*Human*Dimensions
Research Program

Illinois Natural History Survey
Prairie Research Institute
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Urbana-Champaign

2011-2012 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey: Behavior, Satisfaction, and Video-watching of Waterfowl Hunters

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2011-2012 ILLINOIS WATERFOWL HUNTER SURVEY: BEHAVIOR, SATISFACTION, AND VIDEO-WATCHING OF WATERFOWL HUNTERS

JOB COMPLETION REPORT

WILDLIFE HARVEST AND
HUMAN DIMENSIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NUMBER: W-112-R-21
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OBJECTIVE

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

ABSTRACT

A total of 2,503 (52%) Illinois waterfowl hunters responded to the 2011-2012 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. Hunters reported spending 1,147,037 days afield, an increase of 16% from the 985,075 days devoted during the 2010-2011 license year. Waterfowl harvest increased 12% from 513,882 during 2010-2011 to 577,654 during 2011-2012. Duck harvest estimates for the regular duck season were as follows: 222,405 mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), 54,294 wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*), and 150,786 other ducks. A total of 21,227 teal (*Anas spp.*) were harvested during the September teal season. Goose hunters harvested 75,061 Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*) during the regular Canada goose season, a 25% decrease from the 99,422 Canada geese harvested during the 2010-2011 regular goose season. Hunters harvested 18,790 Canada geese during the September Canada goose season, a 10% increase from the previous year. During the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Season, 6,325 adults took 8,642 youths waterfowl hunting, a 16% increase from the 7,452 youths that participated in the 2010-2011 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Season. We discuss the use of public duck permits, hunter satisfaction with the waterfowl seasons, and hunter viewing habits regarding waterfowl hunting videos.

METHODS

A random sample of 5,000 waterfowl hunters was drawn from the population of Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp purchasers from 2010-2011 license year (64,828 stamps sold). Hunters were notified on 9 September 2010 that they would receive a questionnaire at the end of the 2011-2012 hunting season. Additionally, a 1-page diary for recording their hunting activity and waterfowl harvest was included. After incomplete and duplicate addresses were removed, the sample was reduced to 4,928. On 1 February 2012, hunters were mailed an 8-page questionnaire (Appendix A), cover letter (Appendix B), and a postage-paid return envelope. We received 88 (2%) questionnaires returned as undeliverable; the sample was then reduced to 4,840. Hunters were sent a follow-up postcard (Appendix C) on 14 February 2012 thanking them for returning their questionnaire and also reminding non-respondents to return the completed questionnaire. Non-respondents were mailed a second questionnaire and a cover letter (Appendix D) on 28 February 2012, followed with a second postcard mailing on 19 March 2012. A third questionnaire and cover letter (Appendix E) were mailed to non-respondents on 6 April 2012. Estimates of number of hunters, days afield, and waterfowl harvested were computed following the procedures outlined by Anderson et al. (1998). We compared and found a significant relationship (R^2=0.95) between the zone hunters duck hunted most often during 2010-2011 to the zone in which they goose hunted most often during 2010-2011. Subsequently, harvest of 2011-2012 goose data were analyzed by the zone in which respondents indicated they duck hunted. Coded data were entered and analyzed using SPSS 19.0 (SPSS Inc. 2010). Confidence intervals are presented where appropriate.

SEASON LENGTHS AND BAG LIMITS

Illinois was granted permission from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to incorporate a fourth waterfowl zone beginning with the 2011-2012 regular waterfowl seasons. September goose and teal seasons were not affected by this change for the 2011 early seasons, but September goose will be affected starting with the 2012 season. Hunters in the northern part of the former South Zone expressed dissatisfaction with late duck seasons, and hunters in the southern part of the former South Zone expressed dissatisfaction with early duck seasons. The former South Zone, which ran from Interstate 70 south, was split into two zones. The South Central Zone encompasses Carlyle Lake and Rend Lake, and the Wabash River and southern portion of Illinois comprise the South Zone. Additionally, the eastern location of the North/Central Zone line was changed; the portion between Interstate 80 and the Wilmington-Peotone road lie in the North duck zone and the Central goose zone (Appendix F). The early (September) teal (*Anas spp.*) season length and daily bag limits remain unchanged from 2010 to 2011; hunters could hunt for 16 days and could harvest 4 teal a day. Early (September) Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*) season remain unchanged from the 2010 season; hunters could hunt for 15 days statewide and could harvest 5 geese a day, except for the South Zone where they could harvest 2 birds a day. Length and daily bag limit of the regular duck season remain unchanged (60-day/6-bird duck season) from 2010. Except for the addition of the South Central Zone, the regular Canada goose season remained unchanged (85-day/2-bird Canada goose season in North and Central zone, and a 66-day/2-bird in the South Central and South Zone).

RESULTS

Waterfowl Harvest and Days Afield

We received 2,503 (52%) questionnaires from hunters in the sample, of which 2,424 were usable surveys. Of the 2,424 usable surveys, 2,035 (84%) hunters that purchased a 2010-2011 state waterfowl stamp purchased a 2011-2012 stamp. Of these 2,035 hunters that purchased a 2011-2012 stamp, 1,549 (76%) hunters actually hunted waterfowl in Illinois during the 2011-2012 license year. The number of waterfowl hunters increased from 50,936 during the 2010-2011 season to 52,660 during the 2011-2012 season, which is a 3% increase in hunters (Table 1, Figure 1). Hunters reported spending 1,147,037 days afield in 2011-2012, an increase of 16% from the 985,075 in 2010-2011. Total waterfowl harvest increased 12% from 513,882 birds during 2010-2011 to 577,654 birds during 2011-2012. Twenty-one percent of the hunters hunted ducks only, 18% hunted geese only, and 61% hunted both ducks and geese (Table 2, Figure 2).

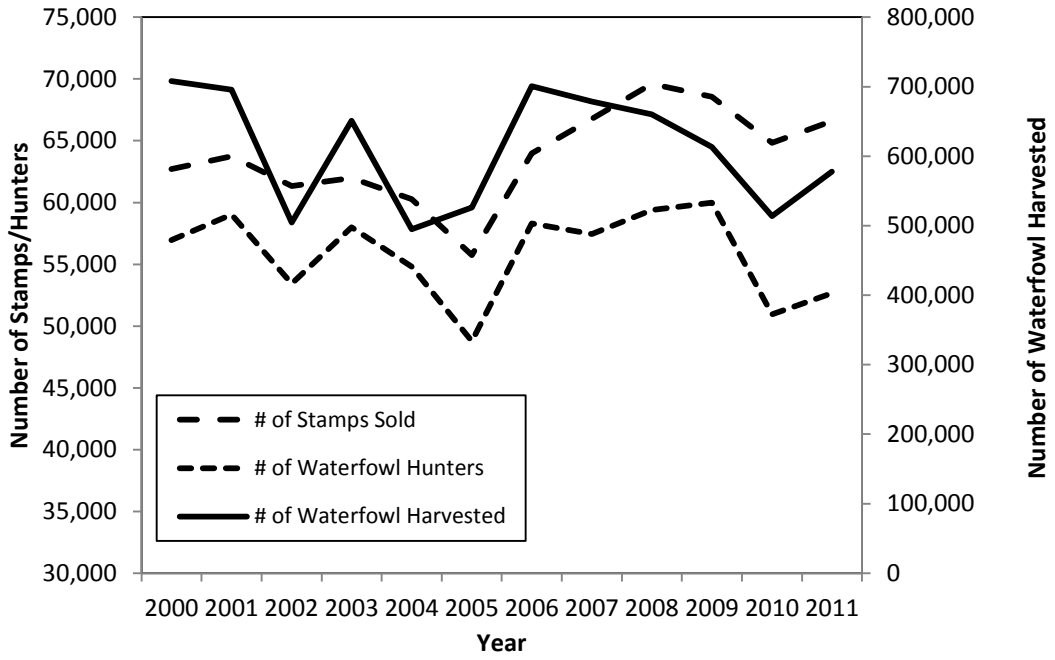


Figure 1. Stamps sold, number of hunters, and waterfowl harvested in Illinois, 2000-2011.

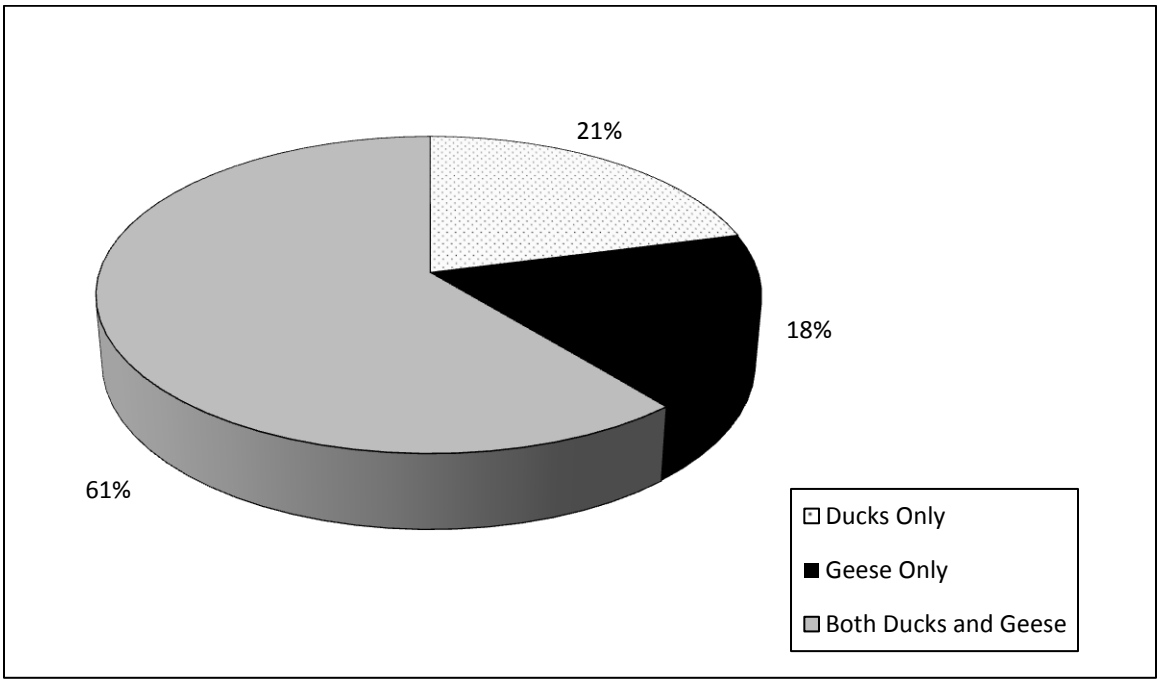


Figure 2. Percentage of hunters who hunted ducks, geese, or both during the 2011-12 Illinois waterfowl season.

September Teal Season

The number of early (September) teal hunters decreased 14% from 13,038 during 2010 to 11,221 during 2011 (Table 3, Figure 3). Days afield decreased 13% from 49,038 during 2010 to 42,811 during 2011. Despite the decline in hunters and days afield, teal hunters harvested 21,227 ± 7,993 teal in the 2011 September season, a 6% increase from the 2010 harvest. The Central Zone accounted for one-half (50%) of September teal season hunters, 53% of the days afield, and 47% of the teal harvest (Table 4). The South Zone had 28% of the teal hunters, 24% of the days afield, and 39% of the teal harvest. Statewide, September season teal hunters averaged 3.82 days afield in 2011, and they harvested an average of 0.50 teal per hunter per day and 1.90 teal per hunter per season (Table 5, Figure 4).

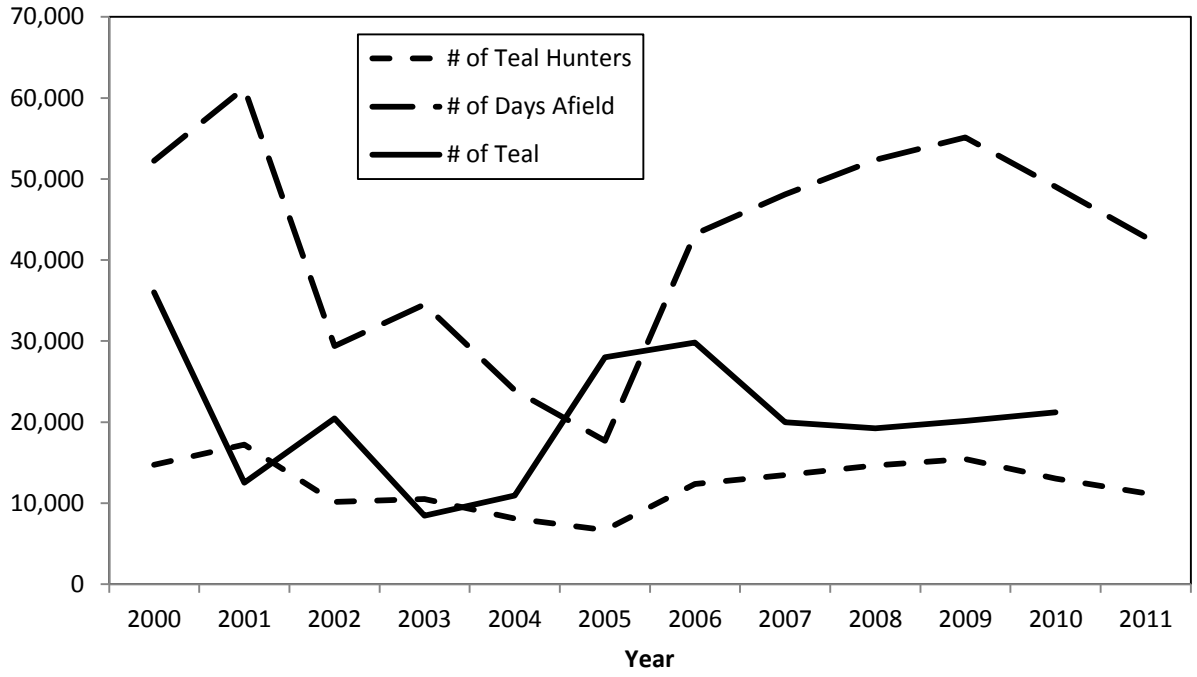


Figure 3. Teal harvest and hunter activity during the Illinois September teal season, from 2000 – 2011.

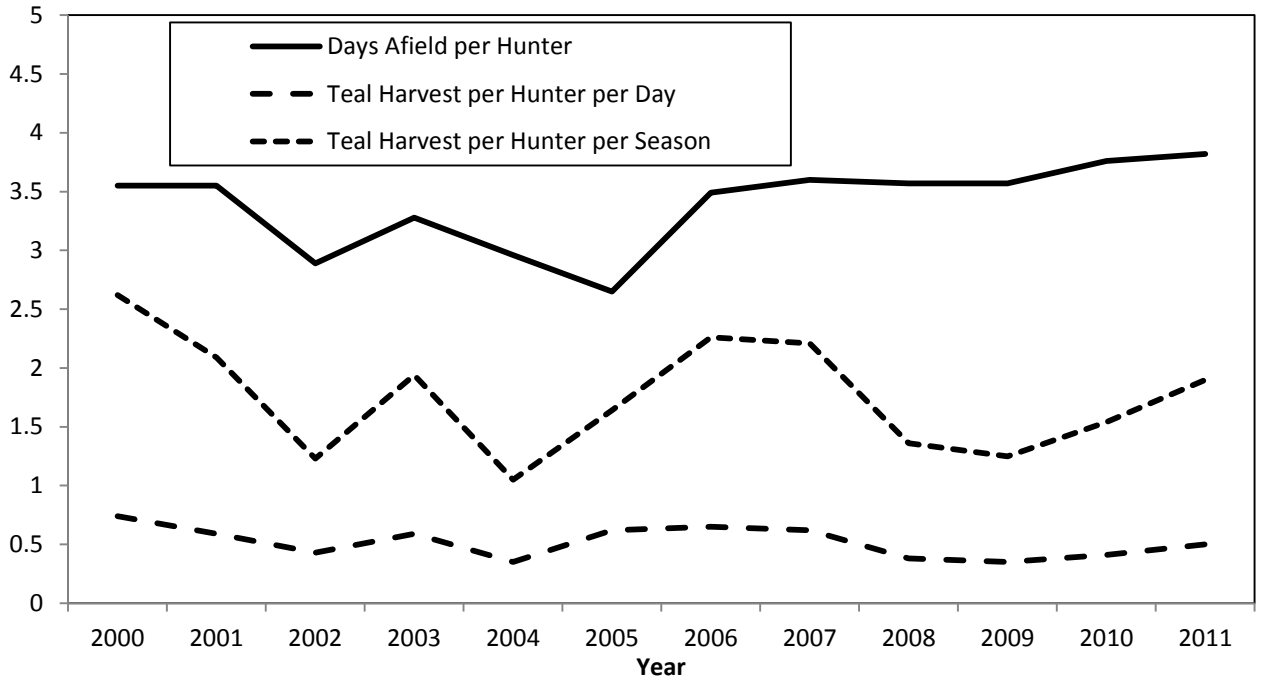


Figure 4. Rates of teal harvest and hunter activity during the Illinois September teal season, from 2000-2011.

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Season

The Youth Waterfowl Season framework remained unchanged from 2010 to 2011; youth under 16 years of age were able to hunt ducks, geese, and coots for two days before the regular duck season opened in all four zones. The number of adults and youths that participated in the 2011 youth hunt increased; the number of participating adults increased 16%, from 5,471 adults during 2010 to 6,325 adults during 2011, and the number of youths participating increased 16% from 7,452 youths during 2010 to 8,642 youths during 2011 (Table 6). The youth waterfowl harvest (ducks, geese, and coots combined) increased 11%, from 10,995 in 2010 to 12,220 in 2011.

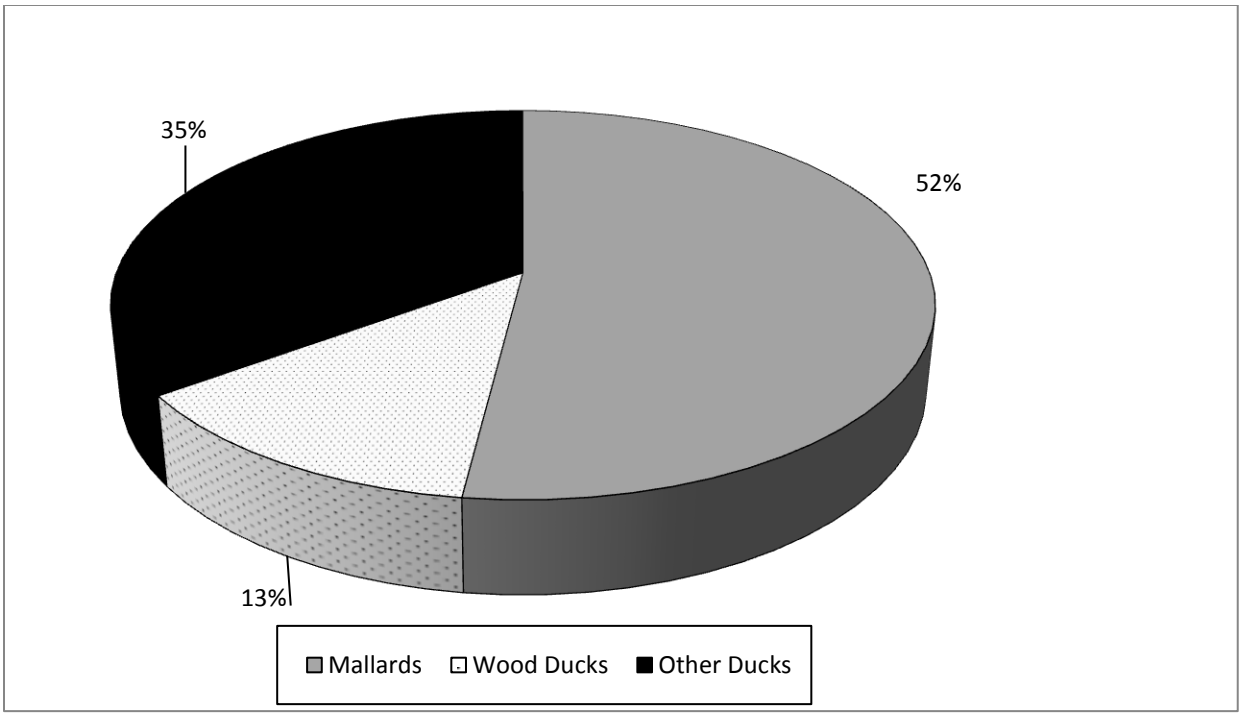
Forty-five percent of youth that participated in the 2011 youth waterfowl season had never hunted ducks or geese before. Sixty-two percent of respondents had – in the past or this year – introduced someone > 15 years of age to waterfowl hunting. Twenty-nine percent of hunters who hunted during the 2011-12 duck or goose seasons took a youth hunting during the regular season duck or goose seasons; 84% of these hunters took a youth during the regular duck season, and 59% of these hunters took a youth during the regular goose season.

Regular Duck Season

The number of duck hunters increased by 3,169 (7%) from 43,450 during the 2010-2011 season to 46,619 during the 2011-2012 season (Table 7). Duck hunters spent 632,712 days afield (M = 13.57 days) during the 2011-2012 season, an increase of 27% from the 499,758 days reported during the 2010-2011 season. Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) comprised 52% of the total regular season duck harvest, while wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) and other ducks accounted for 13% and 35%, respectively (Figure 5). These numbers do not necessarily reflect the most often harvested ducks, but are a product of how hunters are asked to provide their harvest data. Statewide mallard harvest in Illinois increased by 28,647 (15%) birds, from 193,758 during 2010-2011 to 222,405 during the 2011-2012 season (Table 7, Figure

6). Wood duck harvest increased 14,683 (37%) from 39,611 during 2010-2011 to 54,294 during 2011-2012. The harvest of other ducks increased 29,411 (24%), from 121,375 during 2010-2011 to 150,786 during 2011-2012. Total duck harvest during 2011-2012 was 427,484, which was 21% greater than the 354,859 ducks reported for 2010-2011. The statewide coot (*Fulica americana*) harvest increased 145% from 1,770 in 2010-2011 to 4,327 in 2011-2012. The 2011-2012 duck harvest is presented by waterfowl zones in Table 8. Across the four waterfowl zones, the greatest number of hunters, days afield, and ducks harvested occurred in the Central Zone. South Central Zone hunters had the highest days afield per hunter (15.58 days) and ducks harvested per hunter per season (12.73 ducks), but South Zone hunters harvested slightly more ducks per day (0.83 ducks, Table 8). Statewide, the duck harvest per hunter per day decreased from 0.71 in 2010-2011 to 0.68 in 2011-2012, and duck harvest per hunter per season increased from 8.17 in 2010-2011 to 9.17 in 2011-2012 (Table 9).

Of duck hunters who reported hunting ≥ 1 day, 29% hunted less than 5 days (Figure 7), and 15% of duck hunters reported not harvesting any ducks. A small percentage of hunters (7%) harvested more than 30 ducks (Table 10), and 67% of hunters used a spinning-wing decoy (SWD) during the 2011-12 duck seasons.



[a] Proportions are by mallard, wood duck, and other ducks due to how hunters are asked to report their harvest. This order (mallard, wood duck, other ducks) is not necessarily the order of the most often harvested ducks in Illinois.

Figure 5. Proportion of Mallards, Wood Ducks, and Other Ducks harvested during the 2011-2012 regular duck season[a].

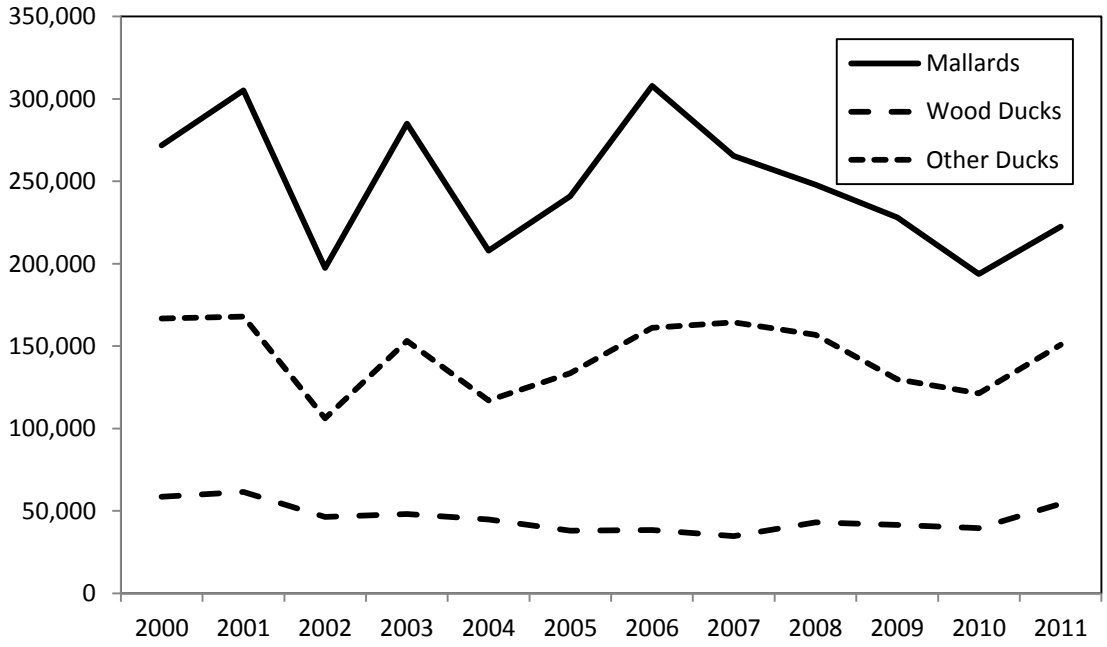


Figure 6. Illinois regular season duck harvest, 2000 – 2011.

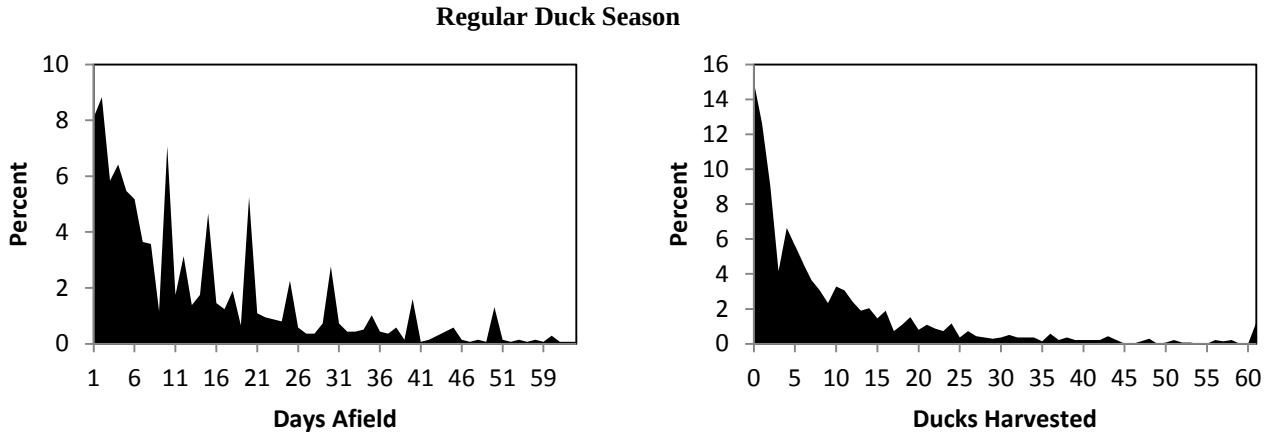


Figure 7. Distribution of days afield per hunter and ducks harvested per hunter for Illinois' 2011-2012 regular duck season.

Early September Goose Season

An estimated 14,214 hunters participated in the early (September) Canada goose season in Illinois during the 2011 season (Table 11), which was a 29% increase from the number of hunters that participated in the 2010 season. The majority (56%) of these hunters were active in the Central Zone. Hunters, regardless of the zone they hunted, collectively harvested 18,790 geese during the early season, with 10,874 (58%) being harvested in the Central Zone (Figure 8). The number of days afield in 2011 increased 26% from 39,019 in 2010 to 49,306 in 2011, and the harvest of geese increased 10% from 17,115 in 2010 to 18,790 in 2011 (Figure 9).

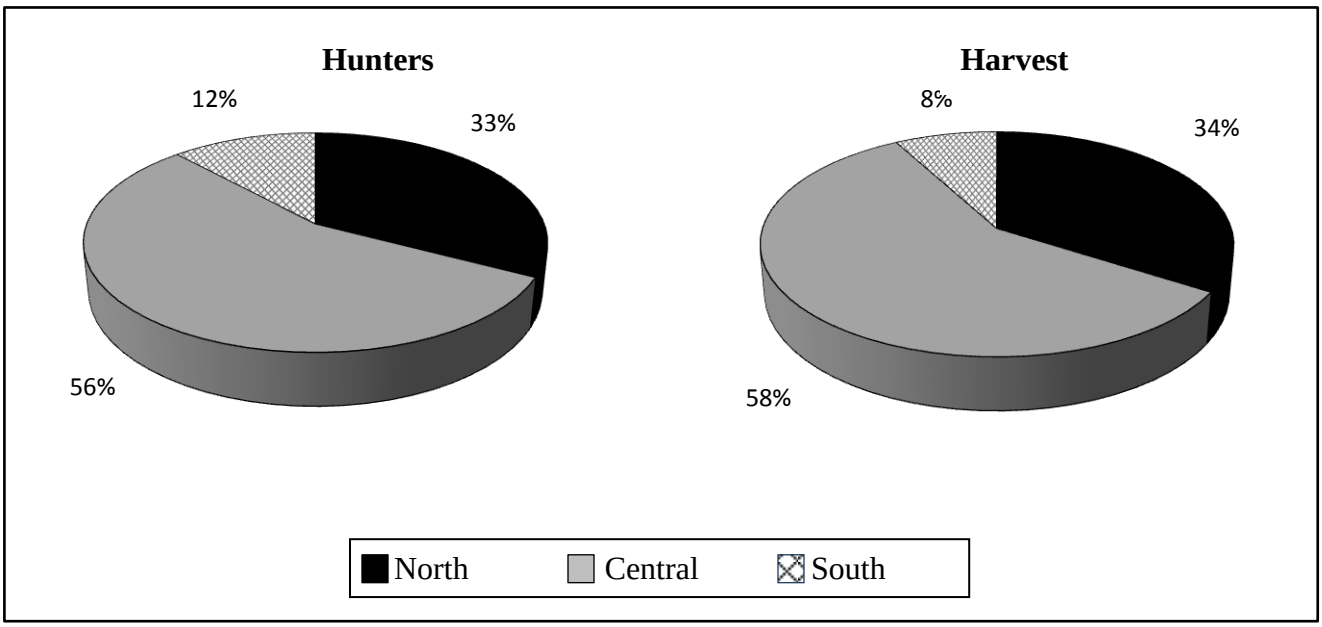


Figure 8. Early September Canada goose harvest and hunter activity by zone in Illinois during 2011.

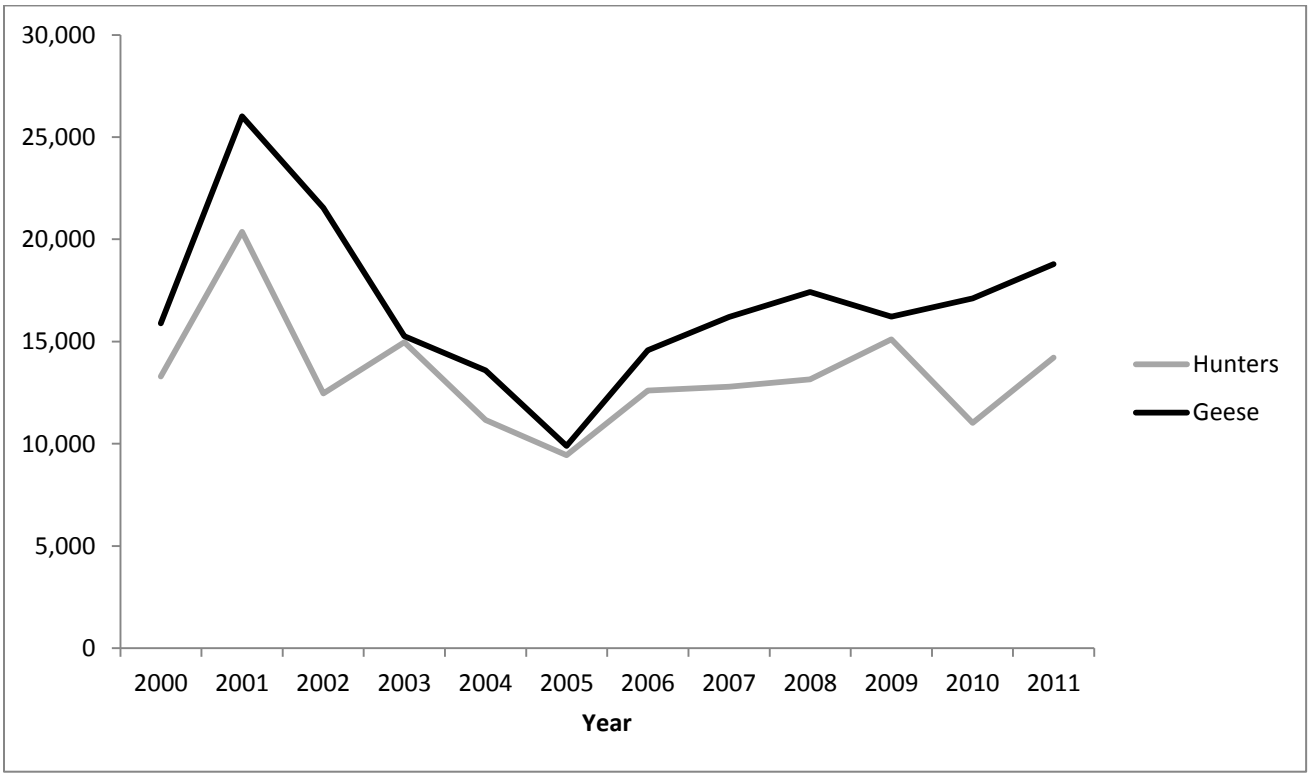


Figure 9. Early September Canada goose harvest and hunter activity, 2000-2011.

Regular Canada Goose Season

Canada goose harvest during the 2011-2012 regular goose season decreased 25% from 2010-2011 (Table 12, Figure 10). An estimated 36,996 hunters spent 411,380 days afield and harvested 75,061 Canada geese during 2011-2012. Number of goose hunters in Illinois increased slightly (1%) from 2010-2011, and number of days afield during regular Canada goose season increased 7%. These hunters also harvested 19,862 other geese (of which 12,304 were snow/blue geese, *Chen caerulescens*), for a total combined harvest of 94,923 geese (Figure 11). Goose hunters hunted an average of 11 days for geese; mean harvest of geese was 2.57 geese per hunter per season and 86% of goose hunters harvested ≤ 5 geese (Table 13, Figure 12).

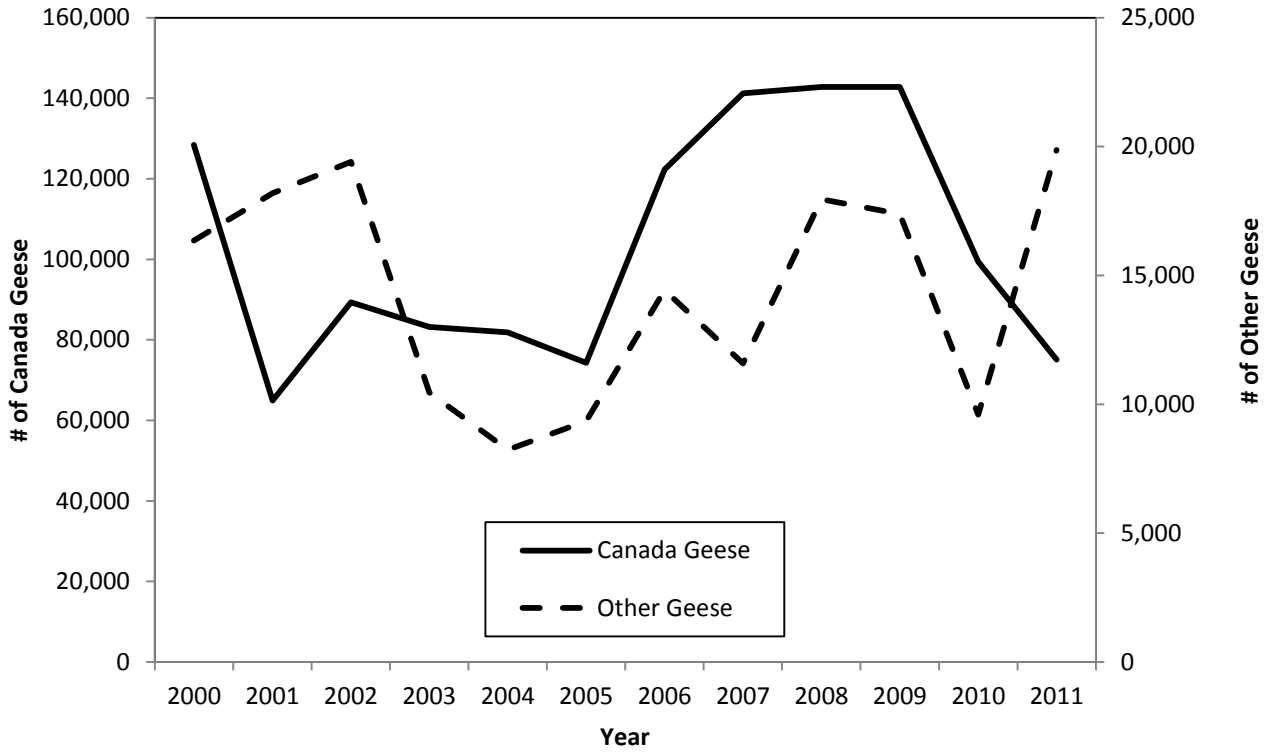


Figure 10. Goose harvest during Illinois' regular goose season from 2000-2011.

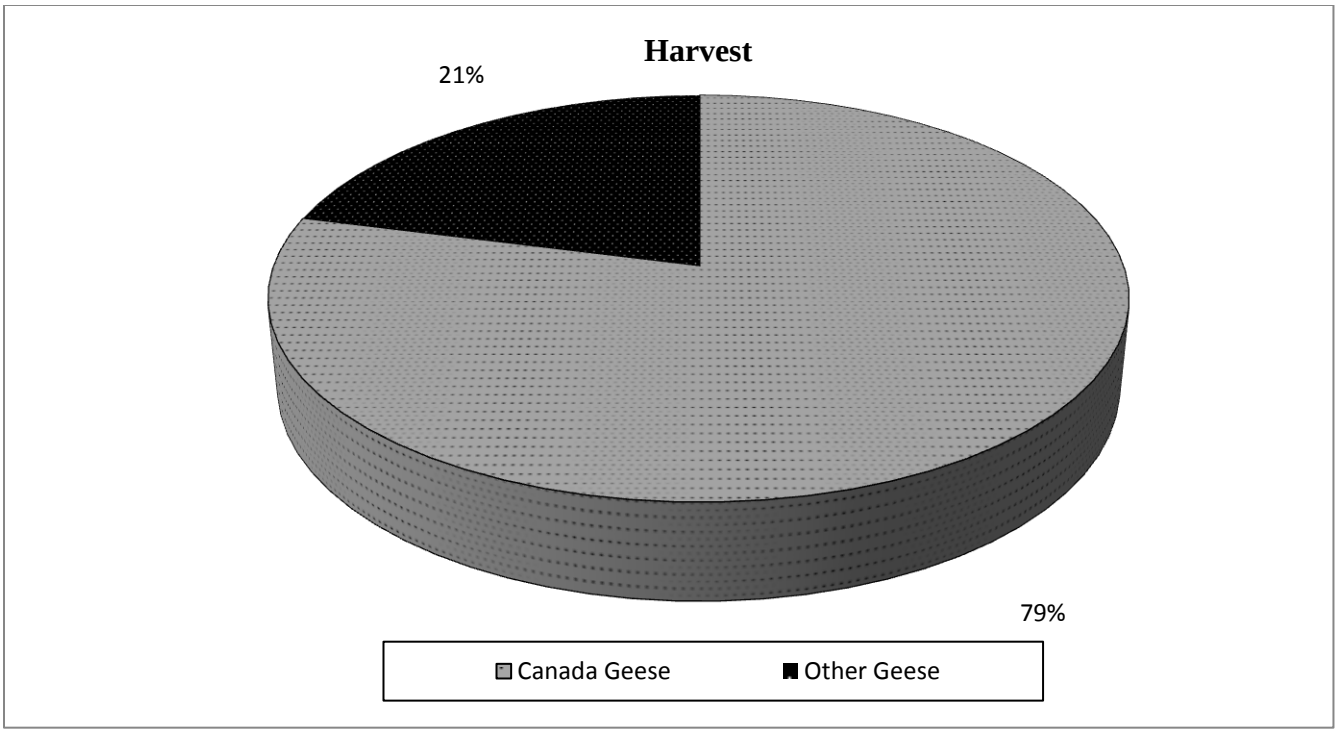


Figure 11. 2011-2012 Illinois' regular Canada goose season harvest.

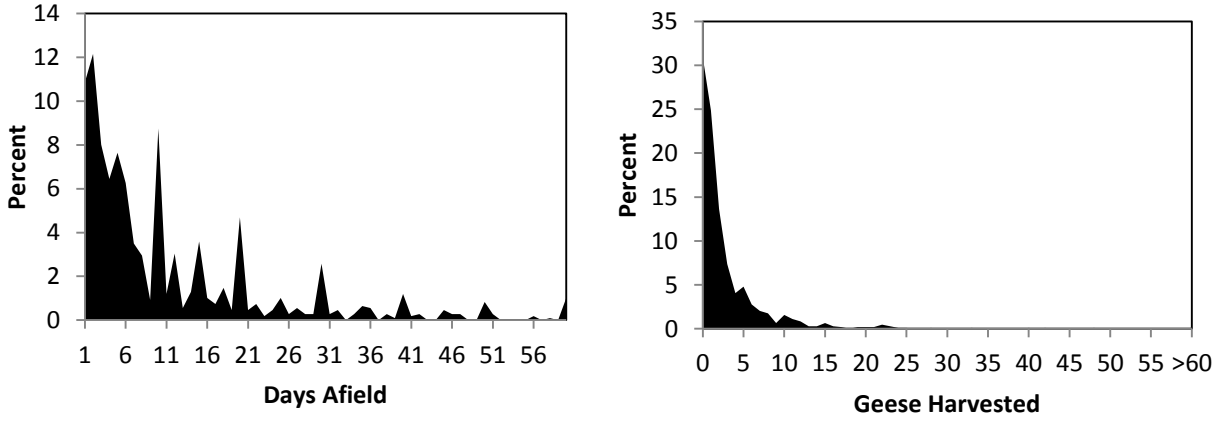


Figure 12. Distribution of days afield per hunter and geese harvested per hunter for Illinois' 2011-2012 regular goose season.

The Central Zone led the state in the number of goose hunters (45%, Table 14), days afield (49%), and both Canada goose (50%) and total goose harvest (47%). Harvest of Canada geese is summarized by zone and year (2009-2010 through 2011-2012) in Table 15.

Crippling Losses

Crippling losses (birds downed but not retrieved) were estimated at 64,268 ducks and 6,937 geese in Illinois during the 2011-2012 season (Table 16). These estimates, which are considered to be indices because they contain information about the relative number and are not actual numbers or abundance estimates, equate to 15.0 ducks and 7.3 geese lost per 100 harvested.

Waterfowl Hunting Effort and Public Duck Permits

Sixty percent of respondents indicated they hunt waterfowl every year in Illinois. The 40% of hunters who do not hunt every year in Illinois is similar to the proportion of hunters who did not buy a stamp this year (16%) and who bought a stamp but did not hunt waterfowl this year (24%). The importance of these results is that ~40% of the waterfowl hunters may be "churn" hunters, hunters who do not hunt waterfowl every year in Illinois.

Of the hunters who did not hunt waterfowl this past year, 25% indicated that they do not waterfowl hunt in Illinois every year, 22% did not have enough time, and 22% indicated birds were not available when they could hunt. Fifty-one percent of respondents prefer to hunt ducks and geese equally, followed by 34% preferring to hunt ducks.

Illinois has many public hunting opportunities for waterfowl hunting. One opportunity is to apply for duck permits before the season for various locations. Before the 2011-12 duck seasons began, 8% of hunters applied for these preseason duck permits. Hunters who applied for duck permits hunted more days for ducks (M = 12.66 days) than hunters who did not apply (M = 8.93 days) for duck permits. The majority (76%) had applied for these permits in a previous year, and 86% of hunters that applied for permits received a permit. The majority of hunters who received duck permits received one (55%) or two (23%) permits (Figure 13). Sixty-eight percent of hunters who received their permits used all (50%) or some (18%) of their permits; the remaining 32% of hunters who received and did not use their

permits indicated there were not enough ducks (51%), couldn't hunt the dates selected (26%), too far from home (13%), and/or they had nobody to hunt with (13%).

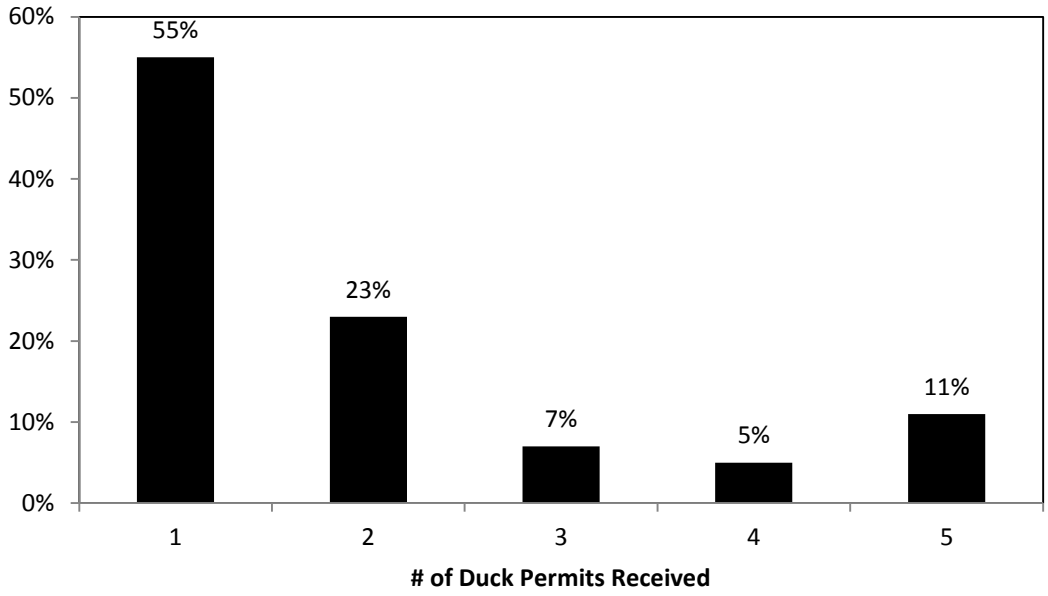


Figure 13. Distribution of the number of duck permits received by hunters before the 2011-12 Illinois duck season.

Satisfaction with 2011-2012 Duck and Goose Seasons

As a condition of implementing a four-zone structure, Illinois was required to collect information on hunter satisfaction in areas of the state impacted by the change. The former South Zone was divided into two zones with a goal of providing preferred season dates to the majority of hunters in the South Central and South Zone. Even though South Central Zone hunters harvested the most ducks per hunter per season (M = 12.73, Table 8), these hunters were less satisfied with every aspect of the season except the amount of time they spent duck hunting (Table 17). South Central Zone goose hunters harvested the most geese per hunter per season (M = 3.23, Table 14), but South Central Zone goose hunters were most dissatisfied with the number of geese they harvested (Table 18). South Zone goose hunters were more dissatisfied than hunters in other zones with all other aspects of the goose season (Table 18). Hunters who were dissatisfied with the number of waterfowl they saw while hunting indicated that the primary

reason they were dissatisfied was due to the warm weather/no snow up north for both duck hunters (90%) and goose hunters (93%), which is not manageable by wildlife biologists (Table 19).

Waterfowl Hunting Videos

Numerous waterfowl hunters have perceived a market segment for the production of waterfowl hunting videos. Consequently, who is watching these videos, what these videos convey to the viewers, and whether these videos have any effects on the hunters watching them is currently unknown. Specifically, anecdotal evidence suggested younger hunters are watching these videos and watching them frequently, and observational data suggested younger hunters are more interested in obtaining waterfowl bands than older hunters. Therefore, we hypothesized that hunters who watch videos will 1) prefer a banded bird as their first choice over three other bag types (i.e., ranked 1 out of 4), and 2) rank a banded bird higher than a 4.

Fifty-two percent of waterfowl hunters in Illinois indicated that they watched waterfowl hunting videos. Age influenced whether hunters watched videos (Figure 14, Table 20) and how often they watched them (Table 21); younger hunters were more likely to have watched waterfowl hunting videos and they watched them more frequently than older hunters who watched them. The majority of hunters watched the videos to learn new hunting techniques (32%) or to be entertained (29%). Hunters were asked which of the following videos they've seen: The Truth Incoming, Fallin' Skies, Fowl Pursuit, Fred Zink videos, Duckmen, and Other. Eighty percent of hunters had watched Duckmen, and 42% of hunters had watched Fallin' Skies; 63% of hunters indicated that Duckmen was their favorite video. Forty-six percent of hunters who watched videos believed that some of their hunting partners also watched videos, and 33% believed that all of them watched the videos. This is dramatically different than the hunters who do not watch waterfowl hunting videos; 25% of hunters who do not watch videos indicated their hunting partners also do not watch the videos and 44% were not sure (Table 22).

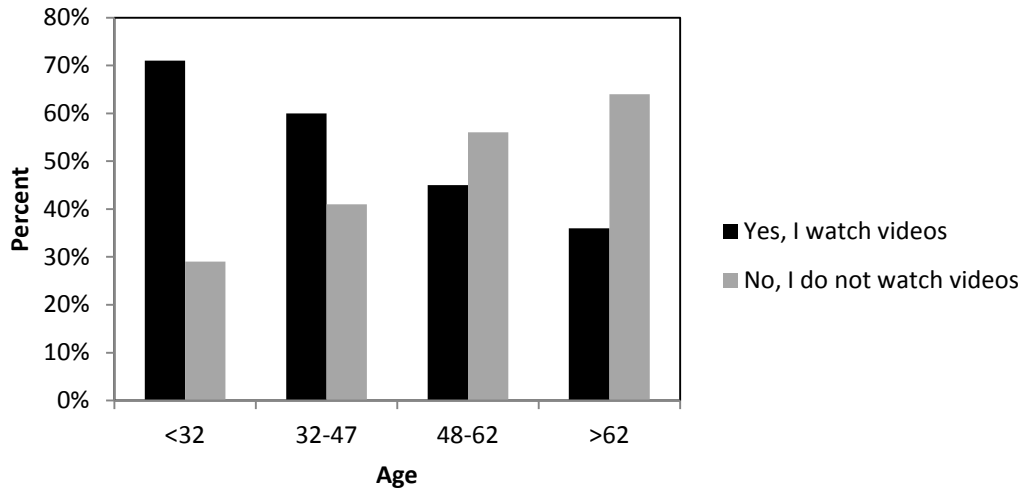


Figure 14. The influence of age on whether Illinois waterfowl hunters watched waterfowl hunting videos.

Hunters in Illinois indicated they preferred a 6-bird limit of a mixed bag (39%) of ducks or 4 mallards (drakes and hens) and 2 other ducks (29%, Table 23). Waterfowl hunting videos influenced hunters' preferences for a banded bird; 45% of hunters who watched videos ranked a banded bird either 1-3, whereas only 29% of hunters who did not watch videos did the same. Hunters who ranked a banded bird higher than a 4 were younger and had also been hunting waterfowl for fewer years.

Hunter Characteristics

Respondents who hunted waterfowl during the 2011-2012 year have hunted waterfowl for an average of 23 years, hunted waterfowl in Illinois for an average of 21 years, and were 46 years of age. Duck hunters (hunters who hunted ducks more days than geese in 2011-2012) hunted on private land owned by someone else most often (39%), state land/water (36%), and private land owned by themselves (12%). Goose hunters (hunters who hunted geese more days than ducks) hunted on private land owned by someone else most often (65%), private land under a lease (13%), and private land owned by themselves (12%). Only 9% of these goose hunters hunted state land/water most often for geese in Illinois. Forty-three percent of the respondents hunted doves during the 2011 dove season.

Hunters were asked whether adults should be able to hunt Canada geese if hunting with a youth during the youth waterfowl hunting days; 51% of hunters who took a youth hunting during the 2011 youth waterfowl hunting days supported adults hunting Canada geese during youth waterfowl hunting days. Due to discussions about liberalizing the Canada goose season in Illinois, hunters were asked whether they prefer the current season length and bag limit or a longer goose season with a higher bag limit. Hunters in all 4 zones indicated they want to retain the current season length and bag limit, and not risk having fewer geese available in 3-5 years (Table 24). Hunters and non-hunters were asked questions about waterfowl hunting, and these results can be located in Table 25.

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Table 1. Summary of Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps purchased, hunter activity, and waterfowl harvest in Illinois from 1990 through 2011 hunting seasons.

Season[a] (Year)	Stamps Purchased	Estimated Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Waterfowl Harvested [b]
1990 [c]	55,009 (2,390)[d]	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
2009	68,549	59,987	1,222,980	613,335
2010	64,828	50,936	985,075	513,882
2011	66,581	52,660	1,147,037	577,654

[a]1981-1989 information can be located in Alessi et al. (2011).
[b]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.
[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.
[d] Stamps purchased for commercial art purposes. These stamps were not included in the numbers to the left.

Table 2. The percentage of waterfowl hunters who hunted exclusively ducks, exclusively geese, or both ducks and geese in Illinois from 1990 through 2011 seasons.

Season[a] (Year)	Hunted Ducks Only	Hunted Geese Only	Hunted Both Ducks and Geese	Duck Hunters	Goose Hunters
1990	26.7%	29.7%	43.6%	70.3%	73.3%
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%	89.4%[b]	74.1%[b]
2009	27.5%	8.4%	64.1%	91.6%[b]	72.5%[b]
2010	25.0%	13.1%	61.9%	86.9%[b]	75.0%[b]
2011	20.7%	18.3%	61.0%	81.7%	79.3%

[a]1981-1989 information can be located in Alessi et al. (2011).
[b] 2008-2010 numbers changed to reflect responses in the sample

Table 3. Summary of Teal harvest and hunter activity during September Teal season (Illinois, 1990-2011).

Season[a] (Year)	Estimated Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Teal Harvest
1990 [b]	------	------	------
1991 [b]	------	------	------
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
2009	15,436	55,139	19,222[c]
2010	13,038	49,038	20,127[c]
2011	11,221	42,811	21,227[c]

[a]1981-1989 information can be located in Alessi et al. (2011).
[b]The September Teal season was suspended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during these years.
[c]The 95% confidence intervals are: 2009 = $\pm$ 7,372, 2010 = $\pm$ 9,322, and 2011= $\pm$ 7,993.

Table 4. Teal harvest and hunter activity by zones during September Teal season (Illinois, 2011).

	n	Estimated Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Teal Harvested
North Zone	66	2,244	8,705	2,828
Central Zone	164	5,577	22,783	9,983
South Zone	91	3,094	10,371	8,296
Unknown	9	306	952	120
Statewide	330	11,221	42,811	21,227

Table 5. Rates of Teal harvest and hunter activity during September Teal season (Illinois, 1990-2011).

Season[a] (Year)	Season Length/ Bag Limit	Days Hunted Per Hunter	Teal Harvest Per Hunter	
			Per Day	Per Season
1990[b]	----	----	----	----
1991[b]	----	----	----	----
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
2009	16/4	3.57	0.35	1.25
2010	16/4	3.76	0.41	1.54
2011	16/4	3.82	0.50	1.90

[a]1981-1989 information can be located in Alessi et al. (2011).
[b]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 Days, 2000 -2011.

Season[a] (Year)	Adult Participation	Youth Participation	Days Hunting	Mean Youths/ Hunting Party
2000[b]	6,815	10,107	14,079	1.48
2001[b]	9,140	15,148	22,525	1.67
2002[b]	8,498	13,325	19,548	1.57
2003[b]	7,415	11,419	17,985	1.54
2004[b]	5,603	7,891	12,997	1.41
2005[b]	4,540	6,489	10,268	1.58
2006[b]	5,447	8,024	11,903	1.48
2007[b]	6,259	8,981	14,356	1.60
2008[b]	6,402	9,878	14,799	1.50
2009[b]	7,073	9,772	15,922	1.63
2010[b]	5,471	7,452	11,828	1.59
2011[b]	6,325	8,642	14,059	1.63

Year	Total Ducks	Ducks/ Youth/Day	Total Coots	Coots/ Youth/ Day	Total Geese	Geese/ Youth/ Day
2000 [b]	8,388	0.60	38	<0.01	882	0.06
2001 [b]	11,727	0.52	480	0.02	971	0.04
2002 [b]	9,085	0.46	271	0.01	887	0.05
2003[b]	9,184	0.51	178	0.01	1,116	0.06
2004 [b]	7,477	0.58	48	<0.01	561	0.04
2005 [b]	5,644	0.55	583	0.06	965	0.09
2006 [b]	9,863	0.83	133	0.01	732	0.06
2007[b]	9,141	0.64	850	0.06	1,701	0.12
2008[b]	10,380	0.70	241	0.02	1,466	0.10
2009[b]	11,229	0.71	599	0.04	2,396	0.15
2010[b]	9,156	0.77	419	0.04	1,420	0.12
2011[b]	9,569	0.68	1,333	0.09	1,318	0.09

[a]1981-1989 information can be located in Alessi et al. (2011).
[b] Two day season.

Table 7. Summary of duck and coot harvest and hunter activity during the regular duck season (Illinois 1990-2011).

Season[a] (Year)	Hunters	Days Afield	Number of Ducks				Coots
			Mallards	Wood Ducks	Other Ducks	Total	
1990[b]	38,759	350,119	112,370	33,253	51,562	197,185	2,287
1991[b]	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[c]	246,944	3,880
1995	42,499	482,620	230,505	47,155	99,632[c]	377,292	3,386
1996	44,219	460,517	163,311	38,783	82,431[c]	284,525	3,286
1997	42,587	514,934	145,533	44,678	100,950[c]	291,161	3,935
1998	41,755	517,372	200,030	57,393	129,439[c]	386,862	2,920
1999	51,850	860,368	311,325	69,930	181,650[c]	562,905	3,654
2000	43,810	621,542	271,903	58,604	166,834[c]	497,341	2,206
2001	53,194	797,884	305,180	61,515	167,883[c]	534,578	2,904
2002	47,964	642,542	197,392	46,238	106,213[c]	349,843	1,743
2003	50,658	738,914	285,011	48,023	153,165[c]	486,199	1,693
2004	49,046	652,960	207,982	44,725	116,951[c]	369,658	1,607
2005	43,185	539,672	240,897	37,942	133,509[c]	412,348	2,186
2006	50,437	658,881	308,000	38,366	161,098[c]	507,464	3,065
2007	49,114	600,614	265,369	34,628	164,369[c]	464,366	3,771
2008	50,683	600,574	247,895	43,051	156,849	447,795	2,266
2009	49,648	626,832	228,211	41,549	129,795	399,555[d]	3,904[e]
2010	43,450	499,758	193,758	39,611	121,375	354,859[d]	1,770[e]
2011	46,619	632,712	222,405	54,294	150,786	427,484[d]	4,327[e]

[a]1981-1989 information can be located in Alessi et al. (2011).
[b]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.
[c]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.
[d] The 95% confidence intervals are: 2009 = ± 69,698, 2010 = 60,571, and 2011 = 66,551
[e] The 95% confidence intervals are: 2009 = ± 3,342, 2010 = 2,435, and 2011 = 2,663

Table 8. Duck harvest and hunter activity by waterfowl zones and selected areas during the regular duck season (Illinois 2011-2012).

Zone	*n*	Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Ducks Harvested	Days Hunted per Hunter	Ducks per Hunter per Day	Ducks per Hunter per Season
North	325	11,051	132,004	66,798	11.95	0.51	6.04
Central	633	21,525	306,274	205,659	14.23	0.67	9.55
South Central	217	7,379	114,968	93,954	15.58	0.82	12.73
South	161	5,475	65,186	53,885	11.91	0.83	9.84
Unknown	35	1,190	14,282	7,189	12.00	0.50	6.04
Statewide	1,371	46,619	632,712	427,484	13.57	0.68	9.17

Table 9. Rates of duck harvest and hunter activity during the regular duck season (Illinois 1990- 2011).

Season[a] (Year)	Season Length/ Bag Limit	Days Afield Per Hunter	Duck Harvest Per Hunter[b]	
			Per Day	Per Season
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
2009	60/6(4,2)	12.63	0.64	8.05
2010	60/6(4,2)	11.50	0.71	8.17
2011	60/6(4,2)	13.57	0.68	9.17

[a]1981-1989 information can be located in Alessi et al. (2011).
[b] Excludes ducks harvested coincidentally while goose hunting.

Table 10. Distribution of the number of days afield and number of ducks harvested in 2011-2012. Number of ducks harvested was calculated by taking responses and applying the correction factor (Anderson et al. 1986).

	Days Hunting Ducks[a]	Number of Ducks Harvested
0	--%	15%
1-5	35	38
6-10	21	17
11-15	13	11
16-20	11	6
21-25	6	4
26-30	5	2
>30	11	7

[a] Total is greater than 100 due to rounding

Table 11. Canada goose harvest and hunter activity during the early September Canada goose season (Illinois 2000 -2011).

	Year	Waterfowl Zone				
		Statewide	North	Central	South	Unknown
Hunters	2000	13,289	5,410	6,908	971	0
	2001	20,359	7,318	10,807	2,085	149
	2002	12,459	4,517	6,665	1,135	142
	2003	14,973	5,532	7,761	1,348	332
	2004	11,170	4,250	6,220	984	0
	2005	9,448	3,949	5,034	1,085	0
	2006	12,609	4,848	6,607	1,154	0
	2007	12,788	4,723	6,413	1,652	0
	2008	13,157	4,934	6,690	1,533	0
	2009	15,102	5,232	8,089	1,781	0
	2010	11,015	3,918	5,813	1,285	0
	2011	14,214	4,625	7,889	1,700	0
Days Afield	2000	47,831	17,396	27,078	3,357	0
	2001	73,587	26,359	40,208	6,318	702
	2002	39,485	14,303	21,049	4,092	41
	2003	51,083	18,799	26,532	5,422	330
	2004	37,941	14,279	19,670	2,592	0
	2005	29,143	12,184	14,352	2,607	0
	2006	42,444	16,735	22,621	3,088	0
	2007	41,549	14,169	22,080	5,300	0
	2008	45,637	17,305	23,174	5,158	0
	2009	51,318	19,591	26,048	5,678	0
	2010	39,019	15,929	19,236	3,854	0
	2011	49,306	16,832	27,441	5,033	0
Canada Geese	2000	15,897	6,191	8,774	932	0
	2001	26,021	10,979	13,170	1,580	290
	2002	21,534	8,971	11,130	1,433	0
	2003	15,267	5,907	7,103	2,221	36
	2004	13,587	6,319	5,915	767	0
	2005	9,896	4,862	4,047	987	0
	2006	14,578	6,771	6,717	1,090	0
	2007	16,207	6,057	8,645	1,505	0
	2008	17,419	7,343	8,951	1,125	0
	2009	16,212	6,101	8,336	1,774	0
	2010	17,115	7,967	7,859	1,289	0
	2011	18,790	6,339	10,874	1,577	0

Table 12. Summary of goose harvest and hunter activity during the regular goose season (Illinois 1990-1991 through 2011-2012).

Season[a] (Year)	Hunters	Days Afield	Number of Geese		
			Canada Geese	Other Geese	Total
1990[b]	40,459	346,036	67,127 (1,515[c])	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 [d] (342)	93,665 [d] (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 (590)
2009	44,601	473,769	142,836 (585)	17,382 (355)	160,218[e] (940)
2010	36,803	385,432	99,422 (534)	9,594 (46)	109,016[e] (580)
2011	36,996	411,380	75,061(618)	19,862 (33)	94,923[e] (651)

[a]1981-1989 information can be located in Alessi et al. (2011).
[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 (Anderson and Williamson 1994).
[c]Number of geese harvested while duck hunting.
[d]Reduced by 23,151 from estimate given in 2002 report to exclude Conservation Order snow goose harvest.
[e]The 95% confidence intervals are : 2009 = $\pm$ 36,569, 2010 = $\pm$ 22,523, and 2011= 22,387.

Table 13. Distribution of the number of days afield and number of geese harvested. Number of geese harvested was calculated by taking responses and applying the correction factor (Anderson et al. 1996).

	Days Hunting Geese[a]	Number of Geese Harvested[a]
0	--%	31%
1-5	45	55
6-10	22	9
11-15	11	3
16-20	8	1
21-25	3	1
26-30	2	1
>30	10	1

[a] Total is greater than 100 due to rounding

Table 14. Goose harvest and hunter activity by zones, regular season (Illinois 2011-2012).

			Estimated Goose Harvest						
Zone	Hunters	Days Afield	Canada Geese	White-Fronted Geese	Snow/Blue Geese	Total Geese	Days Hunted per Hunter	Geese per Hunter per Day	Geese per Hunter per Season
North	9,895	116,294	25,925	49	49	26,023	11.75	0.22	2.63
Central	16,594	200,590	37,677	2,714	3,722	44,113	12.09	0.22	2.66
South Central	4,727	51,414	5,933	3,690	5,640	15,263	10.88	0.30	3.23
South	3,026	24,245	2,503	1,040	2,731	6,274	8.01	0.26	2.07
Unknown	2,754	18,838	3,023	65	163	3,251	6.84	0.17	1.18
Statewide	36,996	411,380	75,061	7,558	12,304	94,923	11.12	0.23	2.57

Table 15. Canada goose harvest by zone during the regular goose season (Illinois 2009-2010 through 2011-2012).

Zone	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	3-Year Mean	S.D.
North	34,818	29,472	25,925	30,072	4,477
Central	73,750	48,306	37,677	53,244	18,537
South Central	----	----	5,933	---	---
South	33,913[a]	19,433[a]	2,503	18,616	15,721
Unknown	355	2,210	3,023	1,863	1,367
Statewide	142,836	99,422	75,061	105,773	34,331

[a] 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 South Zone harvest includes South Central Zone harvest.

Table 16. Summary of the number of ducks and geese crippled (Illinois 1990 - 2011 seasons).

Season [a] (Year)	Estimated Ducks		Estimated Geese	
	Total	Per 100 Bagged	Total	Per 100 Bagged
1990 [b]	59,007	29.9	23,895	34.9
1991 [b]	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
2009	67,718	16.9	12,245	7.6
2010	57,388	16.2	9,217	8.5
2011	64,268	15.0	6,937	7.3

[a] 1981-1989 information can be located in Alessi et al. (2011).

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

Table 17. Illinois duck hunters' (≥ 1 day hunting ducks) levels of satisfaction with various aspects of the 2011-2012 duck seasons.

	Zone	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Unsure	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	$\bar{x}$
# of Ducks you saw	North Zone	20%	32%	11%	29%	8%	2.74[a]
	Central Zone	24	37	9	25	5	2.50
	South Central Zone	31	39	9	18	3	2.23
	South Zone	19	35	8	33	5	2.70
Mid-season matched peak of migration	North Zone	27	37	20	12	4	2.30
	Central Zone	29	36	20	13	3	2.24
	South Central Zone	39	29	18	13	1	2.07
	South Zone	29	31	25	12	3	2.29
Amount of shooting you got in	North Zone	25	38	8	23	6	2.46
	Central Zone	28	38	10	21	4	2.36
	South Central Zone	25	40	13	19	3	2.34
	South Zone	19	38	11	29	4	2.61
# of ducks that migrated through areas you hunted	North Zone	25	33	17	19	6	2.48
	Central Zone	27	33	20	17	3	2.37
	South Central Zone	31	38	15	14	2	2.17
	South Zone	23	32	19	22	4	2.52
Amount of time you spent duck hunting	North Zone	11	30	10	36	13	3.10
	Central Zone	13	31	13	36	7	2.94
	South Central Zone	16	23	15	40	7	2.99
	South Zone	10	33	15	39	3	2.92
Conflicts with other hunters for duck hunting spots	North Zone	9	13	19	36	23	3.52
	Central Zone	7	10	25	42	16	3.51
	South Central Zone	7	14	20	44	16	3.46
	South Zone	7	12	21	43	17	3.52
# of ducks you harvested	North Zone	32	35	7	22	3	2.29
	Central Zone	31	36	8	21	3	2.30
	South Central Zone	35	31	8	23	3	2.28
	South Zone	24	37	6	30	3	2.52

[a]1= Very Dissatisfied, 5= Very Satisfied

Table 18. Illinois goose hunters' (≥ 1 day hunting geese) levels of satisfaction with various aspects of the 2011-2012 goose seasons.

		Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Unsure	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	$\bar{x}$
# of geese you saw	North Zone	10%	28%	6%	39%	17%	3.25[a]
	Central Zone	31	34	7	22	5	2.36
	South Central Zone	57	30	4	6	2	1.65
	South Zone	64	26	4	6	1	1.55
Mid-season matched peak of migration	North Zone	17	34	15	24	10	2.74
	Central Zone	37	35	16	11	1	2.04
	South Central Zone	62	21	11	5	1	1.61
	South Zone	65	19	11	2	2	1.58
Amount of shooting you got in	North Zone	26	42	8	17	6	2.35
	Central Zone	43	35	7	14	2	1.97
	South Central Zone	65	24	4	7	0	1.53
	South Zone	66	26	2	5	1	1.49
# of geese that migrated through areas you hunted	North Zone	18	31	15	26	10	2.78
	Central Zone	37	30	13	17	4	2.21
	South Central Zone	63	23	8	6	1	1.59
	South Zone	69	25	5	--	1	1.39
Amount of time you spent goose hunting	North Zone	11	31	14	35	9	2.99
	Central Zone	18	30	14	29	8	2.78
	South Central Zone	25	23	12	35	4	2.70
	South Zone	36	33	11	19	1	2.17
Conflicts with other hunters for goose hunting spots	North Zone	9	11	18	40	22	3.56
	Central Zone	5	10	26	40	19	3.57
	South Central Zone	8	7	22	46	18	3.58
	South Zone	16	3	21	40	21	3.47
# of geese you harvested	North Zone	35	36	5	19	5	2.23
	Central Zone	46	33	7	12	2	1.90
	South Central Zone	70	17	4	8	1	1.53
	South Zone	64	19	4	13	1	1.69

[a]1= Very Dissatisfied, 5= Very Satisfied

Table 19. Reported reasons for hunter dissatisfaction with number of waterfowl seen while hunting.

	% of Dissatisfied Duck Hunters[1]	% of Dissatisfied Goose Hunters[1]
Warm weather/no snow up north	90%	93%
Lack of food	26	13
Too many refuge areas where ducks gather	21	20
Too high/too low water levels	15	7
Too many other hunters where I hunt	12	7
Other	27	13

[1] Hunters were respondents who hunted ≥ 1 day for ducks or geese.

Table 20. Waterfowl hunting videos watching, by age

	Age			
Do you watch waterfowl hunting videos?	< 32 years old	32-47 years old	48-62 years old	> 62 years old
No	29%	41%	56%	64%
Yes	71	60	45	36

Table 21. Relationship between age and frequency of watching waterfowl hunting videos.

How often do you watch waterfowl hunting videos?	Age			
	< 32 years old	32-47 years old	48-62 years old	> 62 years old
Every week	16%	16%	12%	13%
3 times a month	25	12	14	16
5-12 times a year	34	38	31	30
< 5 times a year	26	33	44	41

Table 22. Comparison of watching waterfowl hunting videos and awareness of hunters' partners watching videos.

	Do you watch waterfowl hunting videos?	
Do your partners?	Yes	No
Yes, all of them	33%	5%
Yes, some of them	46	26
No	2	25
Not sure	20	44

Table 23. Illinois duck hunters' preferences for duck harvest.

	Type of bag			
Rank	6-bird limit of a mixed bag	< 6-bird limit, but 4 drake mallards	4 mallards and 2 other ducks	1 banded duck
1	39%	17%	29%	18%
2	28	20	40	10
3	21	45	19	12
4	13	18	11	61

Table 24. Goose hunters' preference[a], by zone hunted, for current goose season or more liberal goose season.

	North Zone	Central Zone	South Central Zone	South Zone
Longer goose season with a higher bag limit, but risk fewer geese available in 3-5 years	39%	28%	16%	19%
Retain the current season length and bag limit to conserve the goose population for future years	61	72	84	81

[a] Goose hunters were hunters who hunted ≥ 1 day for geese during 2011-12 goose seasons.

Table 25. Hunter and non-hunter response to various questions about waterfowl hunting.

	Did not Hunt 2011-2012			Hunted in 2011-2012		
	Disagree	Unsure	Agree	Disagree	Unsure	Agree
Waterfowl hunting is one of the most important activities in my life.	55%	13%	32%	21%	6%	73%
I spend a lot of time in the offseason planning for waterfowl hunting.	67	8	24	31	7	63
I am disappointed when I have no waterfowl to show for my efforts.	49	9	43	27	5	69
I plan vacation time around waterfowl seasons.	67	10	22	35	6	59
Some of my best days of waterfowl hunting have been when I come home empty-handed.	41	15	44	39	11	50
Hunting with friends and family is an important part of my hunting.	7	2	90	3	1	97
Waterfowl hunting determines much of my lifestyle.	69	10	21	35	11	54
Waterfowl hunting is a test of skill.	11	8	81	6	5	90
My closest friends are waterfowl hunters.	27	11	63	13	4	82
I spend a lot of time before the season scouting the area I will hunt.	64	11	25	37	8	55
I enjoy introducing new people to waterfowl hunting.	27	19	54	12	15	73
Seeing waterfowl is important for a satisfying hunt.	13	8	80	4	2	94
I would rather go waterfowl hunting than do any other recreation.	72	10	19	33	11	57
I am disappointed if I do not get any shots at waterfowl while hunting.	43	10	48	29	7	65
I hunt waterfowl for the challenge.	23	11	66	12	7	81
It takes skill to consistently harvest waterfowl.	10	6	85	6	4	90

Appendix A

Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey
2011-2012 Season

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 sporting arms and ammunition.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!
All of your responses will be kept confidential.
Please return this survey in the postage-paid return envelope provided.

Section 1. Waterfowl Hunting Effort and Harvest in Illinois. Please provide the following information so that Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) waterfowl biologists may estimate waterfowl harvest in Illinois. This information will help IDNR conserve waterfowl populations and provide hunting opportunities in Illinois.

1. Did you purchase an Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp for the 2011-2012 seasons? (Please check one.)

_____Yes _____No (Please go to **question 5**)

2. Did you hunt waterfowl (ducks, geese, or coots) in Illinois during the 2011-2012 waterfowl hunting seasons? (Please check one.)

_____ Yes _____ No (Please go to **question 5**)

3. Was the 2011-2012 Illinois waterfowl season your first time hunting waterfowl in Illinois?

_____ Yes, I'm a new Illinois resident waterfowl hunter

_____ Yes, I'm a new nonresident waterfowl hunter

_____ No

4. Did you use a spinning-wing decoy to hunt ducks in Illinois during the 2011-12 season?
_____Yes _____No

5. Which of the following best describes how often you hunt waterfowl in Illinois?

_____ Every year _____ Most years _____ Occassional years _____ Rarely _____Never

6. If you **did not hunt waterfowl** (ducks, geese, or coots) in Illinois during the 2011-2012 seasons, please give the reason(s) why not. Please *select all that apply*.

_____ I normally do not hunt waterfowl every year

_____ Ducks or geese were not available where I hunt when I could hunt them

_____ I am a nonresident hunter and do not hunt in Illinois every year

_____ I did not have access to waterfowl hunting areas

_____ other (please identify) : _____

7. Which is your preference for hunting in Illinois: hunting ducks or geese? Please check one.

____ Ducks ____ Geese ____ Ducks and geese equally

8. Did you apply online for IDNRs 2011 daily public duck permits (Rice Lake walk-in, Banner Marsh, etc.)?

_____Yes _____No (Please go to **Question 9)**

Was this your first year applying for these permits? _____Yes _____No

Were you successfull in getting a permit? _____Yes _____No

If "Yes," how many permits? _____ permits

If "Yes," did you hunt using your permit(s)?

_____Yes, all permits ____Yes, some permits _____No

How many permits did you use? _____ permits used

If not, please provide the reason why not by choosing ***all that apply*** from the list below:

____ not enough ducks ____ site was iced over

____ poor habitat quality at site ____ too far from home

____ couldn't hunt dates selected ____ no one to hunt with

____ other (please identify): _____

If you did not hunt waterfowl in Illinois please go to Section 4

9. Please report your hunting effort and harvest in Illinois between September 2011 and January 2012 in the following tables.
   - Include only **your** personal effort and harvest (**DO NOT** include harvests for party).
   - Count part of 1 day as 1 whole day.
   - Only report days hunted in the table for the species you targeted that day.

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

County hunted	Total days hunted	Teal harvested	Teal downed but not retrieved

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

County hunted	Total days hunted	Geese harvested	Geese downed but not retrieved

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

County hunted	Total days hunted	Mallards harvested	Wood ducks harvested	Other ducks harvested	Coots harvested	Ducks downed but not retrieved

d. **Regular Goose Seasons** *(Do not include harvest from September or Conservation Order Light Goose season that occurs after regular goose season closes.*)

County hunted	Total days hunted	Canada geese harvested	White-fronted (Specklebelly) geese harvested	Snow/Blue/ Ross' geese harvested	Geese downed but not retrieved

10. In which zone did you hunt **ducks <u>most often</u>** during 2011-2012? *(Please check one.)*

____ North Zone ____ Central Zone ____South Central Zone ____ South Zone

11. In which of the following zones did you hunt **<u>opening day of duck season</u>**? *(Please check all that apply.)*

____ North Zone ____ Central Zone ____South Central Zone ____ South Zone

12. Did you use the map provided with this questionnaire to determine the zone you hunted?

____ Yes ____ No

<u>Section 2. Youth Hunts.</u> Please answer the following questions about mentoring youth hunters in Illinois. **Please note:** "Youths" are defined as hunters under 16 years old.

1. Did you take a youth (less than 16 years old) hunting during the 2011 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days?

____ Yes ____ No

If "Yes," was this at least one youth's first time duck or goose hunting?

____ Yes ____ No

a. For each youth you hunted with, please report information about all youths that hunted and enter 0 if the youth did not harvest any ducks, geese, or coots.

	Age	Number of Days hunted	County hunted	Mallards harvested	Wood ducks harvested	Other ducks harvested	Geese harvested	Coots harvested
Youth 1								
Youth 2								
Youth 3								
Youth 4								

2. Have you ever introduced a hunter ≥ 16 years old to waterfowl hunting?

____ Yes ____ No

3. Did you take a youth (<16 years of age) hunting during the 2011-12 **regular** duck or goose seasons in Illinois?

____ Yes If "Yes," please check which season(s): ____ Regular Duck Season

____ Regular Goose Season ____ No

Section 3. Satisfaction. Please tell us about your satisfaction with the 2011-12 duck and/or goose seasons by answering the following statements.

1. Please rate your **SATISFACTION with the 2011-12 duck season in Illinois** for each of the following by circling the number that matches your response.

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Unsure	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Number of ducks you saw.	1	2	3	4	5
Mid-season matched peak of duck migration.	1	2	3	4	5
Amount of shooting you got in.	1	2	3	4	5
Number of ducks that migrated through areas you hunted.	1	2	3	4	5
Amount of time you spent duck hunting.	1	2	3	4	5
Conflicts with other hunters for duck hunting spots.	1	2	3	4	5
Number of ducks you harvested.	1	2	3	4	5

2. Please rate your **SATISFACTION with the 2011-12 regular Canada goose season in Illinois** for each of the following by circling the number that matches your response.

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Unsure	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Number of geese you saw.	1	2	3	4	5
Mid-season matched peak goose migration.	1	2	3	4	5
Amount of shooting you got in.	1	2	3	4	5
Number of geese that migrated through areas you hunted.	1	2	3	4	5
Amount of time you spent goose hunting.	1	2	3	4	5
Conflicts with other hunters for goose hunting spots.	1	2	3	4	5
Number of geese you harvested.	1	2	3	4	5

3. If you were dissatisfied with number of **ducks seen while hunting**, which of the following factors do you feel contributed most to the lack of birds? Please check *all that apply*.

____ Warm weather/no snow up north
____ Lack of food
____ Too many other hunters where I hunt
____ Too many refuge areas where ducks gather
____ Too high/too low water levels
____ Other (Please identify): _____

4. If you were dissatisfied with number of **Canada geese seen while hunting during the regular goose season**, which of the following factors do you feel contributed most to the lack of birds? Please check *all that apply*.

____ Warm weather/no snow up north
____ Lack of food
____ Too many other hunters where I hunt
____ Too many refuge areas where geese gather
____Too high/too low water levels
____ Other (Please identify): _____

Section 4. Waterfowl Hunting Videos. A number of waterfowl hunting videos are available on the market. Please tell us about your waterfowl video viewing to help us understand the role these videos play in waterfowl hunting in Illinois.

1. Do you watch waterfowl hunting videos?

____ Yes

____ No (Please go to **Section 5**)

2. If "yes", how often do you watch waterfowl hunting videos?

____ Every week
____ About 3 times a month
____ Between 5 and 12 times in the past year
____ Less than 5 times in the past year

3. Which of the following **best describes** why you watch waterfowl hunting videos? Please choose ***one response***.

____ to learn new hunting techniques
____ to get ideas where to take hunting trips
____ to be entertained
____ remind me of my own memorable hunts
____ to learn about waterfowl
____ to see hunts in different locations
____ to watch ducks and geese get harvested

4. Which of the following waterfowl hunting videos have you seen? Please check *all that apply*.

____The Truth Incoming (Primos) ____Fred Zink Videos

____Fallin' Skies (Jeff Foiles) ____Duckmen (Duck Commander)

____Fowl Pursuit (Shawn Stahl)

____Other (Please identify): _____

5. Which of the following waterfowl hunting videos are your favorites? Please check *all that apply*.

____The Truth Incoming (Primos) ____Fred Zink Videos

____Fallin' Skies (Jeff Foiles) ____Duckmen (Duck Commander)

____Fowl Pursuit (Shawn Stahl)

____Other (Please identify): _____

6. Do your waterfowl hunting partners watch waterfowl hunting videos?

____ Yes, all of them ____ Yes, some of them

____ No ____ Not sure

Section 5. Attitudes Toward Waterfowl Hunting. Please state if you agree or disagree with the following statements by circling the number that matches your response.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Unsure	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Waterfowl hunting is one of the most important activities in my life.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I spend a lot of time in the off-season planning for waterfowl hunting.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I am disappointed when I have no waterfowl to show for my efforts.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I plan vacation time around waterfowl seasons.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Some of my best days of waterfowl hunting have been when I come home empty-handed.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Hunting with friends and family is an important part of my hunting.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Waterfowl hunting determines much of my lifestyle.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Waterfowl hunting is a test of skill.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
My closest friends are waterfowl hunters.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I spend a lot of time before the season scouting the area I will hunt.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I enjoy introducing new people to waterfowl hunting.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Seeing waterfowl is important for a satisfying hunt.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I would rather go waterfowl hunting than do any other recreation.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I am disappointed if I do not get any shots at waterfowl while hunting.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I hunt waterfowl for the challenge.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
It takes skill to consistently harvest waterfowl.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Section 6. Background Information. The following questions allow us to understand more about the people involved in waterfowl hunting in Illinois. All responses are kept confidential.

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

2. How many years have you hunted waterfowl in Illinois? _____ years

3. Did you hunt doves during the 2011-2012 season? ____ Yes ____ No

4. What is your county of residence? _____ County

5. Please give your age. _____ years

6. Should adults be able to hunt Canada geese when accompanying a youth during youth hunts? ____ Yes ____ No

7. Please give your preference for **one of the following** by checking the statement that matches your preference:

____ a longer regular Canada goose season with a higher bag limit now, but risk fewer geese available in 3-5 years

____ retaining the current season length and bag limit to conserve the goose population for future years

8. Which type of land do you hunt most often for waterfowl? Please choose one.

____ Private land owned by me

____ Private land owned by someone who gave me permission

____ Private land under a lease

____ state land/water

____ federal land/water

9. A quality duck hunt means different things to different hunters. Please rank in order from highest to lowest the quality of the following harvests.

1 = Highest, 4 = Lowest

____6-bird Limit of mixed bag (gadwall, teal, mallards including some hens, wood ducks, etc.)

____Less than 6-bird limit, but 4 drake mallards

____6-bird limit: 4 mallards (hens and drakes) and 2 other ducks

____Only one duck, but with a band

Appendix B

ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY
Institute of Natural Resource Sustainability
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

February 1, 2012

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. Results of this study will help waterfowl managers make decisions to improve hunting opportunities and to better manage Illinois' duck and goose populations.

You are part of a group of Illinois waterfowl hunters selected from throughout the state to provide information about your hunting activities during the 2011-2012 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 2011-2012 seasons. Please refer to the harvest record card we sent you in September to complete the harvest portion of the questionnaire. We have included the Illinois waterfowl zone map on the back of this letter if you need it to determine the zone you hunted.

Your responses are completely confidential. Your response to this questionnaire is completely voluntary, and by responding you will help us effectively manage waterfowl and hunting in Illinois.

You may access the results of this and other studies of hunters and hunting 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/.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program

Appendix C

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, we thank you. If you have not returned the questionnaire, please do so as soon as possible. Your input is very important!**

Your name and address will be deleted from our mailing list when your questionnaire is received. Thank you for your cooperation.

Appendix D

ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY
Institute of Natural Resource Sustainability
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

March 1, 2012

Dear Waterfowl Hunter,

As one of a select group of Illinois waterfowl hunters, you have been asked to provide information about your waterfowl hunting activities. We recently mailed you a survey questionnaire regarding your hunting experiences in Illinois during the 2011-2012 waterfowl season. We have not received your completed questionnaire. Perhaps you recently mailed the questionnaire and it has not yet arrived in our office. If so, we thank you.

If you have not returned your completed questionnaire to us, please do so as soon as possible. We have enclosed another copy of the questionnaire. **The information you and other selected hunters furnish our biologists is vital for proper waterfowl management and allows us to safeguard waterfowl populations while maximizing hunting opportunities.**

This survey is limited to those hunters selected. Please take 15 minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire **even if you were not successful.** A stamped envelope is provided for you to return the questionnaire to us.

Thank you for helping with this important study.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program

Appendix E

ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY
Institute of Natural Resource Sustainability
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

April 3, 2012

Dear Waterfowl Hunter,

As one of a select group of Illinois waterfowl hunters, you have been asked to provide information about your waterfowl hunting activities. We recently mailed you a survey questionnaire regarding your hunting experiences in Illinois during the 2011-2012 waterfowl season. We have not received your completed questionnaire. Perhaps you recently mailed the questionnaire and it has not yet arrived in our office. If so, we thank you.

If you have not returned your completed questionnaire to us, please do so as soon as possible. We have enclosed another copy of the questionnaire. **The information you and other selected hunters furnish our biologists is vital for proper waterfowl management and allows us to safeguard waterfowl populations while maximizing hunting opportunities.**

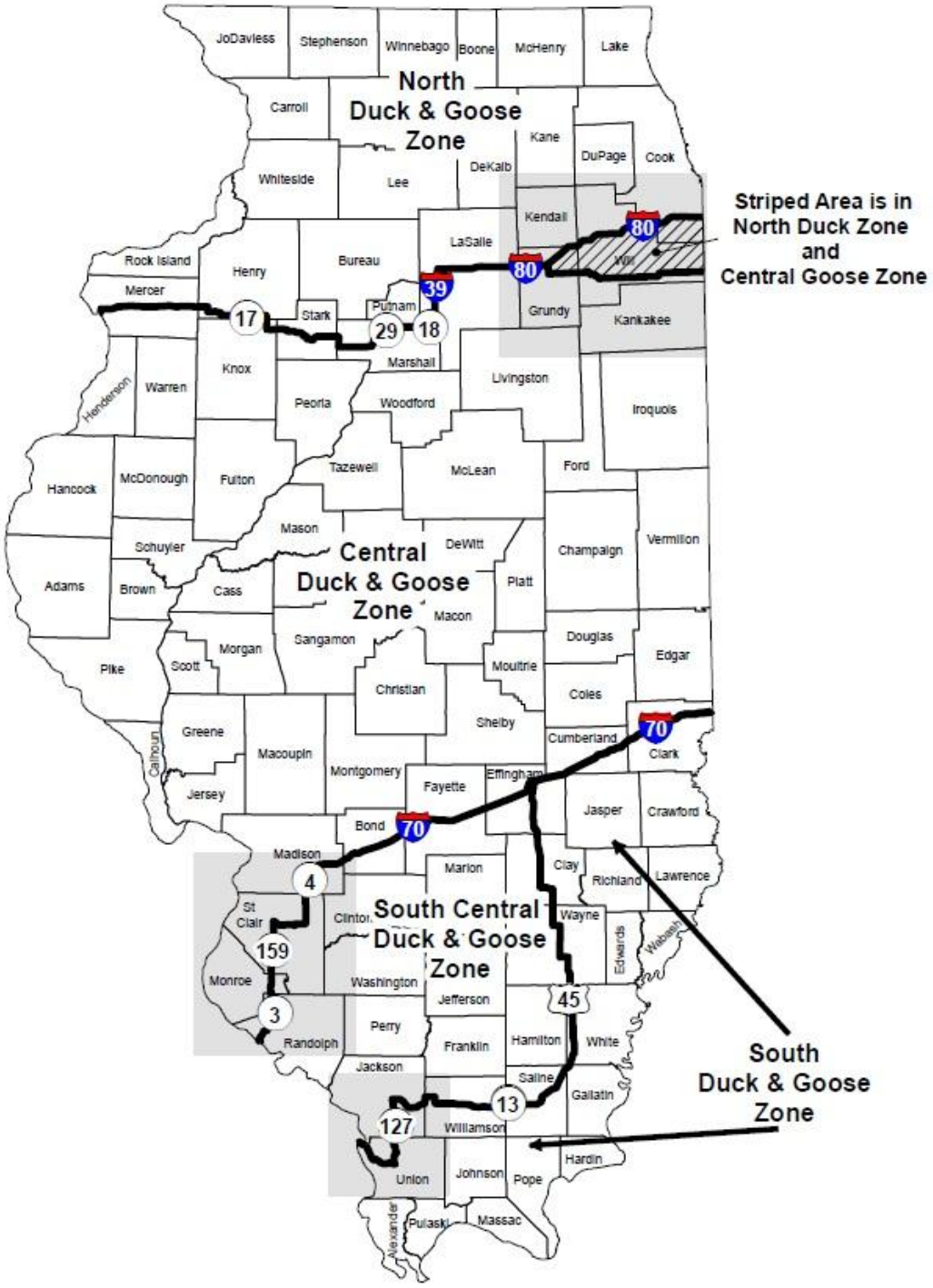
This survey is limited to those hunters selected. Please take 15 minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire **even if you were not successful.** A stamped envelope is provided for you to return the questionnaire to us.

Thank you for helping with this important study.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program

Appendix F


North Duck & Goose Zone
Central Duck & Goose Zone
South Central Duck & Goose Zone
Striped Area is in North Duck Zone and Central Goose Zone
South Duck & Goose Zone
JoDaviess
Stephenson
Winnebago
Boone
McHenry
Lake
Carroll
Whiteside
Lee
DeKalb
Kane
DuPage
Cook
Kendall
LaSalle
Grundy
Kankakee
Rock Island
Henry
Bureau
Mercer
Stark
Putnam
Marshall
Livingston
Iroquois
Knox
Warren
Henderson
Peoria
Woodford
Tazewell
McLean
Ford
Hancock
McDonough
Fulton
Mason
Schuyler
DeWitt
Champaign
Vermilion
Adams
Brown
Cass
Platt
Macon
Sangamon
Morgan
Scott
Pike
Douglas
Edgar
Moultrie
Christian
Coles
Shelby
Cumberland
Clark
Greene
Calhoun
Macoupin
Montgomery
Fayette
Effingham
Jersey
Bond
Jasper
Crawford
Madison
Marion
Clay
Richland
Lawrence
St Clair
Clinton
Wayne
Edwards
Wabash
Monroe
Washington
Jefferson
Perry
Franklin
Hamilton
White
Randolph
Jackson
Saline
Gallatin
Williamson
Union
Johnson
Pope
Hardin
Alexander
Pulaski
Massac
17
29
18
39
80
70
4
159
3
45
13
127