*Human*Dimensions
Research Program

ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Federal Aid Project
Number W-112-R-12
Job Number 101.3
Wildlife Restoration

July 1, 2002-June 30, 2003
Joel Brunsvold, Director
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Paul Vehlow
Federal Aid Coordinator

John E. Buhnerkempe
Chief, Division of Wildlife Resources

Results of the 2002-2003 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey

Craig A. Miller, Ph.D.
Program Leader and Principal Investigator
Human Dimensions Research Program
Illinois Natural History Survey

Report prepared by
Craig A. Miller, Ph.D.,
William L. Anderson,
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Linda K. Campbell

SPORT FISH & WILDLIFE RESTORATION

March 25, 2004

RESULTS OF THE 2002-2003 ILLINOIS WATERFOWL HUNTER SURVEY

JOB COMPLETION REPORT

WILDLIFE HARVEST AND

HUMAN DIMENSIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NUMBER: W-112-R-12
STUDY 101
JOB NO. 101.3

Prepared by
Craig A. Miller, William L. Anderson,
Christopher B. Colligan, and Linda K. Campbell
Illinois Natural History Survey
Champaign, IL

March 25, 2004

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration
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Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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OBJECTIVE

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

ABSTRACT

A total of 3,150 (68%) Illinois waterfowl hunters responded to the 2002-2003 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. Hunters reported spending 1,054,047 days afield, a decrease of 21% from the 1,337,297 days expended during the 2001-2002 license year. The waterfowl harvest decreased 27% from 695,790 during 2001-2002 to 504,616 during 2002-2003. Duck harvest estimates for the regular duck season were as follows: 197,392 mallards, 46,238 wood ducks, and 106,213 other ducks. A total of 12,542 teal were harvested during the early (September) teal season. Goose hunters harvested 89,297 Canada geese during the regular Canada goose season. Attitudes of hunters toward duck and goose season dates, Canada goose bag limits, and waterfowl hunting in general were profiled, as were waterfowl hunting experience and background information for waterfowl hunters.

METHODS

A total of 4,667 waterfowl hunters were sampled from the population of Illinois migratory bird hunters registered with the federal Harvest Information Program (HIP). Beginning in late March 2003, the hunters were mailed a 12-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 waterfowl seasons, bag limits, and management practices. Hunters received a follow-up postcard 10 days later, 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. Finally, 10 days later,

a 3rd questionnaire was sent to nonrespondents. We received 3,150 (67.5%) questionnaires from hunters in the sample, of which 2,640 (83.8%) hunted waterfowl in Illinois in 2002-2003. 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 10.0.

SEASON LENGTHS AND BAG LIMITS

The early (September) teal season was reduced from 16 days in 2001 to 9 days in 2002; the daily bag limit was 4 birds in both years. Otherwise, hunters enjoyed a 15-day/2-bird (or 5-bird) early (September) Canada goose season, a 60-day/6-bird duck season, and a 64,100 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 decreased from 59,029 during the 2001-2002 season to 53,428 during the 2002-2003 season, which represents a 9.5% decrease in hunters (Table 1, Figure 1). Hunters reported spending 1,054,047 days afield in 2002-2003, a decrease of 21% from the 1,337,297 days recorded for 2001-2002. The waterfowl harvest decreased 27% from 695,790 during 2001-2002 to 504,616 during 2002-2003. One-third (34%) of the hunters hunted ducks only, whereas 10% hunted geese only, and 56% hunted both ducks and geese (Table 2, Figure 2).

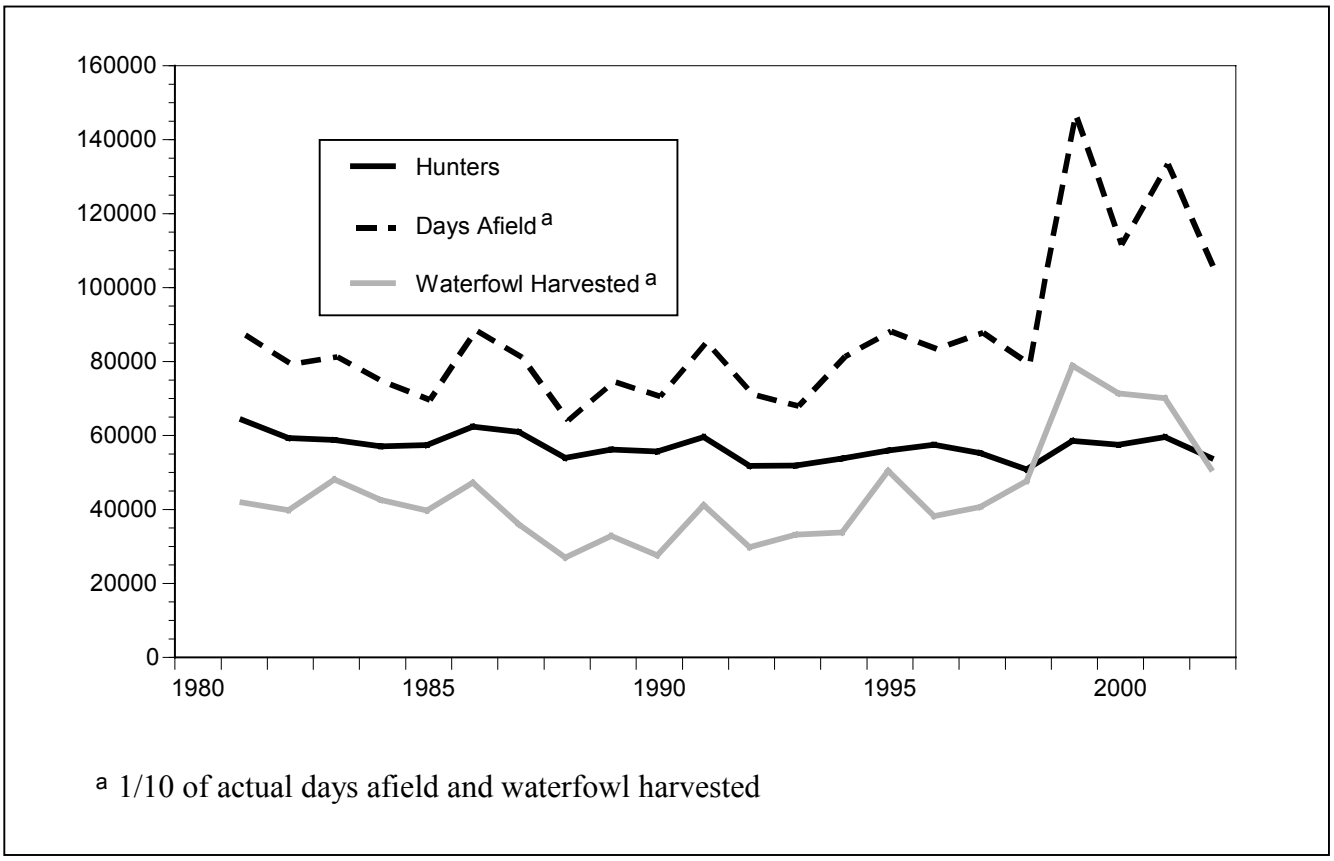

Figure 1. Summary of hunters, days afield, and waterfowl harvest in Illinois, 1981- 2002.

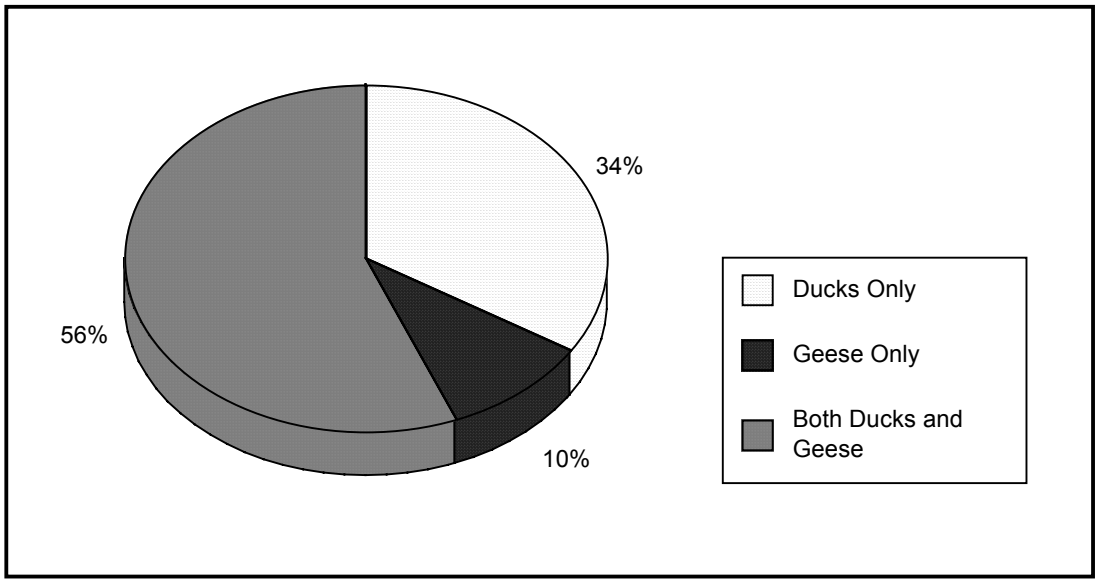

Figure 2. The percentage of hunters who hunted ducks, geese, or both during the 2002-03 Illinois waterfowl season

September Teal Season

The number of early (September) teal hunters decreased 41% from 17,222 during 2001-2002 to 10,171 during 2002-2003 (Table 3, Figure 3). Days afield decreased 52% from 61,199 during 2001-2002 to 29,381 during 2002-2003. Teal hunters harvested 12,542 blue-winged teal (*Anas discors)*/green-winged teal (*A. crecca*) in the 2002-2003 season, a decrease of 65% compared to the previous year's harvest. The Central Zone accounted for more than one-half of early season teal hunters (59%), days afield (59%), and harvest (61%) (Table 4). Statewide, early season teal hunters averaged 2.89 days afield in 2002-2003, and harvested an average of 0.43 teal per hunter per day and 1.23 teal per hunter per season (Table 5, Figure 4).

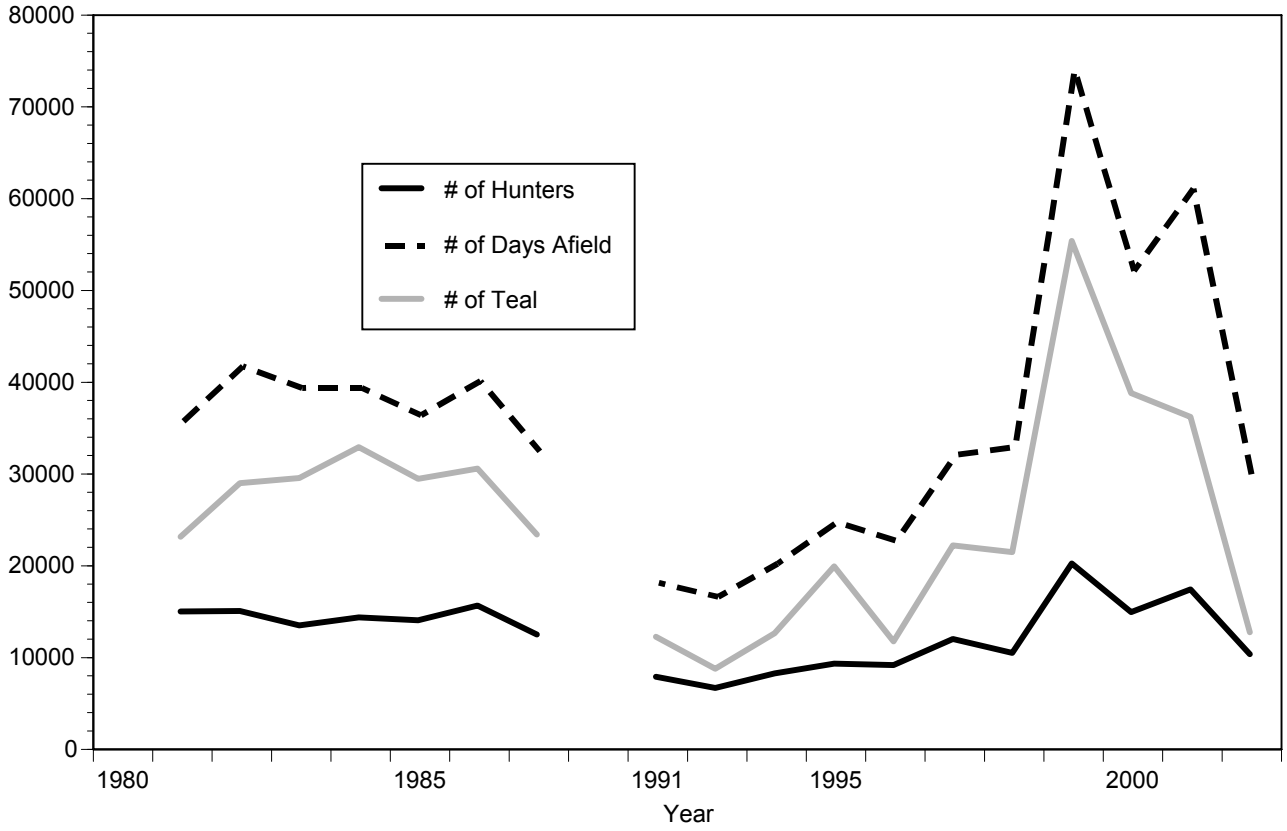

Figure 3. Teal harvest and hunter activity during the Illinois September teal season, from 1981-2002 (September teal season was suspended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from 1988-1991).

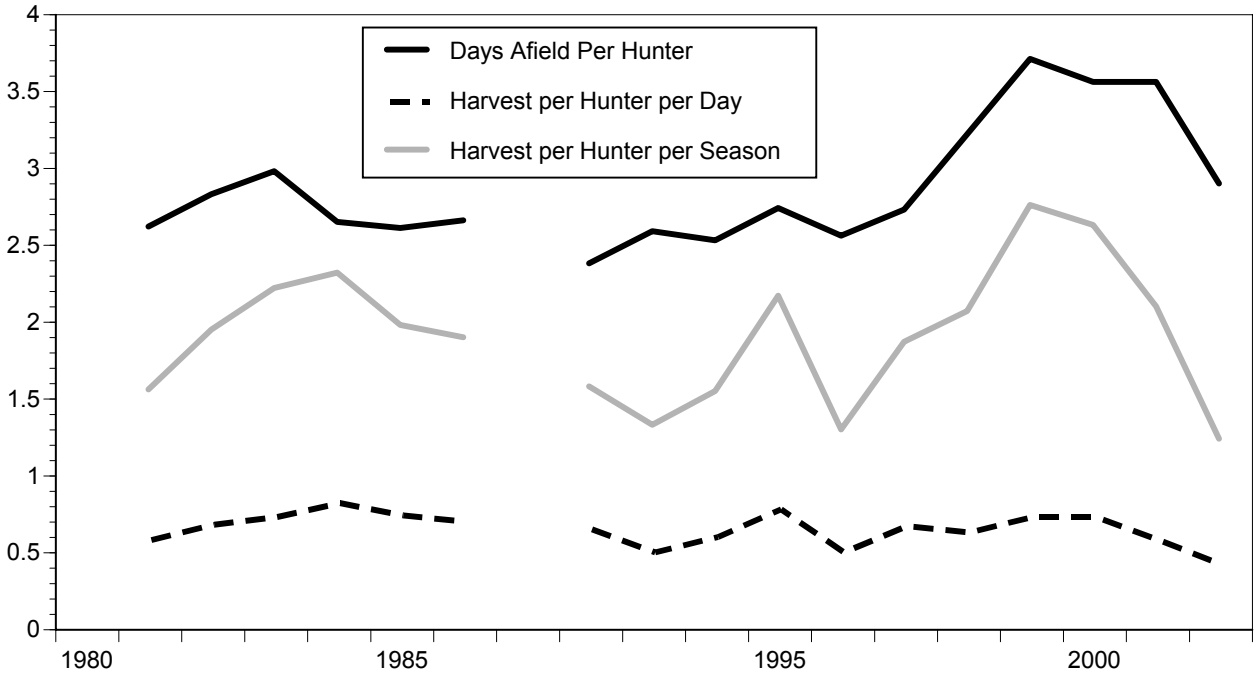

Figure 4. Rates of teal harvest and hunter activity during the Illinois September teal season, from 1981-2002 (September teal season was suspended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from 1988-1991).

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allowed Illinois and the other states to hold 2 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days during 2002, the same number of days allowed during 2000 and 2001. 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, during 2000 (Table 6). Similarly, their numbers increased to 9,140 and 15,148 in 2001. However, participation in the youth program decreased slightly, to 8,498 adults and 13,325 youths, in 2002. The youth waterfowl harvest (ducks, geese, and coots combined) decreased from 13,178 birds in 2001 to 10,243 in 2002.

Regular Duck Season

The number of duck hunters decreased by 5,230 (10%) from 53,194 during the 2001-2002 license year to 47,964 during the 2002-2003 license year (Table 7). Duck hunters spent 642,542 days afield during the 2002-2003 season, a decrease of 19% from the 797,884 days reported during the 2001-2002 season. Mallards comprised 56% of the total regular season duck harvest, while other ducks and wood ducks accounted for 30% and 13% respectively (Figure 5). Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) harvest decreased by 107,788 birds (35%) from 305,180 during 2001-2002 to 197,392 during 2002-2003 season (Table 7, Figure 6). Wood duck (*Aix sponsa*) harvest declined 15,277 (25%) from 61,515 (2001-2002) to 46,238 (2002-2003). Harvest of other ducks decreased 37%, from 167,883 (2001-2002) to 106,213 (2002-2003). Total duck harvest during 2002-2003 was 349,843, which was 35% less than the 534,578 ducks reported for 2001-2002. The 2002-2003 duck harvest is presented by waterfowl zones and selected areas in Table 8. Statewide, the duck harvest per hunter per day decreased from 0.67 in 2001-2002 to 0.54 in 2002-2003, and duck harvest per hunter per season decreased from 10.05 in 2001-2002 to 7.29 in 2002-2003 (Table 9). The statewide coot (*Fulica americana*) harvest decreased 40%, from 2,904 for the 2001-2002 season to 1,743 in 2002-2003 (Table 7).

Nearly 50% of the duck hunters hunted less than 5 days (Figure 7). Of those who hunted $\geq$ 1 day, 16% reported not harvesting any ducks. A small percentage of hunters (3.5%) harvested more than 60 ducks.

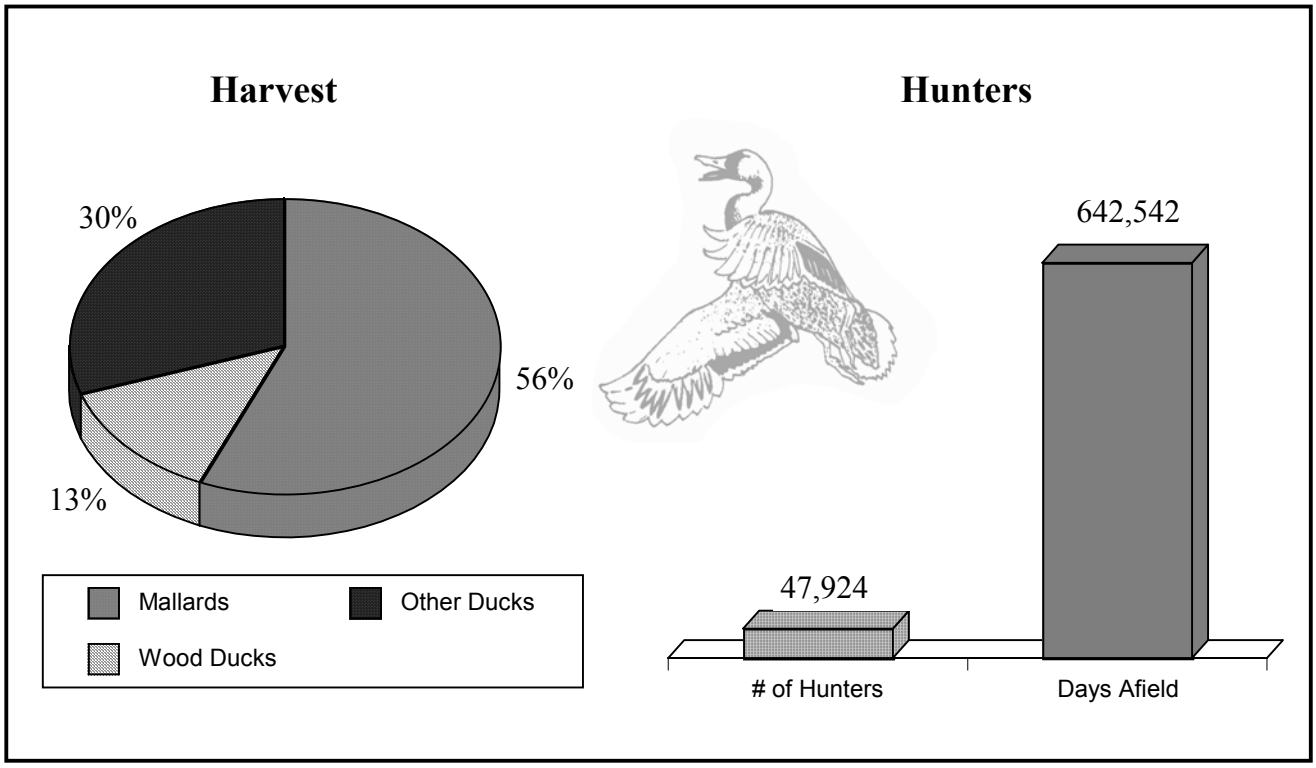

Figure 5. 2002-03 Illinois regular season duck harvest and days afield

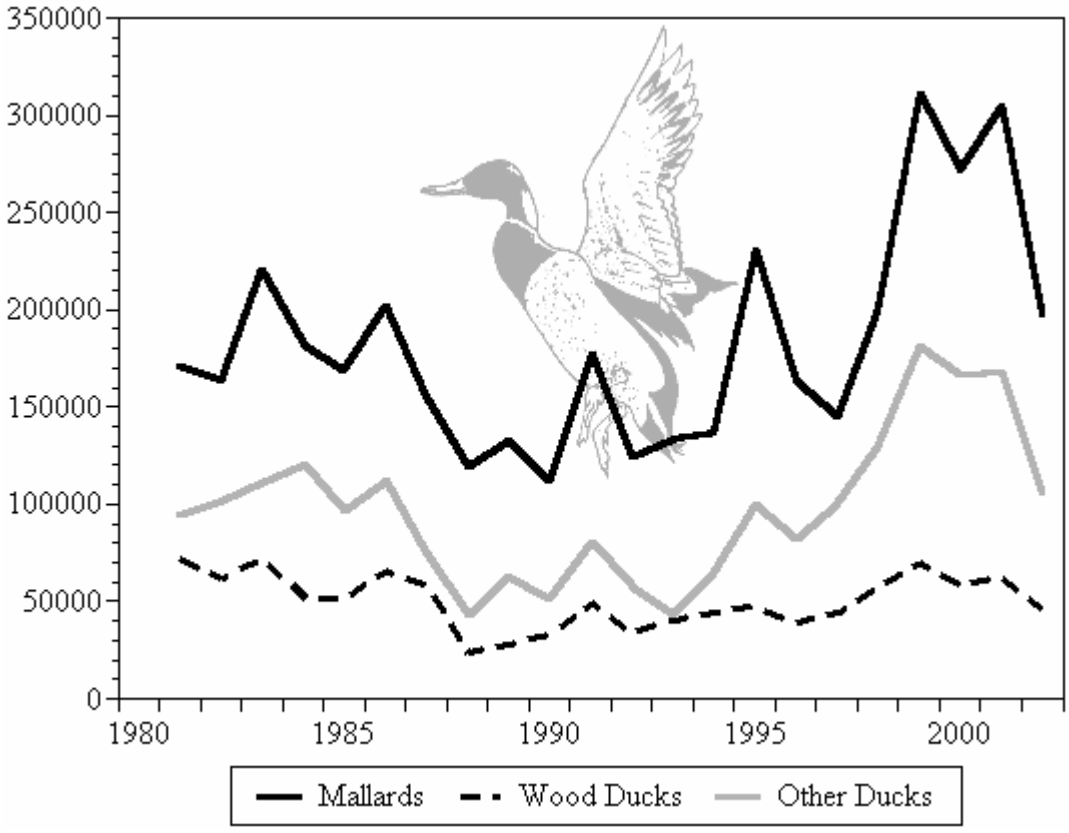

Figure 6. Illinois regular season duck harvest 1981-2002

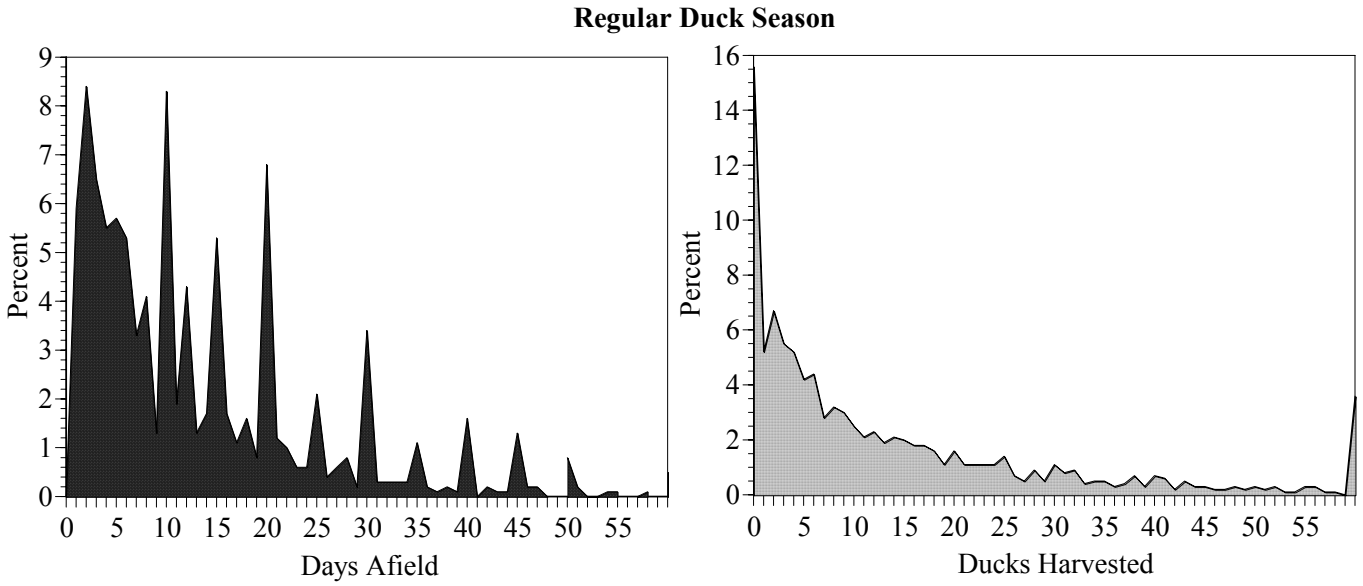

Figure 7. Distribution of days afield per hunter and ducks harvested per hunter for Illinois 2002-03 regular duck season.

Early September Goose Season

An estimated 12,459 hunters participated in the early (September) Canada goose season in Illinois during 2002-2003 (Table 10). The majority (53%) of these hunters were active in the Central Zone. They harvested 21,534 Canada geese throughout Illinois during the early season, with 11,130 (52%) taken in the Central Zone (Figure 8). From the 2001-2002 to 2002-2003 season, the number of September Canada goose hunters decreased 39% (from 20,359 to 12,459), days afield decreased 46% (from 73,587 to 39,485), and harvest of Canada geese decreased 17% (from 26,021 to 21,534) (Figure 9).

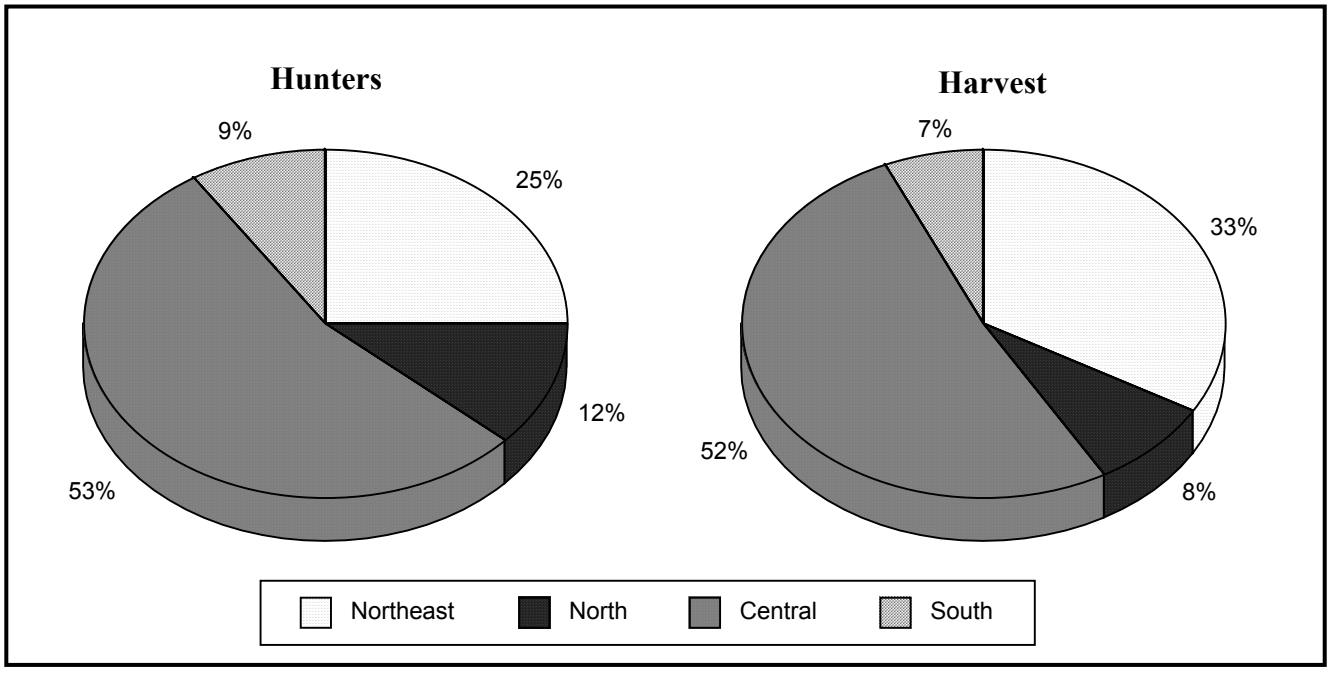

Figure 8. Early September Canada goose harvest and hunter activity by zone in Illinois during 2002-2003

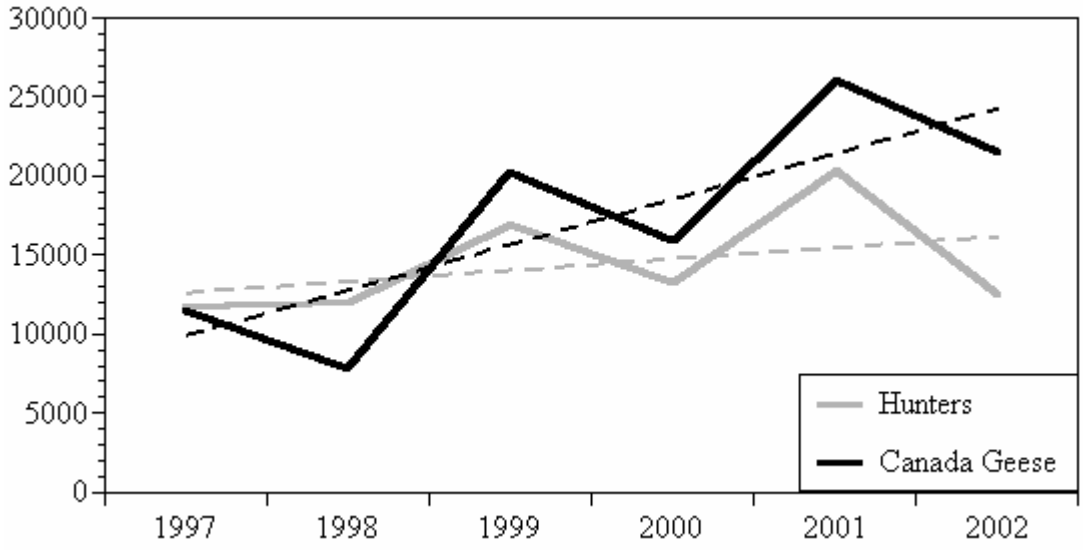

Figure 9. Early September Canada goose harvest and hunter activity 1997-2002

Regular Canada Goose Season

Canada goose harvest during the 2002-2003 regular goose season increased 38% from 2001-2002 despite an 11% decrease in hunters (Table 11, Figure 10). In 2002-2003, an estimated 35,352 hunters (Figure 11) spent 323,091 days afield, and they harvested 89,297 Canada geese. The statewide quota was 64,100 Canada geese. These hunters also harvested 19,414 other geese (of which 16,097 were snow/blue geese, *Chen caerulescens*), for a total combined harvest of 108,711 geese. Goose hunters spent 50% as many days afield as duck hunters. The mean harvest of geese was 3.08 geese per hunter per season and 86% of goose hunters harvested <5 geese (Figure 12).

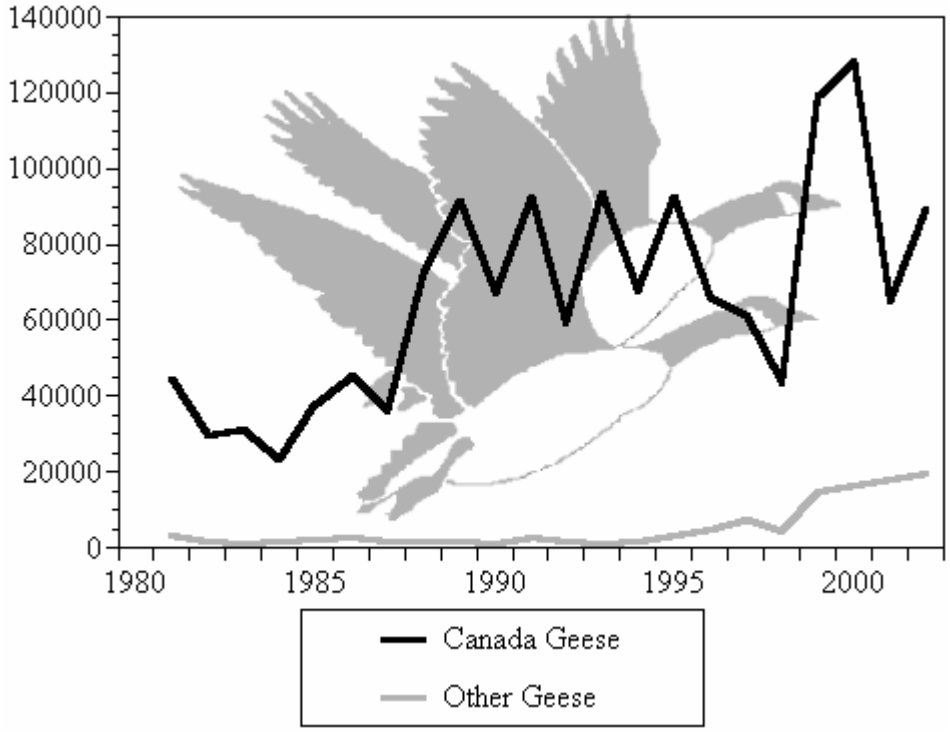

Figure 10. Goose harvest during Illinois regular goose season from 1981-2002.

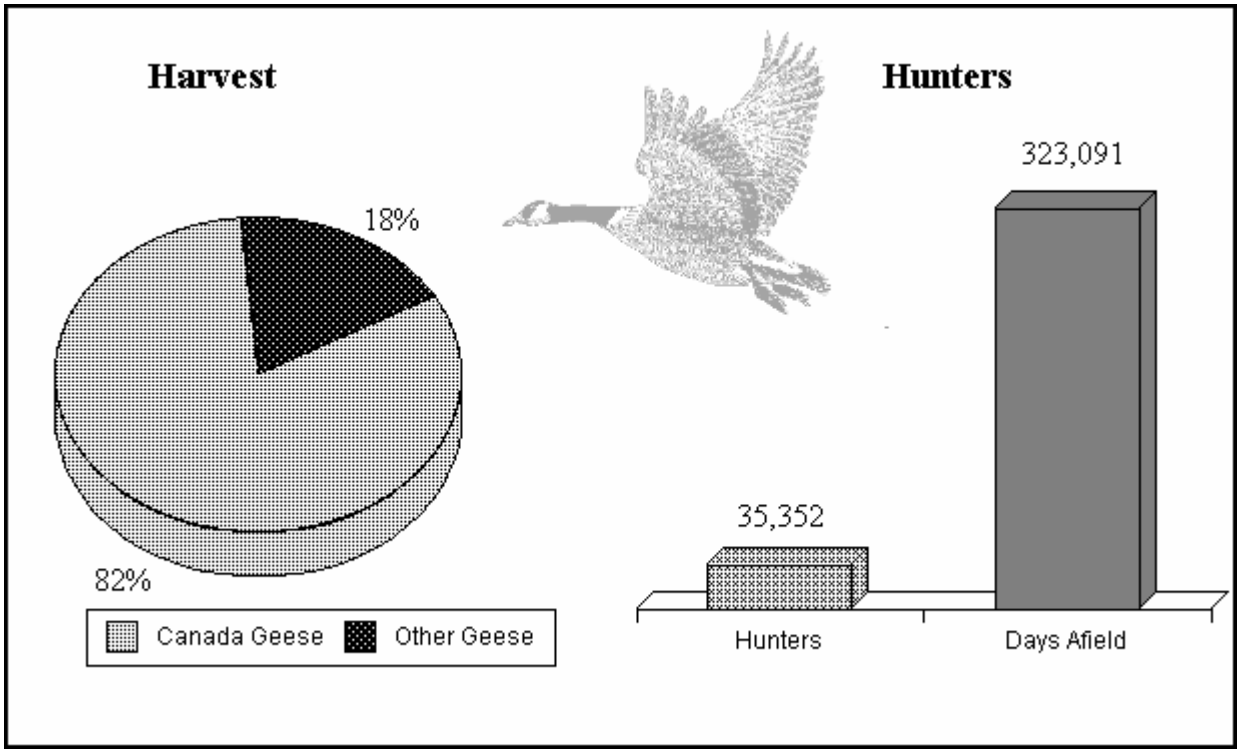

Figure 11. 2002 Illinois regular Canada goose season harvest and hunter statistics.

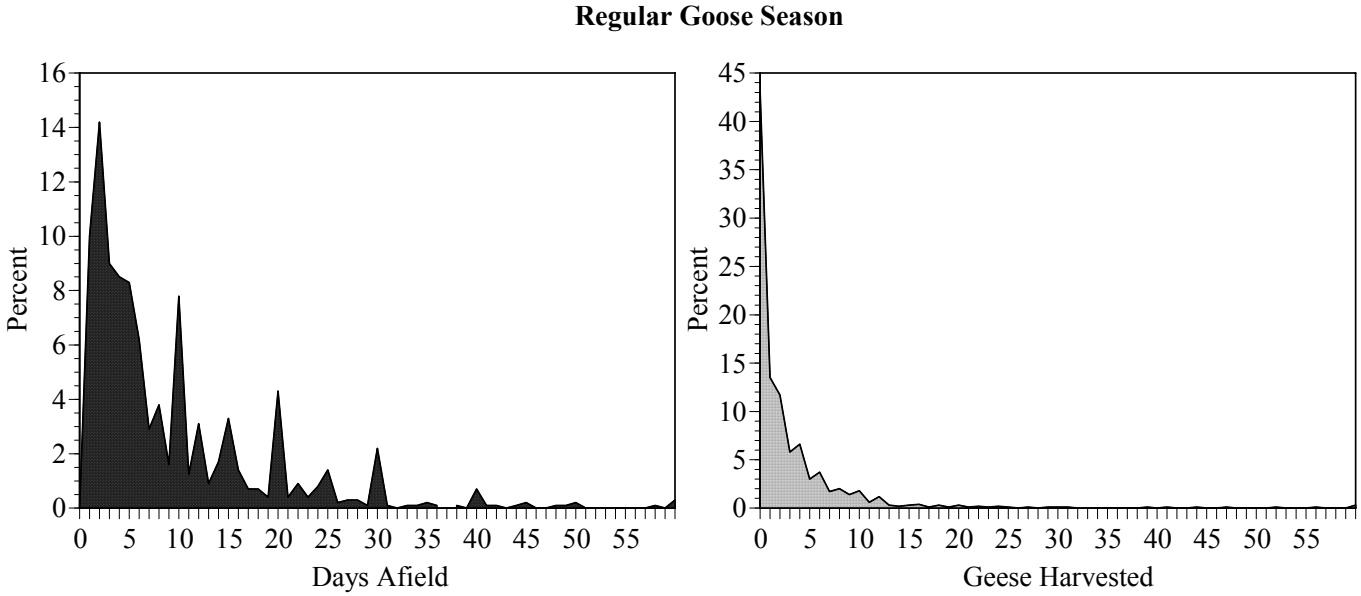

Figure 12. Distribution of days afield per hunter and geese harvested per hunter for Illinois 2002-03 regular goose season.

The Central Non-Quota Zone lead the state in number of goose hunters (16,906) (Table 12, Figure 13). However, the Central Quota Zone was credited with the most days afield (103,746) and Canada geese harvested (22,561). The harvest of Canada geese is summarized by zone and year (2000-2001 through 2002-2003) in Table 13.

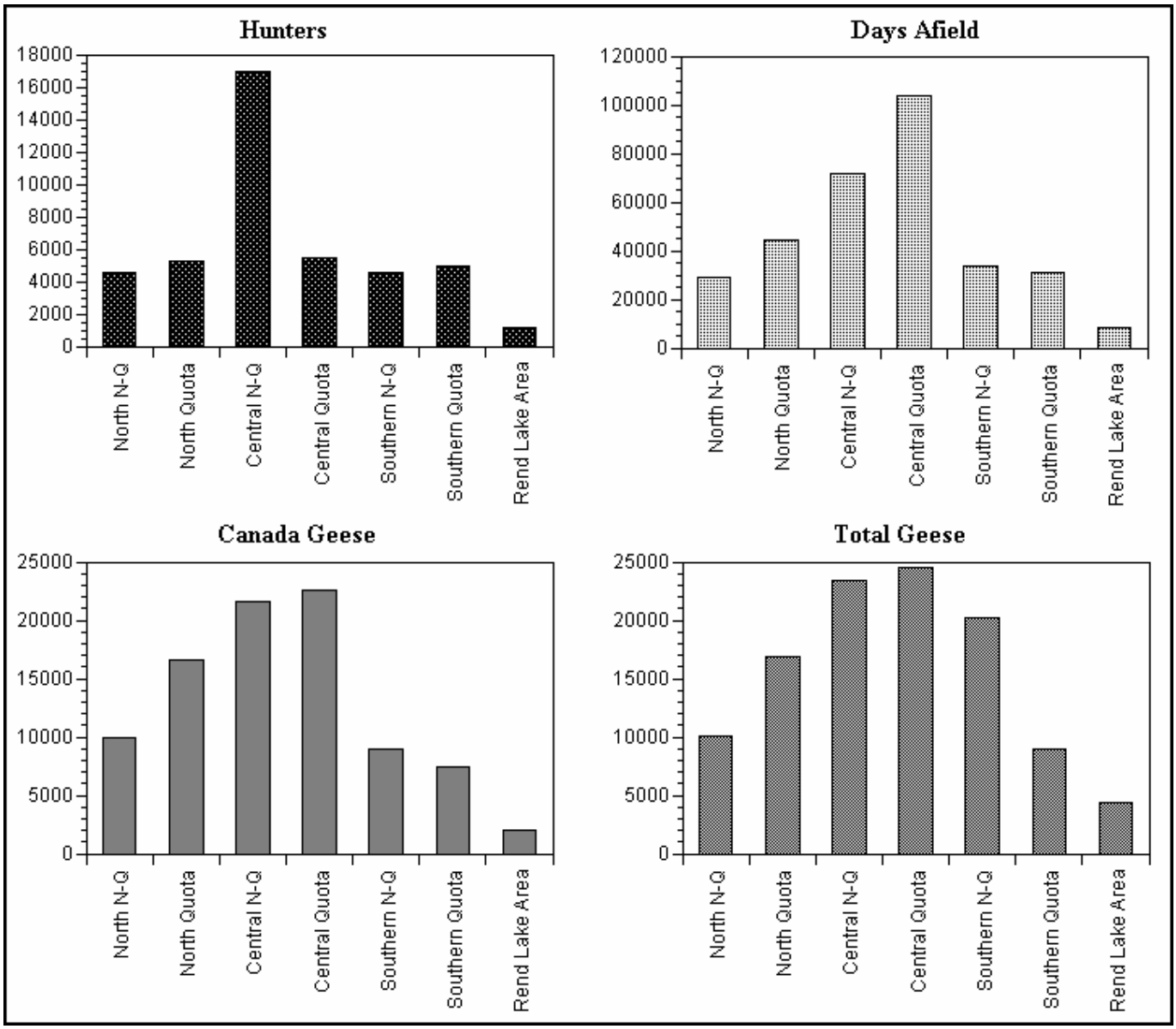

Figure 13. 2002-03 Goose harvest and hunter statistics by hunting zone.

Crippling Losses

Crippling losses (birds knocked down but not retrieved) were estimated at 59,005 ducks and 6,382 geese in Illinois during the 2002-2003 seasons (Table 14). These estimates, which are considered to be indices and not actual numbers, equate to 16.9 ducks and 5.9 geese lost per 100 harvested. It is noteworthy that crippling loss rates were lower in 1998 through 2002 than in previous years.

Conservation Order Snow Goose Season

Eight percent of the respondents to this survey said they hunted during the 2002-2003 Conservation Order snow goose season (Table 15). Of these hunters, 45% had the opportunity to harvest white-fronted geese between the close of the Canada goose season and mid-February.

Hunter Behavior, Attitudes, and Characteristics

September Teal

About two-thirds (67%) of the September teal hunters had a preference for the opening and closing dates of the 2003 teal season (Table 16). With either a 5-day season or a 9-day season, pluralities (42% and 43%) of these hunters preferred that the season open September 13. As might be expected, hunters in the North Zone prefer an earlier season than hunters in the Central and South Zones.

Duck Season

When asked in which zone they hunted ducks most often during the 2002-2003 season, 20% of the duck hunters reported the North Zone, 59% the Central Zone, and 21% the South Zone (Table 17). Percentages changed only slightly when the hunters were asked in which zone they planned to hunt ducks most often during the 2003-2004 season. In comparison, based on the first county respondents listed in Section 1 of the questionnaire, 20% of the duck hunters were active in the North Zone, 61% were active in the Central Zone, and 19% were active in the South Zone (n=2,370).

Nearly two-thirds (62%) of the duck hunters indicated they used information on duck migration to determine their duck hunting activities in Illinois (Table 18). The most frequent sources of information were family and friends (75%), Illinois DNR (46%), and national magazines (45%).

Two-thirds (68%) of the duck hunters reported using battery-operated rotating-wing decoys during the 2002-2003 season (Table 19). Use of such decoys was highest in the Central Zone (74%) and lowest in the North Zone (55%). In comparison, 61% of the 2000-2001 duck hunters and 76% of the 2001-2002 duck hunters used battery-operated rotating-wing decoys (Miller et al. 2003).

Sixty-one percent of the duck hunters reported they have a preference for the opening and closing dates of the 2003-2004 duck season in Illinois (Table 20). The preferred median dates for beginning the duck season in the North Zone were October 30 (20-day season), October 25 (30-day season), October 24 (45-day season), and October 16 (60-day season). The preferred median dates for beginning the season in the Central Zone were November 13 (20-day season), November 8 (30-day season), October 31 (45-day season), and October 30 (60-day season). The preferred median dates for beginning the season in the South Zone were December 4 (20-day season), November 29 (30-day season), November 21 (45-day season), and November 20 (60-day season). The preferred dates for a 60-day season in the North, Central, and South zones are illustrated in the pie charts in Figure 14. The preferred dates for the duck season are summarized for hunters in key areas in the Central and South Zones in Tables 21 and 22.

Only 24% of the duck hunters supported the idea of using standardized dates for setting the duck season in each zone (Table 23). To the contrary, a plurality (40%) of the hunters prefer season dates that vary from year to year.

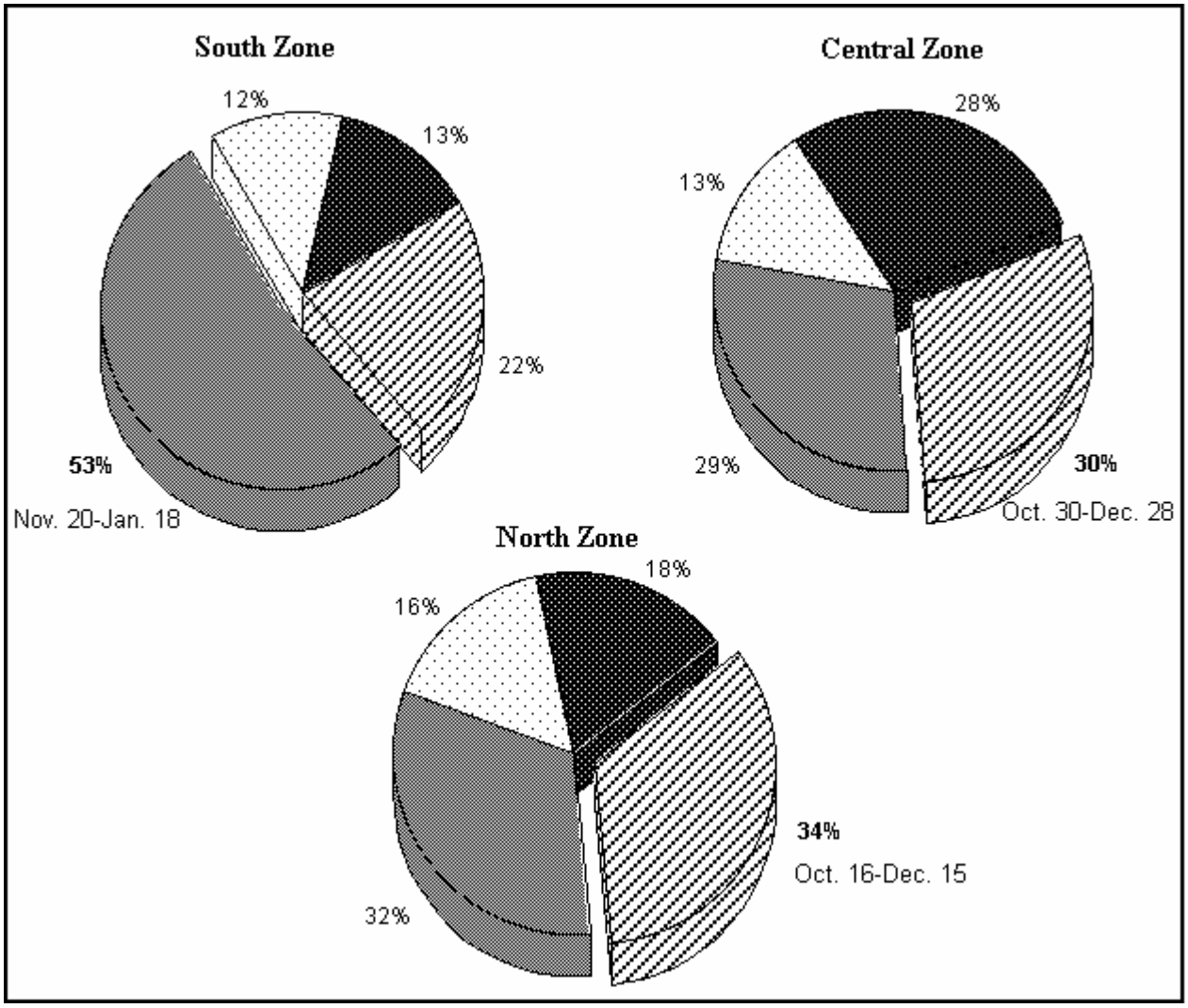

Figure 14. Season opening and closing dates preferred by duck hunters by zone for the 60 day season.

The waterfowl hunters who did not hunt ducks during the 2002-2003 season were asked to give their reasons for such inaction, the results of which are summarized in Table 24. The most important reasons were "not enough time/too many other obligations" (51%), "low waterfowl populations" (29%), and "no place to hunt" (28%).

Goose Season

Goose hunters who were active in the Southern Illinois Quota Zone were asked to identify the type of area they frequented—i.e., commercial or non-commercial areas (Table 25). Based on the responses,

majorities of hunters (77%), their days afield (64%), and goose harvest (62%) were associated with commercial (fee charged, public or private) areas. The percentages for non-commercial areas were 44%, 36%, and 38%, respectively. This general pattern prevailed in all 4 counties in the SIQZ.

Goose hunters were asked to express their preference for Canada goose season dates in Illinois during the upcoming 2003-2004 season (Table 26). Of the hunters who had a preference, a majority (56%) of those in the North Zone opted for a season that would start with the duck season opener and closes when the quota is achieved. This stands in contrast to the Central Zone (43%), South Zone (60%), and SIQZ (52%), where goose hunters chose a split Canada goose season that would coincide with the first few days of the duck season, closes for 3 weeks, and then runs until the quota is achieved. If the season were split as indicated (Table 26), a plurality or majority (34%-55%) of hunters in the North Zone and Central Zone prefer that the first open period encompass 2 weekends of duck season and that the closed period last for 2 weeks. On the other hand, pluralities or majorities (39%-53%) of hunters in the South Zone and SIQZ would like for the first open period to include 1 weekend of duck season and that the closed period extend for 3 weeks.

When asked to express their preferences for the bag limit for Canada geese when quotas are low, a plurality (49%) of the goose hunters in the North Zone voted for 2 geese per day for the entire season (Table 27). However, majorities (51%-62%) of hunters in the other 3 zones preferred 1 goose per day during the duck season and 2 geese per day after duck season closes.

Attitudes Toward Waterfowl Hunting

The attitudes of waterfowl hunters toward waterfowl hunting following the 2002-2003 hunting season are summarized in Table 28.

Waterfowl Hunting Experience

Waterfowl hunters who participated in this survey had hunted waterfowl for an average of 21 years, and they had hunted waterfowl in Illinois for an average of 20 years (Table 29). The vast majority (83%) hunted waterfowl every year. However, of those who did not hunt waterfowl every year, 60% purchased an Illinois Waterfowl Stamp annually (Figure 15).

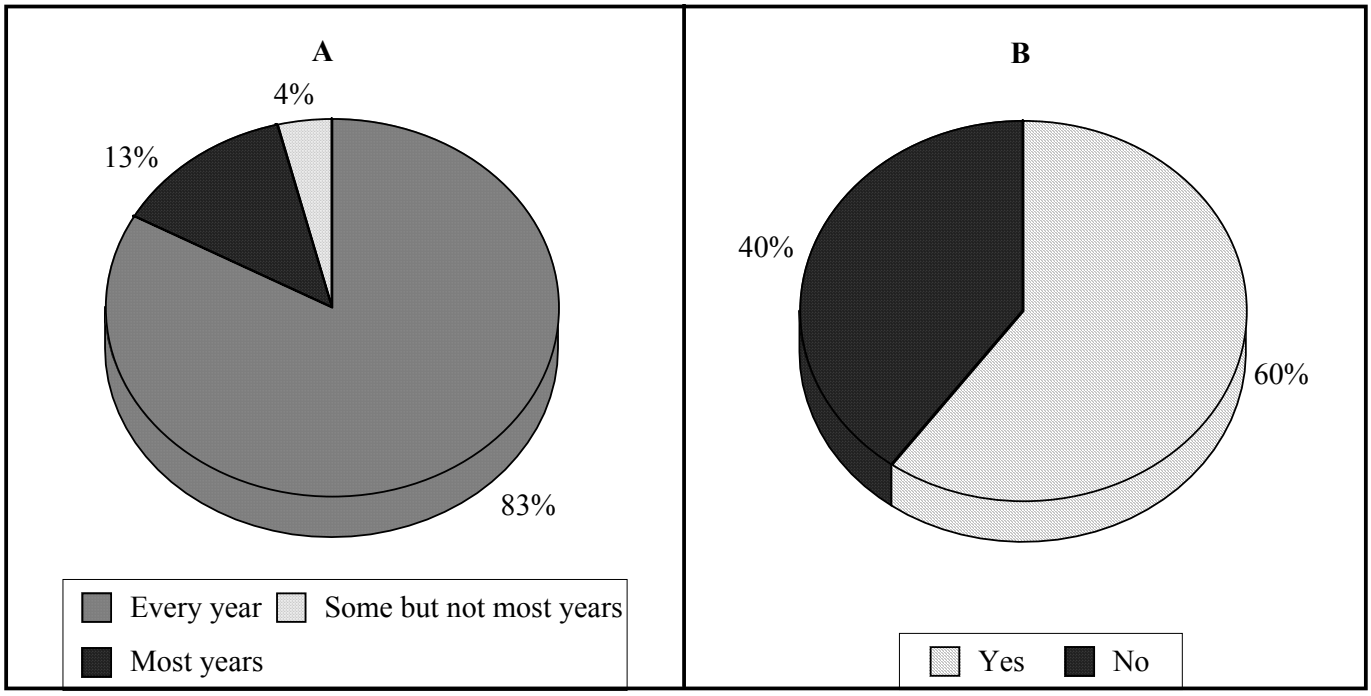

Figure 15. How often respondents hunted for waterfowl (A), and if they didn't hunt ever year do they buy an Illinois Waterfowl Stamp each year (B)?

Nearly one-fourth (23%) of hunters pursued waterfowl in another state during 2002-2003. For Illinois residents, 20% ventured to another state to hunt waterfowl, with the most frequently visited states being Arkansas, Missouri, Wisconsin, North Dakota, Iowa, and Indiana (Figure 16). A majority (61%) of the hunters spent 1 to 20 days preparing for waterfowl hunting (Figure 17), and a plurality (39%) said their waterfowl hunting effort has increased over the past 5 years (Figure 18). The reasons for increasing, or decreasing, hunting effort are listed in Table 30.

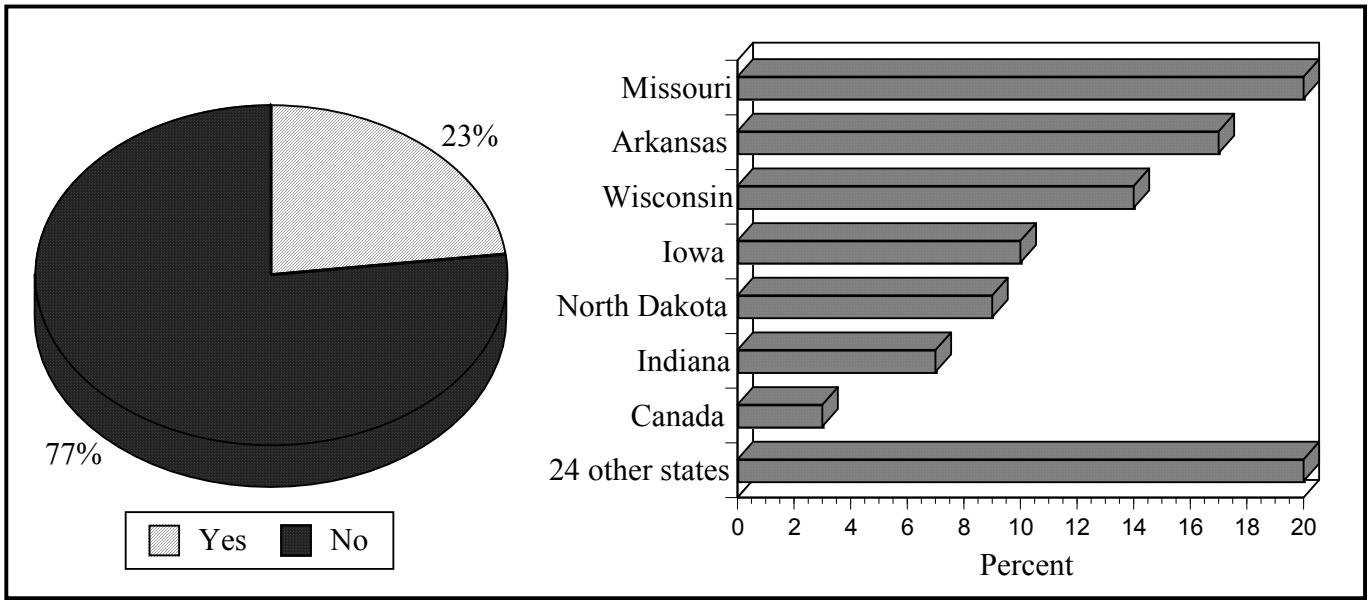

Figure 16. Waterfowl hunters who hunted out of state and the states they hunted.

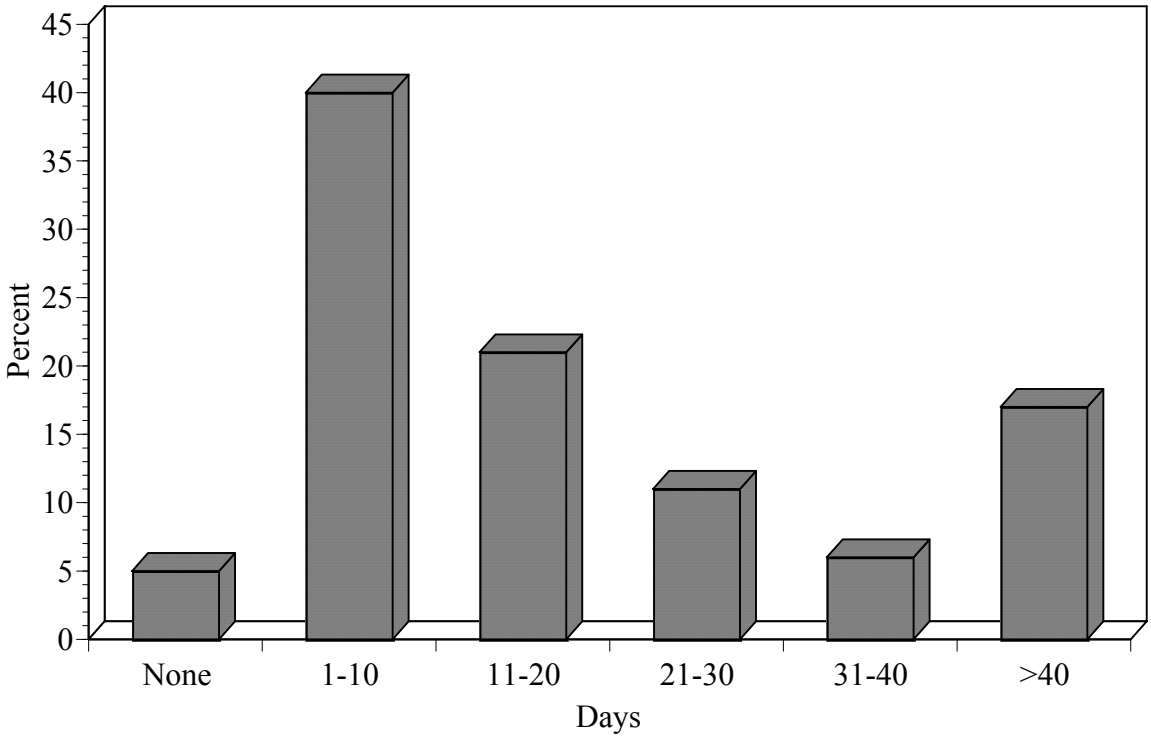

Figure 17. Number of days spent preparing for waterfowl hunting ("preparing" includes training dogs, working on boats, decoys, scouting areas to hunt, etc.).

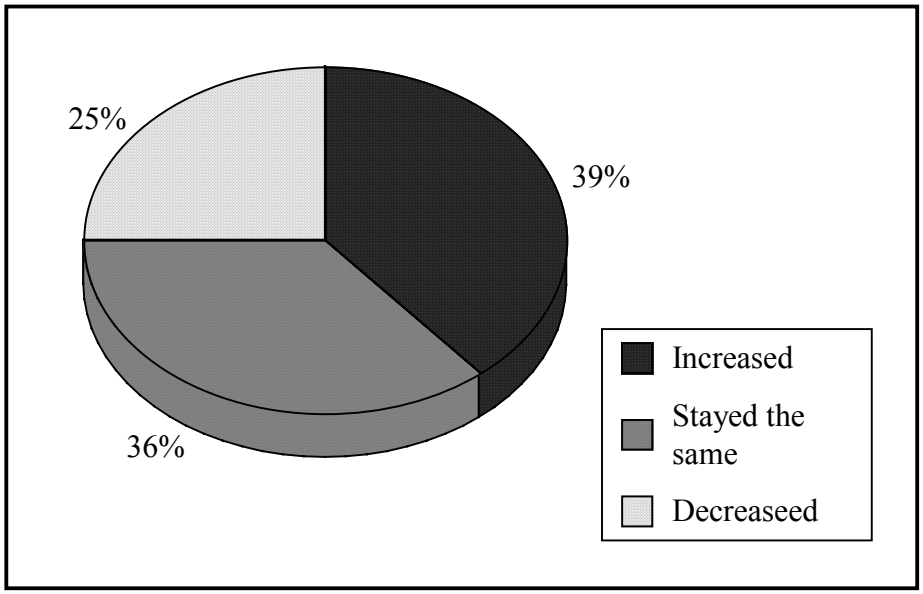

Figure 18. Change in waterfowl hunting effort in the past 5 years.

Background Information

Participants in this survey were primarily in-state residents (94.3%) (Table 31). The remaining 5.7% were non-residents--i.e., were residents of other states. Respondents who hunted waterfowl averaged 43 years of age, with 49% of them being between 31 and 50 years old. Distribution of total years hunting waterfowl and years hunting waterfowl in Illinois are shown in Figure 19. Ninety-eight percent of the hunters, and 94% of all respondents, purchased an Illinois Waterfowl Stamp for the 2002-2003 season (Figure 20). The stamp purchasers bought an average of 1.13 stamps each. Majorities of the resident respondents hunted doves (75%), firearm deer (64%), and pheasants (58%)(Table 32). Opinions of respondents as to how funds from the sales of Illinois Waterfowl Stamps and Federal Migratory Waterfowl Stamps should be used are also summarized in Table 32.

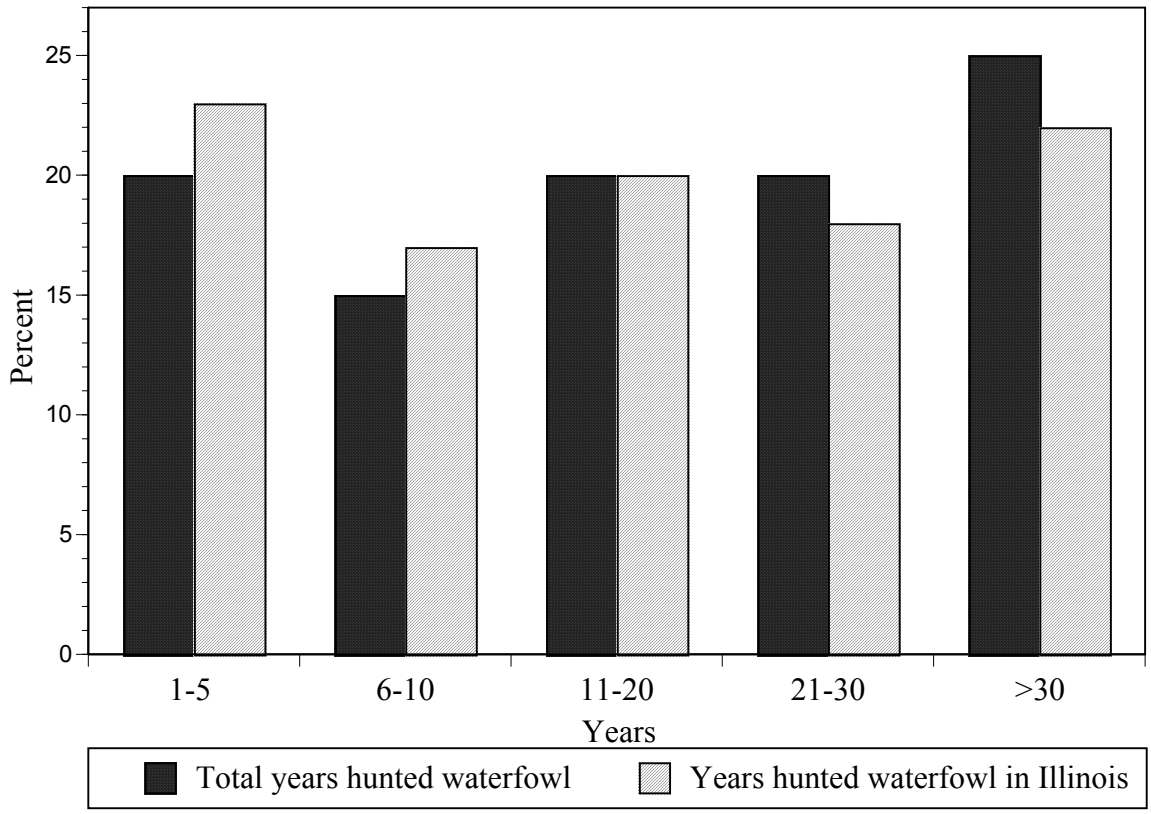

Figure 19. Distribution of total years hunting waterfowl and hunting waterfowl in Illinois.

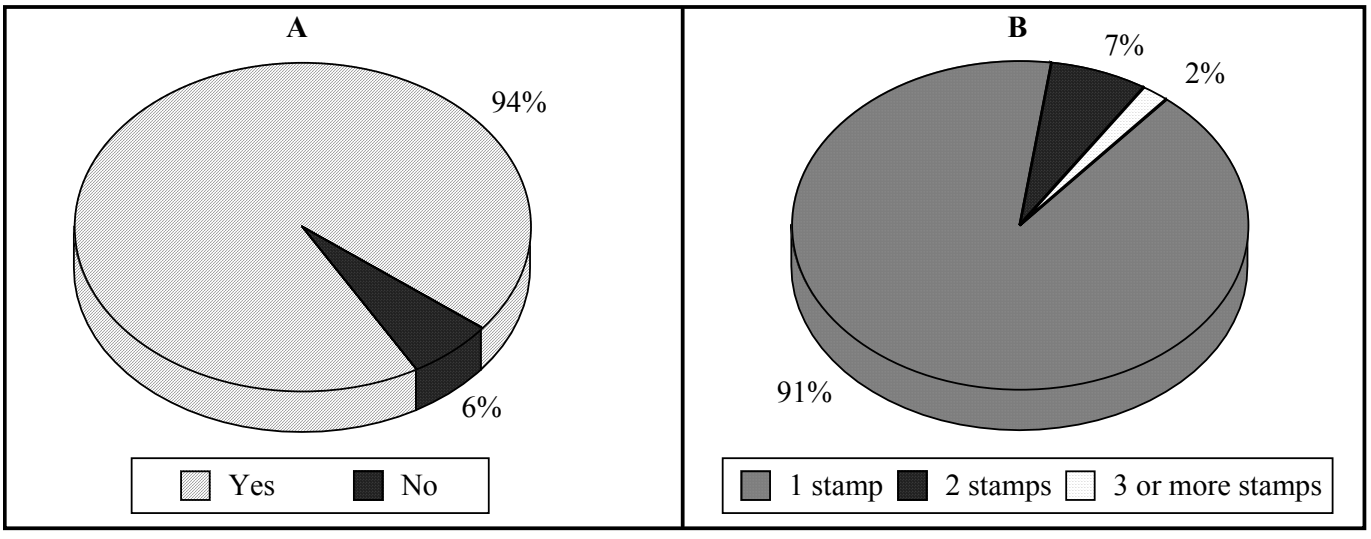

Figure 20. Respondents who purchased an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp during 2002-03 season (A), and how many stamps they purchased (B) (Mean=1.13).

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Table 1. Summary of Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps purchased, hunter activity, and waterfowl harvest in Illinois from 1981 through 2002 hunting seasons.

Season (Year)	Stamps Purchased	Hunters	Days Afield	Waterfowl Harvested[a]
1981	61,929	63,652	874,730	413,264
1982	57,691	58,766	795,807	392,897
1983	56,162	58,240	815,523	475,601
1984	55,250	56,533	748,390	420,357
1985	55,670	56,899	699,113	392,253
1986	59,734	61,876	887,446	467,164
1987	58,803 (5,550)[b]	60,371	814,918	354,194
1988[c]	53,498 (4,350)	53,450	644,056	264,316
1989[c]	55,693 (3,570)	55,709	749,033	322,359
1990[c]	55,009 (2,390)	55,152	708,391	270,796
1991[c]	58,421 (2,130)	59,038	855,279	406,854
1992	51,261 (1,395)	51,274	714,550	292,535
1993	50,976 (995)	51,340	682,498	326,446
1994	57,543 (955)	53,226	816,185	332,803
1995	60,564 (665)	55,454	884,328	498,854
1996	62,417 (545)	56,956	836,793	376,248
1997	59,961 (480)	54,715	881,030	401,236
1998	54,550 (450)	50,288	795,561	471,072
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
2002	61,345 (1,520)	53,428	1,054,047	504,616

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

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

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

Table 2. The percentage of waterfowl hunters who hunted ducks, and the percentage who hunted geese, in Illinois from 1981 through 2002 seasons.

Season (Year)	Percentage Who Hunted: Ducks Only	Geese Only	Both Ducks and Geese	Percentage Who Were: 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
2002	34	10	56	90	66

Table 3. Summary of teal harvest and hunter activity during the September teal season in Illinois from 1981 through 2002.

Year	Hunters	Days Afield	Number of Teal
1981	14,802	38,586	22,946
1982	14,863	41,856	28,785
1983	13,295	39,475	29,355
1984	14,158	39,481	32,730
1985	13,852	36,521	29,260
1986	15,449	40,241	30,375
1987	12,297	32,582	23,193
1988[a]	------	------	------
1989[a]	------	------	------
1990[a]	------	------	------
1991[a]	------	------	------
1992	7,696	18,265	12,069
1993	6,474	16,722	8,562
1994	8,062	20,341	12,436
1995	9,123	24,865	19,731
1996	8,964	22,825	11,565
1997	11,819	32,179	22,005
1998	10,307	33,049	21,270
1999	20,036	74,170	55,199
2000	14,733	52,229	38,597
2001	17,222	61,199	36,013
2002	10,171	29,381	12,542

[a] 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 2002.

	State-wide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone	Unknown
Hunters	10,171	1,860	6,046	1,759	506
Days Afield	29,381	5,359	17,390	5,075	1,557
Teal Harvest	12,542	2,087	7,598	2,361	496

Table 5. Rates of teal harvest and hunter activity during the September teal season in Illinois in 1981 through 2002

Year	Season Length/ Bag Limit	Days Afield Per Hunter	Teal Harvest Per Hunter	
			Per Day	Per Season
1981	9/4	2.61	0.59	1.55
1982	9/4	2.82	0.69	1.94
1983	9/4	2.97	0.74	2.21
1984	9/4	2.79	0.83	2.31
1985	9/4	2.64	0.80	2.11
1986	9/4	2.60	0.75	1.97
1987	9/4	2.65	0.71	1.89
1988[a]	----	----	----	----
1989[a]	----	----	----	----
1990[a]	----	----	----	----
1991[a]	----	----	----	----
1992	9/4	2.37	0.66	1.57
1993	9/4	2.58	0.51	1.32
1994	9/4	2.52	0.61	1.54
1995	9/4	2.73	0.79	2.16
1996	9/4	2.55	0.51	1.29
1997	9/4	2.72	0.68	1.86
1998	16/4	3.21	0.64	2.06
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
2002	9/4	2.89	0.43	1.23

[a] 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, 1996-2002

Characteristic	1996[a]	1997[a]	1998[a]	1999[a]	2000[b]	2001[b]	2002[b]
Adult hunters who took ≥ 1 youths afield	2,749	3,163	3,343	5,505	6,815	9,140	8,498
Youth hunters participating	4,353	4,322	5,142	8,113	10,107	15,148	13,325
Youth days afield	4,353	4,322	5,142	8,113	14,079	22,525	19,548
Mean youths per hunting party	1.58	1.37	1.54	1.47	1.48	1.67	1.57
Waterfowl Harvest							
Total Ducks	3,171	3,451	4,159	5,835	8,388	11,727	9,085
Ducks per youth per day	0.73	0.80	0.81	0.72	0.60	0.52	0.46
Total Coots	230	387	208	629	38	480	271
Coots per youth per day	0.05	0.09	0.04	0.08	<0.01	0.02	0.01
Total Geese[c]	----	----	289	571	882	971	887
Geese per youth per day			0.06	0.07	0.06	0.04	0.05

[a]One day.
[b]Two days.
[c]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 2002.

Season (Year)	Hunters	Days Afield	Number of Ducks				Coots
			Mallards	Wood Ducks	Other Ducks	Total	
1981	54,744	703,534	170,972	72,065	94,947	337,984	4,950
1982	52,220	646,394	163,439	61,706	101,989	327,134	5,905
1983	50,440	651,409	220,317	72,237	110,862	403,416	10,472
1984	49,715	606,325	182,132	52,955	120,016	355,103	7,702
1985	51,362	556,800	168,549	51,216	97,155	316,920	5,773
1986	53,588	638,090	201,676	65,414	112,490	379,580	7,372
1987	51,704	558,172	155,783	58,488	74,748	289,019	2,694
1988[a]	43,233	381,985	119,149	23,743	42,836	185,728	1,936
1989[a]	43,841	407,478	133,128	28,065	63,073	224,266	2,049
1990[a]	38,759	350,119	112,370	33,253	51,562	197,185	2,287
1991[a]	42,911	393,247	177,221	49,556	80,793	307,570	1,101
1992	39,272	362,275	124,112	34,280	58,035	216,427	3,275
1993	40,941	366,656	134,334	39,906	43,360	217,600	1,445
1994	44,447	475,264	137,263	44,683	64,998[b]	246,944	3,880
1995	42,499	482,620	230,505	47,155	99,632[b]	377,292	3,386
1996	44,219	460,517	163,311	38,783	82,431[b]	284,525	3,286
1997	42,587	514,934	145,533	44,678	100,950[b]	291,161	3,935
1998	41,755	517,372	200,030	57,393	129,439[b]	386,862	2,920
1999	51,850	860,368	311,325	69,930	181,650[b]	562,905	3,654
2000	43,810	621,542	271,903	58,604	166,834[b]	497,341	2,206
2001	53,194	797,884	305,180	61,515	167,883[b]	534,578	2,904
2002	47,964	642,542	197,392	46,238	106,213[b]	349,843	1,743

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

[b] Includes 3,760 canvasback in 1994, 5,393 canvasback in 1995, 4,348 canvasback in 1996, 5,800 in 1997, 3,948 in 1998, 4,977 in 1999, 4,231 in 2000, 1,968 in 2001, and 851 in 2002.

Table 8. Duck harvest and hunter activity by waterfowl zones and areas during the regular duck season in Illinois in 2002-03.

Waterfowl Zone	Hunters	Days Afield	Ducks Harvested
North	9,383	104,239	46,258
Central	29,199	407,312	225,800
South			
Carlyle Lake[a]	1,618	21,636	18,084
Rend Lake[b]	1,618	22,870	14,882
SIQZ[c]	2,649	36,074	17,679
Elsewhere	3,336	49,643	26,826
Total	9,221	130,223	77,471
Unknown	161	768	314
Statewide	47,964	642,542	349,843

[a]Bond, Clinton, and Fayette counties.
[b]Franklin and Jefferson counties.
[c]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 2002.

Year	Season Length/ Bag Limit[b]	Days Afield Per Hunter	Duck Harvest Per Hunter[a]	
			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
2002	60/6 (4,1)	13.40	0.54	7.29

[a]Excludes ducks harvested coincidentally to goose hunting.
[b]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 1988-2002.

Table 10. Canada goose harvest and hunter activity during the early September Canada goose season in Illinois, 1997 through 2002.

			Waterfowl Zone				
		Statewide	Northeast[a]	North[b]	Central[b]	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
	2002	12,459	3,079	1,438	6,665	1,135	142
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
	2002	39,485	10,028	4,275	21,049	4,092	41
Canada 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
	2002	21,534	7,165	1,806	11,130	1,433	0

[a] Cook, Du Page, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties (bag limit = 5).
[b] Excluding those counties in the Northeast Zone (bag limit = 2).

Table 11. Summary of goose harvest and hunter activity during the regular goose season in Illinois from 1981-82 through 2002-03.

Season (Year)	Hunters	Days Afield	Number of Geese		
			Canada Geese	Other Geese	Total
1981	23,610	132,610	44,302 (6,312)[a]	3,082 (1,719)	47,384 (8,031)
1982	24,058	107,557	29,574 (4,968)	1,499 (710)	31,073 (5,678)
1983	26,199	124,639	31,395 (4,325)	962 (577)	32,357 (4,902)
1984	22,426	102,583	23,147 (2,859)	1,675 (593)	24,822 (3,452)
1985	22,160	105,792	37,976 (5,248)	2,324 (753)	40,300 (6,001)
1986	30,327	200,291	45,535 (11,348)	2,625 (832)	48,160 (12,180)
1987	32,246	224,164	36,103 (3,563)	1,525 (499)	37,628 (4,062)
1988[b]	34,456	251,176	72,550 (3,871)	1,832 (350)	74,382 (4,221)
1989[b]	39,459	329,369	91,379 (2,988)	1,715 (182)	93,094 (3,170)
1990[b]	40,459	346,036	67,127 (1,515)	1,319 (97)	68,446 (1,612)
1991[b]	43,692	450,807	92,239 (1,245)	2,434 (70)	94,673 (1,315)
1992	35,253	334,010	59,352 (2,679)	1,412 (170)	60,764 (2,849)
1993	35,489	299,120	93,361 (1,260)	1,314 (82)	94,675 (1,342)
1994	37,090	320,580	67,790 (1,895)	1,753 (77)	69,543 (1,972)
1995	37,060	367,341	92,478 (4,034)	3,183 (245)	95,661 (4,279)
1996	36,582	339,253	65,864 (2,527)	4,939[c](114)	70,803 (2,641)
1997	33,498	295,107	61,282 (4,772)	7,572[d](438)	68,854 (5,210)
1998	26,343	202,676	43,222 (2,463)	4,290[e](305)	47,512 (2,968)
1999	42,246	464,769	119,611 (1,846)	14,568[f](152)	134,179(1,998)
2000	37,593	383,367	128,387 (1,406)	16,356[g](0)	144,743(1,406)
2001	39,570	382,102	64,907 (1,761)	18,189[h](263)	83,096(2,024)
2002	35,352	323,091	89,297 (3,259)	19,414[i](1,433)	108,711(4,692)

[a]Number of geese harvested coincidentally to duck hunting.
[b]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.
[c]Includes 4,063 snow/blue geese.
[d]Includes 5,941 snow/blue geese.
[e]Includes 3,734 snow/blue geese.
[f]Includes 12,220 snow/blue geese and 2,173 white-fronted geese.
[g]Includes 14,797 snow/blue geese and 1,131 white-fronted geese.
[h]Includes 15,319 snow/blue geese and 2,579 white-fronted geese.
[i]Includes 16,097 snow geese and 1,413 white-fronted geese.

Table 12. Goose harvest and hunter activity by zones in Illinois, (2002-03 regular season).

Zone	Hunters	Days Afield	Canada Geese	Snow/Blue Geese	White-Fronted Geese	Other Geese	Total Geese
North Non-Quota	4,508	28,786	9,943	78	20	59	10,100
North Quota	5,239	44,306	16,660	26	98	98	16,882
Central Non-Quota	16,906	71,719	21,553	1,561	148	137	23,399
Central Quota	5,478	103,746	22,561	1,623	137	157	24,478
Southern Non-Quota	4,538	33,589	8,902	9,256	657	1,433	20,248
Southern Ouota[a]	4,984	30,976	7,420	1,256	275	20	8,971
Rend Lake Area[b]	1,195	8,549	2,042	2,218	78	0	4,338
Unknown	81	1,420	216	79	0	0	295
Statewide	35,352[c]	323,091	89,297	16,097	1,413	1,904	108,711

[a]Alexander, Jackson, Union, and Williamson counties.
[b]Franklin and Jefferson counties.
[c]The total is less than the sum of the above values because some hunters were active in >1 zone.

Table 13. Canada goose harvest by zone during the regular goose season in Illinois in 2000-01 through 2002-03.

Zone	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	Mean
North Non-Quota	8,395	7,167	9,943	8,502
North Quota	14,705	9,765	16,660	13,710
Central Non-Quota	24,661	13,032	21,553	19,749
Central Quota	20,193	17,600	22,561	20,118
Southern Non-Quota	18,075	7,514	8,902	11,497
Southern Quota	35,815	6,599	7,420	16,611
Rend Lake Quota	6,130	2,606	2,042	3,593
Unknown	413	624	216	417
Statewide	128,387	64,907	89,297	94,197

Table 14. Summary of the number of ducks and geese that were crippled (knocked down but not retrieved) in Illinois from 1981 through 2002 seasons.

	Ducks		Geese	
Year	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[a]	65,856	35.5	22,730	30.6
1989[a]	66,150	29.5	21,696	23.3
1990[a]	59,007	29.9	23,895	34.9
1991[a]	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[b]	22.6	16,641[b]	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
2002	59,005	16.9	6,382	5.9

[a]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.

[b]The 95% confidence intervals were $\pm$ 3,896 for ducks, and $\pm$ 1,054 for geese.

Table 15. Hunter activity during the 2002-03 Conservation Order snow goose season. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Did you hunt during the 2002-03 Conservation Order snow goose season?	
	(3,116)
Yes	8%
No	92
While hunting snow geese, did you have the opportunity to harvest white-fronted (speckle-bellied) geese between the close of Canada goose season and mid-February?	
	(244)
Yes	45%
No	55

Table 16. Preferences of September teal hunters for opening and closing dates of the 2003 teal season. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Do you have any preference for the opening and closing dates of the 2003-04 September teal season?

	State-wide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
	(503)	(92)	(297)	(86)
Yes[a]	67%	70%	71%	42%
No	33	30	29	58

Which of the following options would you prefer for the 2003-04 September teal season?

5-Day Season	(215)	(45)	(130)	(30)
Sept. 6 (Sat.) -10 (Wed.)	26%	40%	19%	30%
Sept. 10 (Wed.) - 14 (Sun.)	32	29	35	27
Sept. 13 (Sat.) - 17 (Wed.)	42	31	46	43
9-Day Season	(326)	(58)	(206)	(49)
Sept. 1 (Mon.) – 9 (Tues.)	16%	26%	12%	16%
Sept. 6 (Sat.) – 14 (Sun.)	41	43	43	33
Sept. 13 (Sat.) – 21 (Sun.)	43	31	45	51

[a]Go to next question.

Table 17. Distribution of duck hunters by zones in Illinois in 2002-03 and 2003-04. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

	n	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
In which zone did you **hunt ducks most often** during 2002-03?	(2,329)	20%	59%	21%
In which zone do you plan to **hunt ducks most often** during the **upcoming 2003-04 season**?	(2,317)	20%	58%	22%

Table 18. Sources of information for duck hunting in Illinois. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Do you use information on duck migrations to determine your duck hunting activities in Illinois?

	(2,372)
Yes	62%
No	38

Which of the following do you use to gather information about duck migrations? Please check all that apply.

	(1,458)
National magazines (Duck Unlimited, etc.)	45%
Information from Illinois DNR	46
List server on email	3
Internet	44
Friends and family	75
Other[a]	7

[a]Newspapers (2%), weather forecast (2%), personal experience (1%), radio (1%), and 8 miscellaneous sources (1%).

Table 19. Did you use a battery-operated rotating-wing decoy while duck hunting in 2002-2003? Sample sizes are in parentheses.

	Statewide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
	(2,372)	(461)	(1,375)	(487)
Yes	68%	55%	74%	66%
No	32	45	26	34

Table 20. Preferences of duck hunters for the opening and closing dates of the 2003-04 duck season in Illinois. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

	Statewide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
Do you have any preference for the opening and closing dates of the 2003-04 duck season?				
	(2,326)	(450)	(1,359)	(480)
Yes[a]	61%	56%	63%	67%
No	39	44	37	33

If you answered "Yes," which would you prefer for 2003-04 Duck Season?

NORTH ZONE: Season Options:

20 Days		30 Days	
	(86)		(89)
Oct. 23 – Nov. 11	23%	Oct. 18. – Nov. 16	20%
Oct. 30- Nov. 18	28	Oct. 25. – Nov. 23	40
Nov. 6 – Nov. 25	27	Nov. 1 – Nov. 30	20
Nov. 13 – Dec. 2	22	Nov. 8 – Dec. 7	20
45 Days		**60 Days**	
	(123)		(208)
Oct. 17 – Nov. 30	35%	Oct 2. – Nov. 30	16%
Oct. 24 – Dec. 8	32	Oct. 9 - Dec. 7	18
Oct. 31 – Dec. 16	19	Oct. 16 – Dec. 15	34
Nov. 7 – Dec 23	14	Oct. 23 – Dec. 22	32

CENTRAL ZONE: Season Options:

20 Days		30 Days	
	(380)		(407)
Nov. 6 – Nov. 25	28%	Nov. 1 – Nov. 30	26%
Nov. 13 – Dec. 2	24	Nov. 8 – Dec. 7	24
Nov. 20 – Dec. 9	17	Nov. 15 – Dec. 14	23
Nov. 27 – Dec.16	31	Nov. 22 – Dec. 21	27
45 Days		**60 Days**	
	(500)		(722)
Oct. 24 – Dec. 7	22%	Oct. 16 – Dec. 14	13%
Oct. 31 – Dec. 14	28	Oct. 23 – Dec. 21	28
Nov. 7 – Dec. 21	26	Oct. 30 – Dec 28	30
Nov.14 – Dec. 28	24	Nov. 6 – Jan. 4	29

Table 20 - continued.

Table 20. Continued - page 2.

SOUTH ZONE: Season Options:

20 Days		30 Days	
	(204)		(120)
Nov. 9 – Dec. 2	13%	Nov. 8 – Dec. 7	11%
Nov. 20 – Dec. 9	13	Nov. 15 – Dec. 14	14
Nov. 27 – Dec.16	21	Nov. 22 – Dec. 21	18
Dec. 4 – Dec. 23	53	Nov. 29 – Dec. 28	57

45 Days		60 Days	
	(150)		(278)
Nov. 7 – Dec. 21	14%	Oct. 30 – Dec. 28	12%
Nov. 14 – Dec. 28	15	Nov. 6 – Jan. 4	13
Nov. 21 - Jan. 4	24	Nov. 13. – Jan. 11	22
Nov. 28 – Jan. 11	47	Nov. 20 – Jan. 18	53

[a]Go to next question.

Table 21. Preferences of duck hunters on selected areas in the Central Zone for the opening and closing dates of the 2003-04 duck season in Illinois. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Do you have a preference for the opening and closing dates of the 2003-04 duck season?

	Miss-Rock River Area[a] (108)	Northeast Illinois[b] (146)	Ill-Miss Confluence[c] (218)
Yes	50%	63%	73%
No	50	37	27

If you answered "Yes", which would you prefer for 2003-04 Duck season? Please check only one item under each season **for the zone where you hunt ducks**.

60 Days	Miss-Rock River Area (38)	Northeast Illinois (76)	Ill-Miss Confluence (138)
Oct. 16 – Dec. 14	42%	9%	12%
Oct. 23 – Dec. 21	32	16	24
Oct. 30 – Dec. 28	10	30	35
Nov. 6 – Jan. 4	16	45	29

[a]Henderson, Mercer, and Rock Island counties.
[b]Grundy, Kankakee, and Will counties.
[c]Calhoun, Greene, Jersey, and Madison counties.

Table 22. Preferences of duck hunters on selected areas in the South Zone for the opening and closing dates of the 2003-04 duck season in Illinois. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Do you have any preference for the opening and closing dates of the 2003-04 duck season?

	Carlyle Lake[a]	Rend Lake[b]
	(79)	(79)
Yes	60%	71%
No	40	29

If you answered "Yes", which would you prefer for 2003-04 Duck season? Please check only one item under each season **for the zone where you hunt ducks**.

60 Days	Carlyle Lake[a]	Rend Lake[b]
	(41)	(46)
Oct. 30 – Dec. 28	15%	9%
Nov. 6 – Jan. 4	31	13
Nov. 13 – Jan. 11	22	24
Nov. 20 – Jan. 18	32	54

[a]Bond, Clinton, and Fayette counties.
[b]Franklin and Jefferson counties.

Table 23. Would you support the IDNR using standardized dates for each zone for duck season? For example, seasons would start on the 3rd Saturday or Thursday of the month, depending on season lengths (20, 30, 45, 60 days). Sample sizes are in parentheses.

	State-wide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
	(2,294)	(448)	(1,142)	(468)
I prefer standardized season dates	24%	30%	24%	19%
I prefer season dates that vary each year	40	31	40	46
I'm willing to accept whatever the DNR determines	36	39	36	35

Table 24. If you did not hunt ducks during the 2002-03 season, what were the reasons? Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Reason	Percentage
	(880)
No place to hunt	28
Poor water conditions	13
Not enough time/Too many other obligations	51
Not enough time to look for a place to hunt	12
Did not get a blind permit	12
Seasons were not convenient	7
Low waterfowl populations	29
Regulations to confusing	6
Too much competition from other hunters	9
Other	10

Table 25. If you hunted geese in the **Southern Illinois Quota Zone** in 2002-03, what type of areas did you hunt? Sample sizes are in parentheses.

County	Hunters	Days Afield	Geese Harvested
Alexander	(35)	(211)	(53)
Non-commercial area	26%	23%	26%
Commercial area	77	77	74
Union	(76)	(474)	(123)
Non-commercial area	36%	36%	48%
Commercial area	78	64	52
Williamson & Jackson	(135)	(1,083)	(241)
Non-commercial area	47%	38%	36%`
Commercial area	67	62	64
Total	(228)	(1,768)	(417)
Non-commercial area	44%	36%	38%
Commercial area	77	64	62

Table 26. Preference of goose hunters for Canada goose season dates in Illinois in 2003-04. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

	Statewide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone	SIQZ
Do you have a preference for the opening of the 2003-2004 Canada goose season?					
	(1,700)	(397)	(932)	(197)	(170)
Yes	59%	54%	60%	70%	57%
No	41	46	40	30	43
If you answered "Yes" to question 11, which 2003-04 Canada goose season option would you prefer for the zone where you hunt waterfowl?					
	(1,000)	(210)	(557)	(136)	(96)
Canada goose season starts with duck season opener and closes when quota is achieved	36%	56%	37%	14%	14%
Canada goose season starts 1-2 weeks after duck season opener and closes when quota is achieved	21	14	20	26	34
Split Canada goose season, starts with duck season opener for a few days, closes for 3 weeks, and then runs until quota is achieved	43	30	43	60	52
If the season were split as indicated above, how long should the first open period last?					
	(864)	(175)	(482)	(126)	(80)
One weekend of duck season	39%	19%	40%	53%	51%
Two weekends of duck season	43	55	41	37	39
Three weekends of duck season	18	26	19	10	10
If the season was split as indicated above, how long should it remain closed before reopening?					
	(861)	(174)	(481)	(125)	(80)
1 week	18%	25%	19%	8%	6%
2 weeks	34	49	34	18	31
3 weeks	32	20	32	44	39
4 weeks	16	6	15	30	24

Table 27. Which of the following options for bag limits would you prefer when Canada goose quotas are low? Sample sizes are in parentheses (Illinois 2002-03).

	Statewide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone	SIQZ
	(1,340)	(298)	(747)	(164)	(130)
2 geese for the entire season and shorter season (quota may be reached earlier than with low bag limits)	38%	49%	37%	22%	38%
1 goose allowed during duck season and 2 geese after duck season closes, with season longer than above	51	37	54	62	51
1 goose for the entire season and longer season than options 1 or 2 (above)	11	14	9	16	11

Table 28. **Attitudes toward waterfowl hunting**. Please give your attitudes toward the following statements by circling the number that matches your response. Sample sizes are in parentheses (Illinois 2002-03).

		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Unsure	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I plan my duck hunting around freeze-up dates in the zone where I hunt.	(2,936)	9%	16%	8%	14%	23%	20%	10%
I prefer a standardized format that sets duck seasons that can be predicted each year.	(2,940)	8	15	11	19	16	22	9
The Canada goose quota is too low in the zone where I hunt.	(2,895)	3	8	6	21	12	20	30
Too much attention is given to duck populations when setting season dates.	(2,927)	10	18	11	22	16	15	8
Duck seasons should be set each year to fall during peak migration.	(2,951)	1	3	4	11	19	33	29
Holding youth hunts the weekend prior to duck season opener decreases the amount of ducks available opening day.	(2,937)	22	27	9	14	9	8	11
Duck season should be set so hunters only harvest surplus portions of the duck population.	(2,938)	8	17	14	24	17	15	5
IDNR should establish a standard framework to set duck seasons so that hunters can plan in advance.	(2,941)	5	13	10	17	22	22	10
It is important to have youth hunts when the most ducks are available before the season begins	(2,952)	6	8	8	15	19	26	18

Table 29. **Waterfowl Hunting Experience**. The following questions are important to help us understand more about the people involved in waterfowl hunting in Illinois (2002-2003). Please tell us something about yourself by responding to the following questions.

How many years total have you hunted waterfowl?

	(N=2,600)
Mean	21 years
Distribution: 1-5 years	20%
6-10 "	15%
11-20 "	20%
21-30 "	20%
>30 "	25%

How many years have you hunted waterfowl in Illinois?

	(N=2,602)
Mean	20 years
Distribution: 1-5 years	23%
6-10 "	17%
11-20 "	20%
21-30 "	18%
>30 "	22%

Which of the following describes how often you hunt waterfowl?

	(N=2,593)
Every year	83%
Most years	13%
Some but not most years	4%

If you don't hunt every year, do you buy an Illinois Waterfowl Stamp each year?

	(N=434)
Yes	60%
No	40%

Table 30. Responses by waterfowl hunters as to whether their hunting effort has increased or decreased (Illinois 2002-2003).

If your hunting effort has increased, has it been due to? (Please check all that apply) (N=1,008)

Hunting partners	64%	Hunting different game species	13%
Availability of places to hunt	50%	More game	12%
Increased free time	42%	Better seasons/regulations	11%
Greater financial resources	39%	Better personal health/fitness	4%
Different equipment	28%	Other[a]	11%

If your hunting effort has decreased, has it been due to: (Please check all that apply) (N=649)

Not enough game/poor migrations	65%	Lack of hunting partners	9%
Difficulty finding a place to hunt close to home	40%	Health/fitness problems	8%
Lack of free time	37%	Lack of financial resources	7%
Unable to be drawn for blind	25%	Lack of interest	6%
Season too short	20%	Too much equipment needed	4%
Too many regulations	13%	Other[b]	14%

[a]More desire to hunt (3%), had to increase effort because of less game (2%), purchased own property (1%), spent more time with son (1%), and 14 miscellaneous reasons (4%).

[b]Bad season dates (5%), early freeze-up (2%), hunt other species (1%), public areas to crowded (1%), and 13 miscellaneous reasons (5%).

Table 31. **Background Information**. The following questions are important to help us understand more about the people involved in waterfowl hunting in Illinois (2002-2003). All responses kept confidential.

What is your county of residence?

Resident of Illinois	2,972 (94%)[a]
Non-resident	178 (6%)[a]

Please give your age.

		All Respondents (N=3,119)	Respondents Who Hunted Waterfowl (N=2,618)
	Mean	43 years	43 years
Distribution: ≤15	years	3%	2%
16-20	"	5%	5%
21-30	"	13%	14%
31-40	"	23%	23%
41-50	"	26%	26%
51-60	"	18%	18%
61-64	"	4%	6%
≥65	"	8%	6%

[a]See Appendix D.

Table 32. Responses by waterfowl hunters to the following questions (Illinois 2002-2003).

Which of the following describes where you feel the majority of funds from the sales of **Illinois State Waterfowl Hunting Stamps** are used? Please choose only One response.

	Residents (N=2,878)	Non-residents (N=169)
Administration expenses (salaries, vehicles, etc.)	26%	19%
Purchase wetlands and other habitat	20%	17%
Create food plots in wintering grounds	6%	8%
Predator control in breeding grounds	3%	2%
Payments to landowners for breeding habitat	2%	2%
Other	2%	1%
Don't know/not sure	41%	51%

Which of the following describes where you feel the majority of funds from the sales of **federal Migratory Waterfowl (Duck) Stamps** are used? Please choose only one response.

	Residents (N=2,877)	Non-residents (N=171)
Purchase wetlands and other habitat	26%	27%
Administration expenses (salaries, vehicles, etc.)	25%	20%
Create food plots in wintering grounds	5%	5%
Payments to landowners for breeding habitat	3%	3%
Predator control in breeding grounds	3%	2%
Other	1%	2%
Don't know/not sure	37%	41%

What other game species do you hunt in Illinois?

	Residents (N=2,785)	Non-residents (N=99)
Firearm deer	64%	14%
Archery deer	43	20
Muzzleloader deer	11	1
Spring turkey	38	8
Doves	75	76
Pheasants	58	22
Rabbits	45	19
Quail	40	21
Crows	15	12
Squirrels	46	16
Groundhogs	3	2
Furbearers (raccoon, fox, coyote)	23	7

Appendix A

Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey

2002 – 2003 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.

Section 1. Waterfowl Harvest and Days Afield. Please complete this questionnaire for the past hunting season (September 2002 - March 2003). 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 2002-2003 season?

_____ Yes (Please report harvest in following tables) _____ No (please go to **question 3**)

DUCK HUNTING

- **Record harvest under the species listed**
- **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

- **Record harvest under the species listed**
- **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 (NOT Sept. season)	Snow/Blue/Ross' Geese (reg. season only)	White-fronted (Specklebelly) Geese	Other Geese	Geese downed but not retrieved

2. Did you hunt in the **Southern Illinois Quota Zone** during the 2002-2003 season?

_____ Yes
_____ No (Go to question 3)

2a. If you hunted in the **Southern Illinois Quota Zone** during the 2002-2003 season, what type of areas did you hunt?

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

3. If you **did not** hunt ducks during the 2002-2003 season, what were the reasons? Please check all that apply:

____ No place to hunt
____ Poor water conditions
____ Not enough time /Too many other obligations
____ Not enough time to look for a place to hunt
____ Did not get a blind permit
____ Seasons were not convenient
____ Low waterfowl populations
____ Regulations too confusing
____ Too much competition from other hunters
____ Other (please explain): _____

4. Do you use information on duck migrations to determine your duck hunting activities in Illinois?

_____ Yes (Please go to 4a.)
_____ No

4a. Which of the following do you use to gather **information** about **duck migrations**? Please check all that apply.

_____ national magazines (Ducks Unlimited, etc.)
_____ information from Illinois DNR
_____ list server on email
_____ internet
_____ friends and family
_____ other (Please identify): _____

5. In which zone did you **hunt ducks most often** during 2002-03? Please check only **ONE response**.

_____ North Zone _____ Central Zone _____ South Zone

6. In which zone do you plan to **hunt ducks most often** during the **upcoming 2003-04 season**? Please check only **ONE response**.

_____ North Zone _____ Central Zone _____ South Zone

7. Do you have any preference for the opening and closing dates of the 2003-04 duck season?

_____ Yes, there are dates I prefer for the up-coming duck season (Go to question 8)
_____ No, I am willing to accept whatever duck season dates are determined by IDNR (Go to question 9)

8. If you answered "Yes" to question 7, which would you prefer for 2003-04 **DUCK season**? Please **check only one item** under each season **for the zone where you hunt ducks**.

NORTH ZONE: Season Options:

20 Days	30 Days	45 Days	60 Days
____ Oct. 23 – Nov. 11	____ Oct. 18 – Nov. 16	____ Oct. 17 – Nov. 30	____ Oct. 2 – Nov. 30
____ Oct. 30 – Nov. 18	____ Oct. 25 – Nov. 23	____ Oct. 24 – Dec. 8	____ Oct. 9 – Dec. 7
____ Nov. 6 – Nov. 25	____ Nov. 1 – Nov. 30	____ Oct. 31 – Dec. 16	____ Oct. 16 – Dec. 15
____ Nov. 13 – Dec. 2	____ Nov. 8 – Dec. 7	____ Nov. 7 – Dec. 23	____ Oct. 23 – Dec. 22

CENTRAL ZONE: Season Options:

20 Days	30 Days	45 Days	60 Days
____ Nov. 6 – Nov. 25	____ Nov. 1 – Nov. 30	____ Oct. 24 – Dec. 7	____ Oct. 16 – Dec. 14
____ Nov. 13 – Dec. 2	____ Nov. 8 – Dec. 7	____ Oct. 31 – Dec. 14	____ Oct. 23 – Dec. 21
____ Nov. 20 – Dec. 9	____ Nov. 15 – Dec. 14	____ Nov. 7 – Dec. 21	____ Oct. 30 – Dec. 28
____ Nov. 27 – Dec. 16	____ Nov. 22 – Dec. 21	____ Nov. 14 – Dec. 28	____ Nov. 6 – Jan. 4

SOUTH ZONE: Season Options:

20 Days	30 Days	45 Days	60 Days
____ Nov. 9 – Dec. 2	____ Nov. 8 – Dec. 7	____ Nov. 7 – Dec. 21	____ Oct. 30 – Dec. 28
____ Nov. 20 – Dec. 9	____ Nov. 15 – Dec. 14	____ Nov. 14 – Dec. 28	____ Nov. 6 – Jan. 4
____ Nov. 27 – Dec. 16	____ Nov. 22 – Dec. 21	____ Nov. 21 – Jan. 4	____ Nov. 13 – Jan. 11
____ Dec. 4 – Dec. 23	____ Nov. 29 – Dec. 28	____ Nov. 28 – Jan. 11	____ Nov. 20 – Jan. 18

9. Did you take a youth hunting during the 2002 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days?

_____ Yes

_____ No

9a. If you answered "Yes," how many youths did you take? _____ youths

9b. Did the youth hunt both of the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days?

_____ Yes

_____ No

9c. If "No," which day did the youth hunt? _____ first day only _____ second day only

9d. How many waterfowl did the youth harvest?

_____ ducks 1st day _____ geese 1st day _____ coots 1st day

_____ ducks 2nd day _____ geese 2nd day _____ coots 2nd day

10. Did you use a battery-operated rotating-wing decoy while duck hunting in 2002-2003?

_____ Yes

_____ No

11. Do you have a preference for the opening of the 2003-04 Canada goose season?

_____ Yes, there are dates I prefer for the up-coming Canada goose season

_____ No, I am willing to accept whatever Canada goose season dates are determined by IDNR

11a. If you answered "Yes" to question 11, which 2003-04 Canada goose season option would you prefer **for the zone where you hunt waterfowl**? Please check only **ONE** response.

_____ Canada goose season starts with duck season opener and closes when quota is achieved

_____Canada goose season starts 1-2 weeks after duck season opener and closes when quota is achieved

_____Split Canada goose season, starts with duck season opener for a few days, closes for 3 weeks, and then runs until quota is achieved

11b. If the season were split as indicated above, how long should the first open period last?

_____One weekend of duck season

_____Two weekends of duck season

_____Three weekends of duck season

11c. If the season was split as indicated above, how long should it remain closed before reopening?

_____ 1 week

_____ 2 weeks

_____ 3 weeks

_____ 4 weeks

11d. Which of the following options for bag limits would you prefer when quotas are low?

_____ 2 geese for the entire season and shorter season (quota may be reached earlier than with low bag limits)

_____ 1 goose allowed during duck season and 2 geese after duck season closes, with season longer than above

_____ 1 goose for the entire season and longer season than options 1 or 2 (above)

12. Would you support the IDNR using standardized dates for each zone for duck season? For example, seasons would start on the 3rd Saturday or Thursday of the month, depending on season lengths (20, 30, 45, 60 days).

Please choose **ONE** option below:

_____ I prefer standardized season dates

_____ I prefer season dates that vary each year (within federal regulations and based on hunter preference)

_____ I'm willing to accept whatever the IDNR determines is best for hunters

Section 2. September Waterfowl Seasons. Please answer the following questions regarding September waterfowl hunting in Illinois.

1. Did you hunt Canada geese during the **September season** (September 1 – 15, 2002)?

_____ Yes

_____ No

2. If you answered "Yes" to question 1, please give the number of days, counties, and harvest for **September 2002 Canada goose season.**

Days Hunted	County	Geese Harvested

3. Did you hunt teal during the 2002 September teal season?

_____ Yes

_____ No

3a. If "Yes," please state how many days you hunted and teal harvested in the 2002 September teal season.

_____ Days hunted

_____ Teal harvested

4. Do you have any preference for the opening and closing dates of the 2003-04 teal season?

_____ Yes, there are dates I prefer for the up-coming teal season (Go to question 4a)

_____ No, I am willing to accept whatever teal season dates are determined by IDNR (Go to Section 3)

4a. Which of the following season options would you prefer for the 2003-04 September teal season? Please choose **one** option for **each season** listed below.

5-day season

_____ 1) Sept. 6 (Sat.) – 10 (Wed.)

_____ 2) Sept. 10 (Wed.) – 14 (Sun.)

_____ 3) Sept. 13 (Sat.) – 17 (Wed.)

9-day season

_____ 1) Sept. 1 (Mon.) – 9 (Tues.)

_____ 2) Sept. 6 (Sat.) – 14 (Sun.)

_____ 3) Sept. 13 (Sat.) – 21 (Sun.)

Section 3. Conservation Order Snow Goose Season Please answer the following questions regarding conservation order snow goose hunting in Illinois.

1. Did you hunt during the 2002-2003 Conservation Order snow goose season?

_____ Yes

_____ No

2. While hunting snow geese, did you have the opportunity to harvest white-fronted (speckle-bellied) geese between the close of Canada goose season and mid-February?

_____ Yes

_____ No

Section 4. Attitudes toward waterfowl hunting. Please give your attitudes toward the following statements by circling the number that matches your response.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Unsure	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I plan my duck hunting around freeze-up dates in the zone where I hunt.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I prefer a standardized format that sets duck seasons that can be predicted each year.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
The Canada goose quota is too low in the zone where I hunt.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Too much attention is given to duck populations when setting season dates.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Duck seasons should be set each year to fall during peak migration.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Holding youth hunts the weekend prior to duck season opener decreases the amount of ducks available opening day.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Duck season should be set so hunters only harvest surplus portions of the duck population.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
IDNR should establish a standard framework to set duck seasons so that hunters can plan in advance.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
It is important to have youth hunts when the most ducks are available before the season begins	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Section 5. Waterfowl Hunting Experience. 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 responding to the following questions.

1. How many years total have you hunted waterfowl? _____ years

2. How many years have you hunted waterfowl in Illinois? _____ years

3. Which of the following describes how often you hunt waterfowl? Choose one.

_____ every year _____ most years _____ some but not most years

3a. If you don't hunt every year, do you buy an Illinois Waterfowl Stamp each year? _____ Yes

_____ No

4. Did you hunt waterfowl in a state other than Illinois during the 2002-2003 waterfowl season?

_____ Yes What state(s) did you hunt? _____

_____ No

5. Approximately how many days do you spend preparing for waterfowl hunting ("preparing" includes training dogs, working on boats, decoys, etc., scouting areas to hunt, etc.)?

_____ none _____ 11-20days _____ 31-40 days

_____ 1-10 days _____ 21-30 days _____ More than 40 days

6. In the **past 5 years** has your waterfowl hunting effort:

_____ Increased _____ Stayed the same _____ Decreased

7. If your **hunting effort** has **increased**, has it been due to: (Please check all that apply)

_____ increased free time _____ more game

_____ greater financial resources _____ hunting partners

_____ better seasons/regulations _____ availability of places to hunt

_____ better personal health/fitness _____ hunting different game species

_____ different equipment _____ other (please explain):_____

8. If your **hunting effort** has **decreased**, has it been due to: (Please check all that apply)

_____ lack of free time _____ not enough game/poor migrations

_____ lack of financial resources _____ lack of hunting partners

_____ too many regulations _____ difficulty finding a place to hunt close to home

_____ health/fitness problems _____ lack of interest

_____ too much equipment needed _____ season too short

_____ unable to be drawn for blind _____ other (please explain):_____

Section 6. Background Information. The following questions are important to help us understand more about the people involved in waterfowl hunting in Illinois. All responses kept confidential.

1. What is your county of residence? _____ County

2. Please give your age. _____ years

3 Did you purchase an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp during the 2002-03 season?

_____ Yes How many? _____

_____ No

4. Which of the following describes where you feel the **majority of funds** from the sales of **Illinois STATE Waterfowl Hunting Stamps** are used? Please choose only **ONE** response.

_____ administration expenses (salaries, vehicles, etc.)
_____ create food plots in wintering grounds
_____ payments to landowners for breeding habitat
_____ don't know/not sure
_____ purchase wetlands and other habitat
_____ predator control in breeding grounds
_____ other (Please identify): _____

5. Which of the following describes where you feel the **majority of funds** from the sales of **federal Migratory Waterfowl (Duck) Stamps** are used? Please choose only **ONE** response.

_____ administration expenses (salaries, vehicles, etc.)
_____ create food plots in wintering grounds
_____ payments to landowners for breeding habitat
_____ don't know/not sure
_____ purchase wetlands and other habitat
_____ predator control in breeding grounds
_____ other (Please identify): _____

6. What other game species do you hunt in Illinois?

_____ firearm deer
_____ archery deer
_____ muzzleloader deer
_____ spring turkey
_____ doves
_____ pheasants
_____ rabbits
_____ quail
_____ crows
_____ squirrels
_____ groundhogs
_____ furbearers (raccoon, fox, coyote)

COMMENTS

This study is funded through federal Wildlife Restoration dollars
through your purchase of hunting arms and ammunition.

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.

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 2002-2003 season. Please complete and return the enclosed questionnaire about your waterfowl harvest and activities in Illinois during the 2002-2003 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 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. 7-Sept. 15 (Statewide)	Sunrise to Sunset	4	8
Ducks (except canvasbacks)	**North Zone** Oct. 17-Dec. 15	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	**6** (See section on Bag Limits)	2 x daily bag limit
Mergansers	**Central Zone** Oct. 24-Dec. 22		5 (See section on Bag Limits)	2 x daily bag limit
Coots	**South Zone** Nov. 7-~~Dec.~~ Jan 5		15	30
Early Canada Geese	Sept. 1-Sept. 15 (Northeast Zone only)		5[a]	10
Early Canada Geese	Sept. 1-Sept. 15 (North, Central & South Zones[b])		2[a]	4

[a] 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.
[b] Includes Southern IL Quota Zone.

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS*

SPECIES	DATES	HOURS	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Ducks	**North Zone** Oct. 12-13 **Central Zone** Oct. 19-20 **South Zone** Oct. 26-27	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	**6** (See section on Bag Limits)
Mergansers			5 (See section on Bag Limits)
Coots			15
Canada Geese			2
Snow Geese			20
White-fronted Geese			2
Brants			1

***Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day Regulations**

1. 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.
2. Only geese, ducks, mergansers and coots may be taken in addition to other game in season.
3. 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 1 hen mallard)** and not more than 3 scaup, 2 wood ducks, 2 redheads, and not more than 1 black duck. **Canvasback and pintail season is closed.** 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.

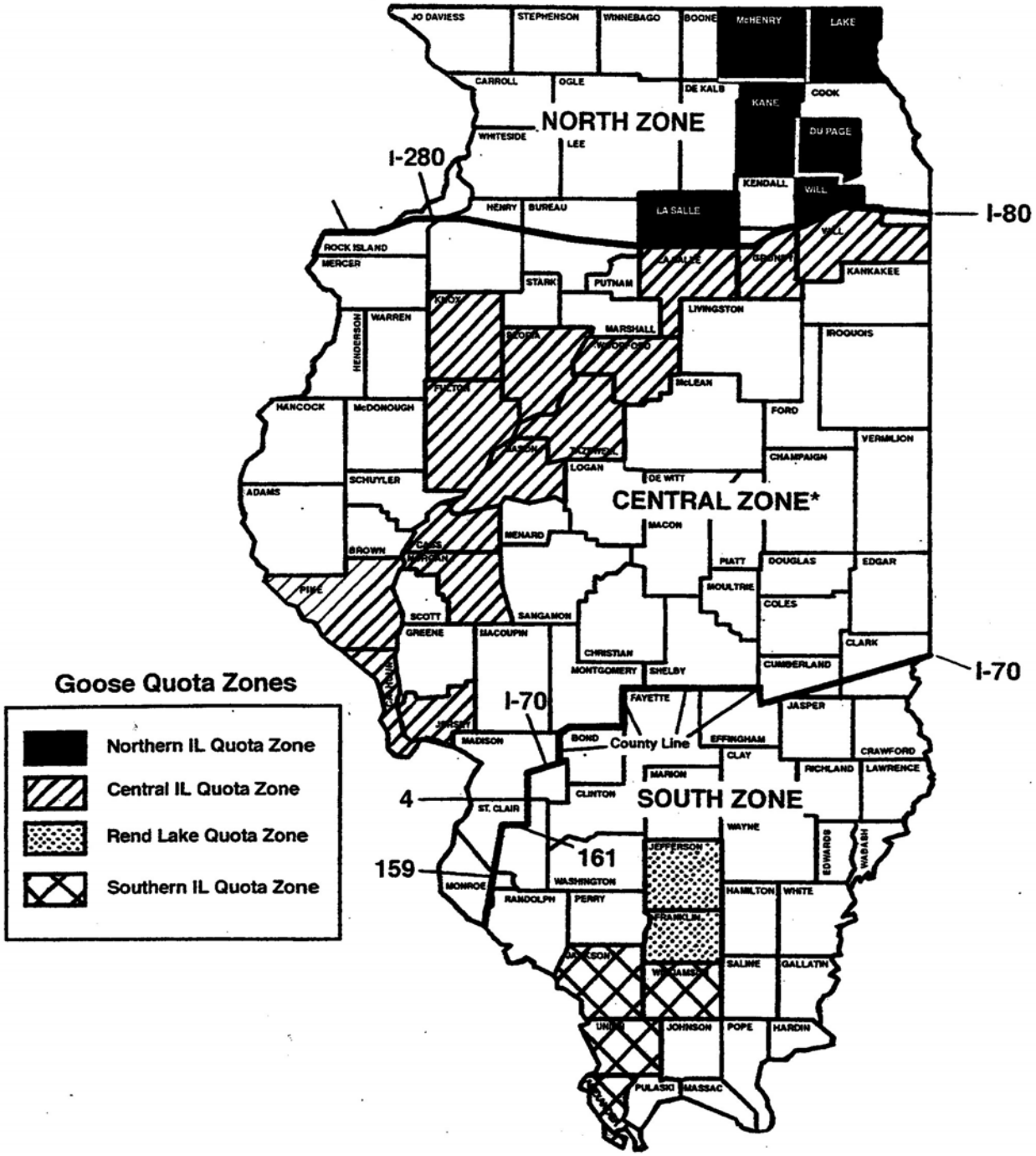
GEESE

	DATES (Inclusive)	HOURS	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Canada Geese (a)				
North & Northern IL Quota Zone	Oct. 17-Jan. 4	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	2	10
Central & Central IL Quota Zone	Oct. 24-Oct. 27 & Nov. 17-Jan. 31			
South Zone (includes Franklin & Jefferson Counties)	Nov. 7-Nov. 10 & Dec. 7-Jan. 31	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset		
Southern IL Quota Zone		1/2 hour before sunrise to 3 p.m(b)		
Snow/Blue & Ross' Geese and Brant (a)				
North & Northern IL Quota Zone	Oct. 17-Jan. 4	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	20 Snow/Blue & Ross' Geese 1 Brant	Unlimited Snow/Blue & Ross' Geese 2 Brant
Central & Central IL Quota Zone	Oct. 24-Jan. 31			
South Zone (includes Franklin & Jefferson Counties)	Nov. 7-Jan. 31			
Southern IL Quota Zone	Nov. 7-Jan. 31	1/2 hour before sunrise to 3 p.m(b)		
White-fronted Geese (a)				
North & Northern IL Quota Zone	Oct. 17-Jan. 4	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	2	4
Central & Central IL Quota Zone	Oct. 24-Oct. 27 & Nov. 17-Jan. 31			
South Zone (includes Franklin & Jefferson Counties)	Nov. 7-Nov. 10 & Dec. 7-Jan. 31			
Southern IL Quota Zone	Nov. 7-Nov. 10 & Dec. 7-Jan. 31	1/2 hour before sunrise to 3 p.m(b)		

(a) **Early Goose Season Closure.** 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; **and Southern Illinois Quota Zone will close the South Zone (including Franklin & Jefferson Counties).**

(b) During Jan. 29, 30 and 31 hunting hours end at sunset.

Illinois Waterfowl Zones



Goose Quota Zones

- Northern IL Quota Zone
- Central IL Quota Zone
- Rend Lake Quota Zone
- Southern IL Quota Zone

Appendix D

Number of waterfowl hunters by county (Illinois residents) or state (non-residents) of residence, 2002-03.

County	Number of Hunters	County	Number of Hunters	County	Number of Hunters
Cook	149	Cass	20	Moultrie	5
Madison	123	Marshall	20	Scott	5
Peoria	118	Montgomery	19	Warren	5
St Clair	91	Putnam	19	Washington	5
Will	90	De Kalb	17	Wayne	5
Lake	87	Fayette	17	Edwards	4
Tazewell	87	Kendall	16	Brown	3
Fulton	74	Schuyler	16	Clark	3
McHenry	73	Morgan	15	Coles	3
Adams	62	Randolph	15	Piatt	3
LaSalle	62	Stephenson	15	Pope	3
DuPage	60	Carroll	14	Pulaski	3
Kane	50	Christian	14	Richland	3
Sangamon	48	Hancock	14	Stark	3
Macoupin	45	Johnson	14	White	3
Calhoun	44	Pike	14	Cumberland	2
Rock Island	44	Vermilion	14	Edgar	2
Williamson	39	Massac	13	Wabash	2
McLean	39	Jo Daviess	12	Crawford	1
Mason	35	Livingston	12	Gallatin	1
Winnebago	35	Ogle	12	Hamilton	1
Jackson	34	Lee	11	Hardin	0
Macon	33	Mercer	11	Total	2,496
Franklin	32	Alexander	10		
Perry	32	Iroquois	10		
Henderson	29	Menard	10	Non-residents	
Knox	29	Boone	9		
Grundy	28	DeWitt	9	Missouri	49
Champaign	27	Logan	8	Iowa	30
Kankakee	27	Shelby	8	Indiana	25
Clinton	26	Bond	7	Wisconsin	10
Woodford	26	Effingham	7	Kentucky	9
Monroe	25	McDonough	7	Tennessee	4
Bureau	24	Saline	7	Ohio	3
Whiteside	24	Douglas	6	Arizona	2
Greene	23	Clay	5	Texas	2
Jefferson	23	Ford	5	Others[a]	10
Jersey	23	Jasper	5	Total	144
Union	23	Lawrence	5		
Henry	21	Marion	5		

[a]One each from Alabama, Arkansas, California, Florida, Idaho, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New York, and Pennsylvania.