*Human*Dimensions
Research Program

Results of the 2007-2008 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey

Stacy A. Lischka
Program Leader and Principal Investigator
Human Dimensions Research Program
Illinois Natural History Survey

Report prepared by
Stacy A. Lischka,
William L. Anderson,
and Linda K. Campbell

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Marc Miller, Director
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Paul Vehlow
Federal Aid Coordinator

John E. Buhnerkempe
Chief, Division of Wildlife Resources

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RESULTS OF THE 2007-2008 ILLINOIS WATERFOWL HUNTER SURVEY

JOB COMPLETION REPORT

WILDLIFE HARVEST AND
HUMAN DIMENSIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NUMBER: W-112-R-17
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JOB NO. 101.3

Prepared by
Stacy A. Lischka, William L. Anderson, and Linda K. Campbell
Illinois Natural History Survey
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Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Marc Miller, Director
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

John E. Buhnerkempe, Chief
Division of Wildlife Resources

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ABSTRACT

A total of 2,366 potential Illinois waterfowl hunters returned usable questionnaires for the 2007-2008 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey (50.6% response rate). A total of 1,807 respondents reported purchasing a 2007-2008 Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp, of which 1,496 (82.8%) hunted waterfowl in Illinois in 2007-2008. Based on waterfowl hunting licenses and stamps sold, we estimated 57,454 Illinois waterfowl hunters spent an estimated 1,150,304 days hunting during the 2007-2008 season, and harvested an estimated 678,623 waterfowl. There were an estimated 13,478 September teal hunters; they spent 48,115 days hunting, and they harvested 29,800 teal. Harvest during the regular duck season included an estimated 265,369 mallards, 34,628 wood ducks, and 164,369 other ducks, for a total of 464,366 ducks. Goose hunters harvested an estimated 16,207 Canada geese during the 2007 September season. During the regular goose season, an estimated 43,046 hunters spent 445,670 days hunting and harvested 141,205 Canada geese and 11,582 other geese. Most teal hunters were satisfied with the September teal season dates, most duck hunters were satisfied with the regular duck season dates, and most goose hunters were satisfied with the regular goose season dates. Illinois hunters overwhelmingly (95.0%) chose steel shot as their nontoxic shot for waterfowl hunting in 2007-2008.

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 (2006). Survey participants were notified on 28 August 2007 they would receive a questionnaire at the close of the 2007-2008 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 4,886. On 6 February 2008, these potential hunters were mailed a self-administered, 12-page questionnaire (Appendix B), cover letter (Appendix C), and postage-paid return envelope. Non-respondents were mailed a thank you/reminder postcard on 21 February 2008 (Appendix D), a second copy of the questionnaire and cover letter (Appendix E) on 11 March 2008, and another thank you/reminder postcard on 31 March 2008. 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 66,765 Illinois Migratory Waterfowl stamps (2007-2008 series). The number of teal, duck, and goose hunters ($Hunt_{sp}$), days hunting ($Days_{sp}$), birds crippled but not retrieved ($Crip_{sp}$) and birds 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 the 2007-2008 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 2007-2008, 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 2007-2008 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 area (Franklin and Jefferson counties), and Carlyle Lake area (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 extended for 16 days (8-23 September) in 2007, the same season length as in 2006. The daily bag limit was 4 birds in both years. As in previous years, the 2007 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 an 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 and 2007-2008. The Canada goose season extended for 85 days in the North and Central Zones, and for 66 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 for all species.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The questionnaire was not deliverable to 208 recipients, thus the sample population was reduced to 4,678 individuals. A total of 2,366 usable questionnaires were returned for a response rate of 51%. Of these returns, 1,807 (76%) were from respondents who purchased an Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp for the 2007-2008 seasons. These stamp purchasers included 1,496 (83%) individuals who hunted waterfowl in Illinois in 2007-2008.

Hunters were an average of 46 years old (range: 9-84 years, n= 1,478). Nearly all (99%) male and white (not of Hispanic origin). 40% of hunters resided in a rural farm or non-farm setting or rural subdivision. 55% had a household income of $\leq$$79,999. The hunters had hunted waterfowl in Illinois for an average of 22 years (range: 1-72 years, n=1,477). They resided in 100 of Illinois' counties and 26 other states (Appendix G).

Waterfowl Harvest and Hunter Activity

The estimated number of waterfowl hunters decreased from 58,302 during the 2006-2007 seasons to 57,454 during the 2007-2008 seasons (Table 1). Hunters were estimated to spend 1,150,304 days pursuing waterfowl in 2007-2008, a decrease of 4% from the 1,194,801 days

estimated for 2006-2007. Estimated waterfowl harvest decreased 3%, from 700,571 birds during 2006-2007 season to 678,623 during 2007-2008. About one-fourth (28%) of respondents reported hunting ducks only, whereas 12% hunted geese only, and 60% hunted both ducks and geese (Table 2).

The sale of 66,765 Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps for the 2007 season established a new record high for this stamp. The previous record high occurred 1 year earlier, in 2006-2007, when 63,965 stamps were sold. These high-sales years were preceded by a near-record low year (2005-2006) in which only 55,734 stamps were sold. In the report for the 2006-2007 Waterfowl Hunter Survey, we speculated that apparent low sales in 2005-2006 were caused by the electronic point-of-sales licensing system implemented by the IDNR in early 2006 (Anderson et al. 2007). Record-high sales of the stamp in 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 lend support to the idea that the 2005-2006 low sales may have been an anomaly, caused by errors resulting from the implementation of the electronic system. This possible explanation warrants further attention, should another anomalous year be observed.

September Teal Season – The estimated number of early (September) teal hunters increased slightly (9%), from 12,378 in 2006 to 13,478 in 2007 (Table 3). Estimated days of hunting increased 11%, from 43,223 during 2006 to 48,115 during 2007. The estimated teal harvest during the 2007 September season totaled 29,800 birds, a 6% increase from the estimated 28,016 teal taken during the 2006 season. The Central Zone accounted for 6,298 (47%) of the September teal hunters, 23,731 (49%) of the days hunting, and 16,660 (56%) of the teal harvest in 2007 (Table 4). Statewide, September season teal hunters averaged 3.6 days hunted in 2007, up from an average 3.5 days in 2006 (Table 5). September season teal hunters harvested an average of 0.6 teal per hunter per day and 2.21 teal per hunter per season in 2007 (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 5,447 adults and 8,024 youths in 2006 to 6,259 adults (+15%) and 8,981 youths (+12%) in 2007 (Table 6). The estimated harvest (ducks, geese, and coots combined) by youths increased from 10,728 birds in 2006 to 11,692 birds (9%) in 2007. Mean age of youths participating in the youth hunt was 12 years, with a range of 6-15 years (*n*=254).

Regular Duck Season - The estimated number of duck hunters decreased by 1,323 (-3%), from 50,437 during 2006-2007 to 49,114 during 2007-2008 (Table 7). Duck hunters spent an estimated 600,614 days hunting during 2007-2008, a decrease of 9% from the 658,881 days reported during 2006-2007. Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) harvest decreased by an estimated 42,631 birds (-14%), from 308,000 during 2006-2007 to 265,369 during 2007-2008. Harvest of wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) decreased from an estimated 38,366 birds in 2006-2007 to 34,628 in 2007-2008. Wood duck harvest in 2007-2008 was among the lowest recorded since 1992. This lower wood duck harvest can be partially attributed to the fact that wood ducks are early migrants and the opening day of duck season has moved to later dates over time, especially in the South Zone since 2003. Harvest of other ducks increased by 2%, from estimates of 161,098 in 2006-2007 to 164,369 in 2007-2008. Total duck harvest during 2007-2008 was estimated at 464,366, which is 9% lower than the 507,464 ducks harvested during the 2006-2007 season. Coot (*Fulica americana*) harvest increased from an estimated 3,065 in 2006-2007 to 3,771 in 2007-2008 (Table 7).

The 2007-2008 duck harvest is presented by waterfowl zones and selected areas in Table 8. Statewide, the duck harvest reported per hunter per day did not change between 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 (Table 9). Reported duck harvest per hunter for the season decreased from 10.1 in 2006-2007 to 9.5 in 2007-2008.

Early September Goose Season - An estimated 12,788 hunters participated in the early September Canada goose season in Illinois in 2007 (Table 10). The majority (50%) of September goose hunters were active in the Central Zone. Harvest of Canada geese was

estimated at 16,207 birds, which is 11% greater than the 14,578 harvested in 2006. The estimated 8,645 Canada geese harvested in the Central Zone accounted for 53% of total harvest statewide in 2007. Total days hunted during the September season decreased from an estimated 42,444 in 2006 to 41,549 (-2%).

Regular Goose Season - In 2007-2008, an estimated 43,046 goose hunters spent an estimated 445,670 days hunting during the regular goose season (Table 11). Canada goose harvest increased from 122,294 in 2006-2007 to 141,205 in 2007-2008. The Central Zone accounted for 50% of the reported Canada goose harvest (Table 12). Illinois' Canada goose harvest is summarized by zone and year (2003-2004 though 2007-2008) in Table 13. Canada goose harvest has shifted dramatically to northern and central Illinois over the past 15 years, a pattern that is likely to continue into the future.

Goose hunters also harvested an estimated 4,882 white-fronted geese and 6,700 snow/blue/Ross' geese during the regular goose season in 2007-2008 (Table 14). The harvest of all geese during the regular goose season in 2007-2008 was estimated at 152,787 birds, compared to a total goose harvest of 136,720 in 2006-2007 (Table 11).

Crippling Losses - Crippling losses (birds knocked down but not retrieved) were estimated at 77,914 ducks and 16,627 geese in Illinois during the 2007-2008 regular seasons (Table 15). These estimates, which are indices, equate to 16.8 ducks and 10.9 geese lost per 100 harvested.

Hunter Attitudes and Opinions

Satisfaction with September Teal Season Dates – A majority (61%) of survey respondents who reported hunting teal in Illinois during 2007-2008 were satisfied with the dates (8-23 September) for the early teal season in 2007 (Table 16). Satisfaction was expressed by teal hunters in all 3 zones. These findings are similar to those measured by the 2006-2007 Illinois

Waterfowl Hunter Survey (Lischka et al. 2008) and indicate no immediate need to reconsider the season dates for teal in September.

North Zone Duck Season Dates – When asked how they felt about the dates used for the regular duck season in 2007-2008, a majority (65%) of respondents who reported hunting ducks primarily in the North Zone in 2007-2008 indicated they were satisfied (Table 17). Among all duck hunters who expressed an opinion (hunted in any zone), 58% expressed satisfaction with North Zone season dates (Table 18).

By asking respondents to indicate their preference for dates for 30- and 45-day hunting seasons, we hoped to determine whether the start or end date of the 60-day season had created these high levels of satisfaction. When asked to indicate their preference for 30- and 45-day seasons, however, respondents did not clearly favor one set of dates over another. For a 30-day season, nearly equally percentages of hunters preferred a season from 25 October to 23 November and 1 November to 30 November (26% and 27%, respectively; Table 19). Another 17% preferred a start date after 1 November and 16% preferred a season from 18 October to 16 November. For a 45-day season, a slight plurality of North Zone hunters (27%) preferred the 25 October – 8 December option over the 18 October to 1 December option (23%; Table 20). If a season shorter than the 2007-2008 season is required, North Zone hunters would likely not support an earlier start date (before Oct. 20), but may be equally satisfied among any of the later choices. Monitoring changes in satisfaction if a shorter season is required will help to inform future decisions.

Central Zone Duck Season Dates – A majority (63%) of respondents who hunted ducks primarily in the Central Zone were satisfied with the dates for duck hunting in that zone (Table 17). Among all duck hunters that expressed an opinion, 62% were satisfied with the season dates in the Central Zone (Table 18).

As was the case for the North Zone, we also asked Central Zone hunters to indicate their preference for a 30- and 45- day season. More than half of Central Zone duck hunters (58%) preferred a 30-day season which started on 8 November or later (Table 21). For a 45-days season, Central Zone hunters were less decisive, with 27% preferring a season from 8 November to 22 December, 26% favoring 1 November to 15 December, and 21% choosing a start date later than 8 November (Table 22). Central Zone hunters were very satisfied with the 2007-2008 hunting dates (60-day season, 27 October to 25 December), but did not favor 30- or 45-day seasons which started as early as the satisfactory 60-day season. The dates chosen for shorter season lengths indicate that Central Zone hunters are most satisfied by a later ending date of the season, rather than an early start date. This information may be used to guide future season setting decisions.

South Zone Duck Season Dates – A majority (55%) of respondents who reported hunting primarily in the South Zone in 2007-2008 were satisfied with the season dates for the South Zone (Table 17). In addition, a majority of South Zone hunters who reported hunting in the SIQZ counties (64%) were satisfied, whereas fewer South Zone hunters in the Carlyle Lake counties (48%) and Rend Lake counties (43%) were satisfied. Among all duck hunters who expressed an opinion, 52% were satisfied with the season dates in the South Zone (Table 18).

Survey participants were asked to indicate their preference for duck season dates in the South Zone in the event of a 60-day, 45-day, or 30-day season in 2008-2009. For a 60-day season, a majority (53%) of respondents who hunted ducks primarily in the South Zone chose 27 November -25 January; 40% preferred a 60-day season that started Nov. 15 or earlier (Table 23). This choice was most popular in all areas compared (Carlyle Lake, Rend Lake, SIQZ). Among all duck hunters who expressed an opinion, 50% preferred a 60-day season from 27 November to 25 January and 50% preferred a 60-day season that started Nov. 15 or earlier (Table 23). Due to the substantial proportion of respondents who desired a season with an earlier start date, it may

increase satisfaction with season dates to periodically offer earlier seasons, especially when there is not clear support for one date over another.

For a 45-day season, respondents most frequently chose 27 November – 10 January (32%) and 6 December – 17 January (32%) for season dates in 2008-2009 (Table 24). In the SIQZ counties, 38% of hunters preferred 6 December – 17 January for a 45-day season. Hunters in the more northerly sections of the south zone, Carlyle Lake and Rend Lake, were more supportive of the earlier season than the later.

For a 30-day season, 41% of South Zone hunters prefer season dates from 6 December – 4 January (Table 25). Hunters in the SIQZ (54%), Rend Lake (39%) and elsewhere in the zone (39%) also chose a 6 December as the most preferred opening date. Hunters in the Carlyle Lake area showed the greatest preference an earlier date options, with 30% of hunters preferring 28 November through 27 December. Similar to the pattern for the 45-day season choices, those hunters in the southern section of the South Zone preferred a later opening date than those hunters in the northern areas.

The findings of this survey indicate Illinois' duck hunters are reasonably well satisfied with the dates used for the 60-day season in 2007-2008. This conclusion especially holds for the North and Central Zones, where nearly two-thirds of the hunters expressed satisfaction (Tables 17 and 18). In the South Zone, slightly more than one-half of the hunters were satisfied with the season dates. However, there appears to be some conflict within this zone, with hunters at Carlyle Lake and SIQZ expressing lower levels of satisfaction with season dates (Tables 17-18). Carlyle Lake hunters prefer an earlier season, and SIQZ hunters prefer a later season than hunters in the rest of the south zone due to the location of these areas within the zone (Carlyle Lake in the north, SIQZ in the south area of the zone). This pattern of differing preferences for season dates is likely to exist as long as these 2 areas are in the same zone.

These results may indicate support for a change to zone boundaries, so as to include Carlyle Lake in the Central Zone. It is unlikely, however, that hunters in the Carlyle Lake area would be any more satisfied with Central Zone dates; the dates preferred by current Central Zone hunters begin and end much earlier than those preferred by Carlyle Lake hunters. In addition, past experience has demonstrated including Carlyle Lake in the Central Zone creates increased competition between South and Central Zone hunters, as many South Zone hunters shift their efforts to the Carlyle Lake area during initial weeks of the Central Zone season.

Scaup Season Dates and Daily Bag Limit – Survey respondents were asked whether they preferred a long (60-day) scaup season with a 1-bird daily bag limit or a shorter (45-day) season with a 2-bird daily bag limit. More than one-third (44%) of the hunters said they were not sure; It is likely that these respondents did not specifically target scaup while hunting other ducks. Of the hunters who did express an opinion, (*n*=1,113), 52% supported a long season with a 1-bird daily limit and 47% supported a shorter season with a 2-bird daily limit.

Canada Goose Season Dates – Majorities of goose hunters in the North Zone (67%), Central Zone (72%), and South Zone (58%) were satisfied with the dates in the zone in which they hunted Canada geese in the 2007-2008 regular goose season (Table 26). When viewed by area within the South Zone, majorities of hunters from the SIQZ (66%), Carlyle Lake (62%), and elsewhere (55%) were also satisfied; however, only 41% of goose hunters at Rend Lake were satisfied with the 2007-2008 season dates. Among all goose hunters who expressed an opinion, 62% were satisfied with the North Zone season dates, 70% with the Central Zone dates, and 57% with the South Zone dates (Table 27).

Respondents were asked to indicate their preference for two guidelines for setting Central Zone goose hunting dates in the future (Table 28). A plurality of respondents (34%) supported closing the Central Zone goose season over 2 weekends rather than 1 weekend, if a split season is required. Nearly half (49%) of respondents preferred an end date for the Central Zone goose

season in late January over mid-January. In both of these cases, a large number of respondents chose the not sure option. Respondents who chose not sure are likely to be hunters from the North or South Zones and therefore have little interest in Central Zone regulations. As such, we removed them from analysis. Of hunters who stated a preference, 59% preferred closure over 2 weekends and 75% preferred a late January end date. In the future, if a split season is used in the Central Zone, it is likely there would be greater support for a season closed over 2 weekends and ending in late January, than one closed over 1 weekend and ending in mid-January.

Goose hunters did not state a clear preference for rescinding the 5-hunter limit for blinds and pits during goose hunting in the SIQZ. Nearly half of goose hunting respondents preferred maintaining (41%) and rescinding the ban (41%, Table 29). For hunters in the SIQZ, 41% supported eliminating the restriction and 51% opted for no change.

Types of Nontoxic Shot –Surveyed hunters were asked to indicate the types of nontoxic shot they used for waterfowl hunting in Illinois during the 2007-2008 season. Almost all (95%) said they used steel shot, whereas only 18% used tungsten-based shots and 5% used bismuth-tin shot. The majority of hunters (93%) used steel shot exclusively or frequently, whereas only 12% used tungsten-based shots exclusively or frequently and 3% used bismuth-tin shot exclusively or frequently.

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Table 1. Summary of Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps purchased, hunter activity, and waterfowl harvest in Illinois from 1981 through 2007 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
2007	66,765	57,454	1,150,304	678,623

[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 2007 seasons, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Season (Year)	Hunted Ducks Only	Hunted Geese Only	Hunted Both Ducks and Geese	% of Total that Hunted Ducks	% of Total that Hunted Geese
1981	63.0%	14.1%	22.9%	85.9%	37.0%
1982	59.1%	11.1%	29.8%	88.9%	40.9%
1983	55.0%	13.4%	31.6%	86.6%	45.0%
1984	60.3%	12.1%	27.6%	87.9%	39.7%
1985	61.1%	9.7%	29.2%	90.3%	38.9%
1986	51.0%	13.4%	35.6%	86.6%	49.0%
1987	46.6%	14.3%	39.1%	85.7%	53.4%
1988	35.5%	19.1%	45.4%	80.9%	64.5%
1989	29.2%	21.3%	49.5%	78.7%	70.8%
1990	26.7%	29.7%	43.6%	70.3%	73.4%
1991	26.0%	27.3%	46.7%	72.7%	74.0%
1992	31.3%	23.4%	45.3%	76.6%	68.7%
1993	30.9%	20.2%	48.9%	79.8%	69.1%
1994	30.3%	16.5%	53.2%	83.5%	69.7%
1995	33.2%	23.4%	43.4%	76.6%	66.8%
1996	35.8%	22.3%	41.9%	77.7%	64.2%
1997	38.8%	22.2%	39.0%	77.8%	61.2%
1998	47.6%	17.0%	35.4%	83.0%	52.4%
1999	27.2%	10.6%	62.2%	89.4%	72.8%
2000	34.0%	23.1%	42.9%	76.9%	66.0%
2001	33.0%	9.9%	57.1%	90.1%	67.0%
2002	33.8%	10.2%	56.0%	89.8%	66.2%
2003	32.3%	12.6%	55.1%	87.4%	67.7%
2004	32.1%	10.5%	57.4%	89.5%	67.9%
2005	37.2%	11.5%	51.3%	88.5%	62.8%
2006	28.8%	13.5%	57.7%	86.5%	71.2%
2007	27.7%	12.2%	60.1%	87.8%	72.3%

Table 3. Summary of teal harvest and hunter activity during the September teal season in Illinois from 1981 through 2007, 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
2007	13,478	48,115	29,800[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 $\pm$ 10,472.

Table 4. Teal harvest and hunter activity by zones during the September teal season in Illinois in 2007, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

	n	Estimated Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Teal Harvested
North Zone	97	3,725	12,595	5,810
Central Zone	164	6,298	23,731	16,660
South Zone	83	3,187	10,790	7,139
Unknown	7	268	999	197
Statewide	351	13,478	48,115	29,800

Table 5. Rates of teal harvest and hunter activity during the September teal season in Illinois from 1981 through 2007, 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
2007	16/4	3.60	0.62	2.21

[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 2007, 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
2007	2-days	6,259	8,981	14,356	1.60

	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
2007	9,141	0.64	850	0.06	1,701	0.12

[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 2007, 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	3,065
2007	49,114	600,614	265,369	34,628	164,369[b]	464,366[c]	3,771[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, 5,927 in 2006 and 5,925 in 2007. The canvasback season was closed in 2000, and was limited to 30 days in 2001, 2003, and 2004.

[c] The 95% confidence interval is $\pm$ 72,596.

[d] The 95% confidence interval is $\pm$ 3,400.

Table 8. Duck harvest and hunter activity by waterfowl zones and selected areas during the regular duck season in Illinois in 2007-2008, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Zone/Area Hunted	*n*	Estimated Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Ducks Harvested
North Zone	334	12,826	128,986	81,338
Central Zone	580	22,272	285,235	224,200
South Zone	349	13,402	176,333	153,404
SIQZ[a]	94	3,610	46,963	41,266
Rend Lake[b]	46	1,766	28,800	24,971
Carlyle Lake[c]	50	1,920	21,773	22,393
Elsewhere in South Zone	159	6,106	78,797	64,774
Unknown	16	614	10,060	5,424
Statewide	1,279	49,114	600,614	464,366

[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 2007, 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
2007	60/6(4,2)	12.23	0.77	9.45

[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 2007 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
2007	12,788	2,726	1,997	6,413	1,498[c]	154	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
2007	41,549	7,334	6,835	22,080	4,954[c]	346	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
2007	16,207	3,781	2,276	8,645	1,432[c]	73	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 2007, 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 (1,715)
2006	41,521	438,350	122,294 (1,338)	14,426 (869)	136,720 (2,207)
2007	43,046	445,670	141,205 (404)	11,582 (55)	152,787[d] (459)

[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 2002 report to exclude Conservation Order snow goose harvest.
[d] The 95% confidence interval is $\pm$ 20,910.

Table 12. Goose harvest and hunter activity by zones and selected areas in Illinois in 2007-2008 as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Zone/Area Hunted	*n*	Estimated Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Goose Harvest			
				Canada Geese	White-Fronted Geese	Snow/Blue Geese-Regular Season	Total Geese
North Zone							
North Quota[a]	194	7,450	73,843	30,836	0	18	30,854
North Non-Quota[a]	146	5,606	55,872	15,694	128	331	16,153
Total	340	13,056	129,715	46,530	128	349	47,007
Central Zone							
Central Quota[a]	309	11,866	137,395	44,180	1,817	1,083	47,080
Central Non-Quota[a]	200	7,680	85,479	25,854	386	1,542	27,782
Total	509	19,546	222,874	70,034	2,203	2,625	74,862
South Zone							
SIQZ[b]	89	3,418	35,405	9,600	991	367	10,958
Rend Lake Non-Quota[c]	30	1,152	9,600	1,707	147	642	2,496
Carlyle Lake Non-Quota[d]	21	806	6,874	1,689	184	275	2,148
Elsewhere Non-Quota	115	4,416	34,406	8,168	1,175	2,037	11,380
Total	255	9,792	86,285	21,163	2,496	3,322	26,981
Unknown	17	653	6,797	2,478	55	404	2,937
Statewide	1,121	43,046	445,670	141,205	4,882	6,700	152,787

[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 2007-2008, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. See Table 12 for sample sizes for 2007-2008.

Zone/Area Hunted	Estimated Goose Harvest						
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Mean 2003-05	2006-07	2007-08	Mean 2006-07
North Zone							
North Quota[a]	16,491	13,188	13,665	14,448	29,887	30,836	30,362
North Non-Quota[a]	7,321	11,160	8,983	9,155	14,813	15,694	15,254
Total	23,812	24,348	22,648	23,603	44,700	46,530	45,615
Central Zone							
Central Quota[a]	18,046	25,648	20,884	21,526	40,948	44,180	42,564
Central Non-Quota[a]	19,509	17,187	16,886	17,861	21,916	25,854	23,885
Total	37,555	42,835	37,770	39,387	62,864	70,034	66,449
South Zone							
SIQZ[b]	12,497	6,403	7,083	8,661	6,468	9,600	8,034
Rend Lake Non-Quota[c]	1,709	2,148	765	1,541	1,876	1,707	1,792
Carlyle Lake Non-Quota[d]	696	572	864	711	386	1,689	1,038
Elsewhere Non-Quota	6,535	5,524	5,040	5,699	4,165	8,168	6,167
Total	21,437	14,647	13,752	16,612	12,895	21,163	17,029
Unknown	403	29	123	184	1,835	2,478	2,157
Statewide	83,207	81,859	74,293	79,786	122,294	141,205	131,750

[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 2007-2008, 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
2007	4,882	6,700	---	11,582

[a] Regular goose seasons.
[b] Not listed in questionnaire.
[c] Reduced by 23,151 from estimate given in 2002 report to exclude 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 2007-2008, 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
2007	77,914	16.8	16,627	10.9

[a] The estimates of ducks and geese crippled for these years have been reduced to 92.48% - 96.48% of the original estimates. The estimates for the number of geese crippled per 100 bagged have been similarly reduced. See Anderson and Williamson (1994) for explanation.

Table 16. Satisfaction of teal hunters with dates for the September teal season (September 8-23, 2007), 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	92	35.9%	21.7%	21.7%	6.5%	4.3%	9.8%
Central	156	50.6	14.1	12.8	7.7	5.8	9.0
South	78	35.9	23.1	16.7	7.7	5.1	11.5
Statewide	332	42.5	18.4	16.3	7.5	5.1	10.2
All respondents	1,729	25.3	8.2	17.1	3.0	2.9	43.5

Table 17. Satisfaction of duck hunters with dates for the regular duck season in the zone in which they hunted during 2007-2008, as reported by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. Note: the season dates were Oct. 20-Dec. 18 in the North Zone, Oct. 27-Dec. 25 in the Central Zone, and Nov. 22-Jan. 20 in the South Zone.

Zone/Area Hunted	*n*	Very satisfied	Slightly satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Slightly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	No opinion
North	327	41.0%	23.9%	10.7%	12.8%	8.3%	3.4%
Central	566	40.1	23.1	13.4	11.7	7.8	3.9
South	339	30.7	23.9	9.4	15.6	18.0	2.4
SIQZ[a]	92	39.1	25.0	9.8	14.1	8.7	3.3
Rend Lake[b]	44	20.5	22.7	13.6	25.0	18.2	0.0
Carlyle Lake[c]	48	20.8	27.1	10.4	8.3	31.3	2.1
Elsewhere	155	31.6	22.6	7.7	16.1	19.4	2.6

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

Table 18. Satisfaction of all duck hunters who expressed opinions on dates for the regular duck seasons in 2007-2008, as reported by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. Respondents who answered no opinion were removed from this analysis (see appendix B for this data.) Note: the season dates were Oct. 20-Dec. 18 in the North Zone, Oct. 27-Dec. 25 in the Central Zone, and Nov. 22-Jan. 20 in the South Zone.

Zone	*n*	Very satisfied	Slightly satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Slightly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
North	581	39.9%	18.2%	25.6%	9.6%	6.5%
Central	779	40.3	22.0	19.4	11.2	7.2
South	617	34.7	19.0	21.4	11.7	13.3

Table 19. Preferences of duck hunters who hunted primarily in the North Zone for dates of a 30-day duck season in the North Zone in 2008-2009, as reported by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Options	%
	n=311
Opens earlier than Oct. 18	10.0%
Oct. 18 – Nov. 16	15.8
Oct. 25- Nov. 23	26.0
Nov. 1 – Nov. 30	26.7
Opens later than Nov. 1	17.4
Not Sure	4.2

Table 20. Preferences of duck hunters who hunted primarily in the North Zone for dates of a 45-day duck season in the North Zone in 2008-2009, as reported by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Options	%
	n=316
Opens earlier than Oct. 18	11.4%
Oct. 18 – Dec. 1	23.4
Oct. 25- Dec. 8	26.9
Nov. 1 – Dec. 15	22.8
Opens later than Nov. 1	12.0
Not Sure	3.5

Table 21. Preferences of duck hunters who hunted primarily in the Central Zone for dates of a 30-day duck season in the Central Zone in 2008-2009, as reported by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Options	%
	n=546
Opens earlier than Oct. 25	4.2
Oct. 25 – Nov. 23	12.5
Nov. 1 - Nov. 30	20.1
Nov. 8 – Dec. 7	29.3
Opens later than Nov. 8	28.2
Not Sure	5.7

Table 22. Preferences of duck hunters who hunted primarily in the Central Zone for dates of a 45-day duck season in the Central Zone in 2008-2009, as reported by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Options	%
	n=550
Opens earlier than Oct. 25	4.2
Oct. 25 – Dec. 8	18.0
Nov. 1 - Dec. 15	25.5
Nov. 8 – Dec. 22	26.7
Opens later than Nov. 8	20.5
Not Sure	5.1

Table 23. Preferences of duck hunters for dates of a 60-day duck season in 2008-2009, as reported by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. For the zones listed (SIQZ, Rend and Carlyle Lakes, elsewhere and entire zone) only respondents who reported hunting ducks primarily in the south zone are included. In the all respondents category, all respondents who answered the question are included.

Options	SIQZ[a]	Rend Lake[b]	Carlyle Lake[c]	Else-where	Entire Zone	All Respondents
	n=92	*n*=46	*n*=49	*n*=157	*n*=344	*n*=394
Opens earlier than Nov. 15	4.3%	17.4%	26.5%	19.1%	15.8%	19.7%
Nov. 15-Jan. 13	27.2	26.1	28.6	21.7	24.4	30.3
Nov. 27-Jan. 25	59.8	50.0	42.9	54.1	52.7	50.3
I am not sure	8.7	6.5	2.0	5.1	5.7	NA

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

Table 24. Preferences of duck hunters who hunted primarily in the South Zone for dates of a 45-day duck season in the South Zone in 2008-2009, as reported by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Options	SIQZ[a]	Rend Lake[b]	Carlyle Lake[c]	Else-where	Entire Zone
	n=140	*n*=72	*n*=82	*n*=209	*n*=337
Opens earlier than Nov. 1	1.4%	4.2%	2.4%	5.0%	3.6%
Nov. 8-Dec. 22	6.4	15.3	23.2	10.9	11.6
Nov. 15-Dec. 29	15.7	13.9	19.5	17.9	17.5
Nov. 27-Jan. 10	35.7	34.7	31.7	30.3	32.3
Dec. 6-Jan. 17	37.9	30.6	19.5	33.8	32.0
Not Sure	2.9	1.4	3.7	2.0	2.9

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

Table 25. Preferences of duck hunters who hunted primarily in the South Zone for dates of a 30-day duck season in the South Zone in 2008-2009, as reported by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Options	SIQZ[a]	Rend Lake[b]	Carlyle Lake[c]	Else-where	Entire Zone
	n=136	*n*=70	*n*=79	*n*=207	*n*=328
Opens earlier than Nov. 1	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	3.6%	2.4%
Nov. 8-Dec. 7	6.6	14.3	16.5	9.1	10.4
Nov. 15-Dec. 14	11.8	17.1	19.0	14.7	14.0
Nov. 28-Dec. 27	24.3	27.1	30.4	31.0	28.0
Dec. 6-Jan. 4	54.4	38.6	26.6	39.1	41.2
Not Sure	2.9	2.9	5.1	2.5	4.0

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

Table 26. Satisfaction of goose hunters with dates for the regular Canada goose season in the zone in which they hunted in 2007-2008, as reported by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. Note: the season dates were Oct. 20-Jan. 12 in the North Zone, Oct. 27-Nov. 8 and Nov. 21-Jan. 31 in the Central Zone, and Nov. 22-Nov. 25 and Dec. 1-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	320	48.1%	18.8%	8.4%	10.3%	8.4%	5.9%
Central	492	51.8	20.5	9.6	8.3	6.3	3.5
South	248	35.5	22.2	12.9	11.7	15.3	2.4
SIQZ[a]	88	43.2	22.7	13.6	8.0	10.2	2.3
Rend Lake[b]	29	20.7	20.7	24.1	10.3	24.1	0.0
Carlyle Lake[c]	21	47.6	14.3	33.0	0.0	4.8	0.0
Elsewhere	110	30.9	23.6	5.5	17.0	19.1	3.6

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

Table 27. Satisfaction of all goose hunters who expressed opinions on dates for the regular goose seasons in 2007-2008, as reported by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. Respondents who answered no opinion were removed from this analysis (see appendix B for this data.) Note: the season dates were Oct. 20-Jan. 12 in the North Zone, Oct. 27-Nov. 8 and Nov. 21-Jan. 31 in the Central Zone, and Nov. 22-Nov. 25 and Dec. 1-Jan. 31 in the South Zone.

Zone	*n*	Very satisfied	Slightly satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Slightly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
North	534	45.5%	16.9%	21.5%	9.0%	7.1%
Central	650	50.3	19.5	17.5	7.2	5.4
South	491	40.3	16.5	25.7	7.9	9.6

Table 28. Preferences for Central Zone goose season guidelines, as expressed by respondents to the 2007-2008 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

	n	All respondents	Not Sure respondents removed
Split season should be closed over 1 weekend	439	23.3%	41.0%
Split season should be closed over 2 weekends	632	33.5%	59.0%
Not sure	814	43.2%	NA
Season should end in mid-January	310	16.4%	25.1%
Season should end in late January	925	49.0%	74.9%
Not sure	652	34.6%	NA

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

Table 29. Opinions of goose hunters toward the maximum number of hunters allowed per blind or pit on non-commercial lands in the Southern Illinois Quota Zone, as expressed by respondents to the 2007-2008 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

	SIQZ[a] Goose Hunters	All Goose Hunters
	n=117	*n*=1,078
I think the limit of 5 hunters per blind or pit should be removed.	41.0%	40.9%
I think the limit of 5 hunters per blind or pit should be maintained.	51.3%	40.5%
Not sure	7.7%	18.6%

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

Appendix A. Hunting record forms for recording hunter activity and harvest during the 2007-08 waterfowl season in Illinois.

2007-08 Waterfowl Hunting Record - Ducks

(Record your personal harvest only)

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

2007-08 Waterfowl Hunting Record - Geese

(Record your personal harvest only)

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

Appendix B. Survey instrument and results summary for the 2007-2008 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey
2007-2008 Season
Results Summary

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

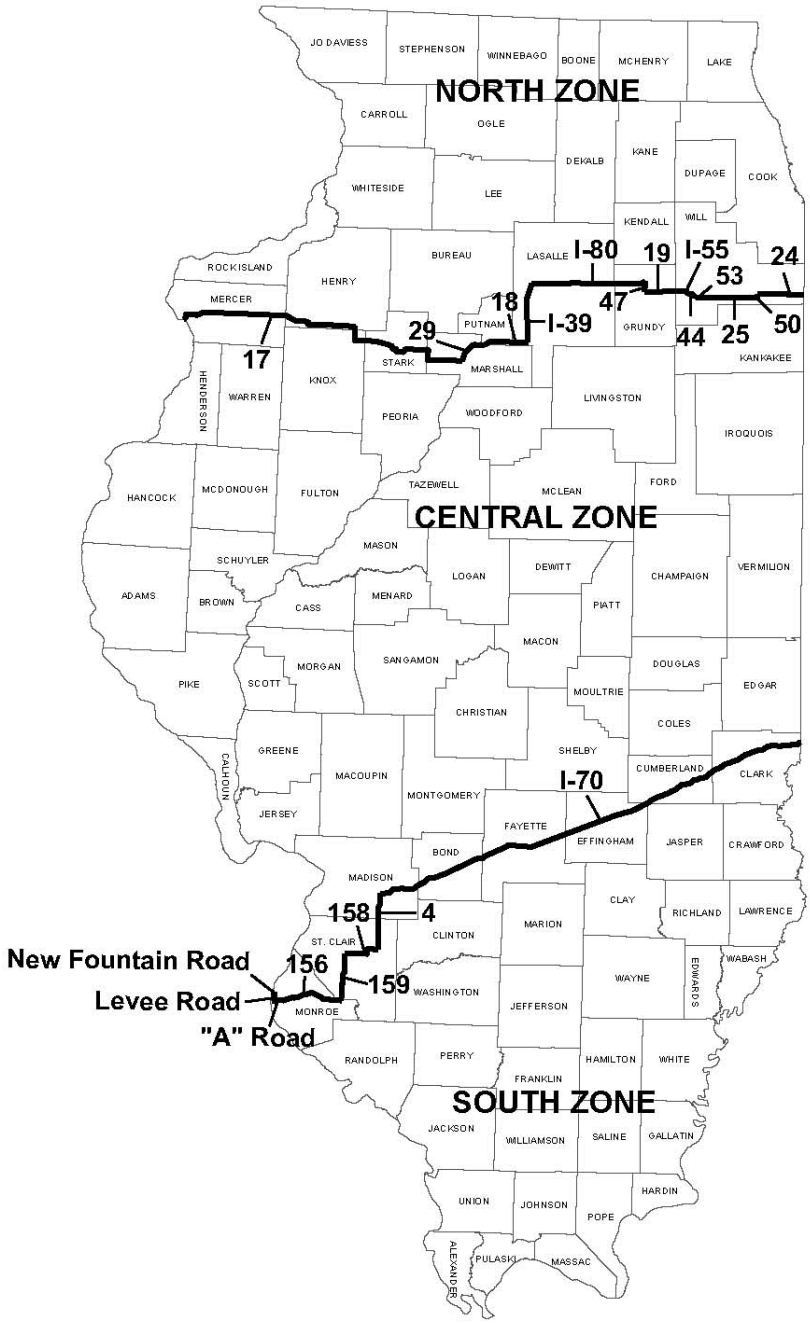
THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

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


JO DAVIESS
STEPHENSON
WINNEBAGO
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NORTH ZONE
CARROLL
OGLE
DEKALB
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DUPAGE
COOK
WHITESIDE
LEE
KENDALL
WILL
ROCKISLAND
BUREAU
LASALLE
I-80
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I-55
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HENRY
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MERCER
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I-39
GRUNDY
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PUTNAM
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STARK
MARSHALL
KANKAKEE
HENDERSON
WARREN
KNOX
LIVINGSTON
PEORIA
WOODFORD
IROQUOIS
HANCOCK
MCDONOUGH
FULTON
TAZEWELL
MCLEAN
FORD
CENTRAL ZONE
MASON
SCHUYLER
LOGAN
DEWITT
CHAMPAIGN
VERMILION
ADAMS
BROWN
CASS
MENARD
PIATT
MACON
SANGAMON
DOUGLAS
PIKE
SCOTT
MORGAN
MOULTRIE
EDGAR
CHRISTIAN
COLES
GREENE
SHELBY
CUMBERLAND
CLARK
CALHOUN
MACOUPIN
MONTGOMERY
I-70
JERSEY
FAYETTE
EFFINGHAM
JASPER
CRAWFORD
BOND
MADISON
CLAY
158
4
MARION
RICHLAND
LAWRENCE
ST. CLAIR
CLINTON
New Fountain Road
156
WABASH
WAYNE
159
WASHINGTON
EDWARDS
Levee Road
JEFFERSON
MONROE
"A" Road
RANDOLPH
PERRY
HAMILTON
WHITE
FRANKLIN
SOUTH ZONE
JACKSON
WILLIAMSON
SALINE
GALLATIN
UNION
JOHNSON
POPE
HARDIN
ALEXANDER
PULASKI
MASSAC

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 2007-2008 season (include both electronic and printed stamps)? *(Please check one.)* ***n*=2,366**

76.4% Yes
23.6% No

2. Did you hunt waterfowl (ducks, geese or coots) in Illinois during the 2007-2008 waterfowl hunting seasons? (Please check one.) ***n=2,366***

63.9% Yes
36.1% No ***(Please skip to question 6.)***

3. Please report your hunting effort and harvest in Illinois between September 2007 and January 2008 in the following tables.

- Include only your personal effort and harvest.
- Count part of 1 day as 1 whole day.
- Count days you had zero harvest in "Number of days hunted".
- For days you harvested both ducks and geese, only report days hunted in the table corresponding to the species you primarily 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-fronted (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 2007-2008?
(Please check one.) ***n*=1,380**

27.1% North Zone **45.9%** Central Zone **27.0%** South Zone

5. In which zone did you hunt **geese** most often during 2007-2008?
(Please check one.) ***n*=1,277**

30.8% North Zone **45.8%** Central Zone **23.4%** South Zone

6. Did you take a youth hunting during the 2007 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days?
(Please check one.) ***n*=2,261**

8.7% Yes
91.3% No ***(Please skip to question 7.)***

a. For each youth you hunted with, please report the following information. Include all youths that hunted and enter 0 if the youth 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								

7. Which type of non-toxic shot did you use to hunt waterfowl (ducks and/or geese) in Illinois during the 2007-2008 hunting seasons? *(Please check all that apply.)* ***n*=2,029**

77.7% Steel shot
3.8% Bismuth-tin shot
14.2% Tungsten-based shot *(For example: Hevi-shot, tungsten-iron, Hevi-13, Dead coyote, Hi-density, etc.)*
4.3% Not sure

8. How frequently did you use the following categories of non-toxic shot to hunt waterfowl (ducks and/or geese) in Illinois during the 2007-2008 hunting seasons? *(Please check one for each item.)*

I used…	*n*	exclusively.	frequently.	rarely.	not at all.	I am not sure.
a. steel shot…	**1,807**	**70.6%**	**13.1%**	**2.6%**	**12.6%**	**1.2%**
b. bismuth-tin shot…	**859**	**1.2%**	**4.4%**	**7.1%**	**84.5%**	**2.8%**
c. tungsten-based shot *(For example: Hevi-shot, tungsten-iron, Hevi-13, Dead coyote, Hi-density, etc.)*…	**984**	**5.9%**	**14.3%**	**13.9%**	**63.5%**	**2.3%**

Waterfowl Hunting Season Dates 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 use hunters' preferences, in addition to duck biology and weather, to guide decisions about season dates.

9. How satisfied were you with the dates of the 2007-2008 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)*?	**1,729**	**25.3%**	**8.2%**	**17.1%**	**3.0%**	**2.9%**	**43.5%**
b. North Zone Duck season?	**1,640**	**19.2%**	**9.1%**	**14.0%**	**4.5%**	**3.4%**	**49.8%**
c. Central Zone Duck season?	**1,723**	**23.6%**	**12.6%**	**14.1%**	**6.0%**	**4.6%**	**39.1%**
d. South Zone Duck season?	**1,618**	**17.2%**	**9.8%**	**13.7%**	**5.1%**	**6.4%**	**47.8%**
e. North Zone Canada Goose season?	**1,629**	**20.9%**	**8.0%**	**13.6%**	**3.9%**	**3.9%**	**49.8%**
f. Central Zone Canada Goose season?	**1,677**	**26.2%**	**11.4%**	**13.4%**	**4.2%**	**3.5%**	**41.2%**
g. South Zone Canada Goose season?	**1,589**	**17.6%**	**7.7%**	**14.7%**	**3.3%**	**5.1%**	**51.5%**

10. If a 60-day duck season is allowed in 2008-2009, the North and Central zones will retain their 2007-2008 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 2008-2009? *(Please check one.)* ***n*=1,957**

13.0% Opens earlier than Nov. 15
17.3% Nov. 15 – Jan. 13
28.6% Nov. 27 – Jan. 25
41.1% I am not sure.

11. 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 2008-2009. *(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*=740)**	45-day season **(*n*=751)**
8.9% Opens earlier than Oct. 18	**10.0%** Opens earlier than Oct. 18
16.2% Oct. 18 – Nov. 16	**22.5%** Oct. 18 – Dec. 1
22.3% Oct. 25 – Nov. 23	**22.4%** Oct. 25 – Dec. 8
23.2% Nov. 1 – Nov. 30	**22.0%** Nov. 1 – Dec. 15
18.2% Opens later than Nov. 1	**12.5%** Opens later than Nov. 1
11.1% Not sure	**10.7%** Not sure

Central zone

30-day season **(*n*=1,063)**	45-day season **(*n*=1,078)**
6.2% Opens earlier than Oct. 25	**6.5%** Opens earlier than Oct. 25
13.5% Oct. 25 – Nov. 23	**17.6%** Oct. 25 – Dec. 8
18.6% Nov. 1 – Nov. 30	**21.3%** Nov.1 – Dec. 15
26.8% Nov. 8 – Dec. 7	**26.4%** Nov. 8 – Dec. 22
25.0% Opens later than Nov. 8	**19.1%** Opens later than Nov. 8
9.8% Not sure	**9.0%** Not sure

South zone

30-day season **(*n*=709)**	45-day season **(*n*=726)**
3.9% Opens earlier than Nov. 1	**5.0%** Opens earlier than Nov. 1
7.9% Nov. 8 – Dec. 7	**9.5%** Nov. 8 – Dec. 22
14.7% Nov. 15 – Dec. 14	**16.3%** Nov. 15 – Dec. 29
25.5% Nov. 28 – Dec. 27	**27.0%** Nov. 27 – Jan. 10
37.5% Dec. 6 – Jan. 4	**32.5%** Dec. 6 – Jan. 19
10.4% Not sure	**9.8%** Not sure

12. Several aspects of the goose hunting season in the Central zone may be changed in 2008-2009. Please answer the following questions to help us make these decisions. *(Please check one for each item.)*

a. If a split season is used in the Central zone, the closed period may be over 1 or 2 weekends. Both options would be closed over the first firearm deer season. A 2-weekend closure would also include the weekend previous to the firearm deer season and allow a later end date for the season (Jan. 31). Closure over 1 weekend would require an earlier end date (the last Sunday in January). Which option do you prefer? ***n*=1,885**

	closure over 1 weekend.	closure over 2 weekends.	I am not sure.
I prefer …	**23.3%**	**33.5%**	**43.2%**

b. If a continuous season is used in the Central zone, the goose season will be required to close in mid-January (January 17 in 2009). If a split season is used, the Central zone season will close in late January (January 31 in 2009). Which option do you prefer? ***n*=1,887**

	end date in mid-January.	end date in late January.	I am not sure.
I prefer an…	**16.4%**	**49.0%**	**34.6%**

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.

13. Currently, in 4 counties in southern Illinois (Alexander, Union, Jackson and Williamson counties) on non-commercial lands primarily used to hunt geese, the maximum number of hunters allowed in a blind or pit is 5; we are considering removing this limitation to allow as many hunters as desired in a blind or pit, as is the case in the rest of the state. Do you support removing this limit? *(Please check one.)* ***n*=1,977**

40.0% Yes, I think the limit of 5 hunters per blind or pit should be removed.
35.6% No, I think the limit of 5 hunters per blind or pit should be maintained.
24.4% I am not sure.

14. 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 2008-2009. Please indicate which season stucture you prefer. *(Please check one.)* ***n*=1,999**

29.2% 45-day scaup season with 2-scaup daily bag limit
26.5% 60-day scaup season with 1-scaup daily bag limit
44.3% I am not sure.

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.

15. For how many years have you hunted waterfowl in Illinois? **Ave. 21.2** years ***n*=2,009**

16. 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

17. Are you **98.8%** male or **1.2%** female? *(Please check one.)* ***n*=2,366**

18. As of October 1, 2007, what was your age? **Ave. 46.2** years ***n*=2,218**

19. What is your approximate annual household income? *(Please check one.)* ***n*=1,973**

6.0% Less than $20,000 per year
12.0% $20,000 to $39,999 per year
20.2% $40,000 to $59,999 per year
19.2% $60,000 to $79,999 per year
16.3% $80,000 to $99,999 per year
17.5% $100,000 to $149,999 per year
8.7% Over $150,000 per year

20. How would you describe the area where you currently live? *(Please check one.)* ***n*=2,185**

13.4% Rural setting, on a farm
17.8% Rural setting, not on a farm
10.9% Rural subdivision
13.5% Suburban area at the edge of a town or city
28.3% Within a small town (Population less than 25,000)
10.1% Within an urban area (Population between 25,000 and 100,000)
6.2% Within a metropolitan area (Population greater than 100,000)

21. What is your racial or ethnic background? *(Please check one.)* ***n*=2,162**

98.8% White, not of Hispanic origin
0.0% Black, not of Hispanic origin
0.7% Hispanic or Latino
0.3% American Indian or Alaskan native
0.1% Asian
0.0% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific islander

Appendix C. Cover letter sent with first mailing of the survey instrument for the 2007-2008 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

February 1, 2008

Dear Waterfowl Hunter,

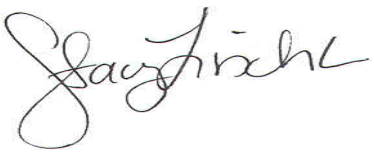
I am writing to ask for your help in a study of Illinois waterfowl hunters. This study, jointly conducted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois Natural History Survey, is an effort to learn about waterfowl hunting activities in Illinois and the factors that motivate hunters 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 2007-2008 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 2007-2008 season. Please refer to the harvest record 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

Appendix D. Thank/you reminder postcard sent as follow-up to the mailings of the 2007-2008 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Appendix E. Cover letter sent with second mailing of the survey instrument for the 2007-2008 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

March 1, 2008

Dear Waterfowl Hunter,

A few weeks ago, we sent you a questionnaire asking about your waterfowl hunting activities in Illinois during 2007-2008. To the best of our knowledge, your 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!

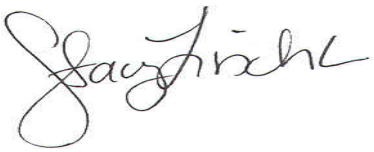
Your views are crucially important, even if you did not hunt ducks or geese in Illinois during 2007-2008. The comments of hunters who have already responded show that Illinois waterfowl hunters desire different types of hunting experiences and take to the field for many different reasons. The results 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. 8-Sept. 23 (Statewide)	Sunrise to Sunset	4	8
Ducks	**North Zone** Oct. 20 – Dec. 18	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	**6** (See section on Bag Limits)	2 x daily bag limit
Mergansers	**Central Zone** Oct. 27 – Dec. 25		5 (See section on Bag Limits)	2 x daily bag limit
Coots	**South Zone** Nov. 22 – Jan. 20		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. 13 – 14 **Central Zone** Oct. 20 – 21 **South Zone** Nov. 10 – 11	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	**6** (See section on Bag Limits)
Mergansers			5 (See section on Bag Limits)
Coots			15
Canada Geese			2
Snow Geese			20
White-fronted Geese			2
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. No stamps are required for youths under 16.
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, 2 canvasbacks, and not more than 1 black duck 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				
North Zone	Oct. 20 – Jan. 12	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	2	4
Central Zone	Oct. 27 – Nov. 8 & Nov. 21 – Jan. 31			
South Zone	Nov. 22 – Nov. 25 & Dec. 1 – Jan. 31	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset		
Alexander, Jackson Union and Williamson Counties		1/2 hour before sunrise to 3 p.m (a)		
Snow/Blue & Ross' Geese and Brant				
North Zone	Oct. 20 – Jan. 12	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	20 Snow/Blue & Ross' Geese 1 Brant	Unlimited Snow/Blue & Ross' Geese 2 Brant
Central Zone	Oct. 27 – Jan. 31			
South Zone	Nov. 22 – Jan. 31			
Alexander, Jackson Union and Williamson Counties	Nov. 22 – Jan. 31	1/2 hour before sunrise to 3 p.m (a)		
White-fronted Geese				
North Zone	Nov. 2 – Jan. 12	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	2	4
Central Zone	Nov. 21 – Jan. 31			
South Zone	Nov. 22 – Jan. 31		2	4
Alexander, Jackson Union and Williamson Counties	Nov. 22 – Jan. 31	1/2 hour before sunrise to 3 p.m (a)	2	4

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

Appendix G. County/state of residence for respondents to the 2007-2008 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey (*n* = 2,366).

County	*n*	%	County	*n*	%	County	*n*	%
Adams	26	1.1	Hardin	0	0.0	Morgan	26	1.1
Alexander	3	0.1	Henderson	1	0.0	Moultrie	7	0.3
Bond	7	0.3	Henry	16	0.7	Ogle	22	0.9
Boone	11	0.5	Iroquois	11	0.5	Peoria	81	3.4
Brown	1	0.0	Jackson	22	0.9	Perry	17	0.7
Bureau	29	1.2	Jasper	7	0.3	Piatt	3	0.1
Calhoun	2	0.1	Jefferson	21	0.9	Pike	4	0.2
Carroll	16	0.7	Jersey	19	0.8	Pope	1	0.0
Cass	32	1.4	JoDaviess	11	0.5	Pulaski	5	0.2
Champaign	32	1.4	Johnson	8	0.3	Putnam	5	0.2
Christian	16	0.7	Kane	34	1.4	Randolph	35	1.5
Clark	4	0.2	Kankakee	26	1.1	Richland	2	0.1
Clay	9	0.4	Kendall	21	0.9	Rock Island	30	1.3
Clinton	37	1.6	Knox	17	0.7	St. Clair	102	4.3
Coles	5	0.2	Lake	35	1.5	Saline	10	0.4
Cook	122	5.2	LaSalle	40	1.7	Sangamon	52	2.2
Crawford	9	0.4	Lawrence	1	0.0	Schuyler	2	0.1
Cumberland	2	0.1	Lee	17	0.7	Scott	4	0.2
DeKalb	18	0.8	Livingston	18	0.8	Shelby	4	0.2
DeWitt	3	0.1	Logan	18	0.8	Stark	1	0.0
Douglas	11	0.5	McDonough	6	0.3	Stephenson	14	0.6
DuPage	44	1.9	McHenry	64	2.7	Tazewell	124	5.2
Edgar	15	0.6	McLean	39	1.6	Union	16	0.7
Edwards	0	0.0	Macon	19	0.8	Vermilion	14	0.6
Effingham	26	1.1	Macoupin	27	1.1	Wabash	11	0.5
Fayette	3	0.1	Madison	106	4.5	Warren	5	0.2
Ford	10	0.4	Marion	7	0.3	Washington	13	0.5
Franklin	28	1.2	Marshall	28	1.2	Wayne	5	0.2
Fulton	30	1.3	Mason	19	0.8	White	12	0.5
Gallatin	2	0.1	Massac	7	0.3	Whiteside	34	1.4
Greene	5	0.2	Menard	8	0.3	Will	76	3.2
Grundy	24	1.0	Mercer	10	0.4	Williamson	69	2.9
Hamilton	1	0.0	Monroe	19	0.8	Winnebago	33	1.4
Hancock	5	0.2	Montgomery	14	0.6	Woodford	29	1.2

Continued.

Appendix G. Continued.

State	*n*	%	State	*n*	%	State	*n*	%
Alabama	2	0.1	Massachusetts	1	0.0	Ohio	3	0.1
Colorado	3	0.1	Michigan	2	0.1	Oklahoma	1	0.1
Florida	7	0.3	Minnesota	3	0.1	Pennsylvania	1	0.0
Georgia	1	0.0	Mississippi	1	0.0	South Carolina	2	0.1
Indiana	33	1.4	Missouri	54	2.3	South Dakota	2	0.1
Iowa	37	1.6	Nebraska	1	0.0	Tennessee	3	0.1
Kansas	2	0.1	New Mexico	1	0.0	Virginia	2	0.1
Kentucky	16	0.7	North Carolina	2	0.1	Wisconsin	12	0.5
Louisiana	1	0.0	North Dakota	1	0.0			