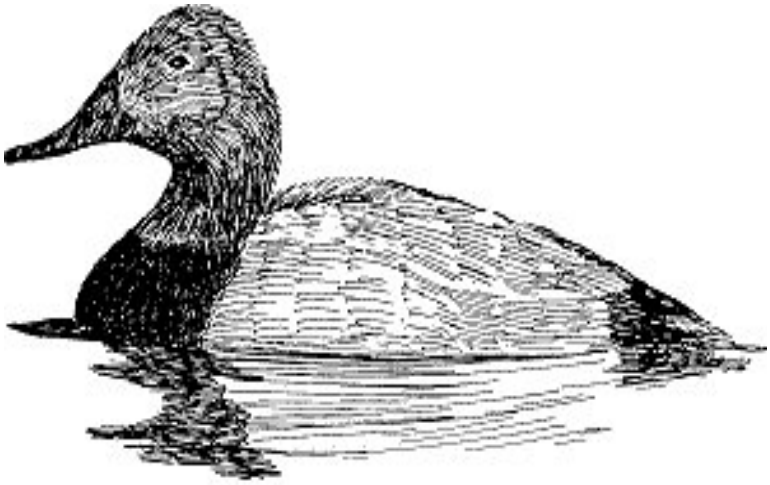
*Human*Dimensions
Research Program

Results of the 2005-2006 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey



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Federal Aid Project
Number W-112-R-15
Job Number 101.3
Wildlife Restoration
Oct. 1, 2005-Sept. 30, 2006

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January 22, 2007

LIST OF TABLES AND APPENDICES

Page

Table 1 ..... **Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps purchased, hunter activity, and waterfowl harvest, 1981-2005** **11**
Table 2 ..... **Percentage of waterfowl hunters who hunted exclusively ducks, exclusively geese, or both** **12**
Table 3 ..... **Summary of teal harvest and hunter activity during September teal season in Illinois, 1981-2005** **13**
Table 4 ..... **Teal harvest and hunter activity by zones during the September teal season in Illinois** **14**
Table 5 ..... **Rates of teal harvest and hunter activity during the September teal season in Illinois, 1981-2005** **14**
Table 6 ..... **Waterfowl harvest and hunter activity during the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days in Illinois, 1996-2005** **15**
Table 7 ..... **Summary of duck and coot harvest and hunter activity during regular duck season in Illinois** **16**
Table 8 ..... **Duck harvest and hunter activity by waterfowl zones and areas during regular duck season** **17**
Table 9 ..... **Rates of duck harvest and hunter activity during the regular duck season in Illinois, 1981-2005** **18**
Table 10 ..... **Canada goose harvest and hunter activity during early September Canada goose season in Illinois** **19**
Table 11 ..... **Summary of goose harvest and hunter activity during regular goose season in Illinois, 1981-2005** **20**
Table 12 ..... **Goose harvest and hunter activity by zones and selected areas in Illinois in 2005-2006** **21**
Table 13 ..... **Canada goose harvest by zones and selected areas during regular goose season in Illinois** **22**
Table 14 ..... **Type of land hunted in the Southern Illinois Quota Zone in 2005-2006** **22**
Table 15 ..... **Harvest of geese other than Canada geese in Illinois, 1996-1997 through 2005-2006** **23**
Table 16 ..... **Summary of number of ducks and geese that were crippled during regular season in Illinois, 1981-2005** **24**
Table 17 ..... **Relative importance of some basic aspects of duck hunting to duck hunters statewide in Illinois** **25**
Table 18 ..... **Relative importance of some basic aspects of duck hunting to duck hunters in the North Zone** **25**
Table 19 ..... **Relative importance of some basic aspects of duck hunting to duck hunters in the Central Zone** **26**
Table 20 ..... **Relative importance of some basic aspects of duck hunting to duck hunters in the South Zone** **26**
Table 21 ..... **First choice of duck season dates (2006-2007 season) for hunters in the North Zone** **27**
Table 22 ..... **First choice of duck season dates (2006-2007 season) for hunters in the Central Zone** **28**
Table 23 ..... **First choice of duck season dates (2006-2007 season) for hunters in the South Zone** **29**
Table 24 ..... **Second choice of duck season dates (2006-2007 season) for hunters in the North Zone** **30**
Table 25 ..... **Second choice of duck season dates for (2006-2007 season) for hunters in the Central Zone** **31**
Table 26 ..... **Second choice of duck season dates for (2006-2007 season) for hunters in the South Zone** **32**
Table 27 ..... **Measurements of central tendency for preferred start dates for duck season** **33**
Table 28 ..... **Attitudes of North Zone and Central Zone duck hunters toward having a split duck season** **33**
Table 29 ..... **Attitudes of South Zone duck hunters toward having a split duck season** **33**
Table 30 ..... **Attitudes of duck hunters toward the boundary that separates the North and Central Zones** **34**
Table 31 ..... **Attitudes of duck hunters toward the boundary that separates the Central and South Zones** **34**
Table 32 ..... **Attitudes of goose hunters toward combinations of season length and bag limit for Canada geese** **34**

Appendix A ..... **2005-2006 IL Waterfowl Survey instrument and mailings** **35**
Figure 1 ..... **Waterfowl hunting record card** **35**
Figure 2 ..... **Cover letter #1 sent with first mailing of the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey** **36**
Figure 3 ..... **Cover letter #2 sent with second mailing of the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey** **37**
Figure 4 ..... **2005-2006 IL Waterfowl reminder postcard sent after survey mailings** **38**
Figure 5 ..... **Illinois waterfowl survey instrument, 2005-2006 season** **39**
Appendix B ..... **2005-2006 IL waterfowl hunting regulations** **47**
Appendix C ..... **County/state of residence of hunters who responded to the 2005-2006 IL Waterfowl Hunter Survey** **48**

RESULTS OF THE 2005-2006 ILLINOIS WATERFOWL HUNTER SURVEY

JOB COMPLETION REPORT

WILDLIFE HARVEST AND
HUMAN DIMENSIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NUMBER: W-112-R-15
STUDY 101
JOB NO. 101.3

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January 22, 2007

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration
W-112-R-15

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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ABSTRACT

A total of 2,725 potential Illinois waterfowl hunters returned usable questionnaires for the 2005-2006 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey (59% response rate). Of those, 2,244 reported purchasing a 2005-2006 Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp, of which 1,890 (84%) hunted waterfowl in 2005-2006. An estimated 48,772 Illinois waterfowl hunters spent 868,299 days hunting during the 2005-2006 season, and they harvested 526,221 waterfowl. There were 6,686 September teal hunters; they spent 17,708 days hunting and harvested 10,953 teal. Harvest during the regular duck season included 240,897 mallards, 37,942 wood ducks, and 133,509 other ducks. Hunters harvested 9,896 Canada geese during the 2005 September season. During the regular goose season, 30,614 hunters spent 271,708 days hunting and harvested 74,293 Canada geese and 9,353 other geese. We examined hunter attitudes toward waterfowl hunting, with a particular emphasis on duck season dates and zone boundaries.

OBJECTIVE

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

METHODS

A sample of 5,000 potential waterfowl hunters was 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 (2004-2005). Persons on the list were notified on August 31, 2005 that they would receive a questionnaire at the close of the hunting season. The notice included a form for keeping records of hunting activity and waterfowl harvested (Appendix A). After incorrect and duplicate addresses were removed, the sample was reduced to 4,787. On February 8, 2006, these potential hunters were mailed a self-administered, 8-page

questionnaire, cover letter, and postage-paid return envelope (Appendix A). The questionnaire addressed days of hunting, harvest, and attitudes toward issues related to waterfowl season dates and related issues. Nonrespondents were mailed a thank you/reminder postcard on February 24 (Appendix A), a second copy of the questionnaire on March 13, and another thank you/reminder postcard on April 5. The questionnaire was not deliverable to 147 recipients, thus the sample population was reduced to 4,640 individuals. Estimates of number of hunters, days of hunting, and waterfowl harvested were based on confirmed sales of 55,734 Illinois Migratory Waterfowl stamps (2005-2006 series) as of September 13, 2006, and were computed following the procedures outlined below. We entered and analyzed data using SPSS 14.0.

The total number of active waterfowl hunters was estimated using the number of Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps sold and adjusting for multiple-stamp buyers, non-hunting stamp buyers, and stamp-exempt hunters. The number of teal, duck, and goose hunters ($Hunt_{sp}$), days of hunting ($Days_{sp}$), birds crippled but not retrieved ($Crip_{sp}$) and harvest ($Harv_{sp}$) were calculated as follows:

$$Hunt_{sp} = Hunt_r \frac{L_t A_1 A_2}{n},$$

$$Days_{sp} = Days_r \frac{L_t A_1 A_2}{n},$$

$$Crip_{sp} = Crip_r \frac{L_t A_1 A_2}{n},$$

$$Harv_{sp} = Harv_r \frac{L_t A_1 A_2 A_3}{n}$$

where $Hunt_r$ = number of respondents to 2005-2006 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey who reported hunting for each species (adjustment for non-hunters is inherent), L_t = total number of Illinois migratory Waterfowl Stamps sold in 2005-2006, A_1 = fixed reduction factor for multiple-stamp buyers (0.957; Anderson 1986), A_2 = fixed expansion factor for stamp-exempt hunters

(1.086; Anderson et al. 1998), n = number of respondents to 2005-2006 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey who purchased a stamp, $Days_r$ = total number of days spent hunting reported by respondents, $Crip_r$ = total number of birds crippled but not retrieved reported by respondents, $Harv_r$ = total harvest of each species reported by respondents, A_3 = fixed reduction factor for reporting bias (0.501 for teal, ducks, and coots; Anderson et al. 1986; 0.478 for geese; Anderson et al. 1996).

Confidence intervals for the estimated numbers of ducks, coots, and geese harvested were calculated by:

$$95\%\ \text{CI}\ \left[Harv_{sp}\right] = \pm 2L_t\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{n}}\right)\left(\frac{L_t - n}{L_t}\right)$$

where s = standard deviation of total species harvest reported by respondents.

SEASON LENGTHS AND BAG LIMITS

The early (September) teal season extended for 9 days in 2005, the same as in 2004, and the daily bag limit remained at 4 birds. As in 2004, the 2005 early (September) Canada goose season was 15 days long with a 2 bird limit, except in the Northeast Zone where the limit was 5 birds per day. The duck season lasted 60 days with a 6 bird limit. The statewide Canada goose (regular season) quota was increased to 80,600 for the 2005-2006 season, compared to a quota of 74,200 during the 2004-2005 season. See Appendix B for details of season dates, legal shooting hours, and bag limits.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 2,725 usable questionnaires were returned for a response rate of 59%. Of these returns, 2,244 were from respondents who purchased an Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp for the 2005-2006 season. These stamp purchasers included 1,890 (84%) individuals who hunted

waterfowl in Illinois in 2005-2006. They are, on average, 46.5 years of age (range: 10-87, *n*=1,858), and they had hunted waterfowl for an average of 25.7 years (range: 1-75 years, *n*=1,865). The hunters represented 97 of the 102 counties in Illinois and 18 other states (Appendix C). The apparent 9% decrease in sales of the stamp in 2005-2006 (Table 1) may have been a facade created as a consequence of converting the Department of Natural Resource's licensing/stamp/permit system to electronic point of sales beginning early in 2006. The apparent decrease in stamp sales in 2005-2006 had the net effect of depressing all of our estimates of waterfowl hunting activity and harvest for the 2005-2006 season

Waterfowl Harvest and Hunter Activity

The number of waterfowl hunters decreased from 54,803 during the 2004-2005 season to 48,772 during the 2005-2006 season (Table 1). Hunters reported spending 868,299 days pursuing waterfowl in 2005-2006, a decrease of 20% from the 1,083,910 days estimated for 2004-2005. However, waterfowl harvest increased 6%: from 494,775 during 2004-2005 to 526,221 during 2005-2006. More than one-third (37%) of the hunters hunted ducks only, whereas 12% hunted geese only, and 51% hunted both ducks and geese (Table 2).

September Teal Season – The number of early (September) teal hunters decreased 17%, from 8,097 in 2004 to 6,686 during 2005 (Table 3). Days of hunting decreased 26%, from 23,928 during 2004 to 17,708 during 2005. However, teal harvest during the 2005 September season was 10,953, a 29% increase from the 8,463 teal harvested during the 2004 season. The Central Zone accounted for the majority of September teal hunters (3,614), days of hunting (9,732), and harvest (6,285) (Table 4). Statewide, September season teal hunters averaged 2.65 days of hunting in 2005, down from an average 2.96 days in 2004. September season teal hunters harvested an average of 0.62 teal per hunter per day and 1.64 teal per hunter per season (Table 5).

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has allowed Illinois and the other states to have 2 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days since 2000. From 1996 through 1999, only 1 day was designated specifically for youths. The number of adults and youths who participated in the program declined in 2005, decreasing 19% and 21%, respectively, from 2004 (Table 6). Youth waterfowl harvest (ducks, geese, and coots combined) also declined from 8,086 in 2004 to 7,192 in 2005. Mean age of youths taken on the youth hunt was 12.7 years, with a range of 7-17 years (not all youths taken actually hunted; the legal upper age limit for the youth hunt is 15 years).

Regular Duck Season - The number of duck hunters decreased by 5,861 (12%), from 49,046 during 2004-2005 to 43,185 during 2005-2006 (Table 7). Duck hunters spent 539,672 days hunting during 2005-2006, a decrease of 17% from the 652,960 days reported during 2004-2005. Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) harvest increased by 32,915 birds (16%), from 207,982 during 2004-2005 to 240,897 during 2005-2006. Harvest of wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) decreased to 37,942 in 2005-2006, from an estimated harvest of 44,725 wood ducks in 2004-2005. This was the lowest wood duck harvest since 1992 and the 5th lowest since the waterfowl hunter survey was initiated in 1981. Harvest of other ducks increased by 14%, from 116,951 in 2004-2005 to 133,509 during the 2005-2006 season. Total duck harvest during 2005-2006 was 412,348, which is 12% higher than the 369,658 ducks harvested during the 2004-2005 season. The unusual return of many thousands of ducks following an extensive thaw in late December and January resulted in excellent duck hunting in the South Zone and may have been largely responsible for the statewide increase in harvest in 2005-2006.

The 2005-2006 duck harvest is presented by waterfowl zones and selected areas in Table 8. Statewide, the duck harvest per hunter per day increased from 0.57 in 2004-2005 to 0.76 in 2005-2006, and duck harvest per hunter per season similarly increased from 7.54 in 2004-2005 to 9.55 in 2005-2006 (Table 9). The daily harvest rate was the 2nd highest since the waterfowl

hunter survey began in 1981. Coot (*Fulica americana*) harvest increased from 1,607 birds in 2004-2005 to 2,186 in 2005-2006 (Table 7).

Early September Goose Season - An estimated 9,448 hunters participated in the early September Canada goose season in Illinois during 2005 (Table 10). The majority (53%) of September goose hunters (5,034) were active in the Central Zone. Harvest during the 2005 September Canada goose season was 9,896, which is 27% less than the 13,587 harvested in 2004. The Central Zone harvest of 4,047 Canada geese accounted for 41% of total harvest statewide in 2005. Statewide, days hunted during the September season decreased 23%, from 37,941 in 2004 to 29,143 in 2005.

Regular Goose Season - In 2005-2006, an estimated 30,614 goose hunters spent 271,708 days hunting during the regular goose season (Table 11). Canada goose harvest decreased from 81,859 in 2004-2005 to 74,293 in 2005-2006. The Central Quota Zone and the Central Non-Quota Zone accounted for 51% of the Canada goose harvest (Table 12). Illinois' Canada goose harvest is summarized by zone and year (2003-2004 though 2005-2006) in Table 13. The statewide quota was 80,600 Canada geese in 2005-2006.

Sixty percent of days of goose hunting in the Southern Illinois Quota Zone (SIQZ) in 2005-2006 were on non-commercial areas and 40% on commercial areas (Table 14). Similarly, 65% of the goose harvest was on non-commercial areas and 35% on commercial areas. Jackson and Williamson counties accounted for 79% of the days hunted and 85% of the harvest in the SIQZ in 2005-2006.

Goose hunters also harvested 2,184 white-fronted geese and 7,169 snow/blue/Ross' geese during the regular goose season in 2005-2006 (Table 15). The harvest of all geese during the regular goose season in 2005-2006 totaled 83,646 birds, compared to a total goose harvest of 90,090 in 2004-2005 (Table 11).

Crippling Losses - Crippling losses (birds knocked down but not retrieved) were estimated at 68,121 ducks and 7,666 geese in Illinois during the 2005-2006 regular seasons (Table 16). These estimates, which are considered to be indices and not actual numbers, equate to 16.5 ducks and 9.2 geese lost per 100 harvested.

Hunter Attitudes and Opinions

Important Aspects of Duck Hunting - Illinois duck hunters have a strong preference for hunting at the peak of migration and for hunting mallards, compared to other aspects of duck hunting (Table 17). Ending duck season on average date of freezeup and hunting early migrating ducks were relatively unimportant to the hunters. This pattern was consistent across all three waterfowl zones (Tables 18-20).

Duck Season Dates and Structure - Hunters were asked to indicate their preference among all possible choices for duck season dates that began on a Saturday, with the exception of the latest season, which ended on the last allowable date. Preferred dates for a 60-day season selected by North Zone hunters were weighted toward dates later than the top choice, October 14 (Table 21). For Central Zone hunters, the preferred dates for a 60-day season were normally distributed around the top choice, October 28 (Table 22). The preferred 60-day season opening date selected by South Zone hunters was the latest possible season opening date, November 30 (Table 23).

The second choice for 60-day season dates for North Zone duck hunters was 1 week later (October 21) than their first choice (Table 24). For Central Zone hunters, the second choice for 60-day season opening date was the same (October 28) as their first choice (Table 25). For South Zone hunters, the second choice was 5 days earlier (November 25) than their first choice (Table 26). Preferred opening dates for 30- and 45-day season frameworks are presented in Tables 21-26.

Median values for opening dates, as selected by hunters in the respective zones, were much the same as the preferred dates indicated by simple majorities (Table 27). Exceptions included the Central Zone for a 45-day season and the South Zone for a 60-day season. Similarly, mean values indicated opening dates that were within 5 days of the median values and simple majorities for all comparisons except the South Zone for a 60-day season, where a majority of the hunters preferred an exceptionally late opening date (November 30).

Split Duck Seasons and Zone Boundaries - Hunters were asked to express their opinions of adopting split duck seasons and making changes in the current duck zones. A plurality of hunters in all 3 zones (49% in North, 59% in Central, and 41% in South) preferred to have no split season and retaining the 3-zone system (Tables 28 and 29). However, it is noteworthy that 48% (also a plurality) of the hunters in the South Zone indicated support for a split season of one configuration or another. In other words, South Zone hunters were the most supportive of a split season, which is similar to the findings reported in the 2004-2005 Waterfowl Hunter Survey (Hubert et al. 2005).

Of the hunters who expressed an opinion about the location of the current (2005-2006) duck zone boundaries, pluralities felt the present locations were “about right” (Tables 30 and 31). Hunters in the South Zone were the least satisfied with the current zone configuration. However, hunters who desired change were divided as to whether the Central/South boundary should be moved farther north or farther south. In contrast, hunters who wanted to move the North/Central boundary preferred moving the boundary southward by a margin of approximately 3 to 1. Duck hunters who hunted in counties along the zone boundaries expressed sentiments similar to the total respondent population, with pluralities on both sides of the zone lines feeling the present locations were about right (Tables 30 and 31).

Canada Goose Season Lengths and Bag Limits - When asked to convey attitudes toward different combinations of Canada goose season lengths and bag limits, majorities of hunters in

all 3 zones preferred a shorter season with 2 geese per day for the entire season (Table 32).

Thus, hunters in the North and Central Zones preferred a 75-day season with 2 geese per day.

South Zone hunters preferred a 58-day season with 2 geese per day bag limit.

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Table 1. Summary of Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps purchased, hunter activity, and waterfowl harvest in Illinois from 1981 through 2005 hunting seasons, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Season (Year)	Stamps Purchased	Hunters	Days Hunted	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) [b]	53,450	644,056	264,316
1989 [c]	55,693 (3,570) [b]	55,709	749,033	322,359
1990 [c]	55,009 (2,390) [b]	55,152	708,391	270,796
1991 [c]	58,421 (2,130) [b]	59,038	855,279	406,854
1992	51,261 (1,395) [b]	51,274	714,550	292,535
1993	50,976 (995) [b]	51,340	682,498	326,446
1994	57,543 (955) [b]	53,226	816,185	332,803
1995	60,564 (665) [b]	55,454	884,328	498,854
1996	62,417 (545) [b]	56,956	836,793	376,248
1997	59,961 (480) [b]	54,715	881,030	401,236
1998	54,550 (450) [b]	50,288	795,561	471,072
1999	63,782 (350) [b]	58,003	1,472,301	783,195
2000	62,701 (330) [b]	56,954	1,115,076	708,092
2001	63,745 (300) [b]	59,029	1,337,297	695,790
2002	61,345 (1,520) [b]	53,428	1,054,047	504,616
2003	61,991 (260) [b]	57,985	1,251,974	650,906
2004	60,264	54,803	1,083,910	494,775
2005	55,734	48,772	868,299	526,221

[a] Teal, ducks, coots, and geese combined, and including September teal and Canada goose seasons and youth hunt. 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 Anderson and Williamson (1994) for explanation.

Table 2. The percentage of waterfowl hunters who hunted exclusively ducks, exclusively geese, or both ducks and geese in Illinois from 1981 through 2005 seasons, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Season (Year)	Percentage Who Hunted:			Percentage Who Were:	
	Ducks Only	Geese Only	Both Ducks and Geese	Duck Hunters	Goose Hunters
1981	63	14	23	86	37
1982	59	11	30	89	41
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
2004	32	9	59	91	68
2005	37	12	51	88	63

Table 3. Summary of teal harvest and hunter activity during the September teal season in Illinois from 1981 through 2005, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Year	Hunters	Days Hunted	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
2004	8,097	23,928	8,463
2005	6,686	17,708	10,953[b]

[a] The September teal season was suspended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during these years.
[b] The 95% confidence interval is $\pm$ 4,039.

Table 4. Teal harvest and hunter activity by zones during the September teal season in Illinois in 2005, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey (*n*=259). Note: Data by waterfowl hunting zone may not sum to statewide total due to rounding of results.

Category	Statewide	North Zone	Central Zone	South Zone	Unknown
Hunters	6,686	1,213	3,614	1,471	388
Days Hunted	17,708	3,304	9,732	3,924	748
Teal Harvest	10,953	1,345	6,285	3,052	271

Table 5. Rates of teal harvest and hunter activity during the September teal season in Illinois from 1981 through 2005, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

			Teal Harvest Per Hunter	
Year	Season Length/ Bag Limit	Days Hunted 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
2004	9/4	2.96	0.35	1.05
2005	9/4	2.65	0.62	1.64

[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 from 1996 through 2005, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

	1996 [a]	1997 [a]	1998 [a]	1999 [a]	2000 [b]	2001 [b]	2002 [b]	2003 [b]	2004 [b]	2005 [b]
Adults who took a youth hunting	2,749	3,163	3,343	5,505	6,815	9,140	8,498	7,415	5,603	4,540
Youth hunters participating	4,353	4,322	5,142	8,113	10,107	15,148	13,325	11,419	7,891	6,489
Youth days hunted	4,353	4,322	5,142	8,113	14,079	22,525	19,548	17,985	12,997	10,268
Mean youths per hunting party	1.58	1.37	1.54	1.47	1.48	1.67	1.57	1.54	1.41	1.58
Waterfowl Harvest										
Total Ducks	3,171	3,451	4,159	5,835	8,388	11,727	9,085	9,184	7,477	5,644
Ducks per youth per day	0.73	0.80	0.81	0.72	0.60	0.52	0.46	0.51	0.58	0.55
Total Coots	230	387	208	629	38	480	271	178	48	583
Coots per youth per day	0.05	0.09	0.04	0.08	<0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	<0.01	0.06
Total Geese	---- [c]	---- [c]	289	571	882	971	887	1,116	561	965
Geese per youth per day			0.06	0.07	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.09

[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 harvest and hunter activity during the regular duck season in Illinois from 1981 through 2005, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Season (Year)	Hunters	Days Hunted	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
2004	49,046	652,960	207,982	44,725	116,951[b]	369,658	1,607
2005	43,185	539,672	240,897	37,942	133,509[b]	412,348[c]	2,186[d]

[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 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, 1,789 in 2003, 2,100 in 2004 and 3,918 in 2005. The canvasback season was closed in 2000, and was limited to 30 days in 2001, 2003, and 2004.
[c] The 95% confidence interval is $\pm$ 55,476.
[d] The 95% confidence interval is $\pm$ 2,620.

Table 8. Duck harvest and hunter activity by waterfowl zones and areas during the regular duck season in Illinois in 2005-2006, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Zone/Area	*n*	Hunters	Days Hunted	Ducks Harvested
North Zone	261	6,737	72,948	39,158
Central Zone	985	25,426	317,371	235,337
South Zone				
SIQZ[a]	133	3,433	50,774	45,766
Rend Lake[b]	78	2,013	34,176	36,649
Carlyle Lake[c]	72	1,859	17,940	20,704
Elsewhere	143	3,691	46,386	34,697
South Zone Total	426	10,996	149,276	137,816
Unknown	1	26	77	37
Statewide	1,673	43,185	539,672	412,348

[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 2005, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Year	Season Length/ Bag Limit [a]	Days Hunted Per Hunter	Duck Harvest Per Hunter	
			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
2004	60/6(4,2)	13.31	0.57	7.54
2005	60/6(4,2)	12.50	0.76	9.55

[a] 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 1988-2005.

Table 10. Canada goose harvest and hunter activity during the early September Canada goose season in Illinois from 1997 through 2005, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

		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
2004	11,170 [d]	2,721	1,529	6,220	803[c]	181	0
2005	9,448[d]	2,452	1,497	5,034	878[c]	207	0
Days Hunted							
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
2004	37,941	8,241	6,038	19,670	2,307[c]	285	0
2005	29,143	6,892	5,292	14,352	2,065[c]	542	0
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
2004	13,587	4,422	1,897	5,915	711 [c]	56	0
2005	9,896	3,702	1,160	4,047	888[c]	99	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).
[c] Excluding SIQZ.
[d] Less than the sum of hunters in individual zones because some hunters hunted in more than one area.

Table 11. Summary of goose harvest and hunter activity during the regular goose season in Illinois from 1981 through 2005, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

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)[a]	47,384 (8,031)[a]
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)	10,458 [c] (342)	93,665 [c] (1,868)
2004	37,189	345,279	81,859 (3,418)	8,231 (349)	90,090 (3,767)
2005	30,614	271,708	74,293 (1,653)	9,353 (62)	83,646[d] (1,715)

[a] Number of geese harvested coincidentally to duck hunting.
[b] The estimates of goose hunters and days hunted 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 Anderson and Williamson (1994) for explanation.
[c] Reduced by 23,151 from estimate given in last year's report so it does not include Conservation Order snow goose harvest.
[d] The 95% confidence interval is $\pm$ 21,876.

Table 12. Goose harvest and hunter activity by zones and selected areas in Illinois in 2005-2006, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Zone/Area	*n*	Hunters	Days Hunted	Canada Geese	White-Fronted Geese	Snow/Blue Geese-Regular Season	Total Geese
North Zone							
North Quota	150	3,882	32,700	13,665	25	79	13,769
North Non-Quota	203	5,240	34,060	8,983	0	37	9,020
Total	353	9,122	66,760	22,648	25	116	22,789
Central Zone							
Central Quota	370	9,540	69,881	20,884	247	476	21,607
Central Non-Quota	452	11,681	73,193	16,886	179	3,862	20,927
Total	822	21,221	143,074	37,770	426	4,338	42,534
South Zone							
SIQZ [a]	154	3,975	28,085	7,083	444	395	7,922
Rend Lake Non-Quota [b]	49	1,265	8,725	765	271	1,259	2,295
Carlyle Lake Non-Quota [c]	34	878	4,182	864	395	296	1,555
Elsewhere Non-Quota	134	3,446	20,366	5,040	623	765	6,428
Total	371	9,564	61,358	13,752	1,733	2,715	18,200
Unknown	3	77	516	123	0	0	123
Statewide	1,186	30,614 [d]	271,708	74,293	2,184	7,169	83,646

[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 from 2003-2004 through 2005-2006, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. See Table 12 for sample sizes for 2005-2006.

Zone/Area	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	Mean
North Quota	16,491	13,188	13,665	14,448
North Non-Quota	7,321	11,160	8,983	9,155
Total	23,812	24,348	22,648	23,603
Central Quota	18,046	25,648	20,884	21,526
Central Non-Quota	19,509	17,187	16,886	17,861
Total	37,555	42,835	37,770	39,387
SIQZ [a]	12,497	6,403	7,083	8,661
Rend Lake Non-Quota [b]	1,709	2,148	765	1,541
Carlyle Lake Non-Quota [c]	696	572	864	711
Elsewhere Non-Quota	6,535	5,524	5,040	5,699
Total	21,437	14,647	13,752	16,612
Unknown	403	29	123	184
Statewide	83,207	81,859	74,293	79,786

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

Table 14. Type of land hunted for geese in the Southern Illinois Quota Zone in 2005-2006, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

County		Hunters	Days Hunted	Geese Harvested
Alexander		(n=12)		
	Non-commercial area	33%	24%	64%
	Commercial area	83%	76%	36%
Union		(n=34)		
	Non-commercial area	29%	30%	40%
	Commercial area	74%	70%	60%
Jackson & Williamson		(n=101)		
	Non-commercial area	68%	69%	68%
	Commercial area	40%	31%	32%
Total		(n=144)		
	Non-commercial area	58%	60%	65%
	Commercial area	52%	40%	35%

Table 15. Harvest of geese other than Canada geese in Illinois from 1996-1997 through 2005-2006, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Season (Year)	White-Fronted Geese	Snow/Blue Geese Regular Season [a]	Others	Total
1996	--- [b]	4,063	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	--- [b]	10,458 [c]
2004	2,330	5,901	---	8,231
2005	2,184	7,169	---	9,353

[a] Regular goose seasons.
[b] Not listed in questionnaire.
[c] Reduced by 23,151 from estimate given in previous year's report so it does not include Conservation Order snow goose harvest.

Table 16. Summary of the number of ducks and geese that were crippled (knocked down but not retrieved) during the regular season in Illinois from 1981-1982 through 2005-2006, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

	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	15.9	12,661	10.8
2004	63,765	17.2	9,433	10.5
2005	68,121	16.5	7,666	9.2

[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 Anderson and Williamson (1994) for explanation.

Table 17. Relative importance of some basic aspects of duck hunting to duck hunters statewide in Illinois in 2005-2006, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey (*n*=1,610).

Statement	Not Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Very Important	Extremely Important	Mean Rating
Hunting early migrating ducks.	18%	18%	32%	19%	13%	2.9
Hunting during peak duck migration.	1	2	6	29	62	4.5
Hunting mallards.	2	3	14	32	49	4.3
Hunting after freeze-up.	19	16	26	21	18	3.0
Hunting multiple duck species.	5	7	21	33	34	3.8
Hunting late migrating ducks.	6	8	23	30	33	3.8
Ending duck season on average date of freeze-up.	38	14	24	13	11	2.5

Table 18. Relative importance of some basic aspects of duck hunting to duck hunters in the North Zone of Illinois in 2005-2006, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey (*n*=268).

Statement	Not Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Very Important	Extremely Important	Mean Rating
Hunting early migrating ducks.	15%	16%	35%	19%	15%	3.0
Hunting during peak duck migration.	2	2	10	25	61	4.4
Hunting mallards.	2	3	19	36	40	4.1
Hunting after freeze-up.	19	15	26	16	24	3.1
Hunting multiple duck species.	5	7	18	31	39	3.9
Hunting late migrating ducks.	6	8	21	30	35	3.8
Ending duck season on average date of freeze-up.	34	13	29	14	10	2.5

Table 19. Relative importance of some basic aspects of duck hunting to duck hunters in the Central Zone of Illinois in 2005-2006, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey (*n*=891).

Statement	Not Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Very Important	Extremely Important	Mean Rating
Hunting early migrating ducks.	18%	19%	30%	20%	13%	2.9
Hunting during peak duck migration.	<1	1	5	30	64	4.6
Hunting mallards.	1	3	13	31	52	4.3
Hunting after freeze-up.	20	16	25	21	18	3.1
Hunting multiple duck species.	4	7	22	32	35	3.9
Hunting late migrating ducks.	6	7	25	29	32	3.7
Ending duck season on average date of freeze-up.	38	14	23	13	12	2.5

Table 20. Relative importance of some basic aspects of duck hunting to duck hunters in the South Zone of Illinois in 2005-2006, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey (*n*=444).

Statement	Not Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Very Important	Extremely Important	Mean Rating
Hunting early migrating ducks.	22%	16%	32%	17%	13%	2.8
Hunting during peak duck migration.	1	1	8	31	59	4.4
Hunting mallards.	2	4	15	32	47	4.2
Hunting after freeze-up.	18	16	26	23	17	3.0
Hunting multiple duck species.	6	7	22	37	28	3.7
Hunting late migrating ducks.	6	7	22	33	32	3.8
Ending duck season on average date of freeze-up.	41	14	24	12	9	2.3

Table 21. First choice of duck season dates (2006-2007 season) for hunters in the North Zone of Illinois, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

30-Day Season (*n*=247)		45-Day Season (*n*=253)		60-Day Season (*n*=263)	
Dates	Percent	Dates	Percent	Dates	Percent
Sept.30-Oct.29	4	Sept.23-Nov.6	3	Sept.23-Nov.21	4
Oct.7-Nov.5	7	Sept.30-Nov.13	5	Sept.30-Nov.28	7
Oct.14-Nov.12	11	Oct.7-Nov.20	10	Oct.7-Dec.5	16
Oct.21-Nov.19	15	Oct.14-Nov.27	19	Oct.14-Dec.12	26
Oct.28-Nov.26	19	Oct.21-Dec.4	20	Oct.21-Dec.19	16
Nov.4-Dec.3	10	Oct.28-Dec.11	13	Oct.28-Dec.26	10
Nov.11-Dec.10	10	Nov.4-Dec.18	7	Nov.4-Jan.2	8
Nov.18-Dec.17	6	Nov.11-Dec.25	8	Nov.11-Jan.9	4
Nov.25-Dec.24	6	Nov.18-Jan.1	3	Nov.18-Jan.16	1
Dec.2-Dec.31	2	Nov.25-Jan.8	3	Nov.25-Jan.23	1
Dec.9-Jan.7	3	Dec.2-Jan.15	2	Nov.30-Jan.28	3
Dec.16-Jan.14	1	Dec.9-Jan.22	1		
Dec.23-Jan.21	<1	Dec.15-Jan.28	1		
No Preference	6	No Preference	5	No Preference	4

Table 22. First choice of duck season dates (2006-2007 season) for hunters in the Central Zone of Illinois, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

30-Day Season (*n*=813)		45-Day Season (*n*=833)		60-Day Season (*n*=879)	
Dates	Percent	Dates	Percent	Dates	Percent
Sept.30-Oct.29	1	Sept.23-Nov.6	1	Sept.23-Nov.21	1
Oct.7-Nov.5	1	Sept.30-Nov.13	1	Sept.30-Nov.28	1
Oct.14-Nov.12	2	Oct.7-Nov.20	1	Oct.7-Dec.5	4
Oct.21-Nov.19	6	Oct.14-Nov.27	5	Oct.14-Dec.12	8
Oct.28-Nov.26	16	Oct.21-Dec.4	13	Oct.21-Dec.19	20
Nov.4-Dec.3	22	Oct.28-Dec.11	23	Oct.28-Dec.26	32
Nov.11-Dec.10	14	Nov.4-Dec.18	22	Nov.4-Jan.2	15
Nov.18-Dec.17	12	Nov.11-Dec.25	13	Nov.11-Jan.9	7
Nov.25-Dec.24	11	Nov.18-Jan.1	8	Nov.18-Jan.16	3
Dec.2-Dec.31	5	Nov.25-Jan.8	5	Nov.25-Jan.23	3
Dec.9-Jan.7	3	Dec.2-Jan.15	1	Nov.30-Jan.28	2
Dec.16-Jan.14	1	Dec.9-Jan.22	1		
Dec.23-Jan.21	1	Dec.15-Jan.28	1		
No Preference	5	No Preference	5	No Preference	4

Table 23. First choice of duck season dates (2006-2007 season) for hunters in the South Zone of Illinois, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

30-Day Season (*n*=400)		45-Day Season (*n*=409)		60-Day Season (*n*=439)	
Dates	Percent	Dates	Percent	Dates	Percent
Sept.30-Oct.29	1	Sept.23-Nov.6	<1	Sept.23-Nov.21	<1
Oct.7-Nov.5	1	Sept.30-Nov.13	1	Sept.30-Nov.28	<1
Oct.14-Nov.12	1	Oct.7-Nov.20	0	Oct.7-Dec.5	1
Oct.21-Nov.19	1	Oct.14-Nov.27	1	Oct.14-Dec.12	1
Oct.28-Nov.26	3	Oct.21-Dec.4	2	Oct.21-Dec.19	3
Nov.4-Dec.3	6	Oct.28-Dec.11	5	Oct.28-Dec.26	7
Nov.11-Dec.10	10	Nov.4-Dec.18	8	Nov.4-Jan.2	11
Nov.18-Dec.17	10	Nov.11-Dec.25	13	Nov.11-Jan.9	16
Nov.25-Dec.24	19	Nov.18-Jan.1	14	Nov.18-Jan.16	17
Dec.2-Dec.31	9	Nov.25-Jan.8	20	Nov.25-Jan.23	20
Dec.9-Jan.7	9	Dec.2-Jan.15	8	Nov.30-Jan.28	21
Dec.16-Jan.14	9	Dec.9-Jan.22	8		
Dec.23-Jan.21	16	Dec.15-Jan.28	16		
No Preference	5	No Preference	4	No Preference	3

Table 24. Second choice of duck season dates (2006-2007 season) for hunters in the North Zone of Illinois, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

30-Day Season (*n*=186)		45-Day Season (*n*=188)		60-Day Season (*n*=196)	
Dates	Percent	Dates	Percent	Dates	Percent
Sept.30-Oct.29	2	Sept.23-Nov.6	1	Sept.23-Nov.21	2
Oct.7-Nov.5	3	Sept.30-Nov.13	3	Sept.30-Nov.28	6
Oct.14-Nov.12	8	Oct.7-Nov.20	8	Oct.7-Dec.5	13
Oct.21-Nov.19	16	Oct.14-Nov.27	15	Oct.14-Dec.12	18
Oct.28-Nov.26	19	Oct.21-Dec.4	20	Oct.21-Dec.19	23
Nov.4-Dec.3	19	Oct.28-Dec.11	18	Oct.28-Dec.26	17
Nov.11-Dec.10	11	Nov.4-Dec.18	15	Nov.4-Jan.2	10
Nov.18-Dec.17	7	Nov.11-Dec.25	8	Nov.11-Jan.9	6
Nov.25-Dec.24	7	Nov.18-Jan.1	5	Nov.18-Jan.16	1
Dec.2-Dec.31	3	Nov.25-Jan.8	2	Nov.25-Jan.23	3
Dec.9-Jan.7	2	Dec.2-Jan.15	2	Nov.30-Jan.28	1
Dec.16-Jan.14	2	Dec.9-Jan.22	1		
Dec.23-Jan.21	1	Dec.15-Jan.28	2		
No Preference	0	No Preference	0	No Preference	0

Table 25. Second choice of duck season dates (2006-2007 season) for hunters in the Central Zone of Illinois, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

30-Day Season (*n*=584)		45-Day Season (*n*=596)		60-Day Season (*n*=635)	
Dates	Percent	Dates	Percent	Dates	Percent
Sept.30-Oct.29	<1	Sept.23-Nov.6	0	Sept.23-Nov.21	<1
Oct.7-Nov.5	1	Sept.30-Nov.13	1	Sept.30-Nov.28	1
Oct.14-Nov.12	1	Oct.7-Nov.20	1	Oct.7-Dec.5	3
Oct.21-Nov.19	5	Oct.14-Nov.27	4	Oct.14-Dec.12	7
Oct.28-Nov.26	14	Oct.21-Dec.4	10	Oct.21-Dec.19	20
Nov.4-Dec.3	20	Oct.28-Dec.11	19	Oct.28-Dec.26	23
Nov.11-Dec.10	18	Nov.4-Dec.18	24	Nov.4-Jan.2	21
Nov.18-Dec.17	12	Nov.11-Dec.25	16	Nov.11-Jan.9	11
Nov.25-Dec.24	12	Nov.18-Jan.1	11	Nov.18-Jan.16	5
Dec.2-Dec.31	8	Nov.25-Jan.8	6	Nov.25-Jan.23	5
Dec.9-Jan.7	5	Dec.2-Jan.15	3	Nov.30-Jan.28	3
Dec.16-Jan.14	3	Dec.9-Jan.22	3		
Dec.23-Jan.21	1	Dec.15-Jan.28	2		
No Preference	0	No Preference	1	No Preference	1

Table 26. Second choice of duck season dates (2006-2007 season) for hunters in the South Zone of Illinois, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

30-Day Season (*n*=309)		45-Day Season (*n*=312)		60-Day Season (*n*=329)	
Dates	Percent	Dates	Percent	Dates	Percent
Sept.30-Oct.29	<1	Sept.23-Nov.6	0	Sept.23-Nov.21	0
Oct.7-Nov.5	<1	Sept.30-Nov.13	<1	Sept.30-Nov.28	<1
Oct.14-Nov.12	<1	Oct.7-Nov.20	0	Oct.7-Dec.5	<1
Oct.21-Nov.19	1	Oct.14-Nov.27	0	Oct.14-Dec.12	1
Oct.28-Nov.26	3	Oct.21-Dec.4	1	Oct.21-Dec.19	3
Nov.4-Dec.3	5	Oct.28-Dec.11	3	Oct.28-Dec.26	5
Nov.11-Dec.10	6	Nov.4-Dec.18	7	Nov.4-Jan.2	8
Nov.18-Dec.17	12	Nov.11-Dec.25	11	Nov.11-Jan.9	12
Nov.25-Dec.24	16	Nov.18-Jan.1	15	Nov.18-Jan.16	20
Dec.2-Dec.31	15	Nov.25-Jan.8	17	Nov.25-Jan.23	34
Dec.9-Jan.7	12	Dec.2-Jan.15	15	Nov.30-Jan.28	15
Dec.16-Jan.14	23	Dec.9-Jan.22	22		
Dec.23-Jan.21	6	Dec.15-Jan.28	7		
No Preference	1	No Preference	2	No Preference	2

Table 27. Measurements of central tendency for preferred start dates for duck season (2006-2007) in Illinois, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

	30-Day Season		45-Day Season		60-Day Season	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
North Zone	10/30	10/28	10/23	10/21	10/18	10/14
Central Zone	11/09	11/04	11/02	11/04	10/27	10/28
South Zone	11/28	11/25	11/22	11/25	11/15	11/18

Table 28. Attitudes of North Zone and Central Zone duck hunters toward having a split duck season in Illinois, 2005-2006, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

North/Central Zone, duck season date options:	Hunters in North Zone (*n*=256)	Hunters in Central Zone (*n*=852)
Split season with season open Oct.21-Oct.29 and Nov.4-Dec.24	18%	14%
Split season with season open Oct.21-Dec.10 and Dec.23-Dec.31	16	11
Split season but with different dates than those listed above	6	5
No split season - retain current 3-zone system	49	59
No opinion	11	11

Table 29. Attitudes of South Zone duck hunters toward having a split duck season in Illinois, 2005-2006, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

South Zone, duck season date options:	Hunters in South Zone (*n*=432)
Split season with season open Nov.11-Dec.10 and Dec.23-Jan.21.	22%
Split season with season open Nov.23-Jan.5 and Jan.13-Jan.28	19
Split season but with different dates than those listed above	7
No split season - retain current 3-zone system	41
No opinion	11

Table 30. Attitudes of duck hunters toward the boundary that separates the North and Central Zones in Illinois in 2005-2006, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Hunters	*n*	Present Location is About Right	Should be Moved North	Should be Moved South	No Opinion
In North Zone					
Entire zone	261	56%	4%	12%	28%
Boundary counties	81	56	4	22	18
In Central Zone					
Entire zone	882	50	6	21	23
Boundary counties	145	63	7	14	16

Table 31. Attitudes of duck hunters toward the boundary that separates the Central and South Zones in Illinois in 2005-2006, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Hunters	*n*	Present Location is About Right	Should be Moved North	Should be Moved South	No Opinion
In Central Zone					
Entire zone	859	52%	11%	7%	30%
Boundary counties	68	41	16	18	25
In South Zone					
Entire zone	437	38	11	23	28
Boundary counties	105	45	19	20	16

Table 32. Attitudes of goose hunters toward combinations of season length and bag limit for Canada geese in Illinois, 2005-2006, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

North/Central Zone Season Length and Bag Limit	Hunters in North Zone (*n*=281)	Hunters in Central Zone (*n*=590)
75 days with 2 geese	74%	56%
90 days with 1 goose for first 50 days and 2 geese for last 40 days	19	37
No opinion	7	7

South Zone Season Length and Bag Limit	Hunters in South Zone (*n*=267)
58 days with 2 geese	52%
70 days with 1 goose for first 40 days and 2 geese for last 30 days	37
No opinion	11

Appendix A. 2005-2006 Illinois Waterfowl Survey instrument and mailings.

Figure 1. Waterfowl hunting record card.

2005-06 Waterfowl Hunting Record - Ducks

(Record your personal harvest only)

Date of Hunt	County	Area Hunted*	Sept. Teal	Teal	Mallards	Wood Ducks	Canvas -backs	Other Ducks	Coots	Ducks downed not retrieved

***Area Hunted – Use these codes:** **PN**=Public Area (no charge), **PF**=Public area (daily fee), **C**=Commercial (daily, weekly, seasonal or other fee charged), **N**=Noncommercial (private club or private land that does not require payment to landowner)

2005-06 Waterfowl Hunting Record - Geese

(Record your personal harvest only)

Date of Hunt	County	Area Hunted*	Sept. Canada Geese	Canada Geese	Snow/ Blue Geese	White-fronted (Specklebelly) Geese	Other Geese (Brant, etc.)	Geese downed not retrieved

***Area Hunted – Use these codes:** **PN**=Public Area (no charge), **PF**=Public area (daily fee), **C**=Commercial (daily, weekly, seasonal or other fee charged), **N**=Noncommercial (private club or private land that does not require payment to landowner)

Figure 2. Cover letter #1 sent with first mailing of the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

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 2005-2006 season. Please complete and return the enclosed questionnaire about your waterfowl harvest and hunting activities in Illinois during the 2005-2006 waterfowl hunting season. Your reply is very important, **even if you did not hunt waterfowl or 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 to complete the enclosed questionnaire. Your comments are welcome but please write them on a separate sheet of paper to receive proper attention. A postage-paid envelope is provided for returning the questionnaire to us.

If you are interested in the summary results of this survey, or other hunter and trapper surveys, please visit http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/cwe/hd/. For more information about hunting and trapping in Illinois, visit http://dnr.state.il.us/orc/Wildlife/index.htm.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

William L. Anderson
Wildlife Harvest and Human Dimensions Research Program

Figure 3. Cover letter #2 sent with the second mailing of the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

Dear Waterfowl Hunter:

As one of a select group of Illinois waterfowl hunters during the 2005-2006 season, you have been asked to provide information about your waterfowl hunting activities. We recently mailed you a survey questionnaire regarding your hunting experiences in Illinois during the 2005-2006 waterfowl season. We have not received your completed questionnaire at this time. Perhaps you recently mailed the questionnaire and it has not yet arrived in our office. If so, we thank you.

If you have not returned your completed questionnaire to us, please do so as soon as possible. We have enclosed another copy of the questionnaire. **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.**

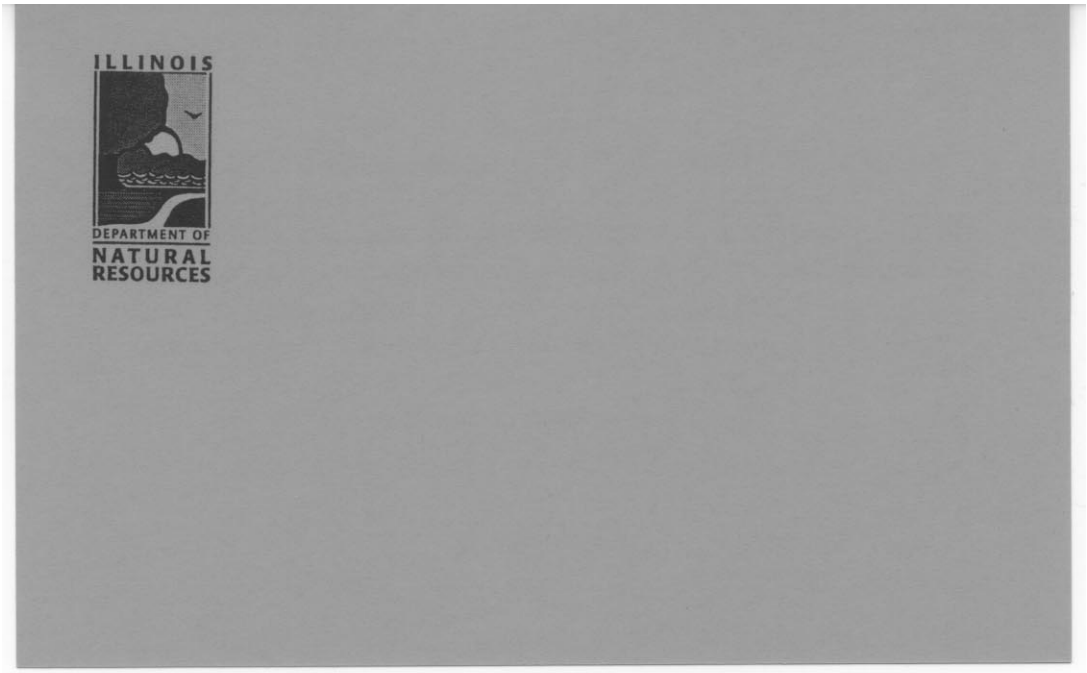
This survey is limited to those hunters selected. Please take a few minutes and complete the enclosed questionnaire **even if you were not successful.** A postage paid envelope is provided for you to return the questionnaire to us.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

William L. Anderson
Wildlife Harvest and Human Dimensions Research Program

Figure 4. 2005-2006 Illinois Waterfowl reminder postcard sent after survey mailings.



Dear Illinois Waterfowl Hunter,

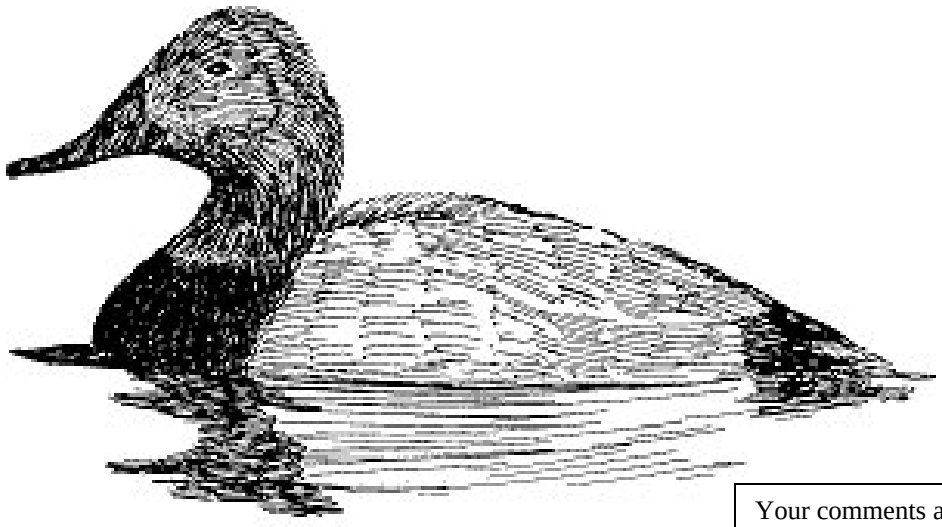
You have been selected to participate in the Illinois Snow Goose Hunter Survey. A survey questionnaire was recently mailed to you. We have not received your questionnaire at this time. **If you have returned the questionnaire, we thank you and please disregard this reminder. If you have <u>not</u> returned the questionnaire, please do so as soon as possible.** Your input is very important!

Thank you for your cooperation.

Figure 5. 2005-2006 Illinois Waterfowl Survey instrument.

Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey

2005 – 2006 Season



Your comments are welcome but please write them on a separate sheet of paper to receive proper attention.

ALL RESPONSES ARE CONFIDENTIAL

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

Postage-paid return envelope provided

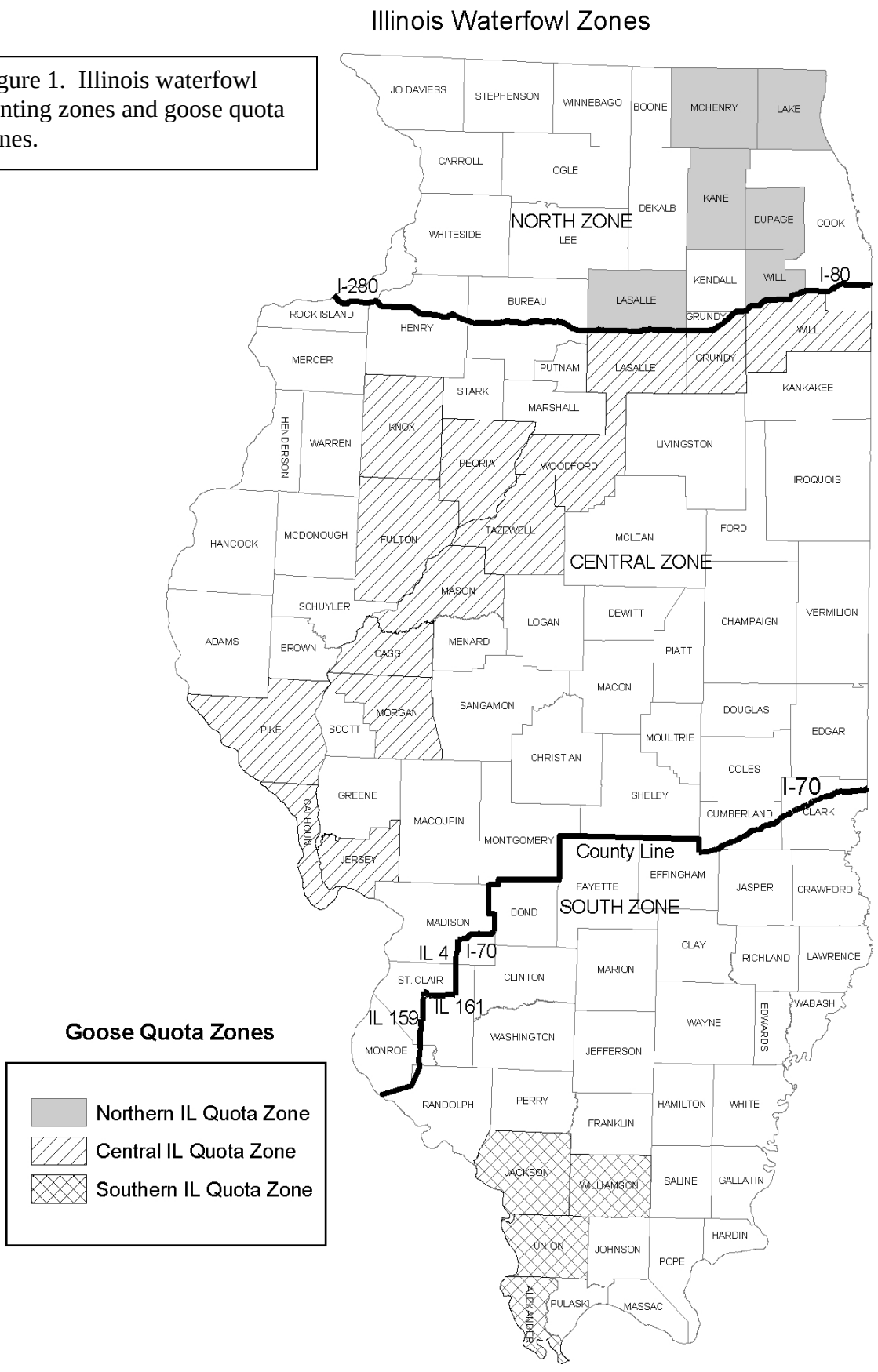
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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

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.

Figure 1. Illinois waterfowl hunting zones and goose quota zones.



Section 1. Waterfowl Hunting in Illinois. Please complete this questionnaire for the past hunting season (September 2005 – January 2006). 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 2005-2006 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 September 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 or Conservation Order snow goose season (snow goose season that occurs after regular Canada goose season ends)**
- 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 **Regular Season Only	Geese downed but not retrieved

2. If you harvested Canada geese during the regular goose season, please record the number harvested in each of the following zones. (Note: Do not include Canada geese taken in September.)

Northern IL Non-Quota Counties	Northern IL Quota Zone	Central IL Non-Quota Counties	Central IL Quota Zone	Southern IL Non-Quota Counties	Southern IL Quota Zone

3. Did you purchase an Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp for the 2005-2006 season for your personal use? (Please check "Yes" or "No" and list the number you purchased for each of the listed uses)

_____ Yes, number (___) for hunting; number (___) for a stamp collection only.

_____ No

4. Did you hunt geese in the **Southern Illinois Quota Zone** during the 2005-2006 season?

_____ Yes _____ No (Please go to Question 5)

4a. If you hunted geese in the **Southern Illinois Quota Zone** during the 2005-2006 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)		

5. Did you take a youth hunting during the 2005 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days?

_____ Yes _____ No (Please go to Section 2)

5a. If you answered "Yes," please list the age of each youth hunter, and list the **number** of waterfowl they killed each day. Place a check (√) in the appropriate column if the youth "didn't hunt" on a particular day. (NOTE: Include only youths who actually hunted, and record 0's if the youth hunted but did not harvest any ducks, geese, or coots.)

		Harvest – Youth Hunt Day 1				Harvest – Youth Hunt Day 2			
	Age	Didn't hunt	ducks	Geese	coots	Didn't hunt	ducks	geese	Coots
Youth 1									
Youth 2									
Youth 3									
Youth 4									
Youth 5									

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

1. Did you hunt teal during the 2005 September teal season?

_____ Yes _____ No (Please go to Question 2)

1a. If "Yes," please state how many days you hunted and the number of teal you harvested during the 2005 September teal season.

_____ days hunted _____ teal harvested

2. Did you hunt Canada geese during the **September season** (September 1 – 15, 2005)?

_____ Yes _____ No (Please go to Section 3)

2a. If you answered "Yes" to Question 2, please give the counties, number of days hunted in each, and harvest for the **September 2005 Canada goose season.**

County	Days Hunted	Geese Harvested

Section 3. Duck Hunting in Illinois. Please answer the following questions about your hunting activities during the 2005-2006 Illinois duck season and your opinions of future duck seasons in Illinois.

1. In which zone did you **hunt ducks most often** during the regular duck season in 2005-2006? (Please check only one)

_____ 1) North Zone _____ 2) Central Zone _____ 3) South Zone

2. How IMPORTANT to you are each of the following statements related to duck hunting? (Please circle ONE number that matches your response for each item.)

Program or Activity	Not Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Very Important	Extremely Important
Hunting early migrating ducks.	1	2	3	4	5
Hunting during peak duck migration.	1	2	3	4	5
Hunting mallards.	1	2	3	4	5
Hunting after freeze-up.	1	2	3	4	5
Hunting multiple duck species.	1	2	3	4	5
Hunting late migrating ducks.	1	2	3	4	5
Ending duck season on average date of freeze up.	1	2	3	4	5

3. Each year the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allows either a 30-day, 45-day, or 60-day duck hunting season with restrictions on when seasons may begin and end. Presented below are possible season dates for each season length. Considering the zone where you do most of your duck hunting, please give us your preferred season dates for all three season frameworks. Note: The 2006 firearm deer season is scheduled to occur November 17-19 and November 30-December 3. (**Please indicate your top 2 choices in each column by writing in a "1" for your first choice and a "2" for your second choice.**)

30 Day Season	45 Day Season	60 Day Season
____ Sept. 30 – Oct. 29	____ Sept. 23 – Nov. 6	____ Sept. 23 – Nov. 21
____ Oct. 7 – Nov. 5	____ Sept. 30 – Nov. 13	____ Sept. 30 – Nov. 28
____ Oct. 14 – Nov. 12	____ Oct. 7 – Nov. 20	____ Oct. 7 – Dec. 5
____ Oct. 21 – Nov. 19	____ Oct. 14 – Nov. 27	____ Oct. 14 – Dec. 12
____ Oct. 28 – Nov. 26	____ Oct. 21 – Dec. 4	____ Oct. 21 – Dec. 19
____ Nov. 4 – Dec. 3	____ Oct. 28 – Dec. 11	____ Oct. 28 – Dec. 26
____ Nov. 11 – Dec. 10	____ Nov. 4 – Dec. 18	____ Nov. 4 – Jan. 2
____ Nov. 18 – Dec. 17	____ Nov. 11 – Dec. 25	____ Nov. 11 – Jan. 9
____ Nov. 25 – Dec. 24	____ Nov. 18 – Jan. 1	____ Nov. 18 – Jan. 16
____ Dec. 2 – Dec. 31	____ Nov. 25 – Jan. 8	____ Nov. 25 – Jan. 23
____ Dec. 9 – Jan. 7	____ Dec. 2 – Jan. 15	____ Nov. 30 – Jan. 28
____ Dec. 16 – Jan. 14	____ Dec. 9 – Jan. 22	
____ Dec. 23 – Jan. 21	____ Dec. 15 – Jan. 28	
____ No Preference	____ No Preference	____ No Preference

4. What is your opinion of the location of the current boundaries that separate the three basic duck hunting Zones in Illinois? (Please circle ONE number in each row)

NOTE: *Please consider what impact changes in zone boundaries may have on season dates for the zone in which you hunt most often. If you feel either of the zone boundaries should be moved, please draw your suggested zone boundary changes on the map that's on the back of the enclosed letter and return with questionnaire.

	Present location is about right	Should be moved further north	Should be moved further south	No opinion
Boundary between North and Central Zones	1	2	3	4
Boundary between Central and South Zones	1	2	3	4

4a. Please draw your suggested zone boundary changes on the map that's on the back of the enclosed letter and return with questionnaire.

5. By Federal rule, Illinois may split the duck season into 2 time segments only if 2 (or no) zones are used. One option is to combine the current North and Central Zones into one zone (North/Central Zone) and keep the current South Zone. Splitting the duck season permits early season hunting and late season hunting, allows an extra weekend of hunting, and creates another opening day. However, a migration of ducks could be missed during the middle (closed) period, and a change to a 2-zone system would have to be retained for 5 years by Federal rule. With these thoughts in mind, please indicate how you feel about the following suggestions for split duck seasons in Illinois. (Note: Goose zones could remain in the current 3-zone configuration.)

   5a. For the North/Central Zone, I prefer the following dates for duck season (circle only one).

   (1) Split season with season open October 21-October 29 and November 4-December 24.
   (2) Split season with season open October 21-December 10 and December 23-December 31.
   (3) Split season but with different dates than those listed above.
   (4) No split season—retain current 3-zone system.
   (5) No opinion.

   5b. For the South Zone, I prefer the following dates for duck season (circle only one).

   (1) Split season with season open November 11-December 10 and December 23-January 21.
   (2) Split season with season open November 23-January 5 and January 13-January 28.
   (3) Split season but with different dates than those listed above.
   (4) No split season—retain current 3-zone system.
   (5) No opinion.

Section 4. Goose Hunting in Illinois. Please answer the following questions about your hunting activities during the 2005-2006 Illinois goose season and your opinions of future goose seasons in Illinois.

1. In which zone did you **hunt geese most often** during the regular goose season in 2005-2006? (Please check only one.)

   _____1) North Zone _____2) Central Zone _____3) South Zone

2. Which of the following combinations of season length and daily bag limit do you prefer for Canada goose hunting in the North and Central Zones? (Note: Both combinations are examples and both are projected to harvest about the same number of geese.)

   _____75-day season with a 2-goose bag limit.
   _____90-day season with a 1-goose bag limit during the first 50 days and a 2-goose bag limit during the last 40 days.
   _____No opinion.

3. Which of the following combinations of season length and daily bag limit do you prefer for Canada goose hunting in the South Zone? (Note: Both combinations are examples and both are projected to harvest about the same number of geese.)

   _____58-day season with a 2-goose bag limit.
   _____70-day season with a 1-goose bag limit during the first 40 days and a 2-goose bag limit during the last 30 days.
   _____No opinion.

Section 5. Waterfowl Hunter Information. The following questions will help us understand more about the people involved in waterfowl hunting in Illinois. Please tell us something about yourself by answering the following questions. All responses are kept confidential.

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

2. What is your county of residence? _____ County

3. How old were you when the 2005 waterfowl season began (September 1)? _____ years

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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 waterfowl 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. 2005-2006 Illinois waterfowl hunting regulations.

DUCKS & EARLY CANADA GEESE

SPECIES	DATES (Inclusive)	HOURS	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Teal	Sept. 10-Sept. 18 (Statewide)	Sunrise to Sunset	4	8
Ducks	**North Zone** Canvasbacks — Oct. 29-Nov. 27 Other Ducks & Coots — Oct. 15-Dec. 13	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	6 (See section on Bag Limits)	2 x daily bag limit
Mergansers	**Central Zone** Canvasbacks — Nov. 12-Dec. 11 Other Ducks & Coots — Oct. 29-Dec. 27		5 (See section on Bag Limits)	2 x daily bag limit
Coots	**South Zone** Canvasbacks — Nov. 24-Dec. 23 Other Ducks & Coots — Nov. 24-Jan. 22		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.

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS*

SPECIES	DATES	HOURS	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Ducks	North Zone Oct. 8-9	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	6 (See section on Bag Limits)
Mergansers			5 (See section on Bag Limits)
Coots	Central Zone Oct. 22-23		15
Canada Geese			2
Snow Geese	South Zone Nov. 12-13		20
White-fronted Geese			CLOSED—North & Central, South-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 as follows: The basic daily bag limit shall be 6 ducks of any species including all teal species, (except mergansers); however, no more than 4 shall be mallards (no more than 2 hen mallards) and not more than 2 scaup; 2 wood ducks, 2 redheads, and not more than 1 black duck and 1 pintail. **Canvasback season is closed except during Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days and during 30-day seasons included above. Daily bag limit is 1 canvasback within total daily bag limit of 6 ducks.** 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. 15-Jan. 8	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	2	10
Central & Central IL Quota Zone	Oct. 29-Nov. 6 & Nov. 16-Jan. 31			
South Zone	Nov. 24-Nov. 27 & Dec. 10-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. 15-Jan. 8	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. 29-Jan. 31			
South Zone	Nov. 24-Jan. 31			
Southern IL Quota Zone	Nov. 24-Jan. 31	1/2 hour before sunrise to 3 p.m(b)		
White-fronted Geese (a)				
North & Northern IL Quota Zone	Oct. 15-Jan. 8	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	1	2
Central & Central IL Quota Zone	Oct. 29-Nov. 6 & Nov. 16-Jan. 31			
South Zone	Nov. 24-Jan. 31		2	4
Southern IL Quota Zone	Nov. 24-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 C. County/state of residence of hunters who responded to the 2005-2006 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

n	County	n	County	n	County	n	County
35	Adams	23	Grundy	19	Mason	8	Warren
2	Alexander	2	Hamilton	8	Massac	14	Washington
8	Bond	9	Hancock	2	Menard	1	Wayne
6	Boone	0	Hardin	7	Mercer	5	White
1	Brown	2	Henderson	12	Monroe	32	Whiteside
31	Bureau	11	Henry	11	Montgomery	89	Will
7	Calhoun	10	Iroquois	18	Morgan	91	Williamson
8	Carroll	31	Jackson	1	Moultrie	29	Winnebago
30	Cass	5	Jasper	5	Ogle	15	Woodford
15	Champaign	23	Jefferson	67	Peoria	1,728	Total Residents
8	Christian	25	Jersey	12	Perry		
4	Clark	5	JoDaviess	5	Piatt		
2	Clay	8	Johnson	7	Pike	2	Arkansas
15	Clinton	32	Kane	0	Pope	1	Colorado
8	Coles	26	Kankakee	4	Pulaski	2	Florida
108	Cook	9	Kendall	1	Putnam	1	Georgia
2	Crawford	12	Knox	10	Randolph	23	Indiana
1	Cumberland	40	Lake	0	Richland	35	Iowa
9	DeKalb	34	LaSalle	26	Rock Island	11	Kentucky
1	DeWitt	1	Lawrence	48	St. Clair	1	Michigan
5	Douglas	4	Lee	4	Saline	3	Minnesota
26	DuPage	13	Livingston	42	Sangamon	63	Missouri
11	Edgar	5	Logan	6	Schuyler	1	Nebraska
0	Edwards	6	McDonough	1	Scott	1	Nevada
16	Effingham	37	McHenry	1	Shelby	1	New York
3	Fayette	28	McLean	2	Stark	2	North Carolina
2	Ford	18	Macon	5	Stephenson	6	Tennessee
25	Franklin	20	Macoupin	108	Tazewell	2	Texas
37	Fulton	81	Madison	17	Union	1	Virginia
0	Gallatin	10	Marion	6	Vermilion	6	Wisconsin
9	Greene	20	Marshall	4	Wabash	162	Total Non-residents