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2013-2014 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Report: Harvest, Season Preferences, and Digest Use

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LIST OF FIGURES

Page

Figure 1 ..... **Percent of hunters who purchased an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp** **5**
Figure 2 ..... **Percent of hunters who hunted waterfowl in Illinois during the 2013-14** **5**
Figure 3 ..... **Number of stamps sold, waterfowl hunters, and waterfowl harvested in Illinois, 2000-2013** **5**
Figure 4 ..... **Percentage of hunters who hunted ducks, geese, or both during the 2013-14 Illinois waterfowl season** **6**
Figure 5 ..... **Teal harvest and hunter activity during the Illinois September teal season, 2000-2013** **7**
Figure 6 ..... **Rates of teal harvest and hunter activity during the Illinois September teal season, 2000-2013** **7**
Figure 7 ..... **Percentage of hunters who took a youth (<16 years old) hunting during the 2013 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days** **8**
Figure 8 ..... **Number of hunters who took at least one youth (<16 years old) hunting for the first time** **8**
Figure 9 ..... **Percentage of hunters who took a youth (<16 years old) hunting during the 2013-14 regular duck or goose season** **9**
Figure 10 ..... **Seasons hunters took a youth hunting during 2013-14** **9**
Figure 11 ..... **Hunters relationship with the youth(s) they took hunting** **9**
Figure 12 ..... **Zones hunters hunted in most often during the 2013-14 duck season** **10**
Figure 13 ..... **Zones hunters hunted on opening day of duck season** **10**
Figure 14 ..... **Proportion of Mallards, Wood Ducks, and Other Ducks harvested during the 2013-14 regular duck season** **11**
Figure 15 ..... **Illinois regular season duck harvest, 2000-2013** **11**
Figure 16 ..... **Distribution of days afield per hunter and ducks harvested per hunter for Illinois' 2013-14 regular duck season** **12**
Figure 17 ..... **Number of hunters who used spinning-wing decoys to hunt ducks in Illinois during the 2013-14 season** **13**
Figure 18 ..... **Areas where hunters most often used a spinning-wing decoy** **13**
Figure 19 ..... **Number of hunters who harvested a greater variety of species during 2013-14 than in the last 5 years** **13**
Figure 20 ..... **Early September Canada goose harvest and hunter activity, 2000-2013** **14**
Figure 21 ..... **Early September Canada goose harvest and hunter activity by zone in Illinois during 2013** **14**
Figure 22 ..... **Goose harvest during Illinois' regular goose season from 2000-2013** **15**
Figure 23 ..... **2013-14 Illinois' regular Canada goose season harvest** **16**
Figure 24 ..... **Distribution of days afield per hunter and geese harvested per hunter for Illinois' 2013-14 regular goose season** **16**
Figure 25 ..... **Number of hunters who harvested white-fronted geese during the 2013-14 waterfowl hunting seasons** **17**
Figure 26 ..... **Comparison between the number of white-fronted geese harvested in 2013-14 compared to the last 5 years** **17**
Figure 27 ..... **Number of hunters who targeted white-fronted geese during the regular goose season** **17**
Figure 28 ..... **How often hunters hunt waterfowl in Illinois** **18**
Figure 29 ..... **How often hunters purchase an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp** **18**
Figure 30 ..... **Reasons why hunters purchased their most recent Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp** **18**
Figure 31 ..... **Hunters who indicated there is a trend in weather patterns over the last 5 seasons** **19**
Figure 32 ..... **Number of hunters who kept records of their waterfowl hunting trips and/or harvest** **21**
Figure 33 ..... **Methods used to keep records** **21**
Figure 34 ..... **Number of hunters who hunted sites that required them to report harvest numbers** **21**
Figure 35 ..... **Types of sites that required hunters to report their harvest numbers** **21**
Figure 36 ..... **Types of required harvest reporting** **22**
Figure 37 ..... **How often hunters used the Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations** **22**
Figure 38 ..... **Hunters use of Paper and Electronic copies of the Digest of Waterfowl Hunting** **22**
Figure 39 ..... **Locations where hunters picked up their paper copy of the Digest** **23**
Figure 40 ..... **Number of paper copies of the Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations picked up by hunters** **23**
Figure 41 ..... **Gender distribution of respondents who hunted during the 2013-14 waterfowl seasons** **24**
Figure 42 ..... **Number of hunters whose first time hunting waterfowl in Illinois was the 2013-14 waterfowl season** **24**
Figure 43 ..... **Number of hunters who have introduced a non-youth hunter, 16 years old or older, to waterfowl hunting** **24**
Figure 44 ..... **Hunters' preference for hunting waterfowl in Illinois** **24**
Figure 45 ..... **Hunters' preferences for hunting any species given only one day to hunt** **25**

LIST OF TABLES AND APPENDICES

Page

Table 1.....Summary of Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps purchased, hunter activity, and waterfowl harvest, 2003-2013 27
Table 2.....Percentage of hunters who hunted exclusively ducks, exclusively geese, or both ducks and geese, 2003-2013..... 27
Table 3 .....Summary of Teal harvest and hunter activity during September Teal season 28
Table 4 .....Teal harvest and hunter activity by zones during September Teal season 28
Table 5 .....Rates of Teal harvest and hunter activity during September Teal season 29
Table 6 .....Waterfowl harvest and hunter activity during Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days, 2003-2013 30
Table 7.....Summary of duck and coot harvest and hunter activity during the regular duck season, 2003-2013..... 31
Table 8.....Duck harvest and hunter activity by waterfowl zones and selected areas during the regular duck season 31
Table 9.....Rates of duck harvest and hunter activity during the regular duck season..... 32
Table 10.....Distribution of the number of days afield and number of ducks harvested in 2013-14 32
Table 11.....Duck species hunters harvested between September 2013 and January 2014 33
Table 12.....Canada goose harvest and hunter activity during the early September Canada goose season 34
Table 13.....Summary of goose harvest and hunter activity during the regular goose season 35
Table 14.....Distribution of the number of days afield and number of geese harvested..... 35
Table 15.....Goose harvest and hunter activity by zones, regular season 36
Table 16.....Canada goose harvest by zone during the regular goose season..... 36
Table 17.....Summary of the number of ducks and geese crippled..... 37
Table 18.....Reasons for not hunting in 2013-2014 37
Table 19.....Illinois duck hunters' levels of satisfaction with various aspects of the 2013-2014 duck seasons 38
Table 20.....Illinois goose hunters' levels of satisfaction with various aspects of the 2013-2014 goose seasons..... 39
Table 21.....Hunters' opinions regarding weather patterns over the past 5 waterfowl hunting seasons..... 40
Table 22.....Duck hunter season structure preference if the 2016-2020 duck season were 45 days 40
Table 23.....Duck hunter season structure preference if duck season were 30 days 41
Table 24.....Duck hunter zoning option preferences for 2016 through 2020..... 41
Table 25.....Duck hunter zone structure preference if a 3 duck zone with 2 season segments were used in 2016-2020 seasons 41
Table 26.....Duck hunter zone structure preference if a continuous duck season were used in 2016-2020 seasons 42
Table 27.....Mean days hunted and harvest among 2013-14 Illinois waterfowl hunters, by harvest card mailing..... 42

Appendix A.....Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey: 2013-2014 Season 43
Appendix B.....Cover letter sent with first mailing of the 2013-2014 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey 52
Appendix C.....Thank you/reminder postcard sent as follow-up to the mailings..... 54
Appendix D.....Cover letter sent with second mailing of the 2013-2014 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey 55
Appendix E.....Cover letter sent with third mailing of the 2013-2014 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey 57
Appendix F.....Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Telephone nonresponse follow-up Survey Script 59
Appendix G .....Waterfowl Zone Map 60
Appendix H .....Historic Data: Harvest, Days Afield, and Hunter numbers 1981-2013..... 61

2013-2014 ILLINOIS WATERFOWL HUNTER REPORT: HARVEST, SEASON PREFERENCES, AND DIGEST USE

JOB COMPLETION REPORT

WILDLIFE HARVEST AND
HUMAN DIMENSIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NUMBER: W-112-R-23
STUDY 101
JOB NO. 101.3

Prepared by
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Illinois Natural History Survey
Champaign, IL
October 21, 2014

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration
W-112-R-23

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Marc Miller, Director
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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 3,278 (46% response rate) Illinois waterfowl hunters responded to the 2013-14 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. An estimated 49,170 waterfowl hunters spent 1,052,728 days afield, a decrease of 8.9% from the 1,155,346 days devoted during the 2012-2013 license year. Waterfowl harvest increased 4.3%, from 580,557 during 2012-13 to 605,720 during 2013-14. Duck harvest estimates for the regular duck season were as follows: 225,873 mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), 49,001 wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*), and 155,306 other ducks. A total of 21,967 teal (*Anas spp.*) were harvested during the September teal season. Goose hunters harvested 104,887 Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*) during the regular Canada goose season, a 44.3% increase from the 72,682 Canada geese harvested during the 2012-13 regular goose season. Hunters harvested 15,644 Canada geese during the September Canada goose season, a 13.2% decrease from the previous year. During the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Season, 8,438 adults took 8,639 youths waterfowl hunting, a 7.8% increase in adult participation and a 13.6% decrease in youth participation from the 2012-13 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Season. Duck hunter preference for season dates and zones, satisfaction with the waterfowl seasons, and record keeping are also discussed.

METHODS

Mailings

A random sample of 7,500 waterfowl hunters was drawn from the population of Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp purchasers from the 2012-2013 license year. On 30 August 2013, a 1-page diary for recording their hunting activity and waterfowl harvest was sent to 5,000 of these hunters; 2,500 waterfowl hunters did not receive a 1-page diary. On 6 March 2014, hunters were mailed an 8-page questionnaire (Appendix A), cover

letter (Appendix B), and a postage-paid return envelope. The effective sample was reduced to 7,287 due to 213 questionnaires being returned as undeliverable. A thank you/reminder postcard (Appendix C) was sent to hunters on 24 March 2014. Nonrespondents were mailed a second questionnaire and cover letter (Appendix D) on 11 April 2014, followed by a second postcard mailing on 29 April 2014. A third and final questionnaire and cover letter (Appendix E) were mailed to nonrespondents on 15 May 2014. Coded data were entered and analyzed using SPSS 22.0 (SPSS Inc. 2013). Confidence intervals are presented where appropriate.

Telephone Survey

After 3 waves of questionnaires were mailed, a nonresponse bias check was performed. A subsample of remaining nonrespondents were selected using systematic sampling with a random start. Phone numbers for selected nonrespondents were obtained using www.whitepages.com and telephone nonresponse phone calls were conducted to investigate response bias. Those selected for the nonresponse bias test were contacted up to 4 times pending no answer or a busy signal. Surveys consisted of a maximum of eleven questions (Appendix F). Once a survey was completed, or a participant had been called 4 times, they were no longer contacted. Efforts were made to contact each survey participant 1-4 times between 6:00 and 8:00pm Central Time Monday through Friday, 9 June – 25 June, 2014.

Statewide Estimates

Estimates of number of hunters, days afield, and waterfowl harvested were based on confirmed sales of 66,394 Illinois Migratory Waterfowl stamps (2013-14 series) and were computed following the procedures outlined below (Anderson et al. 1998).

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

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

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

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

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

Where:

$Hunt_r$ = number of respondents to the 2013-2014 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey who reported hunting for each species (adjustment for non-hunters is inherent),

L_t = total number of Illinois migratory Waterfowl Stamps sold in 2013-14,

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 2013-14 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 1985; 0.478 for geese; Anderson et al. 1996).

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

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

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

SEASON LENGTHS AND BAG LIMITS

Illinois incorporated a fourth waterfowl zone in 2011-12 for the regular waterfowl seasons and 2012-13 for the September goose season. The four zones are the North, Central, South Central, and South zones (Appendix G). The early (September) teal (*Anas spp.*) season length remained unchanged (16 days) from 2012 to 2013, while daily bag and possession limits increased, from 4 to 6 teal a day and 8 to 18 in possession. Early (September) Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*) season length and daily bag limit remained unchanged from the 2012 season, but possession limit increased from 10 to 15 geese in the North and Central zones and from 4 to 6 in the South Central and South zones. Hunters could hunt for 15 days statewide and could harvest 5 geese a day in the North and Central zones and 2 birds per day in the South Central and South zones. Length and daily bag limit of the regular duck season did not change (60-day/6-bird duck season) in 2013; possession limit was increased by 50% for all species, ducks from 12 to 18 birds, mergansers from 10 to 15, and coots from 30 to 45 birds. The regular Canada goose season remained unchanged (90 day/2-bird Canada goose season) in the North and Central zones. The regular Canada goose season length in the South Central and South Zone was 84 days and 65 days, respectively. The possession limit increased from 4 to 6 for Canada and White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons*) and from 2 to 3 for Brant geese (*Branta bernicla*).

RESULTS

Waterfowl Harvest and Days Afield

We received 3,352 questionnaires from waterfowl hunters, of which 3,278 (89%) were considered usable for an overall response rate of 45%. Of the 3,278 usable questionnaires, 2,839 (87%) respondents indicated they purchased an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp for the 2013-14 season (Figure 1) and 2,121 (64.7%) said they actually hunted waterfowl (Figure 2). The number of waterfowl hunters decreased from 50,740 during the 2012-13 season to 49,170 during the 2013-14 season, a 3.1% decrease in hunters (Table 1, Figure 3). Hunters reported spending 1,052,728 days afield, a decrease of 8.9% from the 1,155,346 days devoted during the 2012-2013 license year. Total waterfowl harvest increased 4.3%, from 580,557 during 2012-

13 to 605,720 during the 2013-14 season. Thirty percent of hunters hunted ducks only, 10% hunted geese only, and 60% hunted both ducks and geese (Table 2, Figure 4). The nonresponse telephone survey indicated that nonrespondents were slightly less likely to have purchased an Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamp for the 2013-14 season. Respondents and nonrespondents had no significant differences among the percentage of Stamp purchasers that went hunting, their days afield, or harvest of ducks and geese.

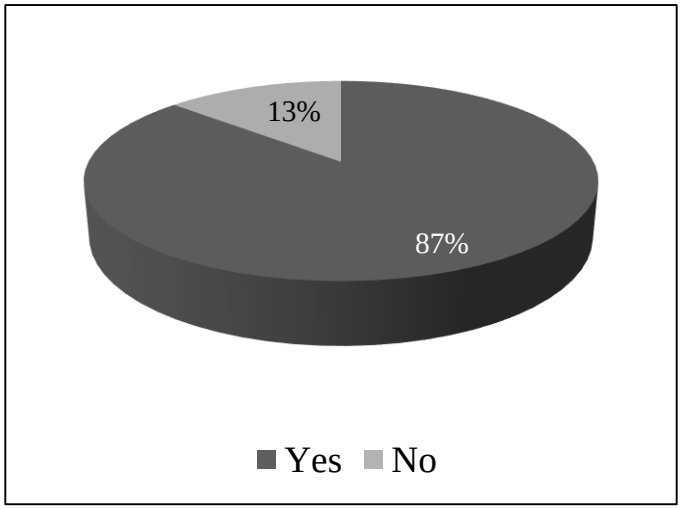

Figure 1. Percent of hunters who purchased an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp for the 2013-2014 seasons (*n*=3278).

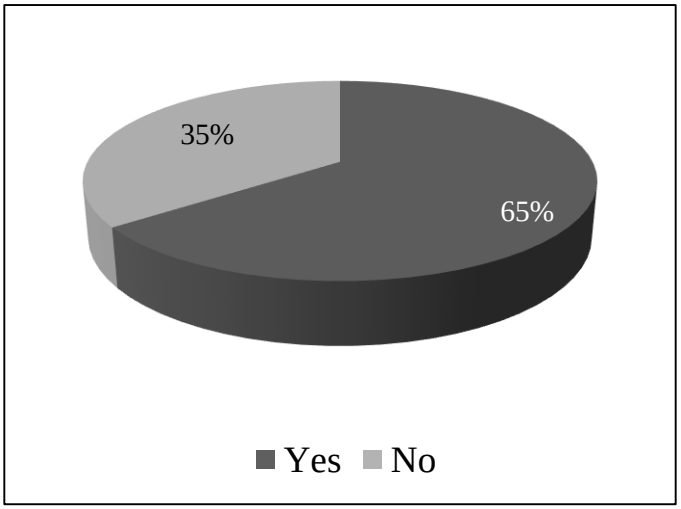

Figure 2. Percent of hunters who hunted waterfowl (ducks, geese, or coots) in Illinois during the 2013-2014 waterfowl hunting season (*n*=3278).

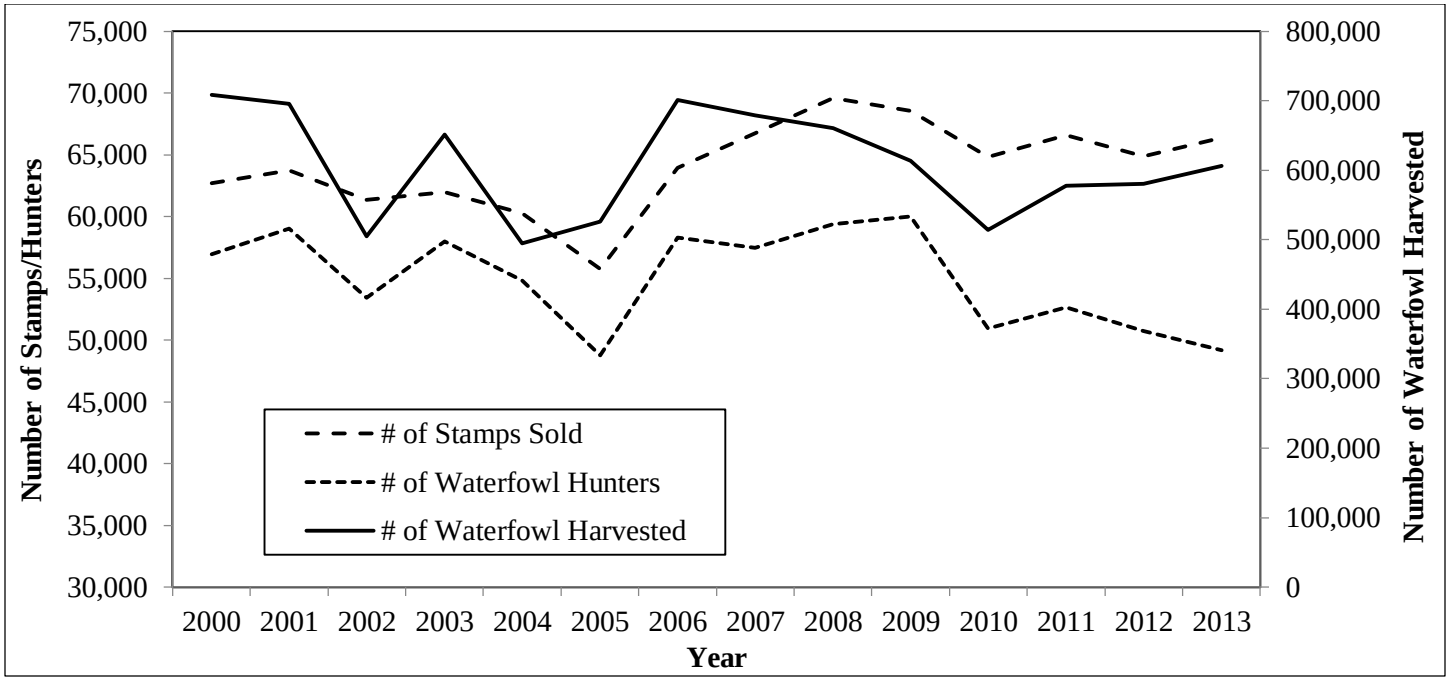

Figure 3. Number of stamps sold, waterfowl hunters, and waterfowl harvested in Illinois, 2000-2013.

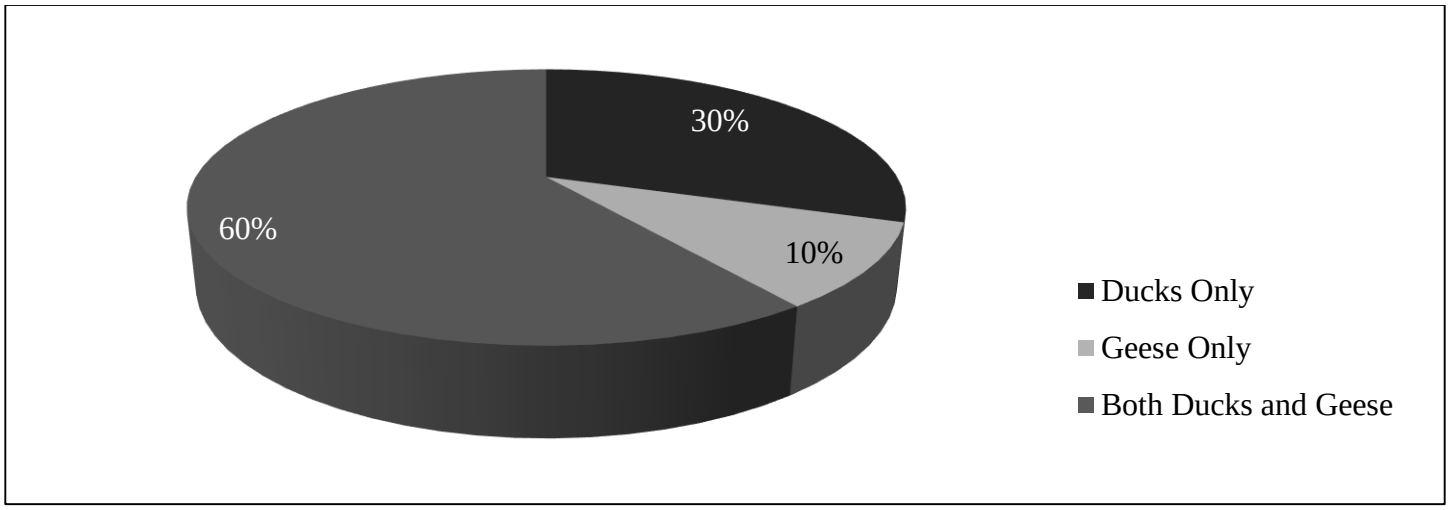

Figure 4. Percentage of hunters who hunted ducks, geese, or both during the 2013-14 Illinois waterfowl season.

September Teal Season

The number of early (September) teal hunters decreased 5.2% from 10,944 during 2012 to 10,378 during 2013 (Table 3, Figure 5). Days afield decreased 19.9% from 46,719 during 2012 to 37,431 during 2013. Declines in teal hunters and days afield coincided with a decreased teal harvest of 21,967 ± 7,169 during the 2013 September teal season, a 31.2% decrease from the 2012 harvest. The Central Zone accounted for over one-half of teal hunters (52.7%) and days afield (55.8%) and almost two-thirds of teal harvested (64.4%) (Table 4). The North zone recorded the next most hunters and days afield, though more teal were harvested in the South Central Zone. Statewide, September season teal hunters averaged 3.61 days afield, and harvested an average of 0.59 teal per hunter per day and 2.12 teal per hunter for the season (Table 5, Figure 6).

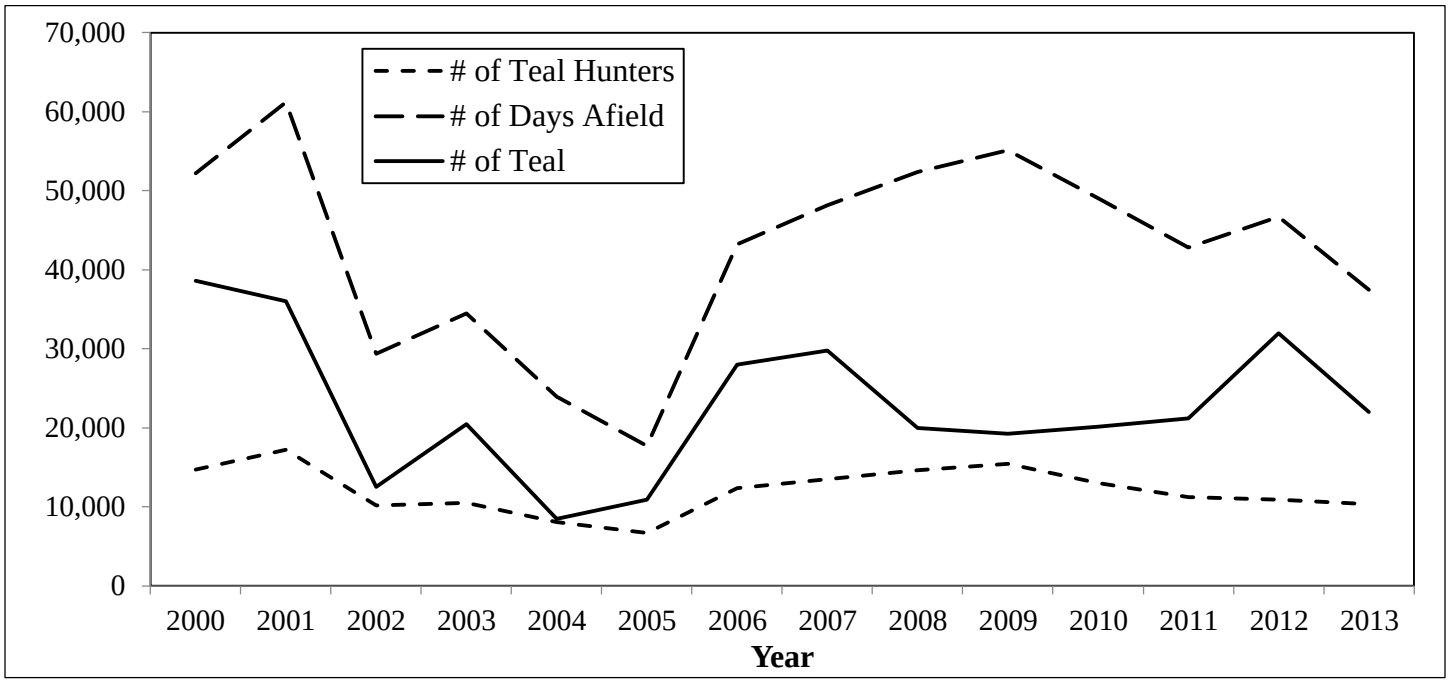

Figure 5. Number of teal harvested and hunter activity during the Illinois September teal season, from 2000-2013.

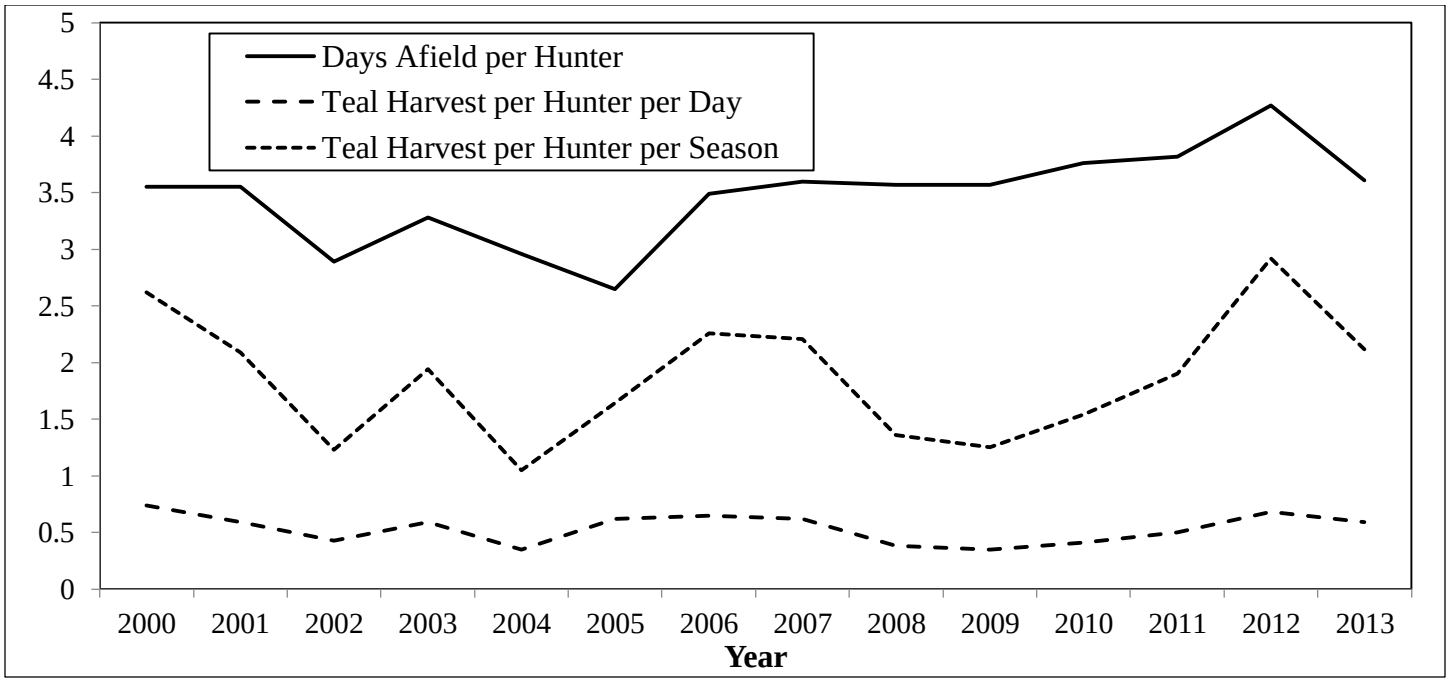

Figure 6. Rates of teal harvest and hunter activity during the Illinois September teal season from 2000-2013.

Youth Waterfowl Hunting

The Youth Waterfowl Season framework remained unchanged from 2012 to 2013; youth less than 16 years of age were able to hunt ducks, geese, and coots for two days one week prior to opening of the regular

duck season in the North, Central, and South Central zones, but 12 days earlier in the South Zone. Twenty-two percent of respondents indicated they took a youth hunting during the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days (Figure 7). The number of adults that participated in the 2013 youth hunt increased 7.8% from 7,825 to 8,438 participants, though the number of youth participants decreased 13.6%, from 10,001 during 2012 to 8,639 youths during 2013 (Table 6). Over half (51.4%) of youth that participated in the 2013 youth waterfowl season had never hunted ducks or geese before (Figure 8).

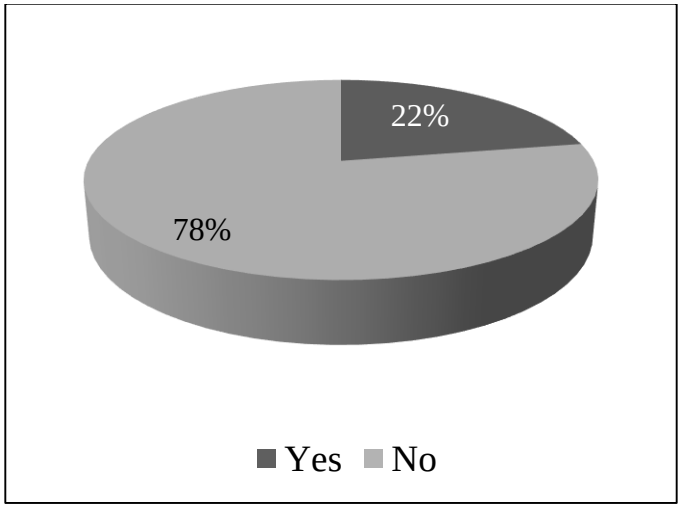

Figure 7. Percent of hunters who took a youth (less than 16 years old) hunting during the 2013 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days (*n*=1931).

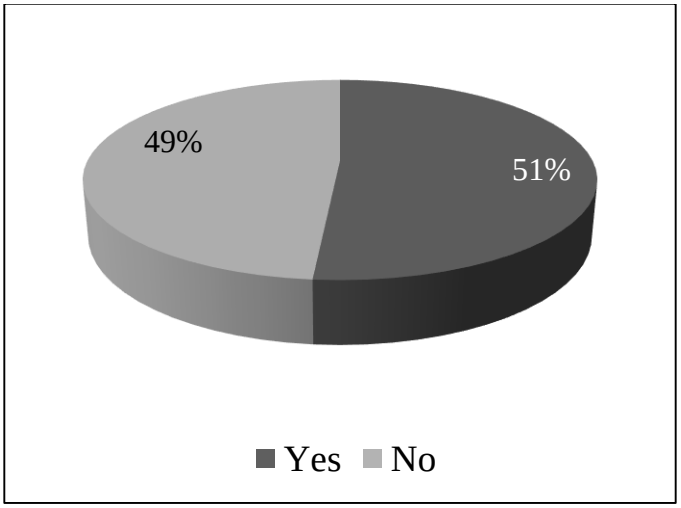

Figure 8. Number of hunters who took at least one youth (less than 16 years old) hunting for the first time (*n*=418).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they took a youth hunting during the 2013 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days.

Respondents to the 2012 questionnaire combined regular season youth hunt results with Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days. To address this issue, the average number of birds harvested by youth per day for the entire season was calculated. This average was multiplied by two, the number of Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days, and the number of youth that hunted during the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days, to calculate waterfowl harvest during the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days. The youth waterfowl harvest (ducks, geese, and coots combined) increased 55.8%, from 9,714 in 2012 to 15,139 in 2013.

Twenty-eight percent of respondents took a youth hunting during the regular duck or goose season; an additional five percent had a youth accompany them, but not hunt (Figure 9). Hunters were more likely to take

youth hunting during the regular duck season than goose season (Figure 10). Youth were taken hunting most often by family members, followed by friends (Figure 11).

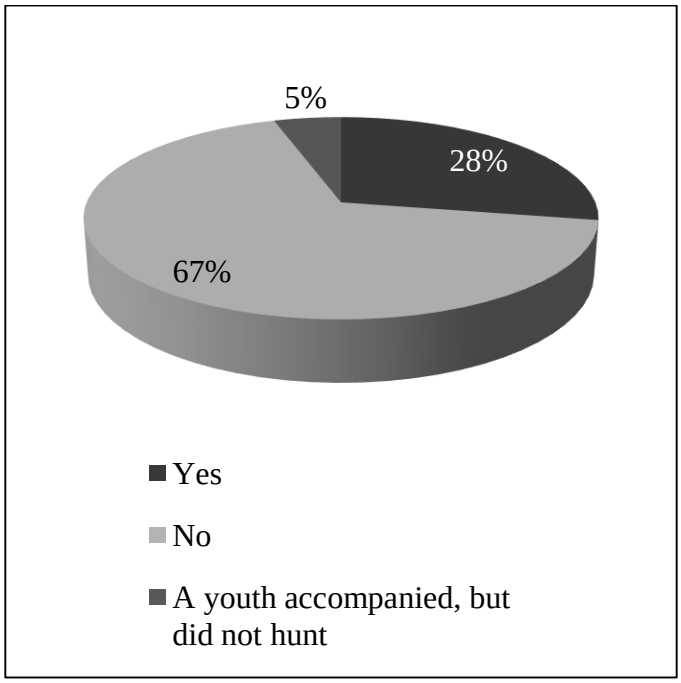

Figure 9. Number of hunters who took a youth (<16 years of age) hunting during the 2013-2014 regular duck or goose season in Illinois (*n*=1708).

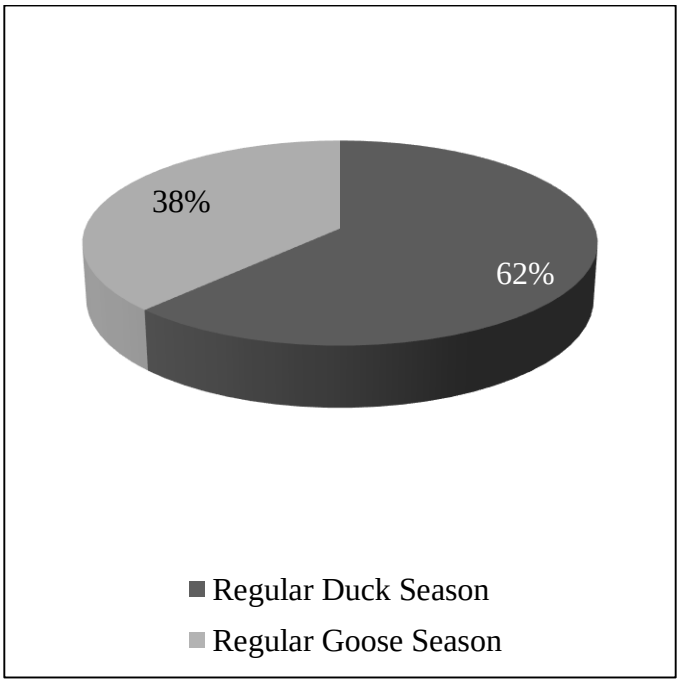

Figure 10. Seasons hunters took a youth (<16 years of age) hunting during 2013-2014 (*n*=559).
*Cases selected for those who took youth hunting or had youth accompany them while hunting.

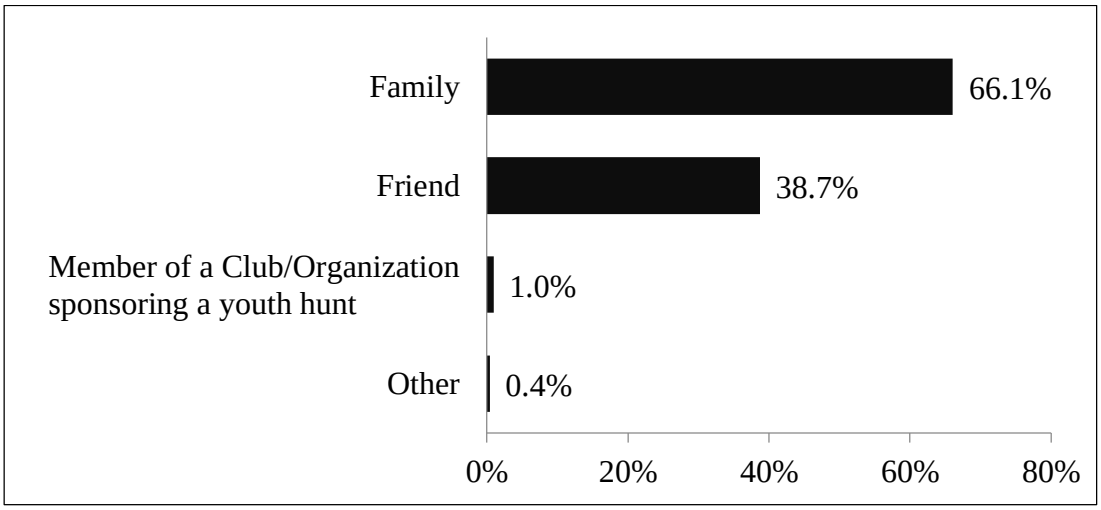

Figure 11. Hunters relationship with the youth(s) they took hunting (*n*=672).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they took youth hunting (regular season or Youth Waterfowl Hunting days) or had youth accompany them while hunting.

Regular Duck Season

The number of duck hunters increased by 209 (0.5%) from 43,444 during the 2012-13 season to 43,653 during the 2013-14 season (Table 7). Duck hunters spent 563,961 days afield (*M*= 12.92 days) during the 2013-14 season, a decrease of 10.5% from the 630,233 days reported during the 2012-13 season. Approximately half (48.2%) of respondents hunted the Central Zone most often, followed by the North, South Central, and South zones (Figure 12). The same pattern was reflected in the zones hunters hunted on opening day of the regular duck season (Figure 13); approximately 4.1% (n=78) of respondents hunted opening day in multiple zones.

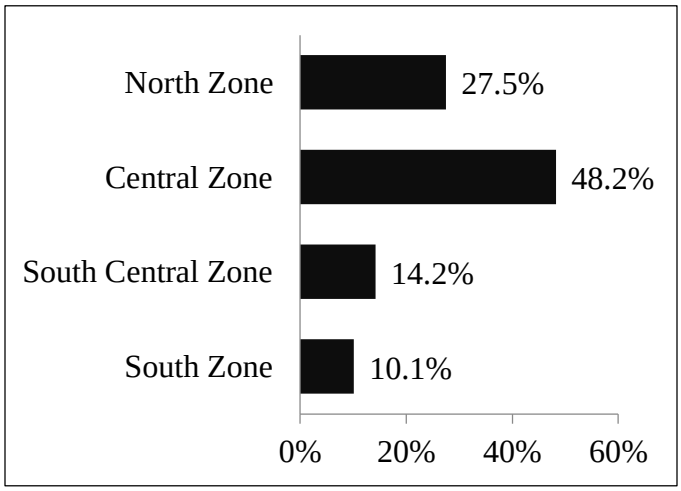

Figure 12. Zones hunters hunted in most often during the 2013-14 duck season (*n*=2074).

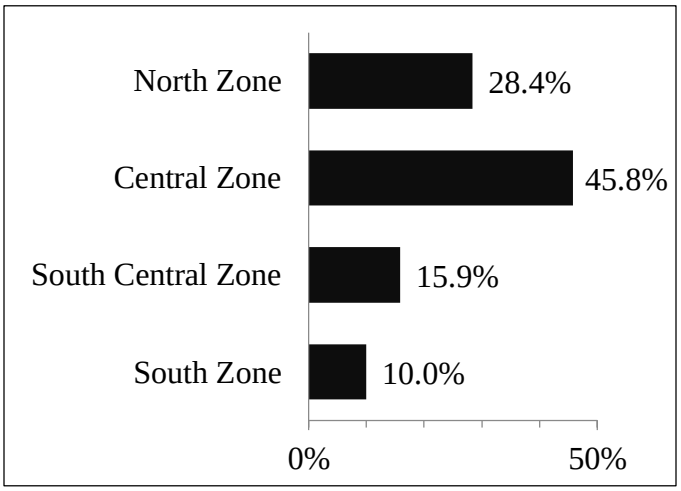

Figure 13. Zones hunters hunted on opening day of duck season (*n*=2023).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day during the 2013-2014 waterfowl seasons.

Total duck harvest during 2013-14 was 430,179, down 10.1% from the 478,387 reported for 2012-13. Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) comprised 52.5% of the total regular season duck harvest, while wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) and other ducks accounted for 11.4% and 36.1%, respectively (Figure 14). The most popular species harvested during the 2013-14 regular duck season were mallards with 93% of hunters indicating they harvested at least one, followed by gadwall (59%), wood duck (55%), and green-winged teal (44%). These numbers do not necessarily reflect the total harvest for each species, but indicate which species were harvested by the most hunters. Statewide mallard harvest in Illinois decreased by 19,115 birds (7.8%) from 244,988 during the 2012-13 season to 225,873 during the 2013-14 season (Figure 15). Wood duck harvest increased

1,378 (2.9%), from 47,623 during 2012-13 to 49,001 during 2013-14. The harvest of other ducks decreased 30,470 (16.4%) from 185,776 during 2012-13 to 155,306 during 2013-14. The statewide coot (*Fulica Americana*) harvest decreased 48.2%, from 4,133 in 2012-13 to 2,143 coots in 2013-14.

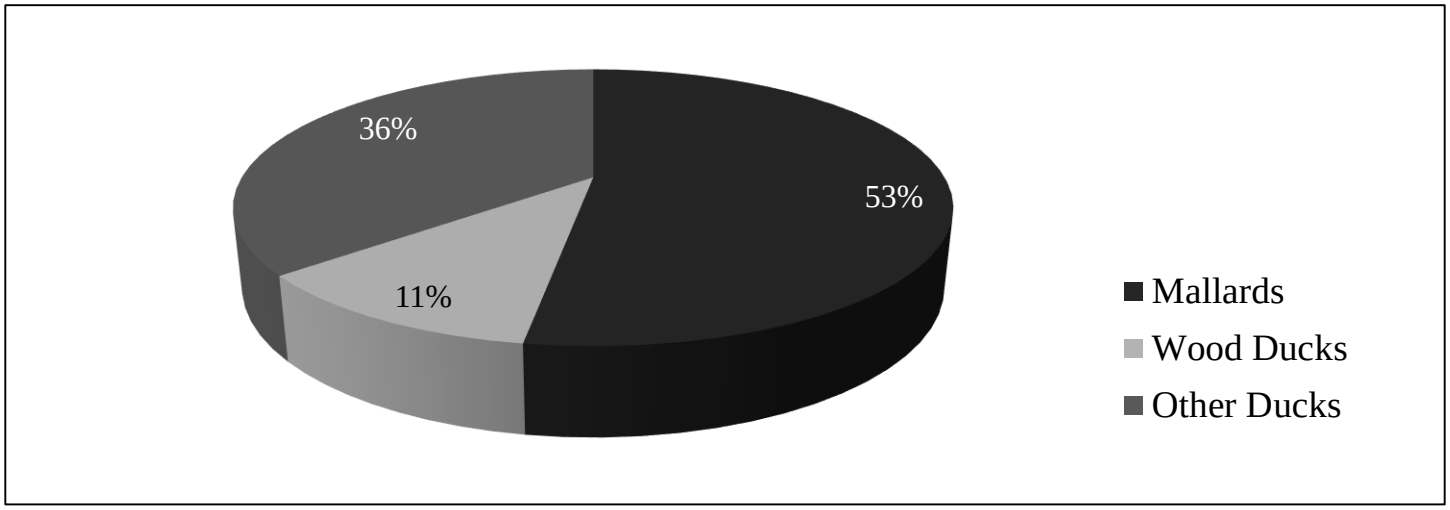

Figure 14. Proportion of Mallards, Wood Ducks, and Other Ducks harvested during the 2013-14 regular duck season.[a]

[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.

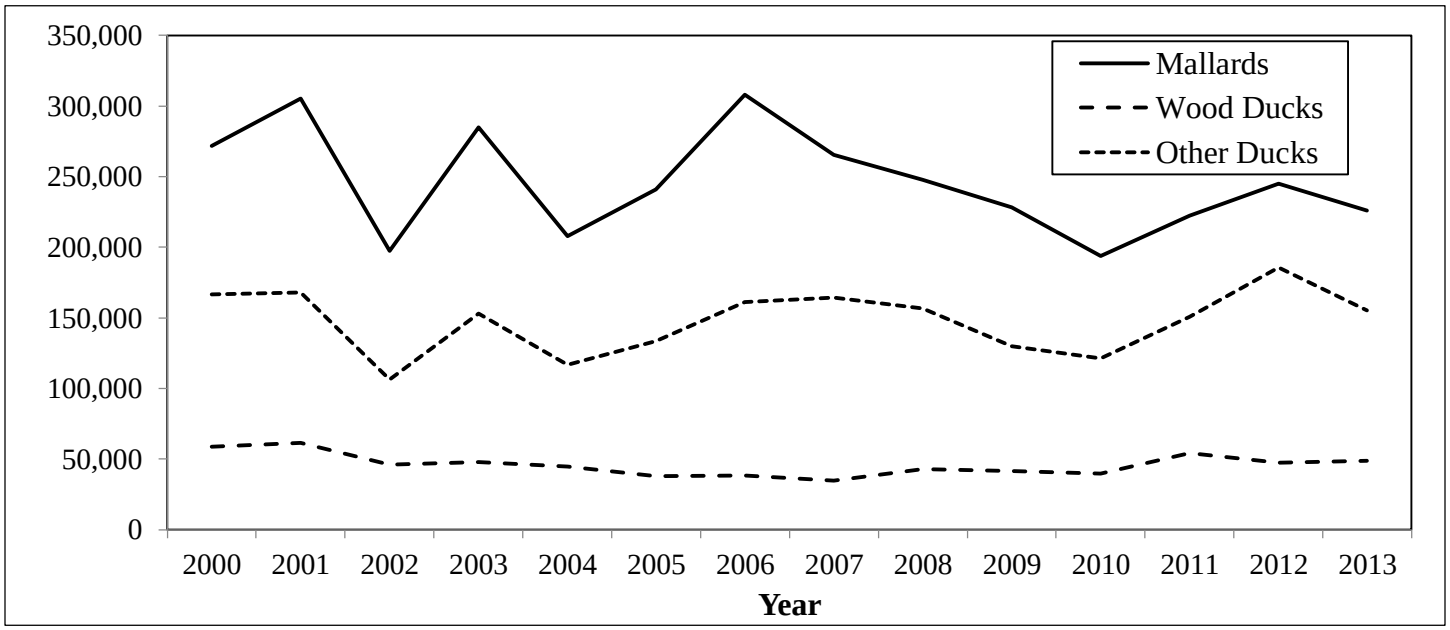

Figure 15. Illinois regular season duck harvest, 2000 – 2013.

The 2013-14 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. The Central Zone also had the highest daily success rate (harvest/hunter/day) and season success rates (harvest/hunter/season), 0.82 ducks per day and 10.72 ducks per season. Statewide, duck hunter daily success remained at 0.76 ducks/day, though hunter season success decreased from 11.01 in 2012-13 to 9.85 in 2013-14 (Table 9).

Of duck hunters who reported hunting ≥ 1 day, 36% hunted 5 days or less (Table 10, Figure 16), and 12.4% of duck hunters reported not harvesting any ducks; one-fifth of hunters (20.1%) harvested more than 30 ducks.

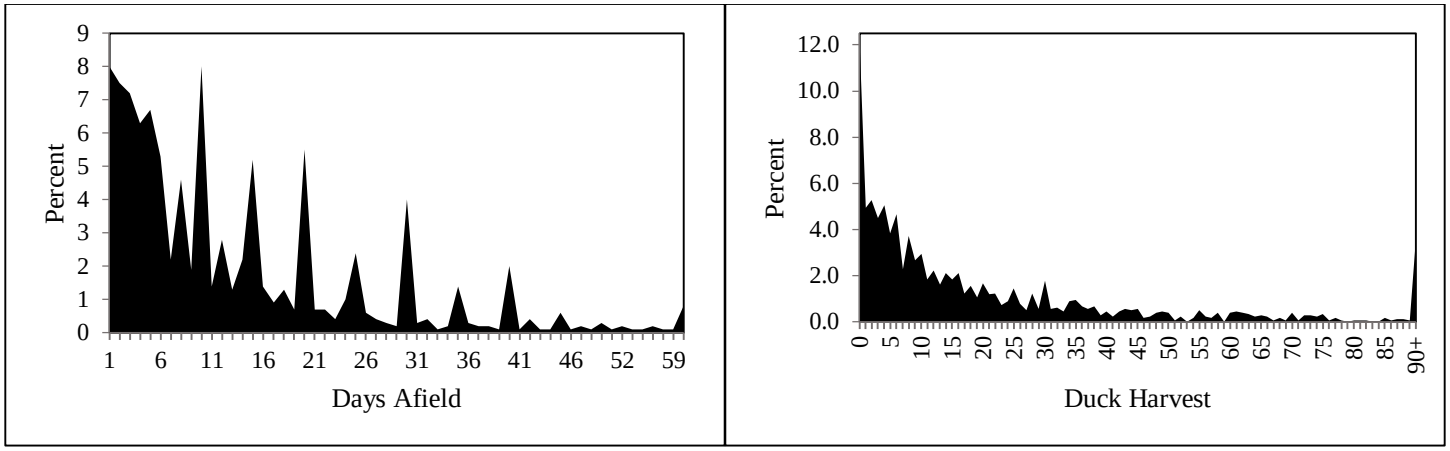

Figure 16. Distribution of days afield per hunter and ducks harvested per hunter for Illinois' 2013-14 regular duck season.

Over two-thirds (72%) of hunters reported using spinning wing decoys to hunt ducks during the 2013-14 regular duck season (Figure 17). Spinning-wing decoys were used more often by hunters when hunting over water than in fields (Figure 18). Sixteen percent of hunters harvested a greater variety of species this year than in the last 5 years (Figure 19). Nineteen species of duck were harvested in Illinois from September, 2013 through January, 2014 (Table 11).

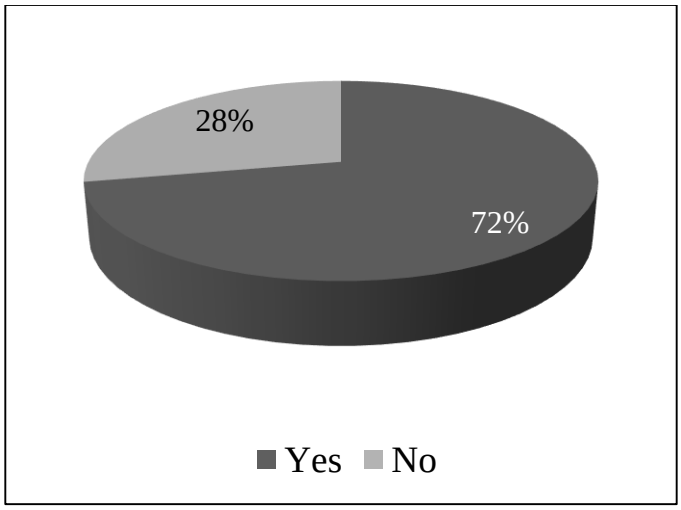

Figure 17. Number of hunters who used spinning-wing decoys to hunt ducks in Illinois during the 2013-14 season (*n*=1962).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day during the 2013-2014 waterfowl seasons.

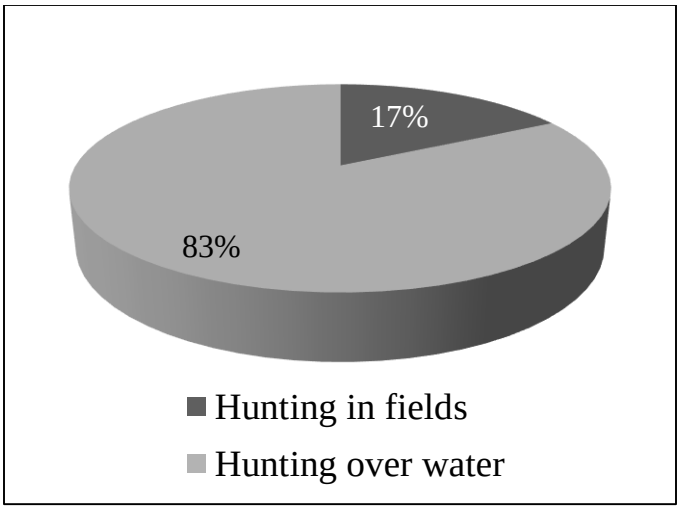

Figure 18. Areas where hunters most often used a spinning-wing decoy (*n*=1364).
*Cases selected for those who hunted for at least one day and said they used a spinning-wing decoy.

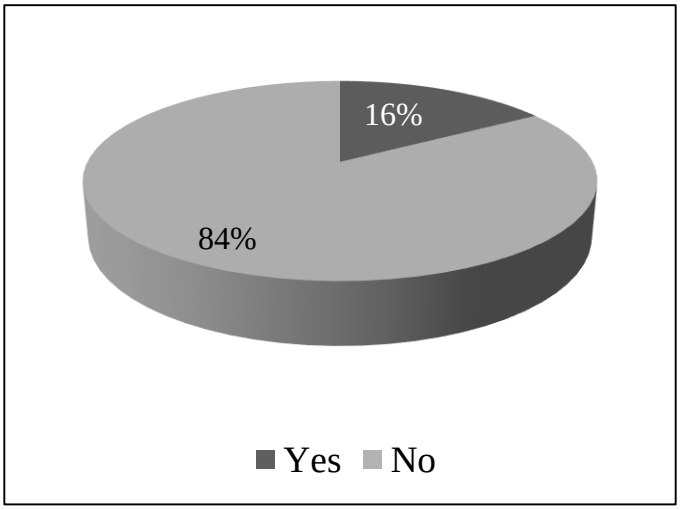

Figure 19. Number of hunters who harvested a greater variety of species during 2013-2014 than in the last five years (*n*=1908).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day during the 2013-2014 waterfowl seasons.

Early September Goose Season

An estimated 10,865 hunters participated in the early (September) Canada goose season in Illinois during the 2013 season, a decrease of 2.9% from the 11,192 who participated during 2012 (Figure 20, Table 12). Statewide, hunters spent 40,955 days afield in 2013, 3.5% more than in 2012, and harvested approximately 15,644 Canada geese, a decrease from the 2012 harvest of 13.2%. The Central Zone accounted for the most hunters, days afield, and geese harvested, 56.0%, 60.6%, and 59.3%, respectively (Figure 21).

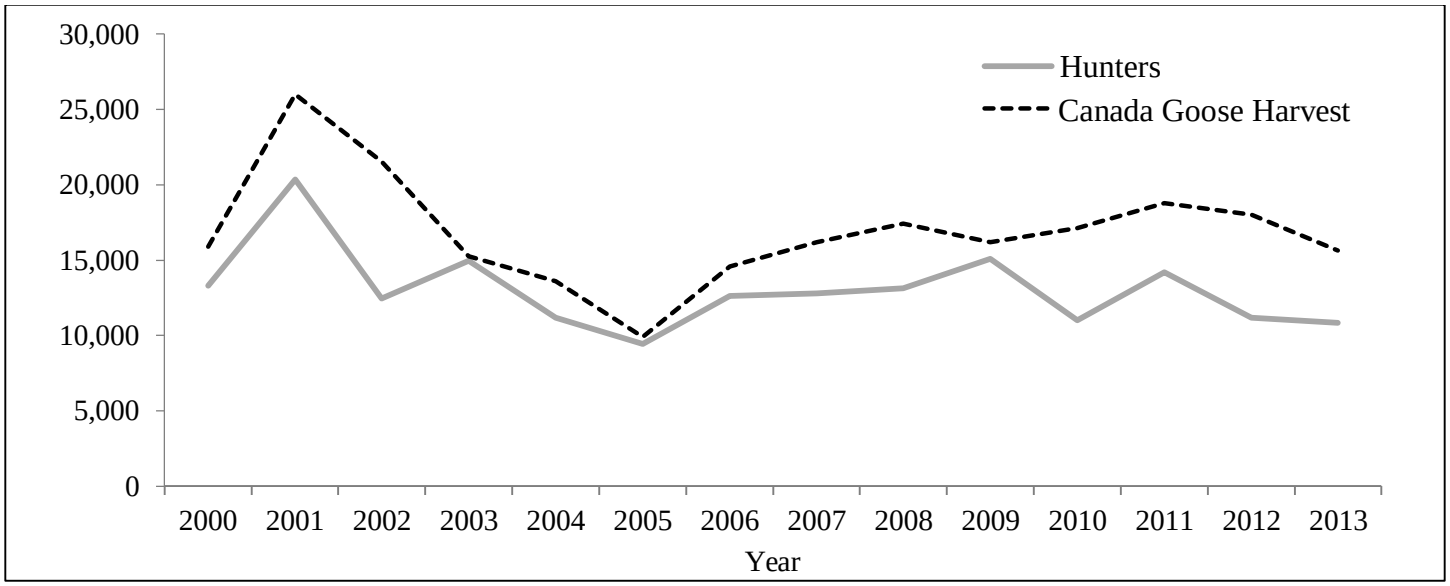

Figure 20. Early September Canada goose harvest and hunter activity, 2000-2013.

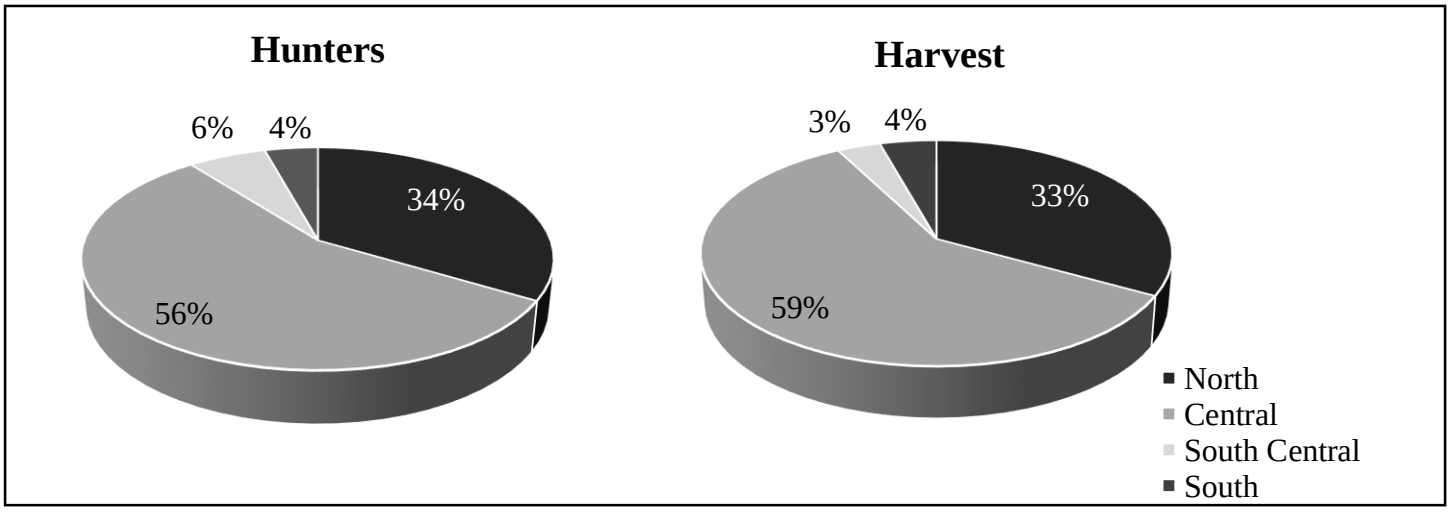

Figure 21. Early September Canada goose harvest and hunter activity by zone in Illinois during 2013.

Regular Canada Goose Season

Canada goose harvest during the 2013-14 regular goose season increased 44.3% from 2012-13 (Table 13, Figure 22). An estimated 33,809 hunters spent 391,246 days afield and harvested 104,887 Canada geese during 2013-14. Number of goose hunters in Illinois decreased 0.7% from the number of hunters in 2012-13, while the number of days afield increased 1.3%. Hunters also harvested 15,859 other geese, of which 10,061 were light geese (snow, blue or Ross' geese) (*Chen caerulescens*) and 5,797 were white-fronted geese (*Anser albifrons*), for a total combined harvest of 120,746 geese (Figure 23).

Goose hunters hunted for an average of 11.57 days for geese; mean harvest was 3.1 Canada geese and 0.47 other geese per hunter per season, and 63.6% of goose hunters harvested ≤ 5 geese (Table 14, Figure 24). The Central Zone led the state in the number of goose hunters (52.0%), days afield (51.3%), and Canada geese harvested (50.4%); the most white-fronted (42.1%) and light geese (53.4%) were harvested in the South Central Zone (Table 15). Harvest of Canada geese is summarized by zone and year (2011-12 through 2013-14) in Table 16.

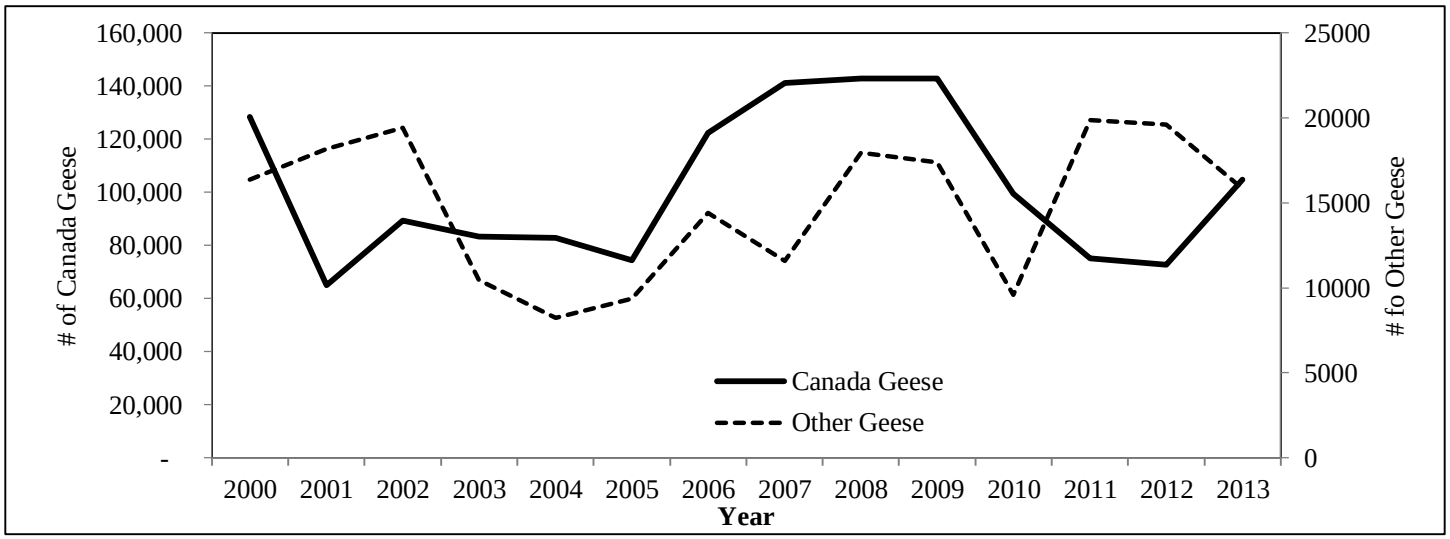

Figure 22. Goose harvest during Illinois' regular goose season from 2000-2013.

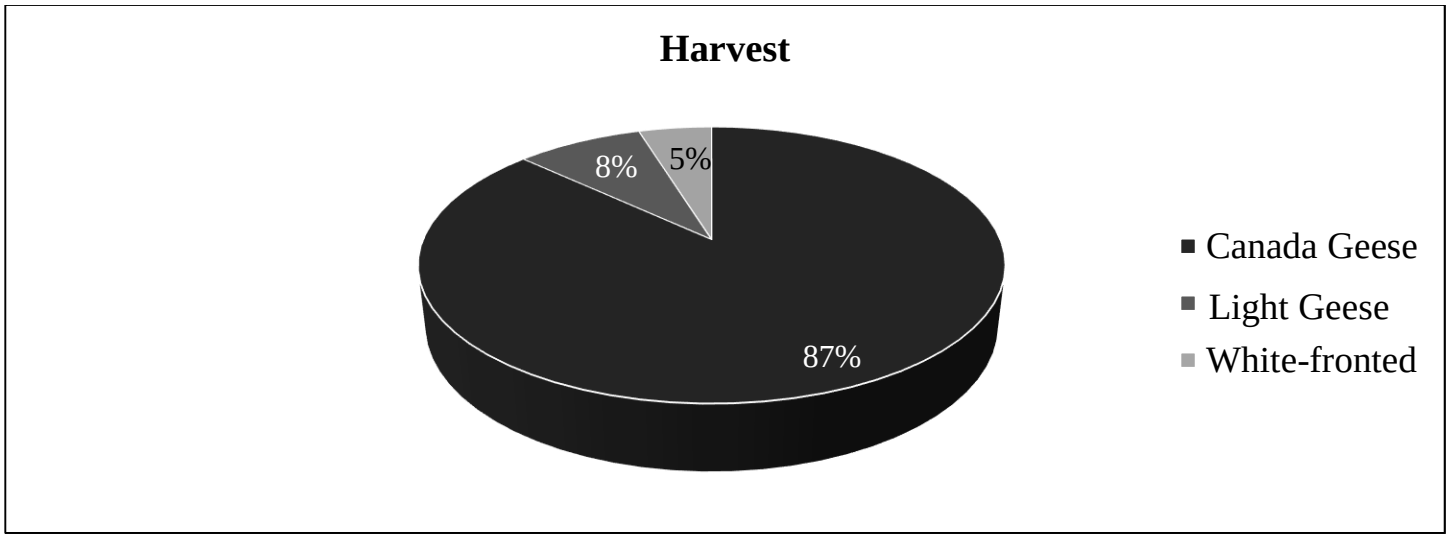

Figure 23. 2013-14 Illinois' regular Canada goose season harvest.

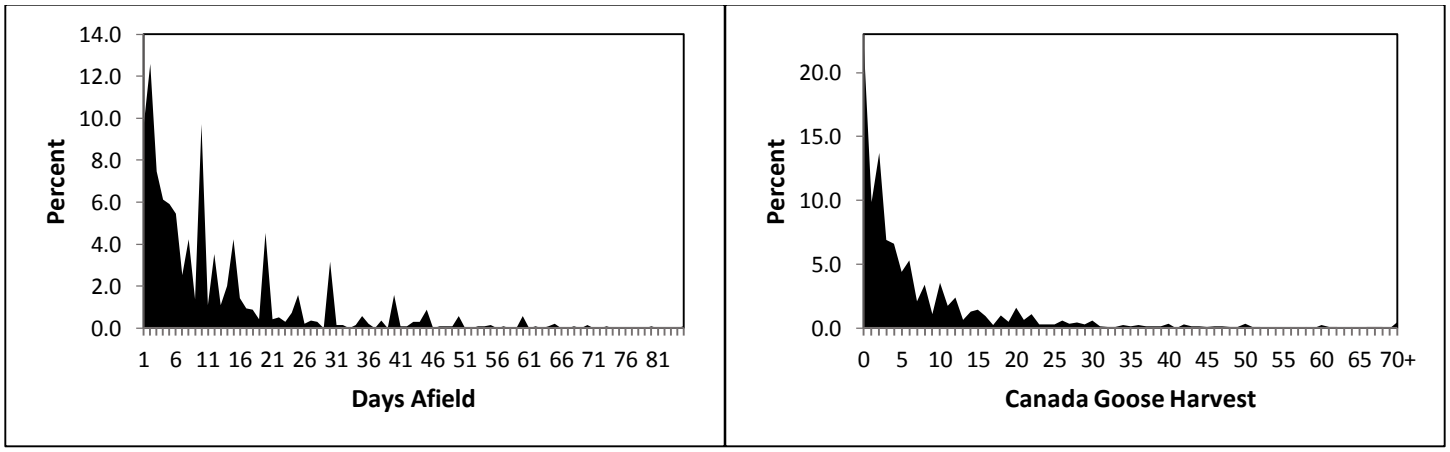

Figure 24. Distribution of days afield per hunter and geese harvested per hunter for Illinois' 2013-14 regular goose season.

Crippling Losses

Crippling losses (birds downed but not retrieved) in Illinois during the 2013-14 regular season were estimated at 59,064 ducks and 8,847 geese (Table 17). These estimates, which are considered to be indices because they contain information about the relative number and are not actual number or abundance estimates, equate to 13.7 ducks and 7.3 geese lost per 100 harvested.

White-fronted/Specklebelly Harvest

Eight percent of those who hunted one day or more for waterfowl harvested white-fronted (specklebelly) geese this year (Figure 25). One-third of hunters (32.9%) who harvested specklebelly geese indicated they harvested more specklebelly geese during the 2013-14 season than in the previous 5 years, while 41.6% harvested the same amount and 26.9% harvested fewer (Figure 26). The majority of hunters who harvested specklebelly geese (58.4%) did not target specklebelly geese specifically; 38% used specklebelly calls and 36.1% used specklebelly decoys (Figure 27).

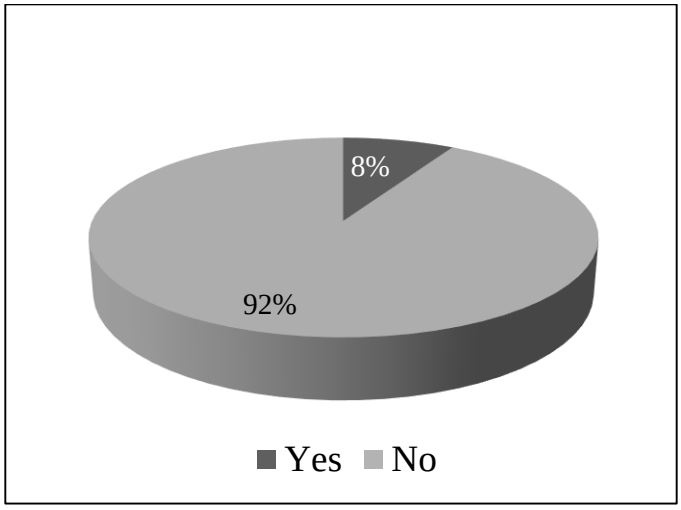

Figure 25. Number of hunters who harvested white-fronted (specklebelly) geese during the 2013-14 waterfowl hunting seasons (*n*=2010).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day during the 2013-2014 waterfowl seasons.

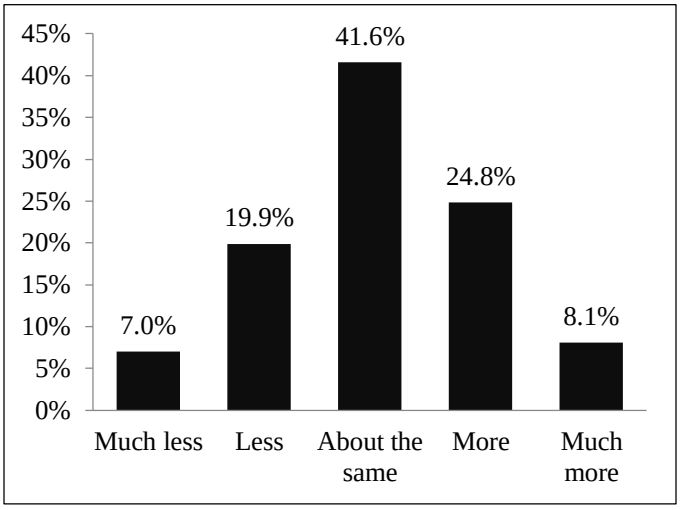

Figure 26. Comparison between the number of white-fronted geese hunters harvested in 2013-14 compared to the last 5 years (*n*=161).
*Cases selected for those who hunted for at least one day and said they harvested white-fronted (specklebelly) geese.

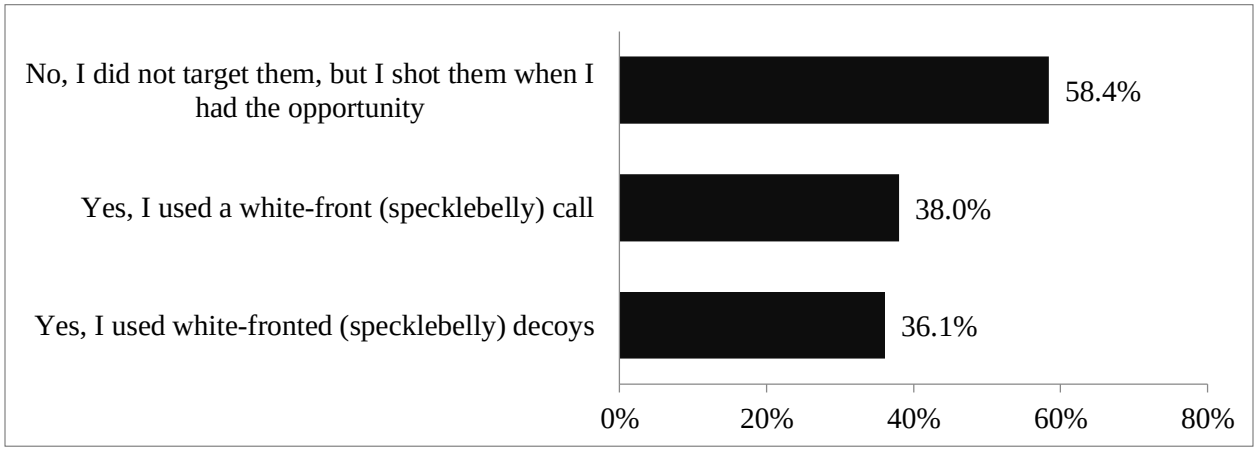

Figure 27. Number of hunters who targeted white-fronted (specklebelly) geese during the Regular Goose Season (*n*=166).
*Cases selected for those who hunted for at least one day and said they harvested white-fronted (specklebelly) geese.

Waterfowl Hunting Effort and Stamp Purchasing

Fifty-four percent of respondents indicated they hunt waterfowl every year in Illinois (Figure 28), though 68% purchase stamps every year (Figure 29). When asked the reason for their most recent purchase of a State Waterfowl Stamp, over 60% of respondents (63.4%) indicated it was because they knew they would hunt, while 30% purchased a stamp in case they had the opportunity to hunt; additional reasons included "to support waterfowl habitat conservation" (4.0%) and "to apply for a state blind drawing" (1.7%) (Figure 30). Top reasons respondents did not hunt this year included "I normally do not hunt waterfowl every year" (27.1%), "No time/Other priorities" (23.2%), "I did not have access to waterfowl hunting areas" (22.8%), and "ducks and geese were not available where I hunt when I could hunt them" (15.1%) (Table 18).

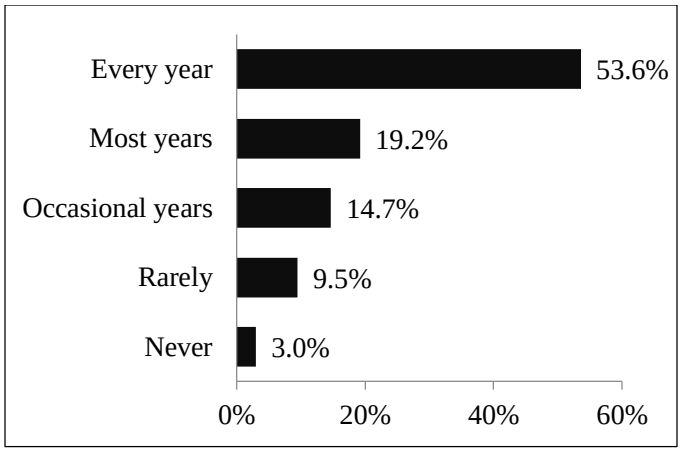

Figure 28. How often hunters hunt waterfowl in Illinois (*n*=3237)

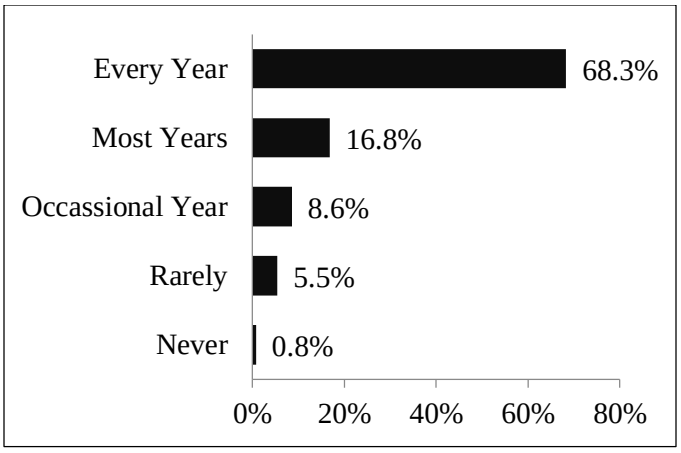

Figure 29. How often hunters purchase an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp (*n*=3255)

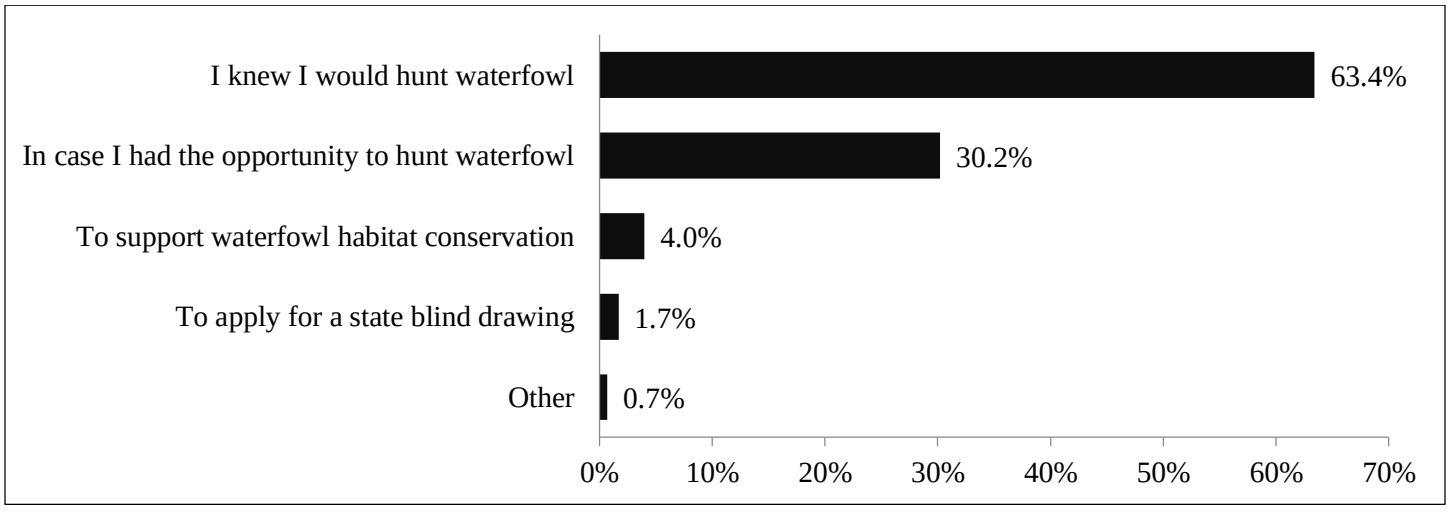

Figure 30. Reasons why hunters purchased their most recent Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp (*n*=3117).

Satisfaction with 2013-14 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 Zones. South Central Zone duck hunters harvested the second fewest ducks per hunter per season (M = 7.84, Table 8), an average of 1.86 ducks per hunter per season more than hunters in the North Zone and 1.12 and 2.88 ducks per hunter per season fewer than hunters in the South and Central zones, respectively. South Central Zone duck hunters were the least satisfied with every aspect of the season except the weather (Table 19); South Zone duck hunters were least satisfied with the weather, but most satisfied with the amount of time they spent duck hunting, and second most satisfied with every other aspect of the season. South Central and South Zone hunters harvested the most geese per hunter per season (M = 4.20 and M = 3.68, respectively) (Table 15). South Central Zone goose hunters were the least satisfied with the amount of time they spent hunting geese, while South Zone hunters were the most satisfied (Table 20).

When asked about weather patterns over the last 5 waterfowl hunting seasons, forty-three percent of hunters indicated the patterns were leading to a trend, twenty-two percent less than in 2012-13 (Figure 31). Fifty-seven percent of waterfowl hunters observed freeze-ups later in the season, and 46% observed warmer seasons with fewer ducks and geese migrating into the areas they hunt (Table 21).

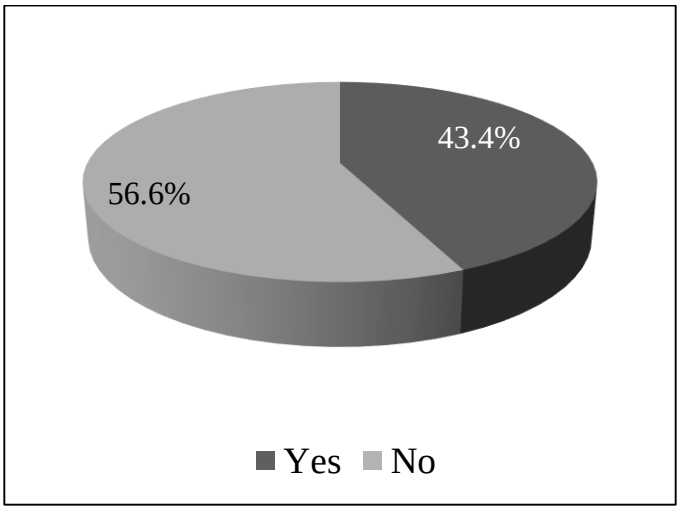

Figure 31. Hunters who indicated there is a trend in weather patterns over the last 5 seasons (n=2537).

Season and Zone Preferences

When presented the proposition of a 45 day duck season, the greatest consensus among duck hunters that hunted ducks >1 day was in support of delaying the start of duck season by two weeks and having it end at the same time (Table 22). The second most preferred among all zones was for the loss to be split with one week at the beginning and one at the end. If the season was reduced to 30 days, the greatest percentage of hunters in all zones, except the South Zone, would prefer the season to start two weeks later and end two weeks earlier; South Zone hunters would prefer the start of the season be delayed by one month and end at the same time (Table 23).

The next opportunity for zone changes will be for the 2016-2020 seasons. When asked, over one-third of respondents in all zones except the South Central Zone, indicated they did not have a preference for changes to the four zone structure related to split seasons (Table 24). Hunters in the South and South Central Zones provided the strongest opinions with 40.8% of South Zone and 28.7% South Central Zone hunters preferring four duck zones with no split seasons and nearly thirty percent of South Central Zone hunters preferring three duck zones with split seasons in one, two, or all zones.

If a three zone/two season segment structure was implemented during the 2016-2020 seasons, South Central Zone hunters showed the strongest collective opinion with 41.5% in favor of combining the Central and South Central and leaving the North and South Zones the way they are (Table 25). If the season remains continuous during the 2016-2020 seasons, the preferred option by the most hunters in all zones is to have no change to the zone structure, maintain the 4-zones as they are now (Table 26).

Record Keeping

Prior to the start of the 2013-14 regular waterfowl season, survey participants were sent harvest record cards to keep track of their harvest. Forty-three percent of respondents indicated they keep records of their hunting trips or harvest (Figure 32). The majority of hunters who kept track of their trips or harvest used their own records to do so; approximately one-quarter (23.2%) used the provided pre-season harvest card mailed to

them by the Illinois Natural History Survey and others (17.2%) relied on club records (Figure 33). Forty-six percent of respondents hunted sites that required hunters to report harvest numbers (Figure 34). Hunters identified state managed sites most often (65.3%) as the type of site requiring harvest number reporting, followed by Club/Private Organization (36.9%), and Commercial hunting operations (5.7%) (Figure 35). Hunters are most often asked to report their daily blind harvest (49.9%) or their individual harvest (41.1%) (Figure 36).

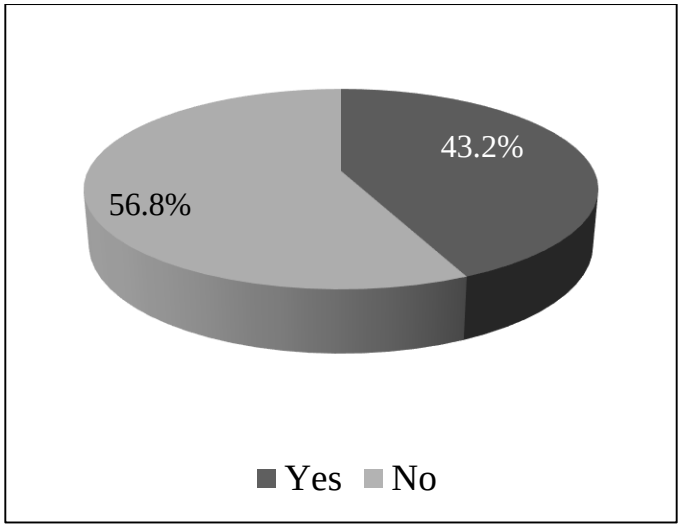

Figure 32. Number of hunters who kept records of their waterfowl hunting trips and/or harvest (*n*=2023).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day during the 2013-2014 waterfowl hunting

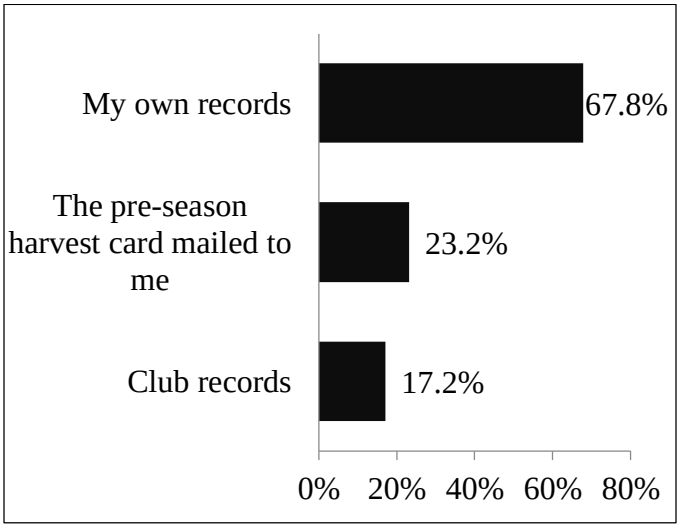

Figure 33. Methods used to keep records (*n*=874).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day and said they keep records of their waterfowl trips/harvests.

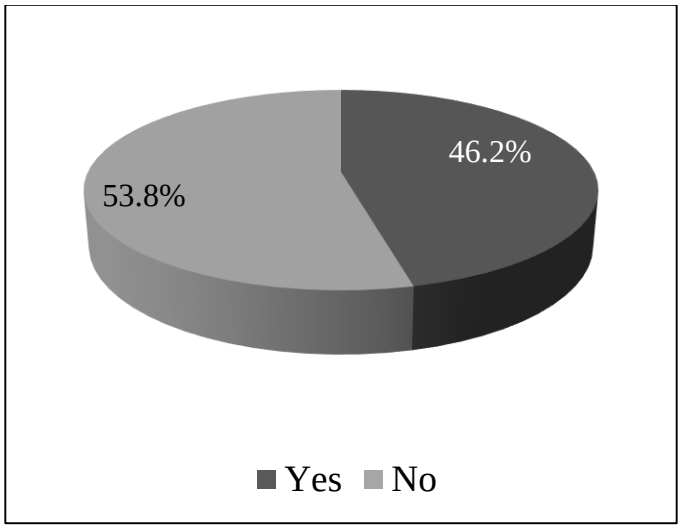

Figure 34. Number of hunters who hunted sites that required them to report harvest numbers (*n*=1964).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day during the 2013-2014 waterfowl seasons.

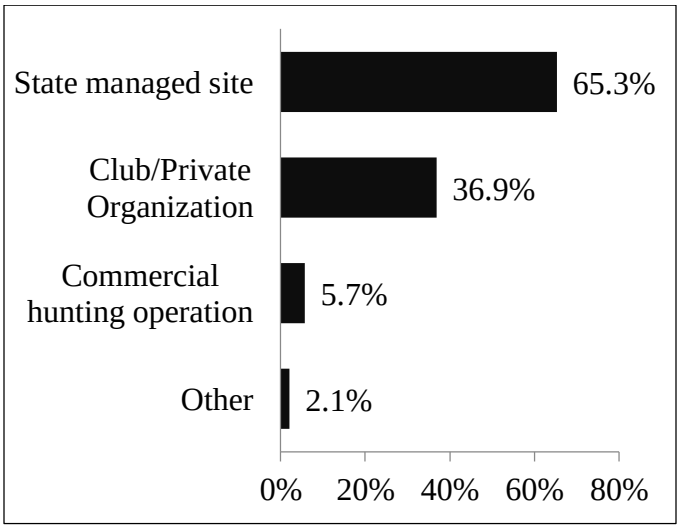

Figure 35. Types of sites that required hunters to report their harvest numbers (*n*=908).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted and said a site they hunt requires them to report harvest numbers.

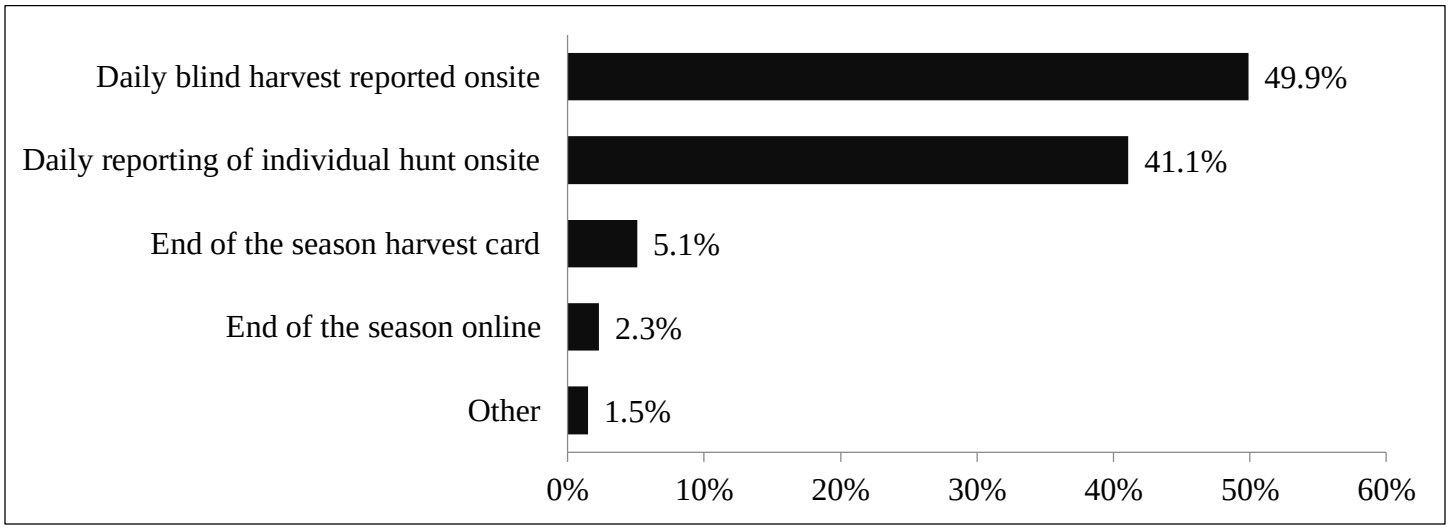

Figure 36. Types of required harvest reporting (*n*=859).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted and said a site they hunt requires them to report harvest numbers.

Digest Use

Over two-thirds of respondents (69.3%) indicated using the Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations every year (Figure 37). Four times as many hunters used the paper copy of the digest more often than the electronic version (Figure 38). Hunters were most likely to pick up copies of the digest at chain retail stores (64.6%) or independent retail stores (30.3%) (Figure 39) and approximately two-thirds (63.8%) of hunters picked up multiple copies of the Digest (*M* = 1.93 digests) (Figure 40).

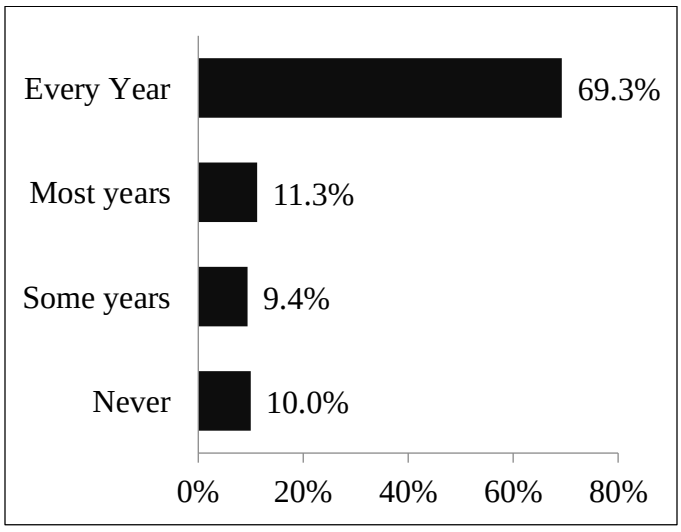

Figure 37. How often hunters use the Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations (*n*=3167).

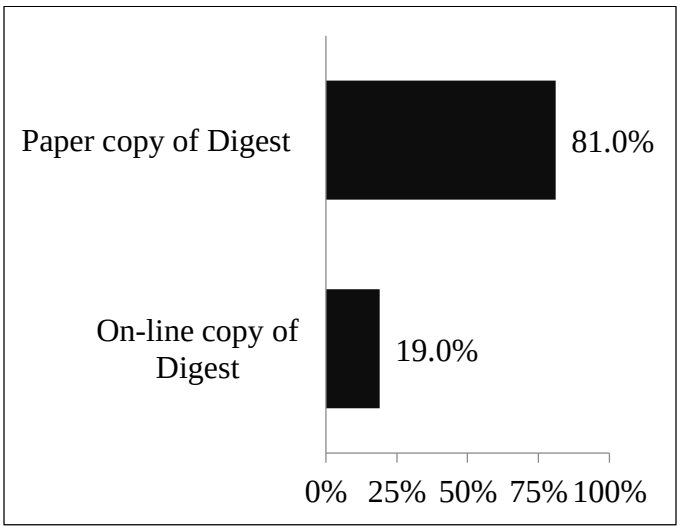

Figure 38. Hunters' use of Paper and Electronic copies of the Digest of Waterfowl Hunting.

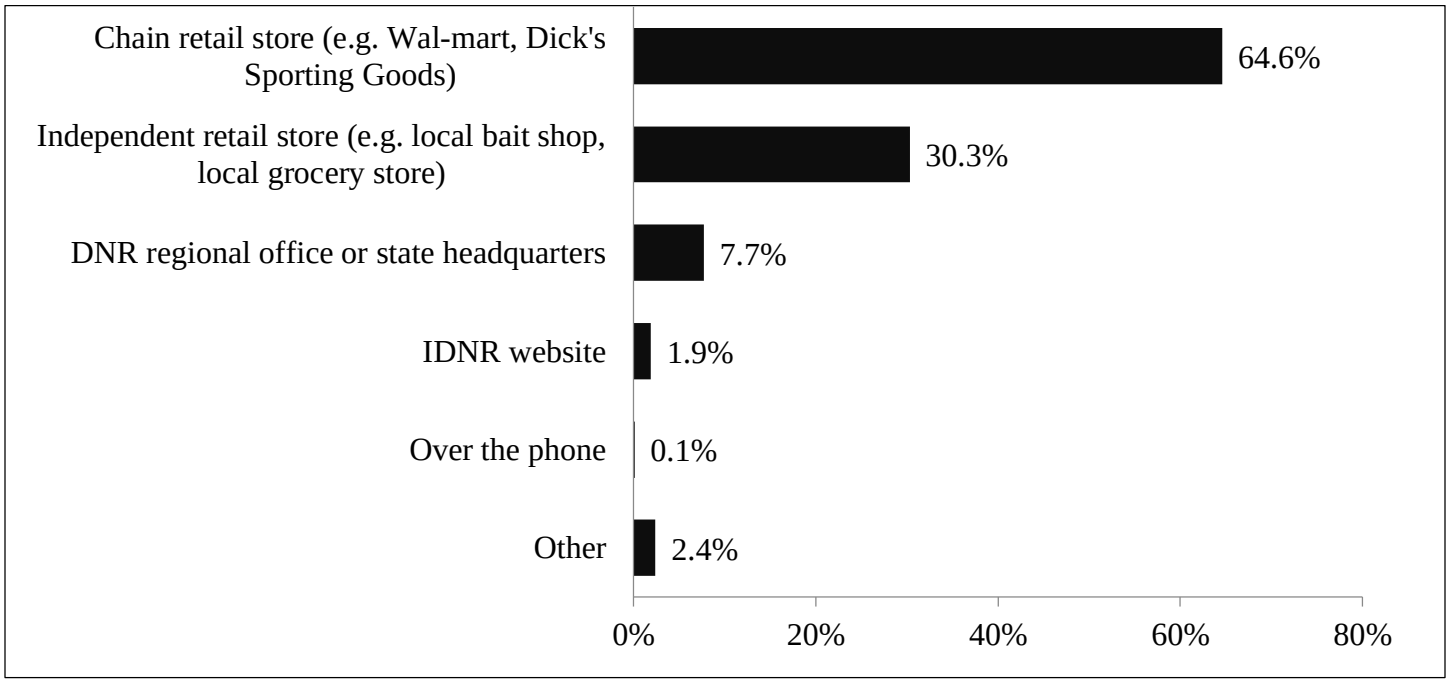

Figure 39. Locations where hunters picked up their paper copy of the Digest (*n*=2313).
*Cases selected for those who said they used a paper copy of the Digest.

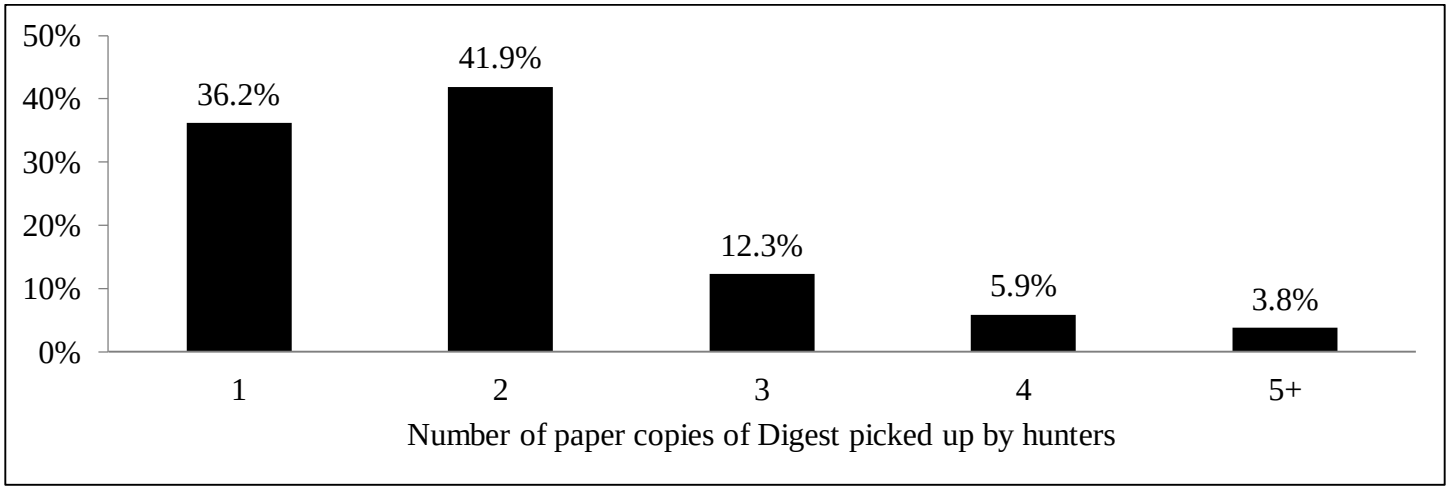

Figure 40. Number of paper copies of the Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations picked up by hunters (*M* = 1.93) (*n*=1878).
*Cases selected for those who said they used a paper copy of the Digest.

Hunter Characteristics

Respondents who hunted waterfowl during the 2013-14 season have hunted waterfowl for an average of 22.7 years, hunted waterfowl in Illinois for an average of 20.8 years, were 49 years of age on average, and responded from all counties. Females comprised 2.8% of survey respondents, and 1.6% of those who hunted during the 2013-14 waterfowl hunting season (Figure 41). Almost all respondents who indicated hunting during

the 2013-14 season had hunted waterfowl in Illinois previously (Figure 42) and sixty percent had previously introduced a new non-youth hunter, 16 years or older, to waterfowl hunting (Figure 43). Thirty-nine percent of hunters prefer hunting ducks to geese and forty-seven percent enjoy hunting ducks and geese equally (Figure 44). Given only one day to hunt, 47.6% of respondents would hunt ducks; deer (22.9%) was selected second most by hunters, followed by geese (12.0%) (Figure 45).

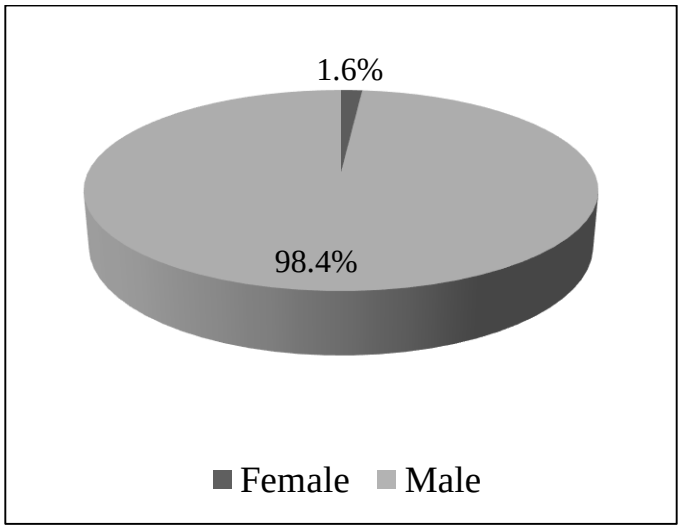

Figure 41. Gender distribution of respondents who hunted during the 2013-2014 waterfowl seasons (*n*=2121).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day during the 2013-2014 waterfowl seasons.

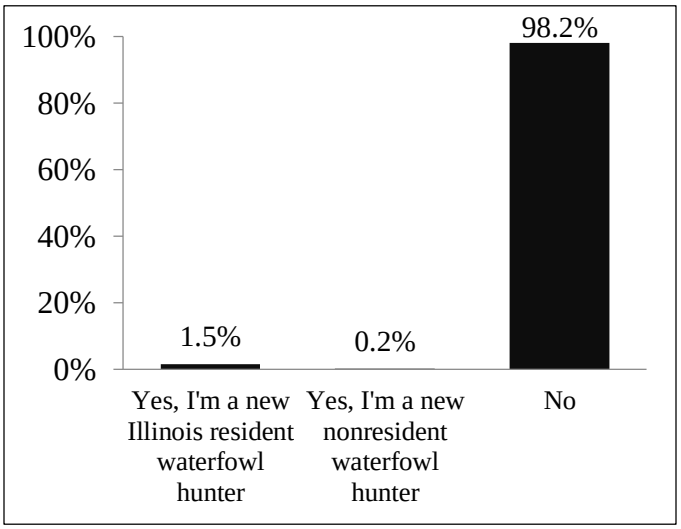

Figure 42. Number of hunters whose first time hunting waterfowl in Illinois was the 2013-2014 waterfowl season (*n*=2012).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted one day or more during the 2013-2014 waterfowl seasons.

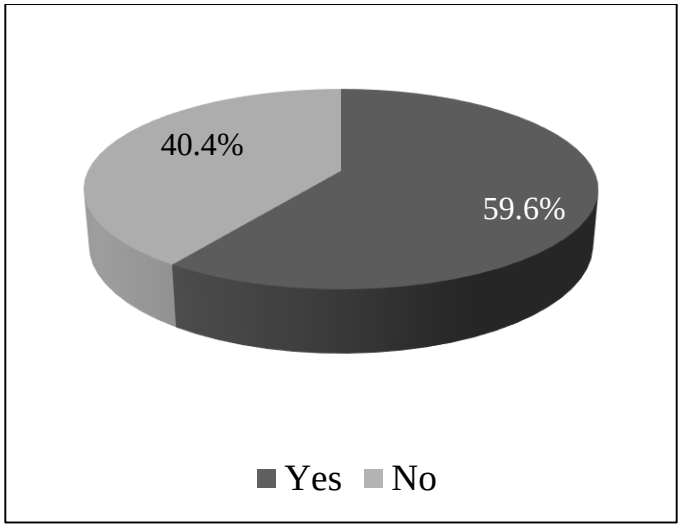

Figure 43. Number of hunters who have introduced a non-youth hunter, 16 years old or older, to waterfowl hunting (*n*=3224).

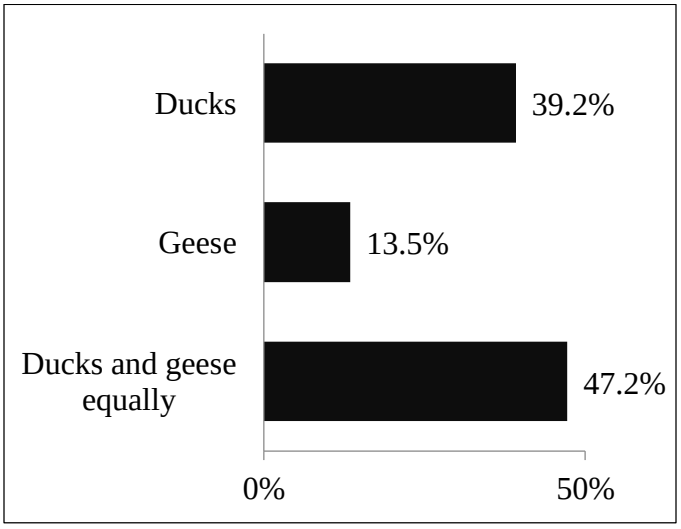

Figure 44. Hunters' preference for hunting waterfowl in Illinois (*n*=1662).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for one day or more during the 2013-2014 waterfowl hunting seasons.

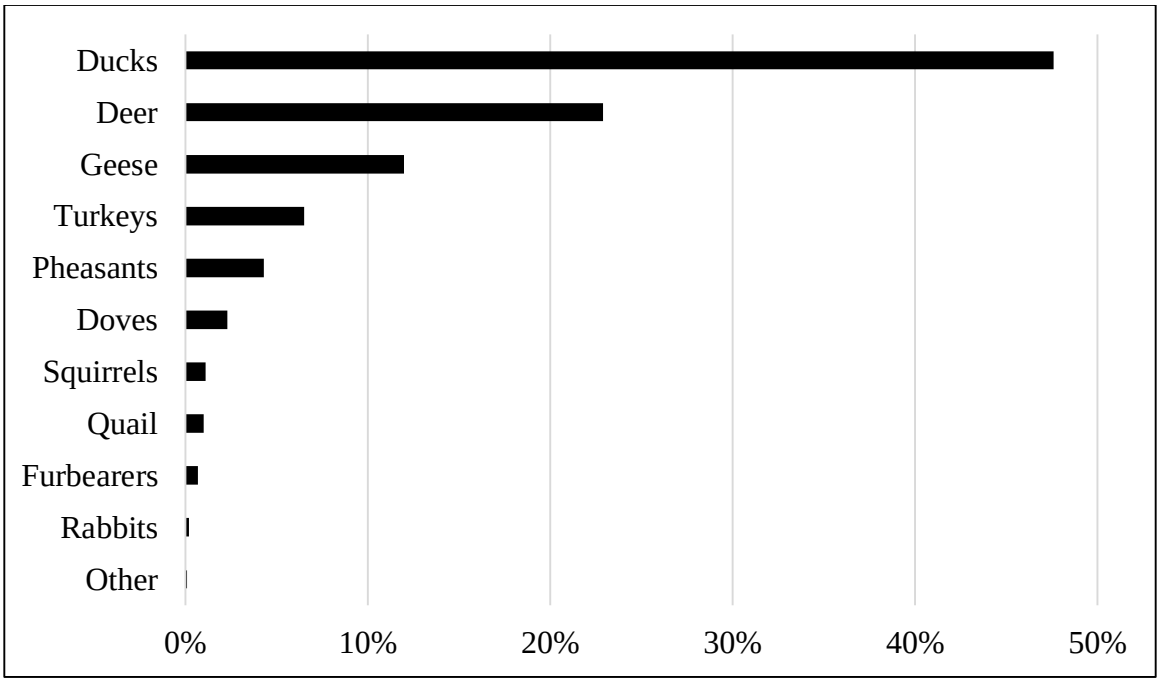

Figure 45. Hunters' preferences for hunting any species given only one day to hunt.

Harvest cards

Comparisons of those who received harvest cards with those who did not showed statistically significant differences on three variables, harvest of "Other ducks," total duck harvest, and teal/hunter/day (Table 27). In all three cases those who did not receive harvest cards reported slightly higher numbers than those that did. While these results were significant, the associated effect sizes were minimal and indicate an association that is very weak to negligible (Vaske 2008).

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Table 1. Summary of Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps purchased, hunter activity, and waterfowl harvest in Illinois from 2003 through 2013 hunting seasons.

Season[a] (Year)	Stamps Purchased	Estimated Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Waterfowl Harvested[b]
2003	61,991 (260 [c])	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
2012	64,896	50,740	1,155,346	580,557
2013	66,394	49,170	1,052,728	605,720

[a] Full listing for harvest 1981-Present can be found in Appendix H.
[b] Teal, ducks, coots, and geese combined, and including September Teal and Canada goose seasons and youth hunt.
[c] 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 2003 through 2013 seasons.

Season[a] (Year)	Hunted Ducks Only	Hunted Geese Only	Hunted Both Ducks and Geese	Duck Hunters	Goose Hunters
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%
2012	29.4%	9.8%	60.8%	90.2%	70.6%
2013	30.2%	9.8%	60.0%	90.2%	69.8%

[a] 1981-2013 information can be located Appendix H.
[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, 2003-2013).

Season [a] (Year)	Estimated Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Teal Harvest
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 ± 7,372
2010	13,038	49,038	20,127 ± 9,332
2011	11,221	42,811	21,227 ± 7,993
2012	10,944	46,719	31,942 ± 11,740
2013	10,378	37,431	21,967 ± 7,169

[a] 1981-2013 information can be located in Appendix H.

Table 4. Teal harvest and hunter activity by zones during September Teal season (Illinois, 2013).

	n	Estimated Hunters[a]	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Teal Harvested
North Zone	103	2,503	9,406	3,519
Central Zone	228	5,542	20,903	14,150
S. Central Zone	74	1,799	5,080	3,617
South Zone	28	681	2,042	682
Unknown	0	0	0	0

[a] The number of individual teal hunters in the state is less than the sum of duck hunters from the categories above because some hunted in more than one zone.

Table 5. Rates of Teal harvest and hunter activity during September Teal season (Illinois, 2003-2013).

Season[a] (Year)	Season Length/ Bag Limit	Days Hunted Per Hunter	Teal Harvest per Hunter	
			Per Day	Per Season
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
2012	16/4	4.27	0.68	2.92
2013	16/6	3.61	0.59	2.12

[a] 1981-2013 information can be located in Appendix H.

Table 6. Waterfowl harvest and hunter activity during Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days, 2003-2013.

Season[a] (Year)	Adult Participation	Youth Participation	Days Hunting	Mean Youths/ Hunting Party	Total Ducks	Ducks/ Youth/Day	Total Coots	Coots/ Youth/ Day	Total Geese	Geese/ Youth/ Day
2003	7,415	11,419	17,985	1.54	9,184	0.51	178	0.01	1,116	0.06
2004	5,603	7,891	12,997	1.41	7,477	0.58	48	<0.01	561	0.04
2005	4,540	6,489	10,268	1.58	5,644	0.55	583	0.06	965	0.09
2006	5,447	8,024	11,903	1.48	9,863	0.83	133	0.01	732	0.06
2007	6,259	8,981	14,356	1.60	9,141	0.64	850	0.06	1,701	0.12
2008	6,402	9,878	14,799	1.50	10,380	0.70	241	0.02	1,466	0.10
2009	7,073	9,772	15,922	1.63	11,229	0.71	599	0.04	2,396	0.15
2010	5,471	7,452	11,828	1.59	9,156	0.77	419	0.04	1,420	0.12
2011	6,325	8,642	14,059	1.63	9,569	0.68	1,333	0.09	1,318	0.09
2012	7,825	10,001	52,448[b]	1.27	8,147[c]	0.41	503[c]	0.03	1,064[c]	0.05
2013	8,438	8,639	19,136	1.02	12,715	1.33	359	0.04	2,065	0.23

[a] 1996-2013 information can be located in Appendix H.

[b] Results include youth hunts during the regular season and the 2 day Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days.

[c] Results are a 2 day estimate based on the mean number harvested by youth from the entire season

Table 7. Summary of duck and coot harvest and hunter activity during the regular duck season (Illinois 2003-2013).

Season[a] (Year)	Hunters	Days Afield	Number of Ducks: Mallards	Wood Ducks	Other Ducks	Total	Coots
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	447,795	2,266
2009	49,648	626,832	228,211	41,549	129,795	399,555 ± 69,698	3,904 ± 3,342
2010	43,450	499,758	193,758	39,611	121,375	354,859 ± 60,571	1,770 ± 2,435
2011	46,619	632,712	222,405	54,294	150,786	427,484 ± 66,551	4,327 ± 2,663
2012	43,444	630,233	244,988	47,623	185,776	478,387 ± 50,294	4,133 ± 3,536
2013	43,653	563,961	225,873	49,001	155,306	430,179 ± 29,431	2,143 ± 4,031

[a] 1981-2013 information can be located in Appendix H.
[b] Includes Canvasback in 2003, 2,100 in 2004, 3,918 in 2005, 5,927 in 2006 and 5,925 in 2007.

Table 8. Duck harvest and hunter activity by waterfowl zones and selected areas during the regular duck season (Illinois 2013-2014).

Zone	*n*	Hunters[a]	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Ducks Harvested	Days Hunted per Hunter	Ducks per Hunter per Day	Ducks per Hunter per Season
North	514	12,493	123,253	74,743	9.87	0.61	5.98
Central	916	22,264	289,430	238,756	13.00	0.82	10.72
South Central	314	7,632	78,774	59,814	10.32	0.76	7.84
South	260	6,319	70,583	56,599	11.17	0.80	8.96
Unknown	14	340	1,920	268	5.64	0.14	0.79
Statewide	1,796	43,653	563,961	430,179	12.92	0.76	9.85

[a] The number of individual duck hunters in the state is less than the sum of duck hunters from the categories above because some hunted in more than one zone.

Table 9. Rates of duck harvest and hunter activity during the regular duck season (Illinois 2003-2013).

Season[a] (Year)	Season Length/ Bag Limit	Days Afield Per Hunter	Duck Harvest Per Hunter[b]	
			Per Day	Per Season
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
2012	60/6(4,2)	14.51	0.76	11.01
2013	60/6(4,2)	12.92	0.76	9.85

[a] 1981-2013 information can be located in Appendix H.
[b] Excludes ducks harvested coincidentally while goose hunting.

Table 10. Distribution of the number of days afield and number of ducks harvested in 2013-14.
*Number of ducks harvested was calculated by taking responses and applying the correction factor (Anderson 1985).

	Days Hunting Ducks	Number of Ducks Harvested
0	--	12.4%
1-5	35.8%	23.6
6-10	22.1	16.3
11-15	13.0	9.7
16-20	9.9	7.6
21-25	5.2	5.4
26-30	5.5	4.9
>30	8.5	20.1

Table 11. Duck species hunters harvested between September 2013 and January 2014 (*n*=1634).

Species	Number of hunters	Percent of hunters
Mallard	1460	89.4
Gadwall	937	57.3
Wood Duck	864	52.9
Green-winged Teal	695	42.5
Shoveler	559	34.2
Wigeon	452	27.7
Pintail	434	26.6
Blue-winged Teal	422	25.8
Scaup	253	15.5
Canvasback	253	15.5
Redhead	215	13.2
Coot	65	4.0
Ringneck*	51	3.1
Black Duck*	32	2.0
Bufflehead*	30	1.8
Goldeneye*	28	1.7
Merganser*	24	1.5
Ruddy Duck*	11	0.7
Scoter/white wing scoter*	3	0.2

*Indicates write-ins provided by hunters.

** Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day during the 2013-2014 waterfowl hunting seasons.

Table 12. Canada goose harvest and hunter activity during the early September Canada goose season (Illinois 2003-2013).

			Waterfowl Zone				
	Year[a]	Statewide	North	Central	South Central	South	Unknown
Hunters	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
	2012	11,192[b]	4,601	5,928	1,161	249	0
	2013	10,865[b]	3,646	6,076	681	462	0
Days Afield	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
	2012	39,589	17,079	18,613	3,524	373	0
	2013	40,955	12,323	24,816	2,042	1,774	0
Canada Geese	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
	2012	18,028	8,557	7,664	1,599	228	0
	2013	15,644	5,165	9,271	523	685	0

[a] 1981-2013 information can be located in Appendix H.

[b] Less than the sum of hunters in individual zones because some hunters hunted more than 1 zone.

Table 13. Summary of goose harvest and hunter activity during the regular goose season (Illinois 2003 through 2013).

Season[a] (Year)	Hunters	Days Afield	Number of Geese		
			Canada Geese	Other Geese	Total
2003	39,275	409,487	83,207 (1,526)	10,458[b] (342)	93,665[b] (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 (940) ± 36,569
2010	36,803	385,432	99,422 (534)	9,594 (46)	109,016 (580) ± 22,523
2011	36,996	411,380	75,061(618)	19,862 (33)	94,923 (651) ± 22,387
2012	34,034	386,356	72,682 (0)	19,597 (0)	92,280 (0) ± 19,570
2013	33,809	391,246	104,887(0)	15,859 (0)	120,746 (0) ± 12,775

Numbers in parentheses represent the number of geese harvested while duck hunting.
[a] 1981-2013 information can be located in Appendix H.
[b] Reduced by 23,151 from estimate given in 2002 report to exclude Conservation Order snow goose harvest.

Table 14. 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	Number of Geese Harvested[a]
0	--	22.1%
1-5	41.8%	41.5
6-10	23.3	15.4
11-15	11.9	7.5
16-20	8.2	4.2
21-25	3.5	2.6
26-30	4.0	2.2
>30	7.3	4.4

[a] Total is less than 100 due to rounding.

Table 15. Goose harvest and hunter activity by zones, regular season (Illinois 2013-14).

			Estimated Goose Harvest						
Zone	Hunters	Days Afield	Canada Geese	White-Fronted Geese	Snow/ Blue Geese[b]	Total Geese	Total Days Hunted per Hunter	Total Geese per Hunter per Day	Total Geese per Hunter per Season
North	10,937	108,330	32,472	105	105	32,682	9.90	0.30	2.99
Central	17,573	200,667	52,862	1,568	2,358	56,789	11.42	0.28	3.23
South Central	4,229	46,132	9,968	2,440	5,368	17,776	10.91	0.39	4.20
South	3,670	36,118	9,585	1,685	2,231	13,500	9.84	0.37	3.68
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statewide	33,809 [a]	391,246	104,887	5,797	10,061	120,746	11.57	0.31	3.57

[a] Less than the sum of hunters in individual zones because some hunters hunted more than 1 zone.

[b]Harvest estimates include Ross' geese.

Table 16. Canada goose harvest by zone during the regular goose season (Illinois 2011-12 through 2013-2014).

Zone	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	3-Year Mean	S.D.
North	25,925	27,068	32,472	28,488	3,497
Central	37,677	33,012	52,862	41,184	10,379
South Central	5,933	6,678	9,968	7,526	2,147
South	2,503	5,905	9,585	5,998	3,542
Unknown	3,023	20	0	1,014	1,740
Statewide	75,061	72,682	104,887	84,210	17,947

Table 17. Summary of the number of ducks and geese crippled (Illinois 2003 - 2013 regular seasons).

Season[a] (Year)	Estimated Ducks		Estimated Geese	
	Total	Per 100 Bagged	Total	Per 100 Bagged
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
2012	71,054*	14.9*	10,452*	11.3*
2013	59,064	13.7	8,847	7.3

[a] 1981-2013 information can be located in Appendix H.
*Amended from 2012-13 report.

Table 18. Reasons for not hunting in 2013-2014 (*n*=1097).

	%
I normally do not hunt waterfowl every year (*n*=297)	27.1
*No time / Other priorities (*n*=255)	23.2
I did not have access to waterfowl hunting areas (*n*=250)	22.8
Ducks and Geese were not available where I hunt when I could hunt them (*n*=166)	15.1
*Bad Health (*n*=101)	9.2
I am a nonresident hunter and do not hunt in Illinois every year (*n*=49)	4.5
Other write in responses (*n*=123)	11.2

*Indicates write in response

Table 19. Illinois duck hunters' levels of satisfaction with various aspects of the 2013-2014 duck seasons.

	Zone	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Unsure	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	$\bar{x}$ (S.D.) [a]
Number of ducks you saw	North *n* = 491	12%	30%	13%	36%	10%	3.02(1.23)
	Central *n* = 831	8	26	12	45	10	3.23(1.16)
	South Central *n* = 252	16	33	16	30	4	2.73(1.18)
	South *n* = 178	8	24	16	44	8	3.20(1.15)
Mid-season matched peak of migration	North *n* = 480	12	32	31	21	4	2.73(1.06)
	Central *n* =826	10	28	31	27	5	2.90(1.07)
	South Central *n* = 244	22	33	27	16	2	2.43(1.06)
	South *n* = 175	10	33	32	22	4	2.78(1.02)
Amount of shooting you got in	North *n* = 490	19	34	11	31	5	2.71(1.23)
	Central *n* = 824	14	33	11	35	6	2.87(1.22)
	South Central *n* = 248	21	39	11	26	3	2.50(1.17)
	South *n* = 177	20	32	12	30	6	2.71(1.26)
Number of ducks that migrated through areas you hunted	North *n* = 484	14	30	21	29	6	2.83(1.18)
	Central *n* = 825	10	26	22	35	7	3.03(1.14)
	South Central *n* = 246	14	39	26	18	3	2.57(1.04)
	South *n* = 178	8	28	23	37	4	3.01(1.06)
Amount of time you spent duck hunting	North *n* = 489	14	36	12	35	4	2.80(1.17)
	Central *n* = 822	12	30	12	40	6	2.97(1.20)
	South Central *n* = 246	16	33	13	33	6	2.78(122)
	South *n* = 177	11	28	15	37	9	3.05(1.21)
Number of ducks you harvested	North *n* = 492	21	37	11	27	5	2.58(1.21)
	Central *n* = 824	17	33	12	32	6	2.79(1.23)
	South Central *n* = 248	28	39	10	22	2	2.31(1.16)
	South *n* = 176	22	32	11	28	6	2.65(1.27)
Weather during duck season	North *n* = 494	10	21	15	48	6	3.17(1.13)
	Central *n* = 832	10	28	16	41	5	3.02(1.13)
	South Central *n* = 250	22	26	15	32	5	2.71(1.26)
	South *n* = 177	31	22	12	33	2	2.53(1.28)

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

*Cases selected for those who hunted ≥ 1 day for ducks during the 2013-14 regular duck season.

Table 20. Illinois goose hunters' levels of satisfaction with various aspects of the 2013-2014 goose seasons.

		Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Unsure	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	$\bar{x}$ (S.D.) [a]
Number of geese you saw	North *n* = 425	6%	16%	7%	51%	19%	3.61(1.15)
	Central *n* = 663	8	25	8	43	16	3.34(1.24)
	South Central *n* = 153	8	21	10	46	15	3.40(1.20)
	South *n* = 120	3	26	8	49	15	3.48(1.10)
Mid-season matched peak of migration	North *n* = 416	6	17	28	37	12	3.31(1.08)
	Central *n* = 652	10	27	26	30	8	2.99(1.13)
	South Central *n* = 152	8	28	20	37	7	3.08(1.12)
	South *n* = 120	5	27	24	38	6	3.13(1.04)
Amount of shooting you got in	North *n* = 426	13	29	12	38	9	2.99(1.24)
	Central *n* = 655	19	38	8	28	7	2.68(1.26)
	South Central *n* = 151	19	36	9	33	4	2.67(1.22)
	South *n* = 120	17	38	9	28	9	2.75(1.28)
Number of geese that migrated through areas you hunted	North *n* = 416	7	18	21	38	16	3.38(1.16)
	Central *n* = 649	10	28	17	33	12	3.10(1.22)
	South Central *n* = 152	11	28	15	34	13	3.11(1.25)
	South *n* = 120	3	22	18	47	11	3.40(1.05)
Amount of time you spent goose hunting	North *n* = 424	14	31	11	37	6	2.90(1.23)
	Central *n* = 652	11	34	10	39	6	2.94(1.18)
	South Central *n* = 151	17	27	17	32	8	2.87(1.25)
	South *n* = 120	8	36	13	33	10	3.01(1.20)
Number of geese you harvested	North *n* = 424	21	30	9	34	6	2.76(1.30)
	Central *n* = 655	24	36	10	24	6	2.53(1.25)
	South Central *n* = 152	24	31	14	26	5	2.56(1.24)
	South *n* = 119	21	38	8	26	7	2.60(1.26)
Weather during goose season	North *n* = 426	9	14	16	54	7	3.36(1.10)
	Central *n* = 658	12	23	16	43	7	3.11(1.18)
	South Central *n* = 152	24	31	14	26	5	3.14(1.18)
	South *n* = 118	12	18	15	48	7	3.20(1.17)

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

*Cases selected for those who hunted ≥ 1 day for geese during the 2013-14 regular goose season.

Table 21. Hunters' opinions regarding weather patterns over the past 5 waterfowl hunting seasons.

In the area I hunt, I observed…	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Unsure	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Warmer seasons with fewer ducks migrating into the area. (*n*=2734)	7.6%	12.5%	9.6%	24.1%	17.0%	20.7%	8.5%
Lower water levels caused by drought. (*n*=2731)	5.1%	14.0%	9.5%	24.6%	17.2%	21.9%	7.7%
More mudflats and less vegetation. (*n*=2699)	4.1%	11.9%	8.4%	37.5%	13.8%	16.8%	7.4%
Warmer seasons with fewer geese migrating into the area. (*n*=2698)	7.0%	12.6%	10.0%	24.3%	14.8%	21.7%	9.7%
Freeze-ups later in the season. (*n*=2738)	5.6%	9.5%	7.8%	19.9%	15.9%	27.2%	14.1%
More "blue bird days." (*n*=2715)	3.4%	7.1%	8.3%	42.2%	16.4%	16.3%	6.4%

Table 22. Duck hunter season structure preference if the 2016-2020 duck season were 45 days.

	North Zone *n* = 456	Central Zone *n* = 789	South Central Zone *n* = 239	South Zone *n* = 161	Did not duck hunt *n* = 940
Start the duck season two weeks later than last year, and have it end at the same time.	41.0%	43.9%	41.4%	47.8%	42.1%
Start the duck season one week later, and have it end one week earlier.	34.4	34.2	31.8	26.1	33.1
Start the duck season at the same time as last year, but have it end two weeks earlier.	24.6	21.9	26.8	26.1	24.8

*Cases selected for those who hunted ≥ 1 day for ducks during the 2013-14 regular duck season.

Table 23. Duck hunter season structure preference if duck season were 30 days.

	North Zone* *n* = 449	Central Zone* *n* = 780	South Central Zone* *n* = 234	South Zone* *n* = 152	Did not duck hunt *n* = 923
Start the duck season one month later than last year, and have it end at the same time.	36.3%	34.4%	33.3%	40.1%	34.2%
Start the duck season two weeks later, and have it end two weeks earlier.	43.0	50.5	47.0	37.5	46.8
Start the duck season at the same time as last year, but have it end one month earlier.	20.7	15.1	19.7	22.4	19.0%

*Cases selected for those who hunted ≥ 1 day for ducks during the 2013-14 regular duck season.

Table 24. Duck hunter zoning option preferences for 2016 through 2020.

	North Zone* *n* = 493	Central Zone* *n* = 836	South Central Zone* *n* = 251	South Zone* *n* = 179	Did not duck hunt *n*= 1263
Three duck zones with no split seasons.	21.1%	24.4%	12.7%	9.5%	13.1%
Three duck zones with 2 season segments (2-way split) in one, two, or all zones.	19.3	19.0	29.9	16.8	10.5
Four duck zones with no split seasons.	17.8	21.8	28.7	40.8	12.0
I do not have a preference.	41.8	34.8	28.7	33.0	64.4

*Cases selected for those who hunted ≥ 1 day for ducks during the 2013-14 regular duck season.

Table 25. Duck hunter zone structure preference if a 3 duck zone with 2 season segments were used during the 2016 through 2020 seasons.

	North Zone* *n* = 488	Central Zone* *n* = 829	South Central Zone* *n* = 253	South Zone* *n* = 175	Did not duck hunt *n*= 1254
Combine the North and Central Zones into one zone, and leave the South Central and South Zones the way they are.	26.2%	11.1%	18.2%	18.3%	13.6%
Combine the Central and South Central Zones into one zone, and leave the North and South Zones the way they are.	14.5	24.6	13.4	15.4	11.6
Combine the South Central and South Zone into one zone, and leave the North and Central Zones the way they are.	20.7	30.9	41.5	32.6	15.2
I do not have a preference.	38.5	33.4	26.9	33.7	59.6

*Cases selected for those who hunted ≥ 1 day for ducks during the 2013-14 regular duck season.

Table 26. Duck hunter zone structure preference if a continuous duck season were used during the 2016 through 2020 seasons.

	North Zone* *n* = 481	Central Zone* *n* = 820	South Central Zone* *n* = 249	South Zone* *n* = 176	Did not duck hunt *n*= 1159
Change it back to the 3-zone structure that was used from 2006 through 2010.	20.6%	19.6%	18.5%	7.4%	17.8
Use a 3-zone structure, but combine the North and Central zones into one, and leave the South Central and South Zones.	14.8	7.8	7.2	5.7	10.8
Use a 3-zone structure, but combine the Central and South Central zones, and leave the North and South Zones.	10.2	14.8	7.6	8.0	9.2
Use a 3-zone structure, but combine the South Central and South zones, and leave the North and Central Zones.	13.9	18.2	25.3	22.2	13.4
No change: leave the 4-zone structure the way it is now.	40.5	39.6	41.4	56.8	48.8

*Cases selected for those who hunted ≥ 1 day for ducks during the 2013-14 regular duck season.

Table 27. Mean days hunted and harvest among 2013-14 Illinois waterfowl hunters, by harvest card mailing.

	Mailed harvest cards		Not mailed harvest cards				
	n	(*M*) (*SD*)	*n*	(*M*) (*SD*)	*F*	*p*	Eta (η)
Duck days hunted	1143	12.53 (12.0)	653	13.59 (12.2)	3.436	0.064	0.04
Teal harvested	268	4.08 (6.4)	159	4.50 (6.6)	0.418	0.518	0.03
Mallards harvested	1144	9.90 (16.1)	653	11.06 (16.5)	2.141	0.144	0.04
Total ducks of other species	1144	6.62 (10.7)	654	7.93 (12.7)	5.454	0.020	0.06
Total ducks harvested	1144	18.66 (25.9)	654	21.39 (27.9)	4.388	0.036	0.05
Teal/Hunter/Day	268	1.02 (1.2)	159	1.27 (1.5)	3.909	0.049	0.10
Mallards/Hunter/Day	1143	0.76 (0.8)	653	0.79 (0.8)	0.695	0.404	0.020
Ducks of other species/Hunter/Day	1143	0.51 (0.7)	653	0.55 (0.7)	1.203	0.273	0.03
Total ducks/Hunter/Day	1143	1.45 (1.3)	653	1.54 (1.3)	1.850	0.17	0.03

Appendix A

Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey
2013-2014 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 State Waterfowl Stamp for the 2013-2014 seasons? (Please check **one**.)

____Yes ____No

2. Which of the following best describes how often you purchase an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp?

____ Every year ____ Most years ____ Occassional year ____ Rarely ____Never

3. Which of the following best matches your reason for your **most recent** purchase of a Stamp? (Please check **one**.)

____ I knew I would hunt waterfowl
____ To support waterfowl habitat conservation
____ In case I had the opportunity to hunt waterfowl
____ To apply for a state blind drawing
____ Other (please identify) _____

4. Did you hunt waterfowl (ducks, geese, or coots) in Illinois during the 2013-2014 waterfowl hunting seasons? (Please check **one**.)

____ Yes ____ No

4a. If "Yes," which zone did you hunt in **most often** during the 2013-2014 duck season? (Please check **one**.)

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

4b. Was the 2013-2014 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

5. If you **did not hunt waterfowl** (ducks, geese, or coots) in Illinois during the 2013-2014 seasons, what was the last season you hunted?

_____ Year

5a. Please give the reason(s) why you did not hunt in 2013-2014. (Please check **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) _____

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

____ Every year ____ Most years ____ Occassional years ____ Rarely ____Never

7. Have you ever introduced a hunter 16 years old or older to waterfowl hunting?

____ Yes ____ No

If you did not hunt waterfowl in Illinois please go to Section 3.

8. Please report your hunting effort and harvest in Illinois between September 2013 and January 2014 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.)*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9. Which is your preference for hunting in Illinois: hunting ducks or geese? (Please check **one**.)

____ Ducks ____ Geese ____ Ducks and geese equally

10. Did you harvest any white-fronted (specklebelly) geese this year?

____ Yes ____ No

10a. If "Yes", did you target white-fronted (specklebelly) geese during the Regular Goose Season? (Please check **all that apply**.)

____ Yes, I used white-fronted (specklebelly) decoys

____ Yes, I used a white-fronted (specklebelly) call

____ No, I did not target them, but I shot them when I had the opportunity

10b. How does the number of white-fronted geese you harvested this year compare to the last 5 years?

____ Much less ____ Less ____ About the same ____ More ____ Much more

11. Did you use a spinning-wing decoy to hunt **ducks** in Illinois during the 2013-2014 season?

____ Yes ____ No

11a. If "Yes," in which of the following did you use a spinning-wing decoy **most often** (Please check **one**.)

____ hunting in fields

____ hunting over water

11b. Think about your typical hunt. How many spinning-wing decoys would you use (include your party)?

____ number of spinning-wing decoys

12. Please indicate which species you harvested between September 2013 and January 2014. (Check **all that apply**)

____ Mallard ____ Redhead ____ Green-winged Teal ____ Shoveler ____ Canvasback

____ Pintail ____ Gadwall ____ Blue-winged Teal ____ Scaup ____ Wood Duck

____ Coot ____ Wigeon ____ Other (please identify) _____

13. Did you harvest a greater variety of species this year than you have in the last 5 years? ____ Yes ____ No

14. Do you keep records of your waterfowl hunting trips and/or harvests? ____ Yes ____ No

14a. If "Yes," which of the following do you use to keep records?

____ my own records

____ the pre-season harvest card mailed to me from the Illinois Natural History Survey

____ club records

15. Do any of the sites you hunt require you to report your harvest numbers? ____ Yes ____ No

15a. If "Yes," which of the following sites that you hunt require this? (Please check **all that apply**.)

____ Commercial hunting operation ____ Club/Private Organization

____ State managed site ____ Other (please identify) _____

15b. Which of the following best describes how you report your harvest? (Please check **one**.)

____ Daily blind harvest reported onsite ____ Daily reporting of individual hunt onsite

____ End of the season harvest card ____ End of the season online

____ Other (please identify)_____

Section 2. Youth Hunts. Please answer the following questions about mentoring youth hunters in Illinois. **Please note:** "Youths" are defined as hunters **under** 16 years of age.

1. Did you take a youth (less than 16 years old) hunting during the 2013 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days?

____ Yes ____ No

1a. If "Yes," was this at least one youth's first time duck or goose hunting?

____ Yes ____ No

1b. Please report information for each youth that hunted in the 2013 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days. 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. Did you take a youth (<16 years of age) hunting during the 2013-2014 **regular** duck or goose seasons in Illinois?

____ Yes

____ No

____ A youth accompanied me hunting, but they did not hunt

2a. If "Yes," please check which season(s): ____ Regular Duck Season ____ Regular Goose Season

3. What is your relationship with the youth(s) you took hunting?

____ Family ____ Friend ____ Member of a Club/Organization sponsoring a youth hunt

____ Other (please identify) _____

Section 3. Satisfaction. Please tell us about your satisfaction with the **most recent duck and/or goose seasons you hunted** by answering the following statements.

If you did not hunt during the 2013-2014 season in Illinois, please go to question 3.

1. Please rate your **SATISFACTION with the 2013-2014 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 migrating through areas you hunted.	1	2	3	4	5
Amount of time you spent duck hunting.	1	2	3	4	5
Number of ducks you harvested.	1	2	3	4	5
Weather during duck season.	1	2	3	4	5

2. Please rate your **SATISFACTION with the 2013-2014 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 of 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
Number of geese you harvested.	1	2	3	4	5
The weather during goose season.	1	2	3	4	5

3. Consider the weather during the past **5 waterfowl hunting seasons.** Please give your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements by circling the number that best matches your response.

In the area I hunt, I observed…	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Unsure	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Warmer seasons with fewer ducks migrating into the area.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Lower water levels caused by drought.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
More mudflats and less vegetation.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Warmer seasons with fewer geese migrating into the area.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Freeze-ups later in the season.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
More “blue bird days.”	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

4. Do you think the events you selected above are leading to a trend? ____ Yes ____ No

Section 4. Season Preferences. Please refer to the **graphics on the back of the cover letter** to answer the following questions on waterfowl seasons in Illinois.

1. Currently Illinois has a continuous duck season with 4 duck hunting zones. This system must be in place through 2015. If the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determines that Illinois needs to have a **45-day duck season for future seasons (2016-2020)**, which of the following would you prefer be done in the zone you hunt ducks most often?

____ Start the duck season two weeks later than last year, and have it end at the same time.

____ Start the duck season one week later, and have it end one week earlier.

____ Start the duck season at the same time as last year, but have it end two weeks earlier.

1b. If the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determines that Illinois needs to have **a 30-day duck season for future seasons (2016-2020)**, which of the following would you prefer be done in the zone you hunt ducks most often?

____ Start the duck season one month later than last year, and have it end at the same time.

____ Start the duck season two weeks later, and have it end two weeks earlier.

____ Start the duck season at the same time as last year, but have it end one month earlier.

2. In which of the following zones did you hunt **opening day of duck season**? (Please check **all that apply**.)

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

3. The next opportunity to change zone options will be for the period **2016 through 2020**. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service likely will allow the following duck season zoning options. Which option do you prefer for Illinois for the period 2016 through 2020?

Please choose ONE response.

____ Three duck zones with no split seasons.

____ Three duck zones with 2 season segments (2-way split) in one, two, or all zones.

____ Four duck zones with no split seasons.

____ I do not have a preference.

3a. If a 3 duck zone structure with 2 season segments (2-way split) in one, two, or all three zones is established in Illinois during the period 2016 through 2020, which of the following would you prefer?

Please choose ONE response.

____ Combine the North and Central Zones into one zone, and leave the South Central and South Zones the way they are.

____ Combine the Central and South Central Zones into one zone, and leave the North and South Zones the way they are.

____ Combine the South Central and South Zone into one zone, and leave the North and Central Zones the way they are.

____ I do not have a preference

3b. If a continuous duck season is established in Illinois during the period 2016 through 2020, which of the following zoning options would you prefer?

Please choose ONE response.

____ Change it back to the 3-zone structure that was used from 2006 through 2010.

____ Use a 3-zone structure, but combine the North and Central zones into one zone, and leave the South Central and South Zones the way they are.

____ Use a 3 zone structure, but combine the Central and South Central Zones into one zone, and leave the North and South Zones the way they are.

____ Use a 3 zone structure, but combine the South Central and South Zones into one zone, and leave the North and Central Zones the way they are.

____ No change: leave the 4-zone structure the way it is now.

Section 5. 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. What is your county of residence? _____ County (If nonresident, please include state)

4. Please give your age. _____ years

5. What is your gender? ____ Male ____ Female

6. How often do you use the Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations?

____ Every year ____ Most years ____Some Years ____Never (Please go to **question 10**)

7. Which of the following do you use most often for waterfowl hunting regulations?

____ Paper copy of Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations

____ On-line copy of Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations available through IDNR website (Please go to **10**)

8. If you used a paper copy of the Digest, where did you pick it up?

____ DNR regional office or state headquarters

____ Chain retail store (e.g. Wal-mart, Dick's Sporting Goods)

____ Independent retail store (e.g. local bait shop, local grocery store)

____ IDNR website

____ Over the phone

____ Other (please identify) _____

9. How many paper copies did you pick up last year? _____ copies

10. If you had only one day to hunt, which **ONE** of the following would you hunt? (Please check **one**.)

____ Ducks ____ Geese ____ Deer ____ Furbearers ____ Pheasants

____ Quail ____ Squirrels ____ Rabbits ____ Turkeys ____ Doves

____ Other (please identify)_____

Comments

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, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62701-1787, (217) 782-7616 or the Officer of Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Appendix B

ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

Prairie Research Institute
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

February 24, 2014

Dear Waterfowl Hunter,

You are one of a group of Illinois waterfowl hunters randomly selected from throughout the state to provide information about your hunting activities during the 2013-2014 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 2013-2014 seasons. You were mailed a harvest record card in September; please refer to it when completing 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(s) you hunted.

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. 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.

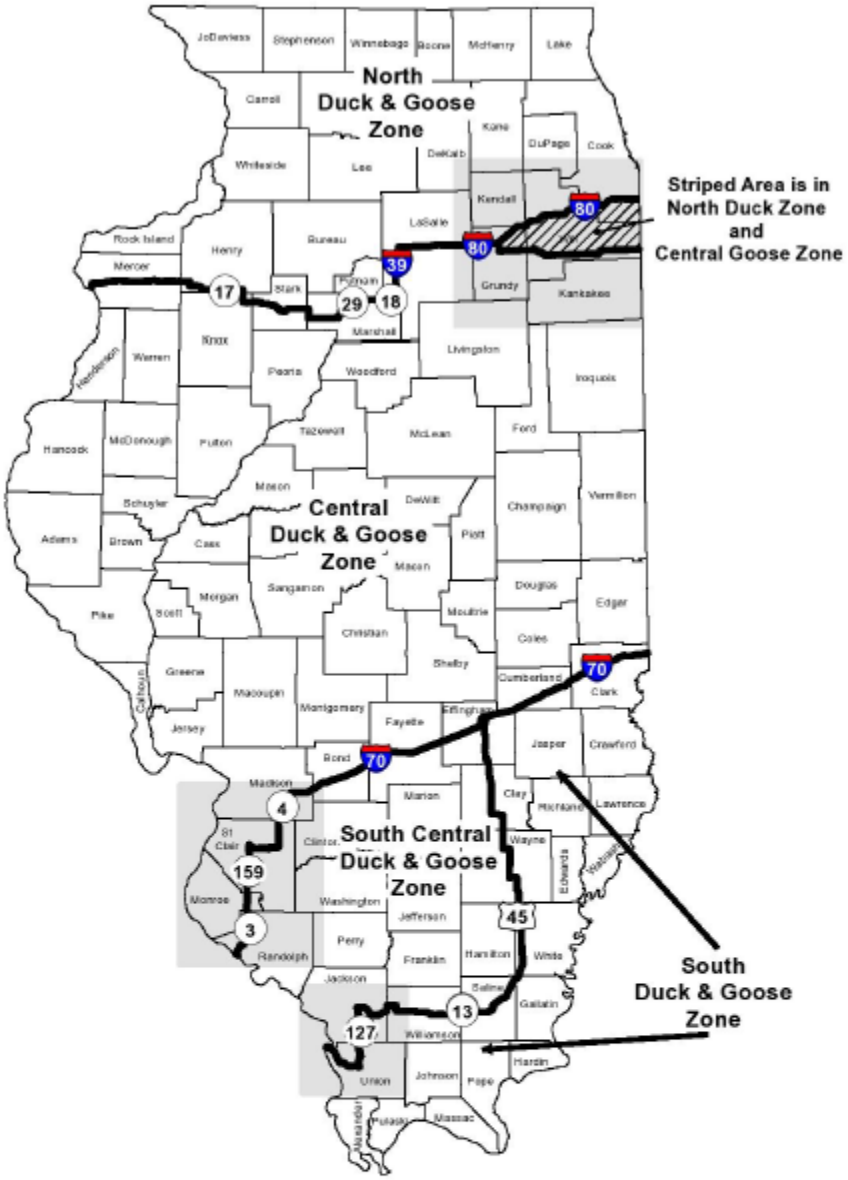
You may access the results of this and other studies of hunters and hunting in Illinois at http://www.inhs.illinois.edu/programs/hd/. You may also find information about Illinois Department of Natural Resources wildlife management programs and wildlife in Illinois at http://dnr.state.il.us/orc/wildliferesources/.

If you have questions regarding this study, please call us at (217) 244-5121.

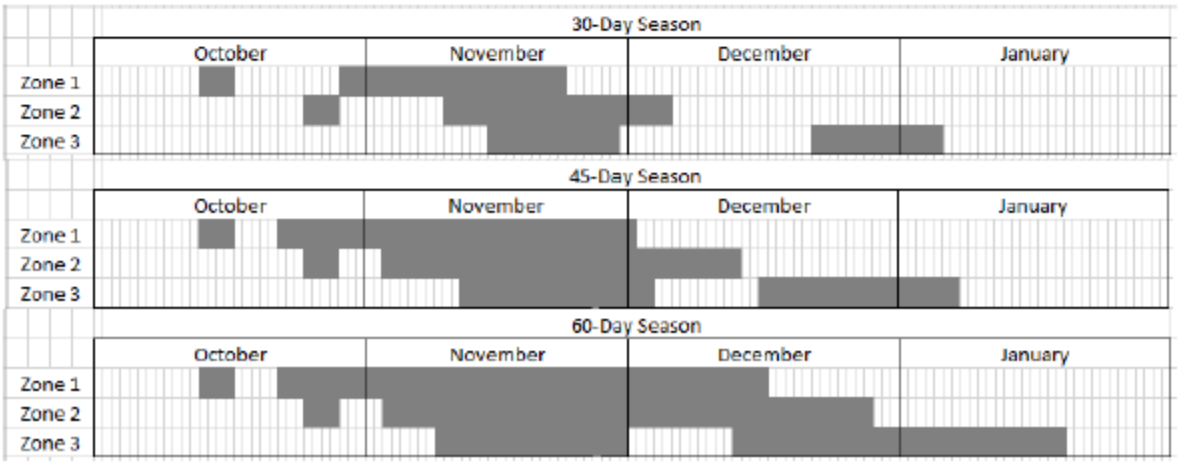
Sincerely,

Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program

Please refer to the graphics on this page to answer the questions in Section 4.



The graphics below are examples of how split seasons might work in Illinois.
Shaded areas indicate approximately when the season would be open in each of the three zones.



Appendix C

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

Prairie Research Institute
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

April 7, 2014

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 2013-2014 waterfowl season. Perhaps you recently mailed the questionnaire and it has not yet arrived in our office. If so, we thank you.

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

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

If you have questions regarding this study, please call us at (217) 244-5121.

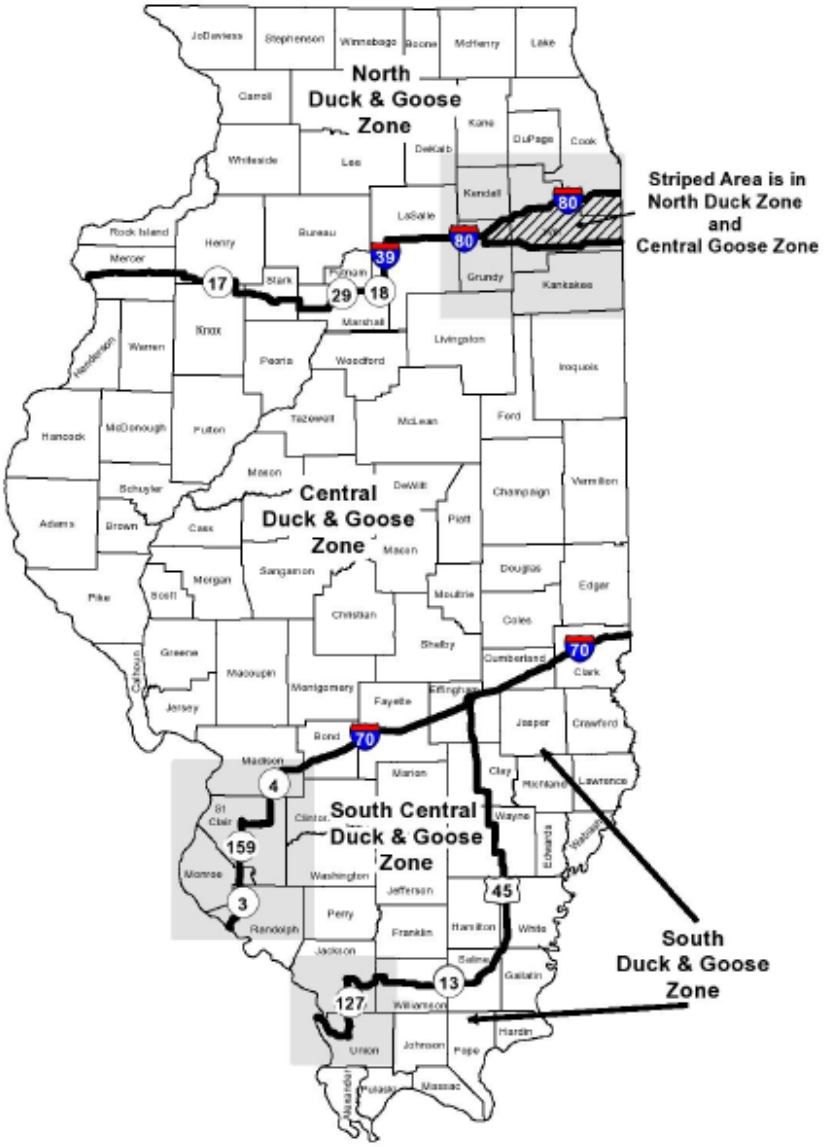
Results of this and previous studies can be found at http://wwx.inhs.illinois.edu/programs/hd/ or like us on facebook at the Human Dimensions Research Program - Illinois Natural History Survey page to be notified when results are available.

Thank you for helping with this important study.

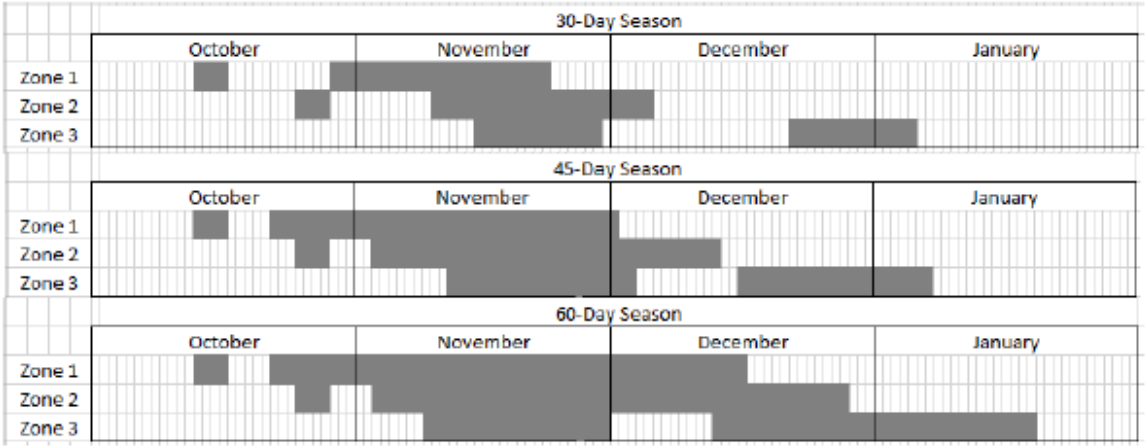
Sincerely,

Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program

Please refer to the graphics on this page to answer the questions in Section 4.



The graphics below are examples of how split seasons might work in Illinois.
Shaded areas indicate approximately when the season would be open in each of the three zones.



Appendix E

ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

Prairie Research Institute
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

May 14, 2014

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 2013-2014 waterfowl season. 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.

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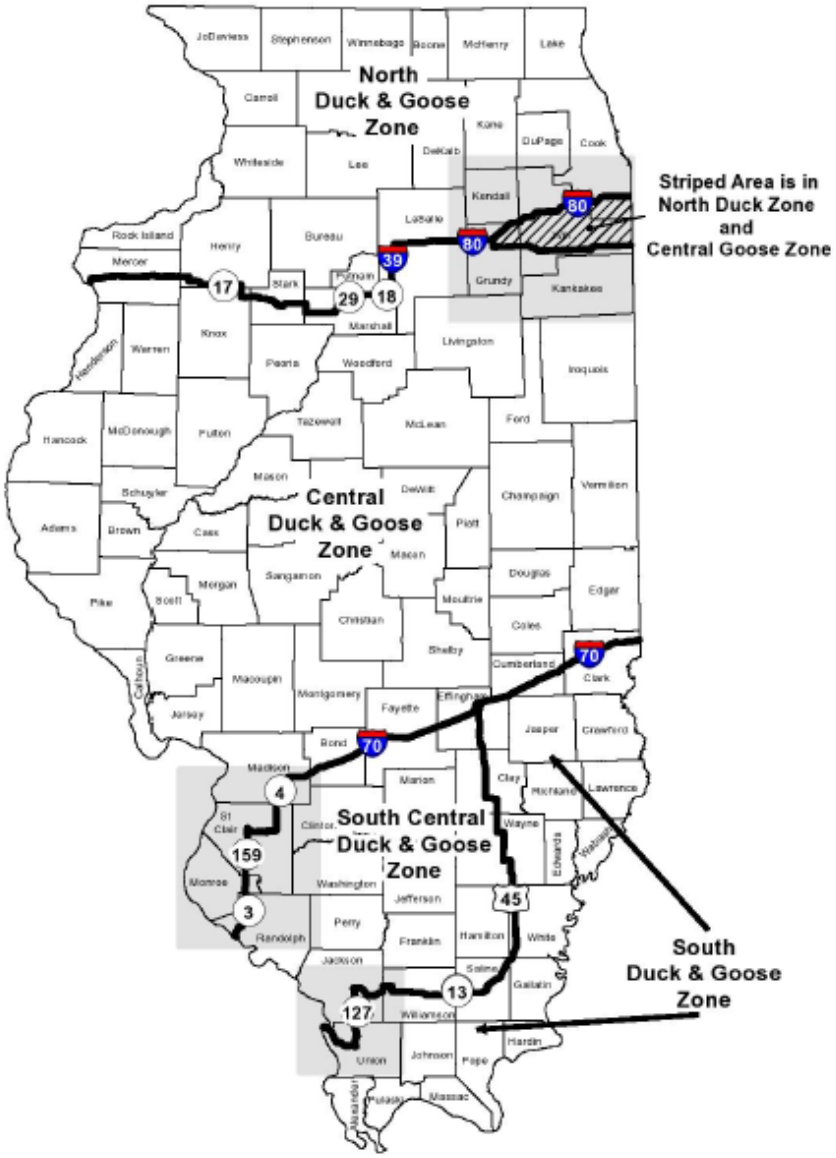

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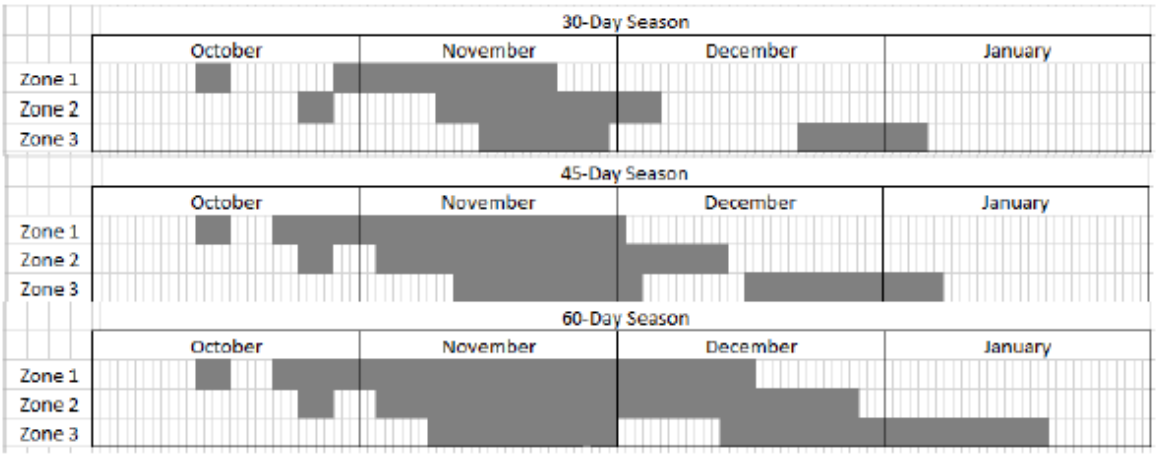
Shaded areas indicate approximately when the season would be open in each of the three zones.



Appendix F

Waterfowl Telephone non-response follow-up

Calls	Date	Time	Code
First			
Second			
Third			
Fourth			
Fifth			

Call Codes:

AM - Voice Mail **NA** - No Answer **WN** - Wrong Number
B - Busy signal **R** - Refusal **NT** - Not Tonight

Hello, my name is _____ and I'm calling from the Illinois Natural History Survey/University of Illinois. We're conducting a brief survey about waterfowl hunting in Illinois. Is _____ able to please take 3 minutes to answer a few short questions about waterfowl hunting?

1. Did you receive an Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey questionnaire for the 2013-14 season?

____ Yes ____No **(Skip to Question 3)** _____I'm not sure

1a. [If "Yes,"] Did you return the completed questionnaire in the postage-paid envelope provided?

____ Yes [According to our records we did not receive a response from you, would you please answer a few quick questions so we have your input. Thank you.] (**Proceed to question 3)**

____ No

____ I'm not sure

2. Out of the following five options, which best describes why you did not respond to our survey about waterfowl hunting? (*Interviewer, please check **one**.*)

____ I do not hunt waterfowl at all

____ I did not hunt **this year** and didn't feel like I should fill one out

____ The survey looked too long and/or complicated

____ I do not like answering surveys

____ I prefer to be contacted by phone

____ Other _____

3. Did you purchase an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp for the 2013-2014 seasons?

____Yes ____No

3a. [If "No,"] When did you last purchase an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp?

_____ year (approximate) – Thank them and hang up.

4. Did you hunt waterfowl (ducks, geese, or coots) in Illinois during the 2013-2014 waterfowl hunting seasons?

____ Yes ____ No

4a. [If "Yes,"] Which zone did you hunt in **most often** during the 2013-2014 duck season?

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

4b. Approximately how many days did you hunt ducks? _____ days

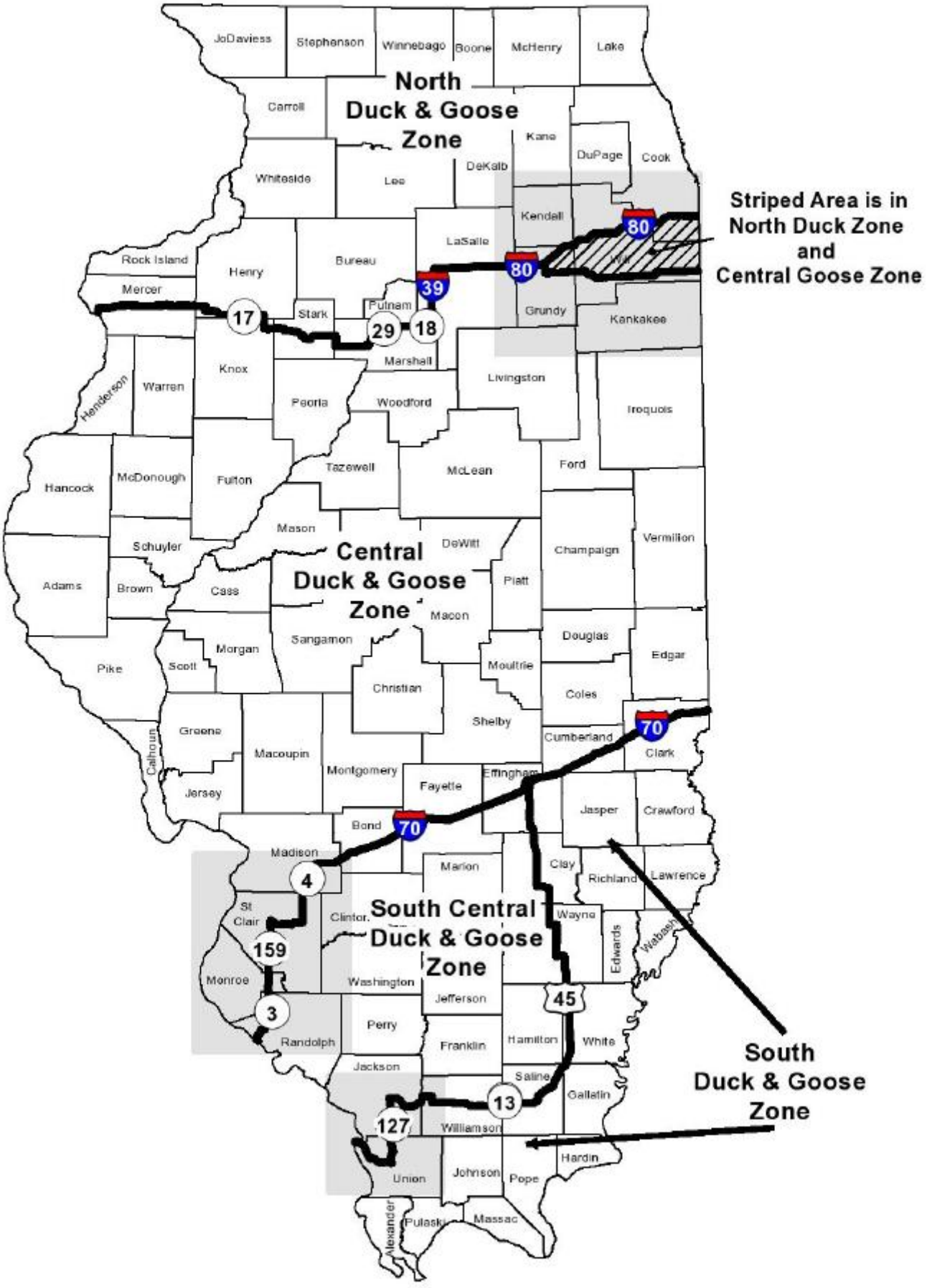
4c. Approximately how many ducks did you harvest? _____ ducks

4d. Approximately how many days did you hunt geese? _____ days

4e. Approximately how many geese did you harvest? _____ geese

Thank you very much for your time!

Appendix G


North Duck & Goose Zone
Striped Area is in North Duck Zone and Central Goose Zone
Central Duck & Goose Zone
South Central Duck & Goose Zone
South Duck & Goose Zone
JoDaviess
Stephenson
Winnebago
Boone
McHenry
Lake
Carroll
Kane
DuPage
Cook
Whiteside
Lee
DeKalb
Kendall
Will
LaSalle
Rock Island
Henry
Bureau
Mercer
Putnam
Stark
Grundy
Kankakee
Knox
Marshall
Livingston
Iroquois
Henderson
Warren
Peoria
Woodford
Hancock
McDonough
Fulton
Tazewell
McLean
Ford
Mason
DeWitt
Champaign
Vermilion
Schuyler
Adams
Brown
Cass
Piatt
Macon
Douglas
Edgar
Pike
Scott
Morgan
Sangamon
Moultrie
Coles
Christian
Shelby
Cumberland
Clark
Calhoun
Greene
Macoupin
Montgomery
Effingham
Jersey
Fayette
Jasper
Crawford
Bond
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

Appendix H.

Summary of Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps purchased, hunter activity, and waterfowl harvest in Illinois from 1981 through 2013 hunting seasons.

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
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
2012	64,896	50,740	1,155,346	580,557
2013	66,394	49,170	1,052,728	605,720

[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.

The percentage of regular season waterfowl hunters who hunted exclusively ducks, exclusively geese, or both ducks and geese in Illinois from 1981 through 2013 seasons.

Season (Year)	Hunted Ducks Only	Hunted Geese Only	Hunted Both Ducks and Geese	Duck Hunters	Goose Hunters
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%	89.4%[a]	74.1%[a]
2009	27.5%	8.4%	64.1%	91.6%[a]	72.5%[a]
2010	25.0%	13.1%	61.9%	86.9%[a]	75.0%[a]
2011	20.7%	18.3%	61.0%	81.7%	79.3%
2012	29.4%	9.8%	60.8%	90.2%	70.6%
2013	30.2%	9.8%	60.0%	90.2%	69.8%

[a] 2008-2010 numbers changed to reflect responses in the sample.

Summary of Teal harvest and hunter activity during September Teal season (Illinois, 1981-2013).

Season (Year)	Estimated Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Teal Harvest
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
2009	15,436	55,139	19,222 ± 7,372
2010	13,038	49,038	20,127 ± 9,322
2011	11,221	42,811	21,227 ± 7,993
2012	10,944	46,719	31,942 ± 11,740
2013	10,378	37,431	21,967 ± 7,169

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

Rates of Teal harvest and hunter activity during September Teal season (Illinois, 1981-2013).

Season (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
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
2012	16/4	4.27	0.68	2.92
2013	16/6	3.61	0.59	2.12

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

Waterfowl harvest and hunter activity during Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days, 1996-2013.

Season[a] (Year)	Adult Participation	Youth Participation	Days Hunting	Mean Youths/ Hunting Party	Total Ducks	Ducks/ Youth/Day	Total Coots	Coots/ Youth/ Day	Total Geese	Geese/ Youth/ Day
1996	2,749	4,353	4,353	1.58	3,171	0.73	230	0.05	----[a]	---
1997	3,163	4,322	4,322	1.37	3,451	0.80	387	0.09	----[a]	---
1998	3,343	5,142	5,142	1.54	4,159	0.81	208	0.04	289	0.06
1999	5,505	8,113	8,113	1.47	5,835	0.72	629	0.08	571	0.07
2000	6,815	10,107	14,079	1.48	8,388	0.60	38	<0.01	882	0.06
2001	9,140	15,148	22,525	1.67	11,727	0.52	480	0.02	971	0.04
2002	8,498	13,325	19,548	1.57	9,085	0.46	271	0.01	887	0.05
2003	7,415	11,419	17,985	1.54	9,184	0.51	178	0.01	1,116	0.06
2004	5,603	7,891	12,997	1.41	7,477	0.58	48	<0.01	561	0.04
2005	4,540	6,489	10,268	1.58	5,644	0.55	583	0.06	965	0.09
2006	5,447	8,024	11,903	1.48	9,863	0.83	133	0.01	732	0.06
2007	6,259	8,981	14,356	1.60	9,141	0.64	850	0.06	1,701	0.12
2008	6,402	9,878	14,799	1.50	10,380	0.70	241	0.02	1,466	0.10
2009	7,073	9,772	15,922	1.63	11,229	0.71	599	0.04	2,396	0.15
2010	5,471	7,452	11,828	1.59	9,156	0.77	419	0.04	1,420	0.12
2011	6,325	8,642	14,059	1.63	9,569	0.68	1,333	0.09	1,318	0.09
2012	7,825	10,001	52,448[b]	1.27	8,147[c]	0.41	503[c]	0.03	1,064[c]	0.05
2013	8,438	8,639	19,136	1.02	12,715	1.33	359	0.04	2,065	0.23

1996 – 1999 were one day seasons and 2000 – present were 2 day seasons.

[a] Could not hunt geese during the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day in 1996 and 1997.

[b] Results include youth hunts during the regular season and the 2 day Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days.

[c] Results are a 2 day estimate based on the mean number harvested by youth from the entire season

Summary of duck and coot harvest and hunter activity during the regular duck season (Illinois 1981-2013).

Season (Year)	Hunters	Days Afield	Number of Ducks				Coots
			Mallards	Wood Ducks	Other Ducks[b]	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 (3,760)	246,944	3,880
1995	42,499	482,620	230,505	47,155	99,632 (5,393)	377,292	3,386
1996	44,219	460,517	163,311	38,783	82,431 (4,348)	284,525	3,286
1997	42,587	514,934	145,533	44,678	100,950 (5,800)	291,161	3,935
1998	41,755	517,372	200,030	57,393	129,439 (3,948)	386,862	2,920
1999	51,850	860,368	311,325	69,930	181,650 (4,977)	562,905	3,654
2000	43,810	621,542	271,903	58,604	166,834 (4,231)	497,341	2,206
2001	53,194	797,884	305,180	61,515	167,883 (1,968)	534,578	2,904
2002	47,964	642,542	197,392	46,238	106,213 (851)	349,843	1,743
2003	50,658	738,914	285,011	48,023	153,165 (1,789)	486,199	1,693
2004	49,046	652,960	207,982	44,725	116,951 (2,100)	369,658	1,607
2005	43,185	539,672	240,897	37,942	133,509 (3,918)	412,348	2,186
2006	50,437	658,881	308,000	38,366	161,098 (5,927)	507,464	3,065
2007	49,114	600,614	265,369	34,628	164,369 (5,925)	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 ± 69,698	3,904 ± 3,342
2010	43,450	499,758	193,758	39,611	121,375	354,859 ± 60,571	1,770 ± 2,435
2011	46,619	632,712	222,405	54,294	150,786	427,484 ± 66,551	4,327 ± 2,663
2012	43,444	630,233	244,988	47,623	185,776	478,387 ± 50,294	4,133 ± 3,536
2013	43,653	563,961	225,873	49,001	155,306	430,179 ± 29,431	2,143 ± 4,031

[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] Numbers in parentheses represent harvest of Canvasback.

Rates of duck harvest and hunter activity during the regular duck season (Illinois 1981-2013).

Season (Year)	Season Length/ Bag Limit[b]	Days Afield Per Hunter	Duck Harvest Per Hunter[a]	
			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
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
2012	60/6(4,2)	14.51	0.76	11.01
2013	60/6(4,2)	12.92	0.76	9.85

[a] Excludes ducks harvested coincidentally while goose hunting.

[b] 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.

Number of hunters who participated in the early September Canada goose season (Illinois 1997-2013).

			Waterfowl Zone				
	Year	Statewide	North	Central	South Central	South	Unknown
Hunters	1997	11,765	5,577	5,768	-----	-----	420
	1998	11,981	4,837	5,915	-----	677	552
	1999	16,945	6,005	9,869	-----	693	378
	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
	2012	11,192[a]	4,601	5,928	1,161	249	0
	2013	10,865[a]	3,646	6,076	681	462	0

[a] Less than the sum of hunters in individual zones because some hunters hunter more than 1 zone.

Number of Canada geese harvested during the early September Canada goose season (Illinois 1997-2013).

	Year	Statewide	North	Central	South Central	South	Unknown
Canada Geese	1997	11,443	7,621	3,774	-----	-----	48
	1998	7,852	4,184	3,046	-----	384	238
	1999	20,223	9,124	10,491	-----	491	117
	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
	2012	18,028	8,557	7,664	1,599	228	0
	2013	15,644	5,165	9,271	523	685	0

Number of Days Afield during the early September Canada goose season (Illinois 1997-2013).

	Year	Statewide	North	Central	South Central	South	Unknown
Days Afield	1997	34,988	17,991	15,890	-----	-----	1,107
	1998	37,322	15,891	18,247	-----	1,880	1,304
	1999	64,881	21,795	39,768	-----	2,625	693
	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
	2012	39,589	17,079	18,613	3,524	373	0
	2013	40,955	12,323	24,816	2,042	1,774	0

Summary of goose harvest and hunter activity during the regular goose season (Illinois 1981-1982 through 2013-2014).

Season (Year)	Hunters	Days Afield	Number of Geese		
			Canada Geese	Other Geese	Total
1981	23,610	132,610	44,302 (6,312[a])	3,082 (1,719[a])	47,384 (8,031[a])
1982	24,058	107,557	29,574 (4,968)	1,499 (710)	31,073 (5,678)
1983	26,199	124,639	31,395 (4,325)	962 (577)	32,357 (4,902)
1984	22,426	102,583	23,147 (2,859)	1,675 (593)	24,822 (3,452)
1985	22,160	105,792	37,976 (5,248)	2,324 (753)	40,300 (6,001)
1986	30,327	200,291	45,535 (11,348)	2,625 (832)	48,160 (12,180)
1987	32,246	224,164	36,103 (3,563)	1,525 (499)	37,628 (4,062)
1988[b]	34,456	251,176	72,550 (3,871)	1,832 (350)	74,382 (4,221)
1989[b]	39,459	329,369	91,379 (2,988)	1,715 (182)	93,094 (3,170)
1990[b]	40,459	346,036	67,127 (1,515[a])	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 (590)
2009	44,601	473,769	142,836 (585)	17,382 (355)	160,218 $\pm$ 36,569 (940)
2010	36,803	385,432	99,422 (534)	9,594 (46)	109,016 $\pm$ 22,523 (580)
2011	36,996	411,380	75,061(618)	19,862 (33)	94,923 $\pm$ 22,387 (651)
2012	34,034	386,356	72,682 (0)	19,597 (0)	92,280 $\pm$ 19,570 (0)
2013	33,809	391,246	104,887 (0)	15,859 (0)	120,746 $\pm$ 12,775 (0)

[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 (Anderson and Williamson 1994).

[c] Reduced by 23,151 from estimate given in 2002 report to exclude Conservation Order snow goose harvest.

Summary of the number of ducks and geese crippled (Illinois 1981-2013 seasons).

Season (Year)	Estimated Ducks		Estimated Geese	
	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	65,856	35.5	22,730	30.6
1989	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
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
2012	71,054*	14.9*	10,452*	11.3*
2013	59,064	13.7	8,847	7.3

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

*Amended from 2012-13 report.