*Human*Dimensions
Research Program

Results of the 2008-2009 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey

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Institute of Natural Resource Sustainability
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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RESULTS OF THE 2008-2009 ILLINOIS WATERFOWL HUNTER SURVEY

JOB COMPLETION REPORT

WILDLIFE HARVEST AND
HUMAN DIMENSIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NUMBER: W-112-R-18
STUDY 101
JOB NO. 101.3

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W-112-R-18

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ABSTRACT

A total of 2,363 potential Illinois waterfowl hunters returned usable questionnaires for the 2008-2009 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey (53% response rate). Of these returns, 1,935 (82%) were from respondents who purchased an Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp for the 2008-2009 seasons. These stamp purchasers included 1,633 (84%) individuals who hunted waterfowl in Illinois in 2008-2009. Based on waterfowl hunting licenses and stamps sold, we estimated 59,379 Illinois waterfowl hunters spent an estimated 1,175,243 days hunting during the 2008-2009 season, and harvested an estimated 660,306 waterfowl. There were an estimated 14,652 September teal hunters; they spent 52,365 days hunting, and they harvested 19,981 teal. During the regular duck season 50,683 hunters spent 600,574 days hunting and harvested an estimated 247,895 mallards, 43,051 wood ducks, and 156,849 other ducks, for a total of 447,795 ducks. During the regular goose season, an estimated 44,404 hunters spent 461,868 days hunting and harvested 142,806 Canada geese and 17,956 other geese. The harvest of all geese during the regular goose season in 2008-2009 was estimated at 160,762 birds, compared to a total goose harvest of 152,787 in 2007-2008

Fifty percent of hunters in the North Zone felt that the September Goose season was too short; 46% of Central Zone hunters felt the season was too short and 46% and 53% of hunters in the Central and South Zones, respectively, felt that the length of the season was about right. The daily bag limit in regular goose season was found to be too low by 70% of hunters in the North Zone and 54% of hunters in the Central Zone. Sixty-one percent of hunters in the South Zone felt the daily bag limit in the regular goose seasons was about right. A majority (70%) of teal hunters were satisfied with the dates (6-21 September) for the early teal season in 2008.

Many duck hunters use public waterfowl hunting areas in Illinois that allocate access to blinds and hunting areas via drawings for daily, season-long, or multi-season permits. When queried as to their support for a system where a portion of all available daily permits are issued

by drawing ahead of time, 79% of duck hunters in the North Zone, 64% in the Central Zone, and 62% in the South Zone supported issuing at least 25% of permits ahead of time. A majority of hunters (80%), statewide, expressed a preference for on-site duck blind drawings to determine blind access. A majority of duck hunters (89%) also support to retaining the requirement for applicants to possess a valid FOID card. Duck hunters who expressed an opinion were split when asked about the requirement for applications to include the names of all hunting partners at the time the application is submitted; statewide, 50% of hunters expressed support and 50% expressed opposition to the requirement.

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 hunters who registered with the National Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP) in Illinois the previous year (2007). Survey participants were notified on 10 September 2008 they would receive a questionnaire at the close of the 2008-2009 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 4,844. On 10 February 2009, 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 26 February 2009 (Appendix D), a second copy of the questionnaire and cover letter (Appendix E) on 11 March 2009, and another thank

you/reminder postcard on 24 March 2009. Due to a low response rate, a third mailing consisting of a questionnaire and cover letter sent on 9 April 2009 (Appendix F). Data were entered and analyzed using SPSS 16.0 (SPSS Inc. 2008).

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 69,590 Illinois Migratory Waterfowl stamps (2008-2009 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 2008-2009 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 2008-2009, 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 2008-2009 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 survey results can be found in Appendix B.

SEASON LENGTHS AND BAG LIMITS

The early (September) teal season extended for 16 days (6-21 September) in 2008, the same season length as in 2007. The daily bag limit was 4 birds in both years. The 2008 early (September) Canada goose season was 15 days long with a 5-bird daily bag limit, except in the South Zone, where the limit was 2 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 have been no quotas, goose hunting permits, or harvest reporting (phone-in) requirements since 2006-2007. 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 G for details of season dates, legal shooting hours, and bag limits for all species.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The questionnaire was not deliverable to 352 recipients, thus the sample population was reduced to 4,492 individuals. A total of 2,363 usable questionnaires were returned for a response rate of 53%. Of these returns, 1,935 (82%) were from respondents who purchased an Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp for the 2008-2009 seasons. These stamp purchasers included 1,633 (84%) individuals who hunted waterfowl in Illinois in 2008-2009.

Hunters were an average of 45 years old (range: 9-90 years, *n*= 2,334). Nearly all were male (98%) and white, not of Hispanic origin (99%). Forty-six percent of hunters resided in a rural farm or non-farm setting or rural subdivision. A majority (56%) had a household income $\leq$\$79,999. The hunters had hunted waterfowl in Illinois for an average of 20 years (range: 1-73 years, *n*=2,288) (Appendix B). Respondents resided in 100 of Illinois' counties and 25 other states (Appendix H).

Waterfowl Harvest and Hunter Activity

The sale of 69,590 Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps for the 2008 season was an increase of 4% from the previous year, 2007, when 66,765 stamps were sold. The estimated number of waterfowl hunters increased from 57,454 during the 2007-2008 seasons to 59,379 during the 2008-2009 seasons (Table 1). Hunters were estimated to spend 1,175,243 days pursuing waterfowl in 2008-2009, an increase of 2% from the 1,150,304 days estimated for 2007-2008. Estimated waterfowl harvest decreased 3%, from 678,623 birds during 2007-2008 season to 660,306 during 2008-2009. About one-fourth (26%) of respondents reported hunting ducks only, whereas 11% hunted geese only, and 64% hunted both ducks and geese (Table 2).

September Teal Season – The estimated number of early (September) teal hunters increased 9% from 13,478 in 2007 to 14,652 in 2008 (Table 3). Estimated days of hunting increased 9%, from 48,115 during 2007 to 52,365 during 2008. The estimated teal harvest during the 2008 September season totaled 19,981 birds, a 33% decrease from the estimated 29,800 teal taken during the 2007 season. The Central Zone accounted for 6,840 (47%) of the September teal hunters, 22,127 (42%) of the days hunting, and 9,869 (49%) of the teal harvest in 2008 (Table 4). Statewide, September season teal hunters averaged 3.6 days hunted in 2008, unchanged from the average 3.6 days in 2007 (Table 5). September season teal hunters harvested an average of 0.4 teal per hunter per day (the second lowest rate since 1981) and 1.36 teal per hunter per season in 2008 (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 6,259 adults and 8,981 youths in 2007 to 6,402 (+2%) adults and 9,878 (+10%) youths in 2008 (Table 6). The estimated harvest (ducks, geese, and coots combined) by youths increased from 11,692 birds in 2007 to 12,087 birds (3%) in 2008 (Table 6). Mean age of youths participating in the youth hunt was 12 years, with a range of 7-16 years (n=239).

Regular Duck Season - The estimated number of duck hunters increased by 1,569 (3%), from 49,114 during 2007-2008 to 50,683 during 2008-2009 (Table 7). Duck hunters spent an estimated 600,574 days hunting during 2008-2009, similar to the 600,614 days hunting during 2007-2008. Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) harvest decreased by an estimated 17,474 birds (-7%), from 265,369 during 2007-2008 to 247,895 during 2008-2009. Harvest of wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) increased by 24%, from an estimated 34,628 in 2007-2008 to an estimated 43,051 in 2008-2009. Harvest of other ducks decreased by 5%, from estimates of 164,369 in 2007-2008 to 156,849 in 2008-2009. Total duck harvest during 2008-2009 was estimated at 447,795, which is 4% lower than the 464,366 ducks harvested during the 2007-2008 season. Coot (*Fulica*

americana) harvest decreased from an estimated 3,771 in 2007-2008 to 2,266 in 2008-2009 (Table 7).

The 2008-2009 duck harvest is presented by waterfowl zones and selected areas in Table 8. Over 47% of the duck harvest occurred in the Central Zone while 32% of the ducks were harvested in the South Zone and 21% in the North Zone. Statewide, the duck harvest reported per hunter per day decreased slightly from 0.77 ducks per day in 2007-2008 to 0.75 ducks per day in 2008-2009 (Table 9). Reported duck harvest per hunter for the season decreased from 9.5 in 2007-2008 to 8.8 in 2008-2009, the third lowest seasonal harvest per hunter since 60-day seasons began in 1997.

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Early September Goose Season - An estimated 13,157 hunters participated in the early September Canada goose season in Illinois in 2008 (Table 10). The majority (51%) of September goose hunters were active in the Central Zone. Harvest of Canada geese was estimated at 17,419 birds, which is 7% greater than the 16,207 harvested in 2007. The estimated 8,951 Canada geese harvested in the Central Zone accounted for 51% of total harvest statewide in 2008. Total days hunted during the September season increased by 10% from an estimated 41,549 in 2007 to 45,637.

Regular Goose Season - In 2008-2009, an estimated 44,404 goose hunters spent an estimated 461,868 days hunting during the regular goose season (Table 11). Canada goose harvest increased from 141,205 in 2007-2008 to 142,806 in 2008-2009. The Central Zone accounted for 48% of the reported Canada goose harvest (Table 12). Illinois' Canada goose harvest is summarized by zone and year (2003- 2004 though 2008-2009) 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 7,951 white-fronted geese and 10,005 snow/blue/Ross' geese during the regular goose season in 2008-2009 (Table 14). The harvest of all geese during the regular goose season in 2008-2009 was estimated at 160,762 birds, compared to a total goose harvest of 152,787 in 2007-2008 (Table 11).

Crippling Losses - Crippling losses (birds knocked down but not retrieved) were estimated at 74,044 ducks and 14,166 geese in Illinois during the 2008-2009 regular seasons (Table 15). These estimates, which are indices, equate to 16.5 ducks and 8.8 geese lost per 100 harvested.

Hunter Attitudes and Opinions

Satisfaction with September Teal Season Dates – A majority (70%) of survey respondents who reported hunting teal in Illinois during 2008-2009 were satisfied with the dates (6-21 September) for the early teal season in 2008 (Table 16). Satisfaction was expressed by teal hunters in all 3 zones. These findings are similar to those measured by the 2007-2008 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey (Lischka et al. 2009) 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 2008-2009, a majority of respondents who reported hunting ducks primarily in the North Zone in 2008-2009 indicated they were satisfied (58%; Table 17). Among all duck hunters who expressed an opinion (hunted in any zone), 58% expressed satisfaction with North Zone season dates (Table 18).

Central Zone Duck Season Dates – A majority (61%) 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, 60% were satisfied with the season dates in the Central Zone (Table 18).

South Zone Duck Season Dates – A plurality (43%) of respondents who reported hunting primarily in the South Zone in 2008-2009 were satisfied with the season dates for the South Zone (Table 17). However, a significant minority (39%) thought the season was too late. In addition, a majority of South Zone hunters who reported hunting in the SIQZ counties (62%) were satisfied, whereas fewer South Zone hunters in the Carlyle Lake counties (19%) and Rend Lake counties (31%) were satisfied. Among all duck hunters who expressed an opinion, 46% were satisfied with the season dates in the South Zone (Table 18).

Respondents were asked about their preference for the season dates in the South Zone if a 60-day duck season is allowed in 2009-2010. Of respondents who hunt primarily in the South Zone, a plurality (43%) preferred a season from Nov. 26 to Jan. 24, 31% preferred a season from Nov. 14 to Jan. 12, and 19% preferred a season that opens earlier than Nov. 14 (Table 19).

Canada Goose Season Dates – Majorities of goose hunters in the North Zone (71%), Central Zone (76%), and South Zone (71%) felt the season dates for regular Canada goose season were about right in the zone in which they hunted during the 2008-2009 regular goose season (Table 20). When viewed by area within the South Zone, majorities of hunters from the SIQZ (78%), Rend Lake (83%), Carlyle Lake (58%), and elsewhere (65%) also expressed approval of the 2008-2009 season dates. Among goose hunters who expressed an opinion on the season lengths for the zone in which they hunted, 54% in the North Zone, 63% in the Central Zone, and 47% of hunters in the South Zone felt that the season length was about right, although another 47% of hunters in the South Zone felt the season was too short (Table 21). Canada goose season was 85 days in the North and Central Zones and 66 days in the South Zone in 2008-2009. Goose hunters also expressed opinions on season lengths specifically for the September goose seasons in the zone in which they hunted. In the North Zone, 50% of hunters felt that the season was too short; in the Central Zone, 46% felt that the length of the season was

about right and 46% felt that it was too short. In the South Zone, 53% of hunters felt the length of the season was about right and 30% felt the season was too short (Table 22).

Changes to Waterfowl Hunting Regulations in Illinois - Majorities of hunters in all three zones (68% in the North Zone, 74% in the Central Zone, and 52% in the South Zone) expressed satisfaction with the daily bag limit for the September Canada Goose season in 2008-2009. However, 42% of South Zone hunters felt the daily bag limit was too low. The daily bag limit was 5 in all zones except the South Zone where the limit was 2 geese daily in 2008. When viewed within the South Zone, majorities of hunters from Rend Lake (85%), and Carlyle Lake (56%), expressed approval of the daily bag limit, and pluralities of hunters from the SIQZ (50%) and elsewhere (48%) expressed satisfaction (Table 23). The daily bag limit in regular goose season was found to be too low by 70% of hunters in the North Zone and 54% of hunters in the Central Zone. Sixty-one percent of hunters in the South Zone felt the daily bag limit in the regular goose seasons was about right. When viewed within the South Zone, majorities of hunters in all areas were satisfied with the daily bag limit (Table 24).

Hunters were asked to indicate their preference if the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were to allow states in the Mississippi Flyway to choose between scaup bag limits in 2009-2010. A 60-day scaup season with 1-scaup daily limit for the entire season was preferred by 39% of respondents; 37% of respondents preferred a 60-day scaup season in which 20 days have a two-scaup daily limit and 40 days have a one-scaup daily limit, and 24% of respondents were unsure of their preference (Table 25).

Use of Permitted Hunting Areas on Public Lands - Several public waterfowl hunting areas in Illinois allocate access to blinds and hunting areas via drawings for daily, season-long, or multi-season permits. When queried about their use of these areas, 66% of duck hunters in the North Zone responded that they have never hunted waterfowl on a public hunting area which held an on-site daily drawing for access to blinds or hunting sites. Majorities of duck hunters in

the Central Zone (62%), South Zone (60%), hunters who hunt in the area of interest to the Mississippi Valley Duck Hunters of Illinois (61%), and hunters who hunt in the area of interest to Migratory Waterfowl Hunters Inc., (71%) reported that they had hunted waterfowl on such a public hunting area. When viewed within the South Zone, majorities of duck hunters in the SIQZ, Rend Lake, Carlyle Lake, and elsewhere also reported hunting on these public areas. Statewide, 54% of duck hunters have utilized these hunting areas (Table 26).

When duck hunters were asked if they ever hunted waterfowl on a public hunting area which held a Springfield-based drawing for permits to access blind or hunting sites, more than 75% of hunters in each zone reported that they had not. Statewide, 82% of hunters reported they had not hunted on one of these public hunting areas (Table 27), which is likely explained by the scarcity of these sites in Illinois. Duck hunters were also queried about their use of public hunting areas which required season-long or multi-season registration to allow access to blind sites. Majorities of hunters in the Central Zone (51%) and Migratory Waterfowl area (72%) reported use of this type of public area. Majorities of hunters in the North Zone (63%), South Zone (78%), and Mississippi Valley (74%) reported never hunting on this type of public area (Table 28).

Currently, at most sites that hold daily drawings, drawings occur the day the permit is issued, before shooting hours. This allows hunters flexibility in scheduling their hunts at a site; however, it may prevent hunters who live far from these sites from accessing them, as they may not be willing to travel if there is a chance they won't receive a permit. A system where a portion of all available daily permits are issued by drawing ahead of time (and hunters awarded permits are notified in advance) and the remaining daily permits are issued in a day-of, on-site drawing has been suggested to allow more equal access for hunters around the state. Any permits issued ahead of time which go unclaimed on the day of hunting would revert to the day-of drawing pool. Hunters were queried as to their support for such a system (Tables 29 and 30).

Among respondents who expressed a preference, in the North Zone, a plurality of hunters (37%) expressed support for one-half of permits being issued ahead of time, 26% expressed support for all permits being issued ahead of time, 16% supported ¼ of permits being issued ahead of time, and 21% expressed opposition to issuing permits ahead of time. In the Central Zone, 36% of respondents did not support issuing any permits ahead of time, 25% supported ½ of permits issued ahead of time, 19% supported ¼ of permits issued ahead of time, and 20% supported all permits issued ahead of time. In the South Zone, 38% of respondents expressed opposition to issuing permits ahead of time, 23% of respondents supported ½ of permits issued ahead of time, and 20% of respondents were associated with support of issuing ¼ of permits ahead of time or issuing all permits ahead of time.

Within the South Zone, hunters in the SIQZ (77%) and Carlyle Lake Area (71%) supported ¼ to all permits issued ahead of time, while a majority of hunters in the Rend Lake Area (89%) do not support issuing any permits ahead of time. Elsewhere in the South Zone, 62% support issuing some permits ahead of time and 38% did not support issuing permits ahead of time. Of hunters in the area of the Mississippi Valley Hunters of Illinois, 60% supported issuing permits ahead of time and 40% did not. Duck hunters in the Migratory Waterfowl Hunters, Inc. area were split on their response; 50% supported issuing ¼ to all permits ahead of time and 50% did not support issuing any permits ahead of time (Table 29).

Currently, all season-long and multi-season duck blind drawings are held at individual public hunting areas. Hunters must attend drawings in person at the site they wish to hunt and site staff organize and run the drawings. Similar permits for other species are allocated by a centralized drawing, where applicants mail applications to IDNR offices in Springfield and are notified by mail of results before hunting seasons begin. Hunters indicated their preference for various methods of blind allocation to determine access to duck blinds in Illinois (Tables 31 and 32). Among respondents who expressed a preference, majorities of duck hunters in the North

zone (72%), Central Zone (84%), South Zone (80%), SIQZ (81%), Rend Lake (92%), Carlyle Lake (74%), elsewhere in the South Zone (77%), Mississippi Valley (78%), and Migratory Waterfowl areas (91%) expressed a preference for on-site drawing as opposed to a Springfield drawing (Table 31).

Currently, all resident applicants for season-long or multi-season blind registration are required to possess a valid FOID card. This requirement is intended to limit applicants to legitimate hunters. Hunters were asked to indicate their support for retaining this requirement for future duck blind drawings (Tables 33 and 34). Majorities of respondents statewide (89%) and in the North zone (89%), Central Zone (89%), South Zone (89%), Mississippi Valley (93%), and Migratory Waterfowl areas (86%) expressed support to retain the requirement for applicants to possess a valid FOID card (Table 34).

Currently, at areas with season-long and multi-season blind registrations, applicants are allowed to apply individually for blind drawings. Successful applicants are allowed 30 days after the drawing to add up to 2 hunting partners to their blind registration. All individuals listed on the permit receive exclusive access to the blind for a period of 1 to 3 years. If the IDNR considers requiring applicants to list hunting partner names on the initial application, once drawn for a blind, these names could not be changed for the blind registration period. Applicants and hunting partners would only be allowed to list their name on one application, resulting in a reduction of the total number of applications in the drawing for any site, thus increasing the odds of any application being drawn. Among respondents who expressed a preference (Table 36), 50% of duck hunters in the North Zone expressed support for this requirement, and 50% expressed opposition. In the Central Zone, 48% expressed support to the requirement, and 52% expressed opposition. In the South Zone, 57% of respondents expressed support and 43% expressed opposition. Majorities of respondents in the SIQZ (53%), Rend Lake (69%), Carlyle Lake (61%), elsewhere in South Zone (57%) and hunters who hunt in the area of interest to the

Mississippi Valley Duck Hunters of Illinois (56%) expressed support for the requirement. Of hunters who hunt in the area of interest to Migratory Waterfowl Hunters Inc., 50% expressed support and 50% expressed opposition. Statewide, 50% of hunters expressed support and 50% expressed opposition to the requirement (Table 35).

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Table 1. Summary of Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps purchased, hunter activity, and waterfowl harvest in Illinois from 1981 through 2008 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
2008	69,590	59,379	1,175,243	660,306

[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 2008 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%
2008	25.9%	10.6%	63.5%	85.4%	74.8%

Table 3. Summary of teal harvest and hunter activity during the September teal season in Illinois from 1981 through 2008, 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
2008	14,652	52,365	19,981 [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 $\pm$ 7,119.

Table 4. Teal harvest and hunter activity by zones during the September teal season in Illinois in 2008, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

	n	Estimated Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Teal Harvested
North Zone	111	4,149	16,932	3,577
Central Zone	183	6,840	22,127	9,869
South Zone	95	3,551	12,970	6,179
Unknown	3	112	336	356
Statewide	392	14,652	52,365	19,981

Table 5. Rates of teal harvest and hunter activity during the September teal season in Illinois from 1981 through 2008, 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
2008	16/4	3.57	0.38	1.36

[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 2008, 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
2008	2-days	6,402	9,878	14,799	1.50

	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
2008	10,380	0.70	241	0.02	1,466	0.10

[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 2008, 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	3,771
2008	50,683	600,574	247,895	43,051	156,849[b]	447,795[c]	2,266[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 2008, and was limited to 30 days in 2001, 2003, and 2004.

[c]The 95% confidence interval is $\pm$ 68,775.

[d]The 95% confidence interval is $\pm$ 2,728.

Table 8. Duck harvest and hunter activity by waterfowl zones and selected areas during the regular duck season in Illinois in 2008-2009, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Zone/Area Hunted	*n*	Estimated Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Ducks Harvested
North Zone	375	14,016	140,164	91,327
Central Zone	613	22,912	269,077	208,776
South Zone	352	13,157	182,400	142,055
SIQZ[a]	109	4,074	55,131	42,096
Rend Lake[b]	36	1,346	25,192	17,565
Carlyle Lake[c]	35	1,308	9,270	5,468
Elsewhere in South Zone	172	6,429	92,808	76,926
Unknown	16	598	8,933	5,637
Statewide	1,356	50,683	600,574	447,795

[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 2008, 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
2008	60/6(4,2)	11.85	0.75	8.84

[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 1999 through 2008 as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

		Waterfowl Zone Hunted					
	Statewide	Northeast [a]	North [b]	Central [b]	South	SIQZ	Unknown
Estimated Hunters							
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
2008	13,157	2,542	2,392	6,690	1,159	374	0
Estimated Days Hunted							
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
2008	45,637	10,054	7,251	23,174	4,224	934	0
Estimated Canada Goose Harvest							
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
2008	17,419	4,359	2,984	8,951	1,000	125	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 2008, 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 (459)
2008	44,404	461,868	142,806 (590)	17,956 (0)	160,762[d] (590)

[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 $\pm$ 31,072.

Table 12. Goose harvest and hunter activity by zones and selected areas in Illinois in 2008-2009 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]	200	7,475	77,931	31,802	0	143	31,945
North Non-Quota[a]	153	5,719	52,851	14,061	18	54	14133
Total	353	13,194	130,782	45,863	18	197	46,078
Central Zone							
Central Quota[a]	326	12,185	128,951	36,930	1,536	625	39,091
Central Non-Quota[a]	248	9,270	98,488	31,623	715	1,501	33,839
Total	574	21,455	227,439	68,553	2,251	2,126	72,930
South Zone							
SIQZ[b]	86	3,214	34,761	10,041	2,859	3,001	15,901
Rend Lake Non-Quota[c]	25	934	13,231	2,948	375	125	3,448
Carlyle Lake Non-Quota[d]	12	449	3,140	661	18	1,519	2,198
Elsewhere Non-Quota	132	4,934	51,543	14,240	2,412	2,966	19,618
Total	255	9,531	102,675	27,890	5,664	7,611	41,165
Unknown	6	224	972	500	18	71	589
Statewide	1,188	44,404	461,868	142,806	7,951	10,005	160,762

[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 2003-04 through 2008-09, as estimated by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. See Table 12 for sample sizes for 2008-09.

	Estimated Canada Goose Harvest							
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	3-year mean 2003-2005	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	3-year mean 2006-2008
North Zone								
North Quota[a]	16,491	13,188	13,665	14,448	29,887	30,836	31,802	30,842
North Non-Quota[a]	7,321	11,160	8,983	9,155	14,813	15,694	14,061	14,856
Total	23,812	24,348	22,648	23,603	44,700	46,530	45,863	45,698
Central Zone								
Central Quota[a]	18,046	25,648	20,884	21,526	40,948	44,180	36,930	40,686
Central Non-Quota[a]	19,509	17,187	16,886	17,861	21,916	26,854	31,623	26,798
Total	37,555	42,835	37,770	39,387	62,864	71,034	68,553	67,484
South Zone								
SIQZ[b]	12,497	6,403	7,083	8,661	6,468	9,600	10,041	8,703
Rend Lake Non-Quota[c]	1,709	2,148	765	1,541	1,876	1,707	2,948	2,177
Carlyle Lake Non-Quota[d]	696	572	864	711	386	1,689	661	912
Elsewhere Non-Quota	6,535	5,524	5,040	5,699	4,165	8,168	14,240	8,858
Total	21,437	14,647	13,752	16,612	12,895	21,163	27,890	20,649
Unknown	403	29	123	184	1,835	2,478	500	1,604
Statewide	83,207	81,859	74,293	79,786	122,294	141,205	142,806	135,435

[a]These "quota zones" were discontinued beginning with the 2006-2007 season.
[b]Alexander, Jackson, Union, and Williamson counties. These "quota zones" were discontinued beginning with the 2006-2007 season.
[c]Franklin and Jefferson counties. Note: this quota zone was discontinued in 2002.
[d]Bond, Clinton, and Fayette counties. These "quota zones" were discontinued beginning with the 2006-2007 season.

Table 14. Harvest of geese other than Canada geese in Illinois from 1996-1997 through 2008-2009, 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
2008	7,951	10,005	---	17,956

[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 1981-82 through 2008-09, 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
2008	74,044	16.5	14,166	8.8

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

Table 16. Satisfaction of teal hunters with dates for the September teal season (September 6-21, 2008), as reported by the 2008-2009 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Zone/Area Hunted	*n*	Too early	About right	Too late	Not sure
North	104	13.5%	67.3%	10.6%	8.7%
Central	181	13.8	71.8	6.1	8.3
South	86	8.1	72.1	9.3	10.5
Statewide	378	12.4	70.9	7.9	8.7
All respondents	1,183	12.4	70.0	3.8	13.8

Table 17. Satisfaction of duck hunters with dates for the regular duck season in the zone in which they hunted during 2008-2009, as reported by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. Note: the season dates were Oct. 18-Dec. 16 in the North Zone, Oct. 25-Dec. 23 in the Central Zone, and Nov. 27-Jan. 25 in the South Zone.

Zone/Area Hunted	*n*	Too early	About Right	Too late	Not sure
North	358	23.7%	57.8%	14.0%	4.5%
Central	582	23.4	60.8	12.5	3.3
South	347	13.3	42.7	38.6	5.5
SIQZ[a]	104	11.5	61.5	22.1	4.8
Rend Lake[b]	36	8.3	30.6	58.3	2.8
Carlyle Lake[c]	36	16.7	19.4	61.1	2.8
Elsewhere	171	14.6	38.6	39.8	7.0

[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 2008-2009, as reported by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. Respondents who answered they did not hunt this season were removed from this analysis (see appendix B for this data.) Note: the season dates were Oct. 18-Dec. 16 in the North Zone, Oct. 25-Dec. 23 in the Central Zone, and Nov. 27-Jan. 25 in the South Zone.

Zone	*n*	Too early	About right	Too late	Not sure
North	627	18.5%	57.7%	9.6%	14.2%
Central	844	21.3	60.0	10.8	7.9
South	662	11.0	46.2	29.2	13.6

Table 19. Preferences of duck hunters who hunted primarily in the South Zone for dates of a 60-day duck season in 2009-2010, as reported by the 2008-2009 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. 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=107	*n*=36	*n*=35	*n*=165	*n*=343	*n*=706
Opens earlier than Nov. 14	8.4%	27.8%	31.4%	20.6%	18.7%	20.0%
Nov. 14-Jan. 12	28.0	41.7	37.1	28.5	30.6	27.9
Nov. 26-Jan. 24	57.9	25.0	22.9	42.4	43.4	38.4
I am not sure	5.6	5.6	8.6	8.5	7.3	13.7

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

Table 20. Preferences of goose hunters for dates of the regular Canada goose season in the zone in which they hunted in 2008-2009, as reported by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. Note: the season dates were Oct. 18-Jan. 10 in the North Zone, Oct. 25-Nov. 9 and Nov. 24-Jan. 31 in the Central Zone, and Nov. 27-Jan. 31 in the South Zone.

Zone/Area Hunted	*n*	Too early	About right	Too late	Not sure
North	334	17.7%	70.7%	8.7%	3.0%
Central	548	16.1	75.5	4.9	3.5
South	242	16.5	70.7	7.0	5.8
SIQZ[a]	81	17.3	77.8	2.5	2.5
Rend Lake[b]	24	4.2	83.3	4.2	8.3
Carlyle Lake[c]	12	16.7	58.3	16.7	8.3
Elsewhere	125	18.4	64.8	9.6	7.2

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

Table 21. Preference of season lengths for the regular goose seasons in 2008-2009, as reported by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. Data include only respondents who reported hunting geese. Respondents who answered they did not hunt this season were removed from this analysis (see appendix B for this data.) Note: the season dates were Oct. 18-Jan. 10 in the North Zone, Oct. 25-Nov. 9 and Nov. 24-Jan. 31 in the Central Zone, and Nov. 27-Jan. 31 in the South Zone.

Zone	Respondents	*n*	Too long	About right	Too short	Not sure
North Zone	North Zone hunters	345	1.1%	54.8%	42.9%	1.2%
	All goose hunters	574	3.0	57.3	33.4	6.3
Central Zone	Central Zone hunters	568	1.1	62.9	33.8	2.3
	All goose hunters	765	2.0	60.5	32.9	4.6
South Zone	South Zone hunters	253	0.8	47.0	47.4	4.7
	All goose hunters	504	1.0	47.4	42.5	9.1

Table 22. Preferences of goose hunters who expressed opinions on season lengths for the Sept. goose seasons in the zone in which they hunted 2008-2009, as reported by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. Respondents who answered they did not hunt this season were removed from this analysis (see appendix B for this data.) Note: the season dates were Sept. 1-Sept. 15 in the North, Central and South Zones.

Zone	Respondents	*n*	Too Long	About right	Too short	Not sure
North Zone	North Zone hunters	265	0.4%	46.0%	50.2%	3.4%
	All goose hunters	475	0.8	46.7	42.9	9.5
Central Zone	Central Zone hunters	438	2.5	45.7	45.7	6.2
	All goose hunters	587	2.9	45.7	41.9	9.5
South Zone	South Zone hunters	146	4.1	53.4	30.1	12.3
	All goose hunters	357	3.6	51.3	28.9	16.2

Table 23. Opinions of goose hunters toward the daily bag limit for the September Canada goose season in 2008-2009, as reported by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Zone/Area Hunted	*n*	Too High	About right	Too Low	Not sure
North	266	8.3%	67.7%	21.8%	2.3%
Central	451	12.6	73.6	11.8	2.0
South	147	2.0	52.4	41.5	4.1
SIQZ[a]	44	2.3	50.0	45.5	2.3
Rend Lake[b]	13	0.0	84.6	15.4	0.0
Carlyle Lake[c]	9	0.0	55.6	44.4	0.0
Elsewhere	81	2.5	48.1	43.2	6.2

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

Table 24. Opinions of goose hunters toward the daily bag limit for the regular goose seasons in 2008-2009, as reported by the 2008-2009 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Zone	Respondents	*n*	Too High	About right	Too Low	Not sure
North Zone	North Zone hunters	343	0.3%	28.9%	69.7%	1.2%
	All goose hunters	605	0.7	39.7	56.4	3.3
Central Zone	Central Zone hunters	561	0.2	44.7	53.5	1.6
	All goose hunters	773	0.1	45.5	51.4	3.0
South Zone	South Zone hunters	250	0.0	61.2	35.6	3.2
	SIQZ hunters [a]	85	0.0	68.2	30.6	1.2
	Rend Lake hunters [b]	25	0.0	68.0	32.0	0.0
	Carlyle Lake hunters [c]	12	0.0	66.7	33.3	0.0
	Hunters from elsewhere in the South Zone	128	0.0	54.7	39.8	5.5
	All goose hunters	531	0.2	56.1	38.0	5.6

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

Table 25. Preference of duck hunters regarding the scaup season structure, as reported by the 2008-2009 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Season Structure	*n*	Percent
60-day scaup season with 20 days/ 2-scaup daily limit and 40 days/1-scaup daily limit	235	37.1%
60-day scaup season with 1-scaup daily limit for the entire season	249	39.3
I am not sure	149	23.5

Table 26. Use of public hunting areas that held on-site daily blind drawings, as reported by the 2008-2009 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. Respondents include all hunters who reported hunting ducks.

Zone/Area Hunted	*n*	Yes	No	Not sure
North	376	32.4%	65.7%	1.9%
Central	632	62.3	35.9	1.7
South	364	59.9	39.2	0.8
SIQZ[a]	110	58.2	41.8	0.0
Rend Lake[b]	36	80.0	17.1	2.9
Carlyle Lake[c]	37	75.7	24.3	0.0
Elsewhere	181	53.9	45.0	1.1
Mississippi Valley[d]	81	60.5	38.3	1.2
Migratory Waterfowl[e]	123	70.7	27.6	1.6
Statewide	1,372	53.5	44.9	1.6

[a]Alexander, Jackson, Union, and Williamson counties.
[b]Franklin and Jefferson counties.
[c]Bond, Clinton, and Fayette counties.
[d] Perry and Randolph counties
[e] Calhoun, Greene, Jersey and Madison counties

Table 27. Use of public hunting areas that held Springfield-based blind drawings, as reported by the 2008-2009Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. Respondents include all hunters who reported hunting ducks.

Zone/Area Hunted	*n*	Yes	No	Not sure
North	376	7.4%	89.1%	3.5%
Central	629	17.0	78.2	4.8
South	363	14.1	82.3	3.6
SIQZ[a]	110	22.9	73.4	3.7
Rend Lake[b]	35	5.7	88.6	5.7
Carlyle Lake[c]	37	16.2	81.1	2.7
Elsewhere	181	10.0	86.7	3.3
Mississippi Valley[d]	81	13.6	84.0	2.4
Migratory Waterfowl[e]	123	11.4	87.0	1.6
Statewide	1,368	13.8	82.1	4.1

[a]Alexander, Jackson, Union, and Williamson counties.
[b]Franklin and Jefferson counties.
[c]Bond, Clinton, and Fayette counties.
[d] Perry and Randolph counties
[e] Calhoun, Greene, Jersey and Madison counties

Table 28. Use of public hunting areas that require season-long or multi-season blind registrations, as reported by the 2008-2009 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. Respondents include all hunters who reported hunting ducks.

Zone/Area Hunted	*n*	Yes	No	Not sure
North	375	33.9%	63.2%	2.9%
Central	631	50.6	44.5	4.9
South	364	16.9	78.5	4.7
SIQZ[a]	110	13.6	82.7	3.6
Rend Lake[b]	36	5.7	88.6	5.7
Carlyle Lake[c]	37	35.1	59.5	5.4
Elsewhere	181	17.2	77.8	5.0
Mississippi Valley[d]	81	22.2	74.1	3.7
Migratory Waterfowl[e]	123	72.4	23.6	4.0
Statewide	1,370	37.3	58.5	4.2

[a]Alexander, Jackson, Union, and Williamson counties.
[b]Franklin and Jefferson counties.
[c]Bond, Clinton, and Fayette counties.
[d] Perry and Randolph counties
[e] Calhoun, Greene, Jersey and Madison counties

Table 29. Duck hunter responses regarding support for a system where a portion of available daily permits are issued by drawing ahead of time and remaining daily permits are issued in a day-of , on -site drawing, as reported by the 2008-2009 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Zone/Area Hunted	*n*	Support 1/4 ahead of time	Support 1/2 ahead of time	Support all ahead of time	Do not support ahead of time	Not sure
North	374	10.7%	24.6%	17.6%	14.4%	32.6%
Central	621	14.2	19.0	15.3	27.7	23.8
South	356	14.7	17.2	15.0	28.2	24.9
SIQZ[a]	108	19.4	18.5	21.3	17.6	23.1
Rend Lake[b]	35	2.9	2.9	2.9	65.7	25.7
Carlyle Lake[c]	37	17.1	20.0	11.4	20.0	31.4
Elsewhere	176	13.6	18.8	14.2	29.0	24.4
Mississippi Valley[d]	80	13.8	12.5	21.3	32.5	20.0
Migratory Waterfowl[e]	124	8.1	16.9	12.1	37.9	25.0
Statewide	1,351	13.3	20.1	15.8	24.4	26.4

[a]Alexander, Jackson, Union, and Williamson counties.
[b]Franklin and Jefferson counties.
[c]Bond, Clinton, and Fayette counties.
[d] Perry and Randolph counties
[e] Calhoun, Greene, Jersey and Madison counties

Table 30. Duck hunter responses regarding support for a system where a portion of available daily permits are issued by drawing ahead of time and remaining daily permits are issued in a day-of , on -site drawing, as reported by the 2008-2009 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. Respondents who answered "not sure" were removed from this analysis.

Zone/Area Hunted	*n*	Support 1/4 ahead of time	Support 1/2 ahead of time	Support all ahead of time	Do not support ahead of time
North	252	15.9	36.5	26.2	21.4
Central	473	18.6	24.9	20.1	36.4
South	266	19.5	22.9	19.9	37.6
SIQZ[a]	83	25.3	24.1	27.7	22.9
Rend Lake[b]	26	3.8	3.8	3.8	88.5
Carlyle Lake[c]	24	25.0	29.2	16.7	29.2
Elsewhere	133	18.0	24.8	18.8	38.3
Mississippi Valley[d]	65	16.9	15.4	27.7	40.0
Migratory Waterfowl[e]	94	10.6	22.3	17.0	50.0
Statewide	991	18.0	27.3	21.6	33.1

[a]Alexander, Jackson, Union, and Williamson counties.
[b]Franklin and Jefferson counties.
[c]Bond, Clinton, and Fayette counties.
[d] Perry and Randolph counties
[e] Calhoun, Greene, Jersey and Madison counties

Table 31. Duck hunter preferences toward methods of blind allocations to determine access to duck blinds in Illinois, as reported by the 2008-2009 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Zone/Area Hunted	*n*	Prefer on-site drawing	Springfield Drawing	Not sure
North	374	46.3%	18.2%	35.6%
Central	624	67.6	12.8	19.6
South	354	52.6	13.3	34.1
SIQZ[a]	108	51.9	12.0	36.1
Rend Lake[b]	34	64.7	5.9	29.4
Carlyle Lake[c]	35	40.0	14.3	45.7
Elsewhere	177	53.3	15.2	31.5
Mississippi Valley[d]	80	57.5	16.3	26.3
Migratory Waterfowl[e]	123	74.8	7.3	17.9
Statewide	1,352	58.5	14.3	27.2

[a]Alexander, Jackson, Union, and Williamson counties.
[b]Franklin and Jefferson counties.
[c]Bond, Clinton, and Fayette counties.
[d] Perry and Randolph counties
[e] Calhoun, Greene, Jersey and Madison counties

Table 32. Duck hunter preferences toward methods of blind allocations to determine access to duck blinds in Illinois, as reported by the 2008-2009 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. Respondents who answered "not sure" were removed from this analysis.

Zone/Area Hunted	*n*	Prefer on-site drawing	Springfield Drawing
North	241	71.8	28.2
Central	502	84.1	15.9
South	235	79.6	20.4
SIQZ[a]	69	81.2	18.8
Rend Lake[b]	24	91.7	8.3
Carlyle Lake[c]	19	73.7	26.3
Elsewhere	123	77.2	22.8
Mississippi Valley[d]	60	78.3	21.7
Migratory Waterfowl[e]	101	91.1	8.9
Statewide	978	80.3	19.7

[a]Alexander, Jackson, Union, and Williamson counties.
[b]Franklin and Jefferson counties.
[c]Bond, Clinton, and Fayette counties.
[d] Perry and Randolph counties
[e] Calhoun, Greene, Jersey and Madison counties

Table 33. Support for the requirement of FOID card to qualify for blind drawings, as reported by the 2008-2009 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. Respondents include all hunters who reported hunting ducks.

Zone/Area Hunted	*n*	Yes	No	Not sure
North	372	76.9%	9.7%	13.4%
Central	624	80.9	9.9	9.1
South	355	74.3	9.0	16.7
SIQZ[a]	108	70.4	13.0	16.7
Rend Lake[b]	35	80.0	2.9	17.1
Carlyle Lake[c]	35	77.1	5.7	17.1
Elsewhere	177	75.0	8.7	16.3
Mississippi Valley[d]	80	76.3	6.3	17.5
Migratory Waterfowl[e]	123	82.1	13.0	4.9
Statewide	1,351	78.3	9.6	12.1

[a]Alexander, Jackson, Union, and Williamson counties.
[b]Franklin and Jefferson counties.
[c]Bond, Clinton, and Fayette counties.
[d] Perry and Randolph counties
[e] Calhoun, Greene, Jersey and Madison counties

Table 34. Support for the requirement of FOID card to qualify for blind drawings, as reported by the 2008-2009 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. Respondents include all hunters who reported hunting ducks. Respondents who answered "not sure" were removed from this analysis.

Zone/Area Hunted	*n*	Yes	No
North	322	88.8	11.2
Central	567	89.1	10.9
South	295	89.2	10.8
SIQZ[a]	90	84.4	15.6
Rend Lake[b]	29	96.6	3.4
Carlyle Lake[c]	29	93.1	6.9
Elsewhere	147	89.8	10.2
Mississippi Valley[d]	68	92.6	7.4
Migratory Waterfowl[e]	118	86.4	13.6
Statewide	1,184	89.1	10.9

[a]Alexander, Jackson, Union, and Williamson counties.
[b]Franklin and Jefferson counties.
[c]Bond, Clinton, and Fayette counties.
[d] Perry and Randolph counties
[e] Calhoun, Greene, Jersey and Madison counties

Table 35. Support for requiring blind drawing applications to include all hunters' names at submission, as reported by the 2008-2009 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey . Respondents include all hunters who reported hunting ducks.

Zone/Area Hunted	*n*	Yes	No	Not sure
North	365	38.6%	38.6%	22.7%
Central	614	38.8	41.5	19.7
South	350	40.5	30.5	29.0
SIQZ[a]	106	36.8	33.0	30.2
Rend Lake[b]	33	54.5	24.2	21.2
Carlyle Lake[c]	36	38.9	25.0	36.1
Elsewhere	175	40.5	31.2	28.3
Mississippi Valley[d]	79	38.0	30.4	31.6
Migratory Waterfowl[e]	122	43.4	42.6	14.0
Statewide	1,329	38.8	38.3	22.9

[a]Alexander, Jackson, Union, and Williamson counties.
[b]Franklin and Jefferson counties.
[c]Bond, Clinton, and Fayette counties.
[d] Perry and Randolph counties
[e] Calhoun, Greene, Jersey and Madison counties

Table 36. Support for requiring blind drawing applications to include all hunters' names at submission, as reported by the 2008-2009 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey . Respondents include all hunters who reported hunting ducks. Respondents who answered "not sure" were removed from this analysis.

Zone/Area Hunted	*n*	Yes	No
North	282	50.0	50.0
Central	493	48.3	51.7
South	247	57.1	42.9
SIQZ[a]	74	52.7	47.3
Rend Lake[b]	26	69.2	30.8
Carlyle Lake[c]	23	60.9	39.1
Elsewhere	124	56.5	43.5
Mississippi Valley[d]	56	55.4	44.6
Migratory Waterfowl[e]	106	50.0	50.0
Statewide	1,022	50.4	49.6

[a]Alexander, Jackson, Union, and Williamson counties.
[b]Franklin and Jefferson counties.
[c]Bond, Clinton, and Fayette counties.
[d] Perry and Randolph counties
[e] Calhoun, Greene, Jersey and Madison counties

Appendix A. Hunting record forms for recording hunter activity and harvest during the 2008-09 waterfowl season in Illinois.

2008-09 Waterfowl Hunting Record – Ducks

(Record your **personal harvest only.**)

Date of Hunt	County	Sept. Teal	Teal	Mallard	Wood duck	Scaup (Bluebills)	Other ducks	Coots	Ducks downed not retrieved

2008-09 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 2008-2009 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey
2008-2009 Season
Results Summary

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

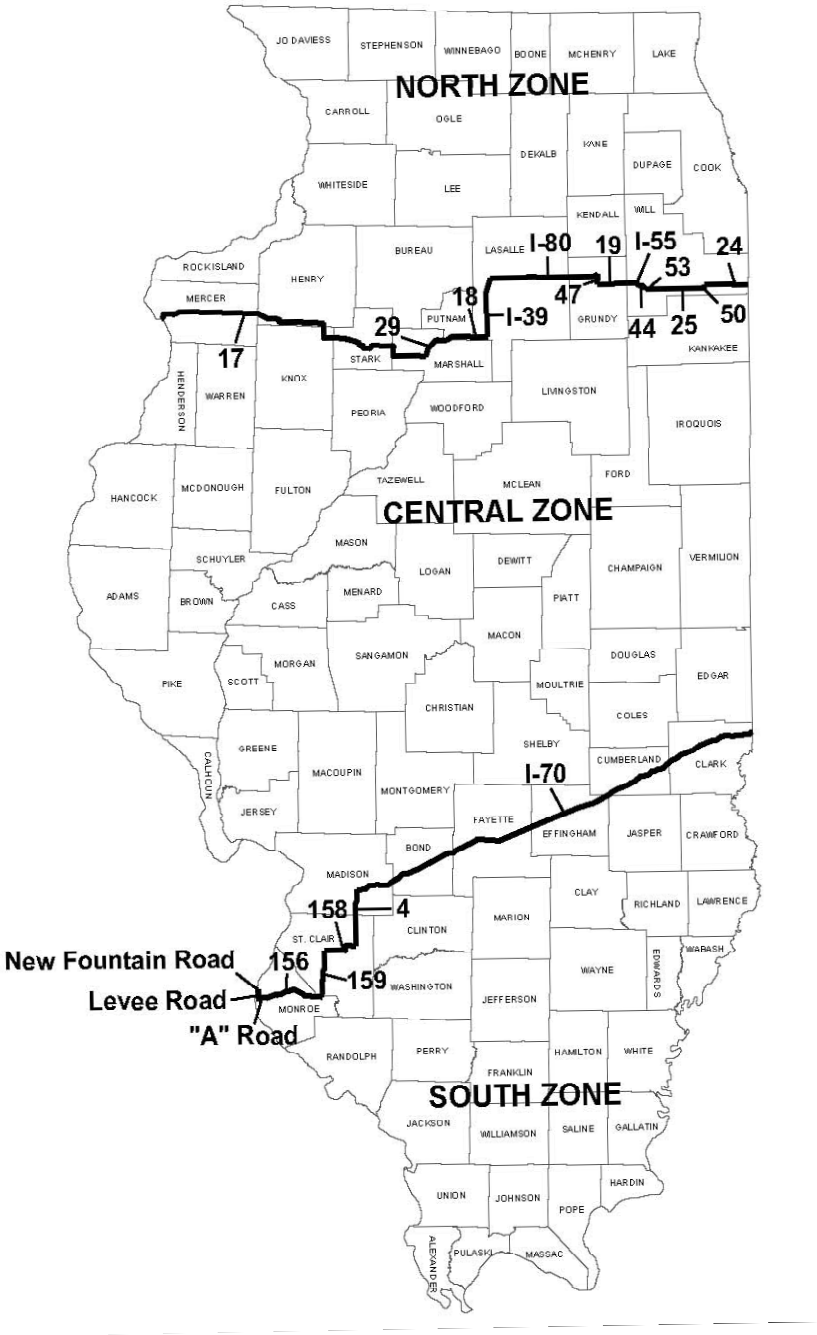
THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

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.


NORTH ZONE
CENTRAL ZONE
SOUTH ZONE
I-80
I-55
I-39
I-70
19
24
53
47
18
29
44
25
50
17
158
4
156
159
New Fountain Road
Levee Road
"A" Road
JO DAVIESS
STEPHENSON
WINNEBAGO
BOONE
MCHENRY
LAKE
CARROLL
OGLE
DEKALB
KANE
DUPAGE
COOK
WHITESIDE
LEE
KENDALL
WILL
ROCKISLAND
BUREAU
LASALLE
HENRY
MERCER
PUTNAM
GRUNDY
KANKAKEE
STARK
MARSHALL
HENDERSON
WARREN
KNOX
PEORIA
WOODFORD
LIVINGSTON
IROQUOIS
HANCOCK
MCDONOUGH
FULTON
TAZEWELL
MCLEAN
FORD
SCHUYLER
MASON
LOGAN
DEWITT
CHAMPAIGN
VERMILION
ADAMS
BROWN
CASS
MENARD
PIATT
MACON
DOUGLAS
EDGAR
PIKE
SCOTT
MORGAN
SANGAMON
MOULTRIE
CHRISTIAN
COLES
CALHOUN
GREENE
MACOUPIN
SHELBY
CUMBERLAND
CLARK
JERSEY
MONTGOMERY
FAYETTE
EFFINGHAM
JASPER
CRAWFORD
BOND
MADISON
CLAY
RICHLAND
LAWRENCE
ST. CLAIR
CLINTON
MARION
WABASH
WAYNE
EDWARDS
WASHINGTON
JEFFERSON
MONROE
RANDOLPH
PERRY
HAMILTON
WHITE
FRANKLIN
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 2008-2009 season (include both electronic and printed stamps)? *(Please check one.)* ***n*=2,363**

81.9% Yes
18.1% No

2. Did you hunt waterfowl (ducks, geese, or coots) in Illinois during the 2008-2009 waterfowl hunting season? ***n*=2,363**

69.1% Yes
30.9% No ***(Please skip to question 9.)***

3. Please report your hunting effort and harvest in Illinois between September 2008 and January 2009 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	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 Conservation Order Light 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 2008-2009?
(Please check one.) ***n*=1,478**

27.8% North Zone **47.0%** Central Zone **25.2%** South Zone

5. In which zone did you hunt **geese** most often during 2008-2009?
(Please check one.) ***n*=1,383**

28.9% North Zone **48.8%** Central Zone **22.3%** South Zone

6. On how many days did you personally harvest more than 3 Canada geese during the September season? (*Please indicate.)*

I harvested 3 Canada geese on **Range=0-4/Mean=0.29** days I hunted in Illinois. ***n*=305**

I harvested 4 Canada geese on **Range=0-4/Mean=0.15** days I hunted in Illinois. ***n*=260**

I harvested 5 Canada geese on **Range=0-7/Mean=0.19** days I hunted in Illinois. ***n*=260**

7. On how many days did you personally harvest 3 wood ducks in a single day? (*Please indicate.)* ***n*=901**

I harvested 3 wood ducks on **Range=0-7/Mean=0.20** days I hunted in Illinois.

8. Did you specifically hunt diving ducks (scaup, canvasbacks, etc.) during the 2008-2009 duck hunting season? *(Please check one.)* ***n*=1,563**

6.7% Yes
93.3% No

9. Did you take a youth hunting during the 2008 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days?
(Please check one.) ***n*=2,256**

11.1% Yes
88.9% No ***(Please skip to question 10.)***

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								

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 make decisions about season dates.

10. Did you feel that the dates of the 2008-2009 waterfowl hunting season were too early, about right or too late? *(Please check one for each item.)*

Were the season dates…	*n*	too early?	about right?	too late?	I am not sure.	I do not hunt this season.
a. Teal season *(Sept. only)*	**2,066**	**7.1%**	**40.1%**	**2.2%**	**7.9%**	**42.7%**
b. North Zone Duck season	**1,967**	**8.5%**	**29.7%**	**4.0%**	**8.5%**	**49.3%**
c. Central Zone Duck season	**2,035**	**12.7%**	**36.8%**	**5.7%**	**7.4%**	**37.3%**
d. South Zone Duck season	**1,953**	**6.2%**	**25.2%**	**12.2%**	**9.0%**	**47.5%**
e. North Zone Canada Goose season	**1,977**	**6.8%**	**31.9%**	**3.5%**	**8.1%**	**49.7%**
f. Central Zone Canada Goose season	**2,023**	**9.1%**	**41.5%**	**3.1%**	**7.4%**	**38.8%**
g. South Zone Canada Goose season	**1,930**	**6.9%**	**29.2%**	**4.0%**	**9.2%**	**50.7%**

11. If a 60-day duck season is allowed in 2009-2010, the North and Central zones will continue to follow the 5-year plan for season dates adopted in 2006, whereas the South zone dates 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 2009-2010? *(Please check one.)* ***n*=2,213**

9.6% Opens earlier than Nov. 14
12.9% Nov. 14 – Jan. 12
19.2% Nov. 26 – Jan. 24
10.7% I am not sure.
47.5% I do not hunt in the south zone.

12. Did you feel that the season length for Canada geese in each of the following seasons and zones was too long, about right or too short? The current season length is indicated in parenthesis with each item below. *(Please check one for each item.)*

Was the season length…	*n*	too long?	about right?	too short?	I am not sure.	I do not hunt this season/zone.
a. September Canada goose season in the North Zone (15 days)	**2,091**	**0.6%**	**19.3%**	**18.0%**	**5.7%**	**56.5%**
b. September Canada goose season in the Central Zone (15 days)	**2,096**	**1.4%**	**22.8%**	**20.8%**	**6.4%**	**48.5%**
c. September Canada goose season in the South Zone (15 days)	**2,027**	**1.1%**	**16.8%**	**11.1%**	**7.4%**	**63.5%**
d. Regular Canada goose season in the North Zone (86 days)	**2,081**	**1.3%**	**27.2%**	**15.0%**	**5.6%**	**50.9%**
e. Regular Canada goose season in the Central Zone (86 days)	**2,125**	**1.2%**	**34.8%**	**19.4%**	**5.7%**	**38.9%**
f. Regular Canada goose season in the South Zone (66 days)	**2,057**	**0.5%**	**20.4%**	**17.9%**	**6.6%**	**54.4%**

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. Did you feel that the daily bag limit for Canada geese in each of the following seasons and zones was too high, about right or too low? The current daily bag limit is indicated in parenthesis with each item below. *(Please check one for each item.)*

Was the daily bag limit…	*n*	too high?	about right?	too low?	I am not sure.	I do not hunt this season/zone.
a. September Canada goose season in the North Zone (5 geese)	**2,089**	**5.0%**	**28.4%**	**8.8%**	**3.9%**	**53.9%**
b. September Canada goose season in the Central Zone (5 geese)	**2,103**	**5.2%**	**35.5%**	**8.7%**	**4.0%**	**46.6%**
c. September Canada goose season in the South Zone (2 geese)	**2,029**	**0.8%**	**19.6%**	**13.6%**	**5.1%**	**61.0%**
d. Regular Canada goose season in the North Zone (2 geese)	**2,091**	**0.3%**	**20.9%**	**26.6%**	**4.1%**	**48.1%**
e. Regular Canada goose season in the Central Zone (2 geese)	**2,128**	**0.1%**	**27.6%**	**30.8%**	**4.2%**	**37.3%**
f. Regular Canada goose season in the South Zone (2 geese)	**2,056**	**0.1%**	**24.4%**	**18.5%**	**4.8%**	**52.2%**

14. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may allow states in the Mississippi Flyway to choose between scaup bag limits in 2009-2010. Please indicate which season stucture you prefer. *(Please check one.)* ***n*=2,205**

14.5% 60-day scaup season, in which 20 days have a 2-scaup daily bag limit and 40 days have a 1-scaup daily bag limit
15.8% 60-day scaup season with 1-scaup daily bag limit for the entire season
13.0% I am not sure.
56.7% I do not hunt scaup.

Use of permitted hunting areas on public lands. Several public waterfowl hunting areas in Illinois allocate access to blinds and hunting sites via drawings for daily, season-long or multi-season permits. The IDNR aims to maximize the ability of all waterfowl hunters to access these areas in a fair and equitable manner. Please help us learn about your use of these areas by answering the following questions.

15. Have you ever hunted waterfowl on a public hunting area which held an on-site daily drawing for access to blinds or hunting sites (on-site drawing for 1-day access to a blind or site held the day of hunting)? *(Please check one.)* ***n*=2,308**

46.1% Yes, I have hunted waterfowl on a public area with an on-site daily drawing.
51.2% No, I have not hunted waterfowl on a public area with an on-site daily drawing.
2.7% I am not sure.

16. Have you ever hunted waterfowl on a public hunting area which held a Springfield-based drawing for permits to access blind or hunting sites (drawing for 1-day access to a blind or site completed by computer in Springfield prior to the hunting season)? *(Please check one.)* ***n*=2,301**

11.0% Yes, I have hunted waterfowl on a public area with a Springfield drawing.
84.2% No, I have not hunted waterfowl on a public area with a Springfield drawing.
4.8% I am not sure.

17. Have you ever hunted waterfowl on a public area which required season-long or multi-season registration to allow access to blind sites (on-site drawing for 1, 2, or 3 seasons of access held prior to the hunting season)? *(Please check one.)* ***n*=2,304**

30.3% Yes, I have hunted waterfowl on a public area with season-long or multi-season blind registration.
64.7% No, I have not hunted waterfowl on a public area with season-long or multi-season blind registration.
5.0% I am not sure.

18. Currently, at most sites that hold daily drawings, drawings occur the day the permit is issued, before shooting hours. This allows hunters flexibility in scheduling their hunts at a site; however, it may prevent hunters who live far from these sites from accessing them, as they may not be willing to travel if there is a chance they won't receive a permit. A system where a portion of all available daily permits are issued by drawing ahead of time (and hunters awarded permits are notified in advance) and the remaining daily permits are issued in a day-of, on-site drawing has been suggested to allow more equal access for hunters around the state. Any permits issued ahead of time which go unclaimed on the day of hunting would revert to the day-of drawing pool. Which of the following best describes your support for such a system? *(Please check one.)* ***n*=2,268**

12.3% I support issuing ¼ of daily access permits ahead of time and ¾ in a day-of drawing.
20.0% I support issuing ½ of daily access permits ahead of time and ½ in a day-of drawing.
17.8% I support issuing all daily access permits ahead of time.
20.0% I do not support issuing any daily access permits ahead of time.
30.0% I am not sure.

19. Currently, all season-long and multi-season duck blind drawings are held at individual public hunting areas. Hunters must attend drawings in person at the site they wish to hunt and site staff organize and run the drawings. Similar permits for other species are allocated by a centralized drawing, where applicants mail applications to IDNR offices in Springfield and are notified by mail of results before hunting seasons begin. Which of these methods of blind allocation do you prefer to determine access to duck blinds in Illinois? *(Please check one.)* ***n*=2,268**

52.8% I prefer on-site drawings to determine blind access.
15.7% I prefer a centralized, Springfield drawing to determine blind access.
31.4% I am not sure.

20. Currently, all resident applicants for season-long or multi-season blind registration are required to possess a valid FOID card. This requirement is intended to limit applicants to legitimate hunters. Do you support retaining this requirement for future duck blind drawings? *(Please check one.)* ***n*=2,272**

75.5% Yes, I support requiring applicants to possess a valid FOID card.
10.0% No, I do not support requiring applicants to possess a valid FOID card.
14.4% I am not sure.

21. Currently, at areas with season-long and multi-season blind registrations, applicants are allowed to apply individually for blind drawings. Successful applicants are allowed 30 days after the drawing to add up to 2 hunting partners to their blind registration. All individuals listed on the permit receive exclusive access to the blind for a period of 1 to 3 years. The IDNR may consider requiring applicants to list hunting partner names on the initial application. Once drawn for a blind, these names could not be changed for the blind registration period. Applicants and hunting partners would only be allowed to list their name on one application. These changes would reduce the total number of applications in the drawing for any site, thus increasing the odds of any application being drawn. Given this information, would you support requiring applications to include the names of all hunting partners at the time the application is submitted? *(Please check one.)* ***n*=2,229**

37.4% Yes, I support requiring applications to include the names of all hunting partners at the time the application is submitted.
37.0% No, I do not support requiring applications to include the names of all hunting partners at the time the application is submitted.
25.6% 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.

22. For how many years have you hunted waterfowl in Illinois? ***n*=2,288**
Ave. 20.0 years

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

See Appendix H. County or state

24. Are you **98.0%** male or **2.0%** female? *(Please check one.)* ***n*=2,363**

25. As of October 1, 2008, what was your age? ***n*=2,334**
Ave. 45.3 years

26. What is your approximate annual household income? *(Please check one.)* ***n*=2,064**

5.5% Less than $20,000 per year
12.3% $20,000 to $39,999 per year
18.6% $40,000 to $59,999 per year
20.0% $60,000 to $79,999 per year
16.8% $80,000 to $99,999 per year
16.6% $100,000 to $149,999 per year
10.3% Over $150,000 per year

27. How would you describe the area where you currently live? *(Please check one.)* ***n*=2,247**

17.7% Rural setting, on a farm
19.0% Rural setting, not on a farm
9.7% Rural subdivision
11.8% Suburban area at the edge of a town or city
23.9% Within a small town (Population less than 25,000)
10.5% Within an urban area (Population between 25,000 and 100,000)
7.5% Within a metropolitan area (Population greater than 100,000)

28. What is your racial or ethnic background? *(Please check one.)* ***n*=2,240**

98.7% White, not of Hispanic origin
0.2% Black, not of Hispanic origin
0.4% Hispanic or Latino
0.3% American Indian or Alaskan native
0.3% Asian
0.0% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific islander

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 2008-2009 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

February 11, 2009

Dear Waterfowl Hunter,

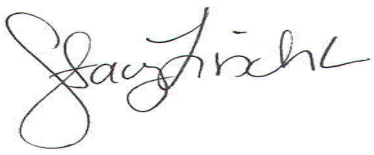
I am writing to ask for your help in a study of Illinois waterfowl hunters. This study, jointly conducted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois Natural History Survey, is an effort to learn about waterfowl hunting activities in Illinois and the factors that motivate hunters 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 2008-2009 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 2008-2009 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 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.illinois.edu/programs/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 2008-2009 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL
RESOURCES

Dear Waterfowl Hunter,

Recently you were mailed a questionnaire about your waterfowl hunting activities in Illinois. We have not yet received your response. **If you have already returned the questionnaire, please accept our sincere thanks. If you have not returned the questionnaire, please do so today.** Because wildlife managers are interested in serving the public, your input is vital. If you have any questions about this study or require a replacement questionnaire, please call (217) 244-5121.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Stacy Lischka
Human Dimensions Specialist,
Illinois Natural History Survey

Appendix E. Cover letter sent with second mailing of the survey instrument for the 2008-2009 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

March 11, 2009

Dear Waterfowl Hunter,

A few weeks ago, we sent you a questionnaire asking about your waterfowl hunting activities in Illinois during 2008-2009. 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!

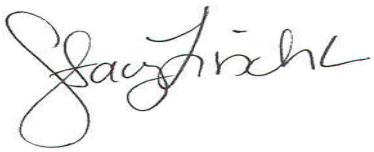
Your views are crucially important, even if you did not hunt ducks or geese in Illinois during 2008-2009. The comments of hunters who have already responded show that Illinois waterfowl hunters desire different types of hunting experiences and take to the field for many different reasons. The results 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.illinois.edu/programs/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 F. Cover letter sent with third mailing of the survey instrument for the 2008-2009 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.

ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

April 14, 2009

Dear Waterfowl hunter,

During the past few months, we have sent you several mailings about an important research study we are conducting for the State of Illinois. To our knowledge, you have not yet returned your questionnaire.

The purpose of the study is to help the Illinois DNR manage waterfowl and their harvest in Illinois. Your participation in this study will aid state agencies in planning management programs which provide the types of waterfowl hunting experiences hunters in Illinois desire.

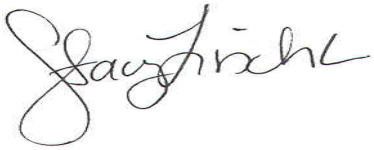
We have enclosed an additional copy of the questionnaire in case you have misplaced the copy you received earlier. Your views are crucially important, regardless of how often you hunt waterfowl. **Please take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire**, seal it in the postage-paid envelope provided, and drop in the mail.

We are sending this mailing because we are concerned that people who had not responded have different opinions about the waterfowl management and hunting opportunities than those who have responded. Your response to the survey and any of its questions is completely voluntary. Your name will never be associated with your responses in any way and your privacy will be protected to the maximum extent allowable by law. We hope that you will fill out and return the questionnaire soon. By completing and returning this survey, you indicate your voluntary agreement to participate in this study. If, however, you prefer for any reason not to answer this questionnaire, please let us know by returning a blank 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.

Finally, we appreciate your willingness to consider our request as we carry out this effort to better understand the waterfowl hunters' activities and attitudes in Illinois. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Stacy A. Lischka
Human Dimensions Specialist
Illinois Natural History Survey

Appendix G. Waterfowl hunting regulations for the 2008-2009 season in Illinois.

DUCKS & EARLY CANADA GEESE

SPECIES	DATES (Inclusive)	HOURS	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Teal	Sept. 6-Sept. 21 (Statewide)	Sunrise to Sunset	4	8
Ducks	**North Zone** Oct. 18 – Dec. 16	1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset	**6** (See section on Bag Limits)	2 x daily bag limit
Mergansers	**Central Zone** Oct. 25 – Dec. 23		5 (See section on Bag Limits)	2 x daily bag limit
Coots	**South Zone** Nov. 27 – Jan. 25		15	30
Early Canada Geese	Sept. 1 – Sept. 15 (Northeast, North and Central Zones)		5 (a)	10
Early Canada Geese	Sept. 1 – Sept. 15 (South Zones only)		2 (a)	4

(a) Daily bag limit is five in Northeast Canada Goose Zone and North & Central Zones and 2 in the South Zone.

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS*

SPECIES	DATES	HOURS	DAILY BAG LIMIT
Ducks	**North Zone** Oct. 11 – 12 **Central Zone** Oct. 18 – 19 **South Zone** Nov. 15 – 16	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.
4. Bag limits for ducks includes 2 scaup during youth hunt.

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 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, and not more than 1 black duck and 1 pintail and 1 scaup except 2 scaup may be taken during Nov. 4 – 23 in north zone, Nov. 11 – 30 in the central zone and Nov. 27 – Dec. 16 in south zone. **Canvasbacks are closed.** 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		1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset (a)		
North Zone	Oct. 18 – Jan. 10		2	4
Central Zone	Oct. 25 – Nov. 9 & Nov. 24 – Jan. 31			
South Zone	Nov. 27 – Jan. 31			
Snow/Blue & Ross' Geese and Brant				
North Zone	Oct. 18 – Jan. 10		20 Snow/Blue & Ross' Geese 1 Brant	Unlimited Snow/Blue & Ross' Geese 2 Brant
Central Zone	Oct. 25 – Jan. 31			
South Zone	Nov. 27 – Jan. 31			
White-fronted Geese				
North Zone	Oct. 31 – Jan. 10		2	4
Central Zone	Nov. 21 – Jan. 31			
South Zone	Nov. 27 – Jan. 31			

(a) Hunting hours for all geese in Alexander, Jackson, Union and Williamson Counties now end at sunset.

Appendix H. County/state of residence for respondents to the 2008-2009 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey (*n* = 2,363).

County	*n*	%	County	*n*	%	County	*n*	%
Adams	30	1.3	Hardin	0	0.0	Morgan	20	0.8
Alexander	5	0.2	Henderson	9	0.4	Moultrie	4	0.2
Bond	5	0.2	Henry	21	0.9	Ogle	15	0.6
Boone	10	0.4	Iroquois	12	0.5	Peoria	91	3.9
Brown	0	0.0	Jackson	37	1.6	Perry	28	1.2
Bureau	27	1.1	Jasper	10	0.4	Piatt	7	0.3
Calhoun	24	1.0	Jefferson	12	0.5	Pike	11	0.5
Carroll	8	0.3	Jersey	25	1.1	Pope	1	0.0
Cass	19	0.8	JoDaviess	10	0.4	Pulaski	5	0.2
Champaign	22	0.9	Johnson	8	0.3	Putnam	13	0.6
Christian	13	0.6	Kane	53	2.2	Randolph	26	1.1
Clark	4	0.2	Kankakee	35	1.5	Richland	1	0.0
Clay	5	0.2	Kendall	12	0.5	Rock Island	35	1.5
Clinton	27	1.1	Knox	18	0.8	St. Clair	77	3.3
Coles	9	0.4	Lake	57	2.4	Saline	1	0.0
Cook	137	5.8	LaSalle	45	1.9	Sangamon	52	2.2
Crawford	6	0.3	Lawrence	1	0.0	Schuyler	9	0.4
Cumberland	5	0.2	Lee	9	0.4	Scott	2	0.1
DeKalb	15	0.6	Livingston	13	0.6	Shelby	5	0.2
DeWitt	10	0.4	Logan	8	0.3	Stark	2	0.1
Douglas	6	0.3	McDonough	9	0.4	Stephenson	19	0.8
DuPage	44	1.9	McHenry	62	2.6	Tazewell	86	3.6
Edgar	3	0.1	McLean	32	1.4	Union	18	0.8
Edwards	1	0.0	Macon	22	0.9	Vermilion	8	0.3
Effingham	9	0.4	Macoupin	31	1.3	Wabash	1	0.0
Fayette	10	0.4	Madison	104	4.4	Warren	3	0.1
Ford	8	0.3	Marion	10	0.4	Washington	10	0.4
Franklin	26	1.1	Marshall	22	0.9	Wayne	7	0.3
Fulton	48	2.0	Mason	31	1.3	White	9	0.4
Gallatin	1	0.0	Massac	9	0.4	Whiteside	27	1.1
Greene	11	0.5	Menard	5	0.2	Will	88	3.7
Grundy	24	1.0	Mercer	9	0.4	Williamson	43	1.8
Hamilton	4	0.2	Monroe	18	0.8	Winnebago	39	1.7
Hancock	5	0.2	Montgomery	13	0.6	Woodford	28	1.2

Continued.

Appendix H. Continued.

State	*n*	%	State	*n*	%	State	*n*	%
Alabama	2	0.1	Massachusetts	1	0.0	South Carolina	2	0.1
Arkansas	2	0.1	Michigan	5	0.2	Tennessee	6	0.3
California	2	0.1	Minnesota	1	0.0	Texas	3	0.1
Colorado	1	0.0	Mississippi	1	0.0	Utah	1	0.0
Florida	6	0.3	Missouri	66	2.8	Virginia	1	0.0
Georgia	3	0.1	Nebraska	1	0.0	West Virginia	1	0.0
Indiana	50	2.1	New Hampshire	1	0.0	Wisconsin	10	0.4
Iowa	26	1.1	North Carolina	2	0.1			
Kentucky	21	0.9	Ohio	4	0.2			