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Wayne Rosenthal, Director
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Paul Vehlow
Federal Aid Coordinator

Mark G. Alessi
Acting Chief, Division of
Wildlife Resources

2014-2015 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Report: Harvest, Youth Hunts, and Season Preferences

Craig A. Miller, Ph.D.
Program Leader and Principal Investigator
Human Dimensions Research Program
Illinois Natural History Survey

Prepared by
Brent D. Williams, James M. Crain,
Linda K. Campbell, and Craig A. Miller

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LIST OF FIGURES

Page

Figure 1 .....Percent of hunters who purchased an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp 4
Figure 2 .....Percent of hunters who hunted waterfowl in Illinois during the 2014-15 waterfowl season 4
Figure 3 .....Number of stamps sold, waterfowl hunters, and waterfowl harvested in Illinois, 2000-2014 5
Figure 4 .....Percentage of hunters who hunted ducks, geese, or both during the 2014-15 Illinois waterfowl season 5
Figure 5 .....Teal harvest and hunter activity during the Illinois September teal season, 2000-2014 6
Figure 6 .....Rates of teal harvest and hunter activity during the Illinois September teal season, 2000-2014 6
Figure 7 .....Percentage of hunters who took a youth (<16 years old) hunting during the 2014 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days 7
Figure 8 .....Percentage of hunters who took at least one youth (<16 years old) hunting for the first time 7
Figure 9 .....Percentage of hunters who took a youth (<16 years old) hunting during the 2014-15 regular duck or goose season 8
Figure 10 .....Seasons hunters took a youth hunting during 2014-15 8
Figure 11 .....Reasons why hunters' take a youth hunting 8
Figure 12 .....Zones hunters hunted in most often during the 2014-15 duck season 9
Figure 13 .....Zones hunters hunted on opening day of duck season 9
Figure 14 .....Proportion of Mallards, Wood Ducks, and Other Ducks harvested during the 2014-15 regular duck season 10
Figure 15 .....Illinois regular season duck harvest, 2000-2014 10
Figure 16 .....Distribution of days afield per hunter and ducks harvested per hunter for Illinois' 2014-15 regular duck season 11
Figure 17 .....Percentage of waterfowl hunters who kept records of their waterfowl hunting trips in 2014-15 season 12
Figure 18 .....Percentage of hunters who used spinning-wing decoys to hunt ducks in Illinois 12
Figure 19 .....Percentage of hunters who harvested a greater variety of ducks in Illinois during the 2014-15 season 12
Figure 20 .....Early September Canada goose harvest and hunter activity, 2000-2014 13
Figure 21 .....Early September Canada goose harvest and hunter activity by zone in Illinois during 2014 13
Figure 22 .....Goose harvest during Illinois' regular goose season from 2000-2014 14
Figure 23 .....2014-15 Illinois' regular Canada goose season harvest 14
Figure 24 .....Distribution of days afield per hunter and geese harvested per hunter for Illinois' 2014-15 regular season 15
Figure 25 .....Proportion of hunters who harvested white-fronted geese during the 2014-15 waterfowl hunting seasons 16
Figure 26 .....Comparison between the number of white-fronted geese seen in 2014-15 compared to the last 5 years 16
Figure 27 .....Comparison between the number of white-fronted geese seen in 2014-15 by targeting and non-targeting hunters 16
Figure 28 .....Percentage of goose hunters* and the number of white-fronted (specklebelly) geese harvested targeted/non-targeted 17
Figure 29 .....Proportion of hunters' who targeted white-fronted geese during the regular goose season 17
Figure 30 .....Duck and goose hunters' opinions about the timing of the 2014-15 waterfowl seasons 18
Figure 31 .....Central zone goose hunters' preference for how many days after the duck opener should goose season begin 19
Figure 32 .....The zone hunters intend to hunt ducks most often during 2015-16 19
Figure 33 .....Species waterfowl hunters hunted in Illinois during the 2014-15 seasons 20
Figure 34 .....North zone duck hunters' preferences for a 60 day season structure in Illinois 21
Figure 35 .....Central zone duck hunters' preferences for a 60 day season structure in Illinois 21
Figure 36 .....South Central zone duck hunters' preferences for a 60 day season structure in Illinois 21
Figure 37 .....South zone duck hunters' preferences for a 60 day season structure in Illinois 21
Figure 38 .....Gender distribution of respondents who hunted waterfowl during one of the 2014-15 waterfowl seasons 23
Figure 39 .....Number of hunters whose first time hunting waterfowl in Illinois was during one of the 2014-15 seasons 23
Figure 40 .....How often respondents hunt waterfowl in Illinois 23
Figure 41 .....Self-reported duck harvest comparisons between Illinois duck hunters and other hunters they know 23
Figure 42 .....Percentage of waterfowl hunters and the number of different waterfowl seasons hunted during 2014-15 in Illinois 24

LIST OF TABLES AND APPENDICES

Page

Table 1.....Summary of Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps purchased, hunter activity, and waterfowl harvest, 2004-2014.....26
Table 2.....Percentage of hunters who hunted exclusively ducks, exclusively geese, or both ducks and geese, 2004-2014.....26
Table 3 .....Summary of Teal harvest and hunter activity during September Teal season 27
Table 4 .....Teal harvest and hunter activity by zones during September Teal season.....27
Table 5 .....Rates of Teal harvest and hunter activity during September Teal season 28
Table 6 .....Waterfowl harvest and hunter activity during Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days, 2004-2014.....29
Table 7.....Summary of duck and coot harvest and hunter activity during the regular duck season, 2004-2014.....30
Table 8.....Duck species hunters harvested between September 2014 and January 2015 31
Table 9.....Duck harvest and hunter activity by waterfowl zones and selected areas during the regular duck season.....32
Table 10.....Rates of duck harvest and hunter activity during the regular duck season 32
Table 11.....Distribution of the number of days afield and number of ducks harvested in 2014-15.....33
Table 12.....The actions duck hunters take when their preferred duck hunting area freezes 33
Table 13.....Canada goose harvest and hunter activity during the early September Canada goose season.....34
Table 14.....Summary of goose harvest and hunter activity during the regular goose season 35
Table 15.....Distribution of the number of days afield and number of geese harvested 35
Table 16.....Goose harvest and hunter activity by zones, regular season 36
Table 17.....Canada goose harvest by zone during the regular goose season (Illinois 2012-13 through 2014-15).....36
Table 18.....Summary of the number of ducks and geese crippled (Illinois 2004-2014 regular seasons) 37
Table 19.....Illinois duck hunters' levels of satisfaction with various aspects of the 2014-2015 duck seasons.....38
Table 20.....Illinois goose hunters' levels of satisfaction with various aspects of the 2014-2015 goose seasons.....39
Table 21.....Hunter opinions of the timing of the 2014-15 waterfowl seasons 40
Table 22.....Illinois waterfowl hunter season structure preference for white-fronted (specklebelly) geese 40
Table 23.....North and Central zone waterfowl hunter zoning preferences for the area in northeastern Illinois 40
Table 24.....Other hunting seasons that affect Illinois hunters' preferred duck season dates 41
Table 25.....Preferred season dates for a 30 day duck season in the zone intended to hunt in 2015-16 42
Table 26.....Preferred season dates for a 45 day duck season in the zone intended to hunt in 2015-16 42
Table 27.....Preferred season dates for a 60 day duck season in the zone intended to hunt in 2015-16 42
Table 28.....Illinois duck hunters' self-reporting skill.....43
Table 29.....Illinois waterfowl hunters' commitment to waterfowl hunting.....43

Appendix A .....Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey: 2014-2015 Season 44
Appendix B .....Cover letter sent with first mailing of the 2014-2015 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 2014-2015 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.....55
Appendix E .....Cover letter sent with third mailing of the 2014-2015 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey 57
Appendix F.....Historic Data: Harvest, Days Afield, and Hunter numbers 1981-2014.....59

2014-2015 ILLINOIS WATERFOWL HUNTER REPORT: Harvest, Youth Hunts, and Season Preferences

JOB COMPLETION REPORT

WILDLIFE HARVEST AND
HUMAN DIMENSIONS RESEARCH PROGRAM

STATE OF ILLINOIS

PROJECT NUMBER: W-112-R-24
STUDY 101
JOB NO. 101.3

Prepared by
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Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration
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Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Wayne Rosenthal, Director
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Mark G. Alessi, Acting Chief
Division of Wildlife Resources

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OBJECTIVE

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

ABSTRACT

A total of 2,212 (48% response rate) Illinois waterfowl hunters responded to the 2014-15 Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey. An estimated 50,698 waterfowl hunters spent 982,193 days afield, a decrease of 6.7% from the 1,052,728 days devoted during the 2013-2014 license year. Waterfowl harvest decreased 9.0%, from 605,720 during 2013-14 to 550,946 during 2014-15. Duck harvest estimates for the regular duck season were as follows: 197,997 mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), 48,216 wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*), and 138,615 other ducks. A total of 29,058 teal (*Anas spp.*) were harvested during the September teal season. Goose hunters harvested 87,672 Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*) during the regular Canada goose season, a 16.4% decrease from the 104,887 Canada geese harvested during the 2013-14 regular goose season. Hunters harvested 19,089 Canada geese during the September Canada goose season, a 22.0% increase from the previous year. During the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Season, 6,405 adults took 8,572 youths waterfowl hunting, a 24.1% decrease in adult participation and a less than 1.0% decrease in youth participation from the 2013-14 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Season. Duck hunter commitment to waterfowl hunting, preferences for season and zones, and satisfaction with the waterfowl seasons are also discussed.

METHODS

Mailings

A random sample of 5,000 waterfowl hunters was drawn from the population of Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp purchasers from the 2014-2015 license year. No pre-season diary for recording hunting activity and waterfowl harvest was sent during the fall of 2014. On 10 February 2015, 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 4,896 questionnaires due to 104 being returned as undeliverable. A thank you/reminder

postcard (Appendix C) was sent to hunters on 27 February 2015. Non-respondents were mailed a second questionnaire and cover letter (Appendix D) on 11 March 2015, followed by a second postcard mailing on 26 March 2015. A third and final questionnaire and cover letter (Appendix E) were mailed to non-respondents on 14 April 2015. Coded data were entered and analyzed using SPSS 22.0 (SPSS Inc. 2014). Confidence intervals are presented where appropriate.

Statewide Estimates

Estimates of number of hunters, days afield, and waterfowl harvested were based on confirmed sales of 70,391 Illinois Migratory Waterfowl stamps (2014-15 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 2014-2015 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 2014-15,

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 2014-15 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:

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

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

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 (16 days), daily bag (6 teal a day), and possession limits (18) remained unchanged from the 2013-14 season. Early (September) Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*) season length and start date (1 September) were the same for all four zones. Possession limit was 15 geese in the North and Central zones and 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 2014; possession limit was the same for all species of duck but canvasbacks. Duck limits were a total of 18 birds, mergansers 15, and coots 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 66 days, respectively. The possession limit remained 6 for Canada and White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons*) and 3 for Brant geese (*Branta bernicla*).

RESULTS

Waterfowl Harvest and Days Afield

We received 2,508 questionnaires from waterfowl hunters, of which 2,212 (89%) were considered usable, for an overall response rate of 48%. Of the 2,212 usable questionnaires, 2,114 (96%) respondents indicated they purchased an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp for the 2014-15 season (Figure 1) and 1,465 (66%) said they actually hunted waterfowl (Figure 2). The number of waterfowl hunters increased from 49,170 during the 2013-14 season to 50,698 during the 2014-15 season, a 3.1% increase in the number of hunters (Figure 3 and Table 1). Hunters reported spending 982,193 days afield, a decrease of 6.7% from the 1,052,728 days devoted during the 2013-2014 license year. Total waterfowl harvest decreased 9.0%, from 605,720 during 2012-13 to 550,946 during the 2014-15 season (Table 1). Thirty percent of hunters hunted ducks only, 11% hunted geese only, and 58% hunted both ducks and geese (Figure 4 and Table 2).

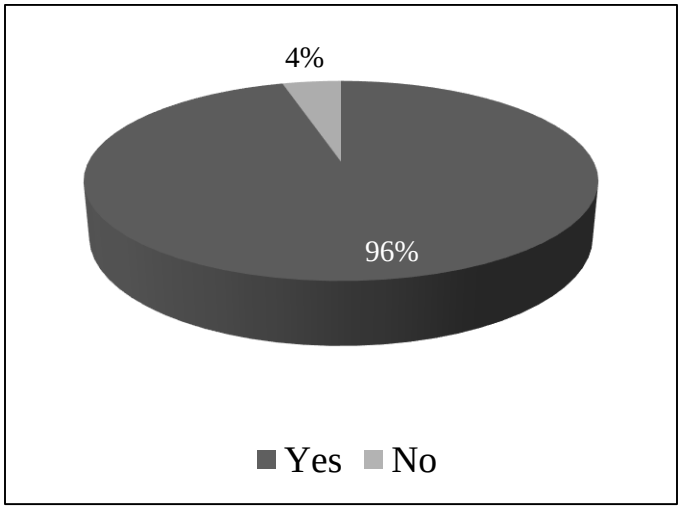

Figure 1. Percentage of hunters who purchased an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp for the 2014-2015 seasons (*n*=2212).

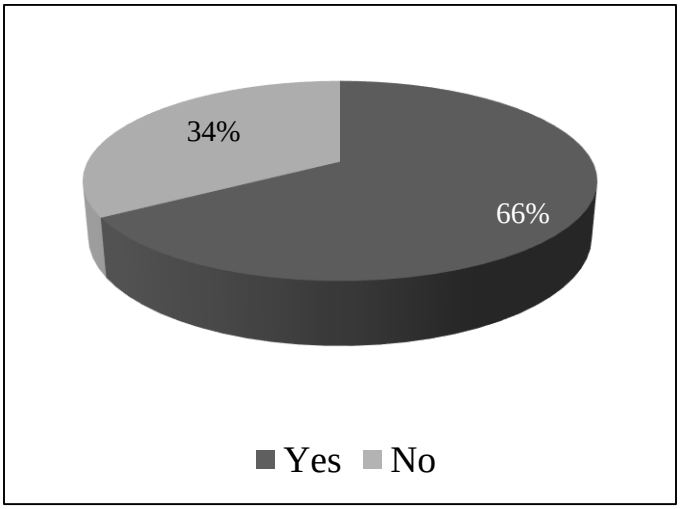

Figure 2. Percentage of hunters who hunted waterfowl (ducks, geese, or coots) in Illinois during the 2014-2015 waterfowl hunting season (*n*=2212).

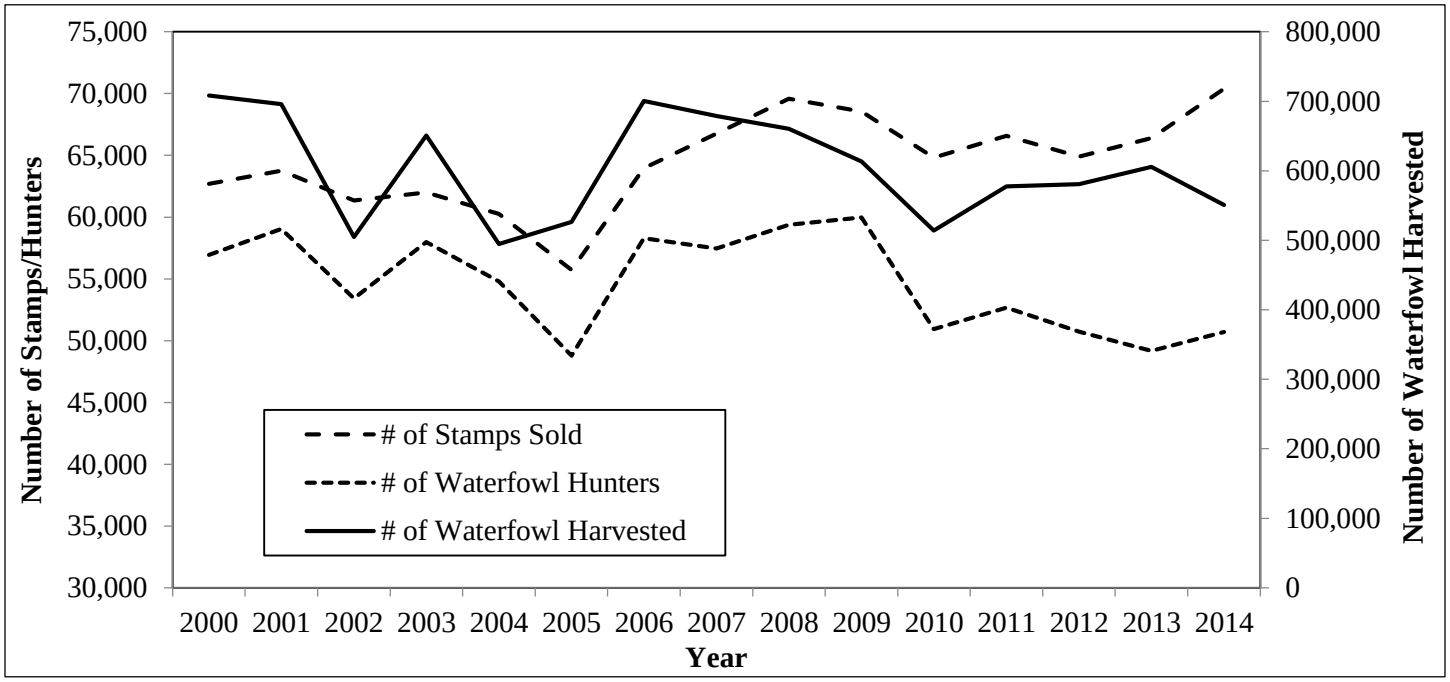

Figure 3. Number of stamps sold, waterfowl hunters, and waterfowl harvested in Illinois, 2000-2014.

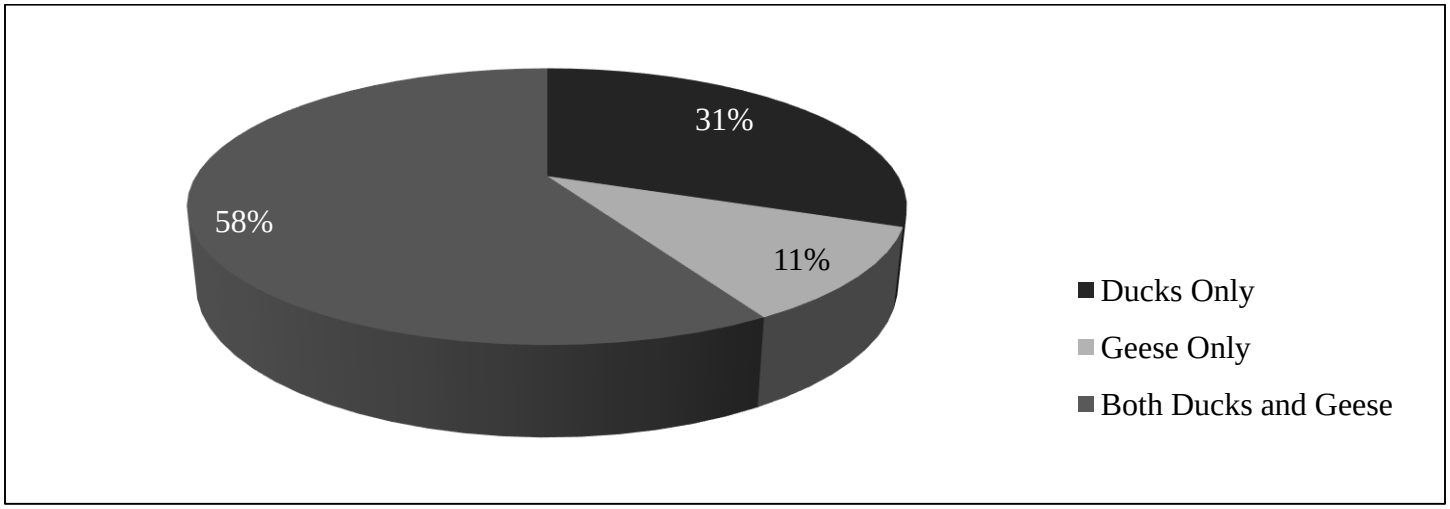

Figure 4. Percentage of hunters who hunted ducks, geese, or both during the 2014-15 Illinois waterfowl season.

September Teal Season

The number of early (September) teal season hunters increased 8.7% from 10,378 during 2013 to 11,282 during 2014 (Figure 5 and Table 3). Days afield increased 13.9% from 37,431 during 2013 to 42,635 during 2014. Greater numbers of teal hunters and days afield coincided with an increased teal harvest of 29,058 ± 10,909 during the 2014 September teal season, a 32.2% increase from the 2013 harvest. The Central Zone accounted for over one-half of teal hunters (52.2%), the majority of the teal harvested (58.1%), and almost half

of teal hunter days afield (44.8%) (Table 4). The North Zone recorded the next most hunters, days afield, and harvest. Statewide, September season teal hunters averaged 3.78 days afield, and harvested an average of 0.68 teal per hunter per day and 2.58 teal per hunter for the season (Figure 6 and Table 5).

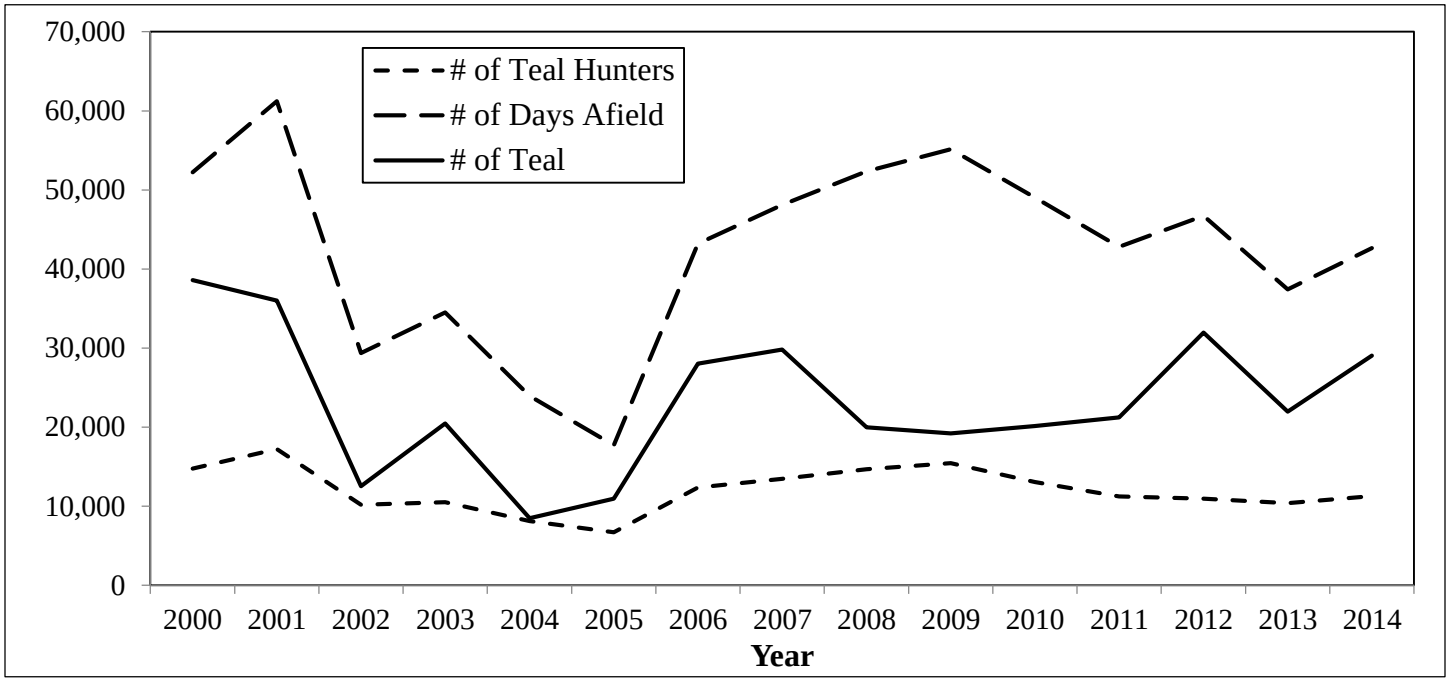

Figure 5. Number of teal harvested and hunter activity during the Illinois September teal season, from 2000-2014.

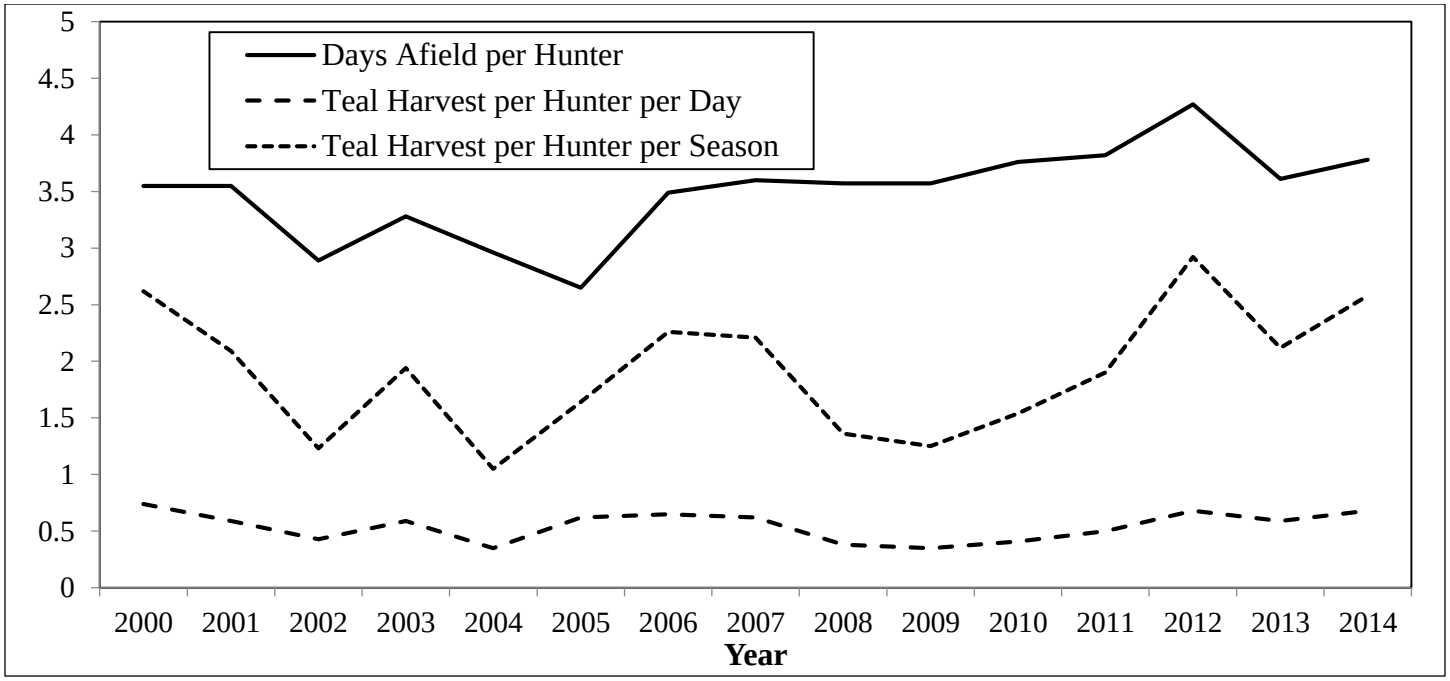

Figure 6. Rates of teal harvest and hunter activity during the Illinois September teal season from 2000-2014.

Youth Waterfowl Hunting

The Youth Waterfowl Season framework remained unchanged from 2013 to 2014; 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. Fifteen percent of those who purchased an Illinois waterfowl stamp took a youth hunting during the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days (Figure 7). Number of adults who participated in the 2014 youth hunt decreased 24.1% from 8,438 to 6,405 participants, and number of youth participants decreased less than 1% from 8,639 during 2013 to 8,572 youths during 2014 (Table 6). Almost half (44.3%) of the hunting groups that participated in the 2014 youth waterfowl season had at least one youth that had never hunted ducks or geese before (Figure 8), and 23.8% of hunters indicated this was their first time accompanying a youth during the hunt. Harvest (ducks, geese, and coots combined) during the youth season decreased 33.3%, from 15,139 during 2013 to 10,125 during 2014.

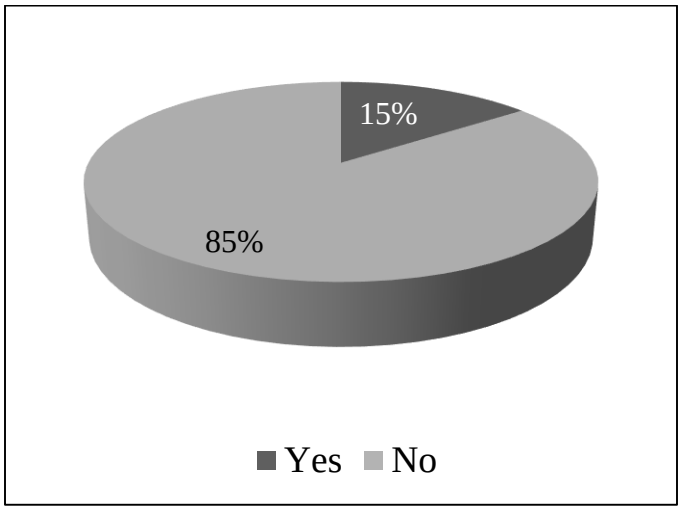

Figure 7. Percentage of hunters who took a youth (less than 16 years old) hunting during the 2014 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days (*n*=1279).

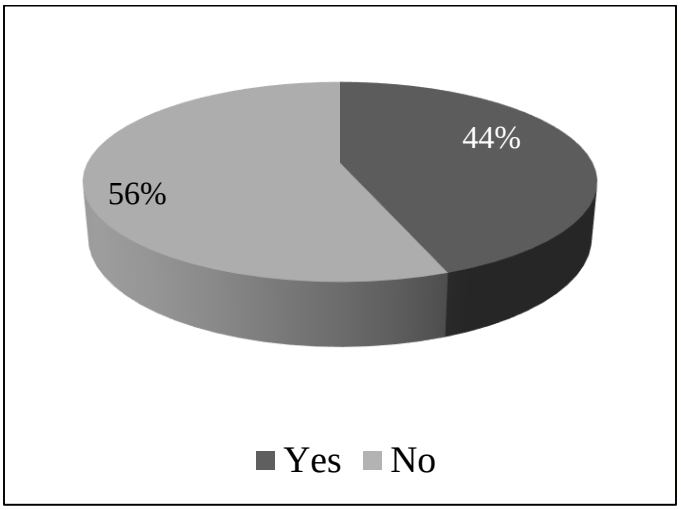

Figure 8. Percentage of hunters* who took at least one youth (less than 16 years old) hunting for the first time (*n*=203).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they took a youth hunting during the 2014 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days.

Nineteen percent of respondents took a youth hunting during the regular duck or goose season; an additional five percent had a youth accompany them but did not hunt (Figure 9). Hunters were more likely to take youths hunting during the regular duck season than goose season (Figure 10). The most popular responses

for why hunters take youth waterfowl hunting was to "teach responsible and safe hunting practices" and "protect the sport for future generations" (Figure 11). Fifty three percent of waterfowl hunters have introduced a non-youth hunter to waterfowl hunting.

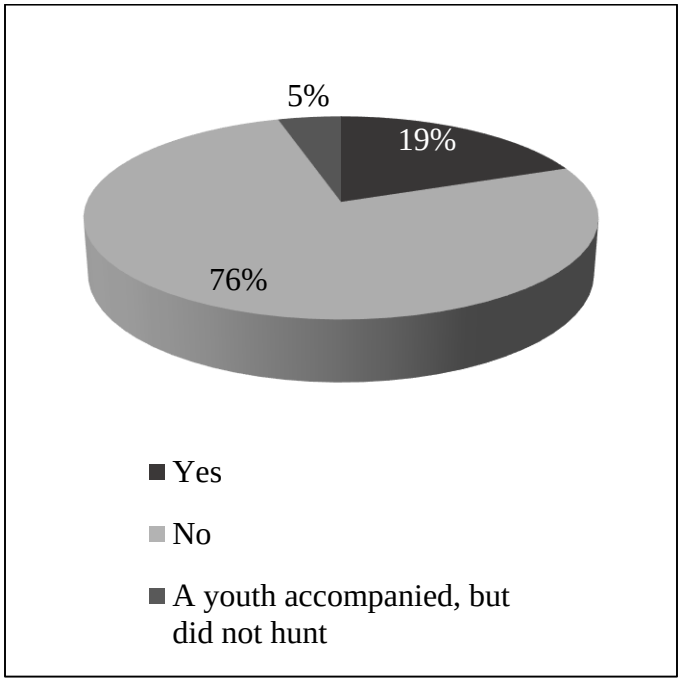

Figure 9. Proportion of hunters who took a youth (<16 years of age) hunting during the 2014-2015 regular duck or goose season in Illinois (*n*=1258).

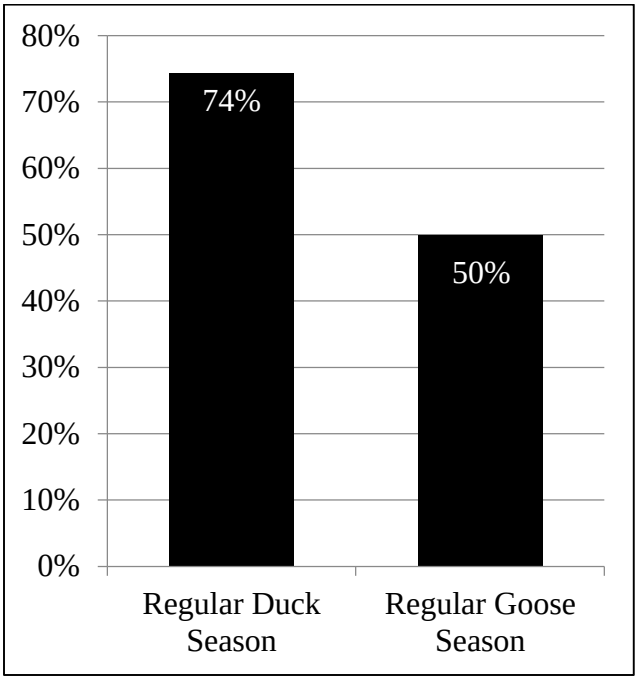

Figure 10. Seasons hunters* took a youth (<16 years of age) hunting during 2014-2015 (*n*=259).
*Cases selected for those who took youth hunting or had youth accompany them while hunting.

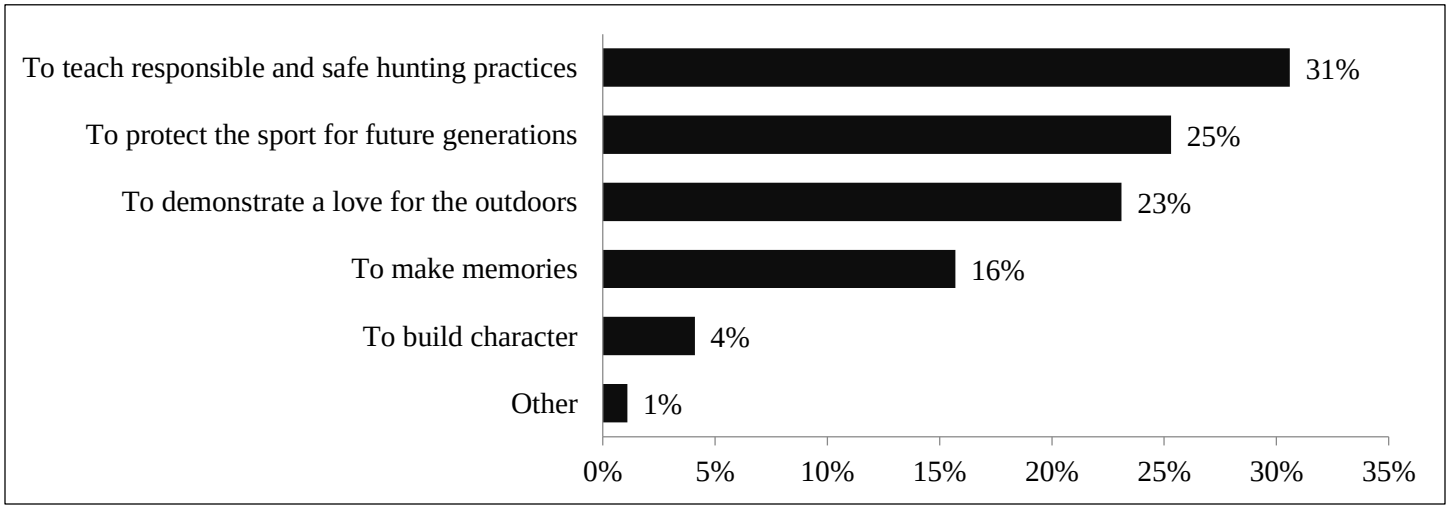

Figure 11. Reasons why hunters* take youth hunting (*n*=1465).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted 1 day or more during any 2014-15 waterfowl season.

Regular Duck Season

The number of duck hunters increased by 366 (1.0%) from 43,653 during the 2013-14 season to 44,019 during the 2014-15 season (Table 7). Duck hunters spent 525,114 days afield (*M*= 11.93) during the 2014-15 season, a decrease of 6.9% from the 563,961 days reported during the 2013-14 season. Approximately half (47.7%) 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 6.5% (n=64) of respondents hunted opening day in multiple zones.

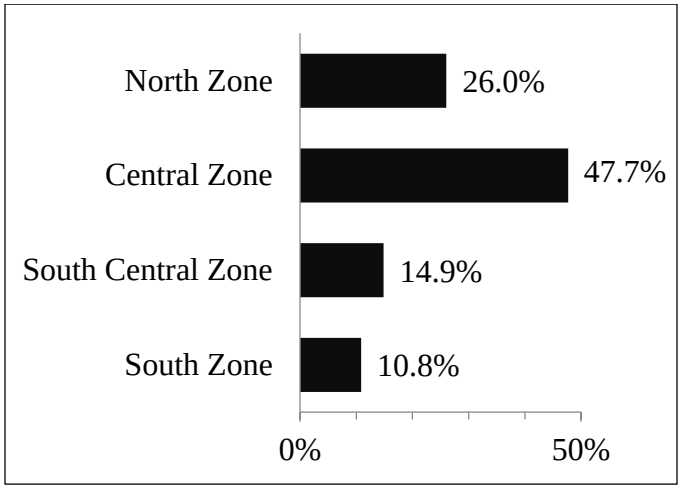

Figure 12. Zones hunters* hunted in most often during the 2014-15 duck season (*n*=1272).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day during the 2014-2015 duck seasons.

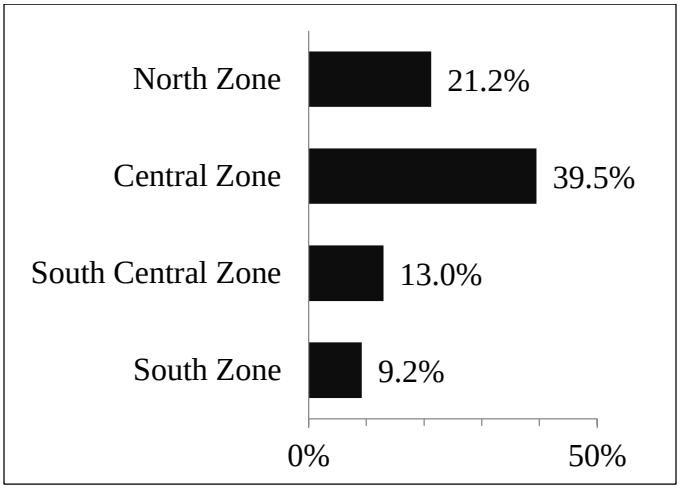

Figure 13. Zones hunters* hunted on opening day of duck season (*n*=1272).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day during the 2014-2015 duck seasons.

Total duck harvest during 2014-15 was 384,828, down 10.6% from the 430,179 reported for 2013-14 (Table 7). Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) comprised 51.0% of the total regular season duck harvest, whereas wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) and other ducks accounted for 13.0% and 36.0%, respectively (Figure 14). Statewide mallard harvest in Illinois decreased by 27,876 birds (12.3%) from 225,873 during the 2013-14 season to 197,997 during the 2014-15 season (Figure 15 and Table 7). Wood duck harvest decreased 785 (1.6%) from 49,001 during 2013-14 to 48,216 during 2014-15. The harvest of other ducks decreased 16,691 (10.7%) from 155,306 during 2013-14 to 138,615 during 2014-15, and statewide coot (*Fulica Americana*) harvest doubled

from 2,143 during 2013-14 to 4,681 coots during 2014-15. Twenty species of duck were harvested in Illinois from September, 2014 through January, 2015 (Table 8).The most popular species reported as harvested during the 2014-15 regular duck season were mallards (85.6% of hunters reported they harvested at least one), followed by wood duck (49.4%), gadwall (46.2%), and green-winged teal (43.0%). These numbers do not necessarily reflect the total proportion of harvest for each species, but indicate which species hunters reportedly harvested most often.

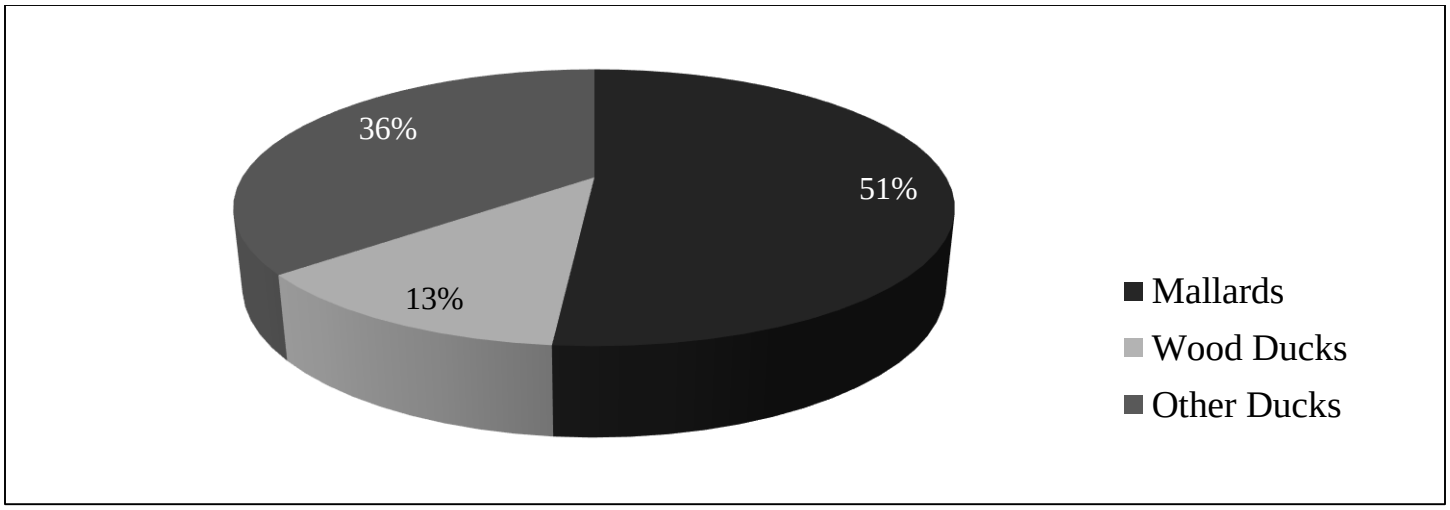

Figure 14. Proportion of Mallards, Wood Ducks, and Other Ducks harvested during the 2014-15 regular duck season.[a]

[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, and other ducks) is not necessarily the order of the most often harvested ducks in Illinois.

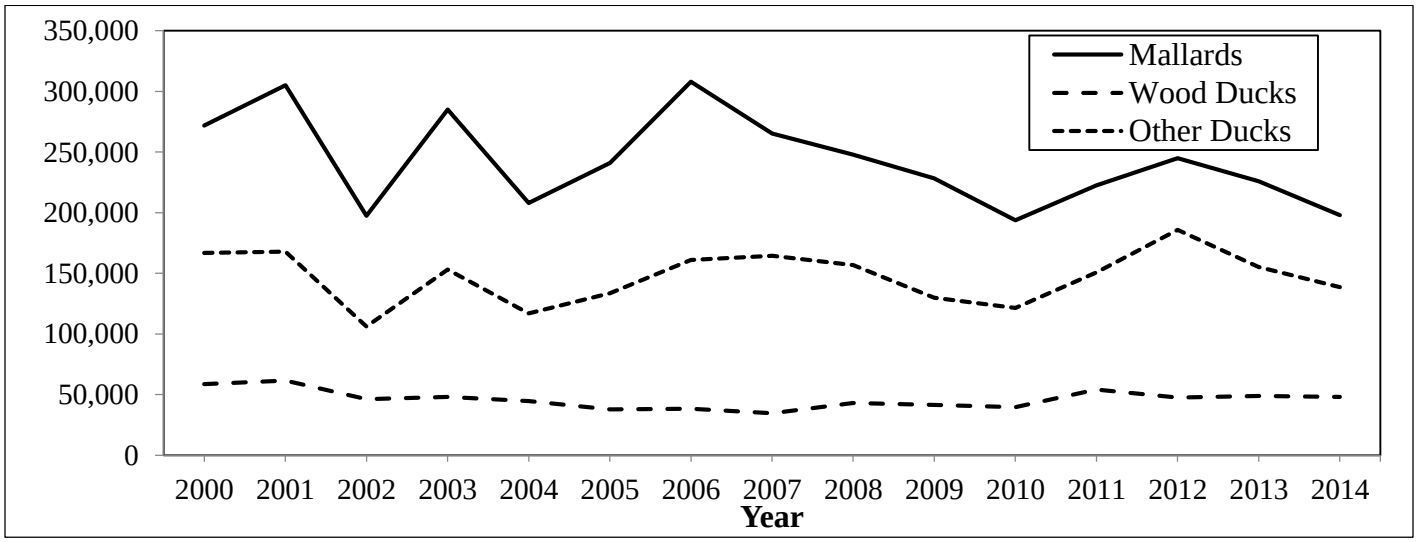

Figure 15. Illinois regular season duck harvest, 2000 – 2014.

The 2014-15 duck harvest is presented by waterfowl zones in Table 9. Across the four waterfowl zones, the greatest number of hunters, days afield, and ducks harvested occurred in the Central Zone. The South Zone had the highest daily success rate (harvest/hunter/day) at 0.93 ducks per day, while the South Central Zone had the highest season success rate (harvest/hunter/season) at 8.72 ducks per season. Statewide, duck hunter daily success dropped to 0.73 ducks/day and hunter season success decreased from 9.85 in 2013-14 to 8.74 during 2014-15 (Table 10). Of duck hunters who reported hunting ≥ 1 day (*n*=1,272), 40.8% hunted 5 days or less (Figure 16 and Table 11); 13.5% of duck hunters reported not harvesting any ducks, whereas 17.2% harvested more than 30 ducks. Of the 1,465 waterfowl hunters who spent at least 1 day afield, 19.8% reported not having shot opportunities and hunted an average of 4.85 days.

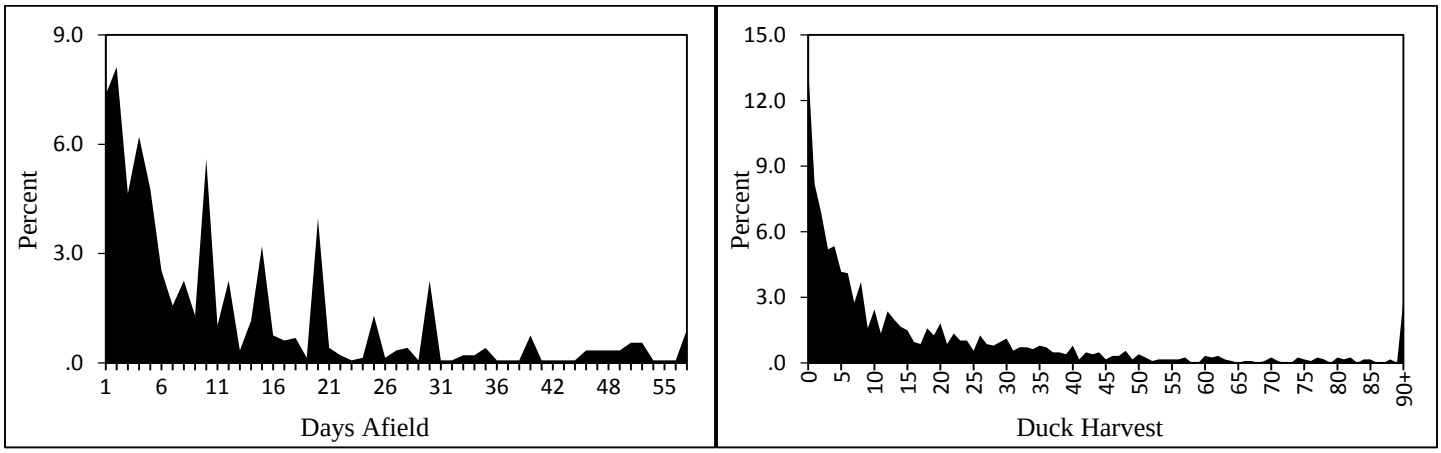

Figure 16. Distribution of days afield per hunter and ducks harvested per hunter for Illinois' during the 2014-15 regular duck season.

Almost 40% of waterfowl hunters kept records of their hunts (Figure 17). Over two-thirds (73%) of hunters reported using spinning wing decoys to hunt ducks during the 2014-15 regular duck season (Figure 18), and 13% of hunters harvested a greater variety of species this year than in the last 5 years (Figure 19). When duck hunters were asked what to do when preferred hunting areas freeze over, the most common response was to bust the ice (52.0%), followed by hunting over fields (40.0%) (Table 12).

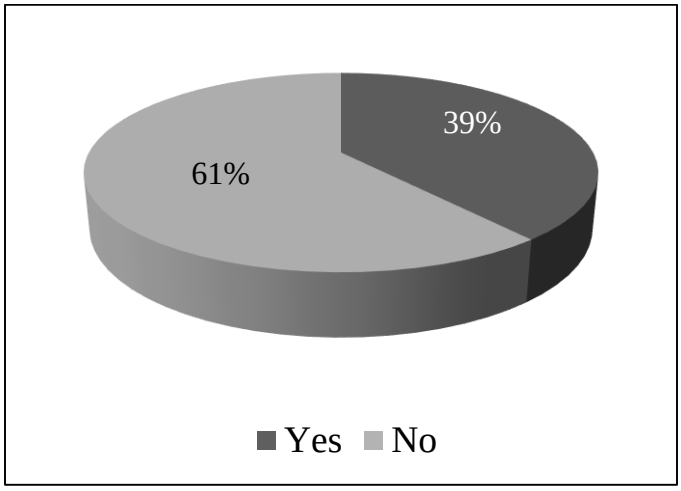

Figure 17. Percentage of waterfowl hunters* who kept records of their waterfowl hunting trips in 2014-2015 (*n*=1446).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day during the 2014-2015 waterfowl seasons.

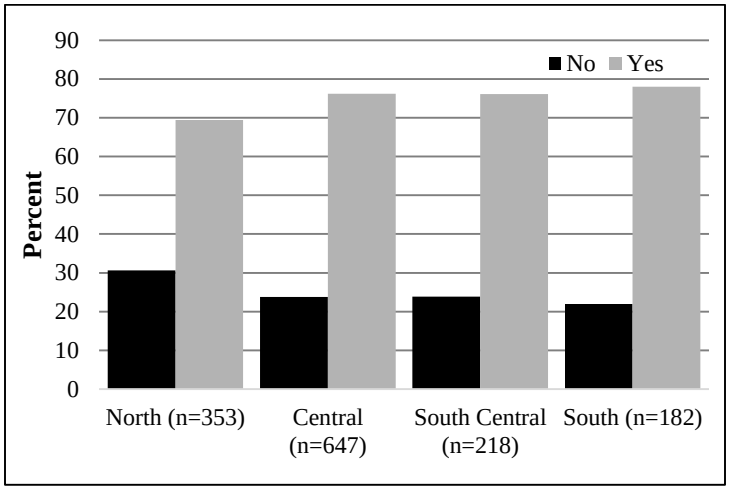

Figure 18. Percentage of hunters who used spinning wing decoys to hunt ducks in Illinois by zone.

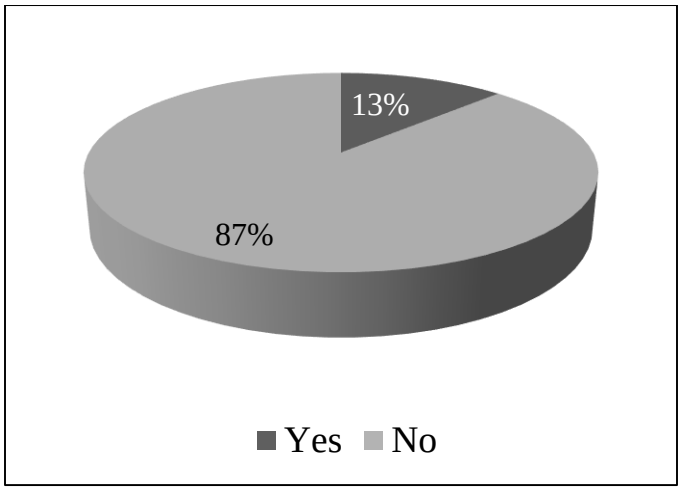

Figure 19. Percentage of hunters* who harvested a a greater variety of ducks in Illinois during the 2014-15 season (*n*=1250).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day during the 2014-2015 duck seasons.

Early September Goose Season

An estimated 12,147 hunters participated in the early (September) Canada goose season in Illinois during the 2014 season, an increase of 11.8% from the 10,865 who participated during 2013 (Figure 20 and Table 13). Statewide, early goose season hunters spent 44,919 days afield in 2014, 9.7% more than in 2013, and harvested approximately 19,089 Canada geese, an increase from the 2013 harvest by 22.0%. The Central Zone

accounted for the most hunters, days afield, and geese harvested, 54.9%, 53.0%, and 47.2%, respectively (Figure 21 and Table 13).

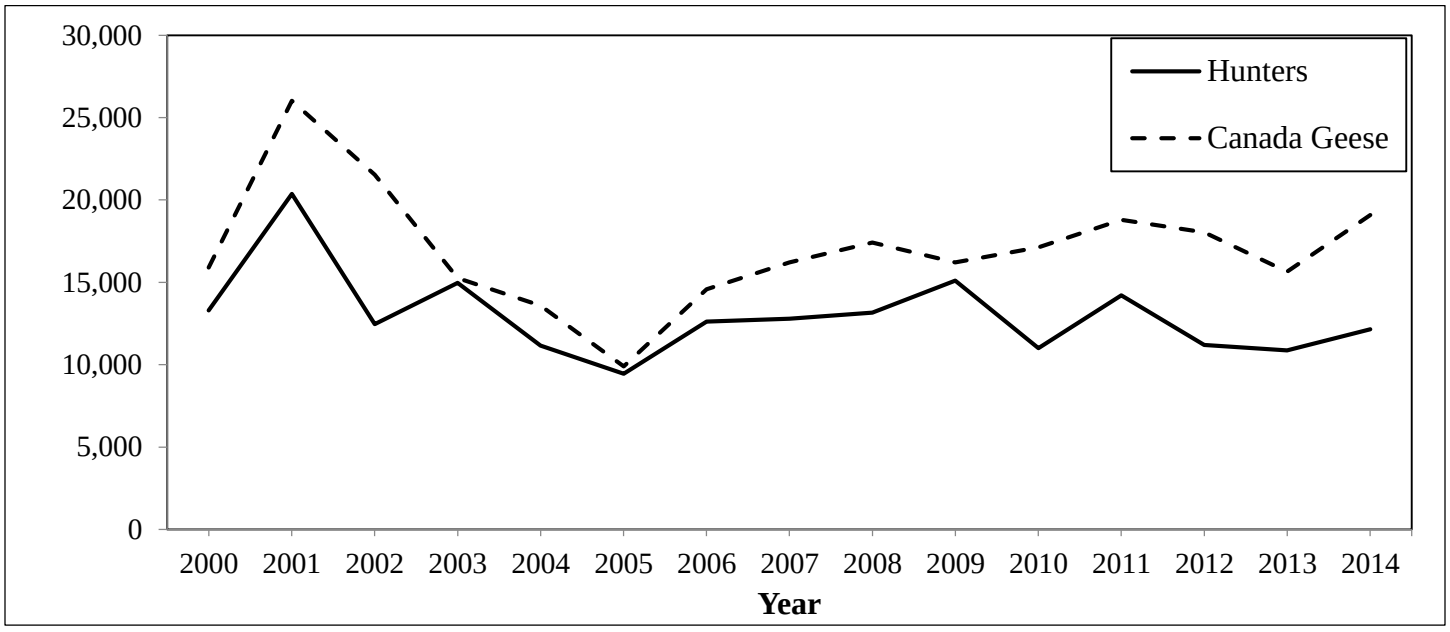

Figure 20. Early September Canada goose harvest and hunter activity, 2000-2014.

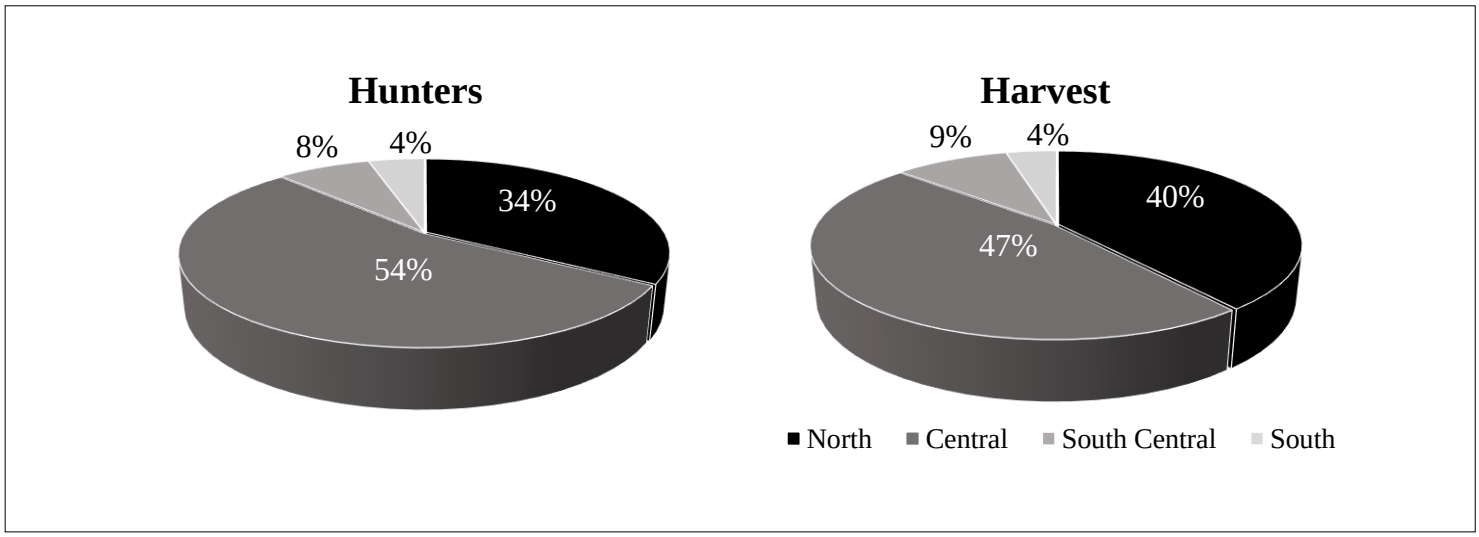

Figure 21. Early September Canada goose harvest and hunter activity by zone in Illinois during 2014.

Regular Canada Goose Season

Canada goose harvest during the 2014-15 regular goose season decreased 16.4% from 2013-14 (Table 14, Figure 22). An estimated 34,226 hunters spent 369,179 days afield and harvested 87,672 Canada geese during 2014-15. The number of goose hunters in Illinois increased 1.2% during 2014-15 when compared to 2013-14, while the number of days afield decreased 5.6%. Hunters also harvested 20,313 other geese, of which 12,307 were light geese (snow, blue or Ross' geese) (*Chen caerulescens*) and 8,006 were white-fronted geese (*Anser albifrons*), for a total combined harvest of 107,985 geese (Table 14, Figure 23).

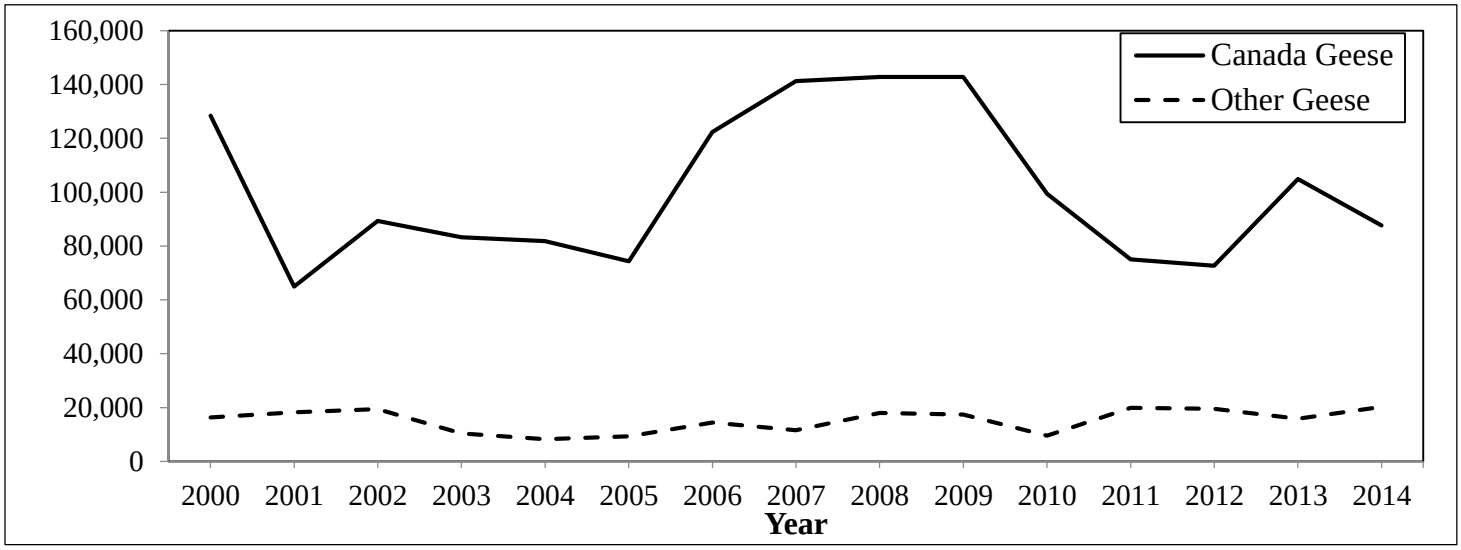

Figure 22. Goose harvest during Illinois' regular goose season from 2000-2014.

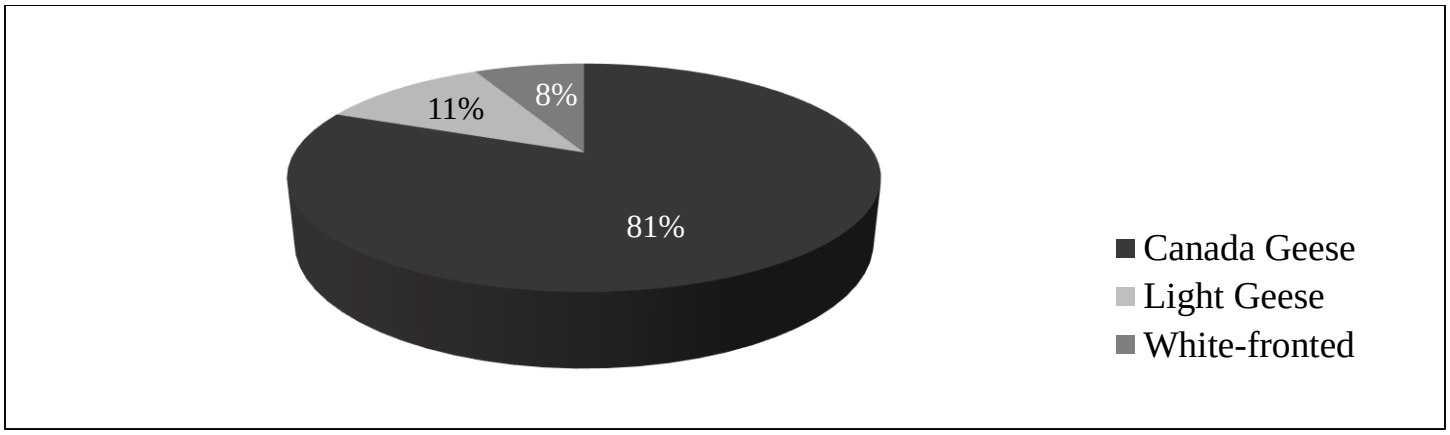

Figure 23. 2014-15 Illinois' regular Canada goose season harvest.

Goose hunters reported a mean of 10.79 days afield and mean harvest of 2.56 Canada geese and 0.59 other geese per hunter per season; 65.8% of goose hunters harvested ≥ 5 geese (Figure 24 and Tables 14 and 15). The Central Zone led the state in the number of goose hunters (54.3%), days afield (52.6%), and Canada geese harvested (53.1%); the most white-fronted (45.4%) and light geese (49.8%) were also harvested in the Central Zone (Table 16). Harvest of Canada geese is summarized by zone and year (2012-13 through 2014-15) in Table 17.

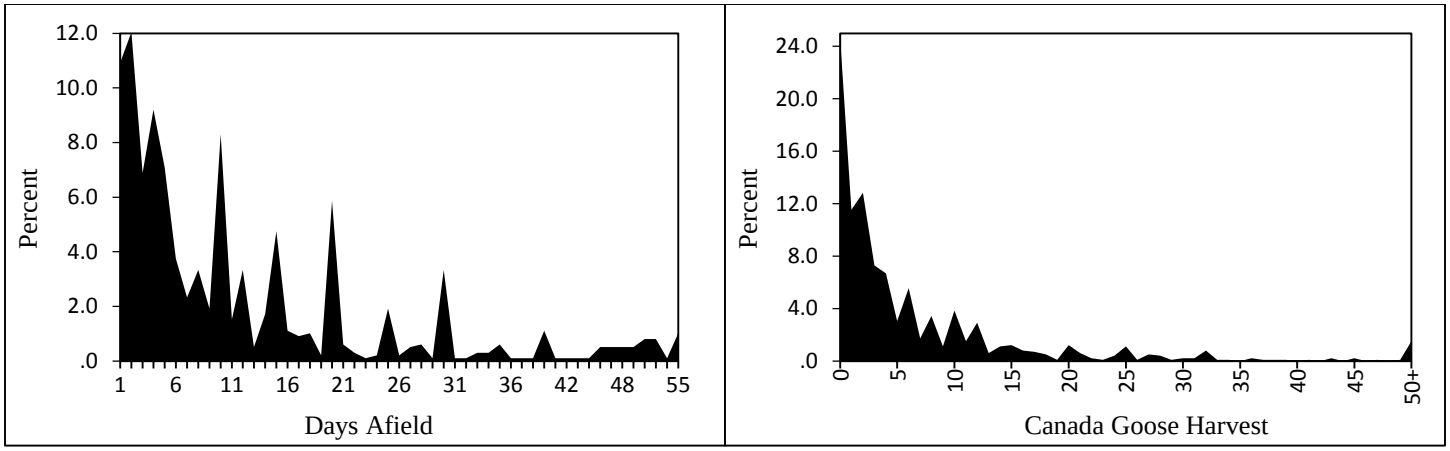

Figure 24. Distribution of days afield per hunter and geese harvested per hunter for Illinois' 2014-15 regular goose season.

Crippling Losses

Crippling losses (birds downed but not retrieved) during the 2014-15 regular season were estimated at 51,909 ducks and 7,856 geese (Table 18). These estimates, considered to be indices because they contain information about the relative number and are not actual number or abundance estimates, equate to 13.5 ducks and 7.3 geese lost per 100 harvested.

White-fronted/Specklebelly Harvest

Fifteen percent of those who hunted one day or more for waterfowl during 2014-15 harvested white-fronted (specklebelly) geese (Figure 25). One-third of hunters (38.0 %) who harvested specklebelly geese indicated they saw more during the 2014-15 season than in the previous 5 years, while 43.0% saw the same

amount and 19.0% saw fewer (Figure 26). Over 70% of hunters who targeted specklebelly geese saw more during the 2014-15 goose season than in the previous 5 years (Figure 27), and greater than half (52.9%) successfully harvested one or more birds (Figure 28). Although a majority of waterfowl hunters (53.6%) did not target specklebelly geese specifically; 12.3% harvested them when they had an opportunity, 8.3% used specklebelly calls, and 10.5% used specklebelly decoys (Figure 29).

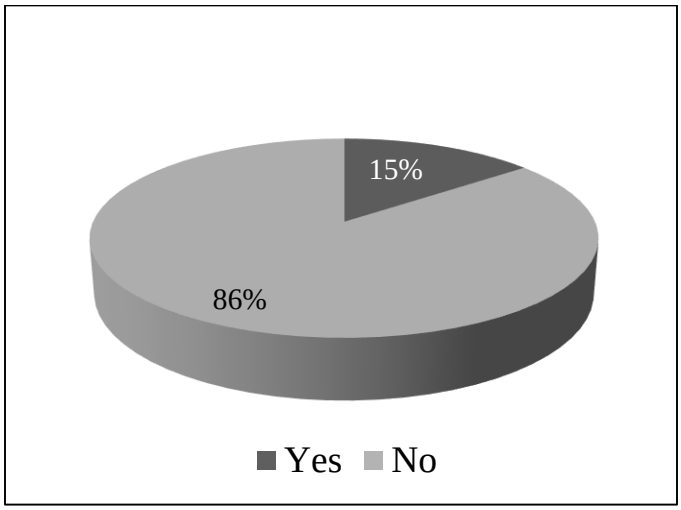

Figure 25. Proportion of hunters* who harvested white-fronted (specklebelly) geese during the 2014-15 waterfowl hunting seasons (*n*=988).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day during the 2014-2015 goose seasons.

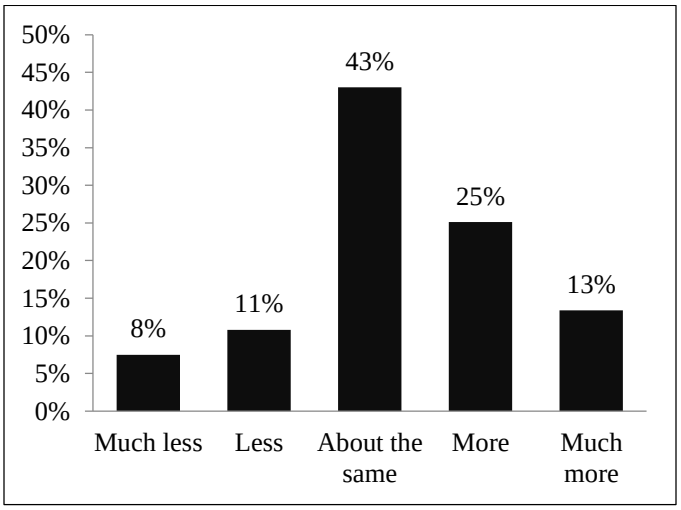

Figure 26. Comparison between the number of white-fronted geese hunters* seen in 2014-15 compared to the last 5 years (*n*=848).
*Cases selected for those who hunted for at least one day during the 2014-15 regular goose season.

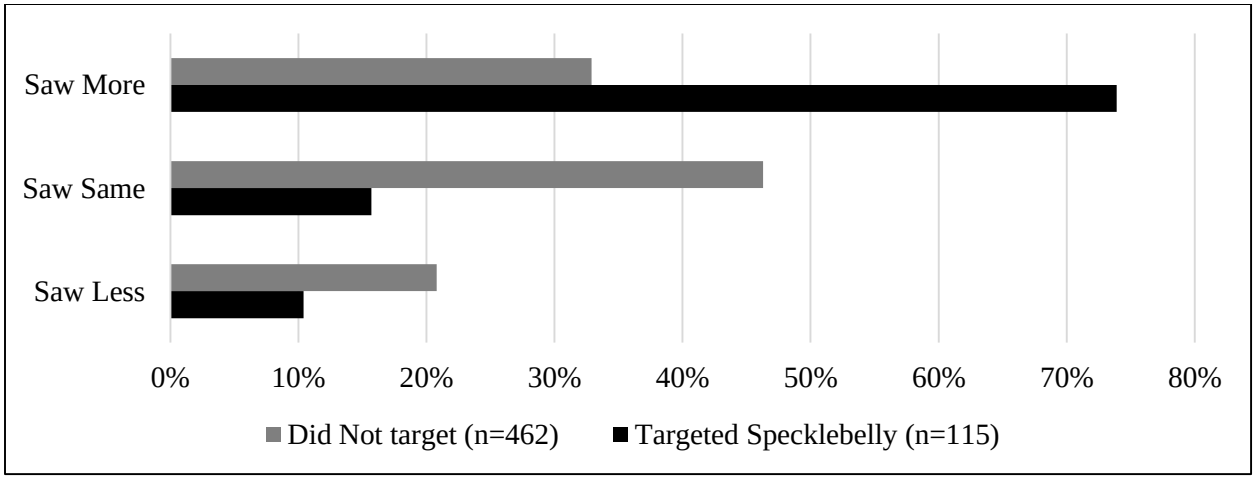

Figure 27. Comparison between the number of white-fronted geese (specklebelly) seen during the 2014-15 season compared to the last 5 years by hunters who targeted and did not target the species.
*Cases selected for those who hunted for at least one day during regular goose season.

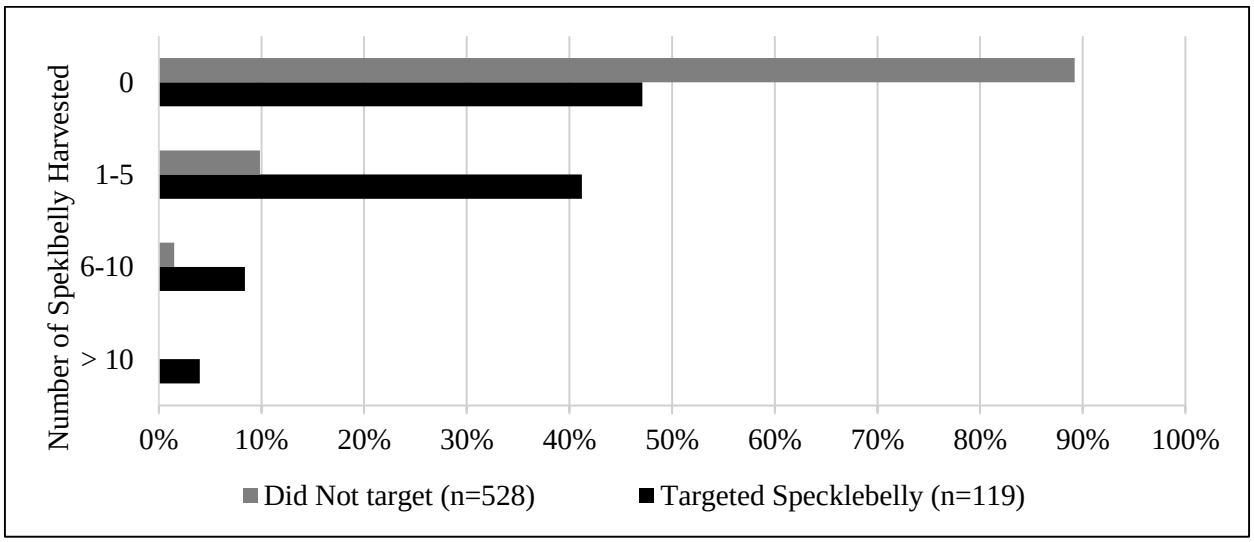

Figure 28. Percentage of goose hunter* harvest of white-fronted (specklebelly) geese during the 2014-15 Regular Goose Season by those who targeted and did not target the species.
*Cases selected for those who hunted for at least one day during regular goose season.

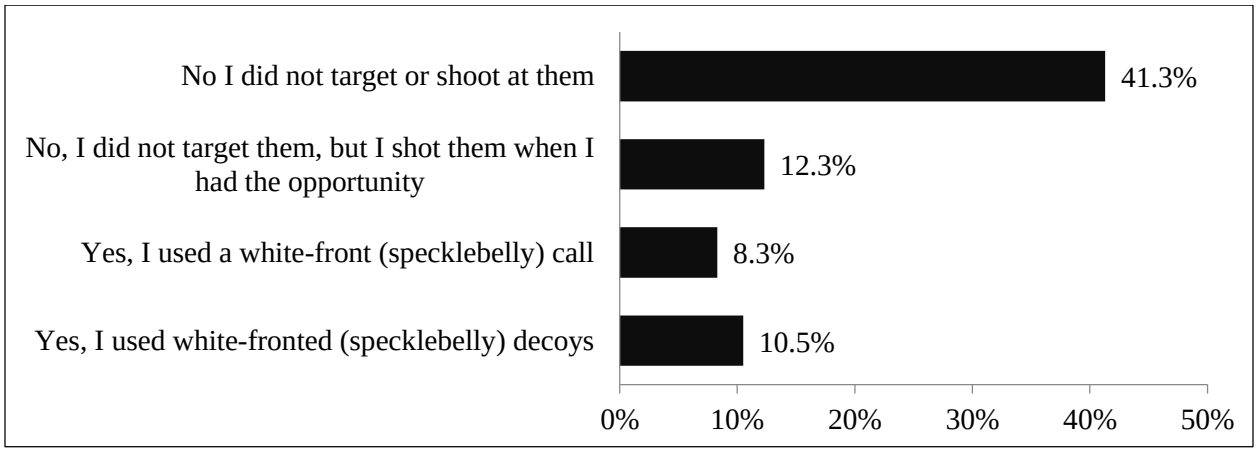

Figure 29. Proportion of hunters* who targeted white-fronted (specklebelly) geese during the Regular Goose Season (*n*=988).
*Cases selected for those who hunted for at least one day during regular goose season.

Satisfaction with 2014-15 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 waterfowl zone changes. 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 highest average number of ducks per hunter per season (*M* = 8.72), an average of 3.21 & 0.22 ducks per hunter per season more than hunters in the

North and Central zones (respectively), and 0.06 ducks per hunter per season more than hunters in the South zone. South Zone duck hunters had the highest level of satisfaction for every aspect of the season except for "the match of the mid-season and peak migration," whereas South Central Zone hunters (despite harvesting the most ducks per hunter per season) were least satisfied with "the number of ducks harvested" and "match of mid-season and peak migration" (Table 19). South Central and South Zone goose hunters harvested the fewest geese per hunter per season (M = 1.49 and M = 1.87, respectively). North Zone goose hunters had the highest level of satisfaction with every measured aspect of the 2014-15 season, while South Zone hunters had the lowest level of satisfaction of all aspects of goose season (Table 20).

Season Timing and Preferences

When asked about season timing, a majority of duck hunters (59.0%) in the South Zone and almost half (49.0%) of hunters in the North Zone reported that the 2014-15 duck season was timed "about right" (Figure 30 and Table 21). Most hunters in the Central Zone reported that the duck season timing was "too early" or "about right," and almost half (49.0%) of hunters in the South Central Zone indicated that duck season was "too early." Most teal hunters (74.8%) reported that teal season was timed "about right." A majority of goose hunters, across all four Illinois waterfowl zones reported timing for the 2014-15 goose season was "about right."

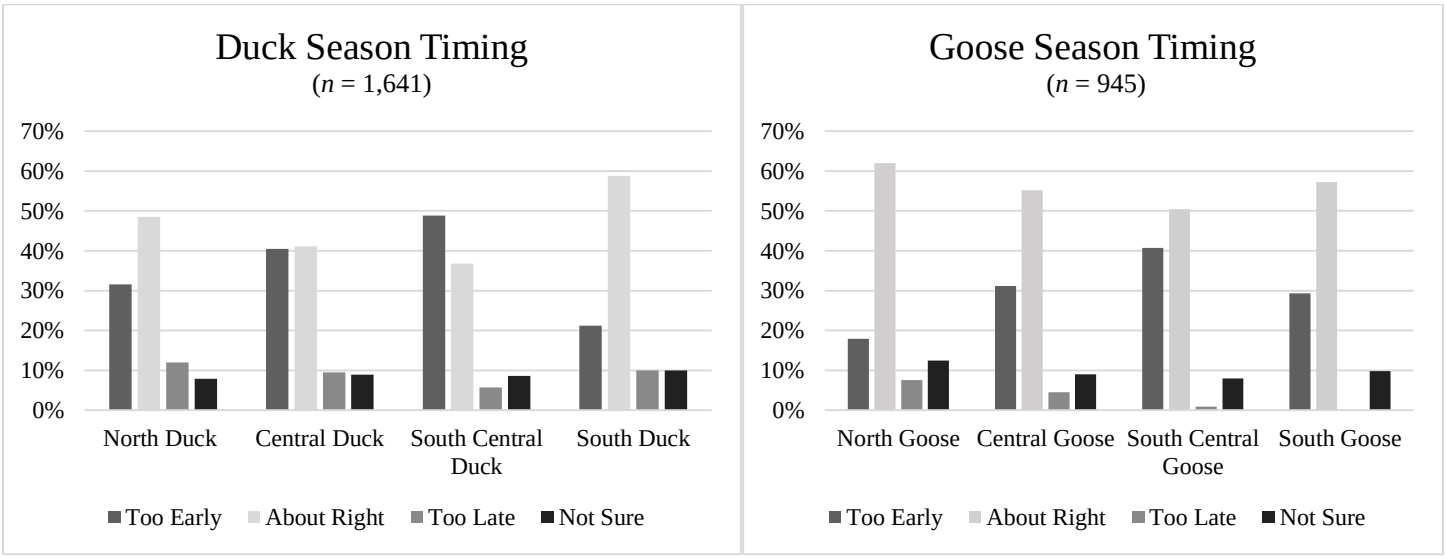

Figure 30. Duck and goose hunter* opinions about the timing of the 2014-15 waterfowl seasons
*Cases selected for those who hunted for at least one day in the corresponding season and zone.

Thirty-two percent of Central Zone goose hunters were more likely to prefer the goose season split to begin 2 days after the duck opener, followed by 22.0% who would prefer the split to begin 9 days after the opener (Figure 31). To understand hunter preferences toward season length and harvest limits of white fronted geese hunters were presented with three options: 1) a longer season with a one bird limit, 2) a shorter season with a 2 bird limit, or 3) no preference. "No preference" was selected by 69.4% of hunters in the North, 52.6% Central, and 45.5% in the South, whereas 44.7% of South Central Zone hunters preferred a shorter season and two bird limit (Table 22). Currently, a small area in northeastern Illinois is considered to be part of the north zone during duck season and part of the central zone during goose season. North Zone hunters reported greater preference that this area be considered North Zone for both duck (39.6%) and goose (43.8%) hunting, whereas Central Zone hunters were more likely to prefer it be Central Zone for both (36.0% for duck and 37.6% for goose) (Table 23).

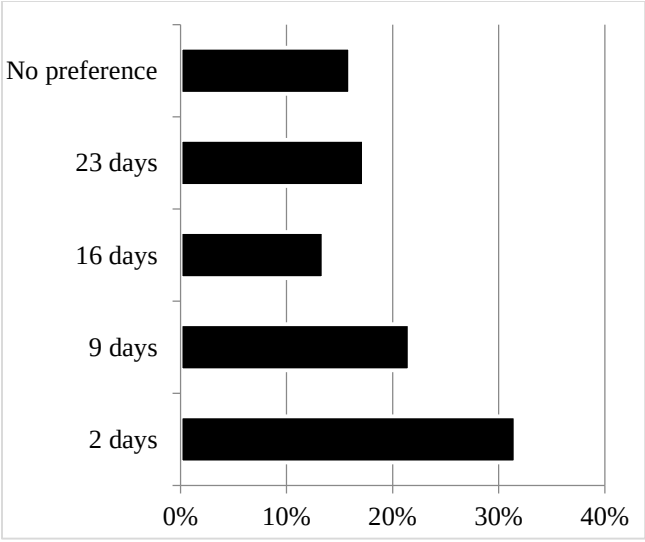

Figure 31. Central zone goose hunter* preference for how many days after the duck opener should the goose season split begin (*n*= 538).
*Cases selected for those who hunted for at least one day in the central zone during the 2014-15 regular goose season.

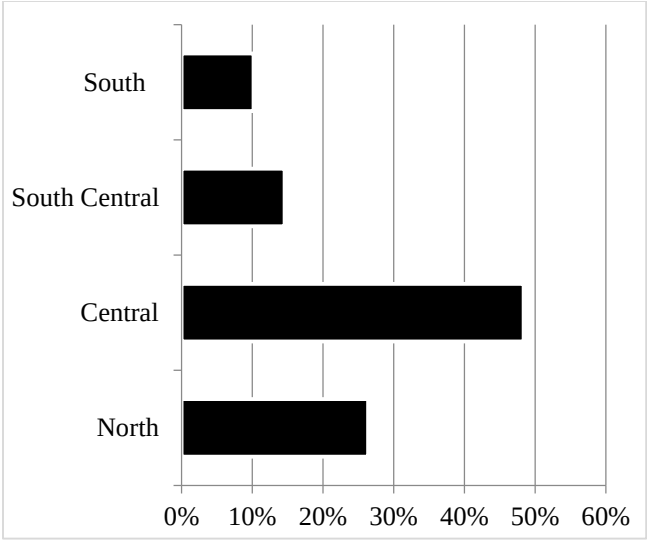

Figure 32. The zone hunters intend to hunt ducks most often during 2015-16 (*n*=1884).

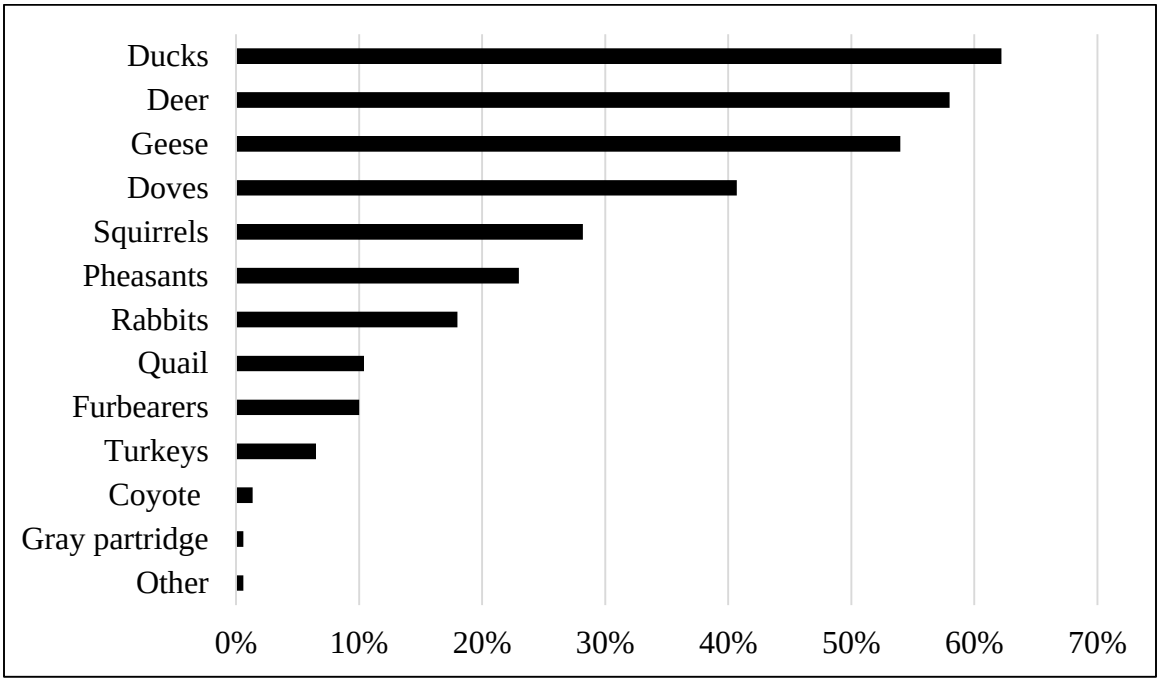

Figure 33. Species waterfowl hunters hunted in Illinois during the 2014-15 seasons.

About half (48.0%) of Illinois duck hunters reported that they intend to hunt in the Central Zone for ducks during the 2015-16 duck season, followed by 26% that intend to hunt ducks in the North Zone (Figure 32). A majority of Illinois duck hunters (56.7%) indicated that other hunting seasons do not affect their season preferences for duck hunting, but one third reported that deer season did affect their duck season preferences (Table 24), and waterfowl hunters in Illinois hunted deer slightly less than ducks during the 2014-15 seasons (Figure 33). Hunters were asked to provide their opinions about their preferred dates for duck hunting during the 2015-16 season following a 30, 45, and 60 day season structure. Hunter responses for 30 and 45 day seasons by zone can be found in Tables 25 and 26. Hunter preferences for a 60 day duck season reveal that North and Central Zone hunters prefer to hunt from mid to late October through December, whereas South and Central Zone hunters prefer to hunt ducks from late November through January (Figures 34-37, Table 27).

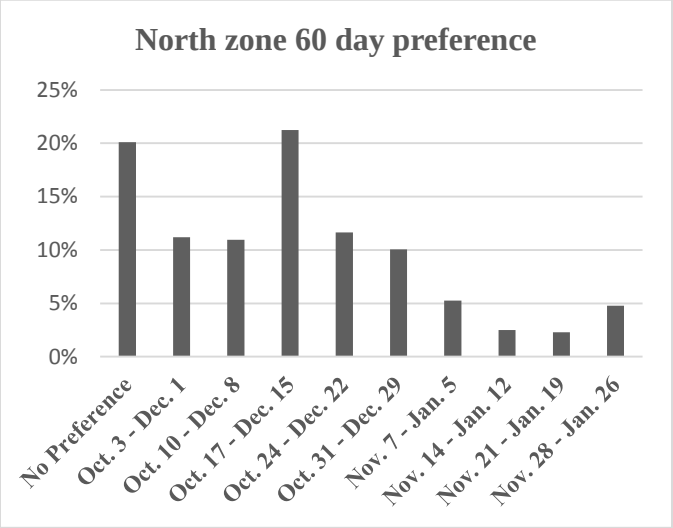

Figure 34. North zone duck hunters' preferences for A 60 day season structure in Illinois (*n*=361).

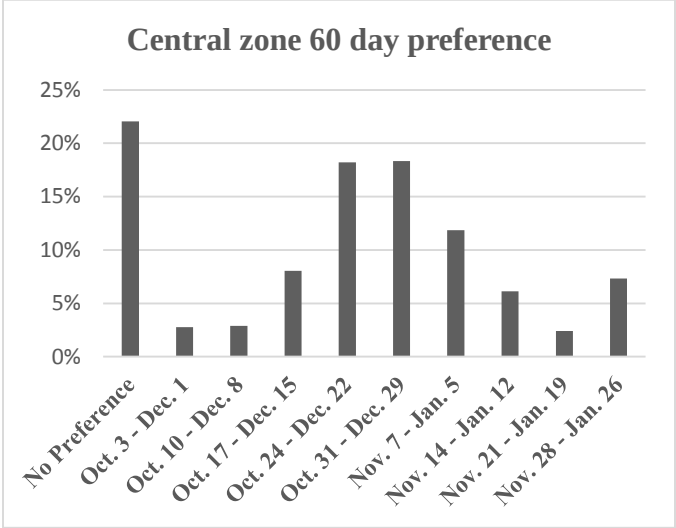

Figure 35. Central zone duck hunters' preferences for a 60 day season structure in Illinois (*n*=657).

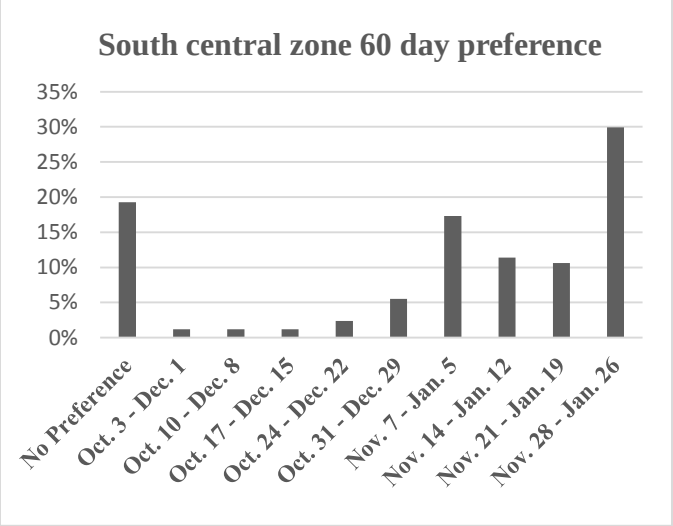

Figure 36. South Central zone duck hunters' preferences for a 60 day season structure in Illinois (*n*=221).

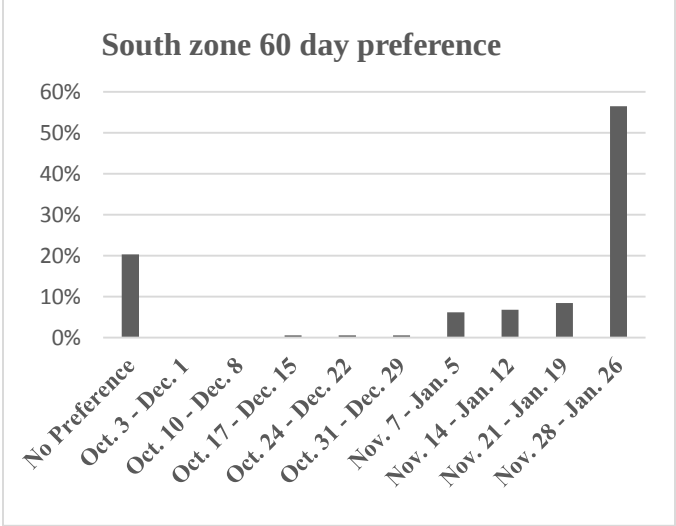

Figure 37. South zone duck hunters' preferences for a 60 day season structure in Illinois (*n*=186).

Hunter Characteristics and Commitment to Waterfowl Hunting

Respondents who hunted waterfowl during the 2014-15 waterfowl season hunted waterfowl for a mean of 23.8 years and a mean of 21.9 years in Illinois. These hunters averaged 46 years of age and responded from all but Clay and Richland Counties. Females comprised 5.0% of survey respondents and 3.0% of those who hunted during the 2014-15 waterfowl hunting seasons (Figure 38). Almost all respondents who hunted during the 2014-15 season had previously hunted waterfowl in Illinois (Figure 39), and most who hunted during 2014-

15 Illinois hunting seasons hunted ducks (62.0%), followed by deer (58.0%), and geese (54.0%). Half (50.0%) of respondents reported they hunt waterfowl every year in Illinois, while 7.0% reported that they never hunt waterfowl in Illinois (Figure 40). Forty percent of duck hunters felt that they harvested fewer ducks than others hunters they know, 37.6% felt that they harvested the same number of ducks, and 22.4% felt they harvested more ducks (Figure 41). When asked to rank their personal skills at calling ducks, the number of ducks harvested per shots taken, and their overall duck hunting skills, most hunters ranked their skills as "intermediate" or slightly above for all categories (Table 28).

Most waterfowl hunter respondents (*n*=1,465) hunted either regular duck (86.8%) or regular goose (67.4%) seasons during 2014-15. These hunters were asked a series of questions to determine their level of commitment to waterfowl hunting by examining their attitudes toward the importance of waterfowl hunting, recreational activity preferences, and amount of time spent preparing for waterfowl seasons. Collectively, Illinois waterfowl hunters were committed to waterfowl hunting; a majority of hunters who participated in at least one of the four Illinois waterfowl seasons ranked waterfowl hunting as one of their most important activities, spent a lot of time in the off season planning for waterfowl hunting, planned vacation time around waterfowl seasons, and would go waterfowl hunting over other recreational activities (Table 29). September teal hunters were the most committed among Illinois waterfowl hunters and led every category, followed by September goose, regular goose, and regular duck season hunters; moreover, 65.0% of Illinois waterfowl hunters hunted multiple waterfowl seasons (Figure 40). Consequently, individual hunter commitment levels were represented in each of the waterfowl seasons hunted during 2014-15, so comparisons of hunter commitment among season types should be made with caution.

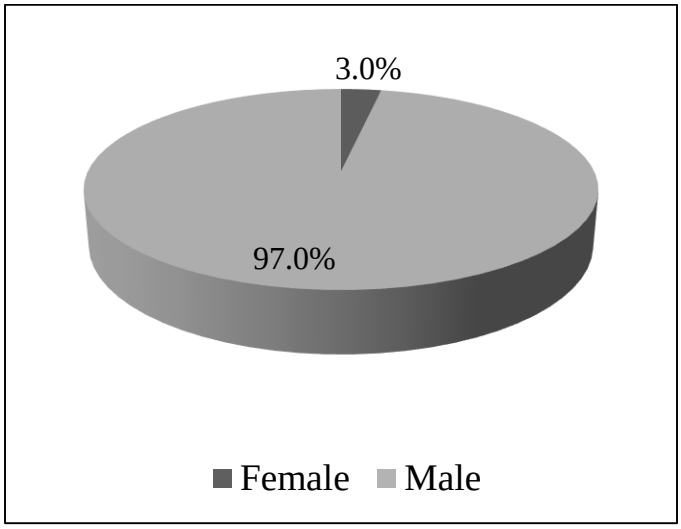

Figure 38. Gender distribution of respondents who hunted* waterfowl during one of the 2014-15 waterfowl seasons (*n*=1461).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day or more during the 2014-2015 waterfowl seasons.

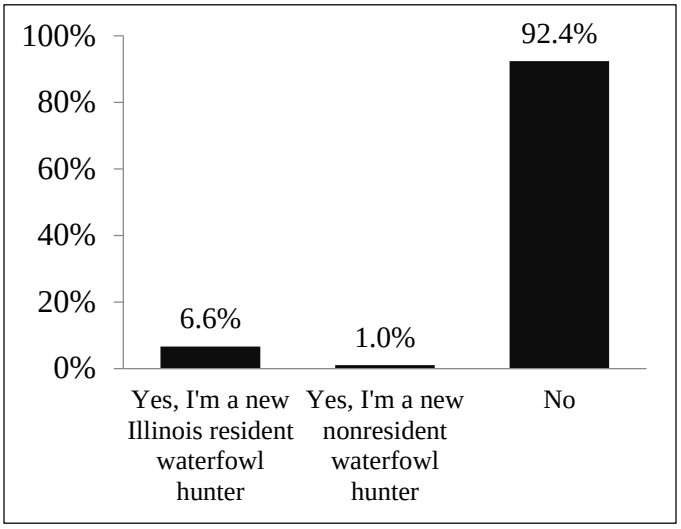

Figure 39. Number of hunters* whose first time hunting waterfowl in Illinois was during one of the 2014-15 waterfowl seasons (*n*=1451).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted at least one day during the 2014-2015 waterfowl seasons.

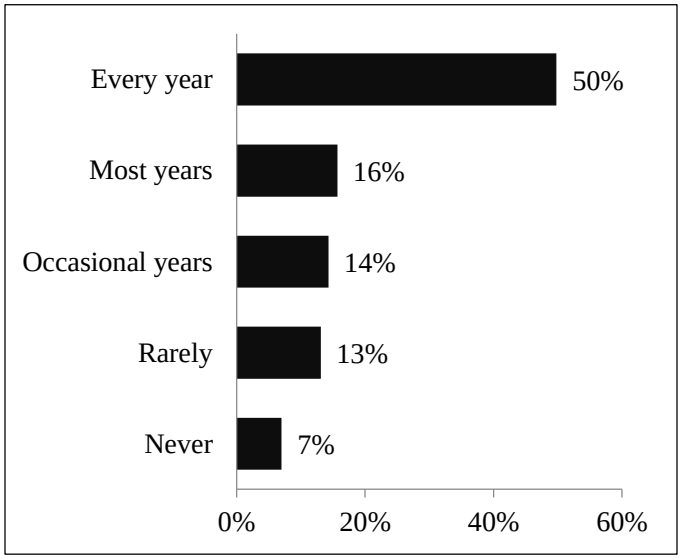

Figure 40. How often respondents hunt waterfowl in Illinois (*n*=2185).

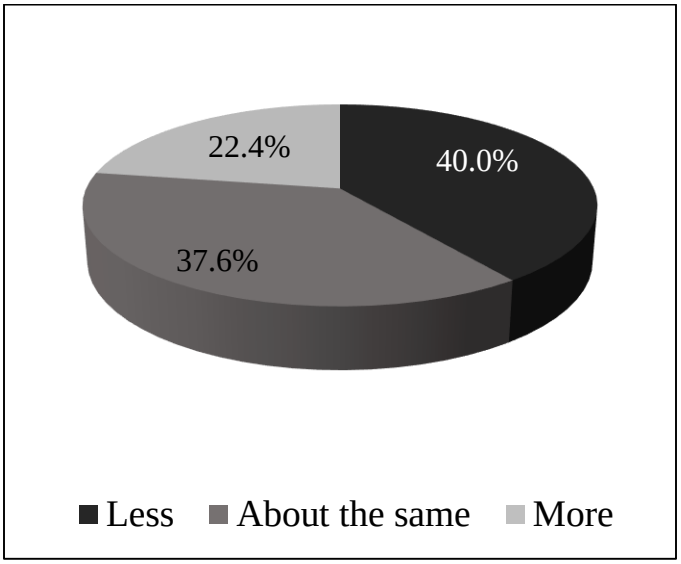

Figure 41. Self-reported duck harvest comparisons between Illinois duck hunters* and other hunters they know (*n*=1235).
*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day during the 2014-2015 duck seasons.

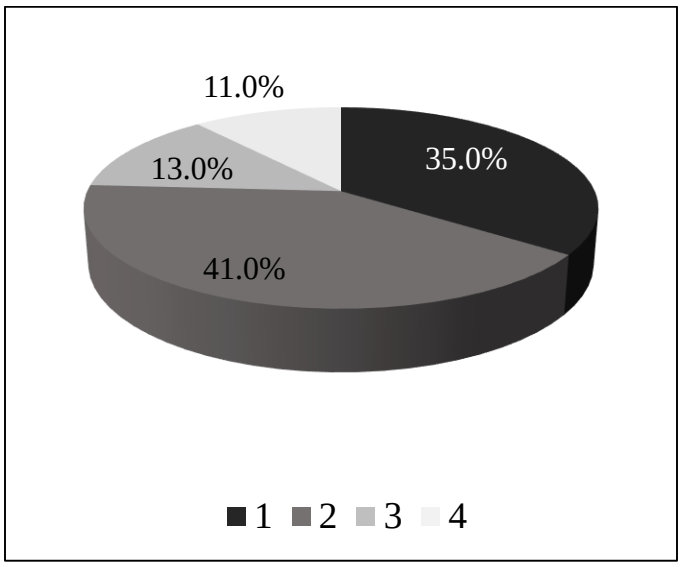

Figure 42. Percentage of waterfowl hunters* and the number of different waterfowl seasons hunted during 2014-15 in Illinois.

*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day during the 2014-2015 duck or goose seasons.

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Table 1. Summary of Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps purchased, hunter activity, and waterfowl harvest in Illinois from 2004 through 2014 hunting seasons.

Season[a] (Year)	Stamps Purchased	Estimated Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Harvest[b]
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
2014	70,391	50,698	982,193	550,946

[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 2004 through 2014 seasons.

Season[a] (Year)	Hunted Ducks Only	Hunted Geese Only	Hunted Both Ducks and Geese	Duck Hunters	Goose Hunters
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%
2014	30.8%	10.9%	58.3%	89.1%	69.2%

[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, 2004-2014).

Season [a] (Year)	Estimated Hunters	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Teal Harvest
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
2014	11,282	42,635	29,058 ± 10,909

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

Table 4. Teal harvest and hunter activity by zones during September Teal season (Illinois, 2014).

	n	Estimated Hunters[a]	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Teal Harvested
North Zone	83	2,872	11,178	6,103
Central Zone	174	6,021	24,121	16,887
S. Central Zone	60	2,076	5,641	5,115
South Zone	16	554	1,696	954
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, 2004-2014).

Season[a] (Year)	Season Length/ Bag Limit	Days Hunted Per Hunter	Teal Harvest per Hunter	
			Per Day	Per Season
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
2014	16/6	3.78	0.68	2.58

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

Table 6. Waterfowl harvest and hunter activity during Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days, 2004-2014.

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
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
2014	6,405	8,572	13,798	1.33	9,004	1.30	192	0.03	929	0.14

[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 2004-2014).

Season[a] (Year)	Hunters	Days Afield	Number of Ducks				Coots
			Mallards	Wood Ducks	Other Ducks	Total	
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
2014	44,019	525,114	197,997	48,216	138,615 [b]	384,828 ± 39,741	4,681 ± 3,311

[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 species hunters harvested between September 2014 and January 2015 (*n*=1272).

Species	Scientific name	Number of hunters	Percent of hunters
Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*	1089	85.6%
Wood Duck	*Aix sponsa*	628	49.4%
Gadwall	*Anas strepera*	588	46.2%
Green-winged Teal	*Anas crecca*	547	43.0%
Shoveler	*Anas clypeata*	341	26.8%
Blue-winged Teal	*Anas discors*	338	26.6%
Pintail	*Anas acuta*	315	24.8%
Wigeon	*Anas americana*	295	23.2%
Scaup	*Aythya marila*	188	14.8%
Redhead	*Aythya americana*	151	11.9%
Canvasback	*Aythya valisineria*	146	11.5%
Coot	*Fulica americana*	56	4.4%
Ringneck*	*Aythya collaris*	51	4.0%
Goldeneye*	*Bucephala clangula*	30	2.4%
Merganser*	*Mergus merganser*	28	2.2%
Bufflehead*	*Buchephala albeola*	22	1.7%
Black Duck*	*Anas ribripes*	12	0.9%
Ruddy Duck*	*Oxyura jamaicensis*	9	0.7%
Scoter/white wing scoter*	*Menitta fusca*	2	0.2%
Common Eider*	*Somateria mollissima*	1	0.1%

*Write-in responses provided by hunters.

** Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day during the 2014-2015 duck hunting seasons.

Table 9. Duck harvest and hunter activity by waterfowl zones and selected areas during the regular duck season (Illinois 2014-2015).

Zone	*n*	Hunters[a]	Estimated Days Hunted	Estimated Ducks Harvested	Days Hunted/ Hunter	Ducks/ Hunter/ Day	Ducks/ Hunter/ Season
North	361	12,493	121,848	68,865	9.75	0.57	5.51
Central	658	22,771	268,233	193,523	11.78	0.72	8.50
South Central	221	7,648	75,026	66,681	9.81	0.89	8.72
South	186	6,437	60,007	55,758	9.32	0.93	8.66
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statewide	1272	44,019	525,114	384,828	11.93	0.73	8.74

[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 10. Rates of duck harvest and hunter activity during the regular duck season (Illinois 2004-2014).

Season[a] (Year)	Season Length/ Bag Limit	Days Afield/ Hunter	Duck Harvest/Hunter[b]	
			Per Day	Per Season
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
2014	60/6(4,2)	11.93	0.73	8.74

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

Table 11. Distribution of the number of days afield and number of ducks harvested in 2014-15.
*Number of ducks harvested was calculated by taking responses and applying the correction factor (Anderson 1985).

	Days Hunting Ducks (%)	Number of Ducks Harvested (%)
0	-----	13.5
1-5	40.8	29.7
6-10	21.3	14.5
11-15	10.8	8.8
16-20	9.2	6.4
21-25	5.3	4.8
26-30	5.3	5.0
>30	7.2	17.2

Table 12. The actions duck hunters* take when their preferred duck hunting area freezes.

	Number of hunters	Percentage of hunters (%)
Bust ice	657	52
Hunt over fields	507	40
Stop hunting	445	35
Hunt along rivers or streams	328	26
Use aerators/pump water	291	23
Set decoys on ice	261	21
Hunt over deep water/cooling lakes	167	13
Hunt in another state	98	8
Move to another part of Illinois	92	7

*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day during the 2014-2015 duck hunting seasons.

Table 13. Canada goose harvest and hunter activity during the early September Canada goose season (Illinois 2004-2014).

			Waterfowl Zone				
	Year[a]	Statewide	North	Central	South Central	South	Unknown
Hunters	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
	2014	12,147	4,153	6,679	934	554	0
Days Afield	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
	2014	44,919	16,300	23,844	3,288	1,488	0
Canada Geese	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
	2014	19,089	7,527	9,015	1,770	777	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 14. Summary of goose harvest and hunter activity during the regular goose season (Illinois 2004 through 2014).

Season[a] (Year)	Hunters	Days Afield	Number of Geese		
			Canada Geese	Other Geese	Total
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
2014	34,226	369,179	87,672 (50)	20,313 (0)	107,985 (50) ± 15,517

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 15. 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	-----	46.2
1-5	24.6	19.6
6-10	41.3	11.8
11-15	15.7	9.1
16-20	7.4	3.1
21-25	3.3	4.8
26-30	2.4	5.4
>30	1.3	46.2

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

Table 16. Goose harvest and hunter activity by zones, regular season (Illinois 2014-15).

			Estimated Goose Harvest						
Zone	Hunters	Days Afield	Canada Geese	White-Fronted Geese	Snow/ Blue Geese[b]	Total Geese	Total Days Hunted/ Hunter	Total Geese/ Hunter/ Day	Total Geese/ Hunter/ Season
North	10,866	108,110	29,130	165	132	29,428	9.95	0.27	2.68
Central	18,618	194,383	46,549	3,639	6,137	56,325	10.44	0.24	2.50
South Central	4,049	36,025	6,038	2,663	5,260	13,961	8.90	0.17	1.49
South	3,184	30,661	5,955	1,538	777	8,271	9.63	0.19	1.87
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statewide	34,226	369,179	87,671	8,006	12,307	107,985	10.79	0.24	2.56

[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 17. Canada goose harvest by zone during the regular goose season (Illinois 2012-13 through 2014-2015).

Zone	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	3-Year Mean	S.D.
North	27,068	32,472	29,130	29,557	2727
Central	33,012	52,862	46,549	44,141	10142
South Central	6,678	9,968	6,038	7561	2109
South	5,905	9,585	5,955	7,148	2110
Unknown	20	0	0	7	12
Statewide	72,682	104,887	87,671	88,413	16115

Table 18. Summary of the number of ducks and geese crippled (Illinois 2004 - 2014 regular seasons).

Season[a] (Year)	Estimated Ducks		Estimated Geese	
	Total	Per 100 Bagged	Total	Per 100 Bagged
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
2014	51,909	13.5	7,856	7.3

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

Table 19. Illinois duck hunters' levels of satisfaction with various aspects of the 2014-2015 duck seasons.

	Zone	Very Dissatisfied (%)	Dissatisfied (%)	Unsure (%)	Satisfied (%)	Very Satisfied (%)	$\bar{x}$ (S.D.) [a]
Number of ducks you saw	North *n* = 359	12	26	25	30	7	2.94(1.15)
	Central *n* = 652	15	31	24	25	5	2.76(1.13)
	South Central *n* = 221	13	33	22	25	7	2.81(1.17)
	South *n* = 185	11	29	22	29	10	2.96(1.18)
Mid-season matched peak of migration	North *n* = 352	14	32	35	16	3	2.60(1.00)
	Central *n* =635	20	35	30	13	2	2.42(1.00)
	South Central *n* = 215	21	37	30	9	3	2.35(1.00)
	South *n* = 179	20	34	29	15	3	2.46(1.06)
Amount of shooting you got in	North *n* = 357	19	29	25	25	2	2.62(1.11)
	Central *n* = 647	20	36	24	18	2	2.46(1.07)
	South Central *n* = 217	18	31	27	20	3	2.59(1.10)
	South *n* = 180	18	30	27	19	6	2.64(1.16)
Number of ducks that migrated through areas you hunted	North *n* = 355	18	28	27	24	4	2.68(1.12)
	Central *n* = 642	17	32	26	21	3	2.60(1.10)
	South Central *n* = 217	15	33	28	21	4	2.66(1.08)
	South *n* = 182	12	35	24	23	7	2.79(1.13)
Amount of time you spent duck hunting	North *n* = 355	10	28	30	28	5	2.89(1.07)
	Central *n* = 648	12	25	27	30	6	2.93(1.14)
	South Central *n* = 217	11	24	27	31	8	3.02(1.14)
	South *n* = 183	9	26	22	33	9	3.06(1.15)
Number of ducks you harvested	North *n* = 357	22	29	25	22	2	2.55(1.13)
	Central *n* = 649	23	29	25	21	2	2.50(1.12)
	South Central *n* = 216	20	34	26	18	2	2.48(1.13)
	South *n* = 181	19	32	22	20	7	2.65(1.20)
Weather during duck season	North *n* = 357	13	22	34	28	3	2.86(1.06)
	Central *n* = 648	17	25	34	21	3	2.68(1.07)
	South Central *n* = 217	12	21	37	28	2	2.85(1.02)
	South *n* = 183	7	28	27	28	10	3.05(1.11)

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

*Cases selected for those who hunted ≥ 1 day for ducks during the 2014-15 regular duck season.

Table 20. Illinois goose hunters' levels of satisfaction with various aspects of the 2014-2015 goose seasons.

		Very Dissatisfied (%)	Dissatisfied (%)	Unsure (%)	Satisfied (%)	Very Satisfied (%)	$\bar{x}$ (S.D.) [a]
Number of geese you saw	North *n* = 309	7	12	20	44	17	3.52(1.11))
	Central *n* = 523	9	21	22	36	12	3.20(1.17)
	South Central *n* = 114	27	29	20	19	4	2.45(1.21)
	South *n* = 90	30	29	21	17	3	2.34(1.17)
Mid-season matched peak of migration	North *n* = 305	9	17	38	30	7	3.08(1.05)
	Central *n* = 517	14	27	33	21	6	2.78(1.01)
	South Central *n* = 113	35	25	24	12	4	2.24(1.17)
	South *n* = 90	30	34	26	10	0	2.16(0.97)
Amount of shooting you got in	North *n* = 309	16	26	22	30	7	2.85(1.20)
	Central *n* = 522	20	31	21	23	5	2.62(1.17)
	South Central *n* = 114	32	34	18	13	4	2.23(1.14)
	South *n* = 90	33	40	16	8	3	2.08(1.01)
Number of geese that migrated through areas you hunted	North *n* = 309	9	19	23	37	12	3.24(1.16)
	Central *n* = 521	11	24	27	29	8	3.00(1.15)
	South Central *n* = 114	30	32	22	12	4	2.30(1.15)
	South *n* = 90	31	32	19	16	2	2.26(1.13)
Amount of time you spent goose hunting	North *n* = 309	10	25	26	4	6	3.00(1.10)
	Central *n* = 521	12	27	26	29	7	2.92(1.13)
	South Central *n* = 114	13	21	31	27	8	2.96(1.16)
	South *n* = 90	13	30	38	16	3	2.66(1.00)
Number of geese you harvested	North *n* = 308	19	28	21	26	6	2.73(1.21)
	Central *n* = 520	24	30	20	22	4	2.52(1.20)
	South Central *n* = 114	35	32	18	9	6	2.18(1.19)
	South *n* = 90	38	29	21	10	2	2.10(1.10)
Weather during goose season	North *n* = 309	7	16	35	38	5	3.17(0.99)
	Central *n* = 522	10	20	40	26	4	2.94(1.00)
	South Central *n* = 114	18	16	37	25	4	2.83(1.13)
	South *n* = 90	11	22	40	22	4	2.87(1.03)

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

*Cases selected for those who hunted ≥ 1 day for geese during the 2014-15 regular goose season.

Table 21. Hunter opinions of the timing of 2014-15 waterfowl seasons.

Season	*n*	Too Early (%)	About Right (%)	Too Late (%)	Not Sure (%)
Teal	302	15.6	74.8	4.0	5.3
North duck	342	31.6	48.5	12.0	7.9
Central duck	618	40.5	41.1	9.5	8.9
South Central duck	209	48.8	36.8	5.7	8.6
South duck	170	21.2	58.8	10.0	10.0
North goose	263	17.9	62.0	7.6	12.5
Central goose	487	31.2	55.2	4.5	9.0
South Central goose	113	40.7	50.4	0.9	8.0
South goose	82	32.9	57.3	0.0	9.8

*Cases selected for those that indicated they hunted at least 1 day during the corresponding zone/season in 2014-15.

Table 22. Illinois waterfowl hunter season structure preference for white-fronted (specklebelly) geese.

	North Zone (*n* = 288) (%)	Central Zone (*n* = 502) (%)	South Central Zone (*n* = 114) (%)	South Zone (*n* = 175) (%)
Shorter season with two bird limit.	14.2	25.5	44.7	36.4
Longer season with a one bird limit.	16.3	21.9	23.7	18.2
No preference.	69.4	52.6	31.6	45.5

Cases selected for those who hunted ≥ 1 day for geese during the 2014-15 regular goose season.

Table 23. North and Central zone waterfowl hunter zoning preferences for the area in northeastern Illinois that was included in the North Zone for duck season and Central Zone for goose season during the 2014-15 seasons.

Zone and species hunted	*n*	North zone for duck & central for goose (%)	North zone for both (%)	Central zone for both (%)
North zone goose	272	34.2	43.8	22.1
North zone duck	321	35.5	39.6	24.9
Central zone goose	465	32.0	30.3	37.6
Central zone duck	567	33.5	30.5	36.0
Combined[a]	943	33.8	34.6	31.6

[a] The number of combined hunters is less than the sum of duck and goose hunters from the zones above because some hunted in more than one zone for multiple species.

Table 24. Other hunting seasons that affect Illinois hunters' preferred duck season dates.

	Number of hunters	Percentage of hunters (%)
Firearm deer season	420	33.0
Upland game season	109	8.6
Preferences are not based on hunting seasons	721	56.7
Archery deer season	39	3.1
Other seasons	19	1.4

*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day during the 2014-2015 duck hunting seasons.

Table 25. Preferred season dates for a 30 day duck season in the zone intended to hunt in 2015-16.

Zone	No preference (%)	Oct. 3 - Nov. 1 (%)	Oct. 10 - Nov. 8 (%)	Oct. 17 - Nov. 15 (%)	Oct. 24 - Nov. 22 (%)	Oct. 31 - Nov. 29 (%)	Nov. 7 - Dec. 6 (%)	Nov. 14 - Dec. 13 (%)	Nov. 21 - Dec. 20 (%)	Nov. 28 - Dec. 27 (%)	Dec. 5 - Jan. 3 (%)	Dec. 12 - Jan. 10 (%)	Dec. 19 - Jan. 17 (%)	Dec. 26 - Jan. 24 (%)	Jan. 2 - Jan. 31 (%)
North (*n*=360)	24	6	6	16	11	13	6	5	2	4	2	2	1	1	1
Central (*n*=647)	28	2	2	3	7	14	11	8	6	7	5	2	2	2	1
South Central (*n*=194)	55	1	1	1	3	3	5	10	9	10	5	6	7	10	6
South (*n*=119)	33	1	0	0	2	3	3	3	3	11	6	4	8	14	9

Table 26. Preferred season dates for a 45 day duck season in the zone intended to hunt in 2015-16.

Zone	No preference (%)	Oct. 3 - Nov. 16 (%)	Oct. 10 - Nov. 23 (%)	Oct. 17 - Nov. 30 (%)	Oct. 24 - Dec. 7 (%)	Oct. 31 - Dec. 14 (%)	Nov. 7 – Dec. 21 (%)	Nov. 14 - Dec. 13 (%)	Nov. 21 - Jan. 4 (%)	Nov. 28 - Jan. 11 (%)	Dec. 5 – Jan. 18 (%)	Dec. 12 - Jan. 25 (%)
North (*n*=357)	24	9	9	17	11	11	5	4	4	2	2	3
Central (*n*=661)	28	1	2	5	12	14	12	10	5	5	3	4
South Central (*n*=198)	26	2	1	1	2	3	9	12	9	13	8	16
South (*n*=120)	33	1	0	0	1	2	3	3	8	11	10	29

Table 27. Preferred season dates for a 60 day duck season in the zone intended to hunt in 2015-16.

Zone	No preference (%)	Oct. 3 - Dec. 1 (%)	Oct. 10 - Dec. 8 (%)	Oct. 17 - Dec. 15 (%)	Oct. 24 - Dec. 22 (%)	Oct. 31 - Dec. 29 (%)	Nov. 7 - Jan. 6 (%)	Nov. 14 - Jan. 12 (%)	Nov. 21 - Jan. 19 (%)	Nov. 28 - Jan. 26 (%)
North (*n*=438)	20	11	11	21	12	10	5	3	3	5
Central (*n*=834)	22	3	3	8	18	18	12	6	2	7
South Central (*n*=254)	19	1	1	1	2	6	17	11	11	30
South (*n*=177)	20	0	0	1	1	1	6	7	9	57

Table 28. Illinois duck hunters' self-reported skill.

	Novice (%)			Intermediate (%)			Expert (%)
Skill in calling ducks (*n*=1242)	19	7	9	24	19	16	6
Ducks harvested per shots taken (*n*=1216)	7	6	7	26	32	19	4
Overall skill as a duck hunter (*n*=1237)	5	5	9	26	29	22	5

*Cases selected for those who indicated they hunted for at least one day during the 2014-2015 duck hunting seasons.

Table 29. Illinois waterfowl hunters' commitment to waterfowl hunting.

	Season hunted	Disagree (%)	Unsure (%)	Agree (%)	$\bar{x}$ (S.D.) [a]
Waterfowl hunting is one of the most important activities in my life.	Duck *n* = 1249	22.4	6.3	62.3	5.04 (1.7)
	Goose *n* = 963	21.3	7.1	71.6	5.09 (1.7)
	September Goose *n* = 345	20.3	7.0	72.7	5.19 (1.7)
	September Teal *n* = 324	16.0	5.2	78.8	5.45 (1.6)
I spend a lot of time in the off season planning for waterfowl hunting.	Duck *n* = 1247	33.5	6.5	60.0	4.53 (1.8)
	Goose *n* = 963	31.9	6.1	62.0	4.61 (1.8)
	September Goose *n* = 344	25.3	8.7	66.0	4.84 (1.7)
	September Teal *n* = 323	20.4	6.8	72.8	5.14 (1.6)
I plan vacation time around waterfowl seasons.	Duck *n* = 1235	41.4	4.9	53.7	4.29 (2.2)
	Goose *n* = 962	39.6	4.9	55.5	4.38 (2.1)
	September Goose *n* = 341	36.7	5.3	58.0	4.54 (2.1)
	September Teal *n* = 322	30.7	5.3	64.0	4.8 (2.1)
Waterfowl hunting determines much of my lifestyle.	Duck *n* = 1241	43.8	9.0	47.2	3.99 (1.9)
	Goose *n* = 951	41.7	8.9	49.4	4.09 (2.0)
	September Goose *n* = 344	35.5	8.4	56.1	4.38 (2.0)
	September Teal *n* = 323	30.0	8.7	61.3	4.64 (1.9)
I spend a lot of time before hunting season scouting the area I will hunt.	Duck *n* = 1240	45.2	8.7	46.1	3.88 (1.9)
	Goose *n* = 957	43.3	8.6	48.1	3.97 (1.9)
	September Goose *n* = 343	35.3	8.2	56.5	4.33 (1.9)
	September Teal *n* = 323	31.6	8.0	60.4	4.56 (1.9)
I would rather go waterfowl hunting than do any other recreation.	Duck *n* = 963	35.7	9.9	54.4	4.46 (2.0)
	Goose *n* = 663	35.9	9.0	55.1	4.48 (2.0)
	September Goose *n* = 344	32.3	6.7	61.0	4.73 (2.0)
	September Teal *n* = 323	28.8	7.7	63.5	4.89 (1.9)

1= Strongly Disagree, 7= Strongly Agree

Appendix A

Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey
2014-2015 Season

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife Resources
&
The 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 in Illinois. Please provide the following information so that Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) waterfowl biologists may better understand hunters in Illinois.

1. Did you purchase an Illinois State Waterfowl Stamp for the 2014-2015 seasons?

____ Yes ____ No

2. Which of the following best describes where you bought your most recent hunting license? (Please choose **one**.)

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

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

____ Other (Please identify) _____

3. Which of the following best describes how often you hunt **waterfowl** (ducks, geese, or coots) in Illinois?

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

If you never hunt waterfowl in Illinois, please go to Section 6 on the back cover.

4. Did you hunt waterfowl in Illinois during the 2014-2015 waterfowl hunting seasons?

____ Yes ____ No (**Skip to Section 3.**)

4a. If "Yes," which zone did you hunt in **most often** during the 2014-2015 waterfowl season? (Please check **one**.)

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

4b. 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

4c. In which of the following zones did you hunt **opening day of GOOSE season**? (Please check **all that apply**.)

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

4d. Was the 2014-2015 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. Did you keep records of your waterfowl hunting trips and/or harvests (not including those for state site permits)?

____ Yes ____ No

6. Did you harvest a greater variety of species this year than you have in the last 5 years?

____ Yes ____ No

7. Please indicate which species you harvested between September 2014 and January 2015. (Check **all that apply**.)

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

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

____ Coot ____ Wigeon ____ Other (please identify) _____

Section 2. Waterfowl 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.

If you did not hunt waterfowl in Illinois during the 2014-15 season, please go to Section 3.

1. Please report your hunting effort and harvest in Illinois between September 2014 and January 2015 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	Canvas-backs 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

2. Were there any days you went hunting but did not have an opportunity to shoot at any birds?

____ Yes → If "Yes," approximately how many days did this happen? _____ days

____ No

3. Did you use a spinning-wing decoy to hunt **ducks** in Illinois during the 2014-2015 season?

____ Yes ____ No

4. How does the number of white-fronted (specklebelly) geese you saw this year compare to the last 5 years?

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

5. 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

____ No, I did not target or shoot at them

Section 3. 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 **2014 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days**?

____ Yes ____ No (**Skip to question 2**.)

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

____ Yes ____ No

1b. Was this **YOUR** first time accompanying a youth during the **Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days**?

____ Yes ____ No

1c. Please report information for each youth that hunted during the **2014 Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days**. (North Zone: **Oct. 11-12**, Central Zone: **Oct. 18-19**, South Central Zone: **Nov. 1-2**, South Zone: **Nov. 15-16**)
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								

2. Did you take a youth hunting during the 2014-2015 **regular** duck or goose seasons in Illinois?

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

____ No ____ A youth accompanied me hunting, but they did not hunt

3. If you have ever taken a youth (<16 years of age) hunting, which **one** of the following is the most important reason for doing so? (Please check **only one**.)

____ To protect the sport for future generations
____ To build character
____ To teach responsible and safe hunting practices
____ To make memories
____ To demonstrate a love for the outdoors
____ Other (please identify) _____

4. Have you ever introduced a **non-youth hunter (**16 years old or older) to waterfowl hunting?

____ Yes ____ No

Section 4. Hunting Skills and Satisfaction. Please tell us about yourself as a hunter and your satisfaction with the **most recent duck and/or goose season(s)** by answering the following statements.

1. Please rate **your skills** in comparison to other hunters as they apply to duck hunting.

	Novice			Intermediate			Expert
Skill calling in ducks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Ducks harvested per shots taken	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Overall skill as a duck hunter	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

2. How does the number of ducks you usually harvest compare to other hunters you know?

____ Much Less ____ Slightly Less ____ About the same ____ Slightly More ____ Much More

3. What do you do when water in your preferred duck hunting area freezes? (Please check **all that apply**.)

____ Hunt along rivers or streams
____ Hunt over fields
____ Go hunt in another state
____ Move to another part of Illinois
____ Bust ice
____ Use aerators/pump water
____ Hunt over deep water/cooling lakes
____ Set decoys on ice
____ Stop hunting

4. Please answer the following questions regarding your attitudes toward waterfowl hunting.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Unsure	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Waterfowl hunting is one of the most important activities in my life.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I spend a lot of time in the off-season planning for waterfowl hunting.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I plan vacation time around waterfowl seasons.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Waterfowl hunting determines much of my lifestyle.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I spend a lot of time before the season scouting the area I will hunt.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I would rather go waterfowl hunting than do any other recreation.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

5. Please rate your **SATISFACTION with the most recent duck season you hunted in Illinois** for each of the following by circling the number that matches your response.

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	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

6. Please rate your **SATISFACTION with the most recent regular Canada goose season you hunted in Illinois** for each of the following by circling the number that matches your response.

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	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

Section 5. Regulations and Season Preferences. Please answer the following question concerning your season date preferences and mallard hen limits for future seasons in Illinois.

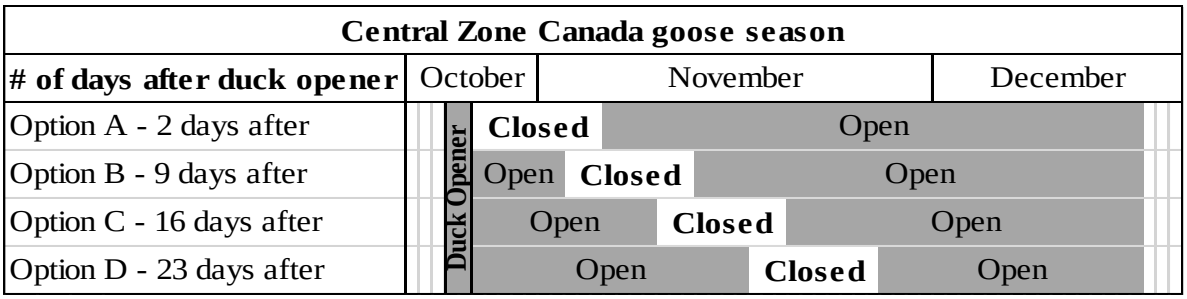
1. Which season structure would you prefer for white-fronted (specklebelly) geese?

____ Shorter season with two-bird limit (North Zone: **Nov. 3 – Jan. 15**, Central Zone: **Nov. 19 – Jan. 31**, South Central Zone: **Nov. 19 – Jan. 31**, South Zone: **Nov. 27 – Jan. 31**)

____ Longer season with a one-bird limit (North Zone: **Oct. 11 – Jan. 15**, Central Zone: **Oct. 18 – Jan. 31**, South Central Zone: **Nov. 1 – Jan. 31**, South Zone: **Nov. 15 – Jan. 31**)

____ No preference

2. Due to a restriction on goose hunting days, the Central Zone Canada goose season cannot run concurrently with the duck season. Therefore, it is required to have a split season where the season is closed for about 10 days.
Please refer to the diagram below and indicate when you think the season should be closed.
(Note: Option D is what is currently used).



____ Option A ____ Option B ____Option C ____ Option D ____ No Preference

3. In which zone do you intend to hunt **DUCKS** most often during the 2015-16 duck hunting season?

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

4. Please identify your preferred 2015-16 **Duck season** dates for the zone you intend to hunt in most often during the 2015-16 duck season. Note: The 2015 firearm deer season is scheduled to occur **Nov. 20-22** and **Dec. 3-6**.

The 2014-15 duck season dates were as follows: North Zone: **Oct. 18 – Dec. 16**, Central Zone: **Oct. 25 – Dec. 23** South Central Zone: **Nov. 8 – Jan. 6**, South Zone: **Nov. 27 – Jan. 25**.

Please select **one**

30 Day Season
____ Oct. 3 – Nov. 1
____ Oct. 10 – Nov. 8
____ Oct. 17 – Nov. 15
____ Oct. 24 – Nov. 22
____ Oct. 31 – Nov. 29
____ Nov. 7 – Dec. 6
____ Nov. 14 – Dec. 13
____ Nov. 21 – Dec. 20
____ Nov. 28 – Dec. 27
____ Dec. 5 – Jan. 3
____ Dec. 12 – Jan. 10
____ Dec. 19 – Jan. 17
____ Dec. 26 – Jan. 24
____ Jan. 2 – Jan. 31
____ No Preference

Please select **one**

45 Day Season
____ Oct. 3 – Nov. 16
____ Oct. 10 – Nov. 23
____ Oct. 17 – Nov. 30
____ Oct. 24 – Dec. 7
____ Oct. 31 – Dec. 14
____ Nov. 7 – Dec. 21
____ Nov. 14 – Dec. 28
____ Nov. 21 – Jan. 4
____ Nov. 28 – Jan. 11
____ Dec. 5 – Jan. 18
____ Dec. 12 – Jan. 25
____ No Preference

Please select **one**

60 Day Season
____ Oct. 3 – Dec. 1
____ Oct. 10 – Dec. 8
____ Oct. 17 – Dec. 15
____ Oct. 24 – Dec. 22
____ Oct. 31 – Dec. 29
____ Nov. 7 – Jan. 5
____ Nov. 14 – Jan. 12
____ Nov. 21 – Jan. 19
____ Nov. 28 – Jan. 26
____ No Preference

5. Did you feel that the dates of the 2014-15 waterfowl hunting seasons were too early, about right, or too late? (Please circle **one for each season**.)

	Too early	About right	Too late	I am not sure	I did not hunt this season.
Teal season (*September only*)	1	2	3	4	5
North Zone Duck Season	1	2	3	4	5
Central Zone Duck Season	1	2	3	4	5
South Central Zone Duck Season	1	2	3	4	5
South Zone Duck Season	1	2	3	4	5
North Zone Canada Goose Season	1	2	3	4	5
Central Zone Canada Goose Season	1	2	3	4	5
South Central Zone Canada Goose Season	1	2	3	4	5
South Zone Canada Goose Season	1	2	3	4	5

6. Which other hunting seasons affect your preferences for duck season dates? (Please check **all that apply**.)

____ Firearm deer season (Nov. 20-22 & Dec. 3-6)

____ Upland game season (Nov. 7 opener)

____ My preferences are not based on the hunting seasons above.

____ Other (please identify):_____

Please refer to the zone map on the back of the included cover letter to answer **question 7**.

7. What should happen to the **striped area** in northeastern Illinois that is currently in the North Zone for duck season and Central Zone for goose season?

____ Remain as it is, in the North Zone for duck season and Central Zone for goose season.

____ Be part of the North Zone for both duck and goose seasons.

____ Be part of the Central Zone for both duck and goose seasons.

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

1. Which of the following species did you hunt in Illinois during the 2014-15 seasons? (Please check **all that apply.**)

____ Deer ____ Furbearers ____ Pheasants ____ Gray Partridge

____ Quail ____ Squirrels ____ Rabbits ____ Turkeys

____ Ducks ____ Geese ____ Doves ____ Other (Please identify) _____

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

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

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

5. Please give your age. _____ years

6. What is your gender? ____ Male ____ Female

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 7, 2015

Dear Waterfowl Hunter,

Your name was randomly selected from a list of Illinois state waterfowl stamp purchasers from 2014. We are asking you to provide information about your activities during the 2014-2015 waterfowl hunting seasons in Illinois. **Even if you did not hunt ducks or geese in Illinois during the 2014-2015 seasons, we need to hear from you and we ask that you take a few minutes to complete and return the enclosed 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 voluntary and completely confidential**. By responding you will help us more effectively manage waterfowl and hunting in Illinois.

If you do not wish to participate, please return the blank questionnaire so we can remove you from our mailing list.

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/.

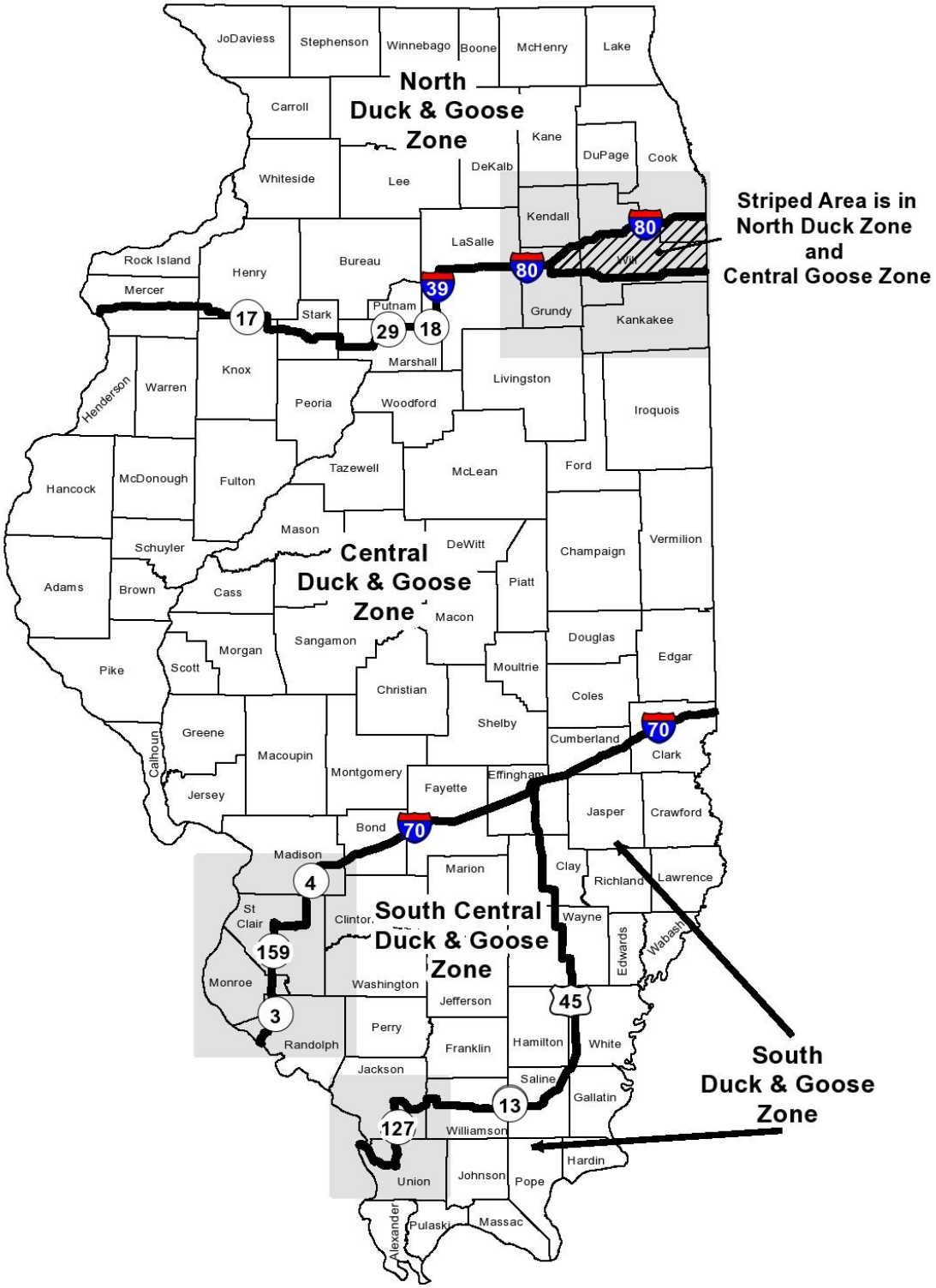
If you have questions regarding this study, please call us at (217) 244-5121.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program

1816 South Oak Street,
Champaign, Illinois 61820 USA

Please refer to the graphics on this page to answer the <u>questions in Section 5</u>.



Appendix C

ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL
RESOURCES

Dear Waterfowl Hunter,

Recently you were mailed a questionnaire about your waterfowl hunting activities in Illinois. We have not yet received your response. **If you have already returned the questionnaire, we thank you. If you have not returned the questionnaire, please do so as soon as possible. Your input is very important!**

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

Appendix D

ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

Prairie Research Institute
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

March 10, 2015

Dear Waterfowl Hunter,

Your name was randomly selected from the list of 2014 Illinois state waterfowl stamp purchasers. We recently mailed you a questionnaire regarding your hunting experiences in Illinois during the 2014-2015 waterfowl season. If you have already returned the questionnaire, we thank you.

If you have not returned your completed questionnaire, please do so as soon as possible. We have enclosed another copy for your use. **The information you and other selected hunters provide will help waterfowl managers make decisions to improve hunting opportunities and to better manage Illinois' duck and goose populations.** Your responses are voluntary and completely confidential.

Even if you did not hunt ducks or geese in Illinois during the 2014-2015 seasons, we need to hear from you and we ask that you take a few minutes to complete and return the enclosed questionnaire. A postage paid envelope is provided for you to return the questionnaire to us.

If you do not wish to participate, please return the blank questionnaire so we can remove your name from our mailing list.

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.

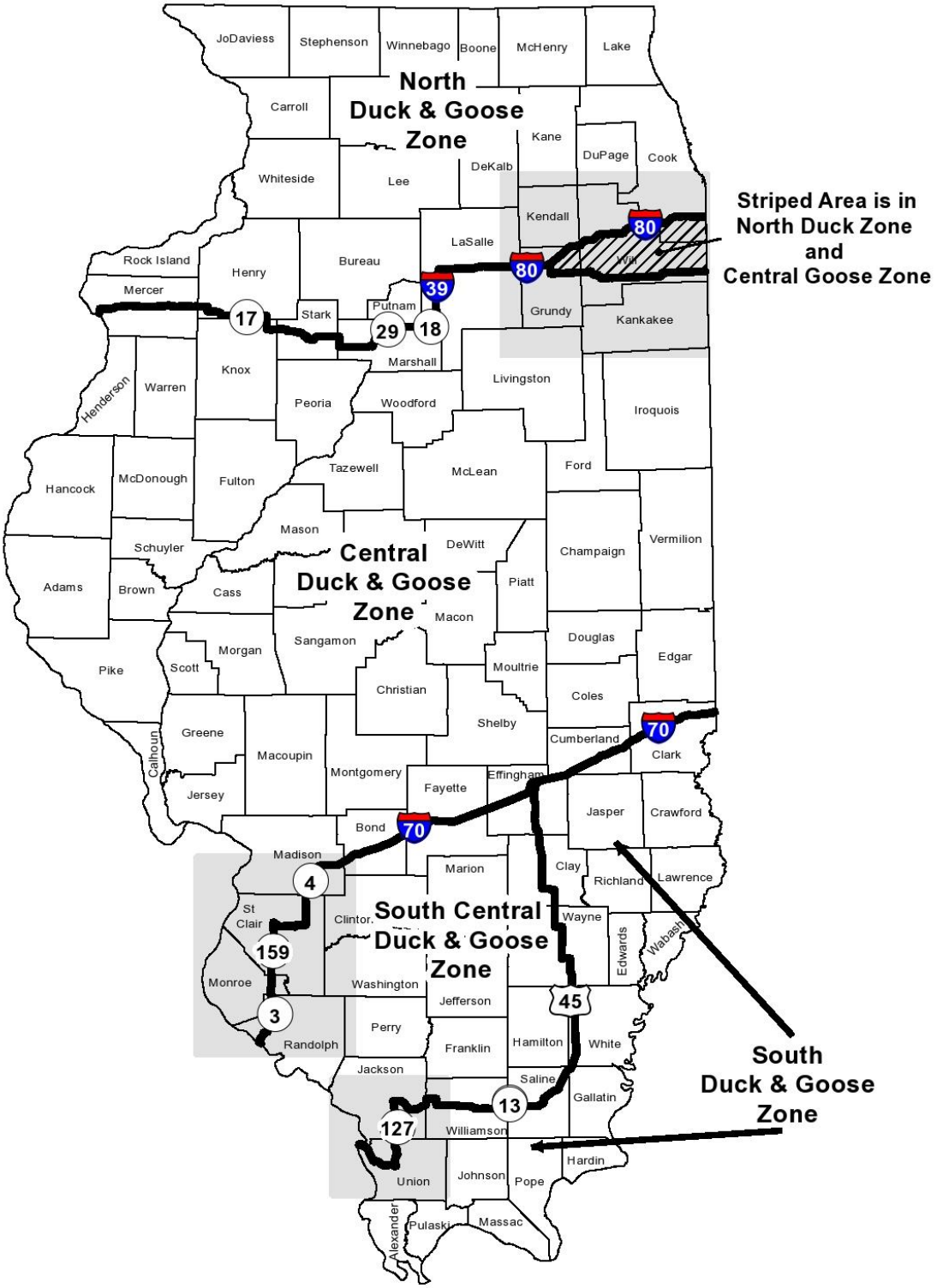
Thank you for helping with this important study.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Miller
Human Dimensions Research Program

1816 South Oak Street,
Champaign, Illinois 61820 USA

Please refer to the graphics on this page to answer the <u>questions in Section 5</u>.



Appendix E

ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

Prairie Research Institute
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

April 13, 2015

Dear Waterfowl Hunter,

Your name was randomly selected from the list of 2014 Illinois state waterfowl stamp purchasers. We recently mailed you a questionnaire regarding your hunting experiences in Illinois during the 2014-2015 waterfowl season. If you have already returned the questionnaire, we thank you.

If you have not returned your completed questionnaire, please do so as soon as possible. We have enclosed another copy for your use. **The information you and other selected hunters provide will help waterfowl managers make decisions to improve hunting opportunities and to better manage Illinois' duck and goose populations.** Your responses are voluntary and completely confidential.

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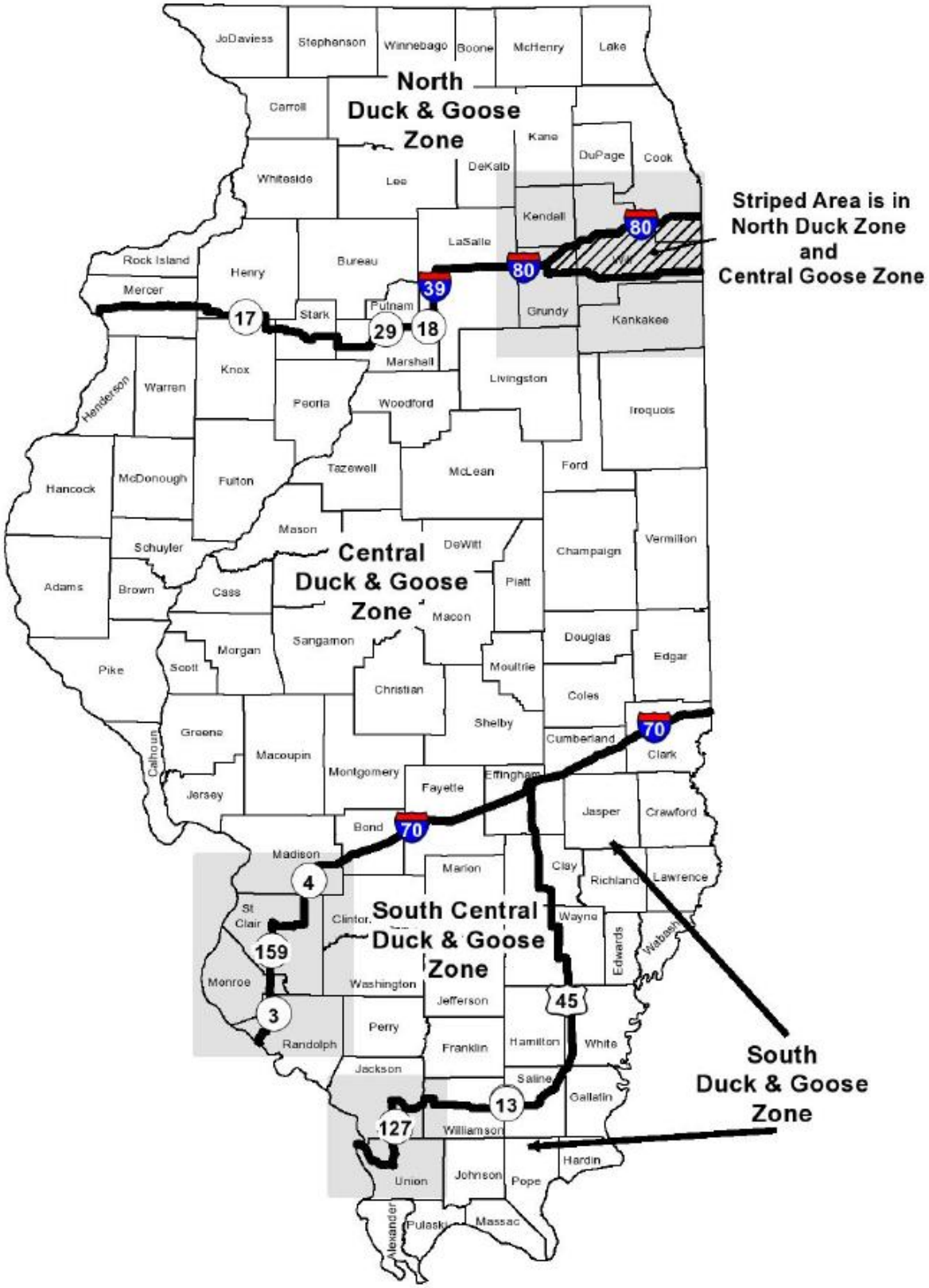

Appendix F.

Table F-1. Summary of Illinois Migratory Waterfowl Stamps purchased, hunter activity, and waterfowl harvest in Illinois from 1981 through 2014 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
2014	70,391	50,698	982,193	550,946

[a] Teal, ducks, coots, and geese combined, and including September Teal and Canada goose seasons and youth hunt. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service suspended the September Teal season in 1988 through 1991.

[b] Stamps purchased for commercial art purposes. These stamps were not included in the numbers to the left.

[c] Estimates of waterfowl hunters and days afield for these years reduced to 92.48% - 96.48% of the original estimates. Estimates of waterfowl (Teal, ducks, Coots, and geese combined) harvested reduced to 94.54% - 97.74% of original estimates. See Anderson and Williamson (1994) for explanation.

Table F-2. The percentage of regular season waterfowl hunters who hunted exclusively ducks, exclusively geese, or both ducks and geese in Illinois from 1981 through 2014 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%
2014	30.8%	10.9%	58.3%	89.1%	69.2%

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

Table F-3. Summary of Teal harvest and hunter activity during September Teal season (Illinois, 1981-2014).

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
2014	11,282	42,635	29,058 ± 10,909

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

Table F-4. Rates of Teal harvest and hunter activity during September Teal season (Illinois, 1981-2014).

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
2014	16/6	3.78	0.68	2.58

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

Table F-5. Waterfowl harvest and hunter activity during Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days, 1996-2014.

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
2014	6,405	8,572	13,798	1.33	9,004	1.30	192	0.03	929	0.14

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

Table F-6. Summary of duck and coot harvest and hunter activity during the regular duck season (Illinois 1981-2014).

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
2014	44,019	525,114	197,997	48,216	138,615 [b]	384,828 ± 39,741	4,681 ± 3,311

[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.

Table F-7.Rates of duck harvest and hunter activity during the regular duck season (Illinois 1981-2014).

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
2014	60/6(4,2)	11.93	0.73	8.74

[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.

Table F-8.Number of hunters who participated in the early September Canada goose season (Illinois 1997-2014).

			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
	2014	12,147 [a]	4,153	6,679	934	554	0

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

Table F-9.Number of Canada geese harvested during the early September Canada goose season (Illinois 1997-2014).

	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
	2014	19,089	7,527	9,015	1,770	777	0

Table F-10. Number of Days Afield during the early September Canada goose season (Illinois 1997-2014).

	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
	2014	44,919	16,300	23,844	3,288	1,488	0

Table F-11.Summary of goose harvest and hunter activity during the regular goose season (Illinois 1981-1982 through 2014-2015).

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)
2014	34,226	369,179	87,672 (50)	20,313 (0)	107,985 ± 15,517 (50)

[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.

Table F-12.Summary of the number of ducks and geese crippled (Illinois 1981-2014 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
2014	51,909	13.5	7,856	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.