*Human*Dimensions
Research Program

Results of the 2006-2007 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey

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RESULTS OF THE 2006-2007 ILLINOIS WATERFOWL HUNTER SURVEY

JOB COMPLETION REPORT

WILDLIFE HARVEST AND
HUMAN DIMENSIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NUMBER: W-112-R-16
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Sam Flood, Acting Director
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ABSTRACT

A total of 2,471 potential Illinois waterfowl hunters returned usable questionnaires for the 2006-2007 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey (54% response rate). 2,304 respondents reported purchasing a 2006-2007 Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp, of which 2,021 (88%) hunted waterfowl in Illinois in 2006-2007. An estimated 58,302 Illinois waterfowl hunters spent an estimated 1,194,801 days hunting during the 2006-2007 season, and they harvested an estimated 700,571 waterfowl. There were 12,378 estimated September teal hunters; they spent 43,223 days hunting, and they harvested 28,016 teal. Harvest during the regular duck season included an estimated 308,000 mallards, 38,366 wood ducks, and 161,098 other ducks, for a total of 507,464 ducks. Goose hunters harvested an estimated 14,578 Canada geese during the 2006 September season. During the regular goose season, an estimated 41,521 hunters spent 438,350 days hunting and harvested 122,294 Canada geese and 14,426 other geese. Most (>50%) waterfowl hunters considered virtually all aspects of waterfowl hunting important, most in the North Zone and Central Zone were satisfied with the duck season dates, and most supported the use of spinning wing decoys for waterfowl hunting in Illinois.

OBJECTIVE

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

METHODS

A sample of 5,000 potential waterfowl hunters was selected from the population of residents who registered with the National Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP) in Illinois the previous year (2005-2006). Survey participants were notified on 29 September 2006 they would receive a questionnaire at the close of the 2006-2007 hunting season. The notice

included a 1-page diary for recording hunting activity and waterfowl harvested (Appendix A). After incorrect and duplicate addresses were removed, the sample was reduced to 4,764. On 2 February 2007, these potential hunters were mailed a self-administered, 8-page questionnaire (Appendix B), cover letter (Appendix C), and postage-paid return envelope. Non-respondents were mailed a thank you/reminder postcard on 26 February 2007 (Appendix D), a second copy of the questionnaire and cover letter (Appendix E) on 15 March 2007, and another thank you/reminder postcard on 5 April 2007. Data were entered and analyzed using SPSS 12.0 (SPSS Inc. 2003).

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. Estimates of number of hunters, days hunting, and waterfowl harvested were based on confirmed sales of 63,965 Illinois Migratory Waterfowl stamps (2006-2007 series). The number of teal, duck, and goose hunters ($Hunt_{sp}$), days hunting ($Days_{sp}$), birds crippled but not retrieved ($Crip_{sp}$) and harvested ($Harv_{sp}$) 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 2006-2007 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey who reported hunting each species (adjustment for non-hunters is inherent), L_t = total number of Illinois migratory Waterfowl Stamps sold in 2006-2007, 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 2006-2007 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.

Where appropriate, the findings are presented relative to the North Zone, Central Zone, and South Zone, and within the latter, by selected area: Southern Illinois Quota Zone (SIQZ: Alexander, Jackson, Union, and Williamson counties), Rend Lake (Franklin and Jefferson counties), and Carlyle Lake (Bond, Clinton, and Fayette counties). A summary of the results can be found in Appendix B.

SEASON LENGTHS AND BAG LIMITS

The early (September) teal season was extended from 9 days in 2005 to 16 days in 2006, and the daily bag was 4 birds. As in previous years, the 2006 early (September) Canada goose season was 15 days long with a 2-bird daily bag limit, except in the Northeast Zone where the limit was 5 birds/day. The duck season spanned 60 days and had a 6-bird limit. As part of a new experimental Canada goose harvest management strategy approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service, Illinois discontinued the Canada goose harvest quota system for 6 years, beginning in 2006-2007. There were no quotas, goose hunting permits, or harvest reporting (phone-in) requirements in 2006-2007. The Canada goose season extended for 79 days in the North and Central Zones, and for 57 days in the South Zone. The bag limit was 2 Canada geese per day in all zones. See Appendix F for details of season dates, legal shooting hours, and bag limits.

RESULTS

The questionnaire was not deliverable to 185 recipients, thus the sample population was reduced to 4,579 individuals. A total of 2,471 usable questionnaires were returned for a response rate of 54%. Of these returns, 2,304 were from respondents who purchased an Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp for the 2006-2007 seasons. These stamp purchasers included 2,021 (88%) individuals who hunted waterfowl in Illinois in 2006-2007. Respondents were, on average, 46.9 years of age (range: 10-87 years, n=1,989), and they had hunted waterfowl for an average of 25.3 years (range: 1-77 years, n=1,985). Respondents resided in 98 of the 102 counties in Illinois (Appendix G).

Waterfowl Harvest and Hunter Activity

The estimated number of waterfowl hunters increased from 48,772 during the 2005-2006 seasons to 58,302 during the 2006-2007 seasons (Table 1). Hunters were estimated to spend 1,194,801 days pursuing waterfowl in 2006-2007, an increase of 38% from the 868,299 days estimated for 2005-2006. Estimated waterfowl harvest increased 33%, from 526,221 birds during 2005-2006 to 700,571 birds during 2006-2007. Nearly one-third (29%) of respondents reported hunting ducks only, whereas 13% hunted geese only, and 58% hunted both ducks and geese (Table 2).

The apparent 15% increase in sales of the Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp in 2006-2007 (Table 1) occurred in early 2006, when the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) was converting its licensing operations to an electronic point of sales system. The record high stamp sales in 2006-2007offsets the near record low sales in 2005-2006. We speculate that several thousand 2005-2006 stamps were inadvertently recorded as 2006-2007 stamps. The apparent increase in stamp sales in 2006-2007 had the net effect of increasing all estimates of waterfowl hunting activities and harvests for the 2006-2007 seasons.

September Teal Season – The estimated number of early (September) teal hunters increased dramatically (85%), from 6,686 in 2005 to 12,378 in 2006 (Table 3). Estimated days of hunting increased 144%, from 17,708 during 2005 to 43,223 during 2006. The estimated teal harvest during the 2006 September season totaled 28,016 birds, a 156% increase from the estimated 10,953 teal taken during the 2005 season. The Central Zone accounted for the majority of September teal hunters (6,348 hunters), days hunting (22,852 days), and harvest (15,627 teal) in 2006 (Table 4). Statewide, September season teal hunters averaged 3.49 days of hunting in 2006, up from an average 2.65 days in 2005 (Table 5). September season teal hunters harvested an average of 0.65 teal per hunter per day and 2.26 teal per hunter per season in 2006 (Table 5).

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has allowed Illinois to have 1 or 2 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days since 1996. Participation in the program increased from 4,540 adults and 6,489 youths in 2005 to 5,447 adults (+20%) and 8,024 youths (+24%) in 2006 (Table 6). The estimated harvest (ducks, geese, and coots combined) by youths increased from 7,192 birds in 2005 to 10,728 birds (+49%) in 2006. Mean age of youths participating in the youth hunt was 12.1 years, with a range of 6-15 years (n=302).

Regular Duck Season - The estimated number of duck hunters increased by 7,252 (+17%), from 43,185 during 2005-2006 to 50,437 during 2006-2007 (Table 7). Duck hunters

spent an estimated 658,881 days hunting during 2006-2007, an increase of 22% from the 539,672 days reported during 2005-2006. Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) harvest increased by an estimated 67,103 birds (+28%), from 240,897 during 2005-2006 to 308,000 during 2006-2007. Harvest of wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) increased slightly, from an estimated 37,942 in 2005-2006 to 38,366 in 2006-2007. The wood duck harvest in 2006-2007 was among the lowest recorded since 1992. Harvest of other ducks increased by 21%, from estimates of 133,509 in 2005-2006 to 161,098 in 2006-2007. Total duck harvest during 2006-2007 was estimated at 507,464, which is 23% higher than the 412,348 ducks harvested during the 2005-2006 season. Coot (*Fulica americana*) harvest increased from an estimated 2,186 birds in 2005-2006 to 3,065 in 2006-2007 (Table 7).

The 2006-2007 duck harvest is presented by waterfowl zones and selected areas in Table 8. Statewide, the duck harvest reported per hunter per day changed little, from 0.76 in 2005-2006 and 0.77 in 2006-2007 (Table 9). Reported duck harvest per hunter for the season increased from 9.55 in 2005-2006 to 10.06 in 2006-2007. The harvest rates in 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 were among the highest reported since the waterfowl hunter survey began in 1981.

Early September Goose Season - An estimated 12,609 hunters participated in the early September Canada goose season in Illinois in 2006 (Table 10). The majority (52%) of September goose hunters were active in the Central Zone. Harvest of Canada geese was estimated at 14,578 birds, which is 47% greater than the 9,896 harvested in 2005. The estimated 6,717 Canada geese harvested in the Central Zone accounted for 46% of total harvest statewide in 2006. Total days hunted during the September season increased from an estimated 29,143 in 2005 to 42,444 in 2006, or +46%.

Regular Goose Season - In 2006-2007, an estimated 41,521 goose hunters spent an estimated 438,350 days hunting during the regular goose season (Table 11). Canada goose harvest increased from 74,293 in 2005-2006 to 122,294 in 2006-2007. The Central Zone

accounted for 51% of the reported Canada goose harvest (Table 12). Illinois' Canada goose harvest is summarized by zone and year (2003-2004 though 2006-2007) in Table 13.

Goose hunters also harvested an estimated 4,648 white-fronted geese and 9,778 snow/blue/Ross' geese during the regular goose season in 2006-2007 (Table 14). The harvest of all geese during the regular goose season in 2006-2007 was estimated at 136,720 birds, compared to a total goose harvest of 83,646 in 2005-2006 (Table 11).

Crippling Losses - Crippling losses (birds knocked down but not retrieved) were estimated at 83,648 ducks and 14,110 geese in Illinois during the 2006-2007 regular seasons (Table 15). These estimates, which are viewed as indices, equate to 16.5 ducks and 10.3 geese lost per 100 harvested.

Hunter Attitudes and Opinions

Important Aspects of Waterfowl Hunting – Waterfowl hunters who participated in this survey were asked to rank the importance of several aspects of waterfowl hunting. The 4 factors most important to waterfowl hunters were: hunting during peak waterfowl migration (98%), hunting with friends/relatives (98%), seeing many ducks/geese (97%), and hunting in uncrowded areas (95%). The least important aspect to waterfowl hunters was hunting in many locations around the state (45%). Almost all aspects of waterfowl hunting are important, at least to some degree, to Illinois hunters.

Most aspects of waterfowl hunting met hunters' expectations during the 2006-2007 seasons. There were some notable exceptions, as majorities of hunters reported being unsatisfied with their success in filling their bag limit (54%) and in harvesting many ducks and/or geese (55%).

S*eptember Teal Season Dates* – A majority (68%) of Illinois' September teal hunters were satisfied with the dates (9-24 September) for the early teal season in 2006 (Table 16). Satisfaction was expressed by hunters in all 3 zones.

Duck Season Dates and Daily Bag Limits – When asked how they felt about regular duck season dates, majorities of duck hunters in the North Zone (64%) and in the Central Zone (64%) indicated they were satisfied (Table 17). However, hunters in the South Zone were less satisfied with duck season dates. A majority (57%) of hunters in the SIQZ were satisfied, whereas a plurality (48%) of hunters at Carlyle Lake reported being dissatisfied. Pluralities of the hunters at Rend Lake (45%) and elsewhere (49%) in the South Zone were satisfied with the duck season dates in 2006-2007. A plurality (48%) of all South Zone duck hunters were satisfied with the season dates.

Duck hunters were asked to indicate their preference for duck season dates in the event of a 30-day or 45-day season in 2007-2008 (Appendix B, Question 10). For a 30-day season, the most frequent response was 27 October-25 November in the North Zone (30%), opens later than 10 November in the Central Zone (26%), and opens later than 1 December in the South Zone (26%). The most preferred option for the Central Zone and South Zone were ≤1 percentage point higher than the second most preferred option in each zone. In the Central Zone, 10 November-9 December and 3 November-2 December were the second most preferred options. In the South Zone, 1 December-30 December was the second most preferred option. For a 30-day season, about half (51%) of the hunters in the Central Zone would prefer opening the season on 10 November or later. For the South Zone, about half (51%) of the hunters would prefer opening the season on 1 December or later.

For a 45-day season, the most frequent response was 20 October-3 December in the North Zone (31%), 10 November-24 December in the Central Zone (26%), and 1 December-14 January in the South Zone (27%). The most preferred options for the Central Zone and the South

Zone were only ≤2 percentage points higher than the second most preferred options. For the Central Zone, the second most preferred option was 3 November-17 December. In the South Zone, the second most preferred option was 22 November-5 January. For a 45-day season, two-thirds (69%) of the hunters in the Central Zone prefer opening the season on 3 November or later. For the South Zone, two-thirds (69%) of the hunters prefer opening the season on 22 November or later.

Duck hunters in the South Zone were asked to indicate their preference for duck season dates if Illinois is allowed a 60-day season in 2007-2008 (Table 18). For hunters in each area and for the entire zone, the most frequent response was 22 November-20 January (36%). The only exception was Carlyle Lake, where the hunters preferred earlier dates (10 November-8 January, 36%).

Duck hunters were asked whether they preferred a short (30-day) scaup season with a 2-bird daily bag limit or a long (60-day) scaup season with a 1-bird bag limit. Nearly one-half (46%) of the hunters said they were not sure. Of the hunters who did express an opinion (*n*=894), 70% supported a long season with a 1-bird daily limit and 30% supported a short season with a 2-bird limit.

Duck hunters were asked to indicate under which of several scenarios they would support reducing the daily bag limit for hen mallards from 2 to 1 bird. Majorities of hunters supported a 1-bird bag limit provided some states in the Mississippi Flyway (55%), all states in the Mississippi Flyway (75%), or all other states nationwide (76%) did likewise. Most (83%) hunters would also support the 1-bird limit if research shows reducing the hen mallard bag limit would result in increased mallard populations. However, if research shows reducing the hen mallard bag limit would have no effect on mallard populations, one-half (51%) of the hunters prefer retaining the 2-bird daily limit and one-third (34%) prefer a 1-bird limit.

*Canada Goose Season Dates and Bag Limits – M*ajorities of goose hunters in the North Zone (64%), Central Zone (71%), SIQZ (51%), and at Carlyle Lake (60%) were satisfied with the dates for the regular Canada goose season in 2006-2007 (Table 19). However, goose hunters at Rend Lake (41%) and elsewhere (47%) in the South Zone expressed a lower level of satisfaction with season dates.

Majorities of goose hunters in the North Zone (76%) and Central Zone (58%) preferred a shorter season with a 2 geese per day bag limit for the entire season. Thus, hunters in these zones prefer an 85-day season with 2 geese per day as opposed to a 90-day season with a 1-goose bag for 16 days and a 2-goose bag for the remaining 74 days.

Respondents were also asked whether they preferred a continuous Canada goose season or a split season. A majority of hunters in the North Zone (66%) and Central Zone (57%) wanted a continuous season. However, if a split season were necessary, the hunters much prefer that the closure occur over the first firearm deer season, which takes place on 16-18 November 2007.

When asked to indicate support for extending legal shooting hours from 3 pm to sunset for goose hunting in the SIQZ, 69% of the goose hunters statewide supported the change and 14% opted for no change (Table 20). For those who hunted in the SIQZ, 84% supported extending shooting hours to sunset while only 13% preferred retaining the 3 pm closure.

Spinning Wing Decoys - Survey participants were asked to indicate their support for banning the use of spinning wing decoys (SWDs) in Illinois in the event that bans were promulgated in other states. Regardless of how many or how few other states banned SWDs, a majority of Illinois' hunters did not support a ban in Illinois. Even if all other states banned SWDs, most (61%) Illinoisans said they would not support a ban on these devices.

Survey participants were asked to indicate support for banning SWDs if research shows the use of these decoys reduce duck populations. If use of SWDs reduced populations to such a

level that a 45-day season was necessary, the hunters were split: 43% supported a ban and 43% did not. Were the season to be reduced to 30 days, one-half (50%) of the hunters would support banning SWDs and 37% would not support a ban. These findings suggest that SWDs are embraced by most waterfowl hunters in Illinois, and that efforts to ban or limit the use of these devices may be met with controversy.

Participation in Setting Duck Hunting Regulations – In 2006, the IDNR's Division of Wildlife Resources met with duck hunting organizations, held open houses, and encouraged duck hunters to comment on a 5-year plan for duck hunting regulations. Five percent of survey respondents reported attending an IDNR open house in 2006 to discuss duck hunting regulations. If this percentage is applied to the total number of waterfowl hunters, an estimated 2,900 hunters attended [Note: IDNR records indicate that about 300 hunters actually attended the public open houses]. An additional 30%, or an estimated 17,500 hunters, said they were aware of the open houses but did not attend. Majorities of the hunters indicated they were satisfied with the process used for setting the duck hunting regulations (72%), with duck hunting organizations' opportunity to participate in the process (53%), and with the regulations that resulted from the process (74%). About half (48%) of the hunters said they were satisfied with their own opportunity to participate in the process for setting duck hunting regulations.

DISCUSSION

The Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey has been conducted annually since 1981-1982. In each of those years, this survey has provided estimates of hunter activities and waterfowl harvests. These estimates highlight trends in waterfowl hunting in relation to time and space. Managers are encouraged to utilize this information in proposing hunting regulations and in making other management decisions for the waterfowl resources of Illinois.

Information on the distribution of Canada goose harvest in the various zones (Tables 12 and 13) is a case in point. The Canada goose harvest has shifted dramatically to northern and

central Illinois over the past 30 years, and additional shifts are likely to occur in the future. Furthermore, as part of an experimental management strategy, Canada goose hunting regulations will be simplified for 6 years beginning with the 2006-2007 season. The harvest quota system was replaced by a conventional system consisting of a predetermined number of days and a standard bag limit. Changes to the distribution of Canada goose harvest will be monitored by Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

To identify areas for improvement in waterfowl hunting, the total waterfowl hunting experience was broken down into components. Satisfaction with various aspects of duck and goose hunting was weighted by the importance placed on each characteristic, and an importance-performance table was created (Table 21). High importance, high performance aspects of waterfowl hunting included: hunting early migrating waterfowl, hunting after freeze-up, hunting specific waterfowl species, hunting multiple waterfowl species, hunting weekends and holidays, hunting with friends and family, hunting in uncrowded areas , and easy access to hunting areas. High importance, low performance aspects included: hunting during peak waterfowl migration, hunting late migrating waterfowl, seeing many ducks and/or geese, and hunting many days. Management activities and decisions intended to maintain high importance, high performance characteristics, and to improve high importance, low performance activities, are likely to have positive impacts on satisfaction among waterfowl hunters in Illinois.

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Table 1. Summary of Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps purchased, hunter activity, and waterfowl harvest in Illinois from 1981 through 2006 hunting seasons, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Season (Year)	Stamps Purchased	Estimated Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated 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
2004	60,264	54,803	1,083,910	494,775
2005	55,734	48,772	868,299	526,221
2006	63,965	58,302	1,194,801	700,571

[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 2006 seasons, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

	Percentage Who Hunted:			Percentage Who Were:	
Season (Year)	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%
2006	29%	13%	58%	87%	71%

Table 3. Summary of teal harvest and hunter activity during the September teal season in Illinois from 1981 through 2006, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Year	Estimated Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Teal Harvested
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
2006	12,378	43,223	28,016[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 $\pm$ 8,511.

Table 4. Teal harvest and hunter activity by zones during the September teal season in Illinois in 2006, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey (*n*=429).

	Estimated Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Teal Harvested
North Zone	2,943	8,945	4,178
Central Zone	6,348	22,852	15,627
South Zone	2,712	9,637	7,271
Unknown	375	1,789	940
Statewide	12,378	43,223	28,016

Table 5. Rates of teal harvest and hunter activity during the September teal season in Illinois from 1981 through 2006, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Year	Season Length/ Bag Limit	Days Hunted 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
2004	9/4	2.96	0.35	1.05
2005	9/4	2.65	0.62	1.64
2006	16/4	3.49	0.65	2.26

[a] September teal season was suspended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during these years.

Table 6. Waterfowl harvest and hunter activity during Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day(s) in 1996 through 2006, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Year	Length of Season	Estimated Adult Participation	Estimated Youth Participation	Estimated Days Hunting	Mean Youths per Hunting Party
1996	1-day	2,749	4,353	4,353	1.58
1997	1-day	3,163	4.322	4,322	1.37
1998	1-day	3,343	5,142	5,142	1.54
1999	1-day	5,505	8,113	8,113	1.47
2000	2-days	6,815	10,107	14,079	1.48
2001	2-days	9,140	15,148	22,525	1.67
2002	2-days	8,498	13,325	19,548	1.57
2003	2-days	7,415	11,419	17,985	1.54
2004	2-days	5,603	7,891	12,997	1.41
2005	2-days	4,540	6,489	10,268	1.58
2006	2-days	5,447	8,024	11,903	1.48

	Estimated Harvest					
Year	Total Ducks	Ducks per Youth per Day	Total Coots	Coots per Youth per Day	Total Geese	Geese per Youth per Day
1996	3,171	0.73	230	0.05	----[a]	---
1997	3,451	0.80	387	0.09	----[a]	---
1998	4,159	0.81	208	0.04	289	0.06
1999	5,835	0.72	629	0.08	571	0.07
2000	8,388	0.60	38	<0.01	882	0.06
2001	11,727	0.52	480	0.02	971	0.04
2002	9,085	0.46	271	0.01	887	0.05
2003	9,184	0.51	178	0.01	1,116	0.06
2004	7,477	0.58	48	<0.01	561	0.04
2005	5,644	0.55	583	0.06	965	0.09
2006	9,863	0.83	133	0.01	732	0.06

[a] 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 2006, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Season (Year)	Estimated Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Ducks Harvested				Coots
			Mallards	Wood Ducks	Other Ducks	Total	
1981	54,744	703,534	170,972	72,065	94,947	337,984	4,950
1982	52,220	646,394	163,439	61,706	101,989	327,134	5,905
1983	50,440	651,409	220,317	72,237	110,862	403,416	10,472
1984	49,715	606,325	182,132	52,955	120,016	355,103	7,702
1985	51,362	556,800	168,549	51,216	97,155	316,920	5,773
1986	53,588	638,090	201,676	65,414	112,490	379,580	7,372
1987	51,704	558,172	155,783	58,488	74,748	289,019	2,694
1988[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	2,186
2006	50,437	658,881	308,000	38,366	161,098[b]	507,464[c]	3,065[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 in 1995, 4,348 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, 3,918 in 2005, and 5,927 in 2006. The canvasback season was closed in 2000, and was limited to 30 days in 2001, 2003, and 2004.

[c] The 95% confidence interval is $\pm$ 63,431.

[d] The 95% confidence interval is $\pm$ 2,331.

Table 8. Duck harvest and hunter activity by waterfowl zones and selected areas during the regular duck season in Illinois in 2006-2007, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Zone/Area Hunted	*n*	Estimated Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Ducks Harvested
North Zone	450	12,984	148,310	96,523
Central Zone	875	25,247	329,311	250,496
South Zone	395	11,397	174,798	154,983
SIQZ[a]	120	3,462	56,323	46,982
Rend Lake[b]	80	2,308	39,761	43,223
Carlyle Lake[c]	58	1,674	20,602	22,595
Elsewhere in South Zone	137	3,953	58,112	42,183
Unknown	28	809	6,462	5,462
Statewide	1,748	50,437	658,881	507,464

[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 2006, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Year	Season Length/ Bag Limit [a]	Estimated Days Hunted Per Hunter	Estimated 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
2006	60/6(4,2)	13.06	0.77	10.06

[a] The Point System was used in 1981-1987 (Havera 1999: 17-18). 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.

Table 10. Canada goose harvest and hunter activity during the early September Canada goose season in Illinois from 1998 through 2006, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

		Waterfowl Zone Hunted					
	Statewide	Northeast [a]	North [b]	Central [b]	South	SIQZ	Unknown
Estimated Hunters							
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	2,721	1,529	6,220	803[c]	181	0
2005	9,448	2,452	1,497	5,034	878[c]	207	0
2006	12,609	2,972	1,876	6,607	981[c]	173	0
Estimated Days Hunted							
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
2006	42,444	9,406	7,329	22,621	2,424[c]	664	0
Estimated Canada Goose Harvest							
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
2006	14,578	4,813	1,958	6,717	828[c]	262	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.

Table 11. Summary of goose harvest and hunter activity during the regular goose season in Illinois from 1981 through 2006, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Season (Year)	Estimated Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Goose Harvest		
			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)
2006	41,521	438,350	122,294 (1,338)	14,426 (869)	136,720 (2,207)

[a] Number of geese harvested while 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 $\pm$ 24,301.

Table 12. Goose harvest and hunter activity by zones and selected areas in Illinois in 2006-2007, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Zone/Area Hunted		Estimated Goose Harvest					
		Estimated Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Canada Geese	White-Fronted Geese	Snow/Blue Geese-Regular Season	Total Geese
North Zone							
North Quota[a]	237	6,838	72,222	29,887	124	69	30,080
North Non-Quota[a]	192	5,540	56,005	14,813	42	69	14,924
Total	429	12,378	128,227	44,700	166	138	45,004
Central Zone							
Central Quota[a]	436	12,580	146,146	40,948	1,793	1,407	44,148
Central Non-Quota[a]	296	8,541	92,477	21,916	565	1,696	24,177
Total	732	21,121	238,623	62,864	2,358	3,103	68,325
South Zone							
SIQZ[b]	103	2,972	28,017	6,468	428	593	7,489
Rend Lake Non-Quota[c]	35	1,010	8,310	1,876	317	1,103	3,296
Carlyle Lake Non-Quota[d]	22	635	5,107	386	552	2,455	3,393
Elsewhere Non-Quota	95	2,741	23,314	4,165	745	2,345	7,255
Total	255	7,358	64,748	12,895	2,042	6,496	21,433
Unknown	19	548	6,752	1,835	82	41	1,958
Statewide	1,435	41,405	438,350	122,294	4,648	9,778	136,720

[a]These zones were discontinued beginning with the 2006-2007 season.
[b]Alexander, Jackson, Union, and Williamson counties.
[c] Franklin and Jefferson counties.
[d] Bond, Clinton, and Fayette counties.

Table 13. Canada goose harvest by zones and selected areas during the regular goose season in Illinois from 2003-2004 through 2006-2007, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. See Table 12 for sample sizes for 2006-2007.

Zone/Area Hunted	Estimated Goose Harvest				
	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	3-Year Mean	2006-2007
North Zone					
North Quota[a]	16,491	13,188	13,665	14,448	29,887
North Non-Quota[a]	7,321	11,160	8,983	9,155	14,813
Total	23,812	24,348	22,648	23,603	44,700
Central Zone					
Central Quota[a]	18,046	25,648	20,884	21,526	40,948
Central Non-Quota[a]	19,509	17,187	16,886	17,861	21,916
Total	37,555	42,835	37,770	39,387	62,864
South Zone					
SIQZ[b]	12,497	6,403	7,083	8,661	6,468
Rend Lake Non-Quota[c]	1,709	2,148	765	1,541	1,876
Carlyle Lake Non-Quota[d]	696	572	864	711	386
Elsewhere Non-Quota	6,535	5,524	5,040	5,699	4,165
Total	21,437	14,647	13,752	16,612	12,895
Unknown	403	29	123	184	1,835
Statewide	83,207	81,859	74,293	79,786	122,294

[a]These zones were discontinued beginning with the 2006-2007 season.
[b]Alexander, Jackson, Union, and Williamson counties.
[c]Franklin and Jefferson counties.
[d]Bond, Clinton, and Fayette counties.

Table 14. Harvest of geese other than Canada geese in Illinois from 1996-1997 through 2006-2007, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Season (Year)	Estimated Goose Harvest: 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
2006	4,648	9,778	---	14,426

[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 15. 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 2006-2007, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

	Estimated Ducks		Estimated 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
2006	83,648	16.5	14,110	10.3

[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 16. Satisfaction of teal hunters with dates for the September teal season (September 9-24, 2006), as reported by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Zone/Area Hunted	*n*	Very satisfied	Slightly satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Slightly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	No opinion
North	95	34%	19%	24%	6%	6%	11%
Central	206	49	22	16	3	4	6
South	91	47	28	12	7	3	3
Statewide	392	45	23	17	5	4	6

Table 17. Satisfaction of duck hunters with dates for the regular duck season in 2006-2007, as reported by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. Note: the season dates were Oct. 21-Dec. 19 in the North Zone, Oct. 28-Dec. 26 in the Central Zone, and Nov. 23-Jan. 21 in the South Zone.

Zone/Area Hunted	*n*	Very satisfied	Slightly satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Slightly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	No opinion
North	436	39%	25%	14%	9%	9%	4%
Central	847	40	24	15	11	9	1
South	385	31	17	13	16	22	1
SIQZ[a]	115	37	20	10	17	16	0
Rend Lake[b]	79	27	18	15	18	21	1
Carlyle Lake[c]	58	26	10	14	17	31	2
Elsewhere	133	32	17	13	13	23	2

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

Table 18. Preferences of South Zone duck hunters for dates for a 60-day regular duck season in 2007-2008, as reported by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Options	SIQZ[a]	Rend Lake[b]	Carlyle Lake[c]	Else-where	Entire Zone
	(*n*=116)	(*n*=76)	(*n*=58)	(*n*=135)	(*n*=385)
Opens earlier than Nov. 10	2%	11%	19%	14%	11%
Nov. 10-Jan. 8	20	30	36	26	26
Nov. 22-Jan. 20	43	33	30	33	36
Opens later than Nov. 22	33	22	10	24	24
Not sure	2	4	5	3	3

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

Table 19. Satisfaction of goose hunters with the dates for the regular Canada goose season in 2006-2007, as reported by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. Note: the season dates were Oct. 21-Nov. 12 and Nov. 20-Jan. 14 in the North Zone, Oct. 28-Nov. 5 and Nov. 23-Jan. 31 in the Central Zone, and Nov. 23-Nov. 26 and Dec. 10-Jan. 31 in the South Zone.

Zone/Area Hunted	*n*	Very satisfied	Slightly satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Slightly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	No opinion
North	410	43%	21%	10%	11%	11%	4%
Central	708	49	22	12	9	6	2
South	247	29	20	12	14	22	3
SIQZ[a]	100	31	20	12	13	23	1
Rend Lake[b]	34	24	17	15	15	26	3
Carlyle Lake[c]	22	46	14	9	9	18	4
Elsewhere	91	25	22	12	14	21	6

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

Table 20. Opinions of goose hunters toward extending legal hunting hours for goose hunting from 3 p.m. to sunset in the Southern Illinois Quota Zone[a], as reported by the 2006-2007 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Opinions	SIQZ Goose Hunters	All Goose Hunters
	(*n*=105)	(*n*=1,391)
Yes, I think hunting hours should be extended to sunset	84%	69%
No, I think hunting hours should end at 3 p.m.	13	14
Not sure	3	17

[a]Alexander, Jackson, Union, and Williamson counties.

Table 21. Importance-Performance table of characteristics of Illinois waterfowl hunting based on responses to the 2006-2007 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. Importance was measured on a 3-point scale where 1= very important, 2= somewhat important and 3= not at all important. Performance was measured on a 3-point scale where 1= exceeded my expectations, 2= met my expectations and 3=below my expectations. Importance and performance were classified as high if $\overline{x} \leq 2.0$. Importance and performance were classified as low if $\overline{x} > 2.0$.

		Importance	
		High	**Low**
Performance	**High**	Hunting early migrating waterfowl Hunting after freeze-up Hunting specific waterfowl species Hunting multiple waterfowl species Hunting on weekends and holidays Hunting with friends and family Hunting in uncrowded area Easy access to hunting areas	Hunting in many locations around the state Minimize conflict between waterfowl hunting season dates and other hunting season dates
	Low	Hunting during peak waterfowl migration Hunting late migrating waterfowl Seeing many ducks and/or geese Hunting many days	Having a high bag limit Harvesting many ducks and/or geese

Appendix A. Hunting record forms for recording hunter activity and harvest during the 2006-2007 waterfowl season in Illinois.

2006-07 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)

2006-07 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)

Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey
2006 – 2007 Season
Results Summary

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

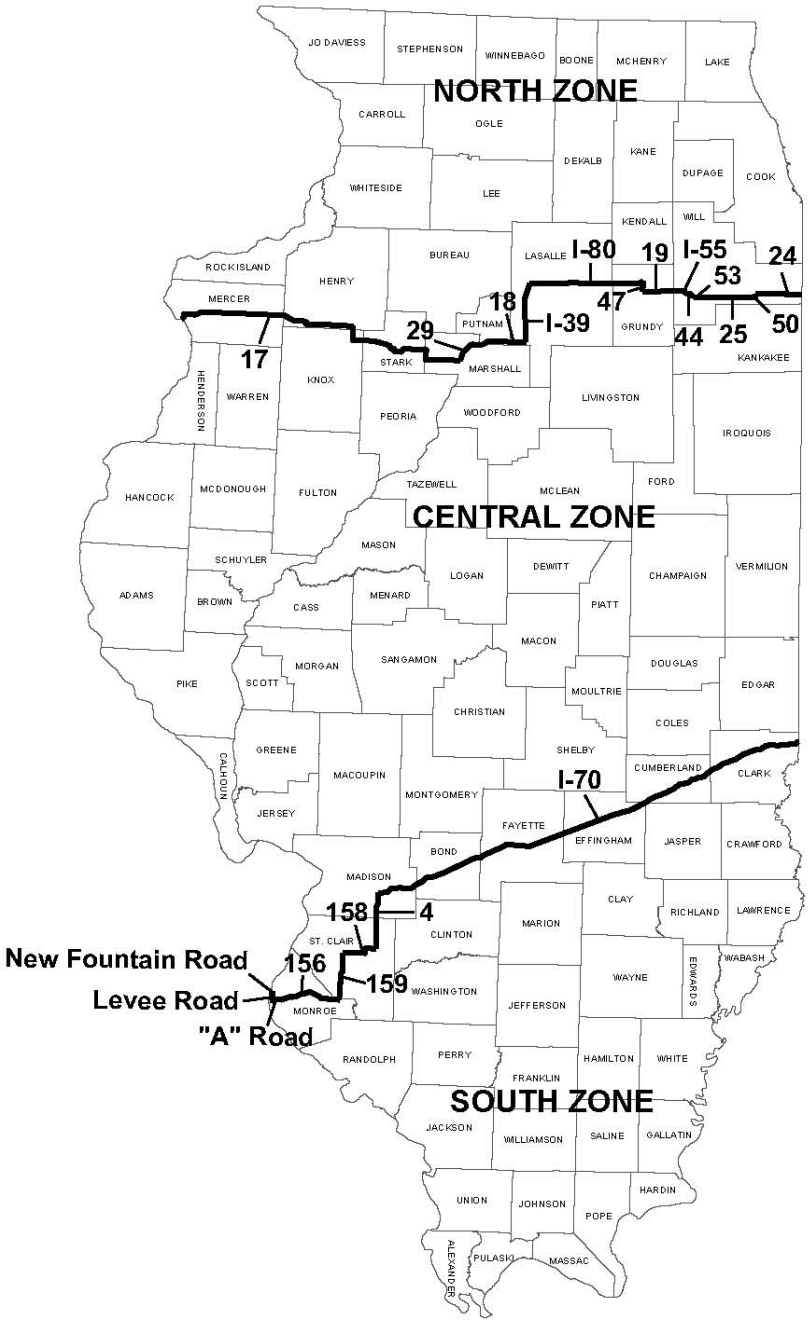
All of your responses will be kept confidential.
Please return this survey in the postage-paid return envelope provided.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Division of Wildlife Resources
and
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. This study is funded by the federal Wildlife Restoration Fund through your purchase of hunting arms and ammunition.

Map of Illinois waterfowl hunting zones.



Waterfowl Hunting Effort and Harvest in Illinois. Please provide the following information so that IDNR waterfowl biologists may estimate waterfowl harvest in Illinois. This information will help the IDNR take action to conserve waterfowl populations and provide hunting opportunities in Illinois.

1. Did you purchase an Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp for the 2006-2007 season (include both electronic and printed stamps)? *(Please check one.)* **(*n* = 2,471)**

93.2% Yes
6.8% No

2. Did you hunt waterfowl in Illinois during the 2006-2007 waterfowl hunting seasons? *(Please check one.)* **(*n* = 2,304)**

87.7% Yes
12.3% No ***(Please skip to question 6.)***

3. Please report your hunting effort and harvest in Illinois between September 2006 and January 2007 in the following tables. Include only waterfowl you harvested and days you hunted. Count part of 1 day as 1 day. For days you harvested both ducks and geese, only report days hunted in the table corresponding to the species you targeted that day. For example, if you harvested ducks while targeting geese, only report days hunted in the table labeled "Regular Goose Season." Report duck harvest in the "Regular Duck Season" table, but do not report days hunted.

a. September Teal Season *(Do not include harvest after September.)*

County hunted	Number of days hunted	Teal harvested	Teal downed but not retrieved
See Tables 3-5.			

b. September Canada Goose Season *(Do not include harvest after September.)*

County hunted	Number of days hunted	Geese harvested	Geese downed but not retrieved
See Table 10.			

c. Regular Duck Seasons *(Do not include harvest in September.)*

County hunted	Number of days hunted	Mallards harvested	Wood ducks harvested	Canvas-backs harvested	Other ducks harvested	Coots harvested	Ducks downed but not retrieved
See Tables 7-9.							

d. Regular Goose Seasons *(Do not include harvest in September or Snow Goose season.)*

County hunted	Number of days hunted	Canada geese harvested	White-front (Specklebelly) geese harvested	Snow/Blue/ Ross' geese harvested	Geese downed but not retrieved
See Tables 11-14.					

4. In which zone did you hunt **ducks** most often during 2006-2007? **(*n* = 1,821)**
(Please check one.)

27.1% North Zone **50.3%** Central Zone **22.6%** South Zone

5. In which zone did you hunt **geese** most often during 2006-2007? **(*n* = 1,652)**
(Please check one.)

29.8% North Zone **51.0%** Central Zone **19.2%** South Zone

6. Did you take a child hunting during the 2006 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days? **(*n* = 2,236)**

85.7% Yes
14.3% No ***(Please skip to question 7.)***

a. For each child you hunted with, please report the following information. Include all children that hunted and enter 0 if the child did not harvest any ducks, geese, or coots.

	Age	Days hunted	County hunted	Mallards harvested	Wood ducks harvested	Other ducks harvested	Geese harvested	Coots harvested
Youth 1	See Table 6.							
Youth 2								
Youth 3								
Youth 4								
Youth 5								

Mean age = 12.1 years (n = 302)

Satisfaction with Waterfowl Hunting Seasons in Illinois. IDNR waterfowl biologists aim to provide the type of waterfowl hunting experience Illinois hunters desire, while maintaining biologically sustainable waterfowl populations. The information you provide in the following questions will allow us to track your satisfaction with the current season structure and hunting opportunity in Illinois.

7. How satisfied were you with the dates of the 2006-2007 waterfowl hunting seasons? *(Please check one for each item.)*

How satisfied are you with the…	*n*	Very satisfied	Slightly satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Slightly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	No opinion
a. Teal season *(Sept. only)*?	**392**	**44.6%**	**22.4%**	**17.3%**	**4.8%**	**4.3%**	**6.4%**
b. North Zone Duck season?	**436**	**38.8%**	**25.2%**	**13.8%**	**9.4%**	**9.2%**	**3.7%**
c. Central Zone Duck season?	**847**	**40.4%**	**23.6%**	**14.6%**	**11.3%**	**8.5%**	**1.5%**
d. South Zone Duck season?	**385**	**31.4%**	**16.9%**	**12.7%**	**16.1%**	**21.6%**	**1.3%**
e. Regular North Zone Canada Goose season?	**410**	**43.2%**	**21.2%**	**9.8%**	**10.5%**	**11.5%**	**3.9%**
f. Regular Central Zone Canada Goose season?	**708**	**48.9%**	**22.0%**	**11.6%**	**8.6%**	**6.5%**	**2.4%**
g. Regular South Zone Canada Goose season?	**247**	**29.1%**	**19.8%**	**12.1%**	**13.4%**	**22.3%**	**3.2%**

8. Many aspects of an Illinois duck or goose hunt are important to hunters. Please answer the following question to help us understand the characteristics of duck and goose hunting seasons which are most important to you. *(Please check one for each item.)*

How important to you is…	*n*	Very important	Somewhat important	Not at all important	I am not sure.
a. hunting early migrating waterfowl?	**1,969**	**28.6%**	**43.9%**	**23.7%**	**3.8%**
b. hunting during peak waterfowl migration?	**1,980**	**86.0%**	**12.5%**	**0.8%**	**0.7%**
c. hunting late migrating waterfowl?	**1,972**	**52.7%**	**36.9%**	**8.5%**	**1.9%**
d. hunting after freeze-up?	**1,961**	**33.5%**	**35.3%**	**27.7%**	**3.5%**
e. hunting specific waterfowl species? *Which?*[a] _____	**1,855**	**33.9%**	**30.4%**	**27.1%**	**8.6%**
f. hunting multiple waterfowl species?	**1,956**	**50.2%**	**40.9%**	**7.5%**	**1.5%**
g. having a high bag limit?	**1,975**	**20.6%**	**43.8%**	**34.0%**	**1.7%**
h. seeing many ducks and/or geese?	**1,981**	**71.7%**	**25.4%**	**2.5%**	**0.4%**
i. harvesting many ducks and/or geese?	**1,975**	**17.9%**	**50.3%**	**30.8%**	**1.0%**
j. hunting in many locations around the state?	**1,974**	**12.3%**	**32.9%**	**51.4%**	**3.4%**
k. hunting many days?	**1,977**	**48.1%**	**41.2%**	**9.9%**	**0.9%**
l. hunting on weekends and holidays?	**1,976**	**54.4%**	**28.6%**	**16.2%**	**0.8%**
m. hunting with friends and family?	**1983**	**84.5%**	**13.4%**	**1.9%**	**0.3%**
n. hunting in uncrowded areas?	**1980**	**73.2%**	**22.0%**	**4.1%**	**0.7%**
o. hunting on public hunting areas?	**1,973**	**34.0%**	**34.3%**	**28.4%**	**3.3%**
p. minimizing conflict between waterfowl hunting season dates and other hunting season dates?	**1,979**	**24.9%**	**36.2%**	**36.1%**	**2.8%**
q. having waterfowl regulations consistent with other nearby states?	**1,977**	**25.2%**	**38.4%**	**30.6%**	**5.8%**
r. having waterfowl regulations consistent across Illinois?	**1,972**	**50.5%**	**35.9%**	**9.9%**	**3.8%**
s. other? *Please describe*[b]	**229**	**86.9%**	**12.7%**	**0.4%**	**0.0%**

[a]47% listed mallard, 32% listed geese, and 39% listed 20 other species (n=1,261).

[b]13% listed late goose season, 9% listed early duck seasons, 7% listed no split goose season, 7% listed more public hunting areas, 5% listed preference for "old" zone boundaries, 5% listed longer seasons, and 54% listed 38 miscellaneous items (n=229 for respondents who marked other).

9. Your judgment of the quality of waterfowl hunting may be determined by whether your expectations were met. Please answer the following question to help us understand how Illinois's hunting regulations affected your ability to meet your expectations for waterfowl hunting in Illinois in 2006-2007. *(Please check one for each item.)*

My opportunity to…	*n*	exceeded my expectations.	met my expectations.	was below my expectations.	I am not sure.
a. hunt early migrating waterfowl…	**1,910**	**6.1%**	**43.5%**	**30.5%**	**20.2%**
b. hunt during peak waterfowl migration…	**1,960**	**9.9%**	**51.9%**	**35.2%**	**3.0%**
c. hunt late migrating waterfowl…	**1,950**	**10.0%**	**45.0%**	**38.1%**	**6.9%**
d. hunt after freeze-up…	**1,934**	**8.3%**	**37.6%**	**39.2%**	**14.8%**
e. hunt your most preferred waterfowl species… *Which?*[a] _____	**1,826**	**9.0%**	**48.5%**	**32.7%**	**9.7%**
f. hunt multiple waterfowl species…	**1,935**	**9.0%**	**58.5%**	**27.0%**	**5.5%**
g. fill my daily bag limit…	**1,951**	**3.9%**	**38.3%**	**54.2%**	**3.6%**
h. see many ducks and/or geese…	**1,954**	**11.9%**	**41.0%**	**45.6%**	**1.4%**
i. harvest many ducks and/or geese…	**1,950**	**4.3%**	**36.7%**	**55.1%**	**3..9%**
j. hunt in many locations around the state…	**1,888**	**2.8%**	**35.4%**	**25.8%**	**36.0%**
k. hunt many days…	**1,947**	**9.4%**	**53.6%**	**30.9%**	**6.1%**
l. hunt on weekends and holidays…	**1,934**	**10.7%**	**65.9%**	**16.8%**	**6.7%**
m. hunt with friends and family…	**1,957**	**22.2%**	**67.7%**	**7.9%**	**2.2%**
n. hunt in uncrowded areas…	**1,951**	**10.5%**	**55.2%**	**28.8%**	**5.6%**
o. have easy access to hunting areas…	**1,938**	**9.6%**	**54.8%**	**28.3%**	**7.2%**
p. hunt both waterfowl and other wildlife species (i.e. deer, turkeys)…	**1,917**	**12.5%**	**58.1%**	**13.7%**	**15.8%**
q. other? *Please describe*[b]	**1,927**	**9.6%**	**6.4%**	**84.0%**	**0.0%**

[a]49% listed mallard, 34% listed geese, and 17% listed 15 other species (n=1,313).

[b]13% listed earlier duck season dates, 10% listed more accessible public lands, 9% listed later waterfowl seasons, and 68% listed 33 miscellaneous items (n=94 for respondents who marked other).

2007-2008 Waterfowl Hunting Season dates. IDNR waterfowl biologists use several sources of information to set duck and goose hunting seasons around the state. The information you provide in the following questions will allow us to use hunters' preferences, in addition to duck biology and weather, to guide decisions about season structure.

10. For several years, Illinois has had a 60-day duck hunting season, however, in the future, a 30- or 45-day season may be necessary due to changes in duck populations. Please tell us which of the possible season dates presented below you would prefer, if necessary, in 2007-2008. *(Please check one box for each season in the zones you hunt. Please skip zones in which you do not hunt. Please answer for **both** a 30- and 45-day season.)*

North zone

30-day season (*n* = 458)	**45-day season (*n* = 466)**
6.3% Opens earlier than Oct. 20	**8.4%** Opens earlier than Oct. 20
18.3% Oct. 20 – Nov. 18	**31.3%** Oct. 20 – Dec. 3
29.7% Oct. 27 – Nov. 25	**23.0%** Oct. 27 – Dec. 10
25.1% Nov. 3 – Dec. 2	**20.6%** Nov. 3 – Dec. 17
15.3% Opens later than Nov. 3	**12.0%** Opens later than Nov. 3
5.2% Not sure	**4.7%** Not sure

Central zone

30-day season (*n* = 836)	**45-day season (*n* = 864)**
6.2% Opens earlier than Oct. 27	**8.0%** Opens earlier than Oct. 27
15.3% Oct. 27 – Nov. 25	**20.4%** Oct. 27 – Dec. 10
24.8% Nov. 3 – Dec. 2	**25.3%** Nov. 3 – Dec. 17
25.1% Nov. 10 – Dec. 9	**25.7%** Nov. 10 – Dec. 24
25.6% Opens later than Nov. 10	**17.5%** Opens later than Nov. 10
3.0% Not sure	**3.1%** Not sure

South zone

30-day season (*n* = 378)	**45-day season (*n* = 393)**
6.3% Opens earlier than Nov. 10	**7.4%** Opens earlier than Nov. 10
16.7% Nov. 10 – Dec. 9	**20.4%** Nov. 10 – Dec. 24
21.7% Nov. 22 – Dec. 21	**25.2%** Nov. 22 – Jan. 5
25.1% Dec. 1 – Dec. 30	**26.7%** Dec. 1 – Jan. 14
25.9% Opens later than Dec. 1	**17.3%** Opens later than Dec. 1
4.2% Not sure	**3.1%** Not sure

11. If a 60-day duck season is allowed in 2007-2008, the North and Central zones will retain their 2006-2007 season structure, whereas the South zone may change. If the season dates in the South zone do change, which of the following would you prefer for a 60-day season in 2007-2008? *(Please check one.)* **(*n* = 385*)***

10.6% Opens earlier than Nov. 10

26.5% Nov. 10 – Jan. 8

35.6% Nov. 22 – Jan. 20

24.2% Opens later than Nov. 22

3.1% Not sure

12. Several aspects of goose hunting seasons in the North and Central zones may be changed in 2007-2008. Please answer the following questions to help us make these decisions. *(Please check one box for each zone in which you hunt. Please skip zones in which you do not hunt.)*

a. Illinois may set a long goose hunting season with a low daily bag limit or a shorter season with a higher daily bag limit. Both options would result in about the same harvest. The 1-bird bag limit may occur mid-season. Which option do you prefer?

I prefer a…		85-day season, 2-goose bag for entire season.	90-day season, 1-goose bag for 16 days, 2-goose bag for 74 days.	I am not sure.
a. North Zone	**(*n* = 410)**	**75.6%**	**22.4%**	**2.0%**
b. Central Zone	**(*n* = 707)**	**58.1%**	**39.6%**	**2.3%**

b. Illinois may set a continuous goose hunting season or a split season (one that is open for a time, closes for 7 or 12 days, and then re-opens). Both options would open with duck hunting season. Which option do you prefer?

I prefer a…		continuous season.	split season.	I am not sure.
a. North Zone	**(*n* = 411)**	**66.2%**	**27.0%**	**6.8%**
b. Central Zone	**(*n* = 713)**	**57.5%**	**37.9%**	**4.6%**

c. If a split season is used, it may be closed for 7 days to include either the weekend of Veteran's day or the first 3-day regular firearm deer season. Which option do you prefer?

I prefer…		closure over Veteran's Day weekend.	closure over first 3-day firearm deer season.	I am not sure.
a. North Zone	**(*n* = 406)**	**11.8%**	**71.7%**	**16.5%**
b. Central Zone	**(*n* = 706)**	**19.7%**	**69.4%**	**10.9%**

13. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may allow states in the Mississippi Flyway to choose between a long scaup hunting season with a low daily bag limit and a shorter scaup season with a higher daily bag limit in 2007-2008. Please indicate which season stucture you prefer. *(Please check one.)* **(*n* = 1,655)**

16.0% 30-day scaup season with 2-scaup daily bag limit
38.0% 60-day scaup season with 1-scaup daily bag limit
46.0% I am not sure.

Public Participation in Duck Regulation Decisions. In 2006, the IDNR Division of Wildlife Resources met with duck hunting organizations, randomly surveyed duck hunters, held open houses, and allowed duck hunters to comment on a 5-year plan for duck hunting regulations. We are interested in learning what hunters thought about this process to improve its effectiveness for the future. Your answers to the following questions will help us do so.

14. Did you attend an IDNR-sponsored public open house during 2006 to discuss the 5-year plan for duck hunting regulations? *(Please check one.)* **(*n* = 1,722)**

4.8% Yes
30.5% No, but I was aware they were being held.
64.8% No, and I was unaware they were being held.

15. Please indicate your satisfaction with the following parts of the duck hunting regulation setting process in 2006. *(Please check one for each item.)*

How satisfied are you with…	*n*	Very satisfied	Slightly satisfied	Not at all satisfied	I am not sure.
a. the 2006 process for setting duck hunting regulations?	**1,688**	**27.4%**	**45.3%**	**10.4%**	**16.9%**
b. the regulations which resulted from the 2006 process?	**1,681**	**29.3%**	**45.4%**	**10.5%**	**14.8%**
c. your own opportunity to participate in the 2006 process for setting duck hunting regulations?	**1,672**	**17.3%**	**30.7%**	**20.9%**	**31.0%**
d. duck hunting organizations' opportunity to participate in the 2006 process for setting duck hunting regulations?	**1,675**	**20.3%**	**33.1%**	**14.7%**	**31.9%**

16. If you have specific suggestions of how future public input processes to set duck regulations could be improved, please describe them below.

Changes to Waterfowl Hunting Regulations in Illinois. IDNR waterfowl biologists evaluate the effectiveness of duck and goose hunting regulations on a regular basis. Each year, we identify some regulations that may be changed. Many factors affect our ability to make these changes, however, our goal is to set regulations that maintain hunting opportunities while ensuring sustainable waterfowl populations. Please help us to understand which changes hunters prefer by answering the following questions.

17. Spinning wing decoys (e.g. Roboduck) are used by duck hunters in many states. There is debate among hunters and biologists about regulating these decoys and limited research documenting the effects of their use. Please indicate your support for regulating spinning wing decoys in each of the following scenarios. *(Please check one for each item.)*

	n	I **support** banning spinning wing decoys in IL in this situation.	I **do not support** banning spinning wing decoys in IL in this situation.	I am not sure.
a. All states ban spinning wing decoys.	**1,981**	**33.0%**	**60.8%**	**6.2%**
b. All states in the Mississippi Flyway ban spinning wing decoys.	**1,970**	**30.6%**	**62.7%**	**6.7%**
c. Some states in the Mississippi Flyway ban spinning wing decoys.	**1,931**	**18.5%**	**72.2%**	**9.3%**
d. Research shows spinning wing decoys reduce duck populations and would result in 45-day duck seasons.	**1,959**	**43.0%**	**43.3%**	**13.6%**
e. Research shows spinning wing decoys reduce duck populations and would result in 30-day duck seasons.	**1,963**	**50.1%**	**37.1%**	**12.8%**
f. Research shows spinning wing decoys have no effect on duck populations.	**1,958**	**17.9%**	**67.0%**	**15.1%**

18. Currently, in 4 counties in southern Illinois (Alexander, Union, Jackson and Williamson counties) it is legal to hunt geese only until 3 p.m.; we are considering extending hunting hours to sunset in these counties, as is the case in the rest of the state. Do you support extending the hunting hours in these 4 counties to sunset? *(Please check one.)* **(*n* = 1,391)**

68.6% Yes, I think hunting hours should be extended to sunset.
14.3% No, I think hunting hours should end at 3 p.m.
17.1% I am not sure.

19. Half the states in the Mississippi Flyway have voluntarily decreased their 2006-2007 bag limit for hen mallards from 2- to 1-bird per day. It is unclear whether this will increase mallard populations. Which of the following scenarios do you prefer for Illinois? *(Please check one for each item.)*

	n	I **support** reducing the hen mallard bag limit in IL in this situation.	I **do not support** reducing the hen mallard bag limit in IL in this situation.	I am not sure.
a. All states reduce the hen mallard bag limit.	**1,710**	**76.3%**	**19.0%**	**4.7%**
b. All states in the Mississippi Flyway reduce the hen mallard bag limit.	**1,701**	**75.4%**	**19.5%**	**5.1%**
c. Some states in the Mississippi Flyway reduce the hen mallard bag limit	**1,682**	**54.5%**	**38.3%**	**7.3%**
d. Research shows reducing the hen mallard bag limit would result in increased mallard populations.	**1,694**	**82.7%**	**10.4%**	**6.9%**
e. Research shows reducing the hen mallard bag limit would have no effect on mallard populations.	**1,682**	**33.8%**	**51.0%**	**15.2%**

Background 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 confidential.

20. For how many years have you hunted waterfowl? **Ave. 25.3**___ years **(*n* = 1,985)**

21. What is your county of residence? *(If you are not an Illinois resident, please indicate your state of residence.)*

See Appendix F._____ County or state

22. How old were you on September 1, 2006? **Ave. 46.9**___ years **(*n* = 1,989)**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ASSISTANCE!
Please return this survey in the postage-paid envelope provided.

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 C. Cover letter sent with first mailing of the survey instrument for the 2006-2007 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

February 2, 2007

Dear Waterfowl Hunter,

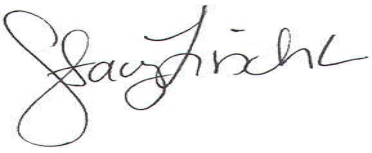
I am writing to ask for your help in a study of Illinois waterfowl hunters. This study, jointly conducted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois Natural History Survey, is an effort to learn about waterfowl hunting activities in Illinois and the factors that motivate hunters to take to Illinois waterways and fields to hunt ducks and geese. Results of this study will guide waterfowl management decisions to optimize hunting opportunity, maintain or improve hunter satisfaction, and allow for effective management of Illinois's duck and goose populations.

You are part of a random sample of waterfowl hunters we have selected to provide information about your hunting activities during the 2006-2007 waterfowl hunting seasons in Illinois. Please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire, even if you did not hunt ducks or geese in Illinois during the 2006-2007 season. Please refer to the harvest card we sent you in September, as necessary, to complete the questionnaire. Your responses are completely confidential and will not be associated in any way with your name or address. While your response to this questionnaire and any of the questions is completely voluntary, you can help us effectively manage waterfowl and waterfowl hunting in Illinois by sharing your experiences and views. We look forward to hearing from you soon. Please return the questionnaire in the postage-paid envelope provided.

If you have any questions or comments about this study, we would be happy to talk with you. Please feel free to call Linda Campbell, Survey Administrator, at (217) 244-5121 or write her at the address listed below. You may access the results of this and other studies of wildlife use in Illinois at http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/cwpe/hd/. You may also find information about Illinois Department of Natural Resources wildlife management programs and wildlife in Illinois at http://dnr.state.il.us/orc/wildliferesources/.

Thank you very much for helping with this important study.

Sincerely,



Stacy A. Lischka
Human Dimensions Specialist
Illinois Natural History Survey

Appendix D. Thank you/reminder postcard sent as follow-up to the mailings of the 2006-2007 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Appendix E. Cover letter sent with second mailing of the survey instrument for the 2006-2007 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

February 16, 2007

Dear Waterfowl Hunter,

A few weeks ago, we sent you a questionnaire asking about your waterfowl hunting activities in Illinois during 2006-2007. To the best of our knowledge, the questionnaire has not yet been returned. If this letter and your completed questionnaire have crossed in the mail, please accept our sincere thanks for your participation in this study!

Your views are crucially important, even if you did not hunt ducks or geese in Illinois during 2006-2007. The comments of hunters who have already responded show that Illinois waterfowl hunters desire different types of hunting experiences and take to the field for many different reasons. The results of this study will help Illinois Department of Natural Resources biologists make informed decisions about how to manage waterfowl and waterfowl hunting in Illinois.

If you have not already done so, please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire. The enclosed questionnaire is a duplicate copy of the one you received earlier. Your responses are completely confidential and will not be associated in any way with your name or address. While your response to this questionnaire and any of the questions is completely voluntary, you can help us effectively manage ducks and geese in Illinois by sharing your experiences and views. We look forward to hearing from you soon. Please return the questionnaire in the postage-paid envelope provided.

If you have any questions or comments about this study, we would be happy to talk with you. Please feel free to call Linda Campbell, Survey Administrator, at (217) 244-5121 or write her at the address listed below. You may access the results of this and other studies of wildlife use in Illinois at http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/cwpe/hd/. You may also find information about Illinois Department of Natural Resources wildlife management programs and wildlife in Illinois at http://dnr.state.il.us/orc/wildliferesources/.

Thank you very much for helping with this important study.

Sincerely,

Stacy A. Lischka
Human Dimensions Specialist
Illinois Natural History Survey

DUCKS & EARLY CANADA GEESE

SPECIES	DATES (Inclusive)	HOURS	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Teal	Sept. 9-Sept. 24 (Statewide)	Sunrise to Sunset	4	8
Ducks	**North Zone** Oct. 21 - Dec. 19	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	**6** (See section on Bag Limits)	2 x daily bag limit
Mergansers	**Central Zone** Oct. 28 - Dec. 26		5 (See section on Bag Limits)	2 x daily bag limit
Coots	**South Zone** Nov. 23 - Jan. 21		15	30
Early Canada Geese	Sept. 1 - Sept. 15 (Northeast Zone only)		5[a]	10
Early Canada Geese	Sept. 1 - Sept. 15 (North, Central & South Zones)		2[a]	4

[a] Daily bag limit is five in Northeast Canada Goose Zone and two in the South Zone and that portion of the North & Central Zones outside the Northeast Canada Goose Zone.

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS*

SPECIES	DATES	HOURS	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Ducks	**North Zone** Oct. 14-15 **Central Zone** Oct. 21-22 **South Zone** Nov. 11-12	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			1 - North & Central 2 - South
Brant			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/ certification 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, 1 canvasback and 1 pintail. The daily bag limit for all mergansers is 5, only 2 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 Zone	Oct. 21 - Nov. 12 & Nov. 20 - Jan. 14	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	2	4
Central Zone	Oct. 28 - Nov. 5 & Nov. 23 - Jan. 31			
South Zone	Nov. 23 - Nov. 26 & Dec. 10 - Jan. 31	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset		
Alexander, Jackson Union and Williamson Counties		1/2 hour before sunrise to 3 p.m(b)		
Snow/Blue & Ross' Geese and Brant (a)				
North Zone	Oct. 21 - Jan. 14	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	20 Snow/Blue & Ross' Geese 1 Brant	Unlimited Snow/Blue & Ross' Geese 2 Brant
Central Zone	Oct. 28 - Jan. 31			
South Zone	Nov. 23 - Jan. 31			
Alexander, Jackson Union and Williamson Counties	Nov. 23 - Jan. 31	1/2 hour before sunrise to 3 p.m(b)		
White-fronted Geese (a)				
North Zone	Oct. 21 - Jan. 14	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	1	2
Central Zone	Oct. 28 - Nov. 5 & Nov. 23 - Jan. 31			
South Zone	Nov. 23-Jan. 31		2	4
Alexander, Jackson Union and Williamson Counties	Nov. 23-Jan. 31	1/2 hour before sunrise to 3 p.m(b)	2	4

(a) **Early Goose Season Closure is Eliminated.** Note: Canada goose seasons will **not** be closed early in any zones in Illinois because quotas, quota zones, Canada goose hunting permits and goose phone-in requirements have been eliminated.

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

Appendix G. County of residence for waterfowl hunters who participated in the 2006-2007 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey (n = 2,021).

County	n	%	County	n	%	County	n	%
Adams	54	2.7	Hardin	0	0.0	Morgan	20	1.0
Alexander	1	0.0	Henderson	2	0.1	Moultrie	2	0.1
Bond	6	0.3	Henry	13	0.6	Ogle	11	0.5
Boone	5	0.2	Iroquois	7	0.3	Peoria	74	3.7
Brown	2	0.1	Jackson	22	1.1	Perry	11	0.5
Bureau	26	1.3	Jasper	6	0.3	Piatt	7	0.3
Calhoun	4	0.2	Jefferson	26	1.3	Pike	9	0.4
Carroll	15	0.7	Jersey	32	1.6	Pope	1	0.0
Cass	28	1.4	JoDaviess	9	0.4	Pulaski	3	0.1
Champaign	19	0.9	Johnson	3	0.1	Putnam	4	0.2
Christian	8	0.4	Kane	45	2.2	Randolph	7	0.3
Clark	4	0.2	Kankakee	29	1.4	Richland	1	0.0
Clay	1	0.0	Kendall	11	0.5	Rock Island	38	1.9
Clinton	22	1.1	Knox	13	0.6	St. Clair	51	2.5
Coles	7	0.3	Lake	44	2.2	Saline	5	0.2
Cook	141	7.0	LaSalle	55	2.7	Sangamon	42	2.1
Crawford	2	0.1	Lawrence	2	0.1	Schuyler	3	0.1
Cumberland	2	0.1	Lee	13	0.6	Scott	4	0.2
DeKalb	18	0.9	Livingston	15	0.7	Shelby	1	0.0
DeWitt	2	0.1	Logan	10	0.5	Stark	1	0.0
Douglas	5	0.2	McDonough	7	0.3	Stephenson	3	0.1
DuPage	33	1.6	McHenry	41	2.0	Tazewell	126	6.2
Edgar	9	0.4	McLean	38	1.9	Union	11	0.5
Edwards	0	0.0	Macon	11	0.5	Vermilion	12	0.6
Effingham	16	0.8	Macoupin	26	1.3	Wabash	6	0.3
Fayette	3	0.1	Madison	83	4.1	Warren	6	0.3
Ford	5	0.2	Marion	8	0.4	Washington	11	0.5
Franklin	31	1.5	Marshall	20	1.0	Wayne	0	0.0
Fulton	30	1.5	Mason	38	1.9	White	5	0.2
Gallatin	2	0.1	Massac	10	0.5	Whiteside	37	1.8
Greene	7	0.3	Menard	8	0.4	Will	127	6.3
Grundy	25	1.2	Mercer	15	0.7	Williamson	90	4.5
Hamilton	0	0.0	Monroe	11	0.5	Winnebago	38	1.9
Hancock	9	0.4	Montgomery	13	0.6	Woodford	26	1.3