunters for the entire blind allocation period (1-3 years depending on site)."  
☐ Yes, I favor the alternative ☐ No, I do not favor the alternative

9. What is your preference for the length of time blinds should be allocated at state managed areas?

\_\_\_\_\_ 1 year                      \_\_\_\_\_ 2 years                      \_\_\_\_\_ 3 years

10. Do you feel there should be more state duck hunting sites where hunters reserve (through a lottery held before the season) a constructed blind for 1 to 2 days and pay a daily fee of \$10? (Banner Marsh currently uses such a system).

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes                      \_\_\_\_\_ No

11. How many of the best blinds at state sites should be available for daily reservations instead of the current 1, 2, and 3 year allocations through the blind drawings?

\_\_\_\_\_ none                      \_\_\_\_\_ 1-2 blinds                      \_\_\_\_\_ 3-4 blinds                      \_\_\_\_\_ 5 or more blinds

11a. If this system was used, how should these blinds be allocated at state sites?

\_\_\_\_\_ 1) on-site daily drawing

\_\_\_\_\_ 2) pre-season drawing at site

\_\_\_\_\_ 3) half via pre-season drawing and half on-site daily drawing

11b. If a pre-season drawing is used to allocate these blinds, what is your preference for the drawing?

\_\_\_\_\_ pre-season drawing held on-site                      \_\_\_\_\_ pre-season drawing held through the mail

**Section 3. Rotating-Wing Decoys** Please answer the following questions about your use of rotating-wing decoys. **Note:** "Rotating-wing decoy" refers to decoys that sit on poles and wings rotate by battery power.

1. Did you use a battery-operated rotating-wing decoy while duck hunting in 2001-2002?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes                      \_\_\_\_\_ No (Please go to **Section 4**)

1a. How often did you use a battery-operated rotating wing decoy?

\_\_\_\_\_ Always                      \_\_\_\_\_ Often                      \_\_\_\_\_ Rarely

2. How many seasons have you used your rotating-wing decoy?

\_\_\_\_\_ 1 season                      \_\_\_\_\_ 2 seasons                      \_\_\_\_\_ 3 seasons                      \_\_\_\_\_ 4 or more seasons

3. How would you say the use of a rotating-wing decoy has affected the amount of times you go duck hunting?

\_\_\_\_\_ 1) I hunt much more often than before I had the rotating-wing decoy

\_\_\_\_\_ 2) I hunt somewhat more often than before I had the rotating-wing decoy

\_\_\_\_\_ 3) I hunt about the same as before I had the rotating-wing decoy

\_\_\_\_\_ 4) I hunt less than before I had the rotating-wing decoy

**Section 4. September Canada Goose Season** Please answer the following questions regarding **September Canada goose hunting in Illinois.**

1. Did you hunt Canada geese during the **September season** (September 1 – 15, 2001)?

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

\_\_\_\_\_ No (please go to **Section 5**)

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

**September Canada Goose Season**

Days Hunted	County	Geese Harvested

3. Do you hunt **teal** while hunting geese during the September Canada goose season?

\_\_\_\_\_ Always                      \_\_\_\_\_ Sometimes                      \_\_\_\_\_ Never

**Section 5. Regular Canada Goose Season** Please answer the following questions regarding **regular season (Oct. – Jan.) Canada goose hunting in Illinois.**

1. In the zone where you did most of your Canada goose hunting, how did you hunt geese during the regular season? Please check one response.

\_\_\_\_\_ over open water

\_\_\_\_\_ in fields before freeze-up

\_\_\_\_\_ in fields after freeze-up

2. How does freeze-up affect your Canada goose hunting activity in the zone where you did most of your hunting?

\_\_\_\_\_ stop hunting because geese depart

\_\_\_\_\_ switch to hunt fields

\_\_\_\_\_ stop hunting because no access to fields

\_\_\_\_\_ continue hunting over fields

3. If you hunted in the **Southern Illinois Quota Zone** in 2001-2002, what type of areas did you hunt?

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

**Section 6. Attitudes Toward Waterfowl Hunting** Please state if you agree or disagree with the following statements by circling the number that matches your response.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Not Sure	Agree	Strongly Agree
Waterfowl are managed to provide recreation for people.	1	2	3	4	5
Hunters should have equal access to state blinds.	1	2	3	4	5
I am disappointed when I come home empty-handed.	1	2	3	4	5
Blinds constructed by state site permit holders are the property of the party holding the allocation.	1	2	3	4	5
There are too many waterfowl hunters on state sites.	1	2	3	4	5
Illinois DNR considers hunters' opinions when determining waterfowl regulations and seasons.	1	2	3	4	5
Other waterfowl hunters often interfere with my hunt.	1	2	3	4	5
Seeing waterfowl is important for a satisfying hunt.	1	2	3	4	5
I am disappointed if I do not get any shooting at waterfowl while hunting.	1	2	3	4	5

**Section 7. Background Information** The following questions are important to help us understand more about the people involved in waterfowl 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 total have you hunted waterfowl? \_\_\_\_\_ years
2. How many years have you hunted waterfowl in Illinois? \_\_\_\_\_ years
3. Did you hunt doves, woodcock, snipe, or rails during the 2001-2002 season? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No
4. What is your county of residence? \_\_\_\_\_ County
5. Please give your age. \_\_\_\_\_ years
6. Do you belong to any nationwide, statewide, or local waterfowl hunting/waterfowl conservation organizations?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ No  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Yes Please identify: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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.

## Appendix B

Dear Waterfowl Hunter,

You are one of a select group of waterfowl hunters asked to provide information about your hunting activities during the 2001-2002 season. Please complete and return the enclosed questionnaire about your waterfowl harvest and activities in Illinois during the 2001-2002 waterfowl hunting season **even if you were not successful.**

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. A postage-paid envelope is provided for returning the questionnaire to us.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Miller, Ph.D.  
Wildlife Harvest and Human Dimensions Research Program

**DUCKS & EARLY CANADA GEESE**

SPECIES	DATES (Inclusive)	HOURS	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Teal	Sept. 1-Sept. 16 (Statewide)	Sunrise to Sunset	4	8
Ducks (except canvasbacks)	North Zone Oct. 13-Dec. 11 Canvasbacks: Nov. 10-Nov. 29		6 (See section on Bag Limits)	2 x daily bag limit
Mergansers	Central Zone Oct. 25-Dec. 23 Canvasbacks: Nov. 17-Dec. 6		5 (See section on Bag Limits)	2 x daily bag limit
Coots	South Zone Nov. 8-Jan. 6 Canvasbacks: Nov. 24-Dec. 19	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	15	30
Early Canada Geese	Sept. 1-Sept. 15 (Northeast Zone only)		5*	10
Early Canada Geese	Sept. 1-Sept. 15 (North, Central & South Zones*)		2*	4

\* 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.

**YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS\***

SPECIES	DATES	HOURS	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Ducks			6 (1 canvasback) (See section on Bag Limits)
Mergansers	North Zone Oct. 6-7	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	5 (See section on Bag Limits)
Coots	Central Zone Oct. 20-21		15
Canada Geese	South Zone Oct. 27-28		20
Snow Geese			2
White-fronted Geese			1
Brants			1

**\*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.

**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 3 scaup, 2 wood ducks, 2 redheads, and not more than 1 pintail and 1 black duck. Canvasback season is closed except during Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days and during 20-day seasons indicated above. One canvasback may be taken daily during these seasons. 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.

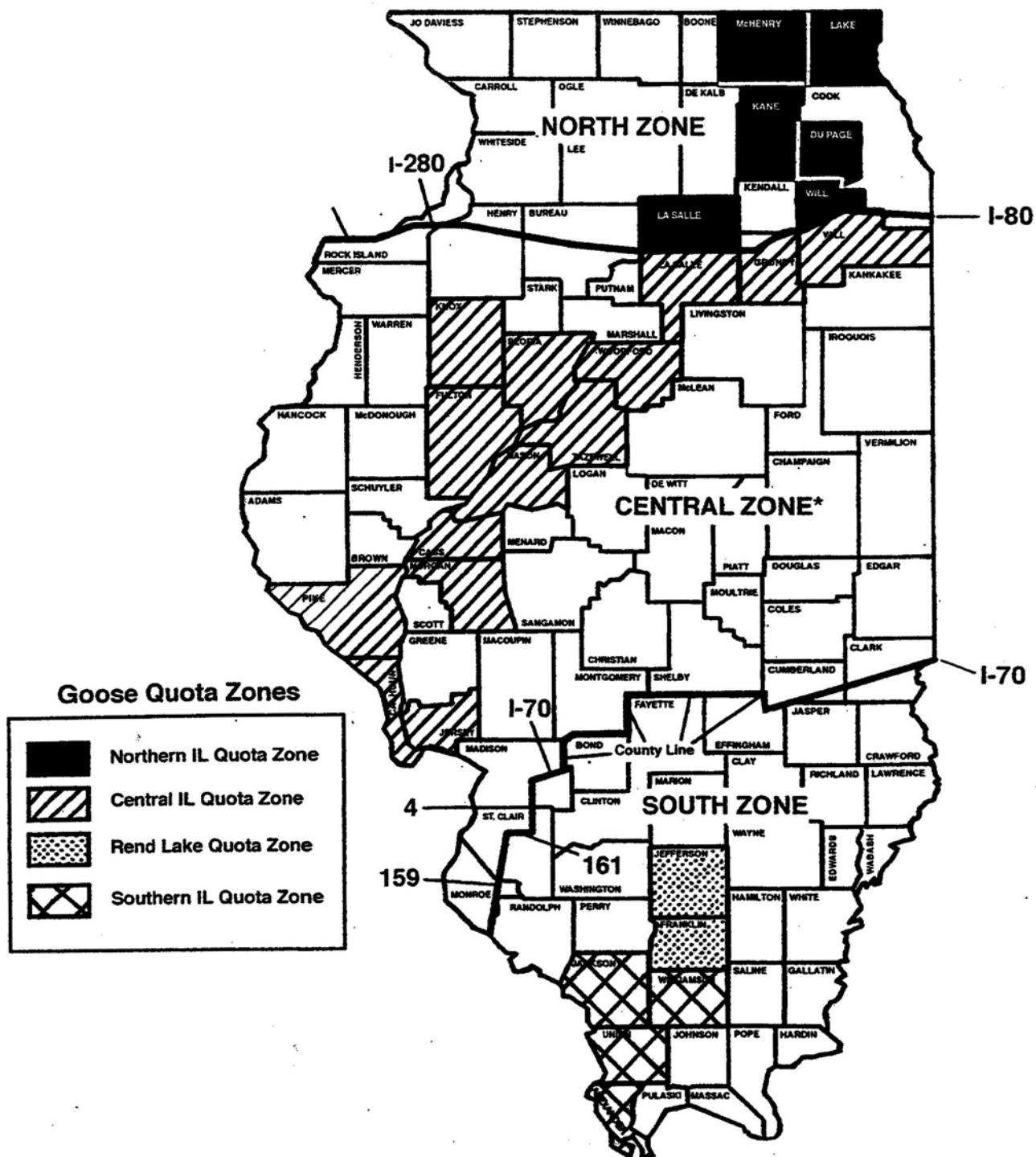
**GEESSE**

DATES (Inclusive)		HOURS	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Canada Geese (a)				
North & Northern IL Quota Zone	Oct. 13-Oct. 21 & Nov. 10-Jan. 9	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	1	10
Central & Central IL Quota Zone	Oct. 25-Oct. 28 & Nov. 17-Jan. 21		1, except sunrise Dec. 24-Jan. 21 bag limit is 2	
South Zone		1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	1, except Jan. 1-Jan. 31 bag limit is 2	
Southern IL & Rend Lake Quota Zone	Dec. 15-Jan. 31	1/2 hour before sunrise to 3 p.m.(b)		
Snow/Blue & Ross' Geese and Brant (a)				
North & Northern IL Quota Zone	Oct. 13-Jan. 9	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset		Unlimited Snow/Blue & Ross' Geese 2 Brant
Central & Central IL Quota Zone	Oct. 25-Jan. 21		20 Snow/Blue & Ross' Geese 1 Brant	
South Zone	Nov. 8-Jan. 31			
Southern IL & Rend Lake Quota Zone	Nov. 8-Jan. 31	1/2 hour before sunrise to 3 p.m.(b)		
White-fronted Geese (a)				
North & Northern IL Quota Zone	Oct. 13-Oct. 21 & Nov. 10-Jan. 9	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	2	4
Central & Central IL Quota Zone	Oct. 25-Oct. 28 & Nov. 17-Jan. 21			
South Zone	Dec. 15-Jan. 31			
Southern IL & Rend Lake Quota Zone	Dec. 15-Jan. 31	1/2 hour before sunrise to 3 p.m.(b)		

(a) The DNR will close the Canada goose, snow/blue and Ross' goose, brant and white-fronted goose 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. Call toll-free, 1-877-249-3679 for information on season closures. 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 Jan. 29, 30 and 31 hunting hours end at sunset.

# Illinois Waterfowl Zones



### Appendix D

Number of waterfowl hunters by county (Illinois residents) or state (non-residents) of residence, 2001-02.

County	Number of Hunters	County	Number of Hunters	County	Number of Hunters
Madison	128	Knox	21	Jasper	6
Cook	126	Montgomery	21	Shelby	6
Peoria	117	Union	21	Wabash	6
Tazewell	116	De Kalb	20	Boone	5
St Clair	100	Fayette	20	Edgar	5
Will	83	Henry	20	Edwards	5
Lake	72	Henderson	19	Richland	5
Sangamon	69	Livingston	18	Warren	5
Fulton	64	Ogle	18	Wayne	5
McHenry	63	Carroll	17	Brown	4
DuPage	59	Christian	17	Clay	4
Williamson	56	Morgan	16	Crawford	4
Adams	55	Pike	15	Pulaski	4
LaSalle	54	Putnam	15	Scott	4
Rock Island	48	Stephenson	15	Hamilton	3
Jackson	44	Washington	15	Pope	3
Macoupin	43	Hancock	14	Stark	3
Mason	43	Logan	14	Clark	2
Winnebago	43	Effingham	13	Cumberland	2
Franklin	42	Iroquois	13	DeWitt	2
Calhoun	40	Massac	13	Gallatin	2
Macon	40	Schuyler	13	Hardin	1
Whiteside	38	Vermilion	13	Total	2,657
Cass	37	Kendall	12		
Monroe	37	Saline	11	<u>Non-residents</u>	
Woodford	36	Alexander	10		
Kane	33	Bond	10	Missouri	44
Perry	31	Lawrence	10	Iowa	28
Jersey	30	Lee	10	Indiana	18
Champaign	29	McDonough	10	Kentucky	8
Kankakee	29	Menard	10	Wisconsin	6
McLean	29	Piatt	10	Tennessee	5
Marshall	29	Coles	9	Florida	4
Grundy	27	Johnson	9	Georgia	2
Randolph	27	Mercer	9	Michigan	1
Bureau	25	Moultrie	9	Total	116
Morgan	23	White	9		
Clinton	22	Douglas	8		
Greene	21	Ford	8		
Jefferson	21	Jo Daviess	7		