*Human*Dimensions
Research Program

ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Results of the 2003-2004 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey

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SPORT FISH & WILDLIFE RESTORATION

September 24, 2004

RESULTS OF THE 2003-2004 ILLINOIS WATERFOWL HUNTER SURVEY

JOB COMPLETION REPORT

WILDLIFE HARVEST AND

HUMAN DIMENSIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NUMBER: W-112-R-13
STUDY 101
JOB NO. 101.3

Prepared by
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Illinois Natural History Survey
Champaign, IL

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Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration
W-112-R-13

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ABSTRACT

A total of 2,703 (59%) potential Illinois waterfowl hunters returned questionnaires for the 2003-04 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. The respondents included 2,343 individuals who purchased a 2003-04 Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp, of which 2,108 (90%) hunted waterfowl in Illinois in 2003-04. The hunters reported spending 1,251,974 days afield, an increase of 19% from the 1,054,047 days expended during the 2002-03 license year. The waterfowl harvest increased 29% from 504,616 birds during 2002-03 to 650,906 during 2003-04. Duck harvest estimates were as follows: 285,011 mallards, 48,023 wood ducks, and 153,165 other ducks. A total of 20,453 teal were harvested during the early (September) teal season. Goose hunters harvested 83,207 Canada geese during the regular Canada goose season. Attitudes of hunters toward duck season dates, teal season dates, and waterfowl management practices were profiled, as were waterfowl hunting experience and background information for waterfowl hunters.

OBJECTIVE

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

METHODS

A sample of 4,984 potential waterfowl hunters were systematically selected from the population of residents and non-residents who registered with the National Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP) in Illinois the previous year (2002-03). Beginning in early March 2004, the recipients 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 season dates, management practices, and related issues. The recipients were sent a follow-up postcard 10 days later, thanking them for returning their survey questionnaire and reminding nonrespondents to return the completed questionnaire. Nonrespondents were sent a second questionnaire 10 days after the postcard reminder, followed 10 days later with another postcard. The questionnaire was not deliverable to 393 recipients, thus the mailing list was reduced to 4,591 individuals. A total of 2,703 (58.9%) questionnaires were returned, of which 2,343 were from respondents who purchased an Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp for the 2003-04 season. The stamp purchasers included 2,108 (90%) individuals who hunted waterfowl in Illinois in 2003-04. Estimates of number of hunters, days afield, and waterfowl harvested were based on a projected sale of 61,991 Illinois Migratory Waterfowl stamps for 2003-04, and 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 increased from 9 days in 2002 to 16 days in 2003; 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 126,400 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 53,428 during the 2002-03 season to 57,985 during the 2003-04 season, which represents a 8.5% increase in hunters (Table 1). Hunters reported spending 1,251,974 days afield in 2003-04, an increase of 19% from the 1,054,047 days recorded for 2002-03. The waterfowl harvest increased 29% from 504,616 during 2002-03 to 650,906 during 2003-04. One-third (32%) of the hunters hunted ducks only, whereas 13% hunted geese only, and 55% hunted both ducks and geese (Table 2).

September Teal Season

The number of early (September) teal hunters increased 3.5% from 10,171 during 2002-03 to 10,522 during 2003-04 (Table 3). Days afield increased 17% from 29,381 during 2002-03 to 34,505 during 2003-04. The 2003-04 hunters harvested 20,453 blue-winged teal (*Anas discors)*/green-winged teal (*A. crecca*), an increase of 63% compared to the previous year's harvest. The Central Zone accounted for more than one-half of the teal hunters (59%), their days afield (61%), and harvest (61%) (Table 4). Statewide, teal hunters averaged 3.28 days afield in 2003-04, and they harvested an average of 0.59 teal per hunter per day and 1.94 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 2003, the same as in 2000--2002. From 1996 through 1999, only 1 day was designated specifically for youths. The number of adults and youths who participated in the program decreased 13% and 14%, respectively from 2002 to 2003 (Table 6). However, the

youth waterfowl harvest (ducks, geese, and coots combined) was essentially the same in 2003 (10,478 birds) as in 2002 (10,243 birds).

Regular Duck Season

The number of duck hunters increased by 2,694 (6%) from 47,964 during 2002-03 to 50,658 during 2003-04 (Table 7). Duck hunters spent 738,914 days afield during 2003-04, an increase of 15% from the 642,542 days reported during 2002-03. The mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) harvest increased by 87,619 birds (44%) from 197,392 during 2002-03 to 285,011 during 2003-04. Harvest of wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) increased by 1,785 (4%) from 46,238 during the 2002-03 season to 48,023 in 2003-04. Harvest of other ducks increased by 44%, from 106,213 in 2002-03 to 153,165 during the 2003-04 season. Total duck harvest during 2003-04 was 486,199, which is 39% greater than the 349,843 ducks reported for 2002-03. The 2003-04 duck harvest is presented by waterfowl zones and selected areas in Table 8. Statewide, the duck harvest per hunter per day increased from 0.54 in 2002-03 to 0.66 in 2003-04, and duck harvest per hunter per season increased from 7.29 in 2002-03 to 9.60 in 2003-04 (Table 9).

Coot (*Fulica americana*) harvest changed little from 2002-03 to 2003-04, being, 1,743 and 1,693 birds, respectively (Table 7).

Early September Goose Season

An estimated 14,973 hunters participated in the early September Canada goose season in Illinois during 2003-04 (Table 10). The majority (52%) of these hunters (7,761) were active in the Central Zone. They harvested 15,267 Canada geese throughout Illinois during the early season, with 7,103 (47%) of them being taken in the Central Zone. From 2002-03 to 2003-04,

the number of September Canada goose hunters increased 20% (from 12,459 to 14,973), and their days afield increased 29% (from 39,485 to 51,083). However, the September harvest of Canada geese decreased 29% (from 21,534 to 15,267).

Regular Goose Season

Canada goose harvest during the regular goose season decreased 7% from 2002-03 to 2003-04 despite an 11% increase in hunters (Table 11). In 2003-04, an estimated 39,275 hunters spent 409,487 days afield, and they harvested 83,207 Canada geese. The Central Quota Zone and the Central Non-Quota Zone accounted for 45% of the Canada goose harvest (Table 12). Illinois' Canada goose harvest is summarized by zone and year (2001-02 though 2003-04) in Table 13. The statewide quota was 126,400 Canada geese in 2003-04.

Goose hunters also harvested 10,458 "other" geese during the regular goose season in 2003-04, of which 7,627 were snow/blue geese and 2,831 were white-fronted geese (Table 14). The harvest of all geese during the regular goose season in 2003-04 totaled 116,816 birds. In comparison, the harvest of geese during the regular goose season totaled 108,711 birds in 2002-03 (Table 11).

Conservation Order Snow Goose Season

Nine percent of the respondents to this survey said they hunted during the 2003-04 Conservation Order snow goose season (Table 15). This percentage equates to 5,219 hunters. A slight majority (53%) of these hunters thought the Conservation Order should be delayed to allow white-fronted goose hunting until mid-February (Table 15).

Crippling Loses

Crippling losses (birds knocked down but not retrieved) were estimated at 77,361 ducks and 12,661 geese in Illinois during the 2003-04 season (Table 16). These estimates, which are considered to be indices and not actual numbers, equate to 15.9 ducks and 10.8 geese lost per 100 harvested. It is noteworthy that crippling loss rates were lower in 1999 through 2003 than in previous years.

Hunter Behavior, Attitudes, and Characteristics

September Teal

Sixty percent of the September teal hunters have a preference for the opening and closing dates of the 2004 teal season (Table 17). With a 5-day season, a plurality (42%) of these hunters prefer that the season open on September 15. With either a 9-day or 16-day season, a plurality (49%) or a majority (63%) prefers September 11 for the opener. As might be expected, hunters in the South Zone favor a later season than hunters in the North and Central Zones.

Duck Season

Duck Hunting Zones. When asked in which zone they hunted ducks most often during the 2003-04 season, 20% of the duck hunters said the North Zone, 54% the Central Zone, and 26% the South Zone (Table 18). In comparison, based on the 1st county respondents listed in Section 1 of the questionnaire, 19% of the duck hunters were active in the North Zone, 57% were active in the Central Zone, and 24% were active in the South Zone.

Roboducks. Two-thirds (67%) of the duck hunters reported using battery-operated rotating-wing decoys during the 2003-04 season (Table 19). Use of such decoys was highest in

the Central Zone (74%) and lowest in the North Zone (55%). In comparison, 61%, 76%, and 68% of Illinois' duck hunters used battery-operated rotating-wing decoys in 2000-2001, 2001-02, and 2002-03, respectively (Miller et al. 2004). Eighty-three percent of the hunters who used battery-operated rotating-wing decoys in 2003-04 used them at least half the time (Table 19). In addition, 65% of the duck hunters said they hunted with others who used battery-operated rotating-wing decoys.

Duck Season Dates. Sixty-one percent of the duck hunters said they have a preference for the opening and closing dates of the 2004-05 duck season in Illinois (Table 20). The preferred median dates for beginning the duck season in the North Zone were October 30 (30-day season), October 22 (45-day season), and October 21 (60-day season). The preferred median dates for beginning the season in the Central Zone were November 6 (30-day season), November 5 (45-day season), and October 28 (60-day season). The preferred median dates for beginning the season in the South Zone were November 27 (30-day season), November 26 (45-day season), and November 18 (60-day season). 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. (Note: sample sizes are small in some areas, necessitating caution in interpreting the findings).

Preferences for duck season dates were little influenced by the dates of the firearm deer season (November 19-21 and December 2-5) or the upland game season (November 6 opener) (Table 23). However, as indicated in Table 32, 63% of the hunters thought it was important to schedule duck seasons so as to not open them the same weekend as other hunting seasons. Freeze up of ponds and rivers, zone closure, and emigration of ducks appear to be the most important factors in causing hunters to stop hunting ducks in Illinois (Table 24). When asked to identify the factors they feel should be used to set opening and closing dates for Illinois duck

hunting seasons, 53% of the duck hunters checked "10-year average peak migration" and 49% checked "Hunter input from surveys" (Table 25). Between 33% and 37% of the hunters also identified "Maximizing hunter opportunity", "10-year average freeze up dates", "Hunter input from public meetings', and "aerial survey migration data", as factors. The most important single factor was "10-year average peak migration" (Table 26).

When asked their preference for the guiding policy in setting duck hunting regulations, 56% of the duck hunters chose "More seasons of liberal length (60 days) in order to maximize long-term mallard harvests", compared to 44% who selected "Fewer seasons of liberal length (60 days) in order to maximize breeding mallard populations (Table 27). These preferences were evident in all 3 duck hunting zones.

Weekday or Weekend Opener. Slightly more than one-half (56%) of the duck hunters said they had a preference for which day in the week duck season begins (Table 28). Nearly two-thirds (62%-63%) of these hunters prefer a Thursday or Friday opener over a Saturday opener (37%-38%) for either a 45-day or 60-day season. In what appears to be a contradiction, a plurality (46%) of the hunters identified "Work Schedule" as their best reason for selecting a weekday over a weekend for opening the duck season. Perhaps the hunters are willing to take a day off work to avoid crowds typical of weekends.

Restrictive Regulations for Pintail and Canvasback . When asked to express their preference for restrictive regulations for pintail and canvasback, a plurality (49%) of the duck hunters checked "Short seasons for both species, each with a different season to match migration" (Table 29). The hunters expressed a high level of support (68%) to change from current shorter seasons for pintails and canvasback to a full 60-day duck season for all ducks if they could harvest only 1 mallard hen or 1 pintail or 1 canvasback per day.

Additional Opinions of Duck Hunters. Additional opinions of duck hunters toward duck hunting and management in Illinois are summarized in Table 30. Majorities (>50%) of the hunters either agreed or strongly agreed with 4 of the 6 statements listed. They agreed with the following: "I would like to see more walk-in areas on state land", "The nationwide limit for hen mallards should be limited to one", "I favor a limit of 5 drake mallards if it would not hurt populations", and "Illinois limit of hen mallards should not be more restrictive than federal regulations allow". Conversely, they disagreed with the following: "I favor changing the daily limit for ducks from 6 to 5 even though it would not increase duck populations for next season" and "The longest season allowable should be 50 days to conserve duck populations". In other words, Illinois hunters tend to be liberal with regard to their preferences for duck hunting regulations.

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 (Table 31). Based on the responses, majorities of hunters (68%), their days afield (52%), and goose harvest (55%) were associated with commercial (fee charged, public or private) areas. The percentages for non-commercial areas were 44%, 48%, and 45%, respectively. This general pattern was consistent for Alexander and Union counties, but not Jackson/Williamson counties, where the majority of hunters frequented commercial areas whereas the majority of the harvest occurred on non-commercial areas.

Waterfowl Management in Illinois

Waterfowl hunters who participated in this survey were asked to rate the importance of 11 different waterfowl management programs and activities in Illinois (Table 32). A majority (>50%) of the hunters indicated that all of these programs and activities were moderately/very/extremely important, and the hunters considered 8 of them to be very/extremely important. A plurality (38%-48%) of the hunters said they were currently moderately satisfied with the 11 programs and activities (Table 32).

Attitudes Toward Waterfowl Hunting

The attitudes of waterfowl hunters toward waterfowl hunting following the 2003-04 season in Illinois are summarized in Table 33. It is noteworthy that a majority (>50%) of the hunters somewhat agree/agree/strongly agree with most of the 16 statements listed. Two notable exceptions were: "I am disappointed when I don't get any shots when waterfowl hunting" and "My best days waterfowl hunting are when I limit out".

Waterfowl Hunting Experience

Resident waterfowl hunters who participated in this survey had hunted waterfowl for an average of 23 years, and they had hunted waterfowl in Illinois for an average of 22 years (Table 34). The vast majority (86%) hunted waterfowl every year. However, if they did not hunt waterfowl every year, 56% of them purchased an Illinois Waterfowl Stamp every year.

Twenty-one percent, or approximately 12,177 hunters, pursued waterfowl in another state in 2003-04 (Table 34). The most frequently visited states were Arkansas, North Dakota, Missouri, Wisconsin, and Iowa (Table 35). Seven percent of the hunters visited $\geq$2 states. The most popular month for going out of state was October.

One-half (49%) of the hunters belong to a national waterfowl hunter organization, 61% said they would attend public meetings for the purpose of recommending waterfowl season dates, and 62% said they would be willing to travel ≥50 miles to attend (Table 34). These percentages do not compare with the actual number of hunters who attend public meetings—i.e., about 200 in the South Zone, 60 in the Central Zone, and 25 in the North Zone, in August 2004.

Background Information

Waterfowl hunters who participated in this survey were primarily in-state residents (93.4%) (Table 36). The remaining 6.6% were non-residents--i.e., were residents of other states. The resident hunters averaged 45 years of age, with 50% of them being between 31 and 50 years old. They were overwhelmingly male (99%), and their income averaged $71,000 annually. The income of non-residents averaged $81,000.

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Table 1. Summary of Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps purchased, hunter activity, and waterfowl harvest in Illinois from 1981 through 2003 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
2003	61,991 (260)	57,985	1,251,974	650,906

[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 2003 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
2003	32	13	55	87	68

Table 3. Summary of teal harvest and hunter activity during the September teal season in Illinois from 1981 through 2003.

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
2003	10,522	34,505	20,453

[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 2003.

Category	State-wide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone	Unknown
Hunters	10,522	1,868	6,236	2,033	386
Days Afield	34,505	6,483	21,098	5,742	1,182
Teal Harvest	20,453	2,450	12,484	4,749	770

Table 5. Rates of teal harvest and hunter activity during the September teal season in Illinois in 1981 through 2003.

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
2003	16/4	3.28	0.59	1.94

[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, 1996-2003

Characteristic	1996[a]	1997[a]	1998[a]	1999[a]	2000[b]	2001[b]	2002[b]	2003[b]
Adults who took ≥ 1 youths afield	2,749	3,163	3,343	5,505	6,815	9,140	8,498	7,415
Youth hunters participating	4,353	4,322	5,142	8,113	10,107	15,148	13,325	11,419
Youth days afield	4,353	4,322	5,142	8,113	14,079	22,525	19,548	17,985
Mean youths per hunting party	1.58	1.37	1.54	1.47	1.48	1.67	1.57	1.54
Waterfowl Harvest								
Total Ducks	3,171	3,451	4,159	5,835	8,388	11,727	9,085	9,184
Ducks per youth per day	0.73	0.80	0.81	0.72	0.60	0.52	0.46	0.51
Total Coots	230	387	208	629	38	480	271	178
Coots per youth per day	0.05	0.09	0.04	0.08	<0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01
Total Geese	----[c]	----[c]	289	571	882	971	887	1,116
Geese per youth per day			0.06	0.07	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.06

[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 2003.

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
2003	50,658	738,914	285,011	48,023	153,165[b]	486,199	1,693

[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, 851 in 2002, and 1,789 in 2003.

Table 8. Duck harvest and hunter activity by waterfowl zones and areas during the regular duck season in Illinois in 2003-04.

Zone/Area	Hunters	Days Afield	Ducks Harvested
North Zone	9,725	111,317	51,491
Central Zone	28,791	442,079	293,985
South Zone			
SIQZ[a]	3,132	45,658	34,052
Rend Lake[b]	2,198	35,384	22,284
Carlyle Lake[c]	2,445	35,796	39,076
Elsewhere	4,011	66,400	44,375
Total	11,786	183,238	139,787
Unknown	356	2,280	936
Statewide	50,658	738,914	486,199

[a]Alexander, Jackson, Union, and Williamson counties.
[b]Franklin and Jefferson counties.
[c]Bond, Clinton, and Fayette counties.

Table 9. Rates of duck harvest and hunter activity during the regular duck season in Illinois from 1981 through 2003.

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
2003	60/6(4,1)	14.59	0.66	9.60

[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 1988-2003.

Table 10. Canada goose harvest and hunter activity during the early September Canada goose season in Illinois, 1997 through 2003.

			Waterfowl Zone					
		Statewide	Northeast[a]	North[b]	Central[b]	South	SIQZ	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	952[c]	183	142
	2003	14,973	3,578	1,954	7,761	1,128[c]	220	332
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	3,261[c]	831	41
	2003	51,083	12,028	6,771	26,532	4,376[c]	1,046	330
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	1,335[c]	98	0
	2003	15,267	4,259	1,648	7,103	1,782[c]	439	36

[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).
[c] Excluding SIQZ.

Table 11. Summary of goose harvest and hunter activity during the regular goose season in Illinois from 1981-82 through 2003-04.

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 (114)	70,803 (2,641)
1997	33,498	295,107	61,282 (4,772)	7,572 (438)	68,854 (5,210)
1998	26,343	202,676	43,222 (2,463)	4,290 (305)	47,512 (2,968)
1999	42,246	464,769	119,611 (1,846)	14,568 (152)	134,179 (1,998)
2000	37,593	383,367	128,387 (1,406)	16,356 (0)	144,743 (1,406)
2001	39,570	382,102	64,907 (1,761)	18,189 (263)	83,096 (2,024)
2002	35,352	323,091	89,297 (3,259)	19,414 (1,433)	108,711 (4,692)
2003	39,275	409,487	83,207 (1,526)	33,609 (342)	116,816 (1,868)

[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.

Table 12. Goose harvest and hunter activity by zones and selected areas in Illinois, 2003-04 season.

Zone/Area	Hunters	Days Afield	Canada Geese	White-Fronted Geese	Snow/Blue Geese-Reg.	Snow/Blue Geese-Con.	Total Geese
North Zone							
North Quota	5,780	32,711	16,491	0	28	24	16,543
North Non-Quota	6,399	68,849	7,321	18	73	0	7,412
Total	12,179	101,560	23,812	18	107	24	23,955
Central Zone							
Central Quota	10,514	115,445	18,046	537	448	9,287	28,318
Central Non-Quota	13,924	91,500	19,509	220	726	2,874	23,329
Total	24,438	202,945	37,555	757	1,174	12,161	51,647
South Zone							
SIQZ[a]	6,275	48,083	12,497	818	1,379	3,381	18,075
Rend Lake Non-Quota[b]	1,899	15,193	1,709	195	1,403	2,160	5,467
Carlyle Lake Non-Quota[c]	963	4,954	696	171	684	2,026	3,576
Elsewhere Non-Quota	4,251	30,853	6,535	872	2,886	2,642	12,936
Total	13,388	99,083	21,437	2,056	6,352	10,209	40,054
Unknown	330	1,899	403	0	0	757	1,160
Statewide	39,275[d]	409,487	83,207	2,831	7,627	23,151	116,816

[a]Alexander, Jackson, Union, and Williamson counties.
[b]Franklin and Jefferson counties.
[c] Bond, Clinton, and Fayette counties.
[d] 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 zones and selected areas during the regular goose season in Illinois, 2001-02 through 2003-04.

Zone/Area	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	Mean
North Zone				
North Quota	9,765	16,660	16,491	14,305
North Non-Quota	7,167	9,943	7,321	8,144
Total	16,932	26,603	23,812	22,449
Central Zone				
Central Quota	17,600	22,561	18,046	19,402
Central Non-Quota	13,032	21,553	19,509	18,031
Total	30,632	44,114	37,555	37,433
South Zone				
SIQZ[a]	6,599	7,420	12,497	8,839
Rend Lake Non-Quota[b]	2,606	2,042	1,709	2,119
Carlyle Lake Non-Quota[c]	735	353	696	595
Elsewhere Non-Quota	6,779	8,549	6,535	7,288
Total	16,719	18,364	21,437	18,841
Unknown	624	216	403	414
Statewide	64,907	89,297	83,207	79,137

[a] Alexander, Jackson, Union, and Williamson counties.
[b] Franklin and Jefferson counties.
[c] Bond, Clinton, and Fayette counties.

Table 14. Harvest of geese other than Canada geese in Illinois, 1996-97 through 2003-04.

Season (Year)	White-Fronted Geese	Snow/Blue Geese Reg.[a]	Snow/Blue Geese-Con.[b]	Others	Total
1996	---[c]	4,063	---[c]	876	4,939
1997	---	5,941	---	1,631	7,572
1998	---	3,734	---	556	4,290
1999	2,173	12,220	---	175	14,568
2000	1,131	14,797	---	428	16,356
2001	2,579	15,319	---	291	18,189
2002	1,413	16,097	---	1,904	19,414
2003	2,831	7,627	23,151	---[c]	33,069

[a]Regular goose seasons.
[b]Conservation Order snow goose season.
[c]Not listed in questionnaire.

Table 15. Hunter activity during the 2003-04 Conservation Order snow goose season. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Did you hunt during the 2003-04 Conservation Order snow goose season?	(2,343)
Yes	9%
No	91
Should the start of the Spring Conservation Order season be delayed to allow white-fronted goose hunting until mid-February? (Note: snow goose hunting would be allowed during this time using regular hunting methods)	(199)
Yes	53%
No	47

Table 16. Summary of the number of ducks and geese that were crippled (knocked down but not retrieved) in Illinois from 1981 through 2003 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	22.6	16,641	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
2003	77,361[b]	15.9	12,661[b]	10.8

[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 $\pm$ 6,154 for ducks, and $\pm$ 1,086 for geese.

Table 17. Preferences of September teal hunters for opening and closing dates of the 2004 teal season. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Do you have any preference for the opening and closing dates of the 2004-05 September teal season?

	State-wide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
	(381)	(67)	(226)	(74)
Yes[a]	60%	60%	59%	62%
No	40	40	41	38

Which of the following options would you prefer for the 2004-05 September teal season? Please choose one option for each season listed below.

	State-wide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
5-Day Season	(137)	(23)	(81)	(30)
Sept. 8 (Wed.) -12 (Sun.)	21%	31%	17%	23%
Sept. 11 (Sat.) - 15 (Wed.)	37	39	40	23
Sept. 15 (Wed.) - 19 (Sun.)	42	30	43	54
9-Day Season	(151)	(26)	(92)	(30)
Sept. 4 (Sat.) – 12 (Sun.)	17%	27%	15%	17%
Sept. 11 (Sat.) – 19 (Sun.)	49	50	50	40
Sept. 18 (Sat.) – 26 (Sun.)	34	23	35	43
16-Day Season	(210)	(36)	(122)	(44)
Sept. 4 (Sat.) – 19 (Sun.)	37%	50%	37%	25%
Sept. 11 (Sat.) – 26 (Sun.)	63	50	63	75

[a]Go to next question.

Table 18. Distribution of duck hunters by zones in Illinois in 2003-04.

Criteria	n	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
In which zone did you **hunt ducks most often** during 2003-04?	(1,824)	20%	54%	26%
Zone hunted most as indicated by first county listed on page 2 of questionnaire	(1,831)	19%	57%	24%

Table 19. Use of battery-operated rotating-wing decoys while duck hunting in Illinois during 2003-04 season. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Did you use a battery-operated rotating-wing decoy while duck hunting in Illinois during 2003-04?

	Statewide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
	(1,843)	(366)	(988)	(470)
Yes	67%	55%	74%	63%
No	33	45	26	37

If you answered "Yes," how often?

	(1,229)	(197)	(729)	(294)
Every day I hunted	37%	41%	41%	24%
More than half of times	26	24	27	25
About half of times	20	19	20	21
Less than half of times	17	16	12	30

Do you hunt with others who use battery-operated rotating-wing decoys?

	Statewide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
	(1,843)	(366)	(988)	(470)
Yes	65%	52%	72%	59%
No	35	48	28	41

Table 20. Preferences of duck hunters for the opening and closing dates of the 2004-05 duck season in Illinois. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Do you have any preference for the opening and closing dates of the 2004-05 duck season?

	Statewide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
	(1,820)	(366)	(979)	(467)
Yes	61%	50%	60%	72%
No	39	50	40	28

If you answered "Yes," which would you prefer for 2004-05 DUCK season?

NORTH ZONE:

30 Days		45 Days		60 Days	
	(78)		(84)		(169)
Oct. 16 – Nov. 14	10%	Oct. 15. – Nov. 28	27%	Oct. 7 – Dec. 5	18%
Oct. 23- Nov. 21	19	Oct. 22. – Dec. 5	35	Oct. 14 – Dec. 12	28
Oct. 30 – Nov. 28	40	Oct. 29 – Dec. 12	16	Oct. 21 – Dec. 19	24
Nov. 6 – Dec. 5	31	Nov. 5 – Dec. 19	23	Oct. 28 – Dec 26	30

CENTRAL ZONE:

30 Days		45 Days		60 Days	
	(245)		(285)		(523)
Oct. 30 – Nov. 28	26%	Oct. 22 – Dec. 5	21%	Oct. 21 – Dec. 19	26%
Nov. 6 – Dec. 5	25	Oct. 29 – Dec. 12	25	Oct. 28 – Dec. 26	29
Nov. 13 – Dec.12	23	Nov. 5 – Dec. 19	27	Nov. 4 – Jan. 2	22
Nov. 20 – Dec.19	26	Nov. 12 – Dec. 26	27	Nov.11 – Jan. 9	23

SOUTH ZONE:

30 Days		45 Days		60 Days	
	(126)		(131)		(142)
Nov. 13 – Dec. 12	23%	Nov. 12 – Dec. 26	30%	Nov. 4 – Jan. 2	19%
Nov. 20 – Dec. 19	18	Nov. 19 – Jan. 2	17	Nov. 11 – Jan. 9	18
Nov. 27 – Dec. 26	16	Nov. 26 – Jan. 9	18	Nov. 18 - Jan. 16	18
Dec. 4 – Jan. 2	43	Dec. 3 – Jan. 16	35	Nov. 25 – Jan. 23	45

Table 21. Preferences of duck hunters on selected areas in the Central Zone for the opening and closing dates of the 2004-05 duck season in Illinois. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Do you have any preference for the opening and closing dates of the 2004-05 duck season?

	Miss-Rock River Area[a] (82)	Northeast Illinois[b] (106)	Ill-Miss Confluence[c] (129)
Yes	56%	68%	71%
No	44	32	29

If you answered "Yes", which would you prefer for 2004-05 Duck season?

30 Days	Miss-Rock River Area (15)	Northeast Illinois (16)	Ill-Miss Confluence (44)
Oct. 30 – Nov. 28	40%	19%	36%
Nov. 6 – Dec. 5	27	19	27
Nov. 13 – Dec. 12	7	19	25
Nov. 20 – Dec. 19	26	43	12

45 Days	Miss-Rock River Area (16)	Northeast Illinois (20)	Ill-Miss Confluence (48)
Oct. 22 – Dec. 5	31%	15%	29%
Oct. 29 – Dec. 12	25	10	23
Nov. 5 – Dec. 19	19	25	35
Nov. 12 – Dec. 26	25	50	13

60 Days	Miss-Rock River Area (28)	Northeast Illinois (56)	Ill-Miss Confluence (80)
Oct. 21 – Dec. 19	57%	23%	33%
Oct. 28 – Dec. 26	25	23	24
Nov. 4 – Jan. 2	11	18	31
Nov. 11 – Jan. 9	7	36	12

[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 2004-05 duck season in Illinois. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Do you have any preference for the opening and closing dates of the 2004-05 duck season?

	Carlyle Lake[a]	Rend Lake[b]	SIQZ[c]
	(87)	(80)	(112)
Yes	78%	74%	65%
No	22	26	35

If you answered "Yes", which would you prefer for 2004-05 Duck season?

30 Days	Carlyle Lake	Rend Lake	SIQZ
	(32)	(18)	(24)
Nov. 13 – Dec. 12	31%	22%	17%
Nov. 20 – Dec. 19	34	17	12
Nov. 27 – Dec. 26	16	17	8
Dec. 4 – Jan. 2	19	44	63

45 Days	Carlyle Lake	Rend Lake	SIQZ
	(32)	(19)	(28)
Nov. 12 – Dec. 26	50%	26%	18%
Nov. 19 – Jan. 2	19	16	11
Nov. 26 – Jan. 9	19	32	14
Dec. 3 – Jan. 16	12	26	57

60 Days	Carlyle Lake	Rend Lake	SIQZ
	(61)	(55)	(66)
Nov. 4 – Jan. 2	34%	16%	11%
Nov. 11 – Jan. 9	28	17	11
Nov. 18 – Jan. 16	20	27	13
Nov. 25 – Jan. 23	18	40	65

[a]Bond, Clinton, and Fayette counties.
[b]Franklin and Jefferson counties.
[c]Alexander, Jackson, Union, and Williamson counties.

Table 23. Are your preferences for duck season dates for the 2004-05 season based on either of the following? Please check all that apply. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Factors	State-wide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
	(1,038)	(177)	(540)	(316)
Firearm deer season (Nov. 19-21 & Dec. 2-5)	11%	6%	7%	22%
Upland game season (Nov. 6 opener)	5	5	4	5
My preferences are not based on the season dates above	88	92	91	79

Table 24. Which of the following factors cause you to stop hunting ducks (before the end of the season) in Illinois (2003-04)? Please check all that apply. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Factors	Statewide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
	(1,822)	(361)	(980)	(462)
Ponds freeze up	42%	42%	42%	42%
Rivers freeze up	25	27	26	19
After most ducks migrate	23	22	22	28
Start of upland game season	2	4	2	2
Start of deer season	7	11	5	8
When North Zone closes	10	45	1	1
When Central Zone closes	27	4	48	3
When South Zone closes	11	1	3	36
None of the above	19	15	17	25

Table 25. Which of the following do you feel should be used to set opening and closing dates for Illinois duck seasons (2003-04)? Please check all that apply. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Factors	Statewide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
	(1,805)	(357)	(965)	(464)
10-year average peak migrations	53%	45%	55%	54%
Hunter input from surveys	49	46	46	56
Maximizing hunting opportunity	37	38	31	40
10-year average freeze up dates	34	35	34	36
Hunter input from public meetings	33	29	32	39
Aerial survey migration data	33	31	32	35
IDNR Biologists	30	34	29	31
Maximize harvest of ducks	23	17	24	27
Dates that maximize weekend days	17	19	17	16
Natural Resources Advisory Board	16	20	15	15
Dates that maximize week days	7	8	5	8
Opening dates of other species	5	7	3	6

Table 26. Which of the following do you feel is the **most important single factor** that should be used to set opening and closing dates for Illinois duck hunting seasons (2003-04)? Please check the **ONE you feel is MOST important**. Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Factors	Statewide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
	(1,731)	(339)	(924)	(449)
10-year average peak migrations	26%	20%	30%	27%
10-year average freeze up dates	8	11	8	8
Maximizing hunting opportunity	13	15	14	13
Hunter input from public meetings	5	4	5	7
Hunter input from surveys	10	11	11	11
Aerial survey migration data	7	9	7	7
Opening dates of other species	1	2	1	2
IDNR Biologists	9	14	8	9
Maximize harvest of ducks	8	7	8	11
Dates that maximize weekend days	3	3	4	1
Dates that maximize week days	1	2	1	1
Natural Resources Advisory Board	3	4	3	2

Table 27. Which of the following would you prefer as the guiding policy for setting duck hunting regulations (Illinois 2003-04)? Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Guiding Policy	Statewide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
	(1,692)	(336)	(906)	(433)
Fewer seasons of liberal length (60 days) in order to maximize breeding mallard populations	44%	41%	46%	43%
More seasons of liberal length (60 days) in order to maximize long-term mallard harvests	56	59	54	57

Table 28. Preferences of duck hunters for the day of the week duck season begins (Illinois 2003-04). Sample sizes are in parentheses.

Do you have a preference for which day of the week duck season begins?

	Statewide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
	(1,780)	(346)	(956)	(459)
Yes	56%	55%	55%	60%
No	44	45	45	40

If "Yes," for a 45-day season would you prefer:

	(793)	(150)	(431)	(207)
Friday open/Sunday close	62%	59%	59%	71%
Saturday open/Monday close	38	41	41	29

If "Yes," for a 60-day season would you prefer:

	(929)	(169)	(493)	(261)
Thursday open/Sunday close	63%	63%	60%	70%
Saturday open/Tuesday close	37	37	40	30

Which of the following **best** describes your reason for choosing this day of the week?

	Statewide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone
	(1,075)	(203)	(574)	(287)
Work schedule	46%	44%	47%	48%
Less competition from other hunters	32	35	29	35
Family commitments	3	3	3	3
Availability of hunting partners	9	10	9	7
Weekend openers allow youth to hunt	10	8	12	7

Table 29. Preferences of duck hunters for pintail and canvasback duck seasons (Illinois 2003-04). Sample sizes are in parentheses.

The **IDNR** is considering various options for pintail and canvasback duck seasons. Which of the following would you prefer?

	Statewide (1,813)	North Zone (359)	Central Zone (971)	South Zone (464)
Short seasons for both species at the same time	20%	19%	20%	19%
Short seasons for both species, each with a different season to match migration	49	48	49	49
No opinion	31	33	31	32

Would you support a change from current shorter seasons for pintails and canvasbacks to a full 60-day duck season for all ducks if you could harvest ONLY ONE hen mallard OR pintail OR canvasback per day?

	Statewide (1,770)	North Zone (346)	Central Zone (951)	South Zone (464)
Yes	68%	67%	67%	71%
No	32	33	33	29

Table 30. Please give your opinion to the following statements about duck hunting in Illinois (2003-04).

Statement	n	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Unsure	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I would like to see more walk-in areas on state land.	(1,801)	4%	3%	3%	18%	13%	27%	32%
The nationwide limit for hen mallards should be limited to one.	(1,826)	5	7	6	10	11	24	37
I favor changing the daily limit for ducks from 6 to 5 even though it would not increase duck populations for next season.	(1,823)	20	21	9	14	10	14	12
The longest season allowable should be 50 days to conserve duck populations.	(1,817)	22	24	14	16	9	9	6
I favor a limit of 5 drake mallards if it would not hurt populations.	(1,811)	5	7	6	7	12	34	29
Illinois limit of hen mallards should not be more restrictive than federal regulations allow.	(1,824)	8	9	6	15	11	28	23

Table 31. If you hunted geese in the **Southern Illinois Quota Zone** in 2003-04, what type of areas did you hunt? Sample sizes are in parentheses.

County	Hunters	Days Afield	Geese Harvested
Alexander	(25)	(355)	(133)
Non-commercial area	28%	19%	12%
Commercial area	76	81	88
Union	(52)	(342)	(205)
Non-commercial area	15%	15%	20%
Commercial area	85	85	80
Williamson & Jackson	(145)	(1,426)	(920)
Non-commercial area	48%	63%	55%`
Commercial area	56	37	45
Total	(213)	(2,123)	(1,258)
Non-commercial area	44%	48%	45%
Commercial area	68	52	55

Table 32. Waterfowl Management in Illinois. The Illinois DNR is interested in your opinions of waterfowl management in Illinois (2003-04). Please provide your opinions by completing the questions below.

How IMPORTANT to you are the following wildlife management programs?

Program or Activity	n	Not At All Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Very Important	Extremely Important
Provide sites for goose hunting on public land	(2,253)	7%	8%	24%	30%	31%
Creating or managing existing waterfowl habitat	(2,264)	1	1	7	33	58
Schedule duck season dates so they don't open same weekend as other hunting seasons (deer, etc.)	(2,234)	37	12	20	16	15
Regulating number of hunters in area	(2,228)	9	10	29	30	22
Providing walk-in hunts on public land	(2,239)	7	9	25	28	31
Providing seasonal blinds on public land	(2,237)	15	9	24	26	26
Providing boat blinds on public land	(2,245)	24	13	22	21	20
Providing stationary blinds on public land	(2,246)	17	11	24	25	23
Provide sites for duck hunting on public land	(2,244)	7	5	16	32	40
Waterfowl season opening and closing dates	(2,256)	4	7	23	32	34
Purchase of wetlands and other habitat	(2,256)	4	3	11	25	57

Continued.

Table 32. Continued – page 2.

How SATISFIED are you with the following wildlife management programs?

Program or Activity	n	Not At All Satisfied	Slightly Satisfied	Moderately Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Extremely Satisfied
Provide sites for goose hunting on public land	(2,176)	19%	23%	45%	9%	4%
Creating or managing existing waterfowl habitat	(2,199)	12	20	46	16	6
Schedule duck season dates so they don't open same weekend as other hunting seasons (deer, etc.)	(2,171)	8	11	43	28	10
Regulating number of hunters in area	(2,173)	9	19	48	18	6
Providing walk-in hunts on public land	(2,163)	16	24	45	11	4
Providing seasonal blinds on public land	(2,157)	16	24	44	11	5
Providing boat blinds on public land	(2,141)	17	23	43	12	5
Providing stationary blinds on public land	(2,147)	16	24	42	13	5
Provide sites for duck hunting on public land	(2,165)	17	24	40	13	6
Waterfowl season opening and closing dates	(2,188)	13	16	42	22	7
Purchase of wetlands and other habitat	(2,193)	19	24	38	12	7

Table 33. Attitudes toward waterfowl hunting. Please give your attitudes toward the following statements by circling the number that matches your response (Illinois 2003-04).

Statement	n	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Unsure	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Waterfowl hunting determines much of my lifestyle.	(2,295)	6%	15%	9%	6%	26%`	21%	17%
Waterfowl hunting is one of the most important activities in my life.	(2,295)	6	14	9	5	25	20	21
I spend a lot of time before the season scouting the area where I will hunt waterfowl.	(2,291)	9	18	11	6	26	18	12
I plan vacation time around waterfowl hunting.	(2,283)	11	17	6	4	15	22	25
Waterfowl hunting is a test of skill.	(2,291)	1	2	3	3	23	41	27
I spend a lot of time in the off-season planning for the hunt.	(2,289)	5	13	12	7	26	21	16
I would rather go hunting than any other recreation activity.	(2,291)	3	6	7	5	17	22	40
If I cannot find anyone to hunt with me I often go alone.	(2,290)	8	13	8	4	15	27	25
I hunt waterfowl for the challenge.	(2,288)	2	4	4	4	24	36	26
I am disappointed when I don't get any shots when waterfowl hunting.	(2,291)	17	22	14	4	20	13	10
It takes a great deal of skill to be a successful waterfowl hunter.	(2,291)	1	3	6	4	28	34	24
My best days waterfowl hunting are when I limit out.	(2,284)	17	26	17	4	21	8	7
Waterfowl hunting is my favorite type of hunting.	(2,295)	4	11	8	7	14	20	36
I usually hunt for specific types of ducks.	(2,281)	10	24	12	7	23	16	8
I enjoy hunting as long as I see waterfowl.	(2,291)	4	8	8	4	22	31	23

Table 34. **Waterfowl Hunting Experience**. The following questions are important to help us understand more about the people involved in waterfowl hunting in Illinois (2003-04). Please tell us something about yourself by responding to the following questions. Sample sizes (residents only) are in parentheses.

How many years total have you hunted waterfowl?

	(1,952)
Mean	23 years
Distribution: 1-5 years	15%
6-10 "	16%
11-20 "	21%
21-30 "	21%
>30 "	27%

How many years have you hunted waterfowl in Illinois?

	(1,955)
Mean	22 years
Distribution: 1-5 years	16%
6-10 "	17%
11-20 "	21%
21-30 "	21%
>30 "	25%

Which of the following describes how often you hunt waterfowl?

	(1,954)
Every year	86%
Most years	11%
Some but not most years	3%

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

	(261)
Yes	56%
No	44%

Continued.

Table 34. Continued – page 2.

Did you hunt waterfowl in a state other than Illinois during the 2003-04 waterfowl season?

	(1,951)
Yes, hunted 1 other state	14%[a]
Yes, hunted 2 other states	4[a]
Yes, hunted 3 other states	3[a]
No	79

Do you belong to any local, state, or national waterfowl hunter organizations?

	(1,910)
Yes, local	22%
Yes, state	11%
Yes, national	49%
No	42%

Would you be willing to attend public meetings during August for the purpose of recommending waterfowl season dates?

	(1,947)
Yes	61%
No	39%

If yes, what day of the week and time would you prefer meetings be held?

	(1,133)		(1,109)
Weekdays	45%	Mornings	33%
Weekends	55%	Afternoons	20%
		Evenings	47%

What is the farthest you would be willing to drive to attend a public waterfowl meeting?

	(1,180)
10 miles	5%
25 "	33%
50 "	37%
75 "	10%
100 "	9%
>100 "	6%

[a]See next table.

Table 35. Estimates of the number of Illinois residents who hunted waterfowl in other states during the 2003-04 season. Note: The totals in this table are less than the sum of the individual values because some residents hunted in >1 state and/or hunted 1 state in >1 month.

State	n	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Entire Season
Arkansas	(79)	32	32	255	733	1,530	287	0	2,518
North Dakota	(69)	96	2,040	159	0	0	0	0	2,200
Missouri	(68)	32	128	1,116	893	255	128	383	2,168
Wisconsin	(68)	192	1,785	733	255	32	0	0	2,168
Iowa	(34)	255	414	510	64	0	0	96	1,084
Indiana	(21)								699
Texas	(16)								510
South Dakota	(12)								383
Michigan	(11)								351
Nebraska	(10)								319
Other states[a]	(51)								1,626
Canada	(22)								701
Mexico	(1)								32
Total	(382)	1,275	5,610	3,921	2,996	2,773	446	669	12,177

[a]21 states.

Table 36. Background Information. The following questions are important to help us understand more about the people involved in waterfowl hunting in Illinois (2003-04). All responses are kept confidential.

What is your county of residence?

Residents of Illinois	1,969 (93.4%)[a]
Non-residents	139 (6.6%)[a]

Please give your age.		Residents (n=1,940)	Non-residents (n=137)
	Mean	45 years	45 years
Distribution: ≤15	years	1%	1%
16-20	"	4%	1%
21-30	"	12%	7%
31-40	"	24%	22%
41-50	"	26%	38%
51-60	"	19%	19%
61-64	"	6%	5%
≥65	"	8%	7%

What is your gender?	(n=1,969)	(n=139)
Male	99%	100%
Female	1%	0%

What was your approximate total household income before taxes in 2002?

	(n=1,742)	(n=124)
Under $20,000	6%	2%
$20,000-$39,999	17%	5%
$40,000-$59,999	25%	22%
$60,000-$79,999	32%	18%
$80,000-$99,999	14%	14%
$100,000 or more	16%	39%
Mean	$71,000	$81,000

[a]See Appendix D.

Appendix A

Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey

2003 – 04 Season

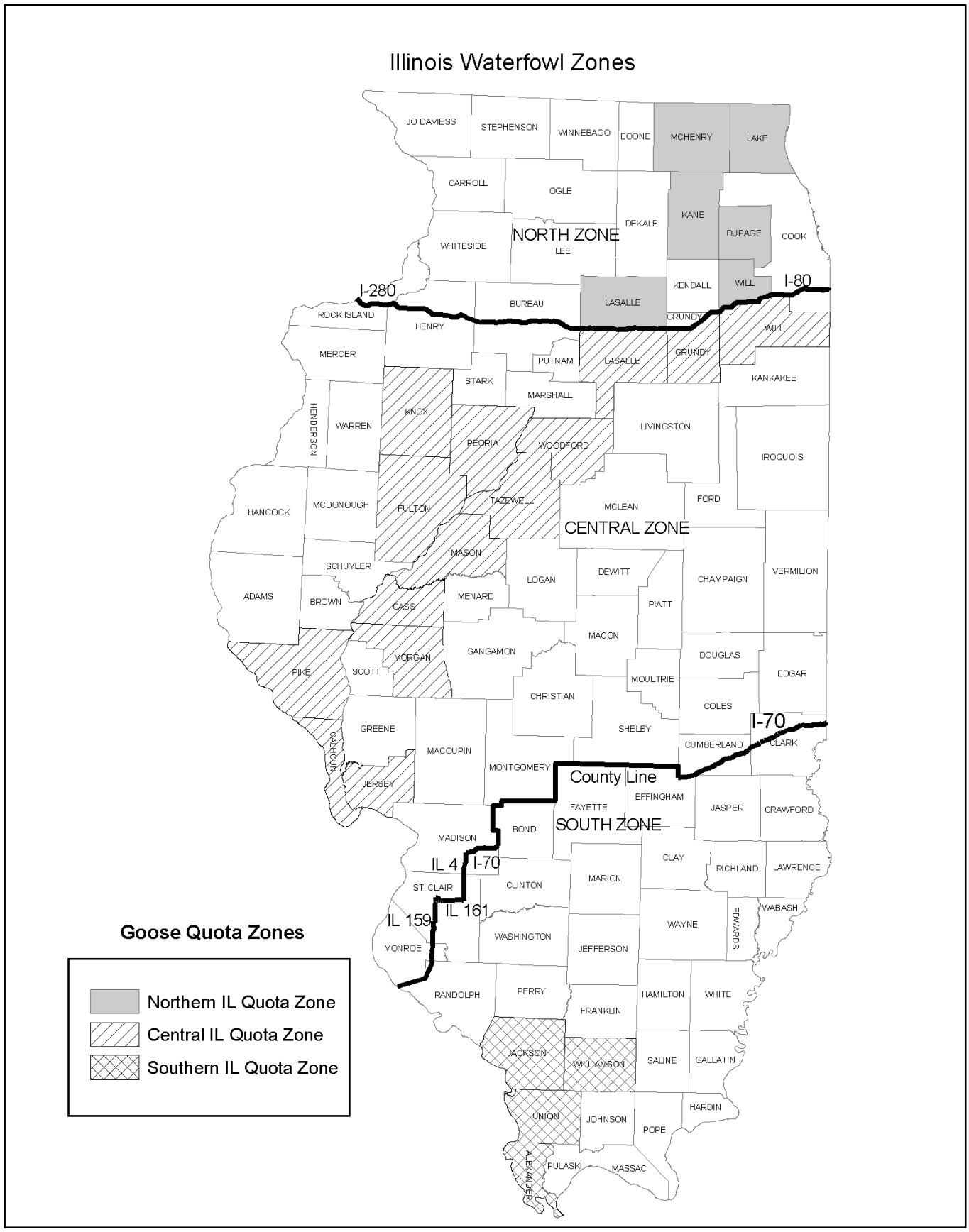
ALL RESPONSES ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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.


Illinois Waterfowl Zones
JO DAVIESS
STEPHENSON
WINNEBAGO
BOONE
MCHENRY
LAKE
CARROLL
OGLE
DEKALB
KANE
DUPAGE
COOK
WHITESIDE
LEE
NORTH ZONE
KENDALL
WILL
I-80
I-280
BUREAU
LASALLE
ROCK ISLAND
HENRY
GRUNDY
MERCER
PUTNAM
KANKAKEE
STARK
MARSHALL
HENDERSON
KNOX
WARREN
LIVINGSTON
PEORIA
WOODFORD
IROQUOIS
HANCOCK
MCDONOUGH
FULTON
TAZEWELL
MCLEAN
FORD
CENTRAL ZONE
MASON
SCHUYLER
LOGAN
DEWITT
CHAMPAIGN
VERMILION
ADAMS
BROWN
CASS
MENARD
PIATT
MACON
SANGAMON
DOUGLAS
MORGAN
PIKE
SCOTT
EDGAR
CHRISTIAN
MOULTRIE
COLES
GREENE
SHELBY
I-70
CUMBERLAND
CLARK
CALHOUN
MACOUPIN
MONTGOMERY
County Line
JERSEY
EFFINGHAM
FAYETTE
JASPER
CRAWFORD
MADISON
BOND
SOUTH ZONE
CLAY
IL 4
I-70
RICHLAND
LAWRENCE
ST. CLAIR
CLINTON
MARION
WABASH
IL 159
IL 161
WAYNE
EDWARDS
MONROE
WASHINGTON
JEFFERSON
RANDOLPH
PERRY
HAMILTON
WHITE
FRANKLIN
JACKSON
WILLIAMSON
SALINE
GALLATIN
UNION
JOHNSON
POPE
HARDIN
ALEXANDER
PULASKI
MASSAC
Goose Quota Zones
Northern IL Quota Zone
Central IL Quota Zone
Southern IL Quota Zone

Section 1. Waterfowl Harvest and Days Afield. Please complete this questionnaire for the past hunting season (September 2003 - March 2004). 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 2003-2004 season?

_____ Yes (Please report harvest in following tables) _____ No (please go to **question 2**)

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 (exclude September Season)	White-fronted (Specklebelly) Geese	Snow/Blue/Ross' Geese (Reg. Season Only)	Snow/Blue/Ross' Geese (Conservation Order Only)	Geese downed but not retrieved

2. Did you purchase an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp during the 2003-04 season?

_____ Yes How many? _____

_____ No

3. Did you hunt in the **Southern Illinois Quota Zone** during the 2003-2004 season?

_____ Yes

_____ No (Go to question 4)

3a. If you hunted in the **Southern Illinois Quota Zone** during the 2003-2004 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)	_____	_____

4. Did you take a youth hunting during the 2003 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days?

_____ Yes

_____ No (Please go to **Section 2)**

4a. If you answered "Yes," how many youths did you take? _____ youths

5. Did the youths hunt both of the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days?

_____ Yes, one or more of the youths hunted both days

_____ No, none of the youths hunted both days

6. If "No," which day did the youths hunt?

_____ first day only

_____ second day only

7. How many waterfowl did the youth(s) harvest? (If you hunted with more than one youth, please give total birds harvested by youths).

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

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

Section 2. Duck Hunting in Illinois. Please answer the following questions concerning your hunting activities during the 2003-2004 Illinois duck season and opinions concerning options for future seasons in Illinois.

1. In which zone did you **hunt ducks most often** during 2003-04? Please check only **ONE response**.

_____ North Zone _____ Central Zone _____ South Zone

2. Do you have any preference for the opening and closing dates of the 2004-05 duck season?

_____ Yes, there are dates I prefer for the up-coming duck season. (Go to **question 2a**)

_____ No, I am willing to accept whatever duck season dates are determined by IDNR. (Go to **question 4**)

2a. Are your preferences for duck season dates based on either of the following? Please check all that apply.

_____ Firearm deer season (Nov. 19-21 & Dec. 2-5)

_____ Upland game season (Nov. 6 opener)

_____ My preferences are not based on the season dates above

3. If you answered "Yes" to question 2, which would you prefer for 2004-05 **DUCK season**? Please **check only one item** under each season **for the zone where you hunt ducks**.

NORTH ZONE: Season Options:

30 Days	45 Days	60 Days
____ Oct. 16 – Nov. 14	____ Oct. 15 – Nov. 28	____ Oct. 7 – Dec. 5
____ Oct. 23 – Nov. 21	____ Oct. 22 – Dec. 5	____ Oct. 14 – Dec. 12
____ Oct. 30 – Nov. 28	____ Oct. 29 – Dec. 12	____ Oct. 21 – Dec. 19
____ Nov. 6 – Dec. 5	____ Nov. 5 – Dec. 19	____ Oct. 28 – Dec. 26

CENTRAL ZONE: Season Options:

30 Days	45 Days	60 Days
____ Oct. 30 – Nov. 28	____ Oct. 22 – Dec. 5	____ Oct. 21 – Dec. 19
____ Nov. 6 – Dec. 5	____ Oct. 29 – Dec. 12	____ Oct. 28 – Dec. 26
____ Nov. 13 – Dec. 12	____ Nov. 5 – Dec. 19	____ Nov. 4 – Jan. 2
____ Nov. 20 – Dec. 19	____ Nov. 12 – Dec. 26	____ Nov. 11 – Jan. 9

SOUTH ZONE: Season Options:

30 Days	45 Days	60 Days
____ Nov. 13 – Dec. 12	____ Nov. 12 – Dec. 26	____ Nov. 4 – Jan. 2
____ Nov. 20 – Dec. 19	____ Nov. 19 – Jan. 2	____ Nov. 11 – Jan. 9
____ Nov. 27 – Dec. 26	____ Nov. 26 – Jan. 9	____ Nov. 18 – Jan. 16
____ Dec. 4 – Jan. 2	____ Dec. 3 – Jan. 16	____ Nov. 25 – Jan. 23

4. Which of the following factors cause you to stop hunting ducks (before the end of the season) in Illinois? Please check all that apply.

_____ Ponds freeze up _____ Rivers freeze up _____ After most ducks migrate

_____ Start of upland game season _____ Start of deer season _____ When North zone closes

_____ When Central zone closes _____ When South zone closes _____ None of the above

5. Which of the following do you feel should be used to set opening and closing dates for Illinois duck hunting seasons? Please check all that apply.

_____ 10-year average peak migrations _____ 10-year average freeze up dates

_____ Maximizing hunting opportunity _____ Hunter input from public meetings

_____ Hunter input from surveys _____ Aerial survey migration data

_____ Opening dates of other species _____ IDNR Biologists

_____ Maximize harvest of ducks _____ Dates that maximize weekend days

_____ Dates that maximize week days _____ Natural Resources Advisory Board

6. Which of the following do you feel is the **most important single factor** that should be used to set opening and closing dates for Illinois duck hunting seasons? Please check the ***ONE you feel is MOST important***.

_____1) 10-year average peak migrations _____7) 10-year average freeze up dates

_____2) Maximizing hunting opportunity _____8) Hunter input from public meetings

_____3) Hunter input from surveys _____9) Aerial survey migration data

_____4) Opening dates of other species _____10) IDNR Biologists

_____5) Maximize harvest of ducks _____11) Dates that maximize weekend days

_____6) Dates that maximize week days _____12) Natural Resources Advisory Board

7. Which of the following would you prefer as the guiding policy for setting duck hunting regulations?

_____ fewer seasons of liberal length (60 days) in order to maximize breeding mallard populations

_____ more seasons of liberal length (60 days) in order to maximize long-term mallard harvests

8. Did you use a battery-operated rotating-wing decoy while duck hunting in Illinois during 2003-2004?

_____ Yes

_____ No (Please go to **Question 11**)

9. If you answered "Yes" to question 8, how often did you use your battery-operated rotating-wing decoy while duck hunting during the 2003-2004 Illinois duck season?

_____1) Every time I hunted _____3) About half of times I hunted

_____2) More than half of times I hunted _____4) Less than half of times I hunted

10. Do you hunt with others who use battery-operated rotating-wing decoys? _____ Yes _____ No

11. Do you have a preference for which day of the week duck season begins? _____ Yes _____ No

11a. If "Yes," for a 45-day season would you prefer: _____1) Friday open/Sunday close

_____2) Saturday open/Monday close

for a 60-day season would you prefer: _____1) Thursday open/Sunday close

_____2) Saturday open/Tuesday close

11b. Which of the following **best** describes your reason for choosing this day of the week? Please choose **ONE** response.

_____1) work schedule

_____2) less competition from other duck hunters

_____3) family commitments

_____4) availability of hunting partners

_____5) weekend openers allow youth to hunt

12. The IDNR is considering various options for pintail and canvasback duck seasons. Which of the following would you prefer?

_____1) short seasons for both species at the same time

_____2) short seasons for both species, each with a different season to match migration

_____3) no opinion

13. Would you support a change from current shorter seasons for pintails and canvasbacks to a full 60-day duck season for all ducks if you could harvest **ONLY ONE** hen mallard **OR** pintail **OR** canvasback per day?

_____ Yes _____ No

14. Please give your opinion to the following statements about **duck hunting in Illinois** by circling the number that matches your response.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Unsure	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I would like to see more walk-in areas on state land.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
The nationwide limit for hen mallards should be limited to one.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I favor changing the daily limit for ducks from 6 to 5 even though it would not increase duck populations for next season	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
The longest season allowable should be 50 days to conserve duck populations.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I favor a limit of 5 drake mallards if it would not hurt populations.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Illinois limit of hen mallards should not be more restrictive than federal regulations allow.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Section 3. 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, 2003)?

_____ Yes _____ No

2. If you answered "Yes" to question 1, please give the number of days, counties, and harvest for **September 2003 Canada goose season.**

Days Hunted	County	Geese Harvested

3. Did you hunt teal during the 2003 September teal season? _____ Yes _____ No

3a. If "Yes," please state how many days you hunted and teal harvested in the 2003 September teal season.

_____ Days hunted _____ Teal harvested

4. Do you have any preference for the opening and closing dates of the 2004-05 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 4**)

4a. Which of the following season options would you prefer for the 2004-05 September teal season? Please choose **one** option for **each season** listed below.

5-day season	**9-day season**	**16-day season**
_____ Sept. 8 (Wed.) – 12 (Sun.)	_____ Sept. 4 (Sat.) – 12 (Sun.)	_____ Sept. 4 (Sat.) – 19 (Sun.)
_____ Sept. 11 (Sat.) – 15 (Wed.)	_____ Sept. 11 (Sat.) – 19 (Sun.)	_____ Sept. 11 (Sat.) – 26 (Sun.)
_____ Sept. 15 (Wed.) – 19 (Sun.)	_____ Sept. 18 (Sat.) – 26 (Sun.)	

Section 4. Spring Conservation Order Snow Goose Season Please answer the following questions regarding spring conservation order snow goose hunting in Illinois.

1. Did you hunt during the 2003-2004 Spring Conservation Order snow goose season?

_____ Yes _____ No

2. Should the start of the Spring Conservation Order season be delayed to allow white-fronted goose hunting until mid-February? (Note: snow goose hunting would be allowed during this time using regular hunting methods)

_____ Yes _____ No

Section 5. Waterfowl Management in Illinois. The Illinois DNR is interested in your opinions of waterfowl management in Illinois. Please provide your opinions by completing the questions below.

1. How **IMPORTANT** to you are the following wildlife management programs? Please circle **ONE number** that matches your response for each item.

Program or Activity	Not At All Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Very Important	Extremely Important
Provide sites for goose hunting on public land	1	2	3	4	5
Creating or managing existing waterfowl habitat	1	2	3	4	5
Schedule duck season dates so they don't open same weekend as other hunting seasons (deer, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
Regulating number of hunters in area	1	2	3	4	5
Providing walk-in hunts on public land	1	2	3	4	5
Providing seasonal blinds on public land	1	2	3	4	5
Providing boat blinds on public land	1	2	3	4	5
Providing stationary blinds on public land	1	2	3	4	5
Provide sites for duck hunting on public land	1	2	3	4	5
Waterfowl season opening and closing dates	1	2	3	4	5
Purchase of wetlands and other habitat	1	2	3	4	5

2. How **SATISFIED** are you with the following wildlife management programs? Please circle **ONE number** that matches your response for each item.

Program or Activity	Not At All Satisfied	Slightly Satisfied	Moderately Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Extremely Satisfied
Provide sites for goose hunting on public land	1	2	3	4	5
Creating or managing existing waterfowl habitat	1	2	3	4	5
Schedule duck season dates so they don't open same weekend as other hunting seasons (deer, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5
Regulating number of hunters in area	1	2	3	4	5
Providing walk-in hunts on public land	1	2	3	4	5
Providing seasonal blinds on public land	1	2	3	4	5
Providing boat blinds on public land	1	2	3	4	5
Providing stationary blinds on public land	1	2	3	4	5
Provide sites for duck hunting on public land	1	2	3	4	5
Waterfowl season opening and closing dates	1	2	3	4	5
Purchase of wetlands and other habitat	1	2	3	4	5

Section 6. 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
Waterfowl hunting determines much of my lifestyle.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Waterfowl hunting is one of the most important activities in my life.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I spend a lot of time before the season scouting the area where I will hunt waterfowl.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I plan vacation time around waterfowl hunting.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Waterfowl hunting is a test of skill.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I spend a lot of time in the off-season planning for the hunt.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I would rather go hunting than any other recreation activity.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
If I cannot find anyone to hunt with me I often go alone.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I hunt waterfowl for the challenge.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I am disappointed when I don't get any shots when waterfowl hunting.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
It takes a great deal of skill to be a successful waterfowl hunter.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
My best days waterfowl hunting are when I limit out.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Waterfowl hunting is my favorite type of hunting.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I usually hunt for specific types of ducks.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I enjoy hunting as long as I see waterfowl.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
The number of ducks needs to be higher in the area where I hunt.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Section 7. 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 2003-2004 waterfowl season?

_____ Yes _____ No (Go to **Question 5**)

4a. If yes, which state other than Illinois and what month did you hunt during the 2003-2004 waterfowl season?

State _____ Month _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

5. Do you belong to any local, state, or national waterfowl hunter organizations?

_____ No

_____ Yes, local _____ Yes, state _____ Yes, national

6. Would you be willing to attend public meetings during August for the purpose of recommending waterfowl season dates?

_____ Yes _____ No

6a. If yes, what day of the week and time would you prefer meetings be held?

Please choose one:	Please choose one:
_____ Weekdays	_____ Mornings
_____ Weekends	_____ Afternoons
	_____ Evenings

6b. What is the farthest you would be willing to drive to attend a public waterfowl meeting?

_____ 10 miles _____ 50 miles _____ 100 miles

_____ 25 miles _____ 75 miles _____ More than 100 miles

Section 8. Background Information. The following questions are important to help us understand more about the people involved in waterfowl hunting in Illinois. All responses are kept confidential.

1. What is your county of residence? _____ County

2. Please give your age. _____ years

3. What is your gender? _____ Male _____ Female

4. What was your approximate total household income before taxes in 2002? (Check one number)

_____ 1) Under $20,000
_____ 2) $20,000-$39,999
_____ 3) $40,000-$59,999
_____ 4) $60,000-$79,999
_____ 5) $80,000-$99,999
_____ 6) $100,000 or more

COMMENTS

This study is funded by federal dollars from Wildlife Restoration Funds
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.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

Dear Waterfowl Hunter,

You are one of a select group of waterfowl hunters asked to provide information about your hunting activities during the 2003-2004 season. Please complete and return the enclosed questionnaire about your waterfowl harvest and activities in Illinois during the 2003-2004 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 a few minutes and 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

607 East Peabody Drive, Champaign, Illinois 61820-6970 USA
(217) 333-6880 Fax (217) 333-4949
http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu

DUCKS & EARLY CANADA GEESE

SPECIES	DATES (Inclusive)	HOURS	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Teal	Sept. 6-Sept. 21 (Statewide)	Sunrise to Sunset	4	8
Ducks (except canvasbacks and pintails)	**North Zone** Oct. 16-Dec. 14 Canvasbacks & Pintails Oct. 16-Nov. 14	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	6 (See section on Bag Limits)	2 x daily bag limit
Mergansers	**Central Zone** Oct. 23-Dec. 21 Canvasbacks & Pintails Oct. 23-Nov. 21		5 (See section on Bag Limits)	2 x daily bag limit
Coots	**South Zone** Nov. 20-Jan. 18 Canvasbacks & Pintails Nov. 20-Dec. 19		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 Southern IL Quota Zone.

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS*

SPECIES	DATES	HOURS	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Ducks	**North Zone** Oct. 11-12 **Central Zone** Oct. 18-19 **South Zone** Nov. 8-9	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			**
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.

** White-fronted goose bag limit is 1 in North and Central zones and 2 in South zone.

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 except during Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days and during 30-day seasons included above. Daily bag limit is one canvasback and one pintail within total daily bag limit.** The daily bag limit for all mergansers is 5, only 1 of which may be a hooded merganser. The possession limit for ducks, coots 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. 16-Jan. 13	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	2	10
Central & Central IL Quota Zone	Oct. 23-Oct. 26 & Nov. 7-Jan. 31			
South Zone	Nov. 20-Nov. 23 & Dec. 6-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. 16-Jan. 13	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. 23-Jan. 31			
South Zone	Nov. 20-Jan. 31			
Southern IL Quota Zone	Nov. 20-Jan. 31	1/2 hour before sunrise to 3 p.m(b)		
White-fronted Geese (a)				
North & Northern IL Quota Zone	Oct. 16-Jan. 13	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	1	2
Central & Central IL Quota Zone	Oct. 23-Jan. 31			
South Zone	Nov. 20-Jan. 31		2	4
Southern IL Quota Zone	Nov. 20-Jan. 31	1/2 hour before sunrise to 3 p.m(b)	2	4

(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.**

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

Appendix D

Number of respondents by county (Illinois residents) or state (non-residents) of residence, 2003-04 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

County	Number of Respondents	County	Number of Respondents	County	Number of Respondents
Cook	109	Marshall	16	Wabash	5
Madison	93	De Kalb	15	Warren	5
Tazewell	85	Kendall	15	Coles	4
Will	75	Ogle	15	Scott	4
Peoria	70	Putnam	14	Brown	3
St. Clair	61	Christian	13	Clark	3
McHenry	59	Greene	13	Crawford	3
Lake	58	Randolph	13	Ford	3
Williamson	52	Carroll	12	Gallatin	3
Sangamon	49	Hancock	12	Hamilton	3
Adams	42	Morgan	12	Lee	3
Jackson	42	Pike	11	Pulaski	3
Winnebago	42	Stephenson	11	Wayne	3
Macoupin	41	White	11	Lawrence	2
Fulton	40	Effingham	10	Pope	2
Kane	39	Vermilion	10	Richland	2
LaSalle	39	Boone	9	Stark	2
Du Page	38	De Witt	9	Cumberland	1
Franklin	36	Logan	9	Edwards	1
Rock Island	33	Washington	9	Piatt	1
Mc Lean	31	Henderson	8	Clay	0
Mason	31	Marion	8	Hardin	0
Jefferson	27	Moultrie	8	Total	1,969
Bureau	25	Saline	8		
Perry	25	Schuyler	8	Non-residents	
Woodford	25	Jasper	7		
Grundy	24	Jo Daviess	7	Missouri	50
Clinton	23	Mc Donough	7	Iowa	21
Union	22	Massac	7	Indiana	17
Monroe	21	Montgomery	7	Kentucky	14
Macon	20	Alexander	6	Wisconsin	9
Whiteside	20	Douglas	6	Michigan	4
Calhoun	19	Fayette	6	Georgia	3
Cass	19	Menard	6	Tennessee	3
Henry	19	Mercer	6	Texas	3
Jersey	19	Bond	5	Others[a]	15
Champaign	18	Edgar	5	Total	139
Kankakee	18	Iroquois	5		
Livingston	18	Johnson	5		
Knox	17	Shelby	5		

[a] Two each from Arkansas and Minnesota, and one each from Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, New York, South Carolina and West Virginia.